



NEWS RELEASE

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USI Founders Day will honor five

Five people will be recognized for 25 years of services to University of Southern Indiana during the eighth annual Founders Day program at 3 p.m. on Wednesday, September 15, in Carter Hall. The five employees who reach the quarter-century mark this year are: Ms. Linda L. Cleek, associate director of Extended Services; Dr. M. Edward Jones, associate vice president of Academic Affairs and director of Extended Services; Mr. Barry K. Schonberger, dean of students; Ms. Pauline M. Schuler, library clerk; and Mr. Steven E. Selby, motor vehicles operations supervisor.

Ms. Linda L. Cleek, a 1982 USI graduate, accepted the position of secretary in Continuing Education and General Studies in 1974. She was promoted to assistant director of Continuing Education in 1985 and assumed her current position in 1995.

Active in professional organizations, Ms. Cleek serves as chair of the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA) Region Four Committee on Committees, was previously chair of the UCEA Conferences and Professional Programming Community of Practice, and served on the board of directors of Leadership Evansville and the Retired and Senior Volunteers Program.

She is on the board of directors of Westside Improvement Association, where she serves as USI representative. Ms. Cleek is an original organizer for the RopeWalk Writers Retreat, a writers conference held annually in New Harmony, and continues to manage logistics for the event. Ms. Cleek is a past board member for the Arts Council of Southwest Indiana.

Dr. M. Edward Jones earned a B.S. from Brescia College, and an M.S. and Ed.D. from Indiana University. Before coming to USI, he was an associate instructor at Indiana University and later served as assistant dean of the Evening Divisions at Northwestern University. In 1974, he came to USI as the first director of Continuing Education and General Studies.

Dr. Jones said, "When we started noncredit continuing education programming in spring 1975, we scheduled six courses that enrolled 201 students." Now that office offers about 450 sections of noncredit courses each year that enroll about 8,500 students. The office coordinates most nontraditional delivery of credit courses. Off-campus credit course offerings have grown from four courses offered at Castle High School in Newburgh to holding off-campus courses at multiple sites, customized contract courses for employers, College Achievement Program courses, and distance education courses.

Dr. Jones has held numerous leadership roles in professional continuing education associations and currently serves as treasurer of the Executive Committee of the University Continuing Education Association (UCEA). He previously was regional representative to the UCEA Board and served as chair of the Midwest Region (IV), and chair of the Division of Business, Industry, and Labor. He served two terms as chair of the Indiana Council on Continuing Education. He is the USI representative to the Indiana Partnership for Statewide Education.

Dr. Jones is active in regional workforce and economic development organizations. He is a member of the Workforce Investment Board of Southwest Indiana, the Alliance for Workforce Development, INOV8, the Tri-State World

Trade Council, and the Citizens Advisory Committee for the Evansville Urban Transportation Study. He is a member of the Rotary Club of Evansville.

A native of St. Paul, Minnesota, Mr. Barry Schonberger earned a B.A. from Bemidji State University in Minnesota and an M.A. from Indiana State University. He came to work at USI as director of Student Activities immediately following undergraduate school. He said, "Coming from Minnesota, I thought southern Indiana was the deep south. It was the farthest south I had ever been."

As advisor to student organizations from 1974 to 1989, Mr. Schonberger has seen an increase in student clubs and organizations rise from 10 to over 90. As director of Student Activities and coordinator of the University Center from 1979 to 1989, he developed Student Leadership Development and planned and organized the University Student Life program all while managing the University Center.

As dean of students, Mr. Schonberger supervises Campus Ministries, Student Wellness Office, Multicultural Center, Student Health Center, and Intramurals. Mr. Schonberger said, "Many people change jobs looking for new opportunities and challenges; USI has always provided those things for me."

Besides responsibilities at the University, Mr. Schonberger is chair of Cub Scout Pack 371 and is on the board of directors for the American Red Cross Evansville Chapter and for Junior Achievement. In August, he received the National Bronze Leadership Award from Junior Achievement for exemplary leadership. He is an active member of the Sports Car Club of America (SCCA) and served as Southern Indiana Regional Executive. He won the SCCA Solo II national championship title in 1985, 1993, and 1996.

Ms. Schuler began employment with USI as a secretary in Rice Library's Circulation Department. In 1975, she transferred to the Technical Services Department where she stayed for 24 years, retiring this year. Ms. Schuler said, "I actually applied for a job in another department, but was offered the position in the library and I'm very glad it worked out that way."

She said she began taking night classes for self-improvement. Ms. Schuler recalled receiving a "B" in Dr. Thomas River's Introduction to Literature and that was a turning point in her life. She enrolled in other classes, but decided she did not want a degree.

She began attending public lectures on campus, however. The international speakers broadened her awareness of international political and social issues. She said working and spending evenings on campus was a growing experience for her.

Steven E. Selby accepted the position of grounds keeper in the winter of 1974. When he was promoted to supervisor of grounds by the following summer, he said he thought he was on the fast track for advancement. "I guess I goofed up because it was 20 years before my next promotion," he laughed. Mr. Selby was promoted to his present position in 1994.

Mr. Selby has seen many changes over the years. The University maintained six vehicles in 1974. The number of vehicles has grown to 65 not counting the delivery carts on campus. When appointed grounds supervisor 25 years ago, he recalled the Maintenance Barn really was a barn, and the newest building on campus was the University Center. The biggest change in University policy has been the ban on smoking.

Like many University employees, Mr. Selby considers the students to be the most rewarding aspect of employment here. He has worked with hundreds of student workers and proudly reports on his continued friendships with many of them. "Of the many student workers in grounds maintenance and motor vehicle operations, some became law enforcement officers, teachers, doctors, and lawyers. One became a mayoral assistant and another a CIA agent."

Founders Day is observed each year to honor employees who have accumulated 25 years of service to the University. It is held on September 15, the date in 1965 when the University offered its first classes at the Centennial Campus.