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# 50 USI Magazine

Commemorative Issue



*This commemorative issue celebrates 50 years of USI's growth, change, opportunity and impact on the lives of alumni and the community as a whole. Recordkeeping wasn't a priority in the early days when herculean efforts were required to make this University a reality, so some sections relied on oral history rather than written documentation. Still, we hope you enjoy this glimpse into USI's past and present, and will continue to embrace and support its bright future.*

C. L. Stambush, Editor

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Did You Know?



*“We believe that in time, perhaps 25 to 50 years from now, the organization of SIHE and the land purchase will be regarded as one of the most significant and beneficial contributions ever made to the culture and economic growth and stability of southern Indiana.”*

— Robert L. Koch, Sr., industrialist, 1970



# Kickstarting a Dream

The story behind the origin of the University of Southern Indiana (USI) is an empowering tale of what single-minded, driven spirits can accomplish when they band together for a common goal. In this case, the mission was the brainchild of half-a-dozen civic-minded city leaders who, in 1966, formed a nonprofit organization called Southern Indiana Higher Education, Inc. (SIHE) and envisioned a public university to serve Evansville and the region. They were city leaders who wanted to provide educational and advancement opportunities for citizens who could then attract new businesses and industry to the community. But there was just one catch: higher education leaders throughout the state of Indiana had a “gentleman’s agreement” that prohibited a public university from being established in a city that already had a private institution for fear of damaging the economics of the private college.

While there may have been a closed-door agreement at play for decades — one that Dr. David L. Rice (USI’s first president) would later note had positioned Indiana to rank 42nd in college graduates, and southwestern Indiana to have the lowest-educated population in the state — times were changing. World War II had ended, postwar baby boomers were reaching college age and Americans wanted

opportunities for jobs other than in factories. City leaders and officials rightly feared that if someone couldn’t afford the tuition at Evansville’s private college, he or she would attend one out of town, and were then unlikely to return. SIHE wanted to establish a university that offered an affordable state-supported education. They wanted to change the destiny of the community and its citizens, and knew an educated society could do just that.

## The Players

Mayor Frank F. McDonald, Sr. (founding member of SIHE) spearheaded the campaign that eventually led to the creation of USI. He began talks with both presidents of Indiana University (IU) and Purdue. IU — with its medical school — was an obvious partner because the state needed a second medical school to resolve the problem of a physician shortage in Indiana. When both institutions’ presidents hesitated to break the long-established gentleman’s agreement, Mayor McDonald approached Indiana State University’s (ISU) president, Raleigh Warren Holmstedt, who embraced the opportunity to open an extension campus in Evansville: Indiana State University–Evansville (ISUE).



By summer 1965, Holmstedt was replaced by ISU's new president, Alan Rankin, who committed ISU to the concept of making ISUE a stand-alone university.

Despite Purdue, IU and Evansville College (now University of Evansville) leaders arguing against creating a public university in southern Indiana, there were more influential leaders within Evansville and throughout the state — politicians, the media and industrialists — who rallied around the idea. Evansville's entire Democratic delegation descended upon the General Assembly in 1965 to argue in favor of a four-year public college in Evansville. The city was the largest in the state — and one of the largest in the nation — without a public institution.

The support was unstoppable, and Indiana legislators passed a bill clearing the way for ISUE. The dream, however, wouldn't end there and the editor of *The Evansville Press* wrote at the time, "Some people are already envisioning a full-fledged 'University of Southern Indiana,' with a large campus, many buildings and thousands of students. That may come, but it will take a while."

## Shaping the Dream

While USI began as an extension of ISU, it was never the intention of SIHE's visionaries for it to remain in a former grade school on the west side of Evansville. They dreamed of an "educational park," set in a location with room to grow and attract other educational institutions, and embarked on a fundraising campaign in 1967 to raise \$750,000 to build the Mid-America University Center.

Contributions poured in, and within nine months SIHE had surpassed its original goal by \$219,000. Many people in the community felt the overwhelming need for a public university and wanted to help make it come true. Employees of local businesses as well as members of the Evansville Teachers Association elected to have contributions automatically deducted from their paychecks.

## Campus Born

SIHE began acquiring parcels of land on Evansville's far west side for the future campus. Mary Nurrenbern agreed to donate her family's 220-acre farm to SIHE, but since it wasn't incorporated yet, the land was given to the Catholic Diocese who gave it to the organization after it was incorporated. By January 1968, the organization had attained 1,400 acres for the campus of the University of Southern Indiana, breaking ground that year to build the Science and Administration Building.

Since then, USI has grown to 25 major facilities on campus, of which SIHE built the University's first student residences. SIHE dissolved in 2008, merging its assets and transferring ownership of over 900 acres to the USI Foundation. 

## ORIGINAL SIHE MEMBERS

- Mayor Frank F. McDonald, Sr.
- Harold O. McCutchan, chairman of the board at Mead Johnson & Company
- Joseph E. O'Daniel, owner of a successful auto dealership and businessman
- Richard E. Meier, founder of CrediThrift, now Springleaf
- Elmo Holder, oil producer and state senator
- William G. Greif, attorney and former Democratic state legislator

## LATER MEMBERS

- D. Mead Johnson, CEO of Mead Johnson & Company
- Rolland M. Eckels, director of public affairs and community relations at Mead Johnson & Company, and later president of Mead Johnson Foundation

## LEGISLATIVE BACKING

Over the past 50 years, the state of Indiana has invested half a billion dollars in the University of Southern Indiana, resulting in state-of-the-art buildings and increased faculty.

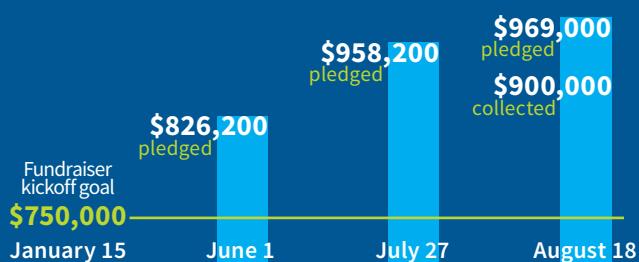
*"People [in the legislature] want USI to continue to grow. They want the programs and more of them, as well as additional degree offerings. And USI will make that happen. When there is a need, they will see it is fulfilled. They are very responsive and they listen and learn. I think it's wonderful."*

— Indiana State Senator Vaneta Becker '94

## THE FUTURE

High expectations have guided the development of the University of Southern Indiana from its founding in 1965 to today. Whether in the classroom, laboratory, studio, field or online, faculty seek to elevate the educational experience for students. Innovative instructional techniques, a strong commitment to engage with the surrounding community and a demand for excellence have garnered USI regional and national recognition for its academic programs. To ensure these high expectations are continued, USI is currently working on the details of a second five-year strategic plan under the leadership of Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett, who initiated the first plan shortly after becoming USI's third president. It focused on enhancing students' experiential learning opportunities; increasing their graduation rates to within four years; preserving and nurturing the campus community; providing leadership to Indiana and the region; increasing diversity of faculty, staff and student body; and becoming a 24/7 campus.

## 1967 CAMPAIGN PROGRESSION







# The

# Dr. David L. Rice

# Visionary

## EDUCATION FOR ALL

The University of Southern Indiana's founding president was a man with a vision of a university "by the people, for the people." His goal was to provide opportunity and access to higher education to the people of the region and the state.

The focus of Dr. David L. Rice's 27 years leading the University was on serving students well, improving the educational attainment level of southern Indiana, positively impacting economic and workforce development, and matching innovative faculty interests with the communities of southern Indiana.

In the early years of the institution, Rice said, "Every citizen who desires an education, who is capable of attaining an education and who is willing to achieve an education shall have the opportunity to do so."

When Rice arrived as dean of Indiana State University-Evansville (ISUE) in 1967, 922 students were enrolled, and Southwest Indiana had the lowest post-secondary educational attainment level in the state. When he retired in 1994, 7,443 students were enrolled and the institution was an independent college with a new name: University of Southern Indiana (1985). His leadership helped the region's college participation rate meet and then exceed state averages.

"He really believed there was a sufficient population base here to have this become an institution of 10,000 to 15,000 someday," said Sherrienne Standley, vice president emerita for Advancement and the first female vice president (through Rice's appointment) at any Indiana college or university. "Back in those days, when he talked about that, people almost laughed him off the stage, because this was a small institution and it was just getting started. But he knew exactly what this University could be."

During his tenure, Rice oversaw the expansion of curricula from limited two-year degree programs to a comprehensive range of baccalaureate and master's degree programs, as well as many cooperative programs with other universities. "There was an underserved population here," Standley said.







**Born:** New Market, Indiana

**Education:** Bachelor, master and doctor of philosophy degrees from Purdue University

**Career Path Pre-USI:** Faculty member and director of research at Ball State University; vice president with the Cooperative Education Research Laboratory; research coordinator in the Bureau of Research in the U.S. Office of Education


**Term of Office:** 1967-1994

**Campus Expansion:** Science Center, Administration Building, Rice Library, University Center, Technology Center, Orr Center and Physical Activities Center

“The high school graduation rate wasn’t good, the college-going rate was terrible and business and industry needed academic programs here. He had all that in mind, and set about putting the academic programs in place that would meet those needs.”

Both Rice and his wife Betty knew hospitality was a key to making USI a success. They opened their home to USI faculty, staff, students and alumni, hosting legions of parties as good-will ambassadors. Betty, also a graduate of Purdue University, planned and hosted special events, educated people about the institution, generated resources for the young university and linked USI with the community.

Upon retirement, USI’s founding president and first lady moved to New Harmony, Indiana, where they became active in historic preservation and community restoration. Today, they reside in Pennsylvania to be near their daughter Denise.

In 1992, the USI Board of Trustees recognized Rice’s outstanding leadership and commitment to education by naming the University library in his honor. 







*“When you get to the crest  
of one achievement,  
on the horizon  
are other challenging and  
invigorating opportunities.  
The whole thing has been  
like composing a piece of music,  
assembling the orchestra,  
then watching  
with satisfaction as the  
different pieces  
contribute  
harmoniously.”*

– President David L. Rice



# The Game Changer







# Dr. H. Ray Hoops

It was the conservative management of resources by USI's second president, Dr. H. Ray Hoops (1994-2009), that afforded students to pay the lowest tuition in the state while benefiting from expanded opportunities. During his 15-year tenure, he forged important community partnerships and oversaw dramatic growth in the University's assets, enrollment, academic excellence and capital projects. The changes allowed the University's character to transition from a commuter-based institution to a more residential campus — a development that fueled the expansion of campus housing and student life opportunities.

From two studies he commissioned on workforce and economic development, the University implemented recommendations and added academic programs in a dozen areas. Four new graduate programs and 11 new academic majors were introduced during the Hoops presidency, and the University's enrollment increased by 20 percent to 10,126 in fall 2008.

A watershed moment in Hoops' presidency was the hard-fought battle to offer a Bachelor of Science in Engineering degree at USI. The Engineering Program was developed in response to repeated demand for engineers by employers in the community, and also elevated the academic quality of USI's student population.







**Born:** Clinton, Illinois

**Education:** Bachelor's degree in education, Eastern Illinois University; master and doctoral degrees in audiology and speech services, Purdue University; MBA, Moorhead State University

**Career Path Pre-USI:** Associate director of the Office of Grants and Contracts Administration and professor of communicative disorders, Wayne State University; dean of the Graduate College, University of Northern Iowa; vice president for Academic Affairs, North Dakota State University; president, South Dakota State University; associate vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, Oregon State System of Higher Education; vice chancellor for Academic Affairs, University of Mississippi


**Term of Office:** 1994–2009

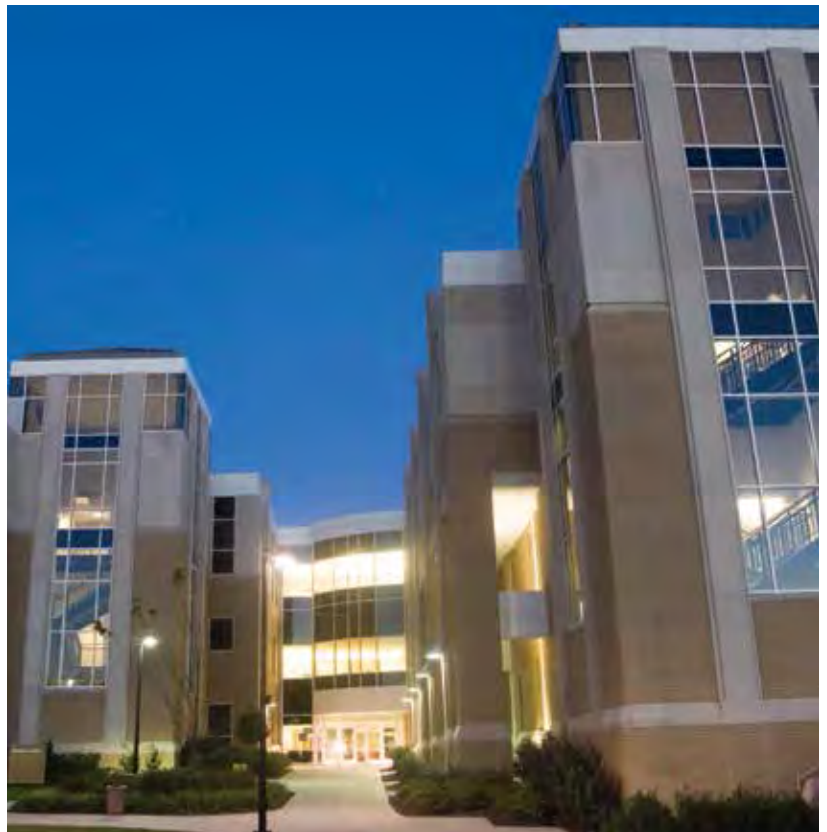
**Campus Growth:** Liberal Arts Center, Recreation and Fitness Center, Education Center, Torrington Wing of the Science Center, David L. Rice Library and the start of construction of the Business and Engineering Center as well as a second expansion of the University Center, plus four residence halls



“Nothing transforms a university like the addition of engineering,” Hoops said. “It does so for a number of reasons, but one of them is that some of the best students in the region graduate high school believing that they want to study engineering. It changes the very nature of the institution.”

Another initiative Hoops started was Volunteer USI as a means to recruit, place and recognize volunteers who donate their time and resources to benefit the needs of USI, its outreach programs and the Evansville community. Volunteer USI records more than 32,000 volunteer hours annually.

Hoops led the University through its first capital campaign, *Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher*, in 1996-98. The successful campaign exceeded its goal, raising a total of \$18 million in outright gifts and \$6 million in deferred gifts. During his presidency, the assets of the USI Foundation reached \$70 million. 







*“I think if you take a look at the last two decades, one of the key moments was when Dr. Hoops led the effort to get the Engineering Program. Hands down, that was a very key moment in terms of an academic program for this campus.”*

– President Linda L. M. Bennett





# THE ELITE

## Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett

*“Without public education,*

*I would not be president of a university.*

*Public education gave me access to opportunity.*

*It gave me a way to create a path*

*that was very different from*

*the one I would have looked at*

*otherwise.”*

– President Linda L. M. Bennett



# URE





**Born:** Cincinnati, Ohio

**Education:** Bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees in political science from the University of Cincinnati

**Career Path Pre-USI:** Visiting assistant professor at Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio, rising to full professor and chair of the Political Science Department; chair of the Department of Political Science at Northern Kentucky University; dean of the College of Arts and Science at Appalachian State University

**Term of Office:** 2009-present

**Campus Growth:** Performance Center, Griffin Center, Fuquay Welcome Center, Multi-International Health Science Center-Evansville, Theatre Support Center, Support Services Center, Applied Engineering Center, USI-Burdette Trail, Dowhie Ceramics Center, and renovated University Center East, Physical Activities Center, Health Professions Center




The first thing Dr. Linda L. M. Bennett noticed about USI — both the place and the people — when she interviewed for the position of provost in 2003, was the energy. Six years later, Bennett transitioned into the role of the University's third president — leading the institution into its next 50 years of academic excellence — and the same thing that drew her here continues to fuel her excitement for the University's future.

"I think USI is particularly well positioned to look ahead; we are very externally focused," she said. "We're always willing to listen; that's how we adapt our academic programs. We are very outwardly focused not just to serve, but also to learn."

Bennett has learned a lot by listening to students, faculty and administrators; and what she's heard has resulted in the implementation of several initiatives benefiting them. The first was the creation of the University's first formal strategic plan; a five-year strategy that focused on enrollment and retention, management, outreach and engagement, faculty development, retaining intellectual capital and accreditation renewal. She recently achieved the last one for a second time when the Carnegie Foundation for Advancement of Teaching recognized USI for its curricular engagement, outreach and partnerships. USI was one of 119 institutions in the nation to receive the honor; the first recognition was in 2009.

Such prestigious recognitions affirm that USI takes seriously its mission to support education, social and economic growth, and civic and cultural awareness in southwestern Indiana. Bennett believes it is USI's faculty that make it possible to gain such recognition. "So many of the faculty we are recruiting come from all over the nation and world. They have some amazing experiences and they're dedicated to the most fundamental act on a college campus: teaching." This strongly-held belief prompted her to return to the classroom last year to teach First Year Experience, a course that's part of USI's Core 39 — another initiative under her leadership — designed by faculty for students to ensure they reach academic success. "I never learned more in a shorter period of time than when I had to stand in front of a classroom."

Learning may come from the classroom (or the experiential learning field) but knowledge is for life. "It's very important that we're all engaged in that learning process, because if our community, faculty, staff and administration are not involved in learning, then students aren't going to sense that excitement about learning," Bennett said. "But if we're involved in learning, that means we're listening. And if we're listening, it becomes more of a learning exchange with students, and that draws students to us."

What does USI's future hold? "I think it will be larger," Bennett said. "I think we will have many more students. Not just here, but connected with us through technology. My own personal little dream is for a small industrial park on campus to help young start-up businesses. I think there is a potential for us to do that in the future." 







## A Little Goes a Long Way



Since the early days of USI, friends of the institution have always been ready and willing to invest in the University to ensure its place within the community, so it could provide higher education to citizens of the city and region. Mayor Frank F. McDonald, Sr. was the first to open his wallet in October 1968. USI's then-president David L. Rice and Byron C. Wright, vice president for Business Affairs, were visiting with McDonald when he pulled two \$100 bills out of his wallet and 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." After 47 years, the Foundation's assets have grown to \$120 million, but Mayor McDonald is and always will be its "founding father."

### Scholarships

Scholarships are the lifeblood for many students, and USI has presented tens of thousands of scholarships over the decades, ranging from a few hundred dollars to full tuition. While there are scores of scholarships initiated by donors who understand the value of an education and what it means to society to have educated citizens, there are three major University-initiated scholarships worth noting.

The Presidential Scholarships were established in 1988 to attract Indiana's brightest and best students to USI by making full four-year scholarships available to qualified Indiana valedictorians and salutatorians. These bright students are USI's academic pacesetters. They fire up the students in their classes and are every professor's dream. Within this group, 84 percent of the scholars have graduated with honors. Now out in the world, they are contributing to society in impressive ways.

**Presidential Scholar Travis Taylor '94 went on to earn a doctorate in virology from Harvard University. As a postdoctoral fellow at Harvard Medical School, he identified host factors involved in herpes simplex virus replication and developed a West Nile virus vaccine.**

The Deans Scholarships is a merit scholarship patterned after the Presidential Scholarships, but without the Indiana residency or valedictorian/salutatorian requirement. Since it began in 2000, the number of scholarships awarded annually has doubled.

**Deans Scholar Molly (Gilliand) Briles '07 went on to earn a law degree from Indiana University and is now a strong defender of families, focusing her attention on civil and domestic relations. As an advocate, she's give more than 200 *pro bono* hours to cases she believes in.**

Baccalaureate/Doctor of Medicine (B/MD) Scholarships are awarded annually to six exceptional students who are residents of Indiana, entering in the fall as USI freshmen, with high SAT scores. The scholarships were created in 2000 to increase opportunities for Indiana residents, especially those in the southwestern and southern portions of the state, to obtain education and training at the Indiana University School of Medicine.

**BMD Scholar Phil Behrens '12 is currently doing his rotation in orthopedic surgery in three locations: Washington University, Stanford and Yale.**

What's \$200 worth today?

**\$1,385**



What can be done in **1 DAY?** | **10 28 15**  
**#USIDayOfGiving**

Twenty-four hours is a deceptively small timeframe, but a lot can happen in the span of a day.



"You can WIN a national championship."



"You can CREATE a MASTERPIECE."



"You can make FRIENDS for LIFE."

If USI made a difference in your life, you can help make a difference in someone else's. Pay it forward #USIDayofGiving.

10/28/15

## 2015 SCHOLARSHIP STATISTICS

1,606 scholarships distributed

**\$2,116,813** funds given

Est. 1988 **334** PRESIDENTIAL SCHOLARS students benefitted to date

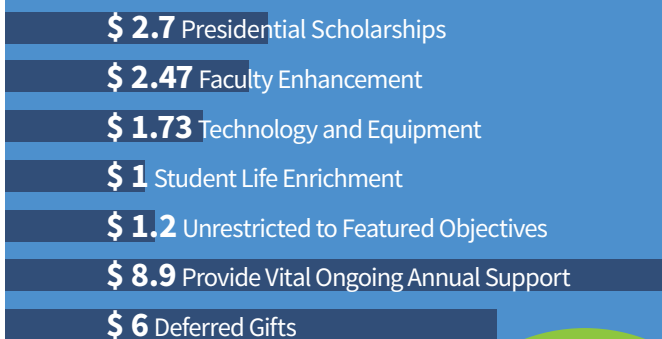
Est. 2000 **126** DEAN'S SCHOLARSHIPS students benefitted to date

Est. 2000 **91** B/MD SCHOLARSHIPS students benefitted to date

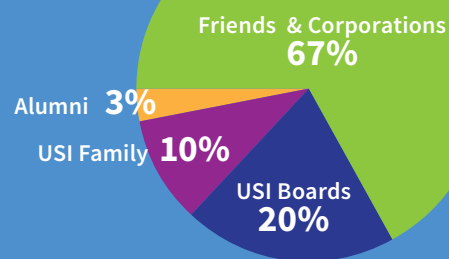
## CAPITAL CAMPAIGNS

In the history of USI, there have been only two capital campaigns. The first began in 1996 and ended in December 1998. *Campaign USI: Education Taken Higher* had a goal of \$13 million, and raised \$24 million. *Campaign USI: Elevating Excellence* was announced publicly in April 2013 with a goal of \$50 million. In both campaigns, individuals, businesses and organizations had five years to complete their pledges. Both campaigns shared the same broad goal: to ensure students have access to an excellent and affordable education and that faculty have the opportunity for continued professional development. Through the current campaign, the University's strategic goals are being supported, allowing USI to move boldly to achieve excellence through innovation and engagement for its future and that of its students.

### Raised in 1996-1998 (millions)



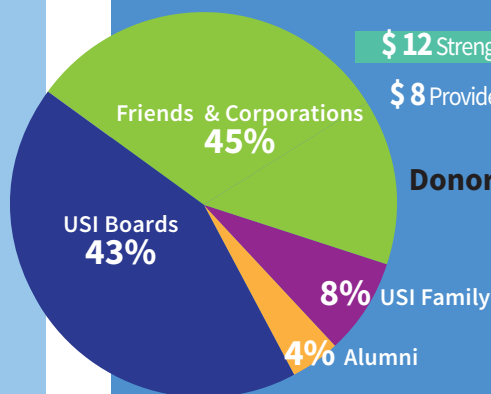
### Donors 1996-1998



### Goal in 2010-2015 (millions)



### Donors 2010-2015



# Quotes of Confidence

A Sampling of Alumni Voices Through the Decades

“One of my favorite things about being a USI student was having all these brilliant professors in my life whose brains I could pick at any time. Out of all of these wonderful people, Dr. Amie McKibban stands out.”

– Kasey '11

*“HOWARD GABENNESCH, SOCIOLOGY, INSPIRED ME AS A USI STUDENT IN THE '90s. HE HAD HIGH EXPECTATIONS AND DEMANDED STUDENTS MEET THEM.”*

– Wendy '98

***“Dr. Christy Baker’s approach and empathy for all students inspired me to achieve a level of success I did not know I was capable of.”***

– Ashley '13

“The improvisation games of Doug Hubell [associate professor of theatre] have helped me to this day.”

– Terry '83

**“Dr. Ethel Elkins would meet with me on her time off because I would send frantic emails when I thought I could not graduate in time. Ironically, she helped me graduate a semester early.”**

–Tori '14

“I especially have fond memories of Wanda Hibbitts who was my accounting professor and through her encouragement and dedication to her students, I selected accounting as my major. She was a great professor. I attribute the successes I have had in my career to the opportunities afforded me by USI. If not for USI, I would not have earned a degree.”

– Mark '76

***“Nancy Bizal and Peggy Shields. These women were strong and confident in their profession. They were great role models for me as I began my journey in the professional world.”***

– Stephanie '97



***“Colonel William Wardner was one of us (a veteran). He understood us. He addressed not only the needs of the country that we loved and had served, but he addressed our needs to try and fit in.”***

– David '72

***“Tim Mahoney influenced me the most because I wasn't sure what I wanted to get my degree in and he talked with me and told me I would do well in Liberal Arts. I haven't regretted it.”***

– Chris '96

***“DR. DON PITZER, LIFELONG MENTOR, TRANSFORMED DEAD HISTORY TO A LIVING LENS AND OPENED MY EYES TO NEW WAYS OF VIEWING THE WORLD.”***

– Greg '78

***“Mr. Michael Waitman was the one person in my life who most gave me the confidence to write. I was super sad to hear of his passing in 2002.”***

– Scott '85

***“I was welcomed, challenged and mentored by four academic giants and stalwarts who shaped the early successes of the department and University: Dr. Melvin and Mrs. Anne Denner, Dr. Jack Marr and Dr. Marlene Shaw. Each one of these special professors truly cared for their students on a personal level, never accepted mediocre work and always pushed you beyond what you thought was possible! I sincerely believe my current career was established by the excellent foundations from my USI experience.”***

– Scott '86

***“Though each of the instructors went out of their way to inspire us to be the best we could be, to respect our profession and to strive to represent it well, Deborah Carl Wolf '76 certainly was – and continues to be – the primary inspiration to me.”***

– Robin '74

***“I remember Dr. J. Eliseo DaRosa (economics class) explaining the elasticity of the bone. The class said, “Bone...?” He responded, “Bones! Bones! U.S. Government bones!”***

– David '73

***“First semester my freshman year Dr. Joseph Palladino walks into my Intro to Psychology class and makes us all stand and quack like ducks. He then left the lecture hall leaving us all confused. We learned about psychology and compliance that day.”***

– Tai '02

***“Dr. Barbara Marting, in the Business Department, was down-to-earth, funny and made class relevant to the real world.”***

– Marcia '73

# WINS ACROSS THE BOARD



## MILESTONES

**1977 MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
1ST POST-SEASON NCAA II WIN

**1995 MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
WINS NCAA II CHAMPIONSHIP



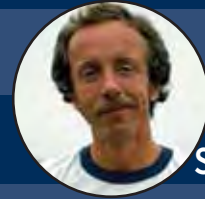
**1997 WOMEN'S BASKETBALL**  
GO TO NCAA II FINALS

## COACHES



**RUTH WALLER**  
FOUNDED WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

**WAYNE BOULTINGHOUSE**  
JUMPSTARTED MEN'S BASKETBALL



**BILL "STEGGY" STEGEMOLLER**  
FOUNDED CROSS COUNTRY TEAM

## MEN'S ATHLETICS

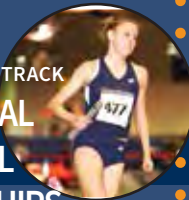
CROSS COUNTRY  
**22 GLVC CHAMPIONSHIPS**

BASEBALL  
**2 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
3 REGIONAL CROWNS

BASKETBALL  
**1 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP**  
2 NATIONAL FINALISTS

## WOMEN'S ATHLETICS

CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK  
**3 INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS**



BASKETBALL  
**5 GLVC CHAMPIONSHIPS**  
2 ELITE 8

GOLF  
**1 GLVC CHAMPIONSHIP**  
10 NCAA TOURNAMENTS



## ACADEMIC ALL-STARS

**AMBER (HUSE) TOOLEY**  
1985 SOFTBALL



**SHERRI (KAISER) SCOTT**  
1993 VOLLEYBALL

**CRAIG MARTIN**  
1994 BASKETBALL

## SUPER FANS



**VARSITY CLUB**

**PEP BAND**



**RED ZONE**

## DRAFTED BY THE PROS

**CORTEZ COLLINS '79**  
CHICAGO BULLS



**JOHN HOLLINDEN '81**  
DALLAS MAVERICKS

**JEFF SCHULZ '83**  
KANSAS CITY ROYALS





University of Southern Indiana athletics has gone from humble beginnings to a perennial powerhouse in the NCAA Division II, the Midwest Region (formerly the Great Lakes Region) and the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC). The Screaming Eagles (who started as the Spartans prior to 1970) have provided their enthusiastic fans with plenty of excitement over the years, especially the last 25. Since the University helped found the GLVC in 1979, the Eagles have won 11 national championships (three team and five individual), 12 regional titles and 81 GLVC crowns. Additionally, USI has featured 198 All-Americans, 27 Academic All-Americans and five national Players of the Year. Below are just a few of the many memories from the past 50 years.

**1997 MEN'S  
INDIVIDUAL  
CROSS  
COUNTRY**



WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -  
ELLY RONO

**TRACY ARCHULETA**  
2 NATIONAL BASEBALL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS

**1999 & 2004  
MEN'S BASKETBALL**  
GO TO NCAA II FINALS

**MIKE  
HILLYARD**

6 TRACK NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONS



**2004  
WOMEN'S  
INDIVIDUAL  
TRACK & FIELD**



WINS NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP -  
HEATHER COOKSEY

**CHANCELLOR DUGAN  
& RICK STEIN**

ENERGIZED WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

**2010 & 2014  
BASEBALL**  
WINS NCAA II  
CHAMPIONSHIP

**BRUCE PEARL**

1 NCAA II NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIP



SOCCER  
**10 GLVC  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**



GOLF  
**ADVANCED TO NCAA  
CHAMPIONSHIP**



TENNIS  
**NCAA  
TOURNAMENT  
APPEARANCE**

TRACK  
**5 INDIVIDUAL NATIONAL  
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

TENNIS  
**4 CONFERENCE TITLES  
2 NCAA TOURNAMENTS**

SOFTBALL  
**3 GLVC  
CHAMPIONSHIPS  
5 NCAA  
TOURNAMENTS**



VOLLEYBALL  
**2 GLVC TOURNAMENTS  
5 NCAA TOURNAMENTS**

SOCCER  
**ADVANCED TO  
THE NCAA II  
ELITE 8**



**LEANN  
FREELAND**  
1995, 1996 & 1997  
BASKETBALL



**MATT KEENER**  
2004 & 2005 BASEBALL

**JOHNNY GUY**  
2013 CROSS COUNTRY



**TYLER PENCE**  
2014 CROSS COUNTRY



**ARCHIE**



**BLUE CROWD**

**CHEERLEADERS**

**3 PRESIDENTS**

**KEVIN BROWN '94**  
TEXAS RANGERS



**DARIN MASTROIANNI '07**  
TORONTO BLUE JAYS

**JEREMY  
KEHRT '08**  
BOSTON RED SOX



**TAYLOR DENNIS '11**  
TEXAS RANGERS



## Join the Crowd

Being a member of a group that's 37,000 strong comes with many opportunities — ones the Alumni Association is proud to provide both alumni and students. As an active member you have access to a network of people (many who are former classmates) at events hosted by the association, which can offer not only connections but career opportunities. Those wishing to continue learning receive a discount on classes offered through USI's Outreach and Engagement, as well as many discounts from community businesses. Some of the biggest benefits, however, come from being able to reach out and make a difference in the lives of current students by speaking to classes, sitting on advisory boards, participating in mock interviews and offering internships. It's a big return on such a small investment.

### Seed Money

If you're an alumnus who received financial help from the Alumni Association while at USI, you have Arthur Karch to thank. Back in 1987, Karch – a retired farmer who spent 75 years working a 200-acre farm near Angel Mounds State Historic Site – read a little notice in *USI Magazine* about a group of alumni wanting to start an Alumni Scholarship Endowment. His grandson and his grandson's wife were alumni, so Karch decided to seed the endowment with \$10,000 in memory of his wife Thelma. Over the years, the fund has been enriched with income from the sales of USI license plates, golf outings, a travel program and much more, and has established more than 600 grants and scholarships to students in need. The Alumni Association currently awards 36 scholarships and internship stipends annually totaling \$25,500. "The little thing he did turned into something large," said his grandson Kurt Karch.



## INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL

## OPPORTUNITIES

Just because USI alumni are no longer in class doesn't mean they no longer yearn to learn. Since 2005, 143 USI alumni have traveled together through the Alumni Association Travel Program to destinations as exotic as Peru, Paris, Scotland and more. The primary purposes of the program are to raise funds for the Alumni Association Scholarship, offer ease of travel to alumni and provide life-long learning experiences that explore the wonders of the world.





# ALUMNI IMPACT ON THE REGION VIA EMPLOYMENT

Ever wonder where your peers went after graduation? Thousands of them have stayed within the region and are working for 285 local companies. Here are the top 50 employers of USI alumni in the region. These companies know the value of employing USI graduates, and some of the companies are owned or run by USI alumni.

## Have an Hour to Spare?

USI alumni, students, faculty and administrators believe it's important to give back in every way possible. That's why Volunteer USI was created in 1996, under the direction of President H. Ray Hoops. The program was created to recruit, place and recognize volunteers who donate their time and talents to USI through boards, events, speaking engagements, etc. (i.e., Student Ambassadors, career mentors, Varsity Club, Alumni Council, Assessment Day).

Initially, it targeted alumni and community members but later was opened up to USI students. In addition to volunteering on campus, a community component was added to encourage students to volunteer throughout southwestern Indiana.

Who has volunteered to date?

- Administrators – **1,076 hours**
- Alumni Non-degreeed – **41,402 hours**
- Alumni – **288,509 hours**
- Associations – **4,038 hours**
- Corporations – **50 hours**
- Educational Institutions – **892,013 hours**
- Faculty – **2,637 hours**
- Friends – **54,912 hours**
- Governing Boards – **1,869 hours**
- Non-Alumni Spouse of Alumni – **18,954 hours**
- Others – **78,475 hours**
- Parents – **39,078 hours**
- Organizations – **54 hours**
- Staff – **2,006 hours**
- Retirees – **1,389 hours**
- Students – **1,958 hours**
- Volunteers – **80,115 hours**

**TOTAL – 1,508,535 hours**

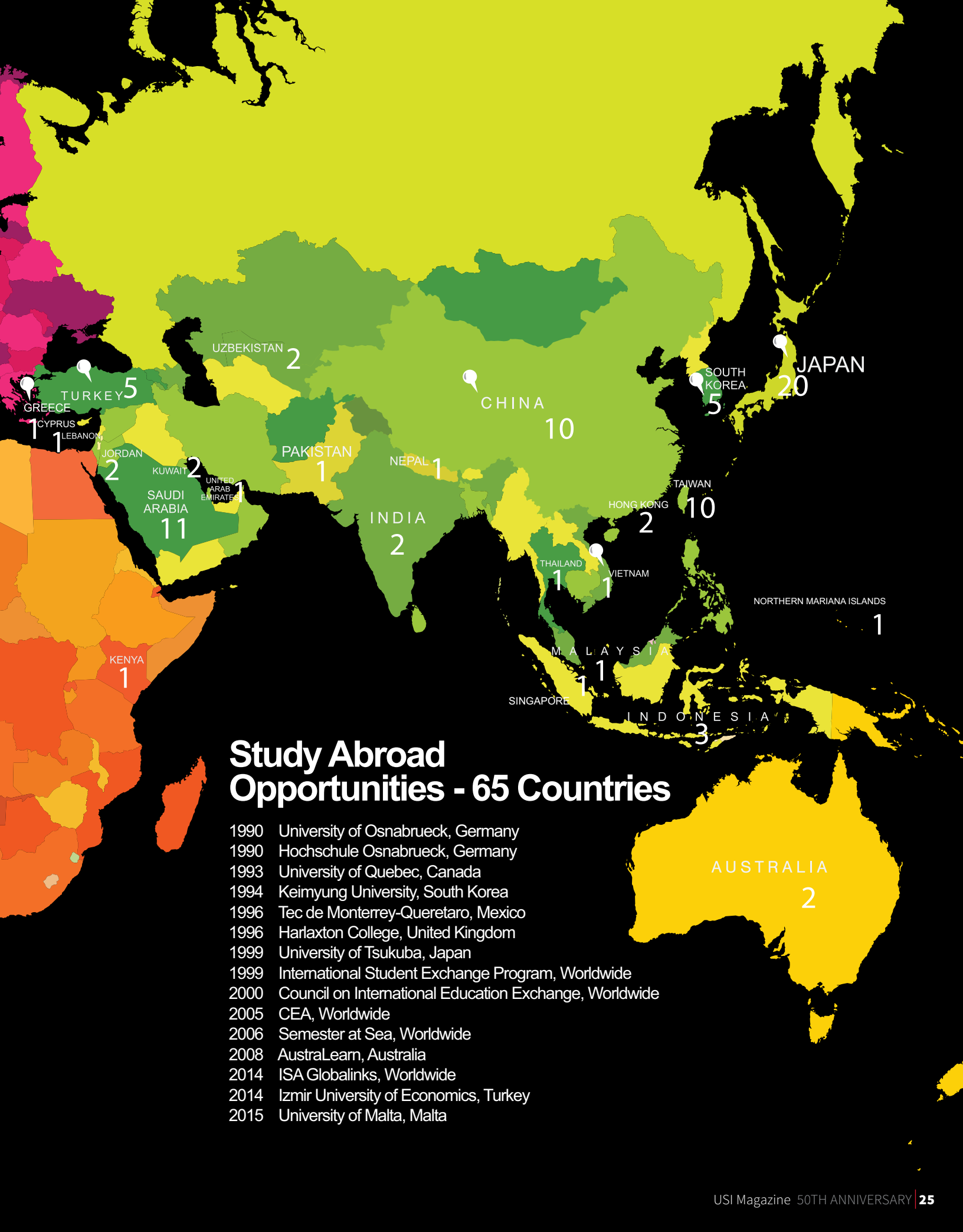
*When calculated at the national volunteer wage, that comes to more than \$32 million in services.*



1.	Evansville-Vanderburgh School Corporation	807
2.	University of Southern Indiana	406
3.	Deaconess Hospital, Inc.	300
4.	Warrick County School Corporation	276
5.	United Leasing Companies	200
6.	Catholic Diocese of Evansville	189
7.	Old National Bank	163
8.	St Mary's Health Care Services	144
9.	Springleaf Finance, Inc.	134
10.	Bristol-Myers Squibb	125
11.	Vectren Corporation	99
12.	Kimball International	77
13.	Fifth Third Bank	73
14.	Metropolitan School District of Mount Vernon	69
15.	Ivy Tech Community College	64
16.	Berry Plastics Corporation	61
17.	Metropolitan School District of North Posey County	60
18.	Toyota Motor Manufacturing Indiana, Inc.	58
19.	Harding Shymanski and Company	52
20.	U.S. Postal Service	51
21.	City of Evansville	45
22.	Red Spot Paint & Varnish, Inc.	44
23.	Card Management Corporation	40
24.	Atlas World Group, Inc.	39
25.	Deaconess Clinic	39
26.	BKD, LLP	38
27.	Mead Johnson Nutrition	38
28.	South Spencer County School Corporation	38
29.	Henderson County Board of Education	37
30.	MasterBrand Cabinets	36
31.	Saudi Basic Industries Corproation (SABIC)	36
32.	Vincennes University	35
33.	Evansville Courier Company, Inc.	34
34.	Good Samaritan Hospital	33
35.	Shoe Carnival, Inc.	31
36.	Deaconess Women's Hospital of Southern Indiana, LLC	29
37.	Keller Schroeder & Associates	29
38.	Alcoa Warrick Operations	28
39.	Southwestern Indiana Mental Health Center, Inc.	28
40.	Evansville Teachers Federal Credit Union	25
41.	State of Indiana	25
42.	University of Evansville	25
43.	First Federal Savings Bank	23
44.	North Gibson School Corporation	23
45.	Deaconess Gateway Hospital	22
46.	Methodist Hospital	22
47.	Evansville Christian School	21
48.	United Parcel Service	21
49.	Eli Lilly and Company	20
50.	HealthSouth Deaconess Rehabilitation Hospital	20







## Study Abroad Opportunities - 65 Countries

- 1990 University of Osnabrueck, Germany
- 1990 Hochschule Osnabrueck, Germany
- 1993 University of Quebec, Canada
- 1994 Keimyung University, South Korea
- 1996 Tec de Monterrey-Queretaro, Mexico
- 1996 Harlaxton College, United Kingdom
- 1999 University of Tsukuba, Japan
- 1999 International Student Exchange Program, Worldwide
- 2000 Council on International Education Exchange, Worldwide
- 2005 CEA, Worldwide
- 2006 Semester at Sea, Worldwide
- 2008 AustraLearn, Australia
- 2014 ISA Globalinks, Worldwide
- 2014 Izmir University of Economics, Turkey
- 2015 University of Malta, Malta

# INTERNATIONAL ATTRACTIONS

The University of Southern Indiana has always offered educational opportunities to those who desire it. Since its inception, USI has grown so that today it offers education to those far beyond the region it originally set out to serve. Today, students from six continents are attracted to USI's offerings. Many have access to quality education in their native countries, but others would not be able to earn an education in their homeland for one reason or another. USI is proud to have created a campus that so many have come to recognize as the excellent educational institution it was always meant to be.

*"When I came here, I wasn't sure what to expect. I was just overjoyed that I was going to college. Three years from now I don't know where I will be, but one thing I know for sure is I will be holding a bachelor's degree from USI."*

**Florence Takaendesa '17, math major, Zimbabwe.** She was recently identified as one of only 25 Moremi Initiative Leadership and Empowerment Development (MILEAD) Fellows chosen from more than 3,020 applicants in 44 countries. This select group represents Africa's most promising young women leaders, with the courage and commitment to lead and shape the future of Africa.



**Meschac Gervais '15, Master of Public Administration, Haiti.** While at USI, he coordinated community service opportunities for international students. Today, he is the program and community manager for One World the Children's Fund, where he continues to put into practice what he learned at USI.

*"I arrived at USI through an exchange program and USI became my second home. What a blessing to me and my family. I feel that I owe USI so much. I am excited to give back in any way I can."*

**Shan Hussein '15 Master of Business Administration, Iraq.** She is back in Iraq working with the International Rescue Committee to help women break through economic barriers and be independent by training them to become small business owners.

*"My mother made the decision to invest in her children by teaching us how to read. USI's scholarship is the payoff for my mother's long-term investment. USI has taught me that hard work does pay off."*



## "THINK GLOBALLY,

is an initiative designed to enhance the international student experience by fostering cultural exchange and bringing awareness and understanding between students and members of the community. To enhance their experience in the United States and at the University, USI partners with numerous community organizations, addressing issues such as





## An Insightful Summer Leads to Lifelong Connections

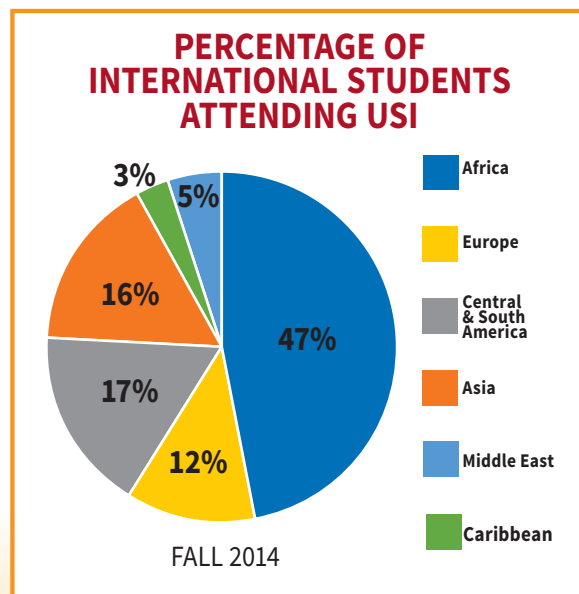
When a group of 23 Iraqi students arrived in Evansville in the summer of 2010 as part of USI's Young Iraqi Leadership Program for Undergraduate Students, they were a disconnected group representing the four main religious factions in Iraq – Sunni, Shia, Kurds and Christians. Each had little understanding of one another's culture, given that they had little contact with each other in their shared homeland. But, by the time they left USI four weeks later, they'd become friends who remained connected despite having gone their separate ways.

The students who came to USI were one of two groups sent to two universities – the other group went to Colorado State University – by World Learning, a program sponsored by the Department of State and the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad. Once here, the students engaged in activities both on and off campus, preparing them to make positive change in their country. Time here included: classroom instruction, field trips, leadership training, conflict resolution, community service, and cultural and recreational activities.

In war-torn Iraq, tragedy was a fact of life. One student told of a bomb exploding outside her home in Baghdad, defacing the front of the house, and the frequency in which she saw dead bodies on the streets. USI's campus, and the city overall, offered the right environment for these young leaders to come together and learn about each other through service to a community different from their own. Working side-by-side planting trees and shrubs at Habitat for Humanity homes, their perceptions of America and each other fell away.

In Iraq, their careers were dictated by a score on an aptitude test; someone would be a nurse or an artist whether they wanted to or not. But at USI, they discovered choices and some defined new directions. "What we have done is expose the leadership qualities the students already have," said Heidi Gregori-Gahan, assistant provost for International Programs and Services. "They are going to be able to apply those skills to developing something specific for their own situations back home."

Today, the students are doing what they were meant to do by being the change they want to see.



## ACT LOCALLY™

children's education, homelessness, children and youth disability, special education, housing and community development. International students learn about possible solutions to community issues (models that can be replicated in their home countries).



### USI HAS BEEN SELECTED

as a host institution for the Thomas Jefferson Scholarship program, the Global Ugrad Program (both funded by U.S. Department of State), and the USAID Training for Pakistan Project, which provides funding for teachers to pursue their master's in education. These initiatives will bring us students from Tunisia, Pakistan, Niger, Indonesia, Kuwait, Palestine and Paraguay.



# CLUBBING

Clubs are full of camaraderie and fun. But clubs come and go. Although it's unclear what the first club was, today, USI has 143 – something for everyone. The Greeks are still here, as are the AMIGOs, but the Diving Blue Dolphins (scuba club), Feathershakers (dance team), Alpha Angels (women's social club), Bowling Club, ISUE Paddlewheel Alliance (anti-nuclear) and the Original Okinawa Karate are no longer. Some, like the Feathershakers, have transformed and taken new names. Most students join an organization related to their major, but if they can't find one they can always create one. Here's a brief overview of a few organizations.

**Student Government Association** is one of the oldest organizations (1969), and its members rally student involvement on campus. The members have a say in campus housing, advise student organizations and fund their events. They were instrumental in facilitating independence from Indiana State University.

Pride and passion for USI is the thread that unites members of the **Student Ambassador Organization**. They recruit, lead tours and host overnight visitors, all in the name of promoting USI.

College is a great time in a young person's life, and members of the **Activities Programming Board** go out of their way to ensure students love their USI days by hosting movies, music and games all year long.

**The International Club** – known far and wide for their Annual International Food Expo – focus on promoting unity, understanding and friendship. Beyond food there are dances, sporting events, trips and much more.

**AMIGOs** have guided Screaming Eagles around campus since 1975, but they are not your typical tour guides. These highly motivated, involved student orientation leaders help new students transition into the USI community.

Diversity is key to a strong and successful campus, and members of the **Black Student Union** are here to promote student involvement and participation in campus-based programs as a means of boosting self-esteem, self-confidence, respect for others and strong leadership skills.

Impacting students' lives is the **Hispanic Student Union/Latinos Unidos**. A strong voice on campus, the members host events to increase knowledge and appreciation of cultural diversity, such as Cooking Lessons and Culture, Dia de los Muertos (Day of the Dead), Salsa Dance Night and Relay for Life.







# Behind the Beauty: **BENEATH THE SURFACE**

There is no doubt about it – USI is a beautiful campus. Manicured lawns, lush woods, sprightly flowerbeds and glistening lakes abound on the campus’ 1,400 acres. But, all that beauty doesn’t come easily. A lot of mowing, planting and tending is required to keep it looking its best. Here’s a breakdown of some of what goes into creating and maintaining USI’s stunning campus grounds each year.

## **EMPLOYEES**

11 full-time  
6 seasonal

## **FLOWERS**

10,000 to 12,000 tulips planted every fall  
40 seasonal flower beds  
Sun Impatiens  
Lantana  
Wave Petunias  
and many more  
640,000 to 1 million pounds of mulch annually  
Flowers are composted  
350 hours landscaping (monthly)

## **GREENHOUSE SEEDS**

1,000 Marigolds  
1,000 Celosia (mix)  
500 Carpet Flowers  
400 Petunias (red and white)  
300 Zinnias (mix)  
300 Black Pearl Ornamental Peppers  
300 Coleus  
100 Tri-color Peppers  
75 Dahlia Bulbs





## **MOWING**

All mowers are equipped with mulching kits to recycle clipping into organic material.

3,000+ hours

## **LEAF REMOVAL**

350 hours

## **SNOW AND ICE REMOVAL**

3,500 pounds of Ice Melt on sidewalks

60 tons of rock salt on roads and parking lots

800 hours





# Then & Now















Then & Now



# PROGRAMMING THE FUTURE

In the early years programs offered by the University were driven by the social and financial circumstances of southwestern Indiana (much like today). The region faced serious economic challenges and was in need of better-educated residents who

could help attract and retain business and industry. The need for a university was great, and the will of the people to make that happen, even greater. Today, thanks to USI, the landscape looks much different.

## 1965

Seven general education degrees, as well as preparatory courses for pre-law, pre-medicine, arts and sciences, and business and teacher education.

## 1974

Increased majors and minors to 23, plus six associate degree programs, a one-year certificate program, and professional preparations programs in elementary and secondary education.

## 1984

The first master's degree program – industrial management – served as an indicator of USI's increasing maturation. Over the next decade, five additional master's degrees were added.

## 1995

Degree programs rose from 31 in 1985 to 63 in 1995.

## 1998

Nursing offered the first online courses. By 2004-2005, more than 1,230 students took at least one distance education course.

## 2005

Four new masters programs were added, as well as new undergraduate majors, between 1995 and 2005.

## 2008

First doctoral program: a Doctor of Nursing Practice degree.

## 2015

Total of 81 undergraduate, graduate and doctoral programs.

## Engaging Opportunities through Outreach

Beyond the drive to make public higher education accessible to all, connecting to the community and its needs is a core tenet of the University. Since 1965, USI has sought to increase economic opportunity, regional development, and social and cultural enrichment in Evansville and the region.

What started as the Continuing Education Office, offering a few noncredit courses in 1974, has developed into four overarching areas to serve community needs: Lifelong Learning, Community Engagement, Opportunity Development and Distance Learning. Today, Outreach and Engagement is like a living organism as its 15 unique departments expand and transform to fulfill the needs of both external and internal community members.

The creation of initiatives such as Historic New Harmony, Innovation Pointe, the Center for Applied Research and Economic

Development as well as a host of noncredit leisure and personal interest courses, are but a few of the ways USI fosters community relationships. The Southern Indiana Japanese School was established at the request of Japanese companies locating in southwest Indiana. The partnership with Naval Surface Warfare Center (NSWC) Crane exists to benefit USI students and faculty, NSWC Crane and the regional community as students collaborate to transform military technologies into commercial ideas.

While the services created are multifaceted, the aim of each is singular: deliver opportunities that enrich society, expand economic growth, increase regional development to its highest potential and provide lifelong learning opportunities for all.



# VARSITY CLUB CONVERSATION

It's always fun to compare and contrast then and now situations. Marvin Smith (MS), emeritus president of the Varsity Club, and Justin Schmitt (JS), current president, compare notes on changes to the club over the years. Here's an excerpt of their chat.

**MS:** First discussions of the Varsity Club were probably in 1971. We needed some sort of club or fellowship in athletics. I was the only one involved who wasn't an employee of ISUE. We acted autonomously. We had no official role with the University.

**JS:** Now, we operate under the University's Foundation and the Athletic Office. This is important in college sports today due to compliance and NCAA rules.

## MEMBERSHIP

**MS:** Byron Hubbard [one of the members] got frustrated because everyone he asked to join said they would when they got around to it. He said, "So I had some round-to-its made up." The original round-to-it is in the Varsity Club archives. It's leather – about the size of a half-dollar that said "round-to-it." Anyone he gave that to, he got a membership.

**JS:** Growing our memberships is our biggest hurdle. Today, we have the luxury of using Facebook and emails to get the message to a larger number of people. People can join online and USI employees can donate through payroll deductions. We have to get the next generation involved with the club. We are constantly in search of ways to increase memberships. If we can increase the number of members, we will increase the number of scholarships we can offer. The more scholarships we can offer, the better our coaches and student athletes can compete for national titles.

## MEETINGS

**MS:** We had trouble getting more than eight at a meeting. There were probably 20 to 30 members at the maximum. We had our meetings in different offices. One of the first meetings we had was in Dr. Rice's office. We had about five or six board members.

**JS:** We have our meetings at the Physical Activities Center in the Varsity Club room. It's the same room members can go to during halftime at basketball games. Today, the board consists of 22 members and the director of Athletics. Overall, we have around 275 members.

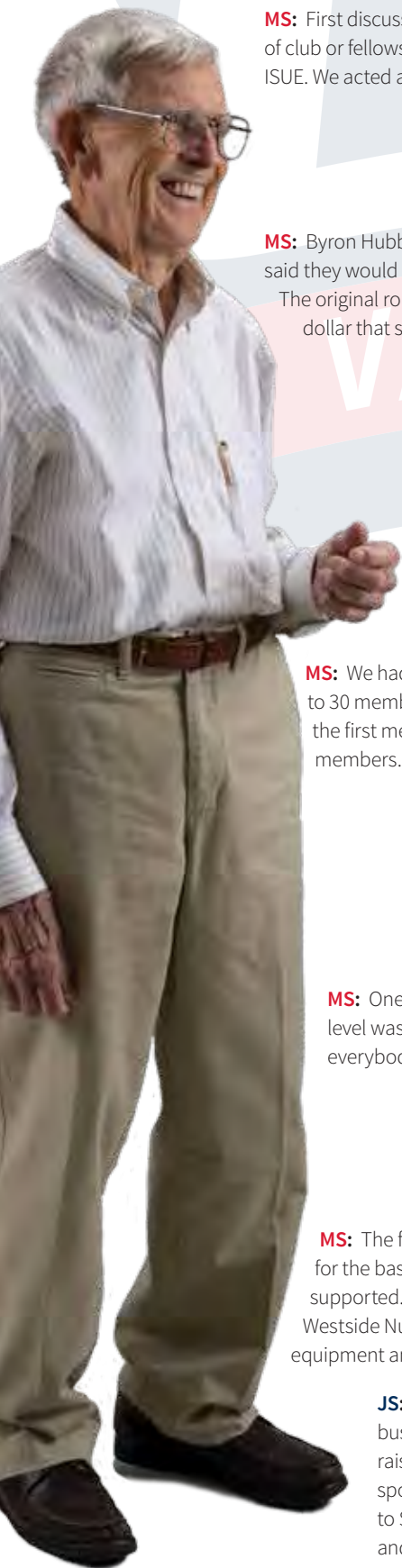
## FUNDRAISING

**MS:** One of the other major differences was membership grades. The first level was Regal Eagles with a contribution of \$500. The second level was everybody else at \$20.

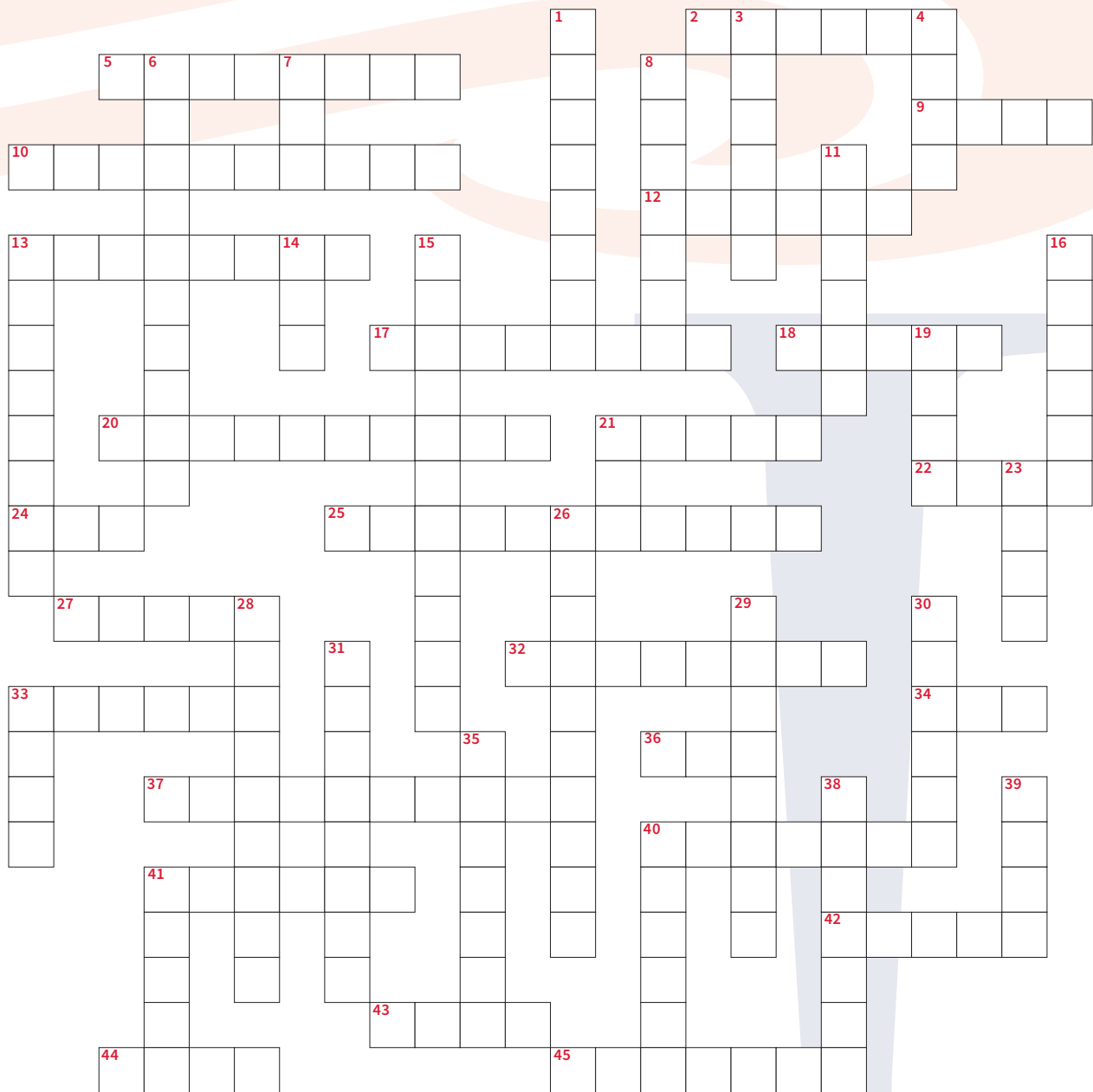
**JS:** Regal Eagle still exists today for \$500, but we've added Platinum Eagle at \$5,000; Screaming Eagle at \$2,000; All American Eagle at \$1,000; Golden Eagle at \$250; Silver Eagle at \$150; and the 20-something club at \$75, to get more young college-aged people involved.

**MS:** The first funds we raised were donations from members to buy t-shirts for the baseball players. All the members were baseball fans and that's who we supported. The first organized fundraiser was a steak fry at Burdette Park and the Westside Nut Club did the cooking for us. They gave us their cooking experts and equipment and they bought the steaks.

**JS:** The Nut Club still does the grilling. The steaks and side dishes are donate by local businesses. It's held at Burdette Park's Discovery Lodge and is very well attended. We raise most of our money on our large live auctions, where we auction off vacation and sporting event packages and sports memorabilia. We typically raise around \$30,000 to \$35,000 at this event. We have a booth at the Westside Nut Club Fall Festival and a Golf Scramble. Today, the Varsity Club supports all 17 USI sports.



# 50 FUN FACTS



## ACROSS

- 2: Meeting and conference hall
- 5: Hybrid of Screaming Eagle
- 9: Varsity \_\_\_\_\_
- 10: Gift giving department
- 12: Student welcoming group
- 13: Sport that holds two national championships
- 17: Current popular lounge on chilly days
- 18: Underground student paper
- 20: Men's and women's athletic team  
simultaneously ranked number 1
- 21: What you did at USI
- 22: Campus radio station
- 24: Represents Temporary Union Building
- 25: Yearbook
- 27: 1995 national basketball head coach
- 32: Writers' retreat
- 33: Teaching center that resembles a hospital room

- 34: Business program
- 36: Governor instrumental in USI's independence
- 37: Springtime student tradition
- 40: Nickname for 7'1" basketball player
- 41: Program for academically inclined
- 42: Highway to campus
- 43: Science and engineering college renamed
- 44: USI formerly known as
- 45: Only doctoral program

## DOWN

- 1: Name of original athletic teams
- 3: Mascot's name
- 4: First USI president
- 6: First classes held
- 7: McCutchan/Pace displays
- 8: Popular 1974 student hangout
- 11: Dean who was a collegiate swimmer
- 13: Three-mile trail to \_\_\_\_\_

- 14: Honors residency hall
- 15: Formerly called *8600 University Boulevard*
- 16: What a student earns
- 19: Unique tower in center of campus
- 21: Entrance exam
- 23: Founding member of what athletic conference
- 26: "Shaping the future through learning and  
\_\_\_\_\_"
- 28: College of Liberal Arts' brick entrance pattern
- 29: 15th-century reenactment dinner
- 30: Business college renamed
- 31: Bike race
- 33: Raised \$1 million in 1966 to buy land
- 35: Current USI president
- 38: Varsity sport for one year
- 39: Grassy area
- 40: Office where tuition is paid
- 41: Second USI president



# DID YOU KNOW?

## By the Numbers: Then and Now

SEPTEMBER 15, 1965

412 students

2 full-time faculty

36 part-time faculty

7 programs

TODAY

9,364 students

345 full-time faculty

249 part-time faculty

70 undergraduate programs

10 graduate programs

1 doctoral program

*"Imagine going to college in a very old grade-school building, with creaky wooden floors, windows that allowed snow and rain to sit on their inside sills, and a total full-time faculty of two professors, plus a handful of part-time instructors. Classes only between 4 p.m. and 10 p.m., Monday through Thursday. No class on Friday – no class before noon. That was truly the scenario that first academic year. Of course, it didn't stay that way long. Student enrollment increased so much that by the second year, the starting time for classes was moved to noon, and by the third year we were offering classes all day long, five days a week. However, we were still an extension of Indiana State University, and we only offered coursework for the first two years, so it was necessary for students to transfer elsewhere to finish their education. Finally, by 1971, we had added the last two years of coursework and we began graduating our own students here in Evansville.*

*The important part of this whole equation is you, the many graduates before you, and the ones that will follow after you. You are the ones who have really benefited from the labors of the many people who made this University a reality. Make them proud of you. Make their efforts worthwhile."*

– Marjorie Labhart, instructor emerita in mathematics  
One of two full-time faculty when the University opened in 1965



## Leafy Legacy

LaVerne the Fern – a big, beautiful Boston Fern (*Nephrolepis exaltata*) – resides in the Wright Administration Building just outside the elevators on the second floor. She is more than 40 years old and was a gift to Dr. David L. Rice, emeritus president of USI, from his wife Betty in his early years of presidency. How did LaVerne acquire her name? "Creative minds," said Sherrienne Standley, vice president emerita for Advancement.

Ever wonder about the story behind the bathtub in the University Center East? It came out of an old house owned by the family of a Tau Kappa Epsilon brother. The brothers thought using a bathtub to symbolize the Temporary Union Building would be a fun and interesting thing to bring to the new student space since the letters spelled out TUB. At the time – November 1971 – the University was only a commuter campus and student involvement was encouraged. Engaging students to be involved and invested is a practice USI continues today.







## The Art of Generosity

It began with a single work of art — a circa 1400 Sienna School oil painting titled “The Annunciation: St. Dorothea” — given to USI in 1969 by a donor who wished to remain anonymous but when donating it said, “Every great university needs an art collection.”

In the past 46 years, the collection has grown to nearly 3,000 works by over 600 artists, given to USI by nearly 100 donors. It contains works from Andy Warhol, Barbara Hepworth and Stephen Pace, as well as 19th and 20th century regional art from Indiana artists, USI faculty and students, and unnamed artists representing cultures from around the world including: Andean, British, Cambodian, Chinese, Guatemalan, Inuit, German, Japanese, Kashmiri, Malian, Mexican, Persian, Russian and Tibetan.

USI’s art collection doesn’t simply grace the walls, it functions as a learning tool, giving students first-hand knowledge of how to handle a variety of media to equip them for jobs in galleries, museums and archives.



## CALLING ALL USI ARTISTS

USI is seeking proposals for a large-scale sculptural piece to grace the exterior entrance of the Griffin Center. The competition is open to all USI art students, art alumni and art department faculty (past and present). Proposals must be submitted no later than November 13, 2015. The artist or team of artists commissioned will receive an allotted budget of \$50,000. This sculpture is being underwritten by a private gift through the USI Foundation. For detailed information visit [USI.edu/artcompetition](http://USI.edu/artcompetition).



Nationally renowned artist Richard Hunt has been commissioned to produce a 17-foot tall sculpture commemorating USI’s 50th anniversary. The sculpture, funded by private donations, will be unveiled on campus in fall 2015.



## INSIDE THE VAULT

The University Archives and Special Collections unit is housed on the third floor of the David L. Rice Library and hosts more than 42,000 digital images online as well as a range of physical collections. Boxes of documents, publications and general information (on more than 600 intentional communities world-wide) comprise the Communal Studies collection alone. Last year, a signed letter from Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was discovered in one of the Archives' Communal Studies collections.

The archives also house more than 300 regional collections, focusing on the history of Indiana and the Tri-state area; early

government papers and collections from the African-American and Jewish communities within Evansville; more than 350 oral histories from members of the community covering a range of topics. There are many editions of the Evansville High School and Central High School yearbooks from 1909 to 1987, too.



### A SAMPLING OF THE LARGEST, SMALLEST, STRANGEST AND RAREST ITEMS IN THE ARCHIVES



#### COLLECTIONS: 1,031

- 296 Manuscript/regional collections
- 111 University collections
- 624 Communal Studies collections

#### LARGEST

- 60 boxes of material from the organic bakery of a communal group dating to the 1940s
- 46 boxes of Academic Affairs papers
- 43 boxes of 290 items of vintage clothing spanning 1870 to 1970

#### SMALLEST

- A letter from John Q. Adams to Isaac Lyon in 1831

#### STRANGEST

- A stuffed barn owl that no one knows how it made its way into the University's Archives, but it now guards the vault
- A lock of hair from Robert Owen (allegedly)
- A collection of famous autographs including Jack Dempsey, J. Edgar Hoover and Helen Keller
- A scrapbook devoted to awards won by champion Chinese Pugs (1948 to 1953), but not a single picture of the dogs

#### RAREST

- *The Complete Works of Paracelsus* by Phillipus Theophrastus Bombastus von Hohenheim, better known as the alchemist Paracelsus, printed in 1603 – the oldest book in the collections

- An oil lamp from the Middle East estimated to have been made between 100bc and 100ce
- Gold Rush letters from 1830 giving graphic descriptions of life on the frontier. The letters have return addresses such as "Secret Ravine"

#### OTHER

- Karl Kae Knecht's 1909 journals with drawings of daily life and politics in Evansville during his first year of marriage to his wife Jennie  
Knecht was an American artist who was a cartoonist for the *Evansville Courier* (now *Evansville Courier & Press*) from 1906 to 1960.

This fall, Rice Library is launching a major new search tool, *fUSlon*, that will allow users to search across all the collections from a single search box.



DID YOU KNOW?





# THE UNDERSIDE OF THINGS

In 2002, a water pipe burst in the PAC, flooding and ruining the wood courts. When the floor was removed, a few obscure items were discovered under the old floor:

- enough table tennis and indoor/outdoor golf balls to fill a shopping cart
- pennies, nickels and dimes
- 35 red and blue pens used by stat crews
- a hockey puck
- mouth guards
- a cell phone (which was later claimed by a Men's Basketball player who lost it four months earlier)
- Women's Basketball game notes from January 1996
- 4 frisbees
- baby pacifiers
- chap stick and lip balm
- contact lens cleaner
- 35mm film canisters
- playing cards
- old rolls of athletic tape
- batteries
- combs
- a hair brush
- hair scrunchies
- a soccer cone
- dead mice
- four wasp nests
- baseballs
- a large rock
- a substantial amount of Arby's Roast Beef wrappers, which was the payment – instead of cash – to students for working the games

the buildings after faculty and administrators working at USI at the time. There was no Cone (2011) or rotunda (Rice Library, 2006) or fountain (UC Fountain, 2007) then, yet all three exist today.

Russler attributes this “coincidence” to having been Wright’s assistant for many years and typing up so many reports that the vision he and USI’s president, Dr. David L. Rice, had for the University

seeped into her subconscious.

There are many things on the illustration that have not come true, but who knows what the future holds.



DID YOU KNOW?

# LOOK WHO'S TALKING:

Over the decades hundreds of speakers have come to campus – here's a sampling of some notable names.

**Michael Pugh**  
**Vincent Bugliosi**  
**Diana Nyad**  
**Dorothy Crispino**  
**John Wooden**  
**Chelsea Clinton**  
**John Canady**  
**Rita Dove**  
**Beryl Robichaud**  
**Nikki Giovanni**  
**John Canady**  
**The Honorable Randall T. Shepard**  
**Buckminster Fuller**  
**Maya Angelou**  
**T. Boone Pickens**  
**Stephen Jay Gould**  
**Marlene Sanders**  
**John Ciardi**  
**Dennis Gage**  
**Helen Thomas**  
**Shirley Chisholm**  
**Floyd Coleman**  
**Herman Boone**  
**Judy Chicago**  
**Ben Bernanke**  
**Randall Robinson**  
**Jaron Lanier**  
**Greg Marshal**  
**Tom Wolfe**  
**Anne Rosellini**  
**John Carlos**  
**George H. W. Bush**  
**Patch Adams**  
**Raymond Carver**

## ARCHIE'S EVOLUTION





## FUNDAMENTAL FACTS

Fifty years of innovative and educational excellence in the arts, sciences, business and healthcare have resulted in more than a few kudos for each of the four colleges within the University. We don't have room to list all the achievements over the decades, but here are a few outstanding facts.

Both highly successful and competitive, the College of Nursing and Health Professions routinely produces graduating classes that garner nearly 100 percent pass rates on licensure exams and excel in their fields of expertise. On top of that, the nursing program is consistently ranked nationally by U.S. News and World Report.

In the College of Liberal Arts, theatre students work alongside professional actors and gain Actors' Equity points through the Repertory Project, a collaboration between USI's Performing Arts Department and the New Harmony Theatre. Such exposure, and a wide offering of classes in acting, sound and light engineering, costume and set design and the new Performance Center, have garnered the program high esteem and award-winning productions.

Offering an array of programs, the Pott College of Science, Engineering, and Education has become a leader in elementary, secondary and postsecondary STEM education, housing the Southwest Indiana STEM Resource Center, hosting and expanding the Tri-State Science and Engineering Fair, developing STEM educators and educational tools throughout the region and offering a STEM undergraduate research program for USI students.

Passion, persistence and performance has been the driving theme for all things in the Romain College of Business.

It's paid off in numerous successes nationally and internationally, such as the accounting team winning case competitions. The 2015 team won the Institute of Management Accountants case competition.

It was the ninth time USI qualified for the national finals, and the fifth time a USI team won, making USI one of two universities to win the prestigious competition five times.

## GROWING NUMBER OF GRADUATES

1971 - 151  
1972 - 449  
1973 - 822  
1974 - 1,223  
1975 - 1,594  
1976 - 1,955  
1977 - 2,305  
1978 - 2,612  
1979 - 3,014  
1980 - 3,277  
1981 - 3,689  
1982 - 4,116  
1983 - 4,515  
1984 - 4,917  
1985 - 5,323  
1986 - 5,677  
1987 - 6,127  
1988 - 6,570  
1989 - 7,094  
1990 - 7,670  
1991 - 8,304  
1992 - 9,056  
1993 - 9,782  
1994 - 10,569  
1995 - 11,379  
1996 - 12,218  
1997 - 13,075  
1998 - 13,944  
1999 - 14,952  
2000 - 16,018  
2001 - 17,165  
2002 - 18,369  
2003 - 19,573  
2004 - 20,857  
2005 - 22,420  
2006 - 23,930  
2007 - 25,329  
2008 - 26,729  
2009 - 28,173  
2010 - 29,579  
2011 - 31,120  
2012 - 32,826  
2013 - 34,552  
2014 - 35,402  
2015 - 37,103

DID YOU KNOW?



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**USI.edu**



# JUMPSTARTING SUCCESS:

## Cool Internship Opportunities

Earning an education at USI is the gateway to success, and USI's Career Services and Internships is the door to opportunity. Students searching for a career that provides a sense of satisfaction and allows for a direct use of refined talents can be a daunting task. Since 1973, however, the department has been helping students prepare for job searches, and for the past 18 years it's been placing them in internships, allowing them to test the waters before jumping into careers. Career Services and Internships has put 4,078 students on the direct path to opportunity with 1,211 top companies, both regionally and nationally. If a student wants an internship with a particular company, Career Services will do everything possible to make that happen.

- Berry Plastics Corporation
- Chicago Bears
- Chicago Tribune Media Group
- County Music Television, Inc.
- Naval Surface Warfare Center Crane Division
- Late Show with David Letterman
- Discovery Channel
- Disney
- Indiana Pacers
- Indiana Senate
- Indiana House of Representatives
- Mead Johnson & Company, LLC
- Muhammed Ali Center
- National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA)
- National Geographic
- NBC Universal Media, LLC.
- Saudi Basic Industries Corporation (SABIC)
- Smithsonian Institute
- Springleaf Finance, Inc.
- United States Department of State
- Toyota
- Vectren Corporation



## Doctor, Doctor

63 USI alumni have gone on to practice some form of medicine within a 50-mile radius of Evansville. They are surgeons, dentists, physicians, optometrists and veterinarians.

## A Meditation in Study

Studying in the library is a tradition USI alumni and current students share. Over the years, however, the library has grown and changed from its beginnings in the basement of the Wright Administration Building in 1971. (There was no campus library from 1965-1970). Today, it's an amazing four-level structure averaging 10,690 visitors in a typical week. Students can meet for study groups, check-out books, music, iPads and more, or find a quiet place to read and contemplate.





# USI MAGAZINE: AN UNFOLDING STORY

When the first alumni magazine, *8600 University Boulevard*, rolled off the presses, USI was a burgeoning institution. Then, the 10-page black and white glossy was devoted to bringing alumni news about campus growth and expansion. Since May 1973, much has changed both on campus and with the magazine. Today, it's called

*USI Magazine* and is a full-color, 32-page glossy (this commemorative issue is an exception) still devoted to keeping alumni and friends of the University informed and entertained. The difference today is the connection through storytelling, featuring alumni, faculty and students, and how their endeavors are making a difference in the

world. In spring 2016, the publication will evolve further, expanding to 48 pages and sporting a new look. Despite changes to the magazine over the decades, one constant has always remained: USI has had and will always have a remarkable story to tell.



DID YOU KNOW?









*“As exciting as the history of USI has been over the last half century, the future is even brighter. USI is poised for growth with new programs and partnerships. Our vision statement captures USI’s reality: Shaping the Future through Learning and Innovation.”*

**— President Linda L. M. Bennett**

