

**WSWI HONORS
'BIG BAND'S'
JOE HULGUS**



NEWS RELEASE

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The staff of WSWI, the University of Southern Indiana radio station, held its first annual awards banquet on Sunday, April 21, and presented the first Golden Summit Award for spirit and devotion to the media to Joe Hulgus, host of the station's weekly *Big Band Review*.

The award will become the Joe Hulgus Golden Summit Award in the future, honoring the man who has emceed two hours of big band reminiscing each Saturday for the past seven years, drawing from his personal collection of 450 90-minute tapes.

The award originally was presented during Honors Week ceremonies at the University in March and became the focal point of a WSWI banquet to honor the staff of the student-operated station. Other awards included: most valuable person - senior John Pfeffer of Evansville; outstanding disc jockery - junior Phil Crow of Newburgh; outstanding newscaster - senior Debi Byers of Evansville; best newcomer - junior Tammi Harrison of Evansville; and distinctive personality - junior Brian Greenwell of Evansville.

Hulgus retired in 1986 as director of the union benefits program for United Mine Workers of America. He has started a new business as a DJ, playing big band music for class reunions, parties, wedding receptions, and anniversaries. He also sometimes does "color" for WSWI coverage of USI baseball games.

Hulgus' love for the big bands took root in his childhood back in Colver, Pennsylvania. His family used to drive to the old Sunset Ballroom, which could hold 5,000 dancers, and park near an open window to listen to the music. Hulgus later spent many nights inside the ballroom, dancing to the music of such greats as Glenn Miller, Artie Shaw, and Tommy Dorsey. His collection began years later, when he came across a recording of Duke Ellington at the Sunset and realized he was there the night it was made. He now scours record stores, flea markets, and yard sales for old records, transcribing them to tape for preservation.

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