Spirit of Philanthropy event celebrates those who give

Rose Mays said it simply, summing the philosophy she shared with her late husband, entrepreneur and philanthropist William G. "Bill" Mays. As their careers developed – individuals reached out, assisted and encouraged them along the way. So when they achieved success, they wanted to reciprocate and to help others.

At the annual IUPUI Spirit of Philanthropy luncheon, Indiana University President Michael A. McRobbie presented the President’s Medal for Excellence to Rose M. Mays in honor of the numerous contributions she and her late husband have made to the university.

The theme running through this year’s Spirit of Philanthropy Luncheon reflected the wisdom of Sir Winston Churchill who admonished: "We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." Our IUPUI colleague, Dr. Richard Gunderman articulated this theme as a central expression of philanthropy in his book, "We Make a Life by What We Give," which characterizes the common ties that bind individuals willing to share their time and their treasure with those in need.

That commitment was captured by the Mayses’ who touched numerous schools and campuses with their involvement, passion, and generosity. Their interests grew out of their studies (Bill earned his bachelor’s degree in chemistry in 1970 and a master’s in business administration in 1973 and Rose obtained her master’s degree and Pediatric Nurse Practitioner Certificate in 1974), but also reflected their
willingness to serve as members of the IU Foundation Board, search committees, and as advisors. Sandra Petronio, my wife, and I were inspired by their friendship, activism, loyalty, and commitment from the time I became chancellor in 2003.

Each year every school and several other units nominate for recognition a person or organization who supported their unit with their time, talent, or treasure. The roll call of those nominees provides an opportunity for the attendees to celebrate the impressive variety of individuals and organizations that make our campus stronger.

The widespread recognition that contributions of time, talent and resources really make a difference is part of the magic of Indianapolis, a community that still believes in the notion of “collective impact” – that working together improves the economic vitality and quality of life in our city, region, state and beyond. It’s great to know that here the “village” concept still thrives.

This year’s Spirit of Philanthropy was special for Sandra and me as we were recipients of a special campus-wide award. Trustee Jim Morris’s remarks in announcing the award were amazing. Sandra’s acceptance remarks splendidly captured our appreciation for the astonishing support IUPUI receives from our community. Thank you.

We salute with heartfelt appreciation all of the 2015 recipients of IUPUI Spirit of
Philanthropy Awards. The following are honorees and the respective unit that bestowed their award:

The Abramovich Family  
Purdue School of Science at IUPUI

Ali Jafari  
Purdue School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI

Barbara D. Jackson  
IU School of Liberal Arts at IUPUI

Essilor of America  
IU School of Optometry

Hall, Render, Killian, Heath & Lyman, PC  
IU Kelley School of Business Indianapolis

Indiana Hospital Association  
IU Richard M. Fairbanks School of Public Health

Jim Kinney  
IUPUI Office of Community Engagement

John Templeton Foundation  
IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy

Karen Gable  
IU School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences

JPMorgan Chase  
IU School of Informatics and Computing at IUPUI

Kathryn Merchant  
IU School of Social Work at IUPUI

Linda L. Pence  
IU Robert H. McKinney School of Law Indianapolis

Dr. Margaret "Peg" Watanabe  
IU Herron School of Art and Design

Dr. Mark and Sheryl Kendra  
IU School of Dentistry

National Collegiate Athletic Association  
IUPUI Division of Student Affairs

Phillip Hardwick  
IUPUI Department of Intercollegiate Athletics

Richard and Diane Billings  
IU School of Nursing
Robert L. Bowen and Terry L. Bowen of the Bowen Foundation  
IUPUI University College

Robert G. Bringle  
IUPUI Center for Service and Learning

Schneck Medical Center  
Indiana University-Purdue University Columbus

Terry Baumer and Pat Gabig  
IU School of Public and Environmental Affairs at IUPUI

Tim and Tanya Harris  
IUPUI Office of Diversity, Equity and Inclusion

Dr. Thomas E. McSoley  
IU School of Medicine Indianapolis

Uzma Mirza and The Pen and Inkpot Foundation  
IU School of Education at IUPUI

William Harrington  
IU School of Physical Education and Tourism Management

Yvonne Perkins  
IUPUI University Library