

# Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

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University of Southern Indiana Foundation • Established October 1, 1968

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## Table of Contents

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The University of Southern Indiana is a comprehensive public university in Evansville, Indiana. Approximately 10,701 (Fall 2016)\* 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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|    |                                       |
|----|---------------------------------------|
| i  | Cloedeen G. and Frank F. McDonald Sr. |
| ii | Letter from USI Foundation President  |
| 2  | Dean & Jeanne K. Barnett              |
| 4  | Genevieve B. Bootz                    |
| 6  | H. Lee & Ann S. Cooper                |
| 8  | James B. '77 & Cindy Dippel           |
| 10 | Lenny E. & Anne R. '83 Dowhie         |
| 12 | Michael K. & Nancy Tarsitano Drake    |
| 14 | Rolland M. & Phyllis J. Eckels        |
| 16 | Daniel C. Fuquay                      |
| 18 | Anna Lee Hamilton                     |
| 20 | Joseph S. Hatfield                    |
| 22 | David W. '76 & Jill Herrenbruck       |
| 24 | Robert W. & R. Gayle Jeffers          |
| 26 | Sigmund V. & Marjorie O. Labhart      |
| 28 | Helen M. Mallette                     |
| 30 | Chris D. '72 & Diana S. '71 Melton    |
| 32 | Daniel C. & Carolyn O. Scavone        |
| 34 | Alan N. & Susan Shovers               |
| 36 | Foster H. & Virginia L. Tolliver      |
| 38 | Connie S. Wellmeyer '84               |
| 40 | Carolyn Weng                          |

*“We drink from wells we did not dig; we are warmed by fires we did not kindle.”*



Cloedeen G. and Frank F. McDonald Sr.

In the fall of 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 Friends,

One of the great joys of working at the University of Southern Indiana is seeing new waves of students arrive on campus year after year for the fall term. One can feel the energy as first-year students unpack overloaded cars and vans and say goodbye to teary-eyed parents, or overhear fourth-year students conversing with classmates about the excitement of graduation only nine months away. Thousands of individuals come to USI every year eager to better themselves through higher education. They come seeking to know more about philosophy, literature and science... and about themselves.

The fall semester can bring with it a spirit of quiet and reflection. As September blends into October, sometimes even the weather can prompt us to pause and think about our priorities – about what truly is important in life and for life.

In the pages of this booklet you will find stories about many people who have given of themselves in many different ways to a variety of people and organizations. We are grateful to all of those featured here and to their families and friends. The common thread running throughout the lives of these outstanding individuals is education — their love of education and their willingness to financially support education at this great University.

We are deeply indebted to them and to all of you who continue to generously support the vital and essential work of the University of Southern Indiana. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "David A. Bower".

David A. Bower  
President, USI Foundation  
October 1, 2016



*The Barnetts' dedication to USI and the Presidential Scholarships leads to student success.*



## Dean & Jeanne K. Barnett

Dr. Jeanne Barnett and her husband Dr. Dean Barnett have long been part of the USI family. Jeanne, professor emerita of biology, came to the University in 1989 and retired 22 years later. Dean, who holds a doctorate of veterinary medicine and a PhD in veterinary pathology, retired from Bristol-Myers Squibb and also taught as an adjunct faculty member for USI. Their influence goes well beyond the classroom, though. Through the years, many students struggled to meet the demands of Jeanne's course, but they always had an open invitation to the Barnett home to relax and enjoy a good meal. These same students now relay exciting life happenings from medical school graduations, marriages, career advancements and birth announcements to the Barnetts, who see their success in these moments.

The Barnetts' unique relationship with USI is through the Presidential Scholarship program. Established in 1987, this is the USI Foundation's most prestigious scholarship. Jeanne enthusiastically accepted the position as the first faculty advisor for these exceptional scholars. At the outset, Jeanne understood the importance of the program and what it gave not only to the recipients, but to the entire University. Dozens of Presidential Scholars were in and out of the Barnett home while Jeanne and Dean's son Sam was growing up. Then, in 2010, Sam went through the rigorous competition for one of the 10 scholarships offered each year and was awarded a USI Presidential Scholarship. Having experienced the program as both a faculty member and a parent, Jeanne knows better than anyone the positive effect this has on the scholars and on the University.

The Barnetts believe the Presidential Scholarships are about more than academics and have generously supported this program since its inception. This scholarship allows students to develop and be successful on campus and in their lives after graduation. The Presidential Scholars are able to be multi-dimensional students by leading campus organizations, participating in intercollegiate athletics and exploring interests they wouldn't have time for otherwise, all while focusing on their studies and encouraging the students around them to do the same.

Jeanne and Dean realized many students, especially those in the pre-med program, were not able to travel abroad during the spring or fall semester. With this in mind, Jeanne took a group of pre-med students to Harlaxton where she taught a summer course which was an incredible success. Because the Barnetts know how important study abroad opportunities are, they established the Dr. Jeanne K. Barnett Endowed Scholarship, awarded to a student in good academic standing who plans to study abroad.

*Mrs. Bootz's passion for education and the arts continues to provide for USI's music program.*



## Genevieve B. Bootz

Genevieve Bootz was a passionate champion of education in Evansville. Her husband Howard was the founder of Bootz Manufacturing Co. Inc., and Genevieve was business savvy. She also worked for Deaconess Hospital as Patient Relations Coordinator from 1966-1981, and had a great passion for volunteering and community involvement.

She was an integral part of the efforts to develop a metropolitan school district, leading to the creation of the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation. She continued to support local education through her relationship with the University of Southern Indiana.

Genevieve credits her friendship with the University's founding first lady, Betty Rice, and president emeritus David L. Rice for her devotion to the University. She would often go with Betty to pick David up from meetings.

"I got a good education from the back seat of that car," Genevieve said in a 2012 article that appeared in *USI Magazine*. "I heard all of David's philosophies about why we needed a public institution for higher education in Evansville. Over the years I heard a lot about the needs of the University. I just happened to be able to be a part of USI through that friendship."

In addition to education, Genevieve also was passionate about the arts. She helped make music education at USI a reality by establishing the Genevieve B. Bootz Music Program Endowment. Her thoughtful planning through *Reflections*, the Planned Giving Society of the USI Foundation, fully funded her endowment through a life estate gift. Her gift accelerated the establishment of an academic minor in music. The endowment also provided for the purchase of a custom-made Steinway grand piano for the Performance Center on campus. Every theatrical and musical performance held in the Performance Center, including those featuring students minoring in music and various ensembles at the University, will benefit from Genevieve's generous legacy.

Mrs. Bootz was a well-known community member, supporting, in addition to the University, the Evansville Boys and Girls Club, Evansville YWCA, Easter Seals, the League of Women Voters and ARC of Evansville. Her death in 2013 left a noticeable void in Evansville, but through the countless community projects she supported and her deferred gifts, her spirit lives on, helping USI students and the citizens of the Tri-state in perpetuity.

*The Coopers  
value USI's  
focus on  
leadership and  
the humanities.*



## H. Lee & Ann S. Cooper

H. Lee and Ann Cooper began their involvement with the University of Southern Indiana when Lee was honored as the Executive-in-Residence in 1985 for the Romain College of Business. They knew USI's first president David L. Rice and his wife Betty, as well as several of the trustees, and they are longtime friends to the USI Foundation. They appreciated the University's mission and the focus on the humanities through the core curriculum requirements, ensuring all students have a broad-based liberal arts foundation upon graduation.

Lee retired as chairman of the board of Fifth Third Bank after a distinguished career there and with its predecessor, CNB Bancshares, Inc. Ann worked at USI for 10 years as an admissions counselor helping adults return to college. As leaders in the community they watched USI grow and provide opportunities to many students who would not have otherwise had access to higher education.

The Coopers' appreciation of the core curriculum and a humanities-based education led Lee's colleagues to create the H. Lee Cooper University Core Curriculum Teaching Award in 2001 to honor him for his years of service to the banking community. Many people came together to fund the award, including Lee and Ann, who wanted to honor those professors who teach the core curriculum courses.

Lee believes that no matter what career a student chooses, leadership is a key component, and an education which includes a strong emphasis from the humanities is a necessity. The plaque honoring Lee and the exceptional faculty who have received the award features a quote from Lee that he still references today: "Management is, at its essence, one of the humanities – that branch of learning that deals with the complexities of human thought and relationship."

Lee received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University in 1998 and is a longtime member of the USI Foundation Advisory Council. He twice received the Sagamore of the Wabash, the highest award bestowed by the governor of Indiana, and the Rotary Civic Award in 1997. He and Ann remain involved in the community and the University.

In the summer of 2016 the Coopers added a major gift to their existing endowment which will substantially increase the Cooper Core Curriculum Teaching Award. As part of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* they became members of *Reflections*, establishing a deferred leadership gift which will further bolster their already generous endowment.

*The Dippels  
are committed  
to supporting  
student athletes.*



## James B. '77 & Cindy Dippel

Jim and Cindy Dippel are dedicated Screaming Eagles fans and Varsity Club members. Jim, a 1977 USI graduate with his own dental practice, enjoys sports and has been a member of the Varsity Club board for 14 years. Cindy enjoys attending basketball games. His daughters are USI alumni – Caroline, a 2007 graduate with a degree in elementary education and Stephanie, a 2011 graduate with a degree in public relations and advertising. Jim and Cindy deeply appreciate their educations received at USI and how successful they have become.

They also appreciate the comradery that is a hallmark of USI. They know all three of the University's presidents and compare USI to a big family. As Jim became involved as an alumnus on campus, several of the professors he had as a student – Dr. Marlene Shaw, the late Dr. Melvin Denner and the late Dr. Jack Marr – became his colleagues and friends. While these three professors were demanding teachers, he recognizes how well prepared he was for dental school.

Jim first joined the Varsity Club in 1987. He got to know many of the student athletes and admired their hard work on the court and in the classroom. Through the years there was one thing he noticed. There were students who received athletic scholarships which covered their years of eligibility, but often a fifth year was needed to complete their degree. He and Cindy gave generously to help these students. To ensure future students are able to complete their studies, Cindy and Jim made plans as part of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* to put a gift in place. This gift provided an endowed scholarship for those athletes who have exhausted their eligibility, but want to complete their degree requirements. Being able to support these students is a point of personal pride for the Dippels.

Because of his years of service to athletics and the Varsity Club, Jim received the 2013 Volunteer of the Year Award from USI's Alumni and Volunteer Services. He and Cindy are fixtures at all Varsity Club events and are instrumental in the planning and promotion of all things athletic.

*Art and  
community  
inspire the  
Dowhies'  
generosity.*



## Lenny E. & Anne R. '83 Dowhie

Artist Lenny Dowhie was teaching in Louisiana when he found out about a job opening at the University of Southern Indiana. He had attended Indiana State University, Terre Haute, for his master's degree, knew the area and was already familiar with a few members of the faculty. John McNaughton, the art department chair at the time, called Lenny and the rest, as they say, is history.

Lenny and his wife Anne moved to Evansville in 1978 and quickly became immersed in the community. The University was young. The faculty were young, too, energetic and just embarking on their careers. Many faculty members, including Lenny, would teach a wide range of subjects to make sure students received education and experience in many types of art. But even with his diverse curriculum, his passion is ceramics. In his 33 years at USI, he shaped the ceramics program and was an integral voice in the planning of the Ceramics Center which opened in 2009.

Anne graduated from USI in 1983 and worked as an art educator for 22 years at Central High School. She also works with younger students through programs on USI's campus, and they both continue to volunteer as called upon by current faculty. Anne and Lenny are among a small group that founded Expressions of Culture, Inc., producers of the Chicago International Exposition of SOFA (Sculpture, Objects and Functional Art). Lenny recently joined a group of investors to found Art Exhibitions, LLC, producers of EXPO CHICAGO, an annual exhibition of more than 110 premier international art galleries held at Chicago's Navy Pier.

Generous donors to the USI Foundation over many years, Lenny and Anne decided to make a \$1 million deferred gift commitment during *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* to provide ongoing endowed support of the ceramics program. As a fitting tribute of this gift, the Ceramics Center now bears their names. The Lenny and Anne Dowhie Ceramics Studio serves as a hub for arts, community and education for generations to come. And their endowment will provide annual support to the ceramics program, benefitting students and everyone their art touches.

The Dowhies believe that an art education is important to all students, not just those majoring in it. In 1978 Lenny coined the phrase, "Without art you have no culture; without culture, you have no civilization." Thanks to the Dowhies and their impact on art at USI, in Evansville and beyond, civilization will continue to be influenced by culture and art.



*The Drakes support medical education and the arts at USI to benefit the entire community.*



## Michael K. & Nancy Tarsitano Drake

Michael Drake and Nancy Tarsitano Drake are known throughout the community for their support of medical education and the arts. Michael is the son of Dale and Kathy Drake, who are well known as two of the characters portrayed on the television series *M\*A\*S\*H*. Michael attended Mater Dei High School before graduating from St. Louis University and Indiana University School of Medicine. He assumed his father's anesthesiology practice. Nancy graduated from Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama, and has been an Evansville resident for over 30 years.

Nancy's unbounded energy has helped literally every non-profit in this region. She freely spends her time and abilities to help others. Known for their generosity, their affiliation with the University began with annual gifts supporting USI's Society for Arts & Humanities and Historic New Harmony. Eventually, they began attending the Society's annual fundraiser, Toast to the Arts, and were soon asked to co-chair the event. Through their many arts affiliations, they became friends with USI faculty members. Nancy even took some courses at USI taught by their friends Katie Waters, professor of art, and Matthew Graham, professor of English. She was impressed by the incredible mix of students, the convivial campus, and the ability of the faculty to make a huge impression on students and how they view life.

In 2000, the University established the Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) Scholarships, a competitive award for Indiana residents who plan to pursue medical school. Through an interview process, USI awards full tuition scholarships for four years of undergraduate study as well as provisional acceptance into the Indiana University School of Medicine. Michael and Nancy supported the B/MD Scholarships with annual gifts. As part of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* they decided to become members of *Reflections*, establishing a deferred gift to fully underwrite the Michael K. and Nancy Tarsitano Drake Endowed B/MD Scholarship.

As a graduate of IU School of Medicine who also has taught there, Michael knows how important this scholarship is, and will continue to be, with the new medical campus opening in downtown Evansville in 2018. Michael and Nancy believe all education is part of the fabric of the community. This new facility will add to the vibrancy of downtown while providing new opportunities for students from all of the partner institutions.

*The Eckels  
have shaped  
the University  
and its campus.*



## Rolland M. & Phyllis J. Eckels

Rolland and Phyllis Eckels have devoted their lives to making Evansville a better place. This devotion led to membership in many organizations, chairing committees and boards and countless hours of volunteering. The single biggest impact they have made on the community is their work to bring a public higher education institution to Evansville.

Rolland is a graduate of the University of Evansville and served as a staff sergeant in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II. He joined Bristol Myers in 1962 as the manager of communications and retired as the director of public affairs in 1990. Rolland is a life director of the USI Foundation Board and a 41-year member of Southern Indiana Higher Education Inc. (SIHE). His accomplishments have been honored with the conferral of an honorary Doctor of Laws degree in 1976 from USI and the Suzanne A. Nicholson Leadership Award in 2008.

Rolland served as president of Southern Indiana Higher Education Inc. for 10 years and defied many odds to ensure that affordable, public higher education was brought to Evansville to benefit local students and the community as a whole. In January of 1967 SIHE announced a fund drive to purchase 1,400 acres on the west side of Evansville. Robert Koch, Sr. was the chairman of this effort, but asked Rolland to serve as spokesperson. By June of that year they had surpassed the original goal of \$750,000 and by August, nearly \$1 million was committed for purchase of the land which now is home to USI's campus. Rolland led efforts to secure funding for campus apartments, which transformed the campus from a commuter to residential campus. Rolland was appointed by Governor Robert Orr to serve on the Board of Incorporators for a Separate State University, which led to the legislation creating the University of Southern Indiana in 1985.

Longtime members of the President's Associates, the Eckels continue to support the institution they helped build. Through an outright gift and a deferred gift they established the Rolland M. and Phyllis J. Eckels Scholarship Endowment. They also support Historic New Harmony and the Here & Now Fund, which is an unrestricted fund used to fill the most urgent needs of the University.

Rolland and Phyllis have been married for 73 years and have three children, Pamela Eckels Guthrie, Barbara Eckels Huber '90, and Jeff Eckels '01; eight grandchildren; and 14 great-grandchildren, many who still live in the Tri-state and continue their family's tradition of service and giving.

*Danny Fuquay  
honors his  
late wife Andrea  
while helping  
students.*



## Daniel C. Fuquay

Danny Fuquay began his legacy of giving with his late wife Andrea Stratman Fuquay, a 1999 graduate of the University of Southern Indiana. She had enjoyed her years at USI and valued her degree which led her to a career as an educator. She and Danny founded Aching Acres Landscaping and built it into a successful business. Members of the prestigious President's Associates level for several years, Danny and Andrea enjoyed giving back to the University. When Andrea was diagnosed with cholangiocarcinoma (bile duct cancer) she fought the disease with great courage, but at age 35 lost the fight on June 15, 2011.

Danny wanted to honor Andrea's memory with something that would allow her generous spirit to continue to make a difference. Her children, Logan, Braxton, Kimber and Keely, were involved in many activities and she always gave her time and donated to each cause. From the PTA to Cub Scouts to teaching Sunday School, she always answered when called upon. Danny worked with the USI Foundation to establish the Andrea M. Fuquay Memorial Scholarship. The family asked that all memorial gifts be made to the scholarship, and it grew to \$31,000, the largest memorial scholarship in Foundation history.

As amazing as the response was, Danny wanted to do more. In 2011, he established a nonprofit foundation, Andrea Remembered, which supports the scholarship and raises funds and awareness for bile duct cancer. Each year it sponsors "Andrea's Night," an event that is about more than just raising money. Andrea loved to entertain and socialize, and this annual event allows her friends and family to do just that. Since its establishment it has earned \$312,000 for the scholarship. The event's popularity is well known, with tickets selling out quickly, since many people who knew Andrea want to honor her memory and help support cancer research and USI students.

"If you've worked hard and built something, you should be thankful for that and you should give back," Danny says. Both he and Andrea felt strongly about giving, which makes the scholarship an exceptionally moving tribute. Knowing that the scholarship will forever benefit USI students who have lost a parent and are in need of assistance is a tribute that helps so many remember Andrea and her spirit.

*The Anna Lee  
Hamilton  
Music Studio  
is a tribute to  
her love of music.*



## Anna Lee Hamilton

Anna Lee Schmidt Hamilton and her brother William Schmidt were born in Kentucky just four years apart and later moved to Evansville. From her earliest days, church, music and family formed the centers of her life. Anna Lee went on to marry Richard Hamilton, a Methodist minister, and the two shared a life for 52 years until her death in 2005. Richard's ministry found them living in Bloomington and Evansville before they settled in Indianapolis for 32 years. It was there Anna Lee built her reputation as a vocal artist, instructor and patron of the arts. She was known for her love and support of music throughout the state of Indiana.

A 1950 graduate of DePauw University, Anna Lee did post-graduate study at Indiana University and Heidelberg Conservatory of Music in Germany. Her career included time as a voice instructor at Butler University, vocal coach and assistant conductor of the Indianapolis Opera Company, and vocal coach, musical director and performer with the Indiana Opera Theatre. She also gave private voice lessons from her home studio.

Her younger brother Bill, who died in 2014, also was a DePauw graduate. He became a successful developer and businessman. Through their mutual love of music, Bill established the prestigious William E. Schmidt Youth Vocal Competition for high school students. Anna Lee traveled throughout the state of Indiana identifying those students with great promise.

It was Bill who decided to honor Anna Lee at the University of Southern Indiana. As part of the first-ever capital campaign at USI (1996-1998), Bill made a leadership gift to underwrite the Anna Lee Hamilton Music Studio. Located in the lower level of the Liberal Arts Center, the Hamilton Music Studio provides rehearsal space and is utilized by many students and instructors. This space is a tribute to Anna Lee's passion for musical instruction and performance as well as her brother's legacy for supporting the performing arts through the William E. Schmidt Foundation.

Anna's passion extended beyond music. She participated in many mission trips in the United States and around the world, and spent many hours tutoring students in Indianapolis. She was the mother of three children, David F. Hamilton, John M. Hamilton and Elizabeth Hamilton, and eight grandchildren. Anna Lee is remembered for her talent, generosity and contagious joy.

*Joe Hatfield's  
legacy lives on  
with a  
Presidential  
Scholarship.*



## Joseph S. Hatfield

Joe S. Hatfield came from a family of respected attorneys, following in the footsteps of his father, Frank H. Hatfield, and his grandfather, Sidney B. Hatfield. He was one of the few Evansville attorneys to head the Indiana State Bar Association and was the recipient of the prestigious James Bethel Gresham Freedom Award by the Evansville Bar Association in 1981.

Education was very important to Joe. He spent 23 years as the attorney for the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, attending hundreds of school board meetings and guiding decisions. He was known for his impartiality and professionalism. In an *Evansville Press* article dated July 7, 1979, about his retirement, Joe was quoted as saying, "You do as a school attorney as you have to do as an attorney for anyone. You educate yourself as best as you can as to the factual situation and try to anticipate how the law applies to the facts."

Fine and Hatfield established the Joe S. Hatfield Memorial Presidential Scholarship Endowment in memory of their esteemed colleague. They saw it as a fitting tribute because of Joe's interest in education and young people.

The firm was founded in 1921 in a partnership between Edward E. Meyer and Isadore J. Fine. Joe and his father merged with the firm in 1943. Tom Fitzsimmons was Fine and Hatfield's managing partner when the Presidential Scholarship was established, and he recognized the investment they were making in the students, the University and the community. Tom and his wife Connie underwrote the fourth year of the award and have a deferred gift in place to endow the scholarship. The generosity of the firm and Tom and Connie Fitzsimmons will leave a lasting memorial for generations to come.

Joe and his wife, Virginia, had one son, Michael, and two grandchildren, Brent and Andria. They were members of St. Paul Episcopal Church. Virginia was a teacher in the EVSC and a founding member of the Evansville Philharmonic Orchestra board for 50 years.

*The Herrenbrucks  
provide leadership  
and excitement  
to USI.*



## David W. '76 & Jill Herrenbruck

David and Jill Herrenbruck began supporting the University of Southern Indiana with their time when they were just beginning their family and careers. David graduated from USI in 1976 with a degree in marketing. His career path started in sales for the tech sector and led him to his current position as wealth management advisor, vice president at Fifth Third Bank. He and Jill first became involved by attending basketball games, which led to them joining the Varsity Club.

His parents, the late Earl and Gloria Herrenbruck, were active during the early days of USI athletics, and stayed involved for many decades. David and Jill continued the tradition by helping organize the first Varsity Club Steak Fry & Auction. They continue to serve as volunteers for USI and proudly represent the University in the community. David received the Volunteer of the Year award in 2007 and the Alumni Service Award in 2005. Beyond his work at USI, he also has served with Keep Evansville Beautiful and the YMCA, as well as being part of the morning Rotary.

When presented with the Suzanne A. Nicholson Leadership Award on May 19, 2016, David was described as “one of USI’s most ardent cheerleaders and volunteers, spreading the word of USI and its programs to the community and beyond.” His leadership takes many forms, from serving on the USI Foundation Board, including terms as vice chair for Development and chair of the Alumni Annual Fund Campaign and the Alumni Council, to dressing like Uncle Sam while serving as emcee of the Varsity Club Steak Fry & Auction.

David sees his financial support for the University, as well as the time and expertise he offers, as an important investment. He is appreciative of the excellent education he received and is not sure where he and his family would be today had it not been for USI. He says that giving back is, “just a part of who I am. We have an obligation, and we all have something to offer.”

*Student success  
leads  
the Jeffers  
to give back .*



## Robert W. & R. Gayle Jeffers

Bob and Gayle Jeffers are both Evansville natives and first generation college graduates. They know the importance of education in improving lives, contributing to community service and making the world a better place.

While Bob was working as an announcer at Ellis Park, a position he had for 19 years, he received a call asking if he would be available to teach a few classes at USI. Bob started working as an adjunct faculty member before joining the faculty full time in 1993. This had a huge impact on the program and students, many of whom have gone on to prestigious careers and personal successes. Photos of these students adorn the walls of Bob's office, and he speaks proudly of their accomplishments. He also takes pride in the fact that the students make a point to stay in contact with him, knowing the guidance and education they received in his courses has helped them achieve their goals.

Bob and Gayle have spent the better part of their careers in education, Bob as instructor in communications at USI and Gayle as a school psychologist in the Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation, from which she retired after 34 years. They value education and know that it's about more than just a textbook education.

Service learning is part of the curriculum in many of the courses Bob has taught over the years. His students benefit from the experience and learn that no matter what they plan to do with their lives, they can influence the world and make a lasting impact. He also encourages them to study abroad. One of his proudest accomplishments is the success of his 10-day tour of cathedrals in European capitals, which has always been a favorite trip of students.

Bob and Gayle established the R. Gayle & Robert W. Jeffers Communications Endowment to provide unrestricted funds to the Communications Department. They are members of *Reflections*, the planned giving society at the USI Foundation, and longtime members of The President's Associates, the University's prestigious donor society. Their passion for education will continue to serve students in perpetuity thanks to a deferred gift in support of their endowment.

*The Labharts  
celebrate the early  
days of USI while  
providing for its  
future.*



## **Sigmund V. & Marjorie O. Labhart**

Marjorie Olsen Labhart was one of only two full-time faculty members to join the University when it was founded in 1965. She taught for several years before taking some time off while her children were young, then returned part time for 17 years before resuming full-time teaching in 1987. She retired in 2008. Over the years, she saw the campus move from Centennial School to its permanent campus, which continues to thrive. Enrollment has grown in that time as well, from 412 students in the first year to the current student body of over 10,000 students.

Marjorie and her husband Sig both earned undergraduate degrees from the University of Evansville. They both then attended the University of Tennessee, with Marjorie earning her master's degree and Sig attending law school. He retired from his law practice in 2000.

Having taught mathematics, Marjorie is known for her attention to detail as well as her dedication and expertise. Join these qualities with her caring personality, and it is clear how she earned the respect of decades of students and colleagues. Her support extended beyond the classroom, as she was instrumental in forming USI's first Student Government Association and was a member of the first Faculty Council (now Faculty Senate). She received the Faculty Recognition Award in 2005. She thoroughly enjoyed her experience teaching at USI, and her students and colleagues benefited immensely from her experience and tenure.

She and Sig have invested in USI and its students since the beginning. They have made a lasting commitment through a deferred gift to fund the Labhart-Olsen Family Scholarships, established in 1996 for mathematics and mathematics teaching majors. One scholarship is needs-based for upper classmen and the other four are based on the students' academic success. The scholarships also bring top mathematics students to the University, which strengthens the entire department.

Through the years, they have had the pleasure of getting to know several of their recipients. "These students had a great deal of interest in attending USI, which warms my heart. While here they performed at a very high level and are now in the community, working in their professions and doing quite well," says Marjorie. Thanks to their generosity and thoughtful planning, mathematics students at USI will benefit from these scholarships for many years to come.

The Labharts have three adult children, Marjorie Daily M'95, Sigmund Labhart III '87 M'07 and Hoesli Labhart. They also have three grandchildren.



*Ms. Mallette's  
generosity to  
the arts lives  
on through the  
Malette Studio  
Theatre.*



## Helen M. Mallette

Helen Mallette was known as an avid and generous patron of the arts in Evansville. A native of Grayville, Illinois, she lived most of her life in Evansville and dedicated herself to improving the community through the many organizations she supported.

Her contributions to the University included serving on the board of the Society for Arts and Humanities and being a devoted patron of New Harmony Theatre. She received the Arts Council of Southwestern Indiana's Patron of the Arts award in 1999 honoring her contributions to arts in Evansville and the surrounding communities. In addition to her devotion to USI, she also was involved with Mesker Park Zoo and Botanical Gardens, the Vanderburgh County Humane Society, and Evansville Civic Theatre, where she underwrote many productions.

Helen's longtime friend and caretaker, Dick Engbers, director emeritus of the Evansville Civic Theatre, said this: "Sassy, cute, spunky, feisty, generous and very loving are words which exquisitely illuminate the spirit and personality of this perfectly marvelous friend and supporter of the Evansville Arts Community and USI, Helen Marie Mallette. She was my personal dear friend and her legacy to USI will benefit students and theater patrons for many years to come."

Helen gave the first major gift to USI's Liberal Arts Center to furnish its studio theatre, one of the building's areas that would have remained unfinished without private funding. The Helen M. Mallette Studio Theatre opened with Mayor Frank F. McDonald II '73 proclaiming November 11, 1999, as Helen M. Mallette Day and a production of *All My Sons*. It remained the site for mainstage productions until the USI Performance Center opened in 2015.

For 16 years USI students and faculty spent innumerable hours rehearsing, performing, staging and directing all performances in the Mallette Studio, a black box theatre that now is home to student-directed performances. Students continue to gain invaluable experience and have a place to showcase their talent thanks to Helen's generous gift. Her legacy will provide exceptional educational experiences for theater students and audiences for many years to come.

*The Meltons' involvement has enhanced USI and benefitted every student.*



## Chris D. '72 & Diana S. '71 Melton

Chris and Diana Melton may have been the first couple to meet at the University, then marry. Chris is a 1972 graduate and Diana received her diploma in 1971 – the University's first graduating class. Together, they have seen firsthand the transformation of the University of Southern Indiana and the Tri-state community. They began their educational journeys when classes were held at Centennial School, not knowing the role they would play in the development of the campus to what it is today.

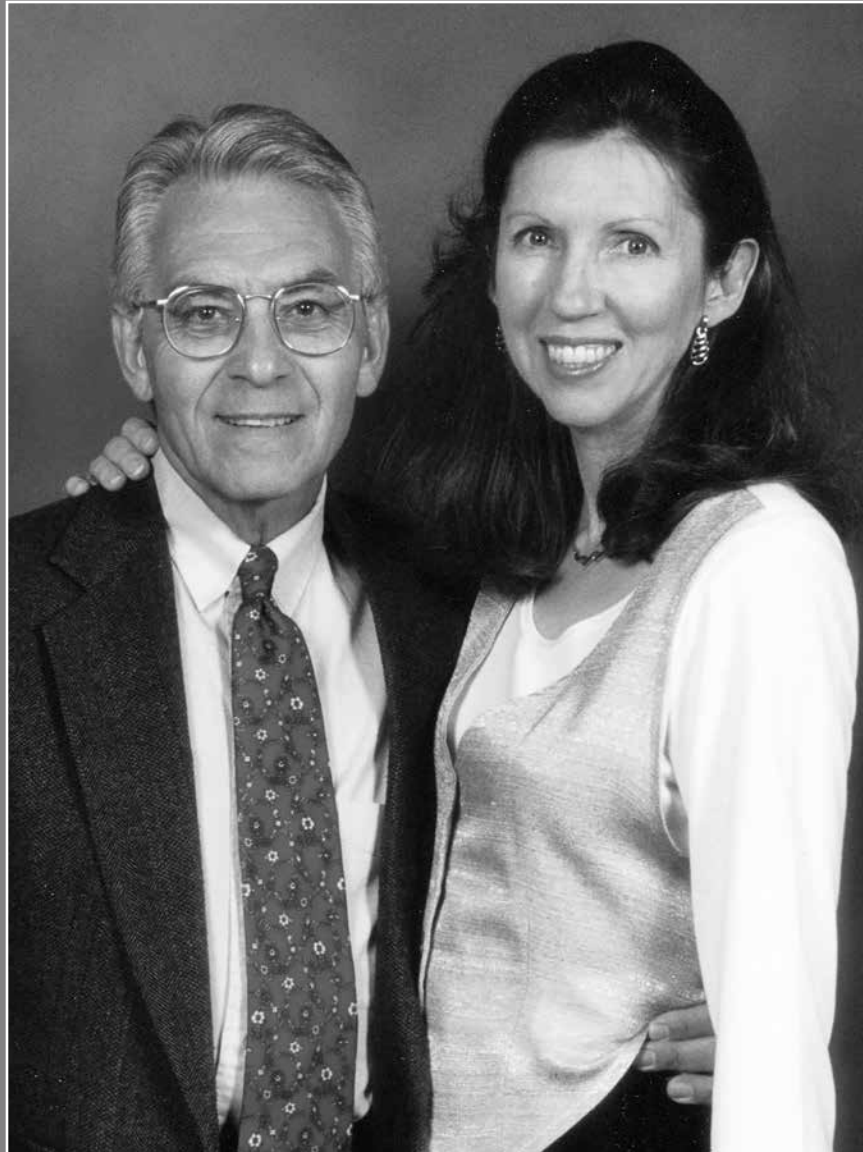
Even in the early days, USI was about more than just attending classes. There was a campus community, and both Chris and Diana became a part of it. They formed friendships through their campus activities that carried over into their professional lives.

After graduation, Chris' career took him to National City Bank where he worked with the late C. Wayne Worthington, an early supporter of the efforts to bring higher education to Southern Indiana and then of the University. In 1979 and 1980, Chris helped Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) arrange financing to build housing for USI's students. He joined SIHE and became the assistant treasurer in 1983, then president in 1988. He served on the board for 25 years, 20 of those as president. It was his leadership that helped the group realize its work was complete. In 2009, SIHE disbanded and turned over 1,200 acres of ground to the USI Foundation, as well as \$500,000. This acreage assures future growth for the University and the generous cash gift now provides scholarships to deserving students. The work he and his SIHE colleagues accomplished for USI and the community is immeasurable.

In addition to his work with SIHE, Chris served on presidential search committees which led to the hiring of both H. Ray Hoops and Linda L. M. Bennett. He has been present for many momentous occasions, from the introduction of student housing to watching the men's basketball team win the national championship in 1995. He also served on the Alumni Council and is a member of the USI Foundation Board of Directors and its Finance Committee.

The Meltons are proud of their USI education and all of the milestones they have contributed to over the years. They know that by having affordable higher education, more local students are able to earn a college degree. They support programs across the University, from unrestricted gifts, to the Romain College of Business, to the Society for Arts and Humanities and Presidential Scholarships.

*The Scavones  
are proud of  
the legacy they  
created on campus  
and around  
the world.*



## Daniel C. & Carolyn O. Scavone

Dr. Dan Scavone had a long and distinguished career as professor of history at the University of Southern Indiana. Dan, a first-generation college graduate, joined the faculty in 1970 after pre-PhD teaching experiences at Loyola College, Rosary College and Elmhurst College. He has received many honors over the years and has presented lectures around the world. His work has been published in Australia, Brazil, Britain, Canada, Denmark, France, Germany, Italy, Spain and Zimbabwe, which he sees as a tribute to the University. As he traveled, wrote scholarly works and lectured to both students and community members, he credited the University and its presence during his formative years. Many of these works and lectures focused on his scholarly work with the Shroud of Turin. His dedicated analysis and research on the Shroud, and all of his articles, interviews and presentations on the topic, have established him as one of the top Shroud scholars in the world today.

Dan and his wife Carolyn met at an Evansville Philharmonic chorus party and married in 1990. They found they shared a passion for antiquity, classical music, traveling and USI. They also value a strong work ethic and education, leading to their enduring support of USI.

They help many charities, but USI stands out to them. They want to show their appreciation for everything Dan achieved as a faculty member. He is proud of the legacy he created, as former students stop him in public to thank him for the mentorship and education they received in his classroom. Many have gained great success in their fields and attribute that level of success to Dan's influence.

Dan and Carolyn established the Hoos and Scavone Scholarship, in honor of their parents. Dan's father emigrated from Sicily at the age of 16, and Dan was raised in an inner-city Italian neighborhood of Chicago. Carolyn's father also immigrated to the United States, but from Germany to Evansville. The scholarship honors the legacy of their hard-working parents and benefits an outstanding history student.

A former student of Dan's, John M. Lawrence '73, established the Scavone Awards, which pays tribute to both a faculty member and a student in medieval manuscript history. The awards also honor Dan's hard work and dedication to the University.

*The Shovers  
helped USI  
from its  
earliest days.*



## Alan N. & Susan Shovers

Alan and Susan Shovers came to Evansville in 1968 and it didn't take long for them to get involved in the community. Alan, a partner at Kahn, Dees, Donovan, & Kahn, did some legal work for USI, met then-president David L. Rice, and soon after was asked to join Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. The Shovers have remained steady and ardent supporters of USI through many transitions and much growth.

In the early days, SIHE and USI had many battles ahead of them, and Alan was willing to take on the challenge. From providing housing for students to gaining its independence in 1985, he worked to establish the foundation necessary for USI to grow into the institution it is today.

The Shovers continue to invest in USI because it is a "rare, exciting university," according to Alan. Their passion for USI was rooted in the need for affordable higher education in Evansville, which USI now provides to over 10,000 students a year. They can see their involvement and investment paying off as more area students are able to afford and attend a state university, with many remaining in the Tri-state and contributing to their community.

One way they choose to support USI is through the Edward J. Shovers Advertising Scholarship in memory of their late son. It is given to top junior advertising majors.

"We want him to live on in the lives of others," says Susan. "He loved it so much as a student there."

They also have donated a portion of their notable Carder Steuben Glass collection to the University Art Collection, some of which are on display in the Griffin Center. Their generous gift also was featured in an exhibition at the McCutchan Art Center/Pace Galleries in the summer of 2010. The Shovers' collection is the subject of *Objects of Desire: The Art of Frederick Carder*, written and illustrated by Alan. The Evansville Museum organized a Carder exhibition in 2008 and sponsored the book's publication.

*The Tollivers’  
generosity will  
benefit New  
Harmony Theatre  
in perpetuity.*



## Foster H. & Virginia L. Tolliver

Foster “Bud” and Virginia Tolliver dedicated their lives to the betterment of New Harmony. They were both born there and spent much of their lives working and volunteering for the town that would always hold a special place in their hearts.

Bud graduated from Poseyville High School and was a Navy veteran of World War II. He and Virginia were married in 1942. They owned and operated a store in New Harmony which started with electric service and evolved into appliances, televisions and eventually hardware. They retired in 1986 after 44 years.

Their involvement with New Harmony went beyond their business. Bud was president of the New Harmony Town Council from 1972 to 1975. They were members of Johnson United Methodist Church, where they were both very involved. Bud was a charter member of the New Harmony Kiwanis Club and served as president of the organization. He was past master of Arctic Masonic Lodge #394, a member of the New Harmony Workingmen’s Institute for 50 years, an original member of the Wabash River Commission, a past president of the New Harmony Parks Board, and was involved with the planting and care of many of the trees in New Harmony’s parks and streets.

They moved from New Harmony to the Communities of Solarbron, next to USI’s campus, in 2006, where Bud was elected president of the Residents Council. Their devotion to New Harmony continued. They became engaged with the University of Southern Indiana Foundation in 1987 through their association with Historic New Harmony and New Harmony Theatre. In 2011, Bud and Virginia established the Tolliver Endowment and the Tolliver Charitable Gift Annuity, both of which benefit New Harmony Theatre. Their generous planning helps the Theatre bring world-class performances to the Tri-state.

Bud died at 90 years of age in 2012. Virginia continued to live at Solarbron until her death in 2013 at the age of 90. Bud and Virginia have a son, Robert, of Mount Vernon, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

*Ms. Wellmeyer values her USI education and gives back to the accounting program.*



## Connie S. Wellmeyer '84

Connie Wellmeyer didn't think about attending college until her senior year of high school. She was the first in her family to go to college. The University of Southern Indiana was close and affordable, especially with financial aid and scholarships. The USI accounting program's great reputation also was an important factor. It is a choice she still appreciates, not only for the prestige her degree holds, but for the relationships she formed and lessons she learned.

"You get on the campus and you feel like you are home," says Connie. Getting involved and giving back was easy and rewarding for her, even as a student. She worked on campus and became involved with the Activities Programming Board and served as an AMIGO (orientation leader). She got to know the faculty and staff, and saw that many opportunities were available to people who were willing to get involved.

Now, as an alumna, class of 1984, and assistant general manager of Corporate Services & Public Affairs at Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc., she continues to volunteer and support USI. She has invested her time and efforts in USI's Accounting Circle, and has seen that investment pay off year after year. The Accounting Circle brings professionals to campus and finds opportunities for students to gain hands-on training at organizations in the community.

From local case studies to international awards, USI accounting students consistently impress. And their success is a direct result of the opportunities presented to them, especially from volunteers like Connie and local companies such as Toyota Motor Manufacturing, Indiana, Inc. She knows that giving back to USI means making an impact on the entire Tri-state area, and beyond.

In addition to her service to the Accounting Circle, Connie has served on Alumni Council and the Varsity Club Board of Directors. In recognition of her efforts, Connie received the Distinguished Accountant Award in 2008 and the Alumni Service Award in 2010. A generous donor to her alma mater since graduation, Connie also is a charter member of *Reflections*, with an estate gift in place.

*Mrs. Weng  
celebrates her  
love of art while  
honoring her  
late husband.*



## Carolyn Weng

Carolyn Williams Weng has devoted her life to art and art education. Born in Louisville, Kentucky, in 1929, she graduated from Georgetown College in 1952 and then received her master's degree from the University of Louisville in 1958, where she was the recipient of the Allen R. Hite Art Scholarship. Mrs. Weng is an accomplished artist who has shown her works extensively in Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Ohio and Tennessee, including 32 juried competitions, 12 solo shows, seven two-person exhibitions, 13 group shows and 11 invitationals. Her art has won awards and is in public and private collections.

She also is a dedicated art educator, inspiring many students during her 40-year career. Carolyn taught at several high schools in Kentucky before joining the University of Louisville. In 1961, she began teaching at Oakland City University, where she developed an art major and instituted a Gallery Program with exhibitions throughout the year. In addition to her duties at OCU, Carolyn also taught at Princeton Community High School from 1974 until 1992. She was honored with the Teacher of the Year award at Oakland City University in 1974 and received the 2011 Warrick County Arts Award.

As part of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*, Carolyn established the Siegfried R. and Carolyn W. Weng Scholarship in Art Endowment to honor her late husband, Siegfried, director emeritus of the Evansville Museum of Arts, History & Science. This endowment also serves as a testament to her extensive knowledge of and passion for art and community support. A major gift from her estate will provide permanent funding to ensure this scholarship is available to future generations of art students.

Siegfried was director of the Dayton Art Institute until 1950 and the Evansville Museum until he retired in 1969. He also had a distinguished art career that spanned 70 years. In 1985, he was honored with the Mayor's Arts Award for his years of leadership and counsel in the arts community in Evansville. Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel declared May 20, 2004, as Siegfried R. Weng Day in celebration of his 100th birthday.

The Weng Scholarship at USI honors the legacy of this dynamic couple while assisting art students financially. As these students complete their studies and begin careers in art, their success will be an additional indication of the dedication Carolyn and Siegfried had for the arts in southwestern Indiana and beyond.

## 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 Bussing  
2014–2016

Kevin L. Hammett '90  
2016–

† Deceased