



NEWS RELEASE

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USI ALUMNI ASSOCIATION TO HONOR SIX THIS YEAR; RICES, WRIGHT MADE HONORARY MEMBERS

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The University of Southern Indiana Alumni Association held its annual Senior Recognition Dinner and Awards Program Friday, May 6, in the Tropical Pavilion at the Ramada Inn (social hour at 6 p.m., dinner at 7). Six were honored in the annual presentation of the association's four awards:

Distinguished Alumni - Ronald D. and Connie Darrt Romain of Romain Automotive Group
Faculty Recognition - Timothy Mahoney, coordinator of Southern Indiana Labor-

Management Education Forum, manager of special projects, and economics instructor
Special Recognition - C. Wayne and Betty Worthington, long active in USI Foundation fund campaigns and now co-chairs of the Rice Plaza fund drive

Alumni Service - Douglas Claybourn, assistant vice president and mortgage loan originator, Citizens National Bank Lincoln Avenue branch

In addition, the association presented honorary memberships to University President David L. Rice, First Lady Betty Rice, and Byron C. Wright, senior vice president, who are retiring June 30 after 27 years in University leadership. The memberships were accompanied by walnut bookends adorned with bronze University medallions.

Ronald Romain is a 1973 marketing graduate; Connie Romain graduated a year later with an elementary education degree. They met while attending USI. He became general manager of United Leasing's leasing/rental car business after graduation and in 1980, became president of the company which now leases nationwide. The Romains established a Buick agency in 1986. She joined the company in 1980 and was instrumental in developing a new venture, Professional Transportation, which provides auto service to the railroad.

The Romains are actively involved in community and church programs as well as the University. He is a member of the School of Business Board of Visitors and the Coach's Club in athletics. She is past president of the Alumni Association, remains active with the annual telefund campaigns, and recently served on the Rice Tribute committee.

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Mahoney joined the USI staff in 1987, with a goal of revitalizing the labor-management dialogue in the Evansville area. He has gained another title of special projects manager in Extended Services, and has become a consultant to business and civic organizations in the community and to USI's Historic Southern Indiana Project and Historic New Harmony. Mahoney has gained a reputation as someone who cares deeply about the success of USI students, maintaining an open-door policy as he counsels them on class problems, resumes, job search strategies, and more. He also assists parents during Southern Hospitality Days orientations. A Chicago area native, he is a 1963 graduate of Ripon College, Wisconsin, and did graduate work at the University of Illinois. He was with a California-based management consultant firm in Indianapolis prior to coming to USI.

The Worthingtons have been special friends of the University since he joined the USI Foundation Board Directors in 1970. He served as Board chairman for five years, now holding life membership on the board, and has led numerous committees and fund drives over the years. In 1988, he initiated the Presidential Scholarship program by committing the first scholarship endowment from National City Bank, where he had been board chairman prior to his 1993 retirement. The Worthingtons have underwritten two important Foundation projects: the donor recognition wall in the University Conference Center and the portrait of Dr. Rice commemorating his University leadership. They currently serve as honorary co-chairs of the campaign to raise private funding for the Rice Plaza, a commemorative landscaped honoring the Rice years at USI.

Claybourn, a '77 communications graduate, worked in local television before returning to USI in 1980 as director of Career Placement and Cooperative Education, and part-time sports information director. He joined Citizens National Bank in 1983. Claybourn is a past president of the Alumni Association, past member of the Alumni Council, and annual volunteer with the USI phonathon and student career development programs. He has been the alumni representative on the USI Athletic Board since 1980 and a 14-year member of the Varsity Club, serving on its board and as the annual co-chair of the golf outing.