

# Faces of Philanthropy: Generous Friends of Vision

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*“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

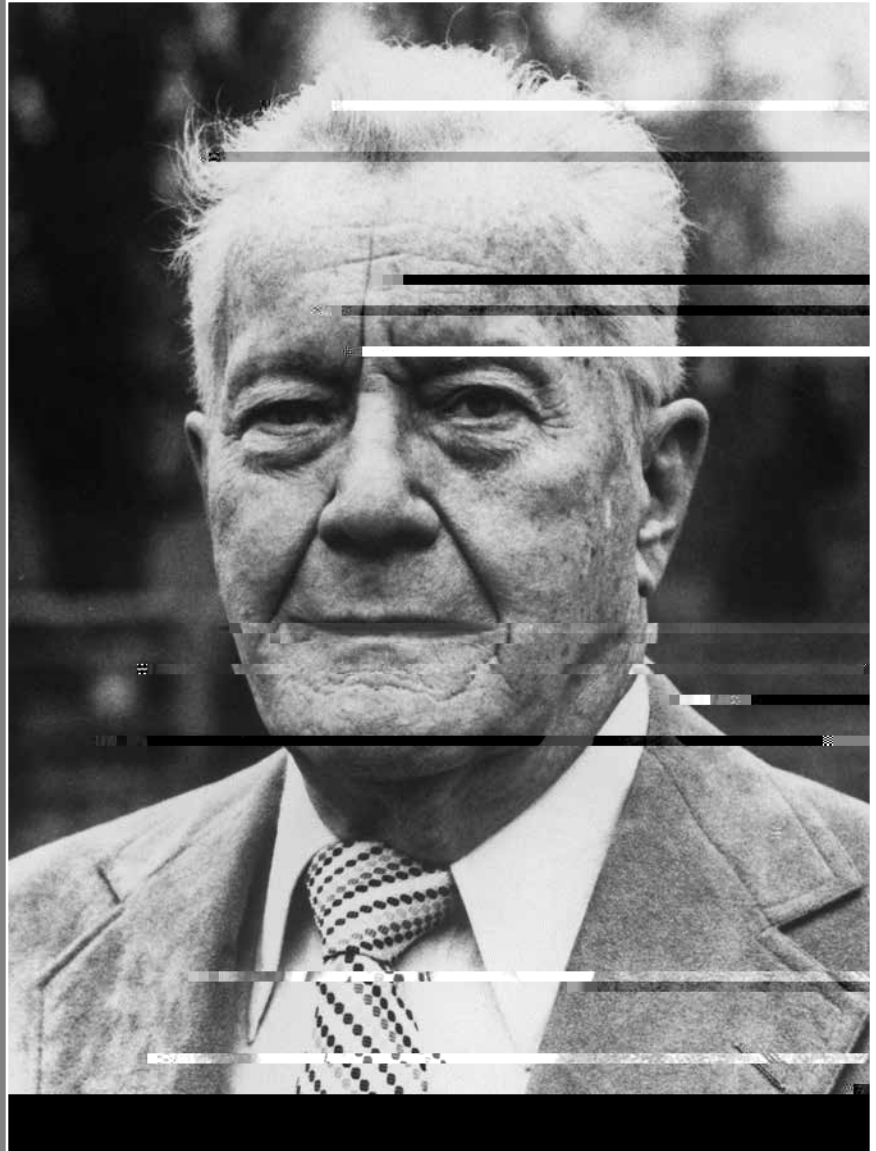
point that Evansville-area donors would give more enthusiastically to an Evansville organization. Because the Evansville campus did not have the necessary staff, Dr. Rankin also offered the assistance of the foundation in Terre Haute to help begin this effort.

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 3p0.5 (e t)10 (o h)-2.6 (e)-2.3 ( (c)-7.6(l)8.4e)-2blcnd



*Leo and Bettye  
Adler personify  
the impact of  
unrestricted  
giving.*





*The Bergers' resolve and strong character remain within the community.*





Sydney and Sadelle Berger brought new meaning to the sense of community. Evansville would be hard-pressed to find another couple who spent most of their life helping others as much as the Bergers. Civil rights activists their entire lives, they both held a moral compass that was unparalleled.

Sydney Berger graduated second in his class from Columbia Law School in 1940. In 1947, Sydney began his own practice in Evansville after serving in the United States Army. In 1972, he and his son Charlie established the firm Berger & Berger. Mr. Berger served on the Evansville Human Relations Commission for 10 years, providing services for many local civil rights and anti-poverty organizations. Sydney also was an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law at the University of Southern Indiana for 20 years, contributing his entire salary back to the University. It is no surprise his own constitution was as strong as the living document itself.

Sadelle Berger also broke ground in the local community for her humanitarian work. Among her most impressive accomplishments was becoming the first woman president of Temple Adath B'nai Israel in 1974. She was additionally a member of the Indiana Center on Law and Poverty, that sought to improve living conditions of the poor. Her volunteerism extended to the YWCA, Red Cross, Friends of Welfare Rights, League of Women Voters, as well as the Indiana Interreligious Commission on Human Equality. A 1963 alumna of the University of Evansville, she also was an active member of the Academy of Arts & Sciences at that institution.

In 1996, Sydney and Sadelle's son, Charlie, and his wife, Leslie, established the Sydney L. and Sadelle Berger Faculty Community Service Award with the USI Foundation, which recognizes a University faculty member for distinguished community service to groups, agencies and institutions external to the University.

Sadelle Berger died in 1984 and Sydney Berger in 1988. In the August 3, 1988 edition of the *Evansville Press*, Bill Jackson wrote about Sydney's legacy saying, "The record of his life will show a man who developed strong principles and never deserted them. A man who cared about people, and the law, and his country. A man who lived without complaint or apology. If only the rest of us could live so well." Aptly speaking for both, this statement encompasses the resolve and strong character of Mr. and Mrs. Berger.

*Ron and Terry  
Boren believe  
success comes  
after hard work  
and dedication.*



Ron and Terry Boren have continually persevered and worked hard toward goals for their

*Rita Brunner gives  
back because of  
all USI gave to her.*



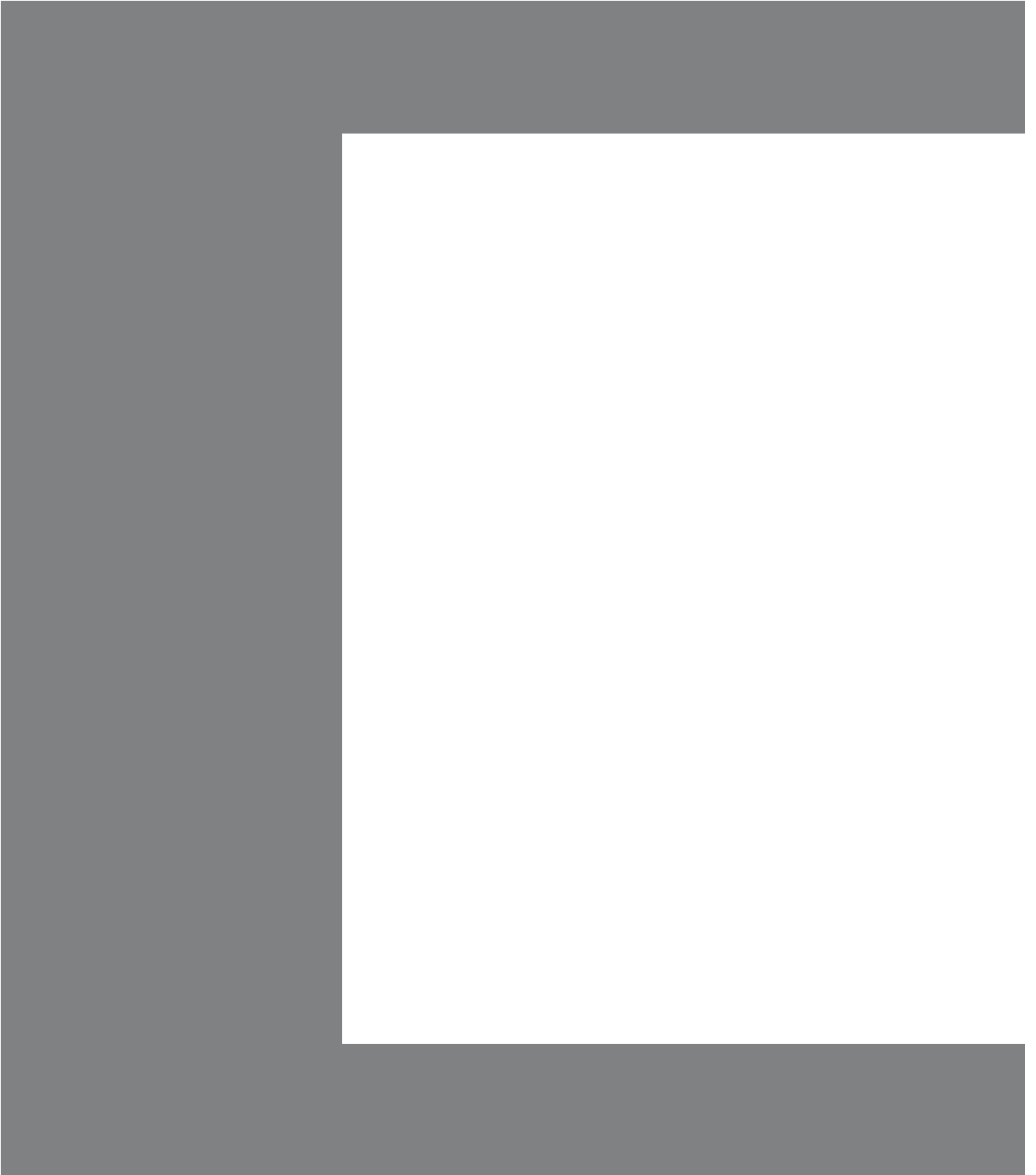
The University of Southern Indiana has led Rita Brunner to a life of good fortune and lasting friendships. Rita has been part of USI's Division of Outreach and Engagement for 25 years. Although her role has remained relatively the same throughout the years, every day is a new experience and opportunity.

Rita is from West Lafayette, Indiana. She attended Indiana State University and majored in elementary education. While a college student, she met her husband, Ralph, who was studying to be a pilot. When asked how she settled in Evansville she responds, "By pure accident. Ralph was looking for a job flying commercial planes and he picked up the *Courier & Press*, thinking it was for the Indianapolis area." So began their journey to southern Indiana after college graduation, when Ralph accepted a piloting position flying out of Evansville Regional Airport, moving cargo throughout the country. Tragically, Ralph died in 1989 in a plane accident while on a routine flight assignment. It was a difficult time for Rita, but the peace she found kept her in Evansville to finish the life they began together.

In 1992, Rita arrived at USI. Upon her arrival, she worked in Continuing Education where she was introduced to Linda Cleek '82 M'00, executive director emerita of Continuing and Professional Education, and Ed Jones, dean emeritus of Extended Services. Together, all three led the department's growth into new stages of community engagement and impact. Rita notes that although her role has not changed significantly, she has experienced the freedom to make the best of her work and be part of a wide variety of community partnerships. Her work is deeply personal and she sees herself as an ambassador of the University at all times.

Rita's dedication to her work at USI is not the only characteristic for which she is known. Besides her humor, she also possesses strong altruistic qualities. She recalls attending college and only paying \$600 out of her own pocket for her education. Scholarship support made this possible, and it has been a leavening experience. For Rita, USI represents hope, community involvement, and above all, an unparalleled learning environment for students. After reflecting on all the University has provided her, she finds it fitting to give back to USI and support students as they work toward their own goals.

Rita says there is one lesson in philanthropy she has learned. She states, "You never know whose lives you will touch. When I make a gift, I get the same feeling I once had when I first attended college. It is amazing to see what students can do and I want to help them grow in any fashion possible, much like USI has allowed me to do."



Born and raised in Evansville, Marie Bussing has been a faculty member at the University of Southern Indiana since 1991. Over her two-decade career at USI, she has become a beloved economics professor with an ability to connect with students. It is easy to see Marie's passion for education when speaking with her, but her kindhearted and humble disposition is what truly makes her genuine.

Marie received both her undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Evansville. She began her professional career at Citizen's Bank, now Fifth Third. She attended Middle Tennessee State University, earning a doctoral degree in economics. The program allowed her to combine her study interests with her career goals. An author of nine books, Marie demonstrates a true passion for teaching. She comments that teaching at USI has been a life-changing experience, especially seeing her students move on to fulfilling careers.

Community service also is central to her values, having dedicated her time and expertise to the St. Vincent Health System Board of Directors and the St. Vincent Foundation. She also serves on the Commerce Bank Board of Directors and is a former president of the Girl Scouts of Southwest

*Deidra Conner's  
giving reflects  
the University  
colleagues who  
coached and  
believed in her.*





Deidra Conner is among the most recognized faces in Evansville-area nonprofits. This is not by chance, but by calling. Her dedicated care for community, passion for serving and unequivocal leadership are a true inspiration.

Deidra's journey to become president of The Arc of Evansville began at the University of Southern Indiana. She was the first among her family to attend college, with an upbringing in a traditional blue-collar household. She was valedictorian of her high school class and her academic success brought her to USI. During her college tenure, Deidra changed her major four times, at one time believing she would receive a degree in elementary education. She encountered the late Dr. Emmet Edwards, professor emeritus of management, and Dr. Wanda Hibbits, professor emerita of business, who strongly advised her to consider accounting as a profession. She also recalls Marilyn Schmidt, director emerita of Career Services and Placement, helping her along the way and teaching her how to find her voice.

After graduation, Deidra began her career in public accounting at George S. Olive, now Baird, Kurtz & Dobson (BKD). It was within this role that she encountered local nonprofits and recognized the passion many of the employees had for their vocation. She started to look toward the future and how to convert this passion into a formal career. Deidra found herself moving on to other positions before becoming chief financial officer at Evansville ARC in 2001. Nine months later, she was promoted to president.

Working for The Arc of Evansville has taught Deidra to change her life priorities. In her opinion, The Arc of Evansville is one of the few places where people are genuinely themselves. Leading an organization that brings great joy and prosperity to a unique population continues to motivate her.

Deidra has never forgotten her USI roots. "My experiences and my relationships at USI opened a whole new world for me," she states. She truly believes every experience and every accomplishment of hers is a direct result of her USI education and the network of friends and supporters within the University. Deidra continues to serve on the Romain College of Business board of advisors, was a member of the Accounting Circle and previously served on the Alumni Council. She made the decision during USI's first capital campaign, *Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher*, to include the USI Foundation in her estate. Deidra's decision reflects the University colleagues who coached



When someone thinks of the University of Southern Indiana College of Nursing and Health Professions, it is impossible not to associate Nadine Coudret with its success. Since the College's establishment in 1988, Nadine's leadership saw it through many innovative transformations. Retired since 2012, her work is lasting and her magnanimity is boundless.

Nadine is from Vincennes, Indiana, the oldest of five siblings. She gravitated toward a career in health care from an early age, and eventually graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing. In 1958, she became a faculty member at the school. Her profession then took her to the University of Evansville for 17 years, completing her tenure as dean. She had quite an interesting journey to

*Virginia Bantle Cox  
exemplified a  
legacy of humility.*



2016-2017 USI Merit Scholars recognize the generous donors of the University.

In the spring of 2003, the USI Foundation received notice that Virginia Bantle Cox had written the University into her will. Virginia had not been a contributor to USI during her lifetime, but in her death, her giving story began.

Born in 1908 in Wadesville, Indiana, Virginia lived her entire life in southern Indiana. Although the USI Foundation does not know how she became engaged with campus, it is reasonable to assume her proximity allowed her to experience the growth of USI. The extent to which USI students excelled in their academics and professions must have made a lasting impression on her.

She first married Opie Bantle, a WWII veteran, who died in 1972. Upon completion of his military service, he became the owner and operator of Bantle's Cleaners, which later became known as Clayton's Cleaners. Residing in Posey County during their marriage, Virginia and Opie were active in their local church. In 1985, the widowed Virginia married Russell Cox, who was retired from the Indiana State Police. Mr. Cox, a WWII Navy veteran who served in the Pacific Theater, died in 1996.

Virginia took careful consideration in making her estate plans. She decided to fund a scholarship endowment with the USI Foundation. At the time of her death in 2002, Virginia owned five items to her name – a china cat, a cedar cabinet, her wedding ring and two silver trays. The gracious and thoughtful recognition of the University by Virginia speaks volumes of her character. She did not find joy in material items, but in philanthropy. She exemplified a legacy of humility.

Her scholarship endowment, the Virginia Bantle Cox Memorial Scholarship, will serve students in perpetuity. Support from donors like Virginia changes lives by making a college education more affordable, allowing students to engage in activities important to college life. The USI Foundation recognizes Virginia's generosity so that students who benefit from her scholarship will know she planned this gift to assist them in all aspects of their academic tenure while on campus.

*The Cullums' zeal  
for life reflects  
their benevolence.*



Terry and Rosie Cullum have strong roots in Posey County and the west side of Evansville. Over the years, they both have found USI to be an integral part of their lives, and, in some ways,

*Frances Forsythe  
was among the  
University's most  
active advocates.*





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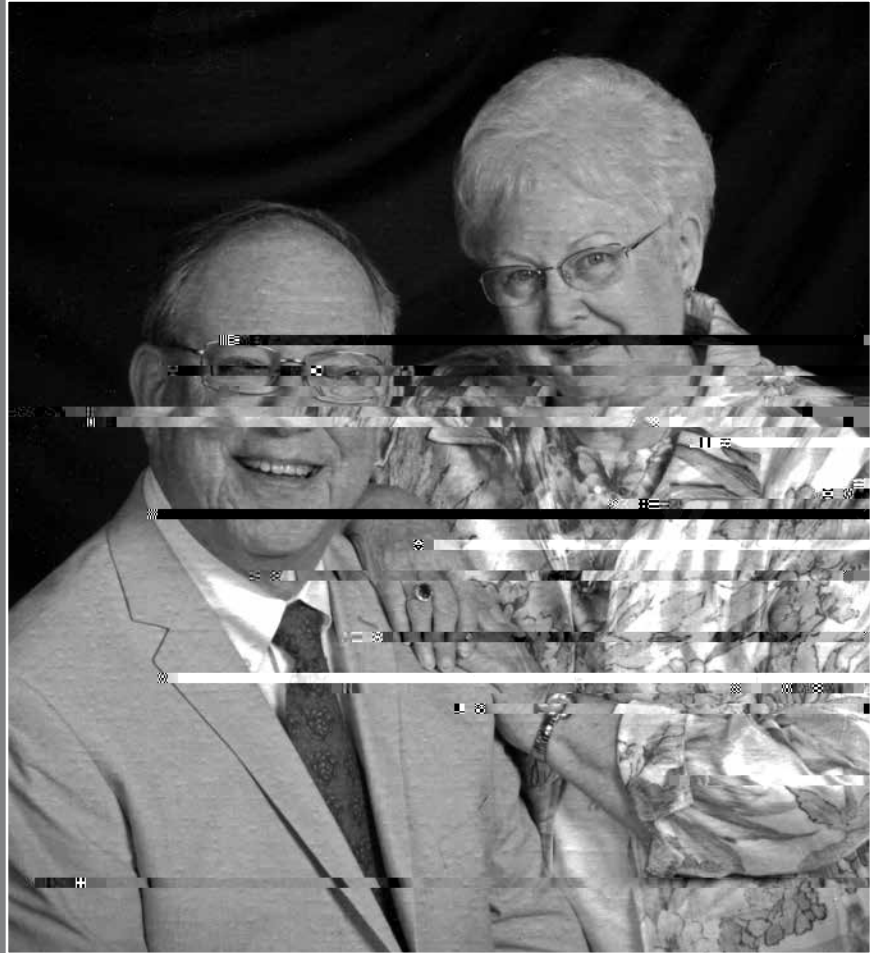


Ed and June Frederking's life has been full of many generous moments. However, the most leavening of all have been moments in which they were on the receiving end. As June states, "We had instances in our life when we did not have much and people gave us help that we remember and appreciate."

Early in their marriage, June experienced a dental emergency without insurance to cover the costs. Little did they know their doctor would overlook their expenses. The doctor explained he knew what it was like starting out as a young family and trusted the Frederkings would give back when they had the capacity to do so. This has been a lasting experience, indicating where their giving began.

After Ed's service in the United States Army was complete in Alaska, they moved to Champaign, Illinois, where Ed pursued bachelor's and master's degrees. The Frederkings then moved for a short time to Saint Louis, Missouri, before relocating to Mount Vernon, Indiana. It was during their early years there that their association with USI quickly cemented. A basketball game was their first true encounter with USI, with Ed commenting how the young, scrappy talent drew them into

*Jay and Cecelia  
Fredrich receive  
great personal  
satisfaction in  
giving.*



Jay and Cecelia Fredrich embody the phrase one commonly uses when life's circumstances turn out different than they envisioned: "I never thought I would see the day when. . ." However, the Fredrichs say it with the most upbeat meaning possible.

Jay was born and raised in Little Rock, Arkansas; Cecelia, in Morganfield, Kentucky. They met over summer break between college semesters while Cecelia was visiting family in Arkansas. Soon marriage came, then growth of their family. Jay began his career as a civil engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers in the Little Rock District, working on a navigation project on the Arkansas River. His role expanded to writing computer programs to be adopted by other civil engineers. In 1972, he applied to be a congressional fellow in order to learn policy affecting public works projects. Jay and Cecelia never imagined that accepting the congressional fellowship would lead to a promotion offer to direct the California Corps district where he was stationed at the time.

The Fredrichs relocated to Washington, D.C., where efforts on policy writing were successful. Jay is extremely proud that one of his policies became law. The accumulated experience proved to be invaluable and he accepted a position as senior policy advisor for the Corps. In 1976, he was invited



Randy Haaff came to USI in the early 1980s with a story similar to that of other students. He decided to earn his degree in finance, and the University was affordable. He credits Frances Forsythe for his journey to USI as well. Randy grew up in Grandview, Indiana, and was a close neighbor to Ms. Forsythe. He mowed her grass as a summer job and she would speak to him about the great opportunities USI had to offer.

Early in his college career, Randy found other mentors in Dr. Dona Frost, professor emerita of business, and Dr. Wanda Hibbitts, professor emerita of business. Taking him under their wings, they helped him build his skills, acquire his business knowledge, and cultivate his interest for finance and accounting. It was due to Dr. Frost that Randy was selected as an

*Alice Hertli  
views her life  
with gratitude.*

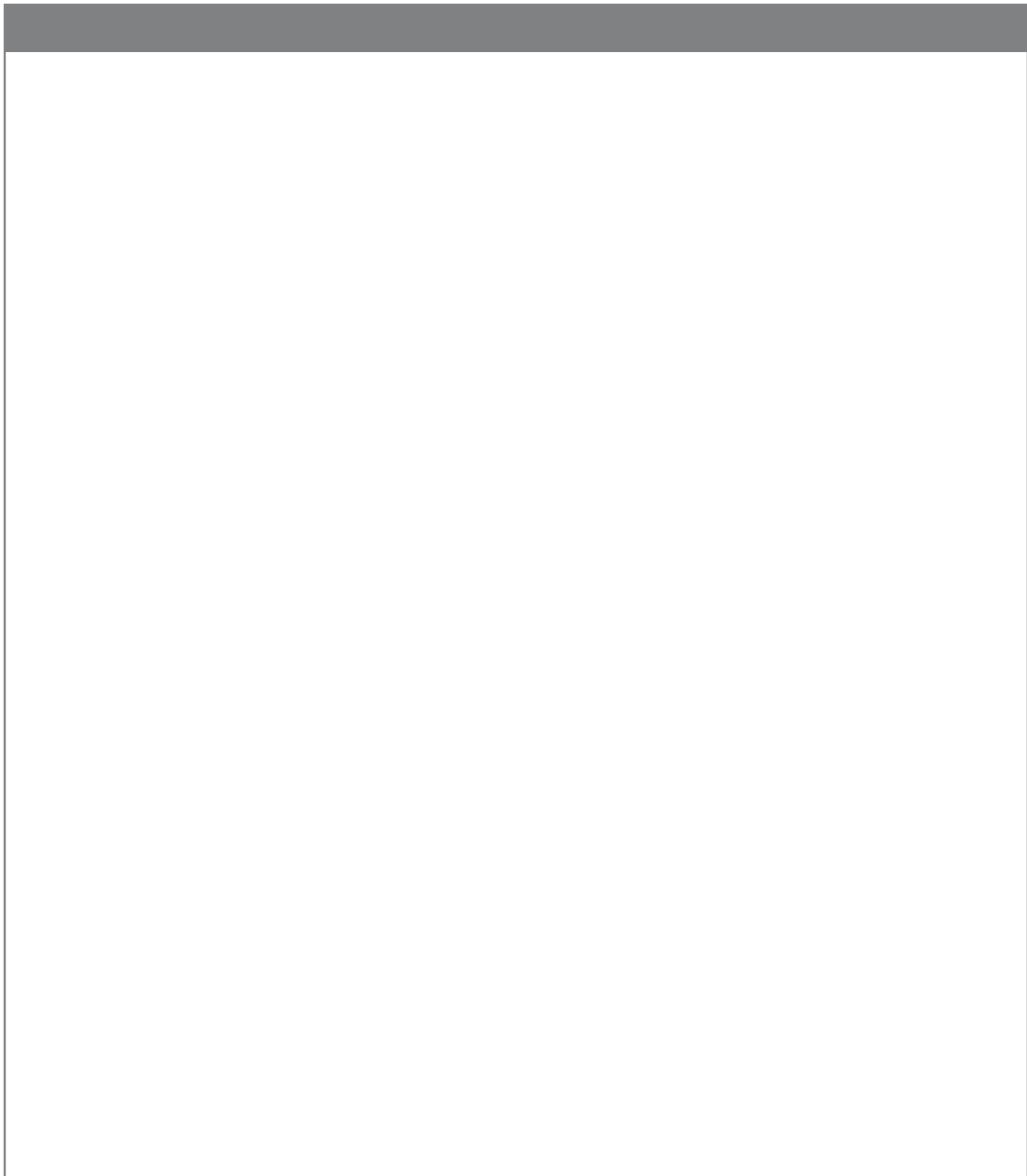




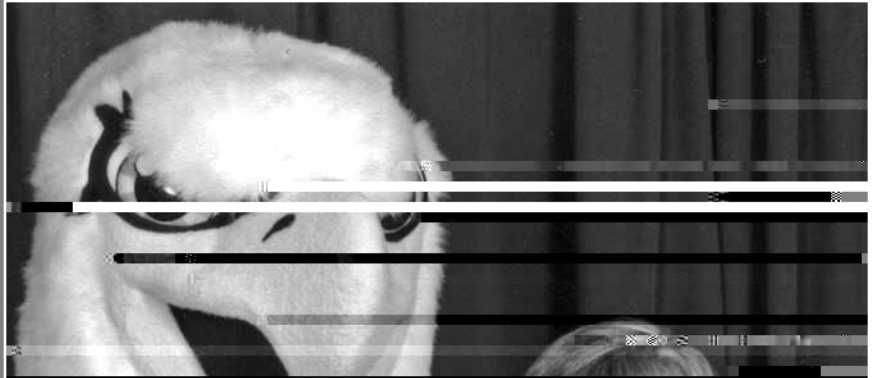


*Dr. Wanda Hibbitts  
molded her  
superior  
reputation at USI  
and produced  
students of the  
same caliber.*





*Susan Huck's story  
with campus is  
interwoven with  
family, friendships  
and philanthropy.*



Susan Huck has come to know USI on a deeply personal level. Her story with campus is interwoven with family, friendships and philanthropy.

Susan knew from an early age she wanted to be a professional Girl Scout. Even though she did not fully understand what this would entail, she saw scouting as part of her character. When it was time for college she realized this might not be possible and decided to pursue a degree in education from Indiana State University. Upon graduation, she accepted a teaching position just outside Detroit, Michigan. However, a call from the Royal Oak Girl Scout Council to become a camp and field director near Detroit immediately led to Susan cancelling her teaching contract. Her childhood dream turned into 39-plus years with the Girl Scout organization. She retired from the Raintree Council, now the Girl Scouts of Southwest Indiana, in 2004.

When asked about her fondest USI memory, Susan said she holds two closely. The first is recalling how well-known USI First Lady Betty Rice was for her cooking and for her bread pudding. One year, during preparation for USI's annual Madrigal Feaste, Betty accidentally broke a glass bottle into her famous recipe. Knowing the entire batch was fouled, Betty needed as many hands as possible to remake a new batch to feed 1,200 University guests. Susan was among the help enlisted, and she recalls it only strengthened the warmth she saw in the Rices. The second memory is the dedication and opening of the Kenneth P. McCutchan Art Center/Palmina F. and Stephen S. Pace Galleries. Susan was a cousin to Kenneth McCutchan, and it provided a profound sense of pride to see the Art Center dedicated in her late cousin's memory.

Following the death of Kenneth, Susan looked toward giving and establishing a legacy for her family. She first established the Lenora McCutchan and Ida and Richard Peva Memorial Scholarship Endowment, which assists a liberal arts student annually. Susan additionally established a scholarship in 2013 to help students learn about financial responsibility. As a young child, her parents gave her a weekly allowance, and one year she decided to purchase roller skates. She promised she would pay them back by taking 50 cents out of her allowance; it took nearly a year to pay off her lavish expense. From that moment, she never wanted to be in debt again. Her scholarship reinforces this story. She wants students to learn the obstacles associated with financial burdens.

Susan's generosity provides a lifetime of giving. Hearing student testimonies of how her scholarships change their lives gives her much joy and satisfaction.

*Keith Jewell and  
Erika Rager both  
have found a spirit  
of giving at USI.*



Philanthropy and vocation have collided for Keith Jewell and Erika Rager. Although serving in different capacities, both found a calling for health care, and at USI they found a spirit of giving. Keith and Erika first met while working for Franciscan Health in Indianapolis, Indiana. Keith actually hired Erika for the organization because of her experience as a surgical oncologist. Now married, with one daughter, Kate, the couple reside in Indianapolis, where their story began.

Keith was born and raised in Evansville and was the first in his family to attend college. Coming from modest means, he enrolled at USI because it was cost-effective. His time as a student was incredibly transformative – both in education and leadership skills. After completing his degrees, Keith began his career as an accountant and consultant, preparing financial forecasts and strategic financial plans for hospitals, physicians and long-term care facilities. In 2013, he had the opportunity to return to Evansville to head St. Mary's Health System, now St. Vincent. Erika also is a professional in her own right, having received her medical degree from Vanderbilt University and completing residency at the University of North Carolina.

Upon Keith's return to the area, he immediately called upon President Linda Bennett to see how he could engage with his alma mater. Keith quickly became reacclimated with the University. He was elected to the USI Foundation Board of Directors and contributed to the great success of *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence*. His leadership gift during the campaign allowed USI to reach its goal one year early. When invited to deliver the Commencement address during the spring 2015 graduate ceremony, Keith was deeply honored. The opportunity to speak to a room full of students who desired to do more for their community with a passion for knowledge brought many of his own USI experiences to the surface. Keith also is proud of his contributions to the new soon-

*Arthur Kanzler's  
thoughtful  
planning impacts  
numerous students.*





*Linda Willis' heart for USI demonstrates actions speak louder than words.*



The name Linda Willis is synonymous with the University of Southern Indiana. Linda has been an ardent supporter of the University, with her dedication and commitment spanning over 40 years. Linda embodies USI and has helped grow the campus in every way.

Linda resides in Mount Vernon, Indiana where she spent nearly 40 years as a teacher. Earning a bachelor's degree from the University of Evansville and a master's degree from Indiana State University, her professional career was devoted to elementary education. During the early stages of her career, Dr. John Emhuff, then superintendent of Metropolitan School District of Mt. Vernon, encouraged Linda to become involved with USI. Dr. Emhuff saw the potential of the young University, and Linda quickly became immersed in USI's community.

Linda has served in many capacities for USI and is currently a member of the Varsity Club Board of Directors and Historic New Harmony Advisory Board. Her volunteerism is exemplary and varies from dipping candles at Heritage Artisan Days in New Harmony to serving a steak sandwich at

*Loretta Zygmunt's  
passion for  
commitment  
inspired her giving.*





