Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university in Evansville, Indiana. More than 10,000 (Fall 2019)* 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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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,

Since last year’s edition of Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision, much has happened on our already busy campus. Four leadership positions were filled after a national search was completed for each, University Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of the Romain College of Business and Dean of Students.

Generous donors brought General Colin L. Powell (USA Ret.) to campus on April 4, through the Innovative Speakers Series initiative in the Romain College of Business. Private gifts also provided the funding for President Rochon’s inauguration the next day, made all the more special with the Governor of Indiana, Eric J. Holcomb, leading the formal installation ceremony. Over 600 dignitaries from around the country, the State of Indiana, and the City of Evansville joined in the academic procession composed of our current and emeriti faculty, administrators, student leaders, alumni, religious leaders and members of the judiciary.

The General Powell visit and the inauguration of our fourth president were the first two events held in the new and stunning Screaming Eagles Arena, welcoming approximately 7,000 individuals over those two days in early April.

Just three weeks later in that same arena, which seats a maximum of 4,800 persons, the University hosted five commencement ceremonies April 26-27, 2019. Of the 1,691 students eligible to participate, we saw 1,253 graduates joined by their families and friends, celebrate the milestone of completing degrees of higher education from the associate to the doctoral levels. The graduate ceremony held special significance as Dr. Linda Bennett and Dr. Stephen Bennett, along with longtime University friend Betty Worthington, received honorary doctoral degrees, the highest honor the University bestows.

I also am pleased to report with the close of the fiscal year June 30, 2019, the assets of the USI Foundation total $142.3 million. Of that amount, $130 million is endowed. Over the past five years the USI Foundation has provided $8.4 million on average annually for the exclusive benefit of the University. Students, faculty and staff are helped year after year only because of your generous investment in this great institution through the USI Foundation.

The extraordinary vision and exceptional hard work of the University’s founding fathers Frank McDonald, Sr. and Joe O’Daniel continues with all of you, including their sons Frank, Jr. and Pat O’Daniel whom we feature in this edition. Please know your investment in this University is magnified though the living legacy of every USI graduate who leaves this campus well prepared to live wisely as global citizens. Our profound gratitude to all.

Sincerely,

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

October 1, 2019
Service to the University of Southern Indiana is deeply personal for the Babbs.
Service to the University of Southern Indiana is deeply personal for the Babbs. It involves family, friendships, and above all, a shared compassion for student learning and growth. In their youth they witnessed the evolution of the University from many angles. Susie’s father, H. Byron Hubbard, was a leading voice for the existence of an institution of public higher education in southern Indiana. Once the University was established, he additionally supported the creation of the USI Varsity Club to assist student athletes in their academic pursuits. The Babbs credit Mr. Hubbard for their initial connection to USI, but have since found their own calling of generosity and service to the University.

High school sweethearts who graduated from F. J. Reitz High School, they married in 1965. They both enrolled at Indiana State University and finished one semester before moving back to Evansville. Susie then began coursework at USI’s first location, Centennial School, as Terry entered the machining profession. Although Susie never finished her degree, she proudly holds the honor of attending elementary school in the same building as she did college coursework.

The Babbs founded Apex Tool & Manufacturing, Inc. in 1970. The 50-year-old business is a custom manufacturer of tooling and machining services which caters to automotive, plastics, aluminum, woodwork and printing industries. For the past 17 years, the Babbs additionally have held a patent on the Element Extrusion Machine. Primarily designed for the plastic extrusion industry, this machine has been sold to a variety of companies including General Mills where it is used for food processing. The Babbs take great pride in this innovation, with Terry noting, “This was developed from the ground up right here in our shop.”

Faithful USI Varsity Club members, Terry and Susie are passionate about USI Athletics. When asked about their long-standing membership, they cite the purpose of the Varsity Club assisting student athletes both on and off the court as an important component to the academic experience. In addition to the Varsity Club, the Babbs give generously in memory of their son, Brock Babb. Brock died in action in 2006 while serving as a Marine during Operation Iraqi Freedom. In a letter sealed by Brock before his deployment, he indicated his wish for a scholarship to be established at USI to support a Reitz High School graduate pursuing an engineering degree. Keith Benedict, instructor emeritus in advanced manufacturing, came to the Babbs with the idea of creating a scholarship after Brock’s death. Terry states, “Keith approached us about a scholarship. I pulled out the letter to show him Brock’s wishes. It was a wonderful moment for us, especially to honor Brock in a special way.”

The Babbs have three children, seven grandchildren and one great-grandchild. Active in their church, Simpson United Methodist, Susie also remains involved with the Westside Kiwanis. Terry serves in many advisory board capacities for the Southern Indiana Career & Technical Center of the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation.

In summing up their engagement with the University, Terry and Susie want others to know their investments at USI are about keeping the University “a place of learning, where students become active and participating citizens in their community.” Their gifts demonstrate their commitment to such a worthy cause.
Jim and Lara Beck are exemplary alumni who demonstrate the strength of a USI degree.
As a former editor of the University’s student newspaper, *The Shield*, Jim Beck wrote many articles about USI during his college career. But the most impressive byline he’s ever shared was on the “story” he’s written with his college sweetheart, the former Lara Sears.

Jim and Lara worked together at the student newspaper, where they forged friendships, learned how to communicate well and work as a team. He notes, “The University has provided many benefits in my life, but the greatest one was rather inadvertent – it was where I found the woman who would become my best friend for more than 25 years.” Lara responded emphatically, “I couldn’t agree more.”

Lara came to USI after graduating from high school in North Dakota. Her parents moved around the country because Lara’s father was an engineer in the petroleum industry. Her mother was originally from the Evansville area. Many of her aunts and uncles remained in Evansville, so USI allowed Lara to connect with her roots. “My intention was to finish my degree at USI and then move to New Orleans, where my parents were living at the time,” she comments. But romance led to a different outcome. They are grateful for the way their story unfolded here in southern Indiana.

Both majored in communication and public relations. Jim began a career immediately after graduation at the *Evansville Courier & Press*, where he spent 16 years as a reporter and newsroom manager. He now serves as a director of corporate communications for a Fortune 500 company. Lara has extensive experience in health care management, including long-term care, assisted living, home-health care and hospice facilities. She’s currently a vice president of operations for a hospice company with 10 locations across Indiana, stretching from South Bend to Evansville.

During *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*, the Becks wanted to participate. They first made a commitment to underwrite the University’s greatest needs, and then their generosity grew into scholarship investments. They shared a friendship with the late Rick Davis ’93. Originally friends during elementary school, Jim and Rick reconnected as students at USI and worked together at the *Courier & Press* after graduation, before Rick left journalism to pursue elected office. Rick served as Vanderburgh County Treasurer and ran for mayor of Evansville. When Rick died after a brief illness in 2014, the Becks decided to honor his passion for journalism by establishing the Rick Davis ’93 Journalism Memorial Scholarship. “We want this scholarship to honor Rick and his true passion – writing about people and telling stories with accuracy and integrity,” Jim said.

The Becks know USI is about opportunity, because it was true for their own story. “USI is not just growing in numbers, but prominence,” they said. Lara recalls when she began college at USI, there was only one restaurant on the west side between her apartment and campus. “The University clearly serves as an economic catalyst. Evansville and our region and state continue to benefit from its existence.”

Jim and Lara are exemplary alumni who demonstrate the strength of a USI degree. Their service and generosity are commendable.
The Bennetts feel a sense of obligation to invest in their deeply held values.
Drs. Stephen and Linda Bennett were cornerstones of the University of Southern Indiana for over 15 years. Collectively, their service, generosity and intellect led the University through tremendous growth, development and countless milestones. However, their spirit will live forever in the University’s mission.

Arriving at USI in 2003 to accept the role as the University’s chief academic officer, Dr. Linda Bennett began her career at USI serving as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs. She recalls the welcoming nature of campus as the drawing point to move to Evansville. Dr. Stephen Bennett comments that although his wife was under interview at that time, he will never forget the moment president emeritus Dr. H. Ray Hoops also asked him, “And, what do you want to do at the University?” In that moment they knew USI was the appropriate match for both of them. In many ways, USI allowed them to be “reborn” in their professional roles and also reignited their passion for teaching and learning.

Dr. Linda Bennett became USI’s third president in July 2009, serving nine years at the helm of the University and in July 2018 upon her retirement, she received emerita status. Her significant contributions to the University, including the first-ever iteration of a campus-wide strategic plan, focusing on student retention and community engagement, will long be remembered. Dr. Stephen Bennett served as professor of political science from 2003 to 2008 before retiring from USI. Both received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees in 2019 for their dedication to higher education and their many accomplishments in the community and at the University.

When asked about their personal giving philosophy, they both feel a sense of obligation to invest in their deeply held values. One of which is higher education, since both of their lives were transformed by a college experience. As students, and then as University faculty and administrators, the Bennetts have witnessed first-hand the power charitable gifts have on students.

Dr. Linda Bennett enthusiastically endorsed a comprehensive capital campaign in 2009, just a few short weeks after her inauguration. She saw private gifts as an asset to move the University into a more dynamic position for the future. This allowed USI to think intentionally about where it has been and where it needs to be. *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* was a defining moment of her presidency and she remains in awe of the thousands of alumni and friends who invested in the USI experience.

The Bennetts established a scholarship for a student athlete on the baseball team, in memory of Dr. Stephen Bennett’s father who was a little league coach. In addition to their annual gifts, the Bennetts remembered USI in their estate plans. Throughout Dr. Linda Bennett’s tenure, several students came across unexpected financial hardships and were worried they would have to discontinue their pursuit of a higher education. Being student-centered was a hallmark of her presidency. To honor this, the USI Foundation established the Linda L. M. Bennett Student Care Endowment as well as the Stephen E. and Linda L. M. Bennett Presidential Scholarship to additionally assist the merit scholars program at USI.

“How can we not give,” they state, “when USI is changing lives every single day? We want to be part of the powerful, fundamental change a USI education brings so many.” Even though they reached the top of the ladder of success, the shoes they will never forget walking in are those of a college student.
The Dassel’s giving reflected the wonderful life they shared together.
Married on March 2, 1957, Herbert “Herb” and Dolores Joan Dassel first met at a YWCA dance in downtown Evansville. Their love, respect and commitment to each other serve as a model to a well-rounded life.

Herb is originally from Scott Township in northern Vanderburgh County. He recalls memories from his early childhood of receiving an education in a one-room schoolhouse. He eventually graduated from Reitz High School and the Mechanic Arts. Having lost his father at an early age, Herb was never able to attend college since he made the selfless decision to enter the workforce to support his mother and younger siblings. After completing a four-year tool and die apprenticeship, he joined the military and served from 1953 to 1955. Joan moved from Otwell, Indiana to Evansville to study at Lockyear’s Business College. With diploma in hand, she worked in the office of the engineering department at Whirpool Corporation.

After his time in the service, Herb became interested in plastic materials. Plastic, at the time, was a relatively new technology and he saw great potential for a career. In 1963 he was a founder and partner of Adroit Mold & Tool Corp. Adroit was a plastic molding specialty business that created molds for local companies who made parts for Avon, General Motors and Honda. Herb attributes his business success to Joan. “Without her,” he states, “nothing in my life would be possible. She saw to it the kids were well taken care of and she was my greatest supporter.”

Both Herb and Joan were active in the community. Herb was a faithful member of the Westside Nut Club, serving as president in 1985. He also served on the board of First Federal Savings Bank, the Society of Plastic Engineers, the Reitz High School Booster Club and the USI Varsity Club. Joan was an avid golfer, being a member of the Helfrich and Fendrich golf courses 9-hole league. She additionally became involved in a home economics club, Tri-State Athletic Tennis Club and was a member of many card clubs. Joan died in 2015, but the 58 years of marriage they enjoyed provided a lifetime of happiness.

Educational pursuits remained a passion throughout their careers and Herb wanted to reflect the joy of their marriage in a practical way. Because Herb was never able to attend college, he made the decision to invest in the University of Southern Indiana to ensure students were afforded the opportunity he did not have. When establishing his scholarship endowment, he said, “This gift is from both Joan and me.” Their generosity will now provide USI students the same gift they gave their four children – a University experience.

Upon his graduation in 1948, he was selected by his peers at Mechanic Arts for three class recognitions: most likely to succeed, most ambitious and most courteous. There is no better way to describe him; all three qualities were cornerstones to the life he and Joan shared.
The Donaldsons
know USI
is a special
investment.
The Donaldson’s continue to give back to the Evansville community and have found USI to be a special investment that pays big dividends to the community, which is gratifying as they watch it grow.

Greg and Joyce Donaldson continue to find new ways to make the community a better place. Both are passionate advocates for the quality of life in southern Indiana, and their generosity can always be found supporting such endeavors. During Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence, the Donaldsons established the Gregory C and Joyce E. Donaldson Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship provides support to Pike County, Indiana students, who are studying business or finance, to honor Greg’s upbringing in Pike County.

Greg is a 1970 industrial economics graduate of Purdue University. His first career out of college was with Indiana Bell in Indianapolis, Indiana. During this time, he marketed new Bell System products and became keenly aware of early features in digital technologies. An entrepreneur at heart, he and a friend began a parking lot company which eventually grew into the second largest company within the industry in Indianapolis.

Soon thereafter, Greg found a calling in investment banking specializing in bonds. In 1976, he opened Traub and Company in Evansville. He continued to flourish and became a leader and innovator in the industry. By 1986, Greg cofounded Raffensperger Hughes Investment Advisors (RHIA), an investment management firm specializing in both stocks and bonds. RHIA created the Sagamore family of mutual funds. In 1995, Greg founded Donaldson Capital Management (DCM), which now manages over $1.7 billion in assets for individuals, foundations, religious organizations and corporations. In 2018, DCM was honored to be named one of the top 300 Registered Investment Advisors in the country by the Financial Times. DCM employs many USI graduates in the firm’s Evansville office. The talent and work ethic they bring to the firm is substantial.

Joyce, an Indiana University alumna, retired from Lutheran Child and Family Services where she served as area director and counselor. Always having a passion for giving back, she can be seen volunteering across the community. Lifelong members of Redeemer Lutheran Church, Joyce serves as a board member of Evansville Lutheran School foundation and past board member of Evansville Habitat for Humanity. The Donaldson’s generosity also extends to the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra, United Way, Young Life, and the Evansville Museum of Arts, History and Science.

In 2013, Joyce became a director on the USI Foundation Board of Directors. During the planning of the USI Foundation’s 50th anniversary year celebration, Joyce served on the committee and guided the inception of the USI Foundation Student Advisory Board. As a student at IU, she served as a member of the Student Foundation Steering Committee, which she credits with instilling in her a life-changing view of how charitable gifts can positively impact student potential.

The Donaldsons have two sons, Justin and Nick, and two grandchildren. Greg and Joyce see themselves being involved in the Evansville community for many years to come – either through giving back to the many organizations enriching the lives of the people in our area, or by mentoring and encouraging other entrepreneurs to “go for it” and start the new businesses that will make the Tri-state region an even better place to live and call home. They have contributed to the success of Evansville and also to the limitless opportunities for USI students.
Mr. Fair’s character and compassion resonate within the University’s mission.
Robert James Fair was the first chair of the Board of Trustees for the University of Southern Indiana. A resident of Princeton, Indiana, Mr. Fair was appointed in 1985 by Governor Robert D. Orr as a founding trustee. He served as chair of the board from 1985 until 1989. Mr. Fair also served as the first chair of the USI-New Harmony Foundation, playing an instrumental role in structuring the University’s management of Historic New Harmony.

Born October 15, 1919 in Detroit, Michigan, his family later moved to Princeton, Indiana. A graduate of Princeton High School, Mr. Fair earned his undergraduate degree from George Washington University in Washington, D.C. He was an honors graduate of George Washington Law School and admitted to the bar in 1949.

Mr. Fair and Emily Cottrell married in 1945. Mrs. Fair died at age 59 in 1984. They had one child, a daughter, Susan Fair. At the time of his death on November 20, 2002, Mr. Fair was survived by his daughter Susan, his grandson Michael Fair, one brother-in-law and four nieces, as well as his closest friend, Mary Richardson. Mr. and Mrs. Fair are buried in the historic Archer Cemetery in Princeton, Indiana.

A World War II veteran, he first served as a special agent for the Federal Bureau of Investigation and then established a law practice, Fair, Stilwell and Palmer, in Princeton. Mr. Fair was a member of the Indiana Lawyers Commission, Judicial Study Commission, Indiana Civil Code Study Commission, Gibson County Bar Association, American Bar Association and the House of Delegates to the American Trial Lawyers Association. Wanting to make a difference in public policy, Mr. Fair served two terms as prosecuting attorney for Gibson County and served three terms as an Indiana state senator. In 1967 he was selected Outstanding Freshman Legislator. He was Senate Minority Leader from 1971 to 1976 and became Senate Pro Tem in 1977. To date, no other Democrat has held this position. In 1976, he decided to run in the Democratic primary nomination for Governor of Indiana, gaining approximately 17 percent of the share of votes. Although unsuccessful, it demonstrates his appeal to Hoosiers for his commitment to service and growing the economic, social and educational prospects for Indiana.

In recognition of his leadership at USI, the Robert J. Fair Residence Life Center is named in his honor. Upon his death in 2002, a gift was made from his estate to enlarge the Trustees Distinguished Merit Award Endowment, which annually recognizes students who demonstrate the value of a liberal arts education.

Mr. Fair’s character and compassion resonate within the University’s mission. His commendable service through expertise, time and financial resources are examples for us today as we continue the civic tradition of an affordable and accessible education for all.
The Fleck family name and spirit will forever live on in student athletes.
“We saw the need and wanted to help,” Judy Fleck states when asked about why she and her late husband, Dr. James “Jim” Fleck, became involved at the University of Southern Indiana. Mrs. Fleck certainly understands how to give a helping hand. At athletic events she can be found cheering on the Screaming Eagles and is a passionate supporter of USI student athletes in their academic journey.

Born and raised on the west side of Evansville, Mrs. Fleck has continued to live and invest in Evansville. Dr. and Mrs. Fleck met while students at Mater Dei High School, graduating in 1960 and 1961. Dr. Fleck attended Saint Louis University before heading to Indiana University School of Dentistry. In 1966 he began his pediatric dentistry residency at Riley Hospital for Children. Then, in 1968 the Flecks returned to Evansville and began their own practice. “We got to know a lot of children and families in Evansville,” Mrs. Fleck notes.

Mrs. Fleck managed Marian’s Card & Gift Shop at Washington Square Mall for many years prior to being hired at USI. Her extensive retail experience was a perfect match for launching the gift shop in the Atheneum of Historic New Harmony’s operations. After nine years in New Harmony, Mrs. Fleck transitioned to campus, with her final role in Publishing Services as an administrative assistant. She retired in 2003.

Dr. Fleck was active in the West Side Nut Club and he quickly realized he also needed to support the new University. He was a catalyst for the creation of the Varsity Club and was involved since its inception. He served as chair of the Varsity Club Board of Directors from 1983-1984. Upon his death in 2008, Mrs. Fleck and her two sons established the Dr. James L. Fleck Memorial Athletic Scholarship Endowment. This scholarship supports the academic pursuits of a student athlete on either the men’s basketball or baseball team. His legacy and service are not forgotten as Mrs. Fleck additionally remains a committed Varsity Club member and season ticket holder.

“The University has become second nature, it is part of my soul,” she adds in describing her engagement with the University. “We never thought about not doing something for USI. We felt it was important to share our success and help others on their own journey to success.” Mrs. Fleck has a heart for USI, particularly student athletes. She remains in agreement that a win on the court or field is significant, but the greatest win in life for a student is receiving a degree. “This University brings hope to so many, and it feels rewarding being part of that wonderful cause.”

Dr. and Mrs. Fleck have two sons, Dr. J.D. Fleck, a neurologist in Indianapolis, Indiana, and Jason, part owner and manager of Marx BBQ and Hilltop Inn. When she is not seen at a USI sporting event, Mrs. Fleck is likely enjoying her time as grandmother to four grandchildren. The entire family has been exposed to USI Athletics and the Fleck family name and spirit will forever live on in student athletes.
The Goldmans are an example of how a lifelong passion can turn into generosity.
Ellinor Goldman’s lifelong passion for painting led her husband, Charles, to invest in students at the University of Southern Indiana. At a young age, Mrs. Goldman knew her interest in art was special. Upon graduating as valedictorian from high school in 1936 she was offered a scholarship to further develop her talents. However, family circumstances forced her to choose a different career. Her artistic ambitions lay dormant until 1965 when she took a painting class at the Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science.

Originally from Spencer County, Indiana, Mr. Goldman met his soon-to-be wife through a mutual friend. At the time, Mrs. Goldman was living in New Albany and working for Union National Bank. After a year of dating, they wed in 1948 and moved to Evansville shortly thereafter. Their profession in the banking industry brought them together, but Mrs. Goldman longed for a family and retired in 1952. Together the Goldmans had one son, Larry, who now resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Mr. Goldman began his 50 years of service to banking in 1943 as a messenger for Old National Bank. In 1990 he retired as senior vice president and manager of the trust department at National City Bank. He comments, “Growing up during the Depression, my experience with farm labor made me realize I needed to move to the city to find fulfilling, meaningful work for myself. I always enjoyed my fellow employees and customers and looked forward to work.” Mr. Goldman was one of the founding members of the Evansville Estate and Financial Planning Council. He additionally served 23 years on the Board of Directors of the Evansville Association for the Blind.

Looking back on his career, Mr. Goldman is especially proud of his work to help establish Solarbron Pointe, Inc. As a co-trustee for the Bronstein Foundation, he knew Sol and Arlene Bronstein wanted their foundation to establish a retirement facility. At the time, Evansville lacked retirement spaces for independent living. During the oversight of construction, he had his first true interaction with USI president emeritus, Dr. David L. Rice who advocated for the placement of the retirement facility on the west side of Evansville. To this day, the University holds a wonderful relationship with many of Solarbron’s residents. Mr. Goldman served as director and treasurer of Solarbron Pointe, Inc. from 1981 until 2014.

Many of Mrs. Goldman’s watercolor paintings are exhibited throughout Solarbron. She became well known for her realistic watercolors of landscapes, particularly her expertise of colorful wintry scenes. While known for her own personal works, Mrs. Goldman’s contributions to the art community at large are additionally respected. An active member of the Evansville Artists Guild, she organized the annual Garvin Park Art Fair for many years. Mrs. Goldman died in 2013.

Although Mrs. Goldman painted watercolors from childhood memories, her legacy continues to paint a college experience for USI students. The Ellinor Hanger Goldman Memorial Art Scholarship Endowment will permanently support a student artist pursuing their dream – the same dream she wished she could have pursued at the same age.
Matthew and Katie both show a great amount of pride in their association with USI.
With over 70 years of collective service to the University of Southern Indiana, Matthew Graham and Katie Waters embody the spirit of the University. Their dedication to educational access and opportunity is applauded by their peers, current and former students, as well as community members.

Katie arrived at the University in 1981, shortly after graduating with her Master of Fine Arts degree in painting from Ohio University and teaching art in a Chicago high school. At the time of her hire, she was the fourth full-time faculty member within the art department and the only female. In 1984, Matthew began teaching at the University, also following the completion of his graduate work at the Iowa Writers Workshop. During his first year he received one of only 14 faculty positions nationwide for English and writing. “I didn’t even know about that fact,” Matthew states, “until I received a call to do an interview for Poets & Writers magazine.”

Although teaching may have brought them to southern Indiana, fate had a lifelong partnership in store for them. Early in their career, their offices were close together, “in the old Science Center actually,” Katie states. “My office was at one end and his office was at the other, and I remember I could hear him in there typing late. So, I left a note in his mailbox.” Matthew called her immediately. A friendship developed and they wed in 1987.

Matthew and Katie acknowledge it was the faculty and staff members who attracted them to USI. Liberal arts at USI was a collection of small arts and humanities programs upon their arrival. But Katie is quick to note, “It was an exciting time. The arts always were an important part of the University. We were given freedom to explore our creative process and encourage students to do the same.” In those years, Matthew became cofounder of the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, founder of the Southern Indiana Visiting Writers Series, as well as cofounder and original poetry editor of the Southern Indiana Review. Katie additionally took leadership as a long-standing Art Department chair and served as director of the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries for ten years. In 2015, Katie was honored with the Distinguished Professor Award.

Their giving to the University increased in 1996 during the first capital campaign, Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher. They committed to joining the President’s Associates to support the University and students. Over time, their investments supported a variety of annual giving programs and through the establishment of their own scholarship endowments. The Matthew R. Graham Poetry Scholarship Endowment and Kathryn M. Waters Painting Scholarship Endowment will perpetually support liberal arts students in their creative calling at USI. For the English and art professors, these scholarship endowments underscore the intimate and wholistic bond a liberal arts education has in developing well-integrated individuals.

Matthew and Katie both show a great amount of pride in their association with USI. The University allowed them to grow just as much as their students. They hope their giving journey serves as an example, particularly for faculty, that everyone can contribute to the financial success of USI.
The McDonald’s service and commitment to USI is commendable.
Among all of their associations to the University, the McDonalds are most proud of their alumni status. Graduates of the University of Southern Indiana, their service and commitment to an institution of public higher education in southern Indiana has never wavered.

The McDonalds are part of a strong family legacy at USI. Frank’s father, Frank McDonald Sr., was mayor of the City of Evansville during the University’s founding. An advocate for the institution, then Mayor McDonald Sr. is credited for the establishment of the USI Foundation in 1968. He presented two one-hundred-dollar bills, one from himself and the other from his wife, Clodeen, to then president Dr. David L. Rice. Frank says he didn’t understand the meaning of his father’s generous act at that time, but he now understands the significance it has today for students.

After graduating in 1973, in the University’s third graduating class, Frank moved to Indianapolis to begin a career in the banking profession. Initially hired for a management training program, he learned the mechanics of lending within the industry. In 1976, the McDonalds relocated to Evansville and Frank continued his banking career. Nursing was Nancy’s original major during her years at the University of Evansville, and her calling for the field remained. In 2006 she completed a nursing degree from USI and found a new vocation.

Nancy indicates, “Our families valued education and knew how much a degree can provide opportunity.” This is the basis for their giving to the University. “USI provides limitless prospects for students and we want to build on that tradition. Particularly, giving back in scholarships to help students on their journey,” Frank states. The McDonalds established the Frank F. McDonald Scholarship Endowment in memory of Frank Sr.’s contributions to the University, but to also invest in the educational and professional pursuits of admirable students.

Growing up in public life, Frank never aspired to become involved in prominent civic work. However, as life progressed, he realized the value of community service. He followed Frank Sr.’s footsteps and in 1987 was elected as Evansville’s 33rd mayor. For 12 and a half years, he led Evansville through a period of growth which coincided with the University’s own continued development.

In 1999, Frank received the University’s highest recognition, an honorary Doctor of Laws degree. He also received the Distinguished Alumni Award from the USI Alumni Association in 1988. A Life Director of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, he also served as a trustee of the University from 2004 to 2008. Frank and Nancy are members of the President’s Circle for their consistent advice, expertise and personal volunteer efforts in shaping USI.

Now residing in Indianapolis to be closer to their sons, Jon and Kip, and grandchildren, the McDonalds continue to show their affection for the University. “Degrees from USI are well respected beyond Indiana’s boundaries, and we want to help others receive a quality education.”
Judy Morton is a true friend of the University.
Much like the quilts she has cherished and collected over the years with her late husband Tom, Judy Morton’s relationship to the University is sewn with care, respect, thought and creative charm. Her love for the institution continues to grow. She and longtime friend, retired two-star General Eric Schwenker, frequently enjoy campus events and visits with USI faculty, students and staff.

Judy has a unique connection to the University. She was a non-traditional student pursuing a degree in elementary education while raising two children as a single mother. Although she demonstrated a strong sense of persistence and perseverance, she credits president emeritus Dr. David L. Rice and former first lady Betty Rice as the reason for her degree completion. Upon graduation in 1973, Judy began teaching at Culver Elementary School. She taught for over 20 years before retiring.

A blind date led to a courtship and marriage to her late husband, Tom Morton. Tom’s family had a long history of industrial management and manufacturing in Evansville. He worked for many years in the Oldsmobile division of General Motors. In the early 1960s, he transitioned to his father’s company before its sale in the 1970s. Although Tom had multiple vocations over his life, his larger-than-life personality was well suited for quarter-mile-track drag racing. He raced cars for over 45 years with victories too numerous to count. He died in 2012, but the lifetime interest he and Judy developed for handmade quilts led to a major art addition to the University Art Collection.

Judy appreciates the life she and Tom shared and is thankful he encouraged her to pursue her artistic talents in needlework and textiles. Her trailblazing spirit and expertise in quiltmaking is well known. An advocate for women in the field of quiltmaking, she refused to purchase a piece of quilting artwork without the artist’s name or signature. It took over a decade for Judy to earn the trust of the Amish community and convince women to sign their work. She understood the economic, social and cultural value of quilts and wanted each woman’s voice rightfully represented.

In 2013, Judy gave many pieces of her beloved quilt collection to the University. To date, she has given 112 quilts or quilt-related items. This collection allows students to study quilts through the lens of art, commerce, communal studies and history. Judy also has established generous scholarship endowments to support the academic journey of students. The Thomas J. Morton Jr. Engineering Scholarship Endowment, in memory of her late father-in-law, and the Linda L. M. Bennett Scholarship Endowment, in honor of the University’s third president, will perpetually provide scholarships to USI students.

Judy Morton is full of life. She is as exceptional as the quilts she has given to the University—charming, colorful and just as warm. “I love being part of the University and continue to be impressed by its people,” she states. “The ambiance of USI is that of strength and beauty. Any student can flourish here, and I am grateful to be part of this great institution.”
D. Patrick O’Daniel keeps the genuine spirit of his family legacy alive at USI.
Service and giving can be a family pastime at the University of Southern Indiana. Particularly for the O’Daniel family, the University has been a unique investment opportunity. Joe O’Daniel was a key force in the establishment of a public higher education institution in Evansville. It was not long after seeing his father’s continued activities at USI that D. Pat O’Daniel recognized the value and asset the University provided the community and region.

The O’Daniel family legacy reaches all the way back to 1934, when Joe O’Daniel, aged 21, partnered with George Ranes Sr. to form O’Daniel-Ranes Oldsmobile in downtown Evansville. In 1949 Joe O’Daniel and his brother Bernard O’Daniel founded Key Motors Desoto Plymouth automobile dealership. By 1958, the dealership began selling automobiles manufactured by Ford Motor Company, leading to the renaming of the dealership to Key Ford in 1960.

Originally beginning his accounting profession at George S. Olive, D. Pat O’Daniel joined the family business in 1964 as the company’s chief accountant. He was later promoted to general manager of the Ford dealership, before purchasing his own dealership in 1971. The new company, called D-Patrick, Inc., sold and serviced Volkswagen and Mercedes-Benz vehicles. D. Pat O’Daniel then purchased Key Ford Honda, and added new automobile brands such as BMW, Porsche and Audi to the region.

A graduate of Norte Dame, D. Pat O’Daniel always respected the pursuit of a college degree. Members of the O’Daniel family knew the power of education and the economic impact it provided. “We support the University of Southern Indiana because it is the most effective educational institution for developing the economy of southwestern Indiana,” he states.

In 2007, Mr. O’Daniel made a leadership gift of a half-million dollars to support of the Romain College of Business. His gift helps provide a permanent endowment for programmatic support. He was pleased to do this, thereby honoring the memory of his father and mother. D. Pat O’Daniel, like his father before him, is a Life Director of the USI Foundation Board of Directors.

Although his leadership gift was a moment of great pride and honor to his family, D. Pat O’Daniel recognizes his first true gift to the University was during the construction of the University Center’s Josephine K. Carter Hall in the 1998. At the time, he and his father decided to support the initiative and he remembers it as a positive experience to support the mission of the University. “When students see the lifestyle this campus offers, and witness the great return on their education, they grow into remarkable individuals. I want to support those opportunities and, in turn, help the economic standing of our region.” That same year, he received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University, the highest honor the University bestows.
Helen and Bill embraced USI every way imaginable.
Bill and Helen Sands proved a career can be a calling. Both taught at the University of Southern Indiana where they breathed life into the USI mission. They had warm and charming personalities, with a passion to support students and remain respected by many alumni.

The Sandses were great examples of an everlasting love story, lifelong partners deeply committed to each other. Whenever Helen needed to run errands or have a meeting across town, Bill was sure to escort her to and from her destinations. As Helen once noted, she was able to do everything on her own but wanted each possible moment to be spent with the love of her life. In 1998 the tragic death of their son, Bill, who died in a car accident near the USI campus, brought a strong marriage even closer.

Born and raised in the Bahamas, it seemed unlikely Bill would meet his future wife in Vermont. Both came from different worlds–Helen, from a rural town in Vermont where she studied by kerosene light, and Bill, from the Caribbean Islands where he attended boarding school in New York. It was their education at the University of Vermont that brought them to be at the same place at the same time. One evening Helen was waiting for a ride to a party and Bill happened to be in the car. Their initial meeting went well, but sadly Bill was involved in a motorcycle accident the following week. His injuries required a long period of recuperation in the hospital, but Helen visited him daily and their relationship blossomed. They were married in 1957.

In 1963, the couple and their young family moved to Carbondale, Illinois so both could pursue graduate work at Southern Illinois University. Helen earned her doctorate in communications and by 1969 she received a faculty appointment at USI. It led to 31 years of service to the University. Additionally, Bill taught English literature at USI for many years. In a special feature about their 50th wedding anniversary in the Evansville Courier & Press in 2007, Helen stated, “When I started teaching at USI, I bought into the dream that it was going to grow. The dream came true.”

During their time of service, and even into retirement, the Sandses embraced USI every way imaginable. Helen was department chair from 1970 to 1973 and a member of Faculty Senate from 1981 to 1982. Bill and Helen were founding members of the USI Retirees when it was established in January of 2008.

Bill and Helen established the Bill Sands Communication Scholarship Endowment in memory of their late son. These scholarships support students pursuing communication studies within the College of Liberal Arts. John M. Lawrence ’73, a former student of Helen’s, began a fund in gratitude for the contributions Bill and Helen provided to his alma mater. With John’s gift establishing the Bill and Helen Sands Business Communication Award Endowment, more USI students will be able to secure their dream of a higher education at USI.

Helen died in January 2018 and Bill died in April 2018. They are survived by their two daughters, Dr. Kathy Clark, her husband William, and Paula Koch, her husband George, and four grandchildren, Caroline Clark, William Clark, Michael Koch and Lauren Koch.

Their family, friends and University colleagues remain grateful for their examples of optimism, devotion, loyalty and generosity.
Together, the Smalls helped expose USI arts and theatre programs to the community.
Vicki Small is an ardent supporter of the University of Southern Indiana. Her service, dedication and generosity all contribute to the great success of the College of Liberal Arts, particularly a thriving theatre environment for performing arts students.

A graduate of the University of Evansville, Vicki began her career as a social worker. Her aspirations at the time were to study pre-law and become an attorney. However, her intellect and keen talent for computer programming led to a 26-year career in the technology field. While a student at UE, she met her husband, Steve. Vicki recalls Steve was on a full scholarship to play tuba but found some challenges in the life-school balance and dropped out. “However,” she quickly notes, “Steve was always around. He seemed to be everywhere on campus, student or not.” Vicki and Steve married young, 20 and 21 respectively. Once Vicki graduated from college, Steve reenrolled to continue his studies in communications.

After graduation, Steve initially worked as an activity therapist at Welborn Hospital and developed communication therapy programs for patients. His work caught the eye of the administration and he was quickly promoted to a communications position in human resources. Later, Steve left Welborn Hospital as assistant director of human resources to do public relations and fundraising at the American Red Cross of Southwest Indiana. Vicki comments her favorite career Steve ever had was that of a house-husband, once she began to advance in her career in information technology. During her career, Vicki had the opportunity to work as the Director of IT in the Asia/Pacific Region for Bristol-Myers Squibb. This opportunity allowed them to live in Singapore where Steve became a docent for the Asian Civilizations Museum and was proficient in his knowledge of Asian culture. She retired in 2010 as Vice President of IT Services for Mead-Johnson Nutrition.

The Smalls became connected to USI through Steve’s performances at New Harmony Theatre. Although not an Equity actor, Steve acted professionally in New Harmony for over 18 years. He was always an advocate for the arts, acting in every local theatre and on stage at both Universities in Evansville. He had a fondness for the works of Shakespeare but thrived in any character part he was given. Sadly, after a valiant fight with cancer, he died in 2015.

Through the years Vicki and Steve discussed at length giving back to the University and planned to establish a scholarship. When Steve became ill, they made the decision to establish the Steve and Vicki Small Theatre Scholarship Endowment. He knew their support was going to assist a dedicated student in the immediate future. The scholarship was a way to help the arts programs at the University, and they were thrilled to invest in USI students. “This scholarship is a means to develop the entire theatre program and the many roles students take on to make a production possible,” Vicki states. A few years ago, she joined as a board member of the USI Society for Arts & Humanities to expand on her service.

Vicki and Steve have one daughter, Kate, who has tremendous acting talent. They have one grandson, Ben. “Our scholarship encourages Ben to see the importance of a higher education,” Vicki notes. Together, the Smalls helped make the USI arts and theatre programs more visible to the community. Their generosity and service enhance the high quality of a USI education. When not volunteering for USI, Vicki can be found working as an active member of the League of Women Voters as well as a volunteer for the AARP Legislative Council. She enjoys civic advocacy and creating a community that is open to all. “It’s all about bringing people together.”
Vice President,
spokeswoman,
visionary,
confidant, mentor,
friend.
Sherrianne Standley wore many hats during her illustrious 31-year career at USI – vice president, spokeswoman, visionary, confidant, mentor, friend – and continues her service to the University as Vice President Emerita for Advancement. She received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree – the University’s most prestigious honor – in 2008. Sherrianne was not only a public face of the University, but a driving force behind its growth and success throughout the years.

A native of Owensboro, Kentucky, Sherrianne earned her undergraduate degree in education from Indiana University and a master’s degree in public administration from Indiana State University. She and her late husband Barry moved to Evansville after he finished law school.

It was through individuals like Sherrianne who prevailed, sustained and gave flight to the University’s independence. Arriving in 1976 as Director of Publications, she later became Assistant to the President, and in 1986 assumed the role as Vice President for Advancement. She was the first female vice president for a public university in Indiana. Her many successes included overseeing the University’s identity transition in 1985 to a separate public university, directing the USI Foundation’s first capital campaign, and establishing and overseeing five departments during times of unprecedented growth.

In retirement she has continued to assist with University events and publications and was a key volunteer for Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence, which exceeded its $50 million goal. She served as one of the founders of the USI Retirees and remains active in the group. Her tenacity, determination and management skills still benefit the University, both through her volunteer activities and through the countless employees and students she mentored over the years.

Sherrianne’s contributions are not limited to USI. She has served on the boards of Keep Evansville Beautiful, YWCA, Public Education Foundation of Evansville, Vanderburgh County Sheriff’s Merit and Pension Boards, Indiana Council for the Advancement and Support of Education, and the Robert Lee Blaffer Foundation. She is a Life Director of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, a recipient of the Nicholson Leadership Award, member of the 1965 Society, the President’s Circle and a charter member of the Reflections Planned Giving Society. She enjoys spending quality time with her daughter Sloane Standley, son-in-law Ronnie Beasley and grandchildren Leighton and Maddox.
The Trautvetters are examples of how one can contribute to the success of the University.
Charter members of Reflections Planned Giving Society, of the USI Foundation, the Trautvetters found joy in giving to the University of Southern Indiana. Their support of student athletes made them lifelong fans of USI Athletics, and their spirit lives on in many of the activities of the USI Varsity Club today.

Mr. Trautvetter retired from Moutoux Auto and Machine Company and was manager of Moutoux Furniture & Appliance. Mrs. Trautvetter also retired as part-owner of Moutoux, Inc. She was a sister to the well-known “Mayor of the Westside” William “Bill” Moutoux, who also was a staunch advocate of USI. The Trautvetters were involved with the USI Varsity Club for many years, and upon their deaths, left a bequest in their estate plans to renovate the Varsity Club room in the Physical Activities Center. Today, with more than 300 student athletes who consistently perform academically above the national average, along with the new 4,800-seat Screaming Eagles Arena, it proves their investment led to tremendous opportunity for USI Athletic programs.

The Trautvetters were lifelong members of St. Paul’s United Church of Christ. Mrs. Trautvetter was a Sunday school teacher and active volunteer in the Mary Martha Circle. When not watching a USI Athletic’s game, both were supporting the Deaconess Hospital Foundation. In 1988, while celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary, the Evansville Courier & Press asked about their proposal for marriage. Mr. Trautvetter recalled asking for Mrs. Trautvetter’s hand in marriage during a dance intermission at Bumb’s Five Mile House, a once popular dance hall. “We sat out there and tried to figure out whether we’d starve together,” he stated. Mrs. Trautvetter quipped, in the same article, that “If you hang long enough, you get used to hanging.”

Their giving tells a wonderful story of humility. Mr. Trautvetter died in 1991 and Mrs. Trautvetter in 1995. Before their deaths, they established the Fred and Elise Moutoux Trautvetter Scholarship, which supports students pursuing a nursing degree. In addition to their own scholarship, they also increased funding of the William and Alda Moutoux Scholarship, in memory of Mrs. Trautvetter’s parents. Over the years, both scholarships have given students the opportunity to pursue their education confidently.

Perpetual members of the President’s Associates, their legacy is that of steadfast care for the student experience at USI. Either through athletics or continued scholarship support, the Trautvetters are examples of how one can contribute to the success of the University.
USI is all in the family for the Wilmeses.
The Wilmes family has been connected to the University of Southern Indiana for as long as they can remember. Both state the University has become an integral part of their lives and remains one of their greatest interests and passions.

Jeff graduated from USI in 1981 with a degree in accounting. Originally from Spencer County, Indiana, he wanted an education close to home at a college with a distinguished record of success. Laurie received her education at the Deaconess School of Nursing and took many courses on USI’s campus. Jeff began his accounting career at George S. Olive & Company, now BKD, LLP, and remained there until his retirement in 2018. Laurie was one of the first home-based hospice nurses in the Evansville region when she began in health care. They married in 1988 and have four children, Adam ’15, Craig ’17, Carolyn and Daniel.

After graduation from USI, Jeff became involved in USI Athletics keeping statistics at basketball games. From there, he joined the Varsity Club and continues to be an active member. He will serve as the Varsity Club Board of Directors Chair for the 2019-2020 athletic season. The Wilmeses have been longtime season ticket holders – starting with just two seats, eventually growing to six to include their four children, and now with an empty nest, they are back to their original two seats. “USI basketball games are among our best family pastimes,” Laurie comments.

When asked about memorable USI moments, they both recognize three that mean the most to them. One is the 1990 game played against Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. The second is the 1995 men’s basketball national championship win. They attribute this win to their moving seats during halftime after which USI came back to claim victory. Lastly, they state the 2019 inauguration of Dr. Ronald S. Rochon as an emotional and inspirational moment in USI’s history.

As an engaged and generous alumnus, Jeff always heeded the call to serve. He has been a member of the Accounting Circle, receiving the Distinguished Accounting Award in 2009. He serves as the chair of the Audit Committee of the USI Foundation Board of Directors, and was an instrumental advisor to Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence as a member of the campaign cabinet. He also serves on the United Way Finance Committee and Igleheart Gardens Board of Directors. Holy Redeemer Catholic Church is also a major part of the Wilmeses family life.

Jeff and Laurie continue to invest in the USI experience in many ways. They believe in the mission of the University and accomplishments of students. Jeff is one of five children in his family who attended USI. Seeing the solid and steady foundation a USI education has provided each of them, the Wilmeses want other students to have the same success.
**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.

In our hearts, we’ll be loyal to you.

*Alma Mater*
University of Southern Indiana
Lyrics by David G. O’Neil—Music by Daniel R. Craig
2018
USI Foundation Board Chairs

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<td>Albert A. Woll†</td>
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<td>E. Donald Elliott†</td>
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† Deceased