



NEWS RELEASE

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H. Ray Hoops to be inaugurated as USI's second president

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The inauguration of Dr. H. Ray Hoops on Friday, March 17, as the second president of the University of Southern Indiana will mark the first presidential inauguration for the University.

USI's first president, Dr. David L. Rice, headed the campus with the title dean of campus for four years until 1971, when he was appointed president by the Indiana State University Board of Trustees. In 1985 when the campus gained separate state university status, Dr. Rice became president of the University of Southern Indiana with no formal ceremony.

More than 100 delegates representing public and private institutions of higher education in Indiana and the nation are expected to assemble for two days of planned activities, which will include:

- * A reception honoring Dr. and Mrs. Hoops on Thursday, March 16, at the Evansville Country Club, hosted by the USI Board of Trustees; invited guests will be major donors to the University and friends of the Hoops family.
- * A private family Mass in the University Home on Friday morning, March 17, celebrated by Bishop Gerald Gettelfinger of the Evansville Diocese; Hoops family members and personal friends will attend.
- * An inaugural convocation at 10 a.m. March 17 in Mitchell Auditorium in the Health Professions Center, featuring Willie Morris, author, former educator, former editor of *Harper's* magazine, and a former colleague of Dr. Hoops at the University of Mississippi. A booksigning will follow.
- * A noon luncheon on March 17 in the University Center, where members of the USI Alumni Association will welcome visiting delegates from other universities.
- * The investiture ceremony at 3 p.m. March 17 in the Vanderburgh Auditorium in downtown Evansville; a public reception will follow in the adjacent Gold Room.

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Dr. Frank Stanonis, chair of the Geology/Physics Department, will lead the academic processional as grand marshal. He will carry the University mace which incorporates a replica of an 1877 walnut walking cane donated to the University by Kenneth Owen, great-grandson of Richard Owen. Richard Owen was the first president of Purdue University and was the son of Robert Owen, Welsh-born industrialist who founded a second communal society in New Harmony, Indiana, which he bought from the Harmonists in 1824. At the top of the cane, Indianapolis artist Nicholas Logsdon has designed an open orb that will bear the President's Seal. Circles of gold will carry the names of USI presidents. Kenneth Dale and Jane Blaffer Owen have underwritten the cost of fabricating the mace.

Dr. Hoops will give the inaugural address and be presented with the presidential medallion struck for this occasion. Invited platform guests will include University trustees and administrators and Dr. Clyde R. Ingle, commissioner, Indiana Commission for Higher Education; Evansville Mayor Frank F. McDonald II; Dr. R. Garald Turner, chancellor of the University of Mississippi; Dr. Timothy J. Schibik, USI Faculty Senate chair; Robert L. Kemey, Student Government Association president; Mrs. Ginny M. Hall, Staff Council president; and Mrs. Carole D. Rust, USI Alumni Association president.

Inaugural activities have been overseen by a University-wide committee of faculty, staff, alumni, and students who have been working since late summer. "Because USI has never had a formal investiture of a president, there were many major decisions to be made, and many items to design and obtain," said Sherrienne Standley, vice president for University Relations and chair of the Inaugural Committee.

In addition to the usual details of a major academic event, there were decisions to be made which will form the basis of future inaugurations. "The Investiture Committee, with faculty and student representation, has shaped our traditions for inaugurations to come. For this and other academic ceremonies, the University needed a proper mace, a presidential seal which has been cast in bronze as a medallion, and a ceremonial robe to fit over the doctoral gown. All these items have been designed and fabricated under the direction of the Investiture Committee," Mrs. Standley said.