

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2001

Hall of Fame adds new trustee

EAST LIVERPOOL — The co-founder and chairman of one of the fastest growing technology service companies in the Midwest has been named a member of the Lou Holtz/Upper Ohio Valley Hall of Fame Board of Trustees.

James W. "Jim" Connelly serves as chairman of Integrated Communications Services, which he and his son, Jeff, co-founded and own. The company, which provides services nationwide, is headquartered in Farmington Hills, Mich. Connelly also is active in the real estate investment market.

A successful entrepreneur, Connelly hails from Turtle Creek, a small factory town in western Pennsylvania. After graduating from high school, he completed a two-year military service, becoming a Signal Corp specialist. After returning to civilian life and between recessions and strikes at the factories, he relocated to California and secured a position as a room clerk at the Regent Beverly Wilshire Hotel. He became the general manager of the \$100 million hotel, a position he held for 10 years. During this time, he earned the trust and friendship of entertainers, captains of industry and political figures.

During his rise to the top and exploring several new business opportunities, Connelly was invited by the chairman of Shearson Lehman to join the Wall Street firm. He was the first non-college graduate accepted into the firm's management program and graduated from the New York Institute of Finance in the top 10 percent of his class. He was one of the highest performing investment bankers for the next five years.

Connelly founded and is president of International Leadership, an educational forum available to officers of companies desiring to become more successful leaders. This process includes individual coaching and team counseling in the areas of personal leadership skills such as goal setting, time management, building a plan of action and self-motivation. At the request of President Ronald Reagan, Connelly facilitated Leadership Goal Setting for the California Governor's confer-



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ence and the President's Committee for Employment of People with Disabilities held at Stanford University. Connelly was the keynote speaker for the Volunteers of America Midas Touch program for gifted inner-city children, sponsored by TRW and the Los Angeles Rotary Club. Additionally, he served as a consultant to the board of Hughes Aircraft for many years and as the director of the Marina City Club. He also was president of the Cal-Neva Hotel and Casino.

In addition to his entrepreneurial activities, he has served a great part of the last 15 years caring for a dear friend, Donna Jones, who suffered a severe head injury nearly 16 years ago as a result of a snowmobile accident. Despite the medical community's prognoses that there was little hope for her to have an independent life, Connelly was determined to give his friend every opportunity to regain as much independence as possible. He put together a team of special people dedicated to bringing quality to her life, and she does live a full and independent life. The success of the story is documented in a book written by Connelly entitled, "One More Sunset," a story of survival through commitment, trust and love.

Connelly has made a career of helping people. He is a contributor to the University of Notre Dame and resides with his wife, Kate and daughter, Katy Clare, at the edge of the Notre Dame campus.