



# NEWS RELEASE

CONTACT:  
Kathy Funke, Director  
News & Information Services  
812/465-7005  
FAX 812/464-1956

## **USI Alumni Association to honor 5 with 1995 awards**

**For immediate release  
April 27, 1995**

Five people will be honored Friday, May 5, when the University of Southern Indiana Alumni Association holds its annual Senior Reception and Dinner in the Marriott Hotel Royale Ballroom and presents the 1995 alumni awards. Tickets for the dinner are \$12.50 per person; May 2 is the deadline to make reservations. Call 812/464-1924 for information.

The 1995 alumni award recipients are:

**Special Recognition Award - Drs. William and Trudy Mitchell of Albion, Illinois**

**Faculty Recognition Award - Dr. Robert E. Mays, associate dean of the School of Education and Human Services**

**Alumni Service Award - Mr. Gregory T. Hall '84 political science graduate, co-owner of Lake Investments, Inc., which does business as The Bouquet Shoppe Florist in Newburgh and Thomas Floral & Marketing Wholesale, Evansville**

**Distinguished Alumni Award - state Rep. Vaneta G. Becker '94 political science graduate, independent real estate broker, and state representative from the Evansville area**

Citations for the awards note:

The Mitchells for more than 16 years have been among USI friends who have sustained the University, usually by financial means, and many times setting the pace for others to follow to assure progress and growth. Dr. Mitchell has been a USI Foundation Board member since 1981 and his wife has shared with him the efforts such as planning and raising funds for the University Home, providing annual scholarships for USI nursing students, providing a state-of-the-art interactive classroom system in the Mitchell Auditorium of the Health Professions Center, and helping the Mid-America Singers make their Spring Break trip to Poland, among others.

Dr. Mays began teaching at USI in 1973 and annually oversees the placement of more than 500 students in field experiences. The student-teaching program he initiated and oversees was recognized by the National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education 15 years ago  
(more)

as one of the top 35 in the nation, out of more than 900 programs considered. He also has been honored for his long-time work with the Head Start program and was chosen by former Governor Robert D. Orr to serve as a conference evaluator for the Governor's White House Conference on Children and Youth. He was one of six selected by the Indiana Department of Education to evaluate the state's Prime Time program and he currently serves on a U.S. Department of Education review panel for special programs such as Upward Bound, Talent Search, Educational Opportunity centers, and Special Services for Disadvantaged Students.

Hall's service to the University began in his undergraduate years, including being appointed by the governor as the first student trustee to represent the Evansville campus on the Indiana State University Board. He was a leader with various student groups and continues that affiliation through the USI Alumni Association, assisting with the USI Phonathon and many career development programs -- Career Exploration, Alumni Career Workshop, and Day on the Job, among others. He also is still active with Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity and continues to be one of USI's "biggest cheerleaders" in the community and Tri-State.

Ms. Becker has worked for many years in the Indiana General Assembly on programs to improve and sustain USI. She was instrumental in the University achieving status as an independent institution, having guided legislation creating a Board of Incorporators for a Separate State University in Southwestern Indiana in 1984 and the following year, worked for passage of legislation establishing the University of Southern Indiana. She was first elected to the State House of Representatives in 1981 and currently is chair of the House Public Health Committee and a member of the Courts and Criminal Code Committee and the Public Safety Committee. She is a long-time board member of Ark Crisis Prevention Nursery and advisory board member for St. Mary's Medical Center.