



NEWS RELEASE

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Dr. Rice, Justice Shepard to be honored

**980 to receive degrees
at USI Commencement May 6**

**For immediate release
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Some 980 students will be eligible to receive associate, bachelor, and master's degrees at the 1995 USI Commencement, which will be held at 7 p.m. Saturday, May 6, in Roberts Municipal Stadium.

Honorary doctoral degrees will be bestowed on Dr. David L. Rice, USI president emeritus, and Indiana Supreme Court Chief Justice Randall T. Shepard. Justice Shepard, formerly of Evansville, will be the Commencement speaker.

USI's highest academic honors will be presented to Dr. Charles F. Petranek, chair of the Sociology/Anthropology Department, selected by his colleagues to receive the National City Bank Distinguished Professor Award, and Chad J. Hartmann, a mathematics major who was selected by the Student Academic Affairs Committee to receive the President's Medal, the highest award given a graduating senior.

Hartmann and his former roommate, Brent Auberry, a political science and history major, will be the summa cum laude graduates for this year's Commencement, having completed their college careers with perfect 4.0 grade point averages. Both attended USI under the Presidential Scholar program for Indiana high school valedictorians and salutatorians; both were valedictorians, Hartmann at Boonville High School and Auberry at Washington High School. Hartmann plans to teach and will return to USI in the fall to do his student teaching. Auberry plans to enter the Indiana University School of Law. He was the student member of the USI Board of Trustees the past two years.

Dr. Rice held faculty and administrative positions at Ball State University and served in Washington, D.C., as research coordinator in the Bureau of Research of the U.S. Office of Education, prior to taking over leadership at USI in 1967. He is a native of New Market,

Indiana, and received his B.A., M.S., and Ph.D. degrees from Purdue University. He and his wife, Betty Fordice Rice, have a daughter, Patricia Denise Dawson of York, Pennsylvania, and a son Michael Alan Rice of Indianapolis. Dr. Rice retired June 30, 1994, and the Rices live in retirement in nearby New Harmony, Indiana, continuing their active role with the community and the University.

Chief Justice Shepard is a long-time Evansville resident who, at age 40 in 1987, became the youngest chief justice in the United States. He served the previous 18 months as an associate justice and was a Superior Court judge in Vanderburgh County for five years prior to that. Shepard graduated cum laude from Princeton University and earned his J.D. degree from Yale Law School. Prior to entering the judiciary, he practiced law, served as executive assistant to the late Evansville Mayor Russell Lloyd for five years, and was a special assistant to the Under Secretary of Transportation in Washington, D.C., for two years.

Dr. Petranek is an internationally-recognized pioneer in the use of simulated games to teach societal structure and behavior. He earned a B.A. in sociology, psychology, and philosophy from Aquinas College, M.A. in sociology from Western Michigan University, and Ph.D. in sociology from Florida State University. He taught at Cleveland State University for three years, then joined the USI faculty in 1973 and has been chair of the Sociology/Anthropology Department since 1985. He has directed evaluative research for numerous community organizations. His publications in professional journals center on his work with simulation and debriefing, but also reflect his involvement with hospice care on local, state, and national levels.