



NEWS RELEASE

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USI Founders Day will honor six

Six people will be recognized for 25 years of services to University of Southern Indiana during the ninth annual Founders Day program at 3 p.m. on Thursday, September 14, in Carter Hall. The six employees who reach the quarter-century mark this year are: Mr. Timothy K. Buecher, director of Career Counseling, and lecturer in Academic Skills; Mr. Leonard M. Cook, associate professor of mechanical engineering technology; Mr. Larry D. Goss, professor of engineering technology; Ms. Y. Susie Kempf, senior computer operator; Mr. John R. McPherson, custodial worker; and Dr. Robert L. Reid, vice president for Academic Affairs. The University community is invited to the program.

Mr. Timothy Buecher earned a B.A. from DePauw University and an M.A. from University of Evansville. He was a rehabilitation counselor at The Rehabilitation Center and an admission counselor at University of Evansville. In 1975, he came to USI as director of the Career Counseling Center.

Over the years, Mr. Buecher has held several positions at USI including sports information director, director of Admission, and dean of Enrollment Services.

Mr. Buecher said, "I believe in this institution, and am proud to have been a witness to some of its greatest moments. The one enduring reason for our success and growth, has been the concern for and genuine interest in students shown by the employees. My hope is that, as we continue to grow and hire new employees, we will maintain that commitment to our students."

Mr. Buecher is a member of the American Counseling Association, American College Counseling Association, and the American School Counselor Association. His community involvement includes membership in the USI Varsity Club, the West Side Nut Club, and Scottish Rite. Mr. Buecher has coached youth baseball, softball, football, and basketball in the Evansville community for over 20 years.

"I have spent nearly half my life here at the University," said Mr. Buecher, "and I have enjoyed working with some wonderful people over the years."

Mr. Leonard M. Cook was hired as assistant professor of mechanical engineering technology and became associate professor of mechanical engineering technology in 1980. He earned a B.S. from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. from University of Pittsburgh. Before coming to USI, Mr. Cook was supervisor of technical services at PPG Industries, Inc. in Creighton, Pennsylvania.

Of the Founder's Day recognition and 25 years of service, Mr. Cook said "It is hard to believe that I have arrived at this juncture in my career. I guess when you enjoy what you are doing, time really flies."

Over the years, Mr. Cook offered consultation services on such topics as weld shear tests, ring connected rod capacity and fiberglass connection tests. He is a member and past secretary and treasurer of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers.

"Review of my tenure at USI is tied with astonishment as to its growth and current prestige," said Mr. Cook. "I am blessed and very proud to be a small part of this accomplishment. In reflection, in those early days I knew almost all the faculty at ISUE, whereas presently I do not personally know some of the faculty in my school. I guess that is one of the negative aspects that accompanies increased size. However, in review of my career, I am completely satisfied and unconditionally happy that I made the decision to leave industry for this institution in 1975. In looking to the future, I hope I can continue to be of service to USI."

Mr. Larry D. Goss earned a B.S. from Illinois Institute of Technology, an M.S. from Purdue University, and an M.S.+24 from Purdue's College of Graduate Studies. He was assistant professor of mechanical engineering at Oklahoma State University and project engineer for the Bendix Corporation in Kansas City, Missouri. Before coming to USI, he was assistant professor of engineering graphics and chair of the Engineering Graphics Department at the West Virginia Institute of Technology. He was hired at USI as an associate professor of engineering technology and became a full professor of engineering technology in 1982.

"When I talked to colleagues at Purdue about accepting a contract to teach at USI in 1975, some of the faculty there warned me against the move, said Mr. Goss. "In their opinion, the University did not have the critical mass or political backing to survive and accepting an appointment here would be professional suicide. I came anyway because I saw what I thought was an opportunity to continue a career in teaching engineering and engineering technology-related topics. At some point during the last 25 years, the University has in fact exceeded the critical mass in all aspects - students, faculty, programs, physical plant, budget, political liaison. Regardless of what yardstick you use to measure the accomplishments of the institution, USI has exceeded the minimum necessary for continuing to thrive and accomplish its mission."

Besides responsibilities at the University, Mr. Goss is computer genealogy editor for the Tri-State Genealogical Society. He is a member of the American Society for Engineering Education.

Ms. Y. Susie Kempf began her career at Indiana State University - Terre Haute as a keypunch operator and later held the position of data processing technician and console operator. She transferred to USI in 1980 as a computer operator and became a senior computer operator in 1997. Ms. Kempf earned an undergraduate degree from USI this spring.

Mr. John R. McPherson Jr. began employment with USI as a custodial worker. He is the second custodial worker to reach 25 years of service. He spent 12 years working in the University Center, the next 11 years in Rice Library, and the past two years in the Physical Activities Center. Although he has kept the same position over the years, his job and the cleaning industry has changed.

"I have seen five new buildings go up and every time a new one opens, the custodian's job changes," said Mr. McPherson. When hired in 1975, USI employed 10 custodians; the University now has 40 custodial personnel.

In addition to the growth of enrollment and the expansion of buildings and facilities, Mr. McPherson has experienced considerable changes in the methods, equipment, and procedures used in the cleaning industry. Custodial Services switched from the cloth bag vacuum cleaners to HEPA filtered, twin motor machines with on-board tools and from bonnet and canister/wand carpet cleaners to self-contained battery powered carpet-cleaning machines. The industry was revolutionized by such government agencies as the

Environmental Protection Agency and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration on such matters as indoor air quality.

Mr. McPherson said, "I really appreciate the staff at USI. I've worked with a lot of nice people."

Dr. Robert L. Reid earned a B.A. from St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and an M.A. and Ph.D. from Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois. Early in his career, he was assistant dean of Arts and Science at Miami University while serving as assistant director of programs for the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Dr. Reid was dean of Social Science at University of Illinois at Springfield before coming to USI in 1975 as vice president for Academic Affairs and professor of history.

Reflecting on the quarter century of service, Dr. Reid said, "I have a standard line that I use when interviewing faculty: 'USI epitomizes the concept that the only constant is change.' I have been privileged to work with an outstanding faculty and staff that understands that teaching and learning are what we are about."

Dr. Reid has held numerous leadership roles in professional associations and currently serves as the Indiana liaison representative for the American Association of State Colleges and University, Academic Affairs Resource Center (AARC). He is member of the AARC Planning Committee. From 1991-1994, Dr. Reid served on the National Advisory Committee for the Academic Leadership Academy, a three-year leadership development project for women and minorities sponsored by the American Association of State Colleges and Universities.

Dr. Reid is a member of the North Central Association of Schools and Colleges and serves on several committees including the Accreditation Review Council. He is a past president of the Association of Schools and Colleges and serves on the Academic Vice Presidents' Advisory Committee to the Indiana Commission for Higher Education.

Dr. Reid has published several books on local and North American history including *Pilgrims On the Ohio: The River Journey and Photographs of Reuben Gold Thwaites, 1984*; *Picturing Texas: The FSA-OWI Photographers in the Lone Star State, 1935 – 1943*; and *A Good Neighbor: The First Fifty Years of Crane*.

Founders Day is observed each year to honor employees who have accumulated 25 years of service to the University. It is usually held on September 15, the date in 1965 when the University offered its first classes at the Centennial Campus. The 2000 observance was moved to September 14 to accommodate employee schedules.