

Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

University of Southern Indiana Foundation · Established October 1, 1968

Volume 12
2019

University of Southern Indiana Creative and Print Services

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Dear Alumni and Friends,

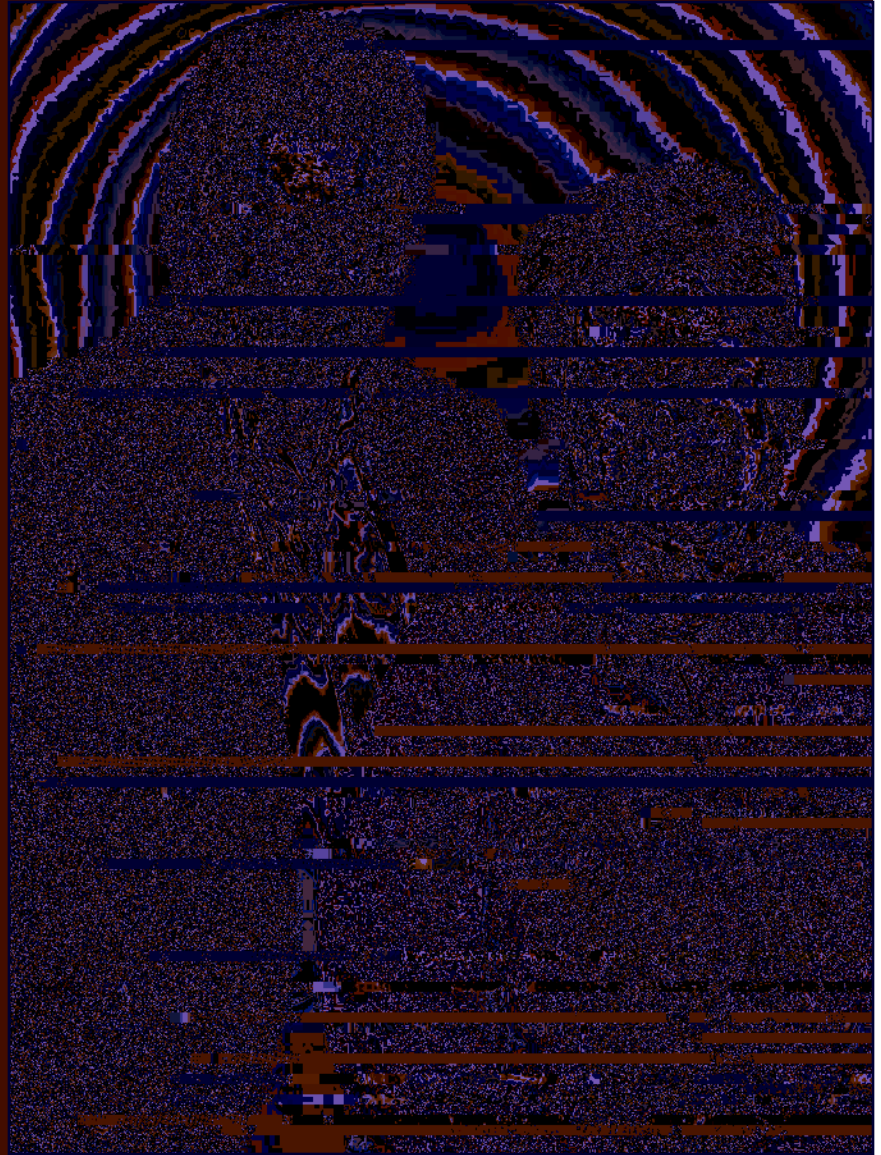
Since last year's edition of *For the Future*, much has happened on our already busy campus. Four leadership positions were filled after a national search was completed for each, University Provost, Vice President for Student Affairs, Dean of the Romain College of Business and Dean of Students.

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

*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

Jim and Lara Beck

Jim W. '92 and Lara R. '92 Beck

As a former editor of the University's student newspaper, *The University Voice*, 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.

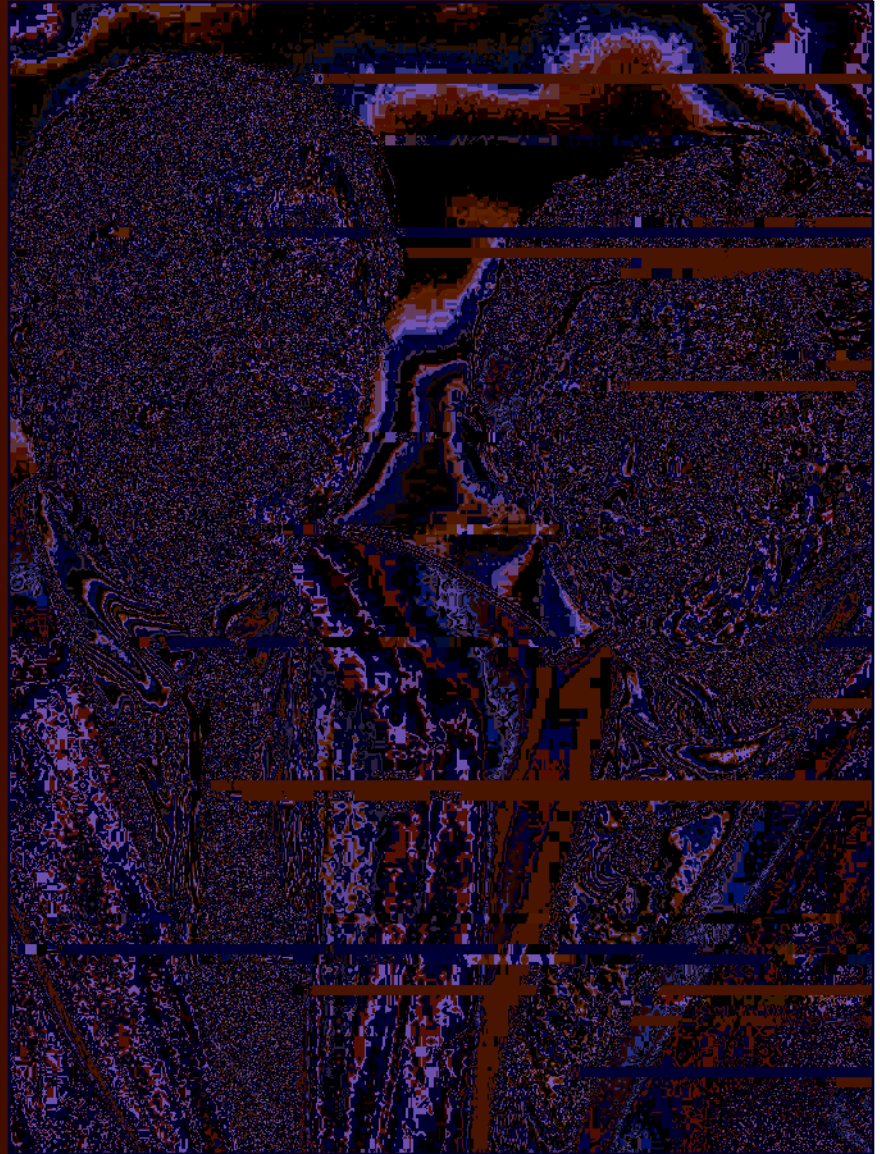
Both majored in communication and public relations. Jim began a career immediately after graduation at the *Evansville Courier & Press*, where he spent 16 years as a reporter and newsroom manager. He now serves as a director of corporate communications for a Fortune 500 company. Lara has extensive experience 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 *College of Arts & Sciences*, 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 *Evansville 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."

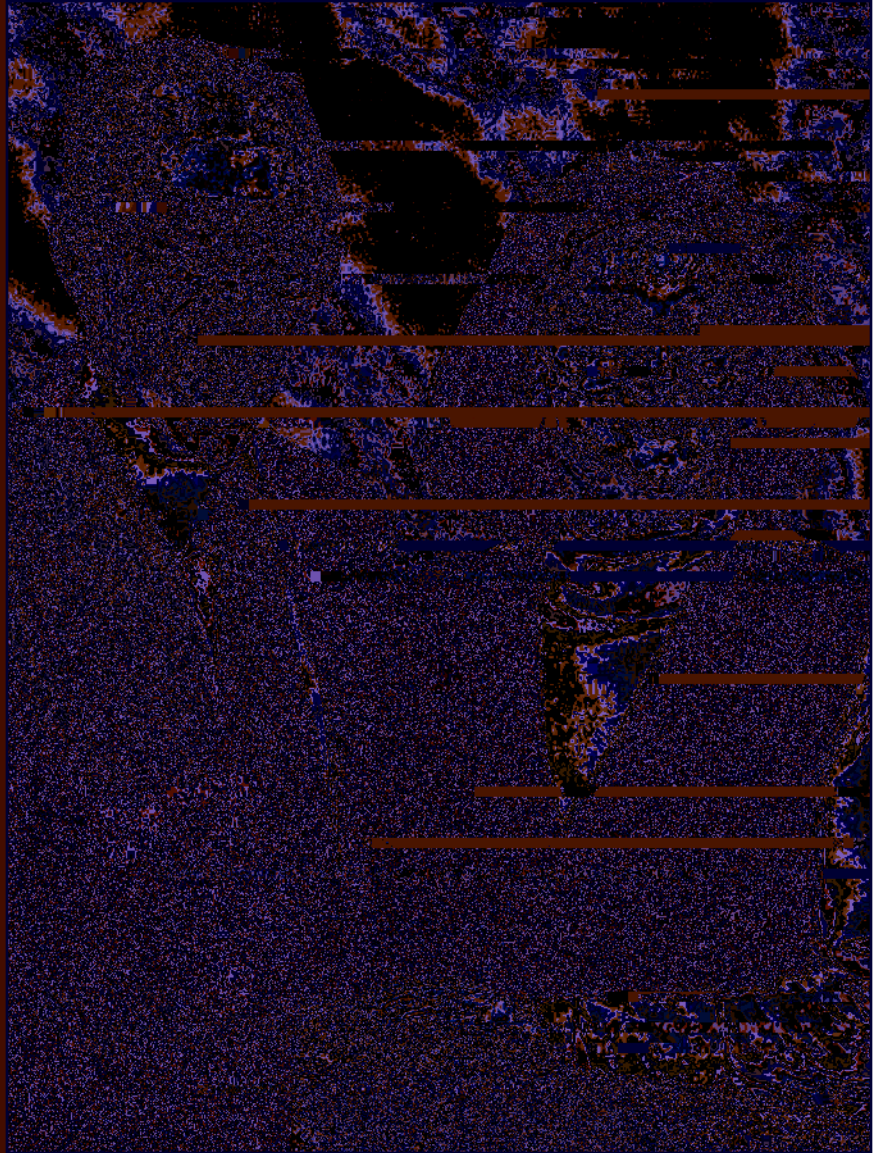
Jim and Lara are exemplary alumni who demonstrate the strength of a USI degree. Their service and generosity are commendable.

*The Bennetts
feel a sense of
obligation to
invest in their
deeply held
values.*





*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.

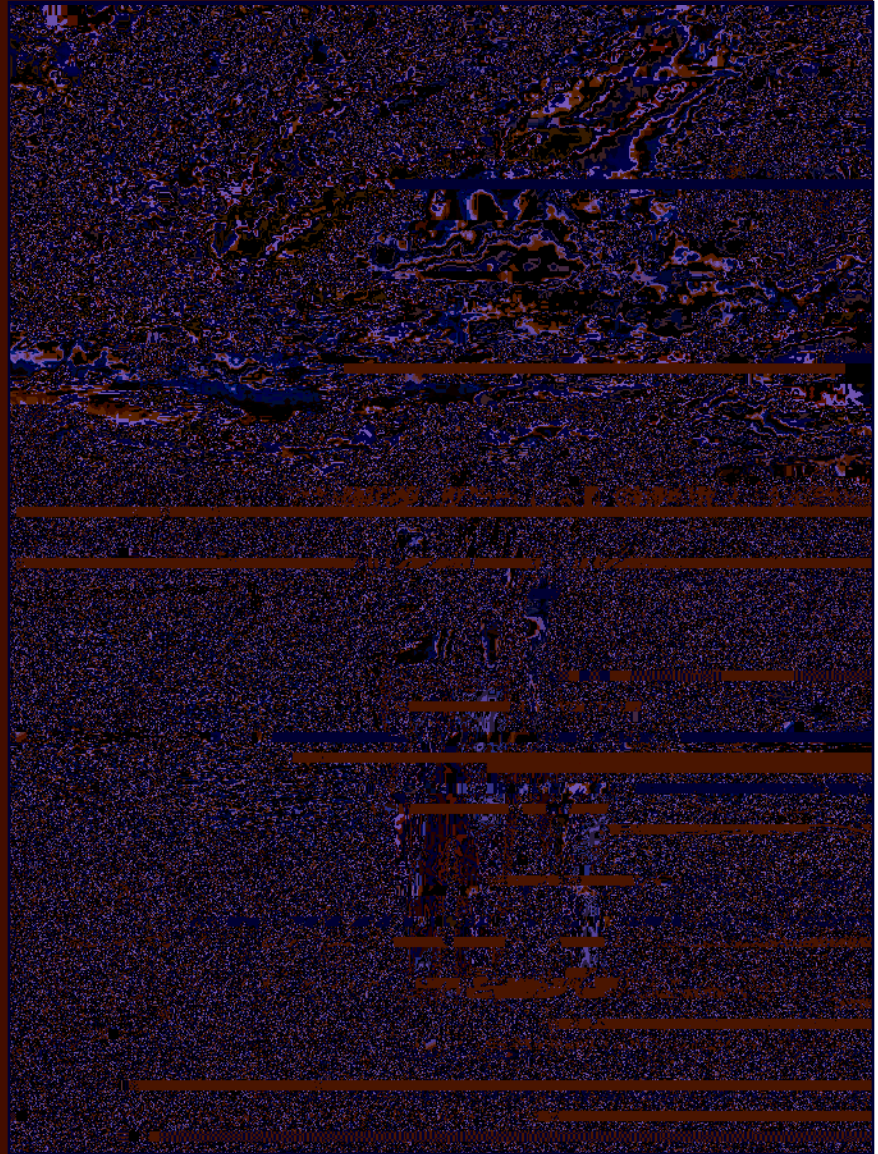
Herb is originally from Scott Township in northern Vanderburgh County. He recalls memories from his early childhood of receiving an education in a one-room schoolhouse. He eventually graduated from Reitz High School and the Mechanic Arts. Having lost his father at an early age, Herb was never able to 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 Whirlpool 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.

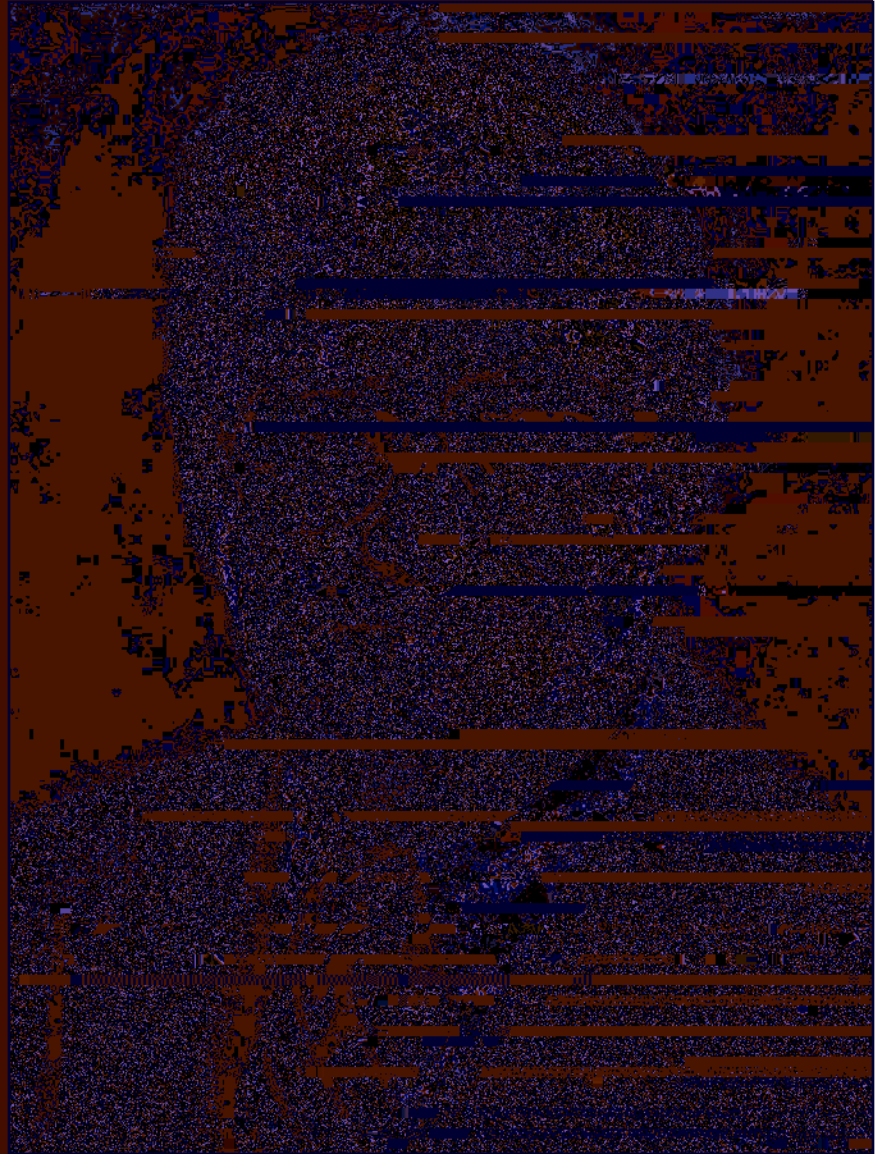
Educational pursuits remained a passion throughout their careers and Herb wanted to reflect the joy of their marriage in a practical way. Because Herb was nebs s rrh8 yeaean drc T J-0.0U olle3.1 (g)5.7e j
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*The Donaldsons
know USI
is a special
investment.*





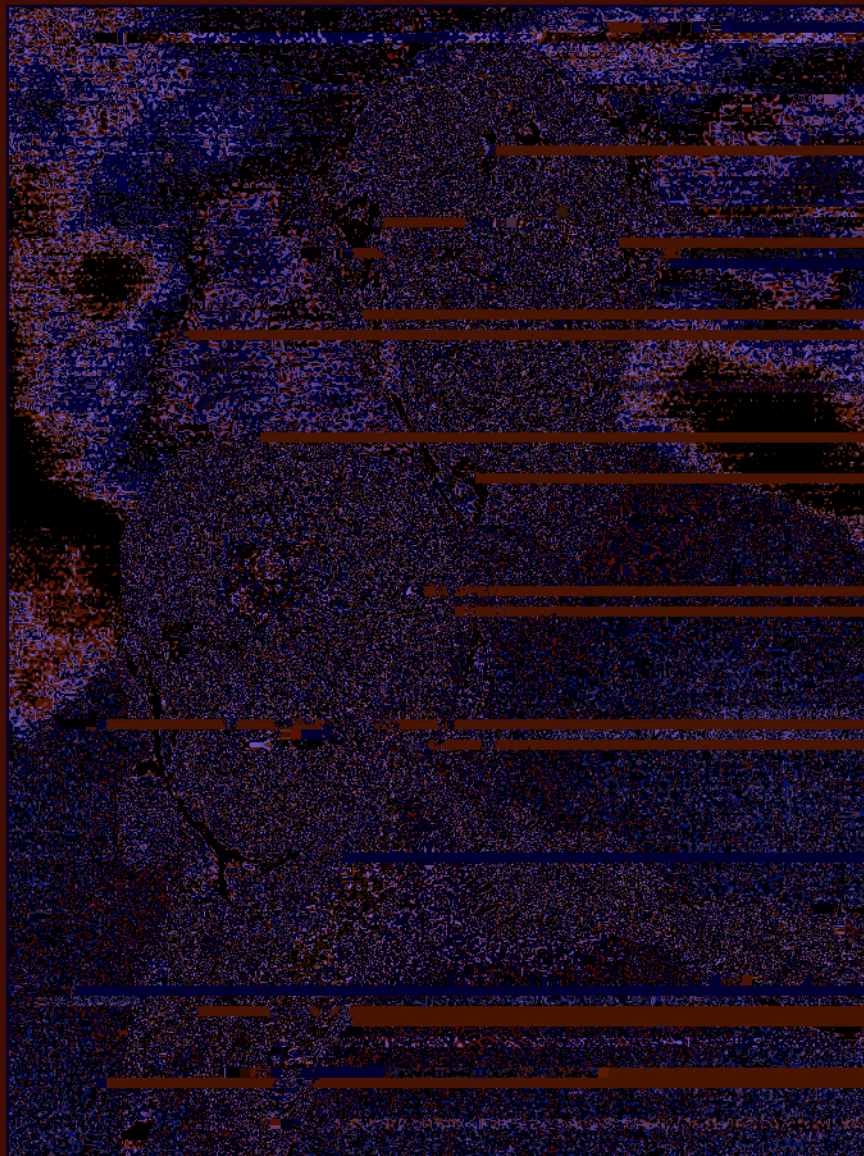
*Mr. Fair's character
and compassion
resonate within
the University's
mission.*



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.

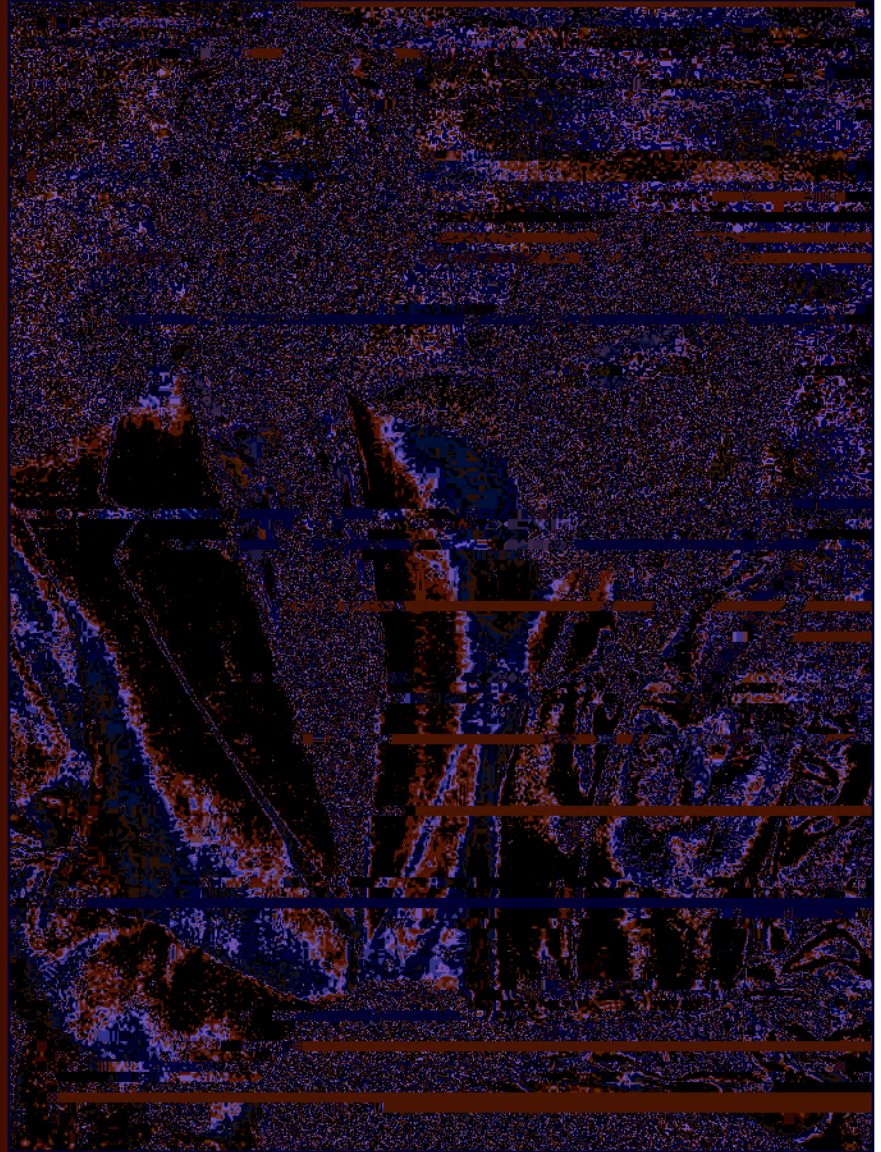
Born October 15, 1919 in Detroit, Michigan, his family later moved to Princeton, Indiana. A graduate of

*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

*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

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 *Indiana Review* magazine."

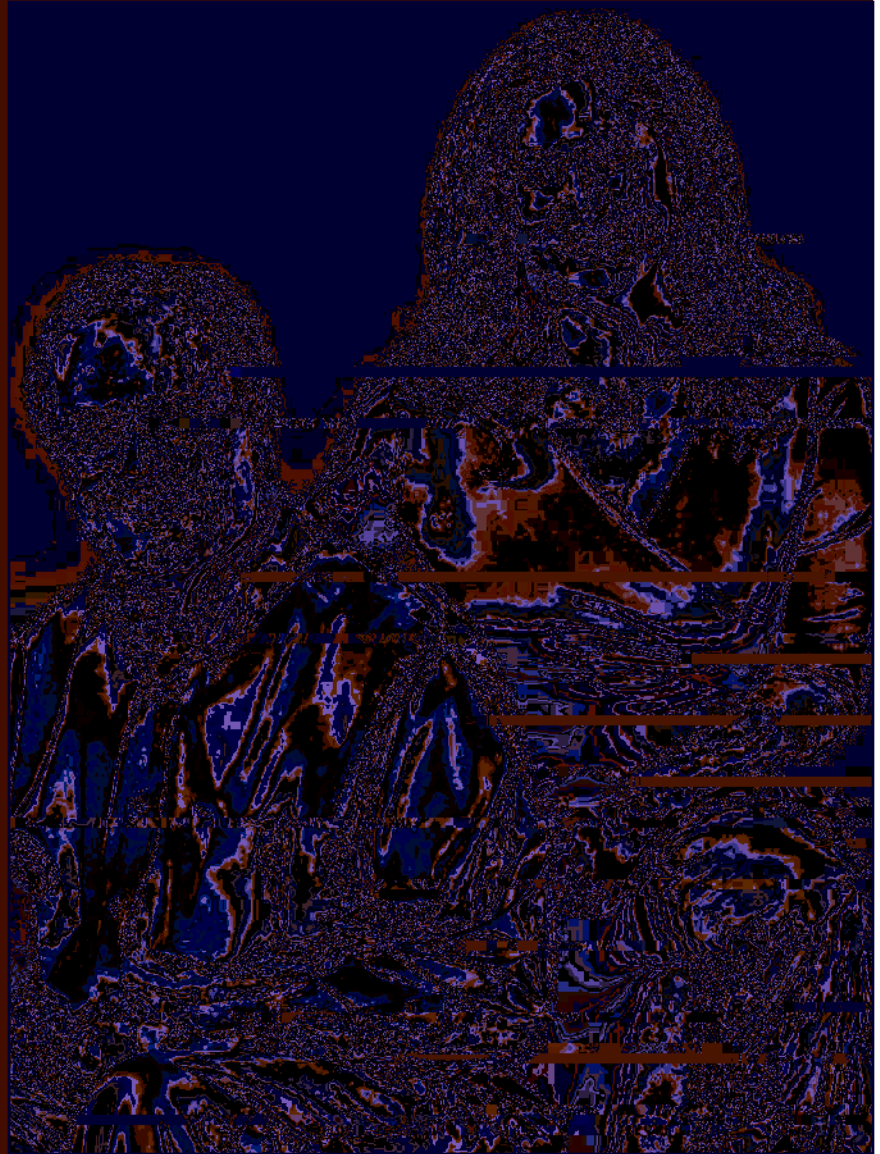
Although teaching may have brought them to southern Indiana, fate had a lifelong partnership in store for them. Early in their career, their offices were close together, "in the old Science Center actually," Katie states. "My office was at one end and his office was at the other, and I remember I could 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 *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, *Capital Campaign '96*. 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

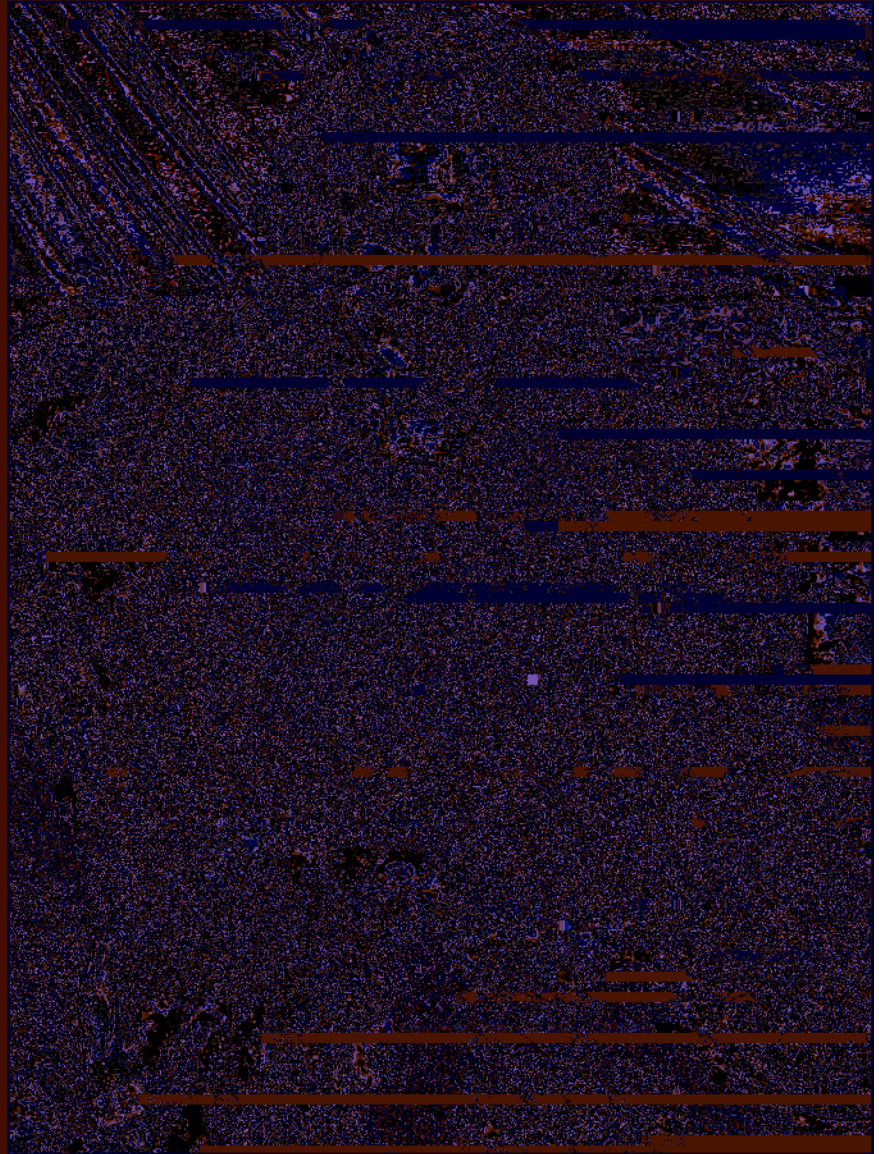
*The McDonald's
service and
commitment to USI
is commendable.*



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.

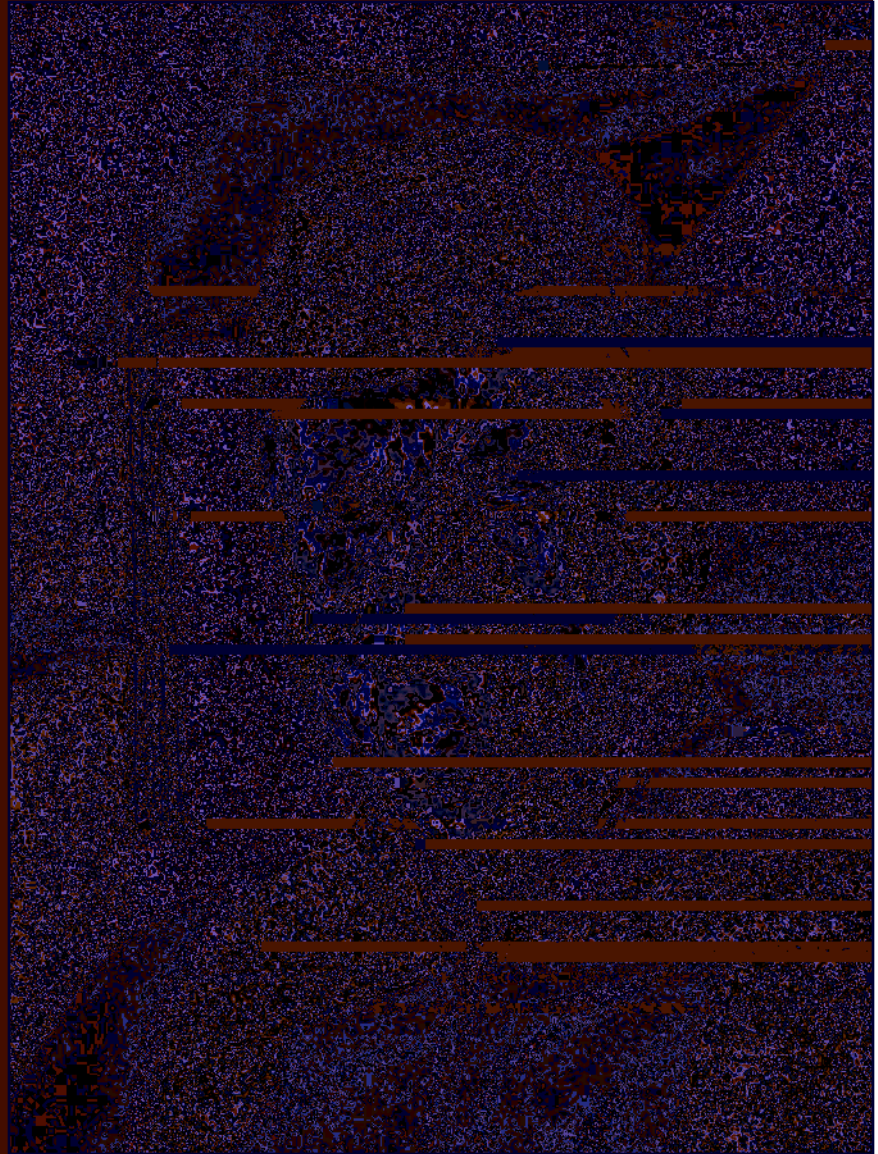
The McDonalds are part of a strong family legacy at USI. Frank's father, Frank McDonald Sr., was mayor

*Judy Morton is a
true friend of the
University.*



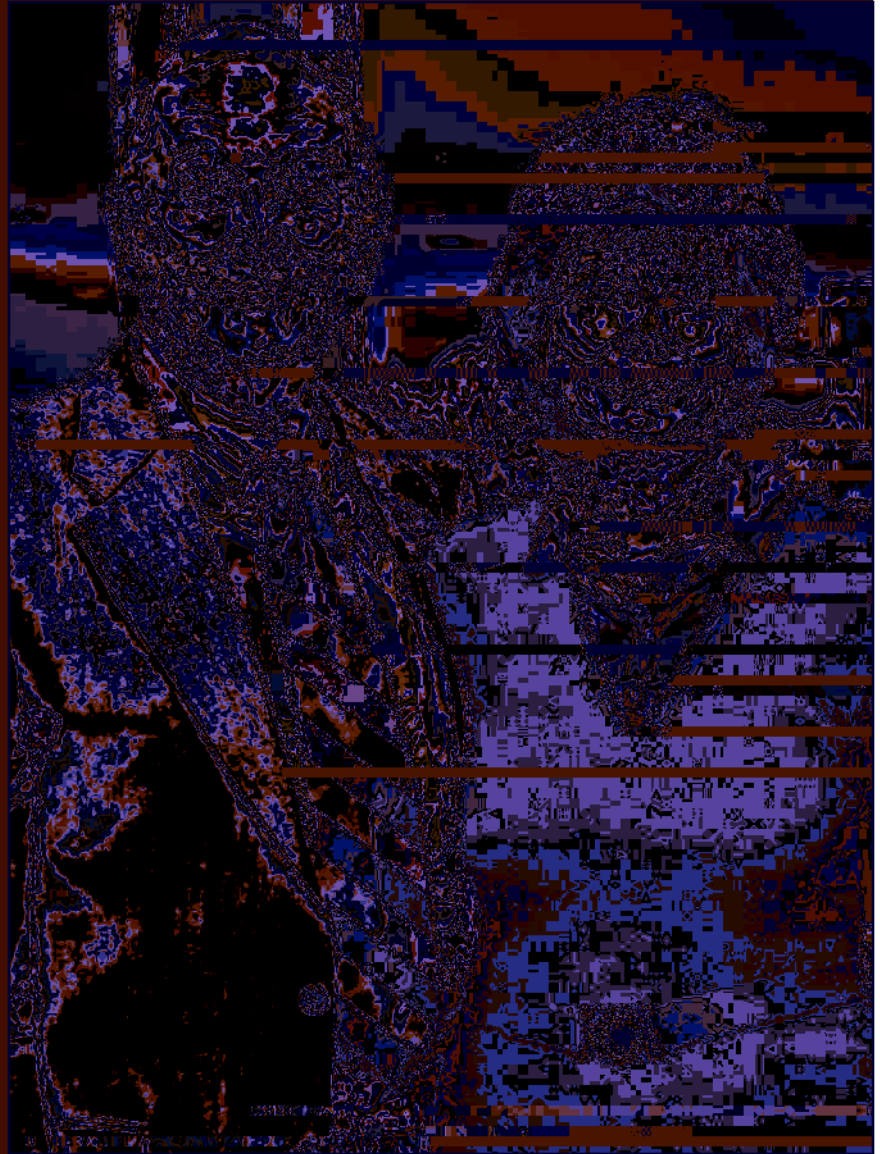
Much like the quilts she has cherished and collected over the years with her late husband Tom, Judy Morton's relationship to the University is sewn with care, respect, thought and creative charm. Her love

*D. Patrick O'Daniel
keeps the genuine
spirit of his family
legacy alive at USI.*



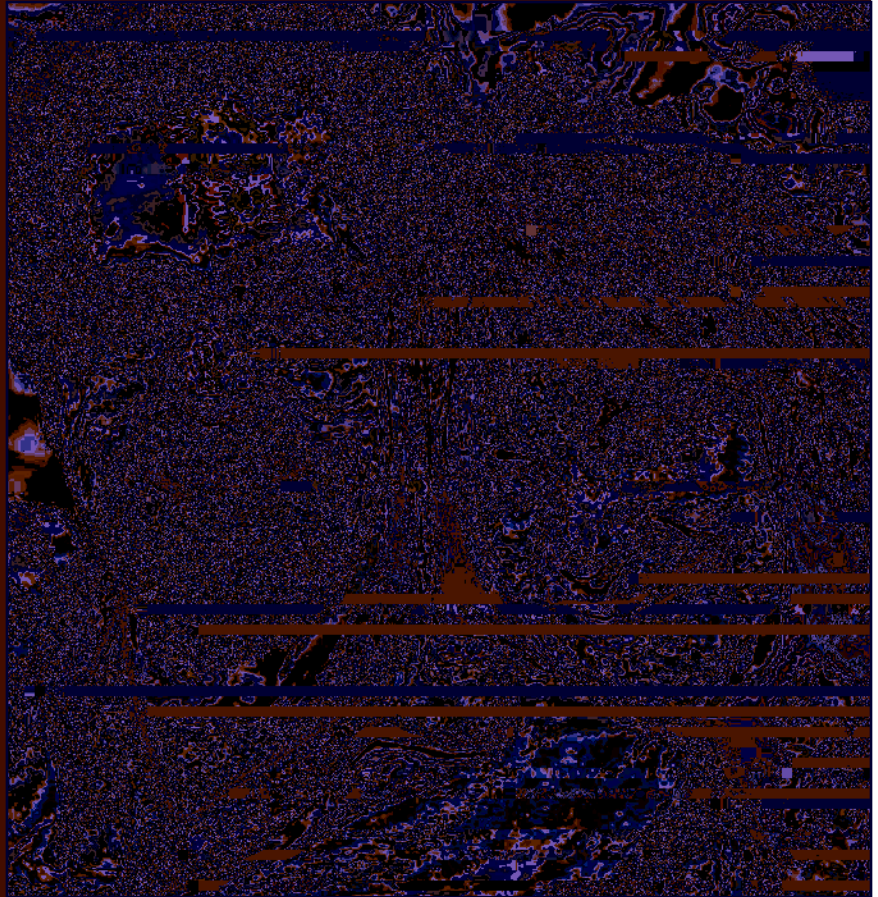
Service and giving can be a family pastime at the University of Southern Indiana. Particularly for the

*Helen and
Bill embraced
USI every way
imaginable.*



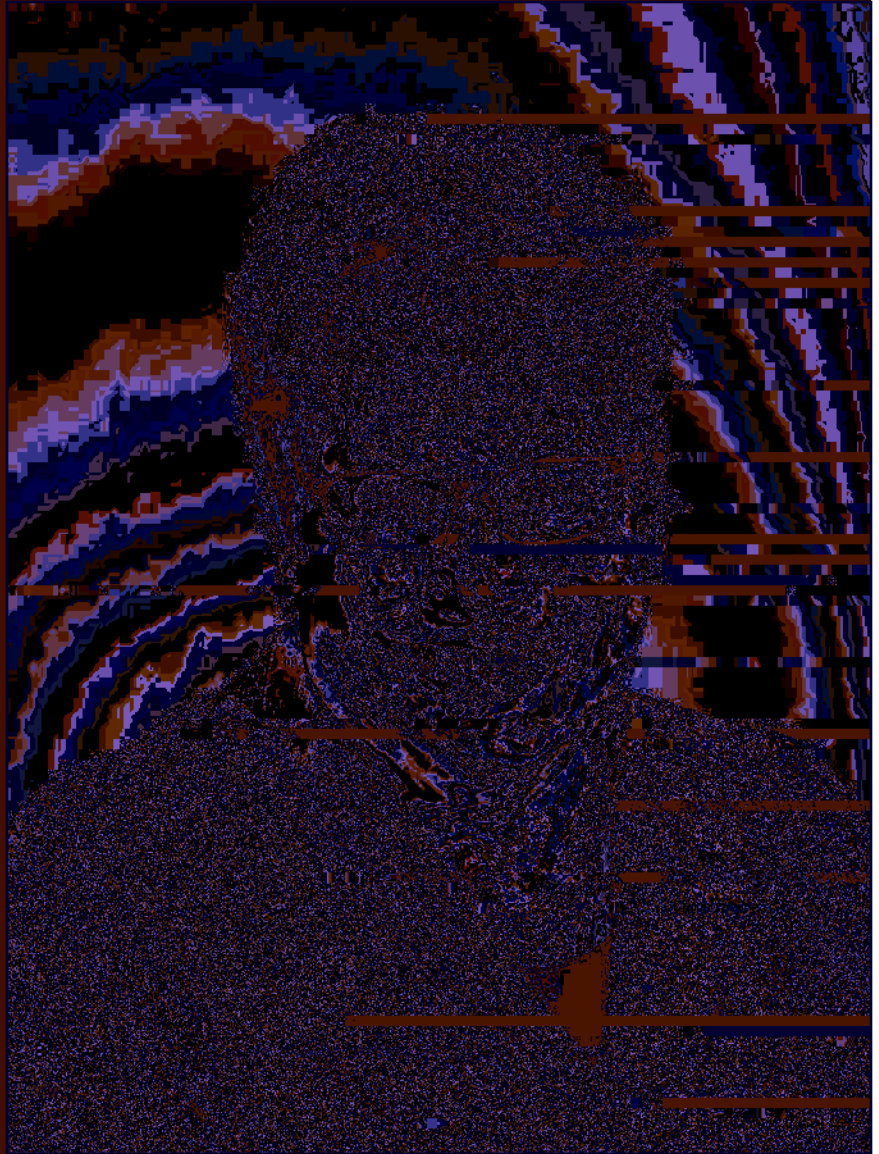
Bill and Helen Sands proved a career can be a calling. Both taught at the University of Southern Indiana where they breathed life into the USI mission. They had warm and charming personalities, with a passion to support students and remain respected by many alumni.

*Together, the
Smalls helped
expose USI arts
and theatre
programs to the
community.*



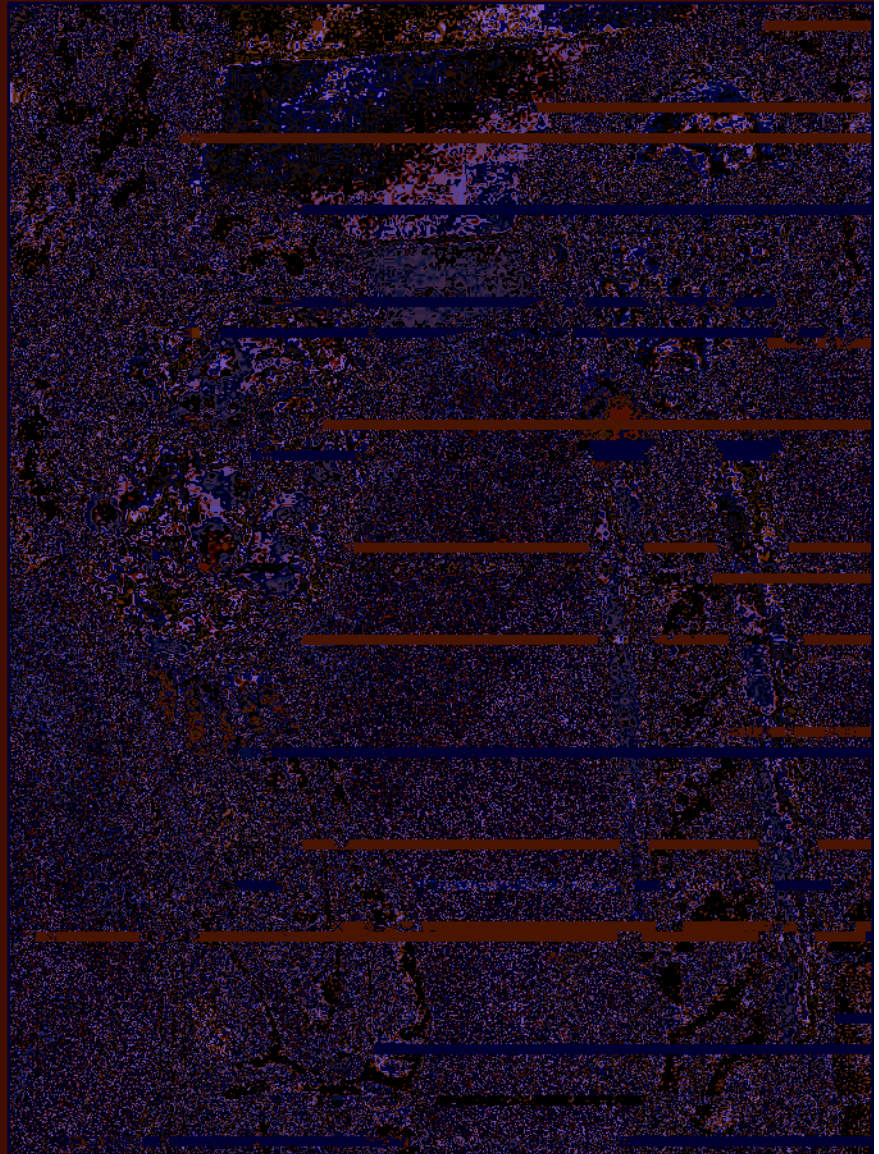
Vicki Small is an ardent supporter of the University of Southern Indiana. Her service, dedication and generosity all contribute to the great success of the College of Liberal Arts, particularly a thriving theatre environment for performing arts students.

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.





*The Trautvetters
are examples
of how one can
contribute to the
success of the
University.*



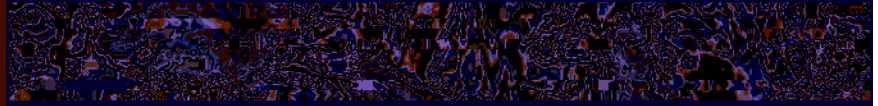
Charter members of the USI Planned Giving Society, of the USI Foundation, the Trautvetters found joy in giving to the University of Southern Indiana. Their support of student athletes made them lifelong fans of USI Athletics, and their spirit lives on in many of the activities of the USI Varsity Club 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.

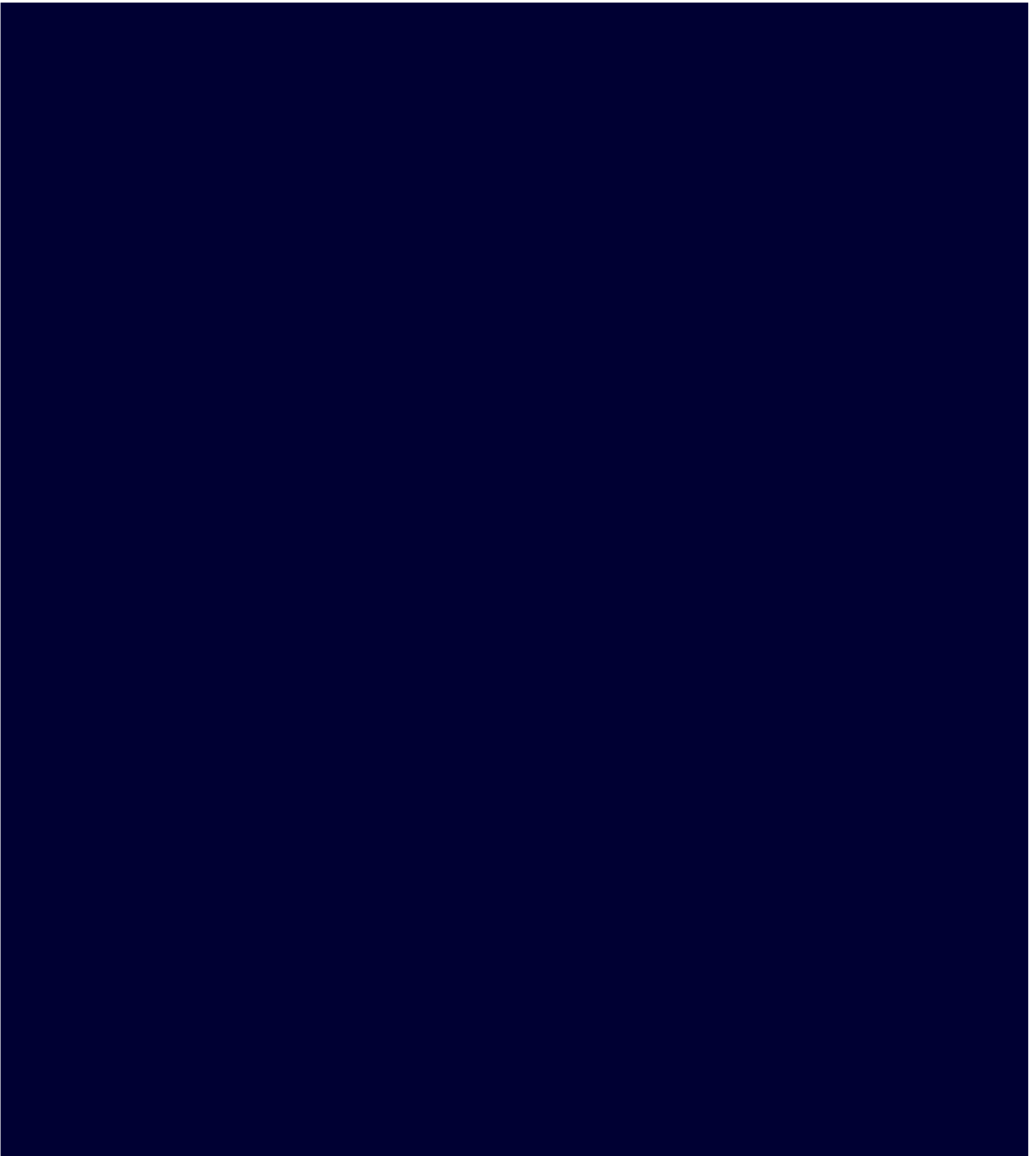
The Trautvetters were lifelong members of St. Paul's United Church of Christ. Mrs. Trautvetter was a Sunday school teacher and active volunteer in the Metelrie Mdoel.

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*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.



C, F, F



USI Foundation Board Chairs

Joseph E. O'Daniel†
1968–1973

Albert A. Woll†
1973–1976

E. Donald Elliott†
1976–1986

R. Jack Brunton†
1986–1987

C. Wayne Worthington†
1987–1992

Ted C. Ziemer Jr.†
1992–1998

Robert E. Griffin
1998–2000

John M. Dunn
2000–2002

Carolyn S. Georgette†
2002–2003

Ronald D. Romain '73
2003–2006

Thomas E. Topper†
2006–2008

Bix Branson
2008–2010

Kevin M. Eastridge
2010–2012

Bruce H. Baker
2012–2014

Marie A. Bussing
2014–2016

Kevin L. Hammett '90
2016–2018

Karen S. Walker
2018–current

† Deceased

