

ILLINOIS

STATE

To THOSE who FELL IN LOVE at ISU

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REDBIRDS RISING
THE CAMPAIGN FOR ILLINOIS STATE

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FirstWord

Change is constant at Illinois State.

Graduates from decades ago who visit marvel at the buildings that have been added and renovated to improve classrooms, housing, and student life in general. Even alums from a few years ago see that the campus is altered in some way from when they attended.

Others take note of the progress in ISU's academic offerings and scholarly efforts. The level of student accomplishments and faculty initiatives is beyond what was envisioned even 30 years ago, as are the options of study spanning six colleges.

Alumni I meet marvel when I share news of the University's internationally

acclaimed laser unit, College of Business programs ranked best in the nation, and faculty research attacking diseases such as Parkinson's.

One change I find equally significant is far more subtle, and yet palpable, among all on campus year round: The level of Redbird pride has grown exponentially.

It was not that many decades ago when students had the attitude that ISU did not always measure up to other large universities. Compare that mindset to the level of pride that exudes across campus today, as Illinois State is consistently ranked among the top universities in the nation.

Our students are now quick to share with others how they are following their passion at ISU. They are partnering with faculty in research projects, studying abroad, and engaging in civic outreach. The myriad opportunities added to the solid foundation of teaching and learning make the Redbird experience increasingly exceptional.

Graduates are noticing the contagious level of enthusiasm within the University community and beyond. The ISU brand is spotted in offices and within wardrobes of Redbirds across the country. They join the faculty, staff and students on campus in wearing red on Fridays to display their Illinois State spirit and appreciation.

Alumni are sharing their story, encouraging others to make ISU their choice for higher education. Their increased pride is evident in the level of giving. Already \$115 million of the \$150 million Redbirds Rising campaign goal has been achieved.

Remember the transformation the next time you come across #RedbirdProud, and know it is not just a social media hashtag. It instead reflects how the University has evolved to the point Redbirds are standing tall with an engrained sense of pride for who we are and where we are headed.

Larry H. Dietz, Ph. D.
President, Illinois State University



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

FEATURES

8 Redbirds in love

Couples across generations have found ISU's love bench to be the best place for sentimental moments that become precious memories. Matt Walsh '84 purchased the bench for the silver wedding anniversary with his wife, Lisa Rinkenberger '81, M.S. '84. The two are thrilled it is the campus spot for photos and proposals.

14 In appreciation

A cohort of students from Taiwan arrived on campus in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They chose to live and study 7,500 miles from home, a decision they have never regretted. To show their gratitude for their ISU experience, they delivered to President Larry Dietz \$100,000 to establish a student scholarship.

18 Sew what?

An initiative that started as a civic engagement project for fashion design and merchandising students has become a national point of pride for the University. Fix It Friday offers individuals across the local community basic mending and sewing repairs at no cost. The service empowers students and diverts clothing from landfills.

22 Cheating death

As the nation's opioid crisis spirals out of control, the number of deaths by overdose is skyrocketing. The addiction is so powerful that an immediate intervention is needed. Naloxone can reverse the overdose. Graduate students in the School of Social Work are distributing kits with the life-saving drug to addicts in Central Illinois.

DEPARTMENTS

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- 30 Class Notes

On the cover: Hundreds of couples have shared a special moment on ISU's love bench since it was placed on campus in 2010.



Let us hear from you! Your feedback is appreciated. Send comments or suggestions, Class Notes, Letters to the Editor, How We Met and Legacy stories, as well as Where Are They Now and Reggie Reads submissions to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@illinoisstate.edu, or mail to Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.



Circus memories

Gift adds 250,000 pieces to University's unique big top collection

The holdings of Milner Library's Circus and Allied Arts Collection skyrocketed this year with the donation of more than 250,000 items.

Herbert Ueckert, who has no ISU connection other than his knowledge of Milner's circus collection, gifted items he has been gathering for decades. He and his partner, Neil Cockerline, explored options before choosing Illinois State.

"We never make a gift without first researching all of the institutions that we are considering, which we did with our circus collection," he said. "After our research and planning, our choice was easy," Ueckert said.

The fact Illinois State's collection serves as a resource for classes also influenced the decision.

"We are absolutely thrilled that ISU has accepted our collection," he said, "and look forward to seeing the items shared and used for educating ISU students and the larger public."

Head of Special Collections and Rare Books Maureen Brunnsdale sees no difficulty incorporating the items into the University's curriculum across disciplines, as it includes photos, props, costumes and artist sketches.

"The possibilities are endless," she said. "Students in Family and Consumer

Sciences can explore the construction techniques of historic costumes, School of Theatre students can study the performer contracts and publicity stills, and School of Art students can examine original poster art."

Exhibits will be designed around the new items that include a jeweled elephant blanket and elegant costumes. "I'm not sure I've ever seen so many spangles and feathers in my life. It's fantastic," she said.

"Circuses helped to entertain and inspire. With the collection, we will continue to inspire for generations to come."

Examples of excellence bolster nursing college

Mennonite College of Nursing is building on its excellence with accreditation and programs that gain national attention.

The college has been awarded the maximum 10 years of accreditation from the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education for degrees from undergraduate to doctoral levels. In addition, a Nursing Leadership Academy began in 2017.

Known as LINK for leadership, innovation, networking and knowledge, the academy provides seniors with 25 hours of noncredit development training.

“As healthcare shifts, more and more often nurses are going to need to step into leadership roles,” said Dean Judy Neubrandner. “I believe that nurses must have a strong voice as the industry begins to change.”

The college’s outreach has received an Innovations in Professional Nursing Education Award from the American Association of Colleges of Nursing.

The honor recognizes Mennonite’s undergraduate pediatric clinical experience called America’s Promise School Project, which places students in schools to help improve the health of children.

Insurance program tops in preparing students

An assessment done earlier this year to determine which U.S. academic risk management and insurance (RMI) programs best prepare students for a career in the industry placed Illinois State as a top performer. Only three others were ranked superior, including Florida State University, Temple University, and the University of Georgia.

Best’s Review, the insurance industry’s premier news magazine, surveyed industry professionals for their views on RMI collegiate programs and graduates. Hiring managers and human resources recruiting professionals were interviewed. The results included only 20 universities.

To be named by industry professionals as one of the top four programs in the



America’s Promise School Project gives Mennonite College of Nursing students clinical experience, while helping children improve their health.

nation is an honor and reflects hard work. Executive Director of ISU’s Katie School of Insurance and Risk Management Jim Jones explained the program’s excellence is tied to creating “as many ‘touch points’ with industry as possible including internships, conference and industry participation, professional mentors, on-campus speakers, student-industry research projects, industry workshops, and company visits.”

State higher ed board picks President Bowman as leader

Illinois State University President Emeritus Al Bowman has been named executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE).

The board has oversight of the state’s 12 public universities and 48 community colleges.

Bowman served as president from 2003-2013. His commitment to Illinois State spanned 35 years total, includ-

ing service as a faculty member and in administrative roles prior to leading the University.

He accepted the position after seeing how the IBHE can benefit from his extensive campus experience. “I can talk about college life in a way that a typical state agency bureaucrat can’t,” Bowman said. “I felt like in a small way I could use my skills to represent the very important needs of public higher education in the state.”

Among his priorities will be tackling the state’s enrollment crisis. Illinois ranks second only to New Jersey in the loss of traditional freshmen who choose to pursue a college education in another state.

Harding ready to lead as alumni executive director

Kris Harding, M.S. ’94, began serving as executive director of Alumni Engagement in March following the retirement of Doris Groves ’81 (see page 28). Hard-

Where are they now?

In 1970 as a young Ph.D. graduate, Doug Lamb's hope was to have a university faculty position in psychology that also offered the opportunity to do clinical work.

ISU fit the bill perfectly. Within eight years, Lamb was professor of psychology and director of the University's Student Counseling Center. He had a distinguished and personally rewarding career in the Psychology Department and the Division of Student Affairs, receiving awards and recognitions at both the local and national levels.

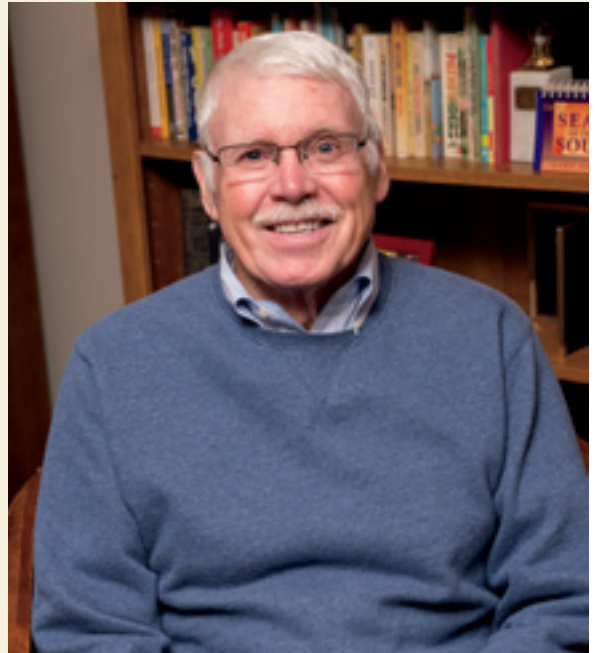
"ISU was very good to me," said Lamb, who maintained his dual professional identity throughout his career. He retired in 2005 after 35 very satisfying years.

Since then he has given back to the profession as an accreditation team member for psychology departments and counseling centers throughout the country. He has served nearly 15 years as the clinical consultant to three local psychotherapy private practices.

In addition, Lamb has been active with the McLean County community mental health center, the ethics committee of a local hospital, and continued his involvement in the "dying with dignity"/medical-aid-in-dying movement.

Lamb's wife Gail, Ed.D. '97, is a retired ISU administrator from University Advancement. They live in Bloomington near their two children and grandchildren. Their connection with ISU continues as Redbird supporters and through extended family. Their granddaughter is an ISU freshman and their daughter, Deborah '00, is associate director in Admissions.

Contact Lamb at dhlamb@IllinoisState.edu.



Psychology Professor Emeritus Doug Lamb; Student Counseling Center Director Emeritus

ing brings to the position nearly 20 years of ISU work experience.

She initially worked in University College as an academic advisor before spending nine years in Admissions. She was a member of the management team focusing on communications and serving as a transfer student coordinator. Her most recent role was as the director of constituent relations in ISU's College of Education.

Harding completed her graduate degree at Illinois State in educational administration and foundations. She has served on numerous campus committees and is an active community volunteer.

Two faculty chosen as Distinguished Professors

Geology Professor David Malone '88, and Politics and Government Professor Ali Riaz have been named Distinguished Professors, which is ISU's highest faculty honor.

Malone is a broadly trained structural geologist with sub-specialties in sedimentary geology, ore deposits, Quaternary geology, and geochronology. His work is strongly field-based, with an emphasis on geologic mapping.

He is a prolific researcher and has received more than \$5 million in funding. He along with his students have contributed to more than 120 conference presentations. Malone has been honored as a Fellow of the Geological Society of America.

Riaz is an internationally recognized expert on political Islam, violent extremism, South Asian politics, and Bangladeshi politics. His special interest is the interaction of politics and religion. A recognized expert in these areas, he has testified before U.S. Congress and been interviewed by global media.

He has been retained as a consultant by international organizations and governments. The author of 29 books, with

12 written in Bengali, Riaz's scholarly excellence is matched by his enthusiastic teaching. He chose to also teach while serving as department chair from 2007 to 2017.

Professor at the helm of national association

School of Social Work Associate Professor Kathryn Wehrmann is president of the National Association of Social Workers (NASW). It is the professional organization for all U.S. social workers and maintains a global membership of more than 132,000.

She will focus on continuing NASW's initiative to modernize and improve services, intensify advocacy at state and local levels, and recruit more social workers and social work students.

Wehrmann emphasizes the need for them to understand the NASW's "contribution to positive outcomes in

healthcare, behavioral healthcare, child welfare, and the variety of other settings where social workers practice.”

Entrepreneur chosen for 2018 honorary degree

Craig Bouchard '75, M.S. '77, received an honorary degree at Founders Day in February. He is Chairman of the Board and CEO of Braidy Industries Inc., which is building the first greenfield aluminum mill in the U.S. in 35 years. It's a \$1.4 billion project employing 600 people in Ashland, Kentucky.

Bouchard authored *The Caterpillar Way. Lessons in Leadership, Growth and Shareholder Value*. Released in October 2013, it was #1 on the Barnes & Noble Best Seller List, and #8 on *The New York Times* Best Seller list in the business category. James Koch '64 was co-author.



Calling ISU “one of the greatest places in the world,” Bouchard expressed gratitude for the opportunity to attend the University. “Here I learned to compete, to write, and to solve problems.”

A member of the College of Arts and Sciences' Hall of Fame, Bouchard and his wife, Shale, have six children.

Milner staff offers aid to open Qatar's first library

Dallas Long, an associate dean of Milner Library, had the opportunity last fall to help launch the Qatar National Library. His expertise was key to the project, as the small country had never before created a large public and research library.

Adjacent to Saudi Arabia, Qatar is surrounded by the Persian Gulf and Gulf of Bahrain. The Qatar National Library, located in Education City, is unique in that there is public access. Libraries in that Middle East region are known as repositories for government and legal documents, or for manuscripts and antiquities.

“The royal family in Qatar provided a brand new building, and a staff of about 120 people, but very few of them had worked in libraries because there are very few in the country,” said Long, who worked for one month as a Fulbright Specialist to help prepare for the opening.

ISU ranked superior in transfer student help

The University is among 112 institutions nationwide named to the 2018 Phi Theta Kappa Transfer Honor Roll, which identifies four-year colleges and universities that offer exemplary support for community college transfers. ISU is one of only 45 to be included on the listing since it began in 2016.

Each year more than 2,600 students transfer to Illinois State from community colleges and other higher education institutions. The University provides a wide array of advising and support services to ease their transition.

The honor roll listing is determined based on evaluations of the school's admissions outreach, scholarships and available financial aid, student engagement opportunities, overall support of transfer students, and how well they do upon their arrival on campus.

Mail

To the Editor,

I was a broadcast communications major and spent most of my time in college with TV-10. I was a big part of the station for three years. In 1996, after a particularly rough newscast, I hung a sign in the TV-10 control room that reads “The power of teamwork overcomes all.” It was taken from a *Power Rangers* movie poster.

I saw a post on Facebook that showed a TV-10 student holding a sign that said “I got hired.” He was in the TV-10 control room. I noticed, much to my surprise, that the sign I hung more than 21 years ago is still hanging in the same place. This is even in spite of the control room recently being overhauled for HD.



On page three of the August 2017 *Illinois State* alumni magazine, there is a photo of the new control room equipment. It is dark, but the sign I hung is in the picture.

I have not been back to campus in almost 20 years, but I visited in the fall. I spoke to one of the TV-10 classes, expanding on my story about the poster I hung. It is interesting that such a simple gesture is now viewed on a near daily basis by students who were not even born at the time it was hung.

Carlin Trammel '98

To the Editor,

I loved the article on the “Days of May” (May 2017) and the swirling currents amongst the students of the day. I thought the townies were backwards in 1980. Normal sounded like they were happy with Jim Crow 10 years earlier. I hope my belief that we have all come a long way since then is true, but sometimes I'm not as sure as I'd like to be.

Tom Kay '85

Redbird Athletics



Celebrating excellence

Two Redbirds honored as superior athletes and scholars

Rachel Root '17 and Wes Ward '17 were recognized last fall as the top student-athletes at the Reggie's, the annual Athletics academic excellence awards ceremony sponsored by State Farm Insurance Company.

Root received the Linda Herman Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year award. Co-captain of the swimming and diving team, she is a speech-language pathology graduate student. She holds the ISU record for three individual swimming events and one relay event.

"I have learned the value of teamwork, developed leadership skills, and improved my communication abilities," Root said in accepting the award. Her other honors include an individual

Scholar All-America Honorable Mention by the College Swimming and Diving Coaches Association of America in 2017.

Ward, a walk-on member of the cross country and track and field teams, was named the Doug Collins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year. A finance and political science double major, he expressed gratitude for his Redbird experiences.

"I took the opportunities that Illinois State provided me to pursue my passion and to grow as an athlete, a student, and person," Ward said. "I was able to forge my own path, to expand my vision of the world, and to discover the importance of a community."

Ward was a Bone Scholar, which is the most prestigious university-wide honor bestowed on undergraduate stu-

dents. He was also named an outstanding college student by the Lincoln Academy, which bestowed The Abraham Lincoln Civic Engagement Award in recognition of his extensive community service.

Two others to gain high honors at the Reggie's were Paris Lee '17 and Jordan de los Reyes '17. Lee was named the Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year. A member of the men's basketball team, he was the 2017 MVC Larry Bird Player of the Year and Defensive Player of the Year.

De los Reyes was named the Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year. She played as catcher with the women's softball team and received the prestigious MVC Player of the Year award.



Dan Muller '98

Valley recognizes three ISU legends

The Missouri Valley Conference is celebrating throughout 2018 the 25th anniversary of women sports in the league and the 45th year of Title IX. In an event last month, ISU's Kristi Cirone, Jill Hutchison and Linda Herman were honored for their impressive accomplishments.

Cirone '09 was selected to the women's basketball MVC 25-Year Team. Head women's basketball coach at Judson University, Cirone is ISU's all-time women's team leader in points, three-point field goals made and attempted, free throws made and attempted, assists and assists per game.

Hutchison, M.S. '69, spent 28 seasons as ISU's head women's basketball coach and compiled a record of 461-323. She guided the Redbirds to 16 national post-season tournament appearances, including three NCAA Tournament bids. She was named conference coach of the year three times.

Herman, M.S. '72, Ed.D. '83, served Illinois State and student-athletes for more than 30 years. She was head volleyball coach for seven years, with a record of 267-112 and two national tournament finishes. Herman then served as senior woman administrator and interim director of Athletics. Redbirds won 117 MVC titles under her leadership.

Muller contract extended

Head men's basketball coach Dan Muller '98 has agreed to a contract extension that keeps him at Illinois State at least through the 2023-2024 season.

"I've always felt incredibly blessed and honored to have the responsibility of holding the title of head coach here at my alma mater," said Muller, who was the Missouri Valley Coach of the Year in 2017.

Athletics Director Larry Lyons said the contract extension "reflects the strength of our men's basketball program under Dan's leadership, and our mutual desire for long-term stability." Muller's success in leading the team resulted in the Redbirds capturing a share of the MVC regular-season title in the 2016-2017 season.

"I am humbled by the support shown by President Larry Dietz and Larry Lyons," Muller said. "I look forward to continuing to work with my staff and my players to help represent Illinois State the right way, earn degrees and win championships."

Conference picks Adams to receive courage award

Steve Adams received the 2017 MVC Most Courageous Award, which honors individuals who demonstrate unusual courage when faced with an illness or tragedy. Adams is battling Stage 4 pancreatic cancer.

The volunteer public address announcer for men's basketball throughout 40 seasons, Adams called nearly 600 ISU games. He added more than another 200 as the announcer for football games prior to the renovation of Hancock Stadium.

Adams is a member of the Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame. He worked at ISU for 35 years in various positions, retiring as vice president of Student Affairs in 2011.



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Softball team mourns volunteer coach

Athletics lost longtime volunteer assistant softball coach Bill Dickson '54, M.S. '57, last fall at the age of 85. A member of the Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame, he was an educator, softball player and coach for more than 50 years.

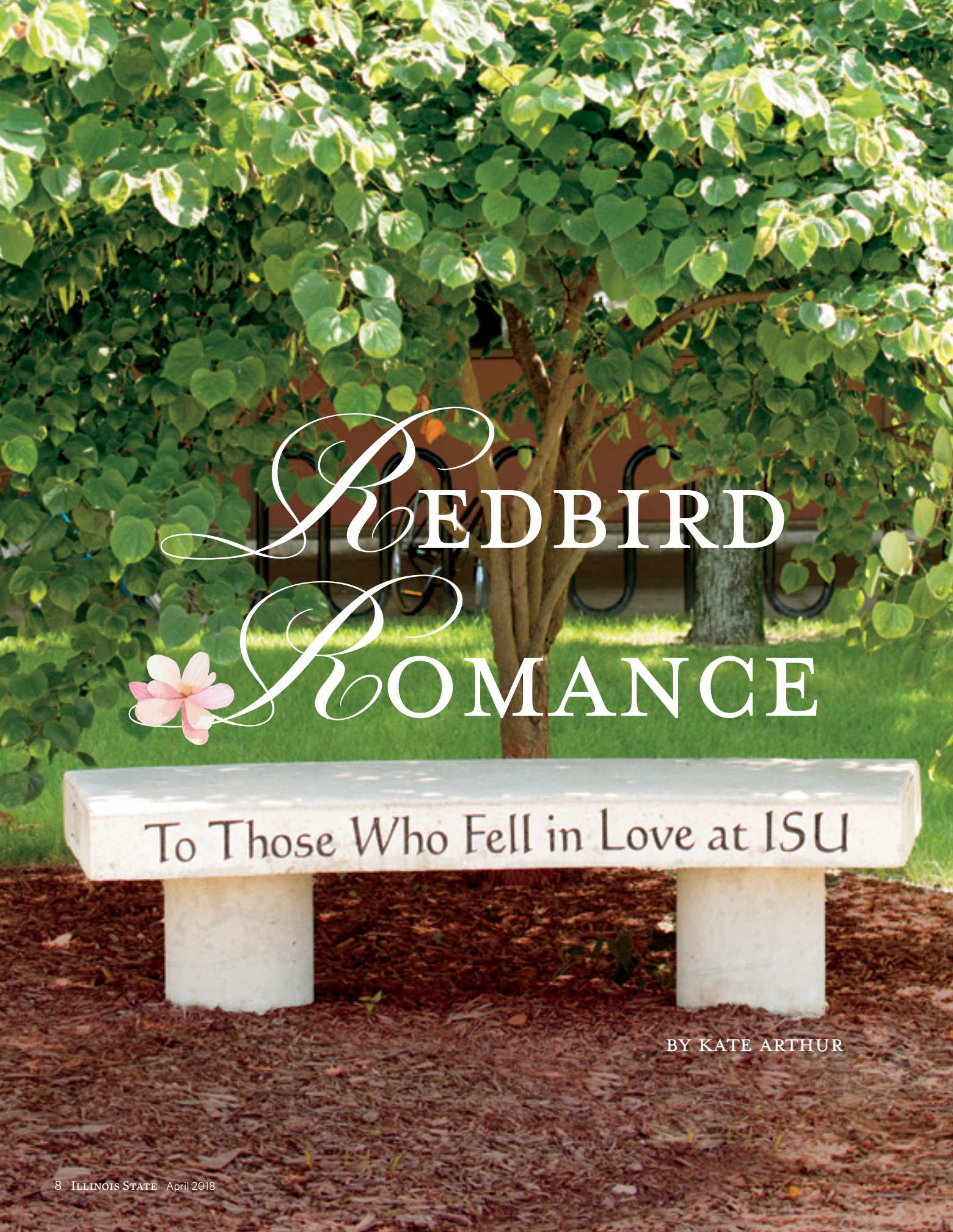
"This is a very sad time for our softball family. A true gentleman, Bill was an example of life lessons, professionally and in softball as well," said head softball coach Melinda Fischer '72, M.S. '75.

"His commitment to volunteer as an assistant coach for 20 years is unheard of in current times. He was an invaluable

member of our coaching staff and will be dearly missed."

Dickson served in the U.S. Army before starting his softball career as an ISU undergraduate. A member of the Amateur Softball Association of America Hall of Fame, he taught eight years and was a superintendent of schools for 30 years.

Eager to share his knowledge and love of the game with the Redbird team, Dickson worked primarily with corner infielders.



REDBIRD
ROMANCE

To Those Who Fell in Love at ISU

BY KATE ARTHUR



THE STORY BEHIND ISU'S LOVE BENCH

HE SAW HER WALKING UP THE SIDEWALK TO HIS FRATERNITY HOUSE ON AN APRIL NIGHT FOR AN EVENT WITH HER SORORITY, AND HE JUST KNEW.

There were a couple of dates before she graduated that spring of 1981. They were then separated by 150 miles, as both returned home until fall. Letters filled the space.

One night during that summer they met on the Quad. They took a walk and stopped to sit on a bench in front of the Bone Student Center. That's when it happened—their first kiss.

The romance between Lisa Rinkenberger '81, M.S. '84, and Matt Walsh '84 blossomed as she completed a graduate degree in family and consumer sciences and he studied speech communication. The two married on Dec. 14, 1985.

It became tradition for the two to drive from their Chicago home annually to visit the bench. On one of those trips, they discovered it was no longer near the bicycle racks.

"That didn't stop us," Matt said. "We'd just go to where the bench used to be."

It was a dream of his to someday replace the bench. As their 25th anniversary approached, he contacted the campus Facilities Services. The result was the creation of a stone bench with the engraving of "To Those Who Fell in Love at ISU."

Matt arranged for the bench to be placed on campus. Lisa was not aware of the plan, and was less than enthused when Matt suggested a drive to campus on their anniversary in 2010. "It was sleeting, horrible out," Lisa recalled. "Matt was very insistent that we had to get out and go to our spot."

She reluctantly went along, and was emotional when she saw the bench.

"I was overwhelmed," Lisa said. "Never in my wildest dreams would I have imagined that. It was the perfect gift."

What the bench has meant to other couples has only added to the joy it brings Lisa and Matt. It has become a popular spot for proposals, wedding photos with brides in their gown, and couples who met at ISU posing with their children.

"The fact that other people have taken to it and it means something to them, that just means the world to us," Matt said.

The couples' bench, as it's become known, had been located in the grassy area between the Bone Student Center and the Bowling and Billiards Center. The start of the \$33 million student center revitalization project in that same area last fall resulted in the bench being temporarily moved to storage. That sparked a flood of campus emails and calls from Redbirds upset that they could not find the bench.

"We were almost in tears when we didn't see the bench," said Rebecca (Ruegger) Olson '15. Her husband, Brandon '15, proposed there. "We hold ISU and the bench in a very special place in our hearts."

"We knew it was an extremely popular and beloved bench," said Erin (O'Connor) Watts '05, an assistant director in Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality. "The outpouring of inquiries regarding the bench location during construction only reaffirmed the need for a temporary location until the permanent space is ready."

Three weeks after the bench went into storage it was back, about 50 yards away from its previous location. When the revitalization project is complete, it will be moved to a newly landscaped area near the Bone Student Center entrance. It will remain there as a reminder of past campus couples and always be the perfect place for those in the future who have yet to begin their own Redbird romance.



*LISA RINKENBERGER '81,
M.S. '84*

*+
MATT WALSH '84*

*MARRIED
DECEMBER 1985*

REDBIRDS SHARE THEIR STORIES



KATELYN LIVINGSTON '11 + *TYLER* MCNEELY '11

MARRIED OCTOBER 2014

Katelyn Livingston and Tyler McNeely met in 2009. He was a Redbird baseball player studying business administration, and she was a cheerleader majoring in history with a minor in biological sciences. They remained a strong couple following their graduation in 2011.

Two years later, he proposed on Duffy Bass field by using some of his home run balls from his days on the ISU team to spell out the proposal. They chose the bench for their engagement pictures, and returned on their wedding day October 18, 2014.

"The bench is so simple, yet so sweet," Katelyn said. "It will always hold a big place in our hearts because of the love that we found for each other while attending Illinois State."



RACHEL BENN '16

GRADUATED MAY 2016

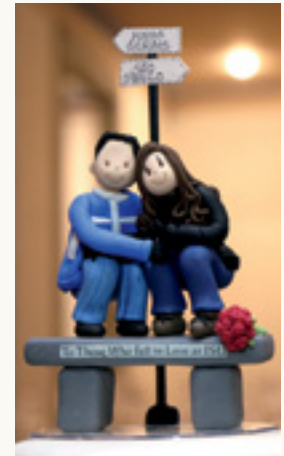
Rachel Benn '16 was a transfer student struggling to find her footing when she arrived. "I didn't love my major," she said. "I missed home. I knew ISU was just a sea of opportunities, but they all felt out of my reach in those first couple of months."

With a professor's guidance, she found her passion and completed a degree in community health education. Rachel became involved on campus and met a group of women who became her best friends.

"They were and are the brightest lights I've ever known," she said. "We spent every spare moment building each other up. It's an incredible thing to find people whose souls are made of the same things as yours. Every time I look at our pictures on this bench, my heart explodes."

NATHALIA PRADO
+
DIOGO MARSON

MARRIED SEPTEMBER 2017



Nathalia Prado and Diogo Marson were exchange students from Brazil at ISU in 2013. They had never met until they lived on the floor in Manchester Hall designated for international students. With all they had in common, they not surprisingly started dating. On a snowy December day, they took a photo on the bench. She returned to Brazil soon after, but he stayed another year. Their relationship grew, and they were married Sept. 2, 2017. The bench was included in their wedding cake design.

"The top of our wedding cake was the first bench photo we took because it is a very strong symbol for us," Nathalia said. "The directions above our heads are the states we are from, and also means the life change we are passing"



JASMYN DAVIS '16 + DON MAHONE '13

WEDDING SEPTEMBER 2018

Jasmyn Davis '16 met transfer student Don Mahone '13 on her first day of school. They connected at one of his fraternity's events and became friends. She was studying human resource management, while Don majored in general finance. Their first date was working on a college budget at Chili's.

"The conversations just got better," Jasmyn said. "It's hard to find somebody who has the same values as you, and the same drive as you."

Jasmyn works for the Chicago Bulls in human resources, and he is an underwriter for Liberty Mutual.

At a backyard party last summer with about about 100 friends and family members, Don proposed. He had made and hung a banner of their ISU bench photo. They will complete their master's degrees in May, and have set the wedding date for September 7.

"It's going to be a really big year for us," she said.



ANITA SMITH '12 + CHELSEA OAKES '12

MARRIED SEPTEMBER 2015



Anita Smith was from Evanston and Chelsea Oakes grew up in the Quad Cities. They met playing on ISU's rugby team in 2009. They developed a close friendship while spending time with team members.

A year later, the two started dating. Chelsea majored in psychology, while Anita chose interdisciplinary studies. Both graduated in 2012. They married three years later on September 19, 2015. The two became one of the first couples to host their wedding reception in Hancock Stadium.

During a more recent visit to campus with friends from Oak Park, Anita and Chelsea walked through the Quad and saw the bench. Like so many other Redbird couples, they decided to stop and have a picture taken because, as Anita said, "ISU is where it all started."



KAITLYN ZAGURSKI '16 + BRIAN WALKER '16

MARRIED SEPTEMBER 2017

Although Kaitlyn Zagurski '16 and Brian Walker '16 grew up living only 10 minutes apart in the same school district, their paths never crossed until they were in the same Preview group during the summer of 2012.

That fall they ended up living on the same floor in Watterson Towers. She completed a degree in professional sales through the College of Business, while he studied environmental health.

When the two started dating, they began a tradition of having their picture taken at the bench every season. During the first snowfall their senior year, he added to the photo session a marriage proposal. The wedding was September 9, 2017.



Enjoy more stories at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. Do you have a story or photo to share? Post them on the Love Bench at Illinois State Facebook page.

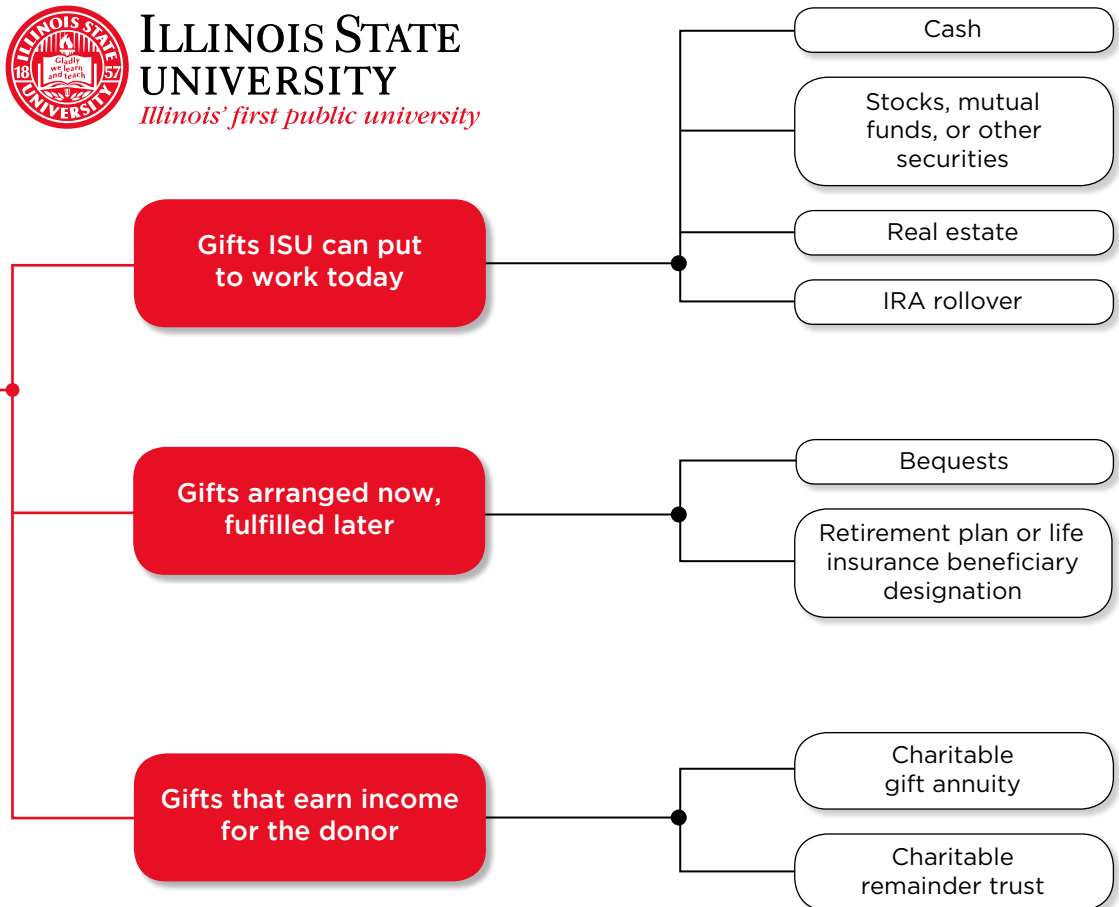
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Chinese alumni still appreciate ISU's open door

ACROSS CONTINENTS

by Kevin Berset and Deja Whitt

Larry Chen, M.S. '73, was among the earliest of cohorts to participate in Illinois State's first formal international student program. Undeterred then by the thought of living 7,500 miles from his home in China to complete a graduate degree in business, Chen is confident yet today that he made the right decision.

He expressed his thanks for the opportunity last fall when he joined nearly two dozen alumni from Taiwan in President Larry Dietz's conference room to recount their collegiate days and express how the University changed their lives. The graduates also presented a check for \$100,000 to fund a new scholarship titled In Appreciation of ISU.

Chen became emotional as he expressed his gratitude to his alma mater. The Shanghai-based businessman was the president of the Chinese Student Association. Beyond advancing academically and personally through campus involvement, Chen met his future wife at Illinois State. Judy (Fu), M.A. '73, was a graduate student in psychology.

"I have so many memories from my experience here. We journeyed from the other side of the Pacific Ocean to come to ISU and get our advanced degrees. There were so many people here who helped us," Chen said.

The Chinese alumni initially arrived from Taiwan in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They received full-tuition waivers funded by state grants.

"Without that support, none of us would've been able to earn our degrees and prepare ourselves for our professions and the world," said Anna Wei, M.S. '73, who is a realtor in California. She organized efforts to start the scholarship.

"I'd like to thank our alma matter and the Illinois taxpayers for their support. Some of us live in the states, some of us have gone back to Taiwan, and some of us live in other countries of the world," Wei said. "It's the education we received from ISU that prepared us to become worldly, productive citizens."

Dietz connected the alumni's donation and experiences to current campus efforts to expand Illinois State's imprint internationally.

"We're very, very grateful and humbled by the gift, but also of your remembrance of your experience here at ISU," he said. "Our international initiative is one that we plan to expand dramatically over the next several years. We want other individuals like you from other countries to come to ISU and experience what you experienced here."

The scholarship ceremony was very emotional for the alumni. Most, if not all, were returning to campus for the first time in more than 40 years. They had fond memories of their time at Illinois State, commenting on how their host families helped them adapt to life in a foreign land and how strange American food seemed





It was a joyful occasion when nearly two dozen alumni from Taiwan had the opportunity to meet with President Larry Dietz last fall. The group posed for a photo with the president in Hovey Hall.

Dietz is also shown, *bottom left*, with Anna Wei, M.S. '73, and her husband, C.P. Koa. The alums appreciated the opportunity to reconnect with each other. *Shown bottom right and from left* are Luohu Chen; Julia Yang, M.S. '75; Winny Lin, M.S. '73; and Victor Hsieh, M.S. '72.



to them at the time. For example, they had never eaten cheese before arriving in the United States.

The alumni credited former Assistant Dean of Students Robert Murley with bringing them to ISU. He began the international program under then President Samuel Braden as the University evolved from a teachers college to a multidisciplinary university.

Braden hoped to provide opportunity to international students and new perspectives to local ones. As part of that effort, the University opened in the fall of 1970 the International House, which Murley called at the time “a unique experiment in international education.”

“The International House will provide an opportunity to students to meet contemporaries from other nations and to participate and learn through informal social, cultural, and educational programs,” Murley said.

His statement predicted what the Chinese cohort experienced. The students from Taiwan composed the largest segment of ISU’s new international students, though there were students from India and other countries as well. They came to Illinois State for advanced degrees in business, education, science and other fields.

The In Appreciation of ISU scholarship will provide \$5,000 to two Illinois State students each year. It is open to undergraduate or graduate students who have a financial need and a 3.0 GPA. The initial recipients were Jaylee Hall, a bachelor of science/master of professional accountancy major from Peoria; and Nathaniel Palmquist, a recreation management major from Loves Park.

Hall said the scholarship will ease her financial burden, providing more time and energy to focus on her studies.

“I work two—soon to be three—jobs over the summer and during the school year to help pay for school and living expenses. Sometimes I’m so exhausted. I feel so honored and lucky to get this scholarship,” she said.

“My scholarship is more than money: It’s an extra hour of sleep on Sunday night, a higher letter grade on my next exam, and it’s me graduating in December of 2020,” Hall said. “I fully plan on passing this kindness forward in the future.”

The In Appreciation of ISU gift supports Red-birds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. The \$150 million fundraising initiative’s objectives are to bolster scholarship, leadership and innovation.



Inside Look

On Redbird Arena's lower level, tucked behind the stands just paces from the hardwood so familiar to basketball fans, sits the Owen Strength and Conditioning Center. This 9,200-square-foot space is the training center for 400-plus men and women who participate in the University's 19 varsity sports. Redbird athletes come here for expert training tailored to their sport and for nutrition advice.

Named for Richard and Fran Owen, this state-of-the-art facility was dedicated in 2005. As the name implies, most of the facility is dedicated to strength and conditioning, but it's also home to a cardio center and staff offices.

Strength and Conditioning Coach Jim Lathrop is the director of the center, which is open up to 80 hours per week, starting most days at 4:30 a.m. Its mission, Lathrop said, is to prevent injury, improve strength, and promote recovery.

1. Katie DiGiacomo

DiGiacomo is a freshman and a member of the gymnastics team. She is a native of Tampa.

2. Redbird muscle

Power stations or half racks are a variation of the full racks that are on the opposite side of the room. Both areas are where some serious weight training goes on. Redbird athletes squat, clean, snatch, lunge, push, and bench their way to elite fitness using the power stations.

3. Jump start

These are plyometric boxes used for a variety of repetitive jump-training exercises, including depth jumps. Plyometric boxes, sometimes called plyo boxes, are designed to train the neuromuscular system to be more efficient. This type of training helps athletes who make explosive movements on the court or field.

4. Rack to the future

These multiple sets of red racks are called dumbbell racks. Dumbbells range up to 150 pounds and offer versatility in preparing athletes with bi-lateral or iso-lateral work. Lathrop said that instead of having to use a bar for training, he likes for athletes to have the option of doing one-arm or two-arm workouts as needed.

5. No power outage

Full racks. See half racks, except the full racks are bigger and have more weight capacity. This side of the room is where you'll likely find members of the football team working out and lifting the roof off the place. During football season the center is open on Sundays so players can get in their post-game workout.



6. Manuel Bernhard

Bernhard is a freshman and a member of the tennis team. He has come to the flatlands of Illinois all the way from Switzerland, where mountains famously dominate much of the topography.

7. Girl power

This is a barbell with bumper plates on either end. DiGiacomo is lifting 66 pounds. That's the weight of the bar and plates together. She is completing a lift called a jerk as she straightens her legs and lifts the bar above her head.

8. Kennadi LeDoux

LeDoux is a freshman and a member of the gymnastics team. She hails from Buford, Georgia.

9. Cameron Petersen

Petersen is a freshman and a member of the tennis team. He is from South Africa where the sunny climate is suited for tennis, and snow and ice are rare sights.

10. Quicken-your-step ladder

This device, comprised of plastic and nylon webbing, is called a running ladder. It's designed to put athletes through quick-feet drills that will help improve their quickness and agility, Lathrop said. He described this piece of equipment as a modern version of jumping, one foot at a time, through rows of old tires that were commonplace on long-ago football fields. Having quick feet is important in just about every sport, particularly important in tennis, which is why a tennis player is using it in this photo.

11. Alyssa Wiggle

Wiggle is a sophomore and a member of the gymnastics team. Her hometown is Dearborn, Michigan.

12. Floor hurdles

These hurdles, laid out on the floor, are similar to running ladders in that they are designed to help athletes develop quicker feet and improve their agility and quickness. What separates hurdles and running ladders is that the hurdles require a higher knee lift.

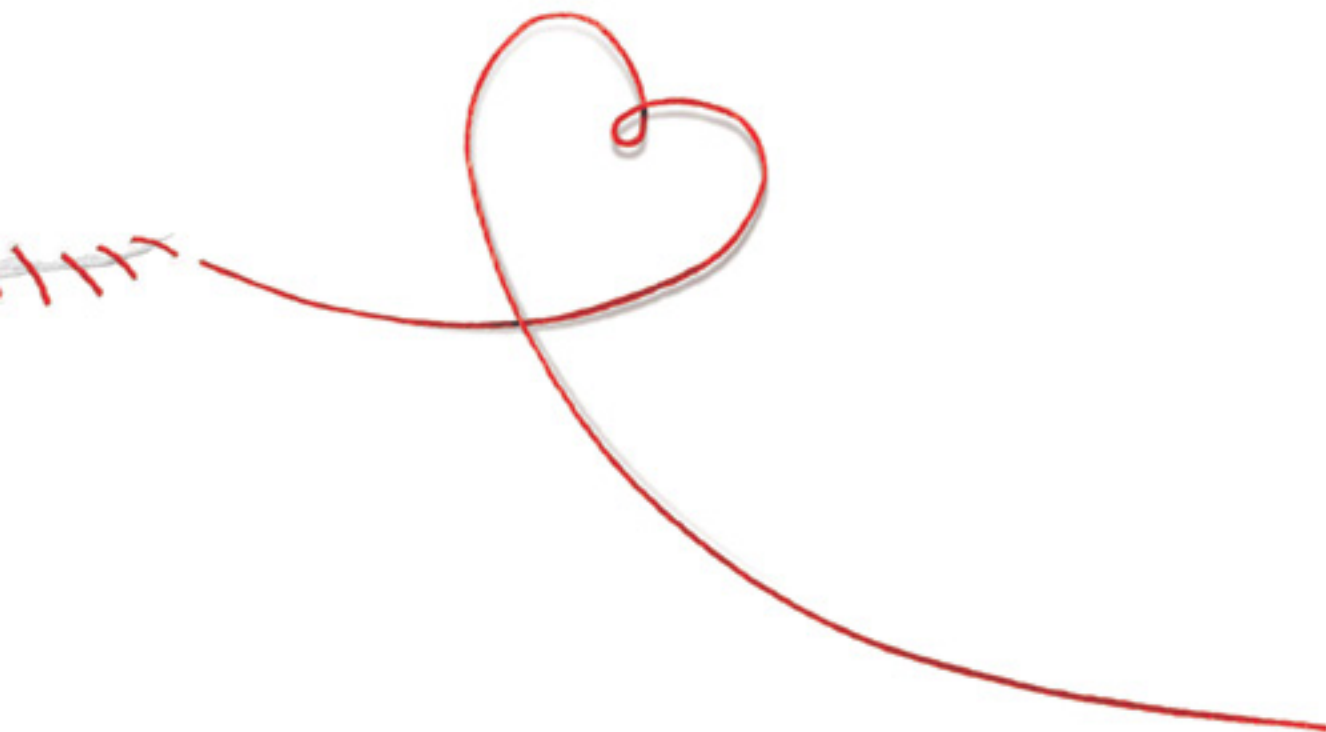
Students offer free clothing
repairs to community

By Kate Arthur

sewing

PROBLEMS





An elderly man approached a couple of students sitting in front of a sewing machine in the Coffee Hound and asked what they were doing. Repairing clothes, they told him, and noticing a large rip in his jacket, suggested he get it fixed.

The man told them he didn't have any money; he came to the coffee shop only because it gave him a free cup of coffee. When Torre Riscossa '17 told him the sewing service was free, he shook off his coat and handed it over.

"I will never forget his face when we gave him his jacket back," she said. "I had no idea that we could make such a big impact on someone by just fixing a little tear in a coat."

That is one of many stories from Fix It Friday, a free basic mending, sewing, and clothing repair service launched by Illinois State students in 2016. Like a food truck, Fix It Friday pops up twice a month from Sep-

tember through April in locations across campus and throughout Bloomington-Normal.

The project was the brainchild of Elisabeth Reed, an instructional assistant professor in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences. She wanted to create a civic engagement project for her fashion design and merchandising students and met with a couple of them to discuss her idea.

"One of the students said, 'All right, this is good. Let's just do it!'" Reed recalled. "It got me out of my comfort zone."

Reed and her students walked through the design studio, collecting what they could borrow for the day—a couple of older, rarely used sewing machines, random thread, a box of buttons. The group held its first event on the Quad, and Reed wondered if anyone would come. Then university grounds crew workers started arriving with ripped cargo shorts and T-shirts.



Jennifer Langner, *above*, explained the free sewing repair service to a student on the Quad. Volunteer Paulina Wietocha, *top right*, has been sewing for years; her grandmother was a seamstress in Poland. Sophia Araya, *bottom right*, and Melanie Boushley quickly repaired tears in T-shirts and a backpack.

Senior Paulina Wietocha was at one of the machines. The family and consumer sciences teacher education major has been sewing for nine years; her grandmother was a seamstress in Poland. “No matter how small the job is, you don’t want to do it yourself,” she said. “We can fix it.”



The purpose of Fix It Friday is to repair a little of the world by fixing clothes that would otherwise end up in a landfill, or be sent to overstuffed thrift stores. Reed, however, is finding an unintended benefit: Interactions with customers are building students’ confidence and social skills.

“We really set out to fix clothing and educate people about overconsumption. But it’s been so positive for students to get out of their bubble on campus, and get them engaging with people in the community.”

One woman brought her mother’s worn quilt to the students, mentioning it was the only item left of hers. At a community recreation center, senior citizens talked to students about their sewing days, given up when their eyesight or steadiness faded.

Last fall, sophomore Aaron Harwick was hustling to class with a ripped backpack. He stopped when he saw Fix It Friday sewing machines set up in front of Schroeder Hall.

“It was perfect,” he said. “I’m not bad at sewing but I don’t have a needle and thread, and when there’s a sewing machine in front of you and capable people ready to help, you can’t ask for any more.”

Junior Darrin Marshall followed Fix It Friday on Facebook and came prepared. Unzipping his backpack, he pulled out a pair of ripped jeans and two T-shirts. “I tried to fix this,” he said, handing over a gray T-shirt with a hole partially closed with wide stitches of red thread.

Students who have sewing ability, or have taken the Family and Consumer Sciences’ introductory sewing course, can volunteer to do the minor repairs, like replacing buttons and fixing tears. Fix It Friday doesn’t do alterations, zippers, anything that would take away business from area alteration shops. Students even hand out a list of area tailors and sewing shops.

Senior Sophia Araya helps coordinate Fix It Friday. She created *The Beginner’s Clothing Repair Guide*, a booklet for customers that provides step-by-step instructions on how to do minor repairs. She is also building a website, and there are plans for how-to videos. The fashion merchandising major only knew a little about sewing before she became involved. She was interested in the project because of its focus on sustainability.

“I like projects when there’s more meaning behind



CAMPUS OUTREACH

Civic engagement is a core value at Illinois State. Efforts made by ISU's students, faculty and staff to positively impact communities are shared through the publication *Redbird Impact: Community Engagement at Illinois State University*. This article appeared in the inaugural issue released this spring. Follow all of the magazine's stories online at IllinoisState.edu/RedbirdImpact. Contact editor Kevin Bersett, MBA '17, at kdberse@IllinoisState.edu for more information.

them," she said. "We want to extend the life cycle of the clothes you're wearing."

The average American throws away 70 pounds of clothing and textiles each year, according to the Council for Textile Recycling. Reed said the fashion industry has changed in a way that promotes waste. Rather than focusing on four distinct seasons, "fast fashion" brings nearly daily shipments of cheap clothing to stores. "There used to be four seasons of fashion, and now there are 365," Reed said.

in Higher Education. She also received a SCORE grant from the Illinois Education Association in 2017. And Fix It Friday received the 2017 Outstanding Service Program Award from the University's Dean of Students Office.

Students took Fix It Friday to Chicago last April, repairing items for visitors to the Chicago Fair Trade Association's Fashion Revolution Week. The week highlights individuals and organizations working to change the way clothing is sourced, produced, and consumed

The purpose of Fix It Friday is to repair a little of the world by fixing clothes that would otherwise end up in a landfill.

Fix It Friday is receiving local and national recognition. The University's Office of Sustainability provided a \$5,000 startup grant in 2016 after Maddie Willer '17 presented the proposal to a student-led committee.

"The students loved it," said Missy Nergard, director of the Office of Sustainability. "She got that program up and running in about four weeks. To get it from start to finish in that amount of time is incredible."

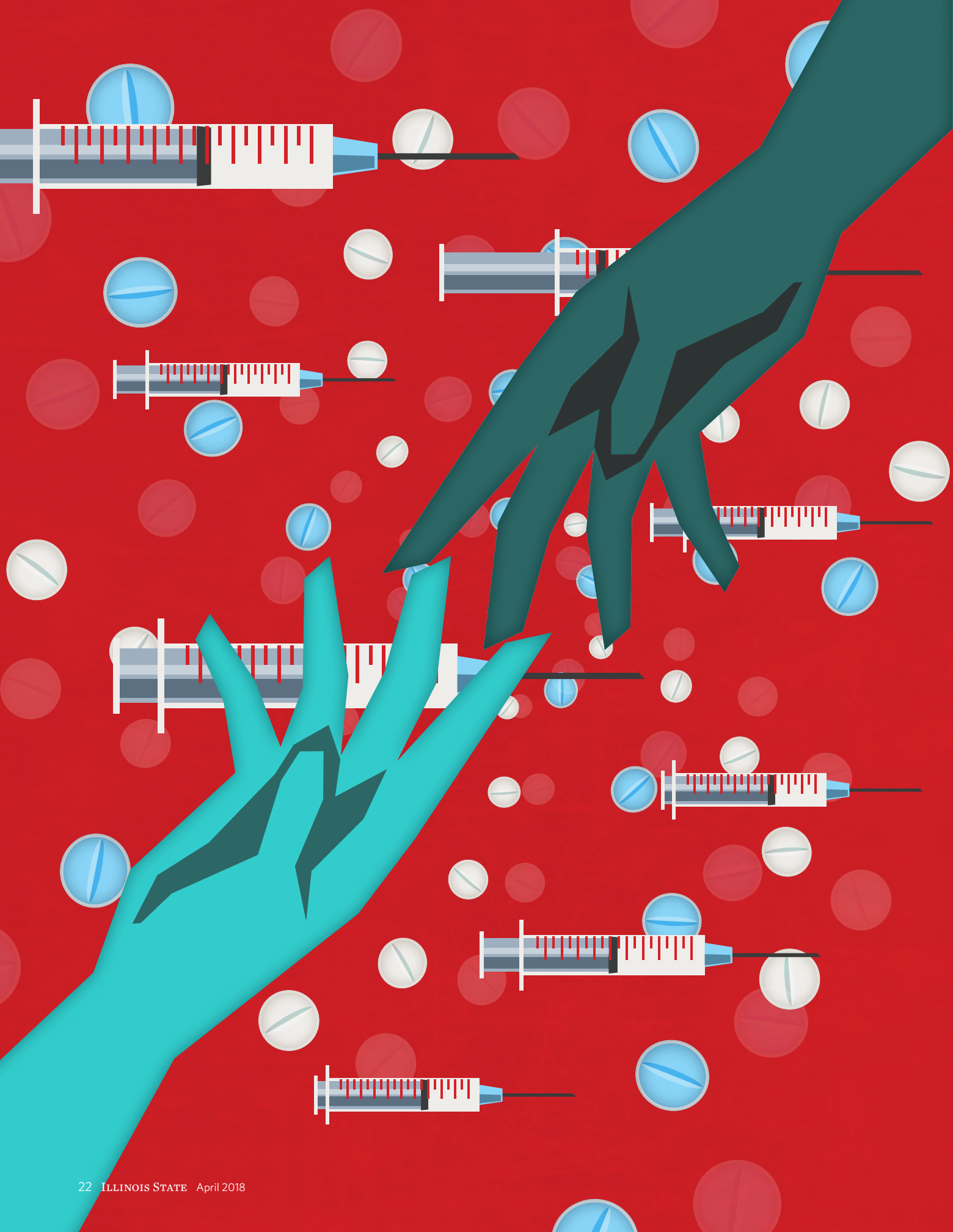
Reed received a \$5,000 Scholarship of Teaching and Learning university research grant to collect student and customer data on the benefits of civic engagement. She will share the results with other universities and at international conferences. In November, she accepted a national Campus Achievement Award from the Association for the Advancement of Sustainability

so it is made in a safe, clean, and fair way.

More than 100 customers have salvaged clothing at Fix It Friday, and more businesses are asking to host the project. Taking it on the road will be easier with a fold-up storage cart and sewing table designed and built by the ISU Engineering Technology Club. This spring semester, Fix It Friday plans to host events at the Bloomington Public Library, the Tool Library in downtown Bloomington, and Coffee Hound in Normal.

Students do not accept donations or receive extra credit. Fix It Friday is strictly volunteer service, and Reed is hoping students from other majors will join in.

"It'd be great to have volunteers from across campus," she said. "I want our fashion students to be the lead, but all volunteers are welcome."



SAVING THE WORLD

ONE CLASS PROJECT AT A TIME

By Kevin Bersett

EMILY O'CONNELL DIED BENT OVER THE LID OF HER TOILET WITH A NEEDLE IN HER RIGHT HAND. A BURNT SPOON AND MORE NEEDLES LAY NEARBY. A LETHAL COMBINATION OF HEROIN AND FENTANYL KILLED THE 31-YEAR-OLD ON A SUNDAY EVENING IN NOVEMBER 2016 IN HER PEORIA HOME. SHE WAS ENGAGED, EMPLOYED, AND LIVING LESS THAN A MILE FROM BRADLEY UNIVERSITY AT THE TIME. HER FIANCE TOLD INVESTIGATORS O'CONNELL HAD STOPPED USING HEROIN NINE MONTHS BEFORE HER FATAL OVERDOSE.

"She said, 'One more time.' One more time was her last time," said her friend Karen Cassidy, a master's student in Illinois State's School of Social Work.

One thing about her friend's death that particularly bothered Cassidy was there were other people inside O'Connell's home that day. Maybe they could have saved her if they had known what she was doing and had access to naloxone, a medication that reverses opioid overdoses.

Naloxone has become a powerful tool to prevent deaths as the nation's opioid crisis has spiraled out of control. Opioids are a catchall term for heroin, opiate-based painkillers such as morphine, and synthetic drugs like fentanyl, a vastly more powerful painkiller that can be legally prescribed to cancer patients.

Since 2000, Americans' ever-increasing abuse of these drugs has led to the overdose deaths of more than half a million people across the United States, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. The problem has become so severe that President Donald Trump even declared the opioid epidemic a national emergency last summer.

"Overdoses are through the roof. Why don't we have Narcan in the hands of the people who need it?" said Cassidy,

referring to the brand name of naloxone.

Cassidy has not waited for an answer. She seized an opportunity to deal with the problem through Social Work Associate Professor Cynthia Edmonds-Cady's course Foundation Social Work Practice: Organizations and Communities.

Each spring semester Edmonds-Cady pairs students in her graduate-level class and has them choose a societal problem they would like to tackle. Then she works with the students to narrow the scope of their projects to something that they can accomplish within their tight time frame and is responsive to what the community's needs and wants.

Cassidy and classmate Bria Scott created Project Emily, named in memory of O'Connell. For the last year, they have been handing out the life-saving drug naloxone to addicts and the people around them as part of a collaborative effort to counter the onslaught of deadly overdoses in Peoria.

Peoria County had the highest number of fatal opioid overdoses in Central Illinois in 2016: O'Connell was one of 28 victims, according to the Illinois Department of Public Health. McLean County, by comparison, recorded less than half that number of opioid deaths.



Karen Cassidy

Peoria authorities have responded to the surge in drug overdoses by advocating for naloxone and encouraging people to call 911 without fear of arrest, saying without the medication, fatal overdoses would be much higher. Cassidy said Peoria emergency services are responding to two to three overdose a day, and she has given out an estimated 50 to 75 naloxone kits herself.

Cassidy credited Edmonds-Cady for teaching her to focus on one part of a problem. “I can’t say enough about Cynthia. She just inspires you so that you can make a change.”

Edmonds-Cady is proud of the work Project Emily has accomplished, citing the students’ outreach and fundraising prowess. “They are going to be some great, great social workers and great, great citizens. And they already are.”

The goal of the class is to provide the students with real-world experience and critical-thinking and community-building skills they can use as social workers.

Edmonds-Cady coordinates the civic engagement minor and leads a Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology’s workshop on how professors can redesign their classes with a civic engagement focus. She began developing this social work course and the corresponding “Communities of Practice Model” a decade ago while teaching and studying at Michigan State University with Associate Professor of Social Work Marya Sosulski.

“Where there is life...

The goal of the class is to provide students with real-world experience and critical-thinking and community-building skills they can use as social workers. Edmonds-Cady hopes the students become more empathetic and engaged in their communities.

“It is helping to shape them to be a better citizen,” Edmonds-Cady said. “I’m clear that the community needs to get something from the students, and the students are obviously getting a lot from the community.”

The students research the community to learn about the sociopolitical and historical contexts of the issue. For example, Cassidy and Scott investigated the factors possibly explaining why the overdose epidemic was hitting Peoria particularly hard.

“They learn a little bit about the social problem and about the community partners they are working with,” Edmonds-Cady said. “Because they are working with the community in a way that is a partnership—rather than saying, ‘I’m an expert, I’m coming to fix you’—the students see the community members as the experts regarding how the social problem is experienced.”

An important aspect of the students’ research is interviewing indigenous experts. These are the activists, nonprofit leaders, and community members dealing with or affected by the issue. This approach teaches the students to enter a community without any preconceived notions.

Cassidy and Scott learned that the nonprofit Jolt Foundation—started by a Peoria doctor whose 16-year-old son died of a heroin overdose—was already distributing naloxone in Peoria, but that there was a gap in serving the homeless community.

Since Cassidy works as a grants officer at the Salvation Army, she and Scott volunteered to conduct trainings and distribute naloxone kits at homeless shelters and on the streets. The pair also established a Facebook page so people could reach out to them directly for naloxone, and held fundraisers to help the Jolt Foundation purchase the medication.

Indigenous experts also played a key role in a different class project. Lana Duran wanted to help the homeless in Bloomington-Normal by offering them free resume preparation and job search services. Instead, she discovered, after interviews with homeless at the Salvation Army’s Safe Harbor shelter, what they really needed: mental health services, specifically clinical therapy. Career services were available to the homeless, but they had only limited access to therapy since they did not have health insurance.

...there is hope.”

“That was naive of me,” Duran said. “This is their lived experience. I can’t decide what they need.”

Duran’s initial plan was to have therapists provide expanded pro bono therapy at the shelter. That idea was rejected by the shelter due to an existing contract with a therapist.

She conducted further research and learned that therapy dogs can help people who suffer from depression and anxiety. Last fall she started a program to bring therapy dogs to Safe Harbor. She wants to expand on that idea by providing those services at Bloomington Library, where many homeless hang out during the day. Her long-term goal would be to have a social worker stationed at a local library to offer services to the homeless.

Project Emily has also continued its work beyond Edmonds-Cady’s class. The project’s Facebook page still receives messages from people, like a Chicago man who asked to be trained and provided naloxone because he worried about his girlfriend’s heroin addiction. And once a month, Cassidy sets up a table at the Salvation Army near downtown Peoria and offers naloxone trainings.

One Friday afternoon last September, a group of nursing students happened to stop by. Cassidy trained them in about 10 minutes on how to inject naloxone—in the “thigh, arm, or butt.” She warned the students to be ready to stand back: The medication immediately reverses the effects of an overdose, causing victims to suddenly wake out of their stupor. They will likely be angry because their high was interrupted and go immediately into withdrawal.

Each student received an “Overdose Rescue Kit,” a red bag containing two needles, two vials of naloxone, injection instructions, and a note with Project Emily’s phone number.

Cassidy spent the fall semester conducting an independent study under Edmonds-Cady, examining why some parts of the community resist naloxone and other heroin harm reduction practices such as clean needle exchange programs. Cassidy anticipates and quickly knocks down a common argument against naloxone—she is encouraging addicts to keep using by offering them a safety valve.

She explained how difficult it is to quit using heroin and the highly addictive painkillers. It may take several attempts for an addict to get clean. Therefore, every time someone’s life is saved, there is another chance for that person to get sober. That’s where Project Emily’s motto comes from: “Where there is life, there is hope.”

For more information about Project Emily, visit [Facebook.com/projectemily1](https://www.facebook.com/projectemily1).

Reprinted from Redbird Impact, spring 2018 issue.



From left, Bria Scott, Professor Cynthia Edmonds-Cady, and Lana Duran.

Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored six award recipients at Founders Day celebrations on February 15, as well as during a dinner program. Nominations are now being sought for the 2019 Alumni Awards. Deadline to nominate is May 31. Make a nomination online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards or call (309) 438-2586.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Paul Flessner '81

Retired senior vice president, Microsoft Corporation
Bainbridge Island, Washington

Paul Flessner joined Microsoft as a program manager in 1994, and finished his career as senior vice president of the data and storage platform division. Flessner was the first leader of the server business unit when the company organized into seven business units.

His passion for addressing challenges led him to become part of Microsoft founder Bill Gate's inner circle of executives. Flessner led businesses with annual revenues in excess of \$7 billion in his leadership role, and was responsible for more than 25,000 employees.

Before Microsoft, Flessner spent 13 years developing and managing information technology systems for a worldwide manufacturer and distributor of health care products.

A member of ISU's College of Business Hall of Fame, he created the Flessner Family Endowment for students in accounting and business information systems. He has given generously of his time as a classroom presenter and Business Week keynote speaker. He also invests in and mentors several socially responsible startup companies.

Flessner and his wife, College of Business graduate Sue (Zimmerman) '81, have been active in the fight to cure cystic fibrosis. Both of their sons were diagnosed with the disease. As a Cystic Fibrosis Foundation Therapeutics board member, Flessner helped pioneer "venture philanthropy." He secured a private gift of \$20 million that led to the approval of the first drug targeting the underlying cause of cystic fibrosis.



Alumni Achievement Award

Amelia Franck Meyer '89, M.S. '95

CEO, Alia
St. Paul, Minnesota

Amelia Franck Meyer is an innovative change-maker working to reimagine the nation's foster care system. She is CEO/founder of Alia, a national nonprofit dedicated to transforming the child welfare system. The goal is her passion.

As former CEO of a treatment foster care agency, Franck Meyer and her team received the Bush Prize for Innovation and the Center for the Study of Social Policy's Youth Thrive Award for Exemplary Programs. They achieved nationally leading outcomes in the number of foster children who found permanent families.

Franck Meyer focuses on a child's physical and psychological safety, and developing techniques to help youth overcome traumas. She led the initiative to develop the Youth Connections Scale and the Well-being Indicator Tool for Youth, both nationally recognized and used.

Franck Meyer has driven child welfare changes in more than half the states and internationally. She received prestigious fellowships from the Bush Foundation and the international Ashoka Change Maker Network for social entrepreneurs. She was ISU's Sociology and Anthropology Department 2010 Alumna of the Year.

Thomas Carroll '84, M.S. '89

Retired executive vice president, chief administrative officer, RR Donnelley
Naperville

Thomas Carroll led RR Donnelley's global human resources, corporate marketing, corporate communications, government affairs, postal affairs, and foundation. He



Amelia Franck Meyer



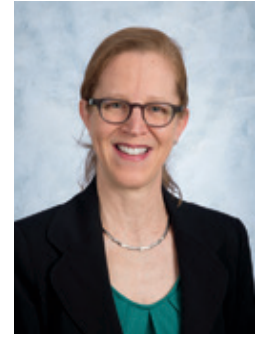
Thomas Carroll



Peter Rankaitis



Garrett Anderson



Beverly Beyer

was lead advisor for the international Fortune 250 company's Work-Bench accelerator initiative for enterprise technology startups in New York.

Carroll created the Bobbie McCambridge Endowed Nursing Scholarship to honor his mother. She was a nursing student who suffered injuries in a car accident that took her sister's life. She completed a long nursing career.

Carroll believes in giving back. He has contributed financially and as a board member to many organizations, including Chicago Lighthouse for the Blind, Chicago Public Library Foundation, North Central College, Naperville Community Television, Naperville Area Humane Society and Metro Chicago YMCA.

As part of Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State, Carroll created a fund within Mennonite College of Nursing to enhance preparing nurses for their role in transforming health care.

Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Peter Rankaitis '74, M.S. '98
Executive director, Project Oz
Lexington

Peter Rankaitis founded Project Oz in 1973, and still leads the Bloomington nonprofit agency that provides crisis intervention and emergency shelter for runaway and homeless youth. He hires and mentors ISU students and interns.

Rankaitis also co-founded PATH, a 24-hour crisis and referral hotline in Bloomington. A founding member of the City of Bloomington's Mayor's Task Force

on Gangs and Drugs, he works tirelessly on legislation and policies that impact youth.

He is a member of the Illinois Association of Behavioral Health, and past Illinois Collaboration on Youth board member. Rankaitis is co-chair of the Illinois Association of Behavioral Health Prevention Steering Committee.

Rankaitis has received the McLean County Bar Association Meritorious Service Award, the FBI Director's Community Leadership Award, and the Executive Leadership in Excellence Award from the National Network for Youth.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Garrett Anderson '10
Retired, U.S. Army Sergeant
Champaign

Garrett Anderson was in Iraq when a bomb detonated beneath the vehicle he was driving. He worked eight months to recover from an amputation, severe head injuries, and brain trauma.

With the support of his wife, Sami (Fitzjarrald) '01, he earned an ISU degree in criminal justice sciences and began assisting veterans as a constituent relations representative for U.S. Congressman Rodney Davis.

Anderson raises funds for the Wounded Warriors Project and the Chez Family Center for Wounded Veterans in Higher Education at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. His community service includes serving on the boards of Illinois Secretary of State Veterans' Advisory Council and the student-led organization DREAM (Disability Rights, Education, Activism, and Mentoring).

He is a motivational speaker educating schools, nonprofit organizations, and businesses about the issues military veterans face. He also speaks with Illinois State students interested in government service.

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Beverly Beyer, M.S. '03
Senior associate director, ISU Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development
Bloomington

Beverly Beyer has held leadership positions with ISU's Stevenson Center the past 14 years. As senior associate director, she manages the center's Peace Corps Fellows, Peace Corps Master's International, Applied Community and Economic Development Fellows graduate programs, and the University's AmeriCorps program.

In 2016, Beyer launched a campus-wide Peace Corps Prep program for undergraduate students. She improved visibility and recruitment for the Stevenson Center's graduate programs. Illinois State's Peace Corps Master's International Program has been ranked four times in the national top 10 of colleges and universities partnering with the Peace Corps.

Beyer served in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria from 1997 to 1999. She has volunteered for the American Red Cross, AmeriCorps, Ecology Action Center, Milner Library, Peoria Park District, and public radio stations WCBU and WGLT. She serves on the board of directors for Mid-Central Community Action, and she teaches grant writing. She is a recipient of ISU's Distinguished Service Award.

#RedbirdProud



Always a Redbird

Retiring alumni director still ISU's cheerleader

From her student days to working as the executive director of alumni engagement, Doris (Liefer) Groves '81 has personified the joy of being a Redbird. She will continue as an ISU ambassador during retirement, which began in February.

Her alumni leadership role was one of many at the University, where she studied business administration. Groves made ISU her professional home for more than 17 years.

In the Office of Admissions, she worked in student recruitment, supervised application processing, and was a Preview coordinator. She became office director in 2010, and two years later took the leadership role in Alumni Relations.

"Having had the opportunity to lead Admissions and Alumni Relations has been the highlight of my professional career," Groves stated. "I am amazed daily at the talent and dedication that is exemplified by the ISU faculty and staff."

Groves worked with thousands of prospective students and built lasting relationships with alumni across the country. One favorite moment was traveling to Texas in January 2015 to watch the ISU football team play in the FCS National Championship game.

"The excitement from our Redbird fans gathered at the rally, the festivities and the game were a tremendous experience," she said. Homecoming is another event she anticipated annually, and will

continue to participate in during retirement.

Groves looks forward to volunteering in the Bloomington/Normal community; travelling with husband, Jay '80, M.S. '83, who retired as ISU's chief of staff; and escaping to family property at Lake of the Ozarks.

She will miss engaging with so many of the 210,000 alumni in Illinois and across the country.

"Time and again I have found our ISU alumni and students to value hard work, honesty, compassion and integrity," she said. "I, like my fellow alums, feel a great sense of pride in being a member of the Redbird family."

Alumni News

Nominate HC royalty

Homecoming 2018: Redbirds Rising is scheduled for October 8-14. Nominations are sought for alumni king and queen, and the prince and princess.

Applications explaining criteria for nominees are available at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu/Royalty. Nominations are due July 20 for king and queen, and August 10 for the prince and princess.

To learn about events as they are scheduled, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu.

Illinois State publication now three issues annually

The publication schedule for *Illinois State* has changed. All alums will receive three issues, with the fourth now focused on campaign news and sent to donors. To receive all four issues, make a gift of any amount using the inserted envelope or at Giving.IllinoisState.edu.

The regular magazine will deliver in April, August and November. The special issue will include the annual report and deliver in October. It will not include the regular sections of class notes, How We Met, Legacy, or Where Are They Now.

Read more ISU news each month with electronic college newsletters available as a free service offered through the Alumni Association. Receive them by submitting an email address at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Update.

Alumni meeting set

The Alumni Association annual meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. on June 23 in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include electing members and officers to the association's board. Alumni who made a gift through the Foundation in the current or preceding year are eligible to vote. Go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Association or call (309) 438-2586 for more information.



From the archives

Comparing the Illinois State campus today to the open prairie that was chosen in the 1800s as the University site reveals what is undoubtedly the most obvious and significant change that has occurred in ISU's history. The early photo, taken looking south in 1894, shows how little had been developed in the years following the University's start in 1857. The view taken from the same direction now shows exponential growth that is a testimony to the vision and dedication of leaders over the decades.

ClassNotes



Art of animation

Alumna part of history-making painted film project

With two psychology degrees, Dena Peterson '84, M.S. '88, never envisioned a role in creating the world's first fully painted feature film. And yet, her passion for art resulted in her working on *Loving Vincent*, a Vincent Van Gogh biopic released in 2017.

Peterson of Colorado saw a teaser trailer used to recruit artists for the film. She became one of nearly 5,000 to apply. Pursuing the opportunity required traveling to Poland, where she completed tests that showed she could handle the animation process.

"They gave us a bit of a crash course. The training was very meticulous and

very rigorous," said Peterson, who persevered throughout the three weeks. "They needed to see if we could deal with this intensive work." What followed was six months of working in a light-controlled cubicle, painting scenes in a Van Gogh style and with consistency frame to frame.

The end result was 853 different oil paintings resembling the work of Van Gogh's artistic flair, and a Golden Globe nomination for Best Animated Motion Picture. Peterson estimates she created 230 frames over six months for five different scenes—about 21 seconds of film footage.

"I have such a greater appreciation for animation now than I did before. I like how it looks hand-made. Each artist

had a hand in making these characters come to life," said Peterson, who was one of 125 artists who hand painted 65,000 frames to complete the 94-minute film.

Even before working on *Loving Vincent*, Peterson was influenced by Van Gogh's art and stance. She was especially impressed by his determination to stay true to himself. "He probably could have sold better if he would have changed his style," she said. "But he didn't believe in copying what he saw, and instead he painted what he felt."

To learn more about Peterson's experience as part of the *Loving Vincent* project or gain tips from her knowledge, go to www.denapaints.com.

50s

James Kijewski '58 is retired after teaching and coaching at Thornton Fractional South High School; taught physical education at St. Florian School; resides in Lansing.

Doris (Garvie) Schertz '59 is retired from teaching English and working as resource development advancement project manager at College of DuPage; she and husband, Dave, have six children and 15 grandchildren; resides in Lombard.

60s

Jon Odell '64, M.S. '65, is professor emeritus of mathematics at Richland Community College; resides in Moweaqua.

Karon (Hordesky) Malone '65 is retired from Lincoln Way High School District 210; resides in New Lenox.

Thomas Grites '66, M.S. '67, is assistant provost at Stockton University; resides in Absecon, New Jersey.

Daniel Hinds '67 is a retired teacher and former principal of District 375 in El Paso, where he resides.

Gail Brueggeman '68 is retired from teaching; resides with her husband, James, in Fairview Heights.

Carol (Donohue) Horan '68 retired from Glenbard District 87; authored *A Family's Secret: Bipolar Disorder on Treetop Lane*; resides with husband in Goodyear, Arizona.

William Simpson, M.A. '68, Ed.D. '79, retired as president of John Wood Community College; resides in Everett, Washington.

Marcia (Fogel) Kaiser '69 is vice principal and teaches English and speech part-time at Princeton Christian Academy; resides in Princeton.

Fred Landbeck '69 is retired as a pilot for American Airlines; resides in Bull Valley.

Peter Yuska '69 is retired from Orland School District after 35 years in education; career ranged

from physical education teacher to superintendent; resides with wife, Patricia, in Palos Park.

70s

Larry Chapman, M.S. '70, is retiring after 50 years in education; resides in Port Byron.

Tamara (Stockley) Scott '70 retired from teaching at the University of Illinois-Urbana laboratory school; retired as director of aquatics and fitness at JCC of Chicago; resides in Homewood.

Billiamin Alli '71, M.S. '72, is a surgeon; author and distinguished professor of medicine and surgery; received Congressional Medal of Honor; resides in Michigan.

Richard Kuntz '71 retired as Bolingbrook deputy chief of police; supervised Sarasota County Code Enforcement Division past 25 years; resides with wife, Mary, in Venice, Florida.

Gayle (Lorenz) Morrell '71 retired after 34 years of teaching in Moline School District 40; served 20 years in U.S. Army Reserves; volunteers with Quad Cities Honor Flight; resides in East Moline.

Larry Bessert '72 retired as employee benefits specialist with Bessert & Associates; resides in Fishers, Indiana.

James Gumz '72 retired after 35 years teaching at Rolling Meadows High School; coached tennis for boys and girls, basketball for boys; still coaches tennis for junior varsity boys and varsity girls; member of Illinois High School Tennis Coaches Hall of Fame; received Distinguished Service Award and Tennis Coach of the Year awards from Illinois High School Association; resides in Palatine.

Beverly (Stock) Hartter '72, M.S. '85, Ph.D. '96, is a mathematics professor at Oklahoma Wesleyan University; resides in Nowata, Oklahoma.

James Antos '73, M.S. '76, is principal of Brother Rice High School; wife, **Mary (Hawrisch) '74**, retired from psychiatric nursing at Christ Advocate; resides in Oak Lawn.

Franette (Ottolino) Gutkowski '73 is information security and risk

Pause for applause



Salute to a scholar

Michael Plewa, M.S. '71, Ph.D. '74, studied biological sciences at ISU. He devoted more than 40 years to higher education as a professor of genetics. Plewa's research in environmental and molecular mutagenesis has focused on toxicology of chemically treated drinking water. He taught around the world, and is completing a two-year term as a Phi Kappa Phi Scholar. An ISU Alumnus Achievement Award recipient, Plewa has been awarded two Scientific and Technological Achievement Awards from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.



Change agent

Diversifying Higher Education Faculty in Illinois has awarded its prestigious fellowship to **Caress Brown '08**. The organization addresses disparities in educational attainment due to race, ethnicity, income and region. It works to increase the number of minority full-time faculty and staff in higher education across the state. Brown is completing a doctorate at ISU in Educational Administration and Foundations. An administrator at Loyola in Chicago, she aspires to be a scholar-activist through teaching, research and leadership in higher education. She is one of five nontraditional ISU graduate students to receive the fellowship.



Behind the scenes

Passionate about the arts but lacking stage talent, **Greg Cameron '80** has excelled as executive director of the world-renowned Joffrey Ballet based in Chicago. He served in various arts administrative and philanthropic positions before joining the ballet in 2013. Since then, the Joffrey has set new records at the box office and built the strongest financial foundation in its history. Cameron has been named to a leadership position on the Board of Dance/USA. He is actively engaged in civic outreach initiatives in Chicago.



Accolades to advisor

Rees Mason finished a general finance degree in 2008 and joined Merrill Lynch in 2012. Her success in financial planning, portfolio management, and investment counsel has put her in the national spotlight. Mason was named to the inaugural list of America's Top Next-Generation Wealth Advisors published by *Forbes*. The magazine partnered with SHOOK Research to identify the top 500 millennial wealth advisors leading wealth management into the future. Mason is co-chair of both the American Heart Association Young Professional's Board, and the National Association of Women Business Owners.

How we met

It was because of siblings that Bryan Concannon '14 and Stefani Rudd '13 met in 2010.

Stefani's sister, Staci Rudd '10, M.S. '17, and her roommate were having a party. The roommate's brother decided to invite a few friends. One of those was Bryan, who was in his last semester at Heartland Community College. His plan was to transfer to Illinois State, where Stefani was a sophomore.

"We met at a 'stoplight party,'" Stefani recalled, explaining how it works. "You wear red if taken, yellow if unsure, and green if single. We were both in green!" The two became friends after that initial meeting, staying in touch for the next two years. It took that long until they finally went on their first date, which was a competitive round of miniature golf.

Four years later, while vacationing in California, Bryan proposed at the San Diego Sunset Cliffs Natural Park. They married at Holy Trinity Catholic Church in Bloomington on Nov. 11, 2017. The wedding party traveled to campus for photos on the Quad—including at the love bench—with a reception following in the Brown Ballroom at the Bone Student Center.

The two still enjoy time on campus, as they chose to stay in Bloomington following graduation. Stefani completed a degree in graphic communications and works at State Farm Insurance Company as an IT analyst. Bryan earned his bachelor's in criminal justice sciences and works as a bank operations specialist for State Farm Bank.



Photo courtesy of Lauren Westrich

engineer at Zynga Inc.; resides in Chicago.

James Stewart '73 is retired after nearly 30 years as director of finance at Cedars-Sinai Health System; resides in Simi Valley, California.

Patrick Callahan '74, M.S. '77, is vice chair of Illinois Association of School Boards Western Division; part-time supervisor at Monmouth College; resides in Knoxville.

Jeanne (Volz) Kuhn '74 and her husband, **Jeffrey '73**, are retired educators; work with civic organizations and nonprofits; reside in Dixon.

Marc Loro '74 is deputy director of the Department of Administrative Hearings, State of Illinois Office of the Secretary of State; resides in Springfield.

Rita (McLaughlin) Moore '74 retired as high school librarian and French teacher with the Archdiocese of Philadelphia; resides with her husband, Michael, in Media, Pennsylvania.

Cheryl (Plott) Johnson '75 is managing director of innovative solutions

in the operations and transformation division of MUFG Union Bank; breeds Hanoverian sport horses; resides in Michigan.

Nancy (Evans) Doede '76 is artistic director of Nancy Evans Dance Theatre; dance department head of LaSalle High School; resides in Sierra Madre, California.

Charles Hatfield '76 works with WSEC PBS Knowledge Television, producing shows for Central Illinois; resides in Springfield.

Kay (Lowes) Meyer '76 retired as deputy director from McLean County Adult Court Services; resides in Bloomington.

Suanne (Yednock) Perez '76 owns Perez & Associates; resides in Irvine, California.

Joan (Schmitz) Etter '77 teaches blind/visually impaired students at Northern Kentucky Cooperative for Educational Services; resides in Edgewood, Kentucky.

Cynthia Grant '77, M.S. '79, is front house supervisor for the Kauffman Center for the Performing Arts in Kansas City; owns interior deco-

rating business; resides in Overland Park, Kansas.

Greg Johnson '77, M.S. '80, is an artist and sculptor with pieces in 41 states and seven countries; completed 27-foot peach in Atlanta, Georgia; resides in Cumming, Georgia.

Danny Lienard '77 is a compliance analyst with the University of Washington; resides in Seattle, Washington.

Michael Vaughan '77 is vice president of Chapel Creations Inc.; resides in Belvidere.

Joan Long '78 retired as partner of the Barnes & Thornburg LLP law firm; worked 25 years as an intellectual property lawyer; taught in special education; resides in Chicago.

Lawrence Whittet '78 is senior project manager with Sterling & Wilson; working on world's largest solar plant in Dubai, UAE.

Sheryl (Johnson) Boatz '79, M.S. '80, is president of Sound Care Audiology; resides in Terre Haute, Indiana.

Diana (Parker) Cramer '79 retired after 38 years as a special education teacher; worked at Naperville Community Unit District 203; resides in Naperville.

Inette Dishler '79 is senior learning and development specialist at University of California-Berkeley; resides in Berkeley.

James Mackey '79 is an MRI technologist with Houston Methodist Hospital; resides in Houston, Texas.

Gerard Preston '79 is an EEO compliance representative with the Illinois Department of Transportation; resides in Fairview Heights.

Joseph Washington '79 played men's basketball at ISU; was the first Redbird to be drafted to the NBA; played for the Miami Dolphins and Atlanta Falcons; resides in Chicago.

Clema Williams-Lewis '79 is executive director of Women's Coalition of St. Croix; resides in the Virgin Islands.

80s

Jennifer (Bolander) Best, M.S. '80, Ed.D. '02, is retired after 36 years of teaching, from pre-kindergarten to Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville; resides in Surprise, Arizona.

Scott Campbell '80 is retired after 34 years in sales and marketing at Ford Motor Company; resides in Plano, Texas.

Violet (Trout) LaPine '80 retired after 22 years at the public library in Rantoul, where she and her husband reside.

Rebecca (Moore) Milner '80 is a senior public service administrator with the Illinois Department of Human Services; resides in Springfield.

Cheryl Woods-Clendening '80 is assistant superintendent for human resources and labor relations, Joliet Public Schools District 86; completing doctorate of education at University of St. Francis; resides in Plainfield.

Linda (Crawford) Yunker '80 is audio/video technology and film instructor at Etowah High School; resides in Marietta, Georgia.

Linda Aguilar, M.S. '81, M.S. '93, is counselor with Joliet Junior College; resides in Joliet.

Randall Ekstrom '81 is part of the corporate environmental, health and safety department at Chevron-Phillips Chemical Company; resides in Montgomery, Texas.

Jeffrey Kraft '81 is chief marketing officer for Catholic Theological Union; resides in Chicago.

Steven McMullen '81 retired as a partner with KPMG LLP after 36 years; ISU scholarship fund established in his name by wife Susan; resides in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Michael Phares '81 is the global account director for InterContinental Hotels Group; resides in Naperville.

Laura (Schmitt) Barnowski '82 is a TekSystems consultant; resides in Round Lake.

Michelle Burris '82 is compliance inspector for the State of Colorado

Health Department; resides in Grand Junction, Colorado.

William Grumhaus '82 is a senior safety consultant with Insuperity; resides in Deland, Florida.

Julie (Vanderheyden) Junkel '82 has taught band 35 years; is band director at Mannheim School District 83; resides in Mt. Prospect.

Lawrence Maushard '82 is an author and international journalist; wrote of his trek through Central America in book *Made in Managua*; resides in Peoria.

Patricia Haberkorn '83, M.S. '07, is executive director of Futures Unlimited in Pontiac; resides in Chatsworth.

Sally (Torrance) Hamlin '83 is a senior systems analyst at Rush University Medical Center; resides in Chicago.

Gwendolyn Harris '83 is a provider engagement specialist with Magellan Health; resides in Darien.

Marjorie Nester '83 retired after 25 years of nursing at Advocate BroMenn Medical; volunteer parish nurse at Mennonite Church of Normal, where she resides.

Mark Rodenhauser '83 is York County Deputy Sheriff; resides in York, South Carolina.

Randi Schneider '83, M.S. '87, is associate vice president at Governors State University; resides in Tinley Park.

Brad Wessman '83 is senior manager of Deloitte; resides in Aurora.

Deb (Cikanek) Borgeson '84 is a realtor and broker with RE/MAX Showcase; RE/MAX Hall of Fame award recipient; resides in Long Grove.

Jeanette (Hammer) Diller '84, M.A. '91, is coordinator of Heartland Community College reading center; resides in Normal.

Denise (Drager) Johnson '84 teaches art in Joliet School District 86; resides in Morris.

Tom Parton '84, M.S. '86, is speech-language pathologist at Normal West High School in McLean County District 5; resides in Normal.

Terri (Barker) Thede '84 is a volunteer coordinator with Faith in Action; started a six-donor kidney donation chain at Loyola University Medical Center in 2017; resides in Normal.

Jennifer (Soderholm) Ahrens '85 retired after 30 years as police officer with Elgin Police Department; licensed professional counselor with Owens & Associates Counseling and Therapy Center; resides in Elgin.

Krystyna (Strzyzewski) Aune '85, M.S. '87, is a professor and dean of graduate education at the University of

Activity presidential award; resides in Champaign.

Todd Allison '86 is the director of U.S. sales for Stonebridge Guitars International; resides in Chicago.

Philip Johnson '86 is an actor who has performed as MooNiE the Magnif'Cent for 27 years; juggler, ropewalker; appeared in episode of *Empire* television show; resides in Mundelein.

Jennifer (Albert) Bethman '87 is assistant superintendent of Bethel School District; resides in Puyallup, Washington.



Proud Redbirds in Pennsylvania

Three graduates who never met on campus bonded years later as educators in Tredyffrin Easttown School District in Pennsylvania. They are, *from left*, Judith (Bronkema) Shepherd '64, Kay (McCarter) Krause '68, and Jean (Yurs) Cook '72. Shepherd was instrumental in the push to change Illinois State's name in the early 1960s. She retired in 2016 at age 75. Krause taught in Illinois and Dusseldorf, Germany. Cook was a Peace Corps volunteer in West Africa. She continues to substitute teach.

Hawaii; has three sons; resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Marijo (Murphy) Clemons '85 is healthcare business analyst with Cognitive Medical Systems; resides in San Diego, California.

Barbara Livesay '85 works for Vitas Healthcare providing hospice care; resides in Redondo Beach, California.

Kim (Siebert) Scott '85 is director of association management/exhibits for Human Kinetics; received North American Society for the Psychology of Sport and Physical

Laura (Molk) Cleary '87 is senior research manager at MaritzCX; 2017 MaritzCX Leadership Award recipient; resides in Mount Pleasant, Wisconsin.

Jose Hernandez '87 is a managing director with Goldman Sachs; resides in Hinsdale.

Michelle (Manisco) Kilbourne '87, MBA '89, is chair of Traditional Business Department of Judson University; awarded Partner in Empowering Lives award from Renz Center; resides in Carpentersville.

Redbird legacy

Logan Simios '84 and John Rigas '81 are cousins. A College of Business student when Logan finished high school, John suggested to Logan that he attend Illinois State. Logan followed the advice and not only came to the University, but chose the same field of study.

"I majored in accounting and practiced in the public accounting field for seven years after graduation as a CPA," said Logan, who is now a financial and insurance advisor. He is part owner of J. Krug & Associates, which is based in Mount Prospect and employs six ISU graduates.

They enjoy sharing their collegiate experiences, which for Logan includes living for two years in Walker Hall.

"Even though the dorm had no air conditioning, there is no doubt it was the best place to live on campus at the time—along with the sister dorm, Dunn-Barton. I still share many good friendships from my Walker and Dunn-Barton Hall days."

Other great memories include the beautiful Quad, the college town of Normal, Garcia's Pizza, Avanti's, "and the unbelievable atmosphere of the Redbird home basketball games in Horton Fieldhouse during the early 1980s," Logan said.

After more than three decades since a student, his campus connection remains strong through his children. All three currently attend, and all three are enrolled in the College of Business.

Erica is a senior completing majors in finance and professional sales-marketing. She pledged Zeta Tau Alpha sorority and was involved in ISU Women in Business. Following graduation, Erica will join Huber Financial Advisors in Lincolnshire.

Connor and Dylan are sophomores. Connor is a finance major and active in Encounter, a faith-based registered student organization. Like his dad, Dylan is majoring in accounting. He is an active member of the Delta Sigma Pi business fraternity.

All four frequently attend ISU football and basketball games. It's just one way they remain close to each other and the University that has shaped their lives. Logan is quick to share the gratitude all share for Illinois State, saying "we are all definitely Redbird proud!"



The Simios family includes, from left, Connor, Logan, Erica, and Dylan.

Robert Meeker '87 is retired as the assistant superintendent and chief school business official of District 87; resides in Bloomington.

Doris "DeDe" (Dalton-Fincham) Overly '87 is a nurse concierge with Baylor Scott and White Medical Center; resides in Plano, Texas.

Gary Robinson '87, M.S. '89, is a solutions manager in supplier warranty recovery for Caterpillar Inc.; resides in East Peoria.

Michael Beyerlein '88 is a marketing supervisor with Coca-Cola; resides in Charlotte, Michigan.

Deb Datweiler '88 is a social worker with Presence Saint Mary's Hospital; resides in Herscher.

Johanna (Parrish) Hoult '88 is senior clinical research coordinator at Mayo Clinic; resides in Rochester, Minnesota.

Rhonda (Owens) Krueger '88 is a public service administrator with the

Illinois Department of Employment Security; resides in Peru.

Charlie Simpson '88 is senior vice president and chief communications officer for the American Osteopathic Association; resides in St. Charles.

Helen Strus, M.S. '88, is director of marketing and communications at MetLife Stadium, home of the NFL Giants and Jets; resides in New Jersey.

Thomas Tcheng '88 is senior director of preclinical research and development at NeuroPace Inc.; resides in Pleasant Hill, California.

Steven Brown '89 is a certified independent chiropractic examiner through the American Board of Independent Medical Examiners; resides in Gilbert, Arizona.

Helen (Knilands) Ciani '89 is unit manager with York Risk Services Group Inc.; resides with husband

and two children in Economy, Pennsylvania.

Douglas Cox '89 is principal consultant for McLean Risk Consulting of Latin America, S.A.S.; resides in Cali, Colombia.

Daniel Dimitroff '89, M.S. '10, is a systems analyst with Caterpillar Inc.; resides in East Peoria.

Dan Wagner '89, M.S. '94, is senior vice president for government relations for The Inland Real Estate Group Inc.; named 2017 Realtor of the Year by the Chicago Association of Realtors; resides in Wheaton.

90s

Jamie Atchison '90 is a senior business process specialist at Caterpillar Inc.; resides in Normal.

Reginald Goings, M.S. '90, retired as senior warden of Lychner/Kegans Complex; served 23 years in Texas

Department of Criminal Justice; resides in Richmond, Texas.

Doug Livingston '90 is a history teacher at Harlem High School; coached 24 years at Rockford Auburn and Machesney Park Harlem; inducted into Illinois Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame; resides in Loves Park.

Wade Pierce '90 is CFO with Purchasing Power LLC; resides with his wife, **Dawn (Hawkins) '90**, in Marietta, Georgia.

Edina (Maltbia) Robinson '90 is the assistant vice president of corporate compliance for State Street Corporation; resides in Parkville, Missouri.

Judie Cooper '91 is a librarian at Lake Park Public Library; resides in Lake Park, Florida.

Amy (Atchison) McCarville '91, M.S. '94, is a research consultant at Alight Solutions; resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Michael Schnell '91 owns and manages an AlphaGraphics Printing franchise; he and wife, Kim, have two children; resides in Homer Glen.

Kristi (Whiteaker) Wyckoff '91 is a school-based therapist working for Centerstone; resides with husband, Jason, and their two children in Franklin, Tennessee.

Teresa Blanden '92 is an assistant director of the Principal's Scholars Program at the University of Illinois; resides in Champaign.

Dan Blumenfeld '92 is the associate director of audit at Northwestern University; resides in Arlington Heights.

Rob Festenstein '92 is executive director at the Center for Independent Living Options in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he resides.

Christina Isabelli '92 is chair of Modern Languages and Literature Department at Gonzaga University; resides in Spokane, Washington.

Steve Loper '92 is public information specialist for the City of Longmont, Colorado, where he resides.

Russell Novotny '92 is an information technology system administrator at Wilton Brands; resides in Woodridge.

Rodrigo Remolina '92, M.S.W. '04, is a senior public service administrator with DCF; resides in Springfield.

Cara (Buffa) Weitzman '92 is a real estate agent with Berkshire Hathaway; top broker in Illinois, selling more than \$250 million; resides in Chicago.

Grechen Wingerter '92 is an assistant professor of theatre at Pellissippi State Community College; resides in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Deborah (Zmijewski) Caraher '93 is a human resources administrative assistant at Rosalind Franklin University; resides in Ingleside.

Janet Freeman '93 is a Village of Buffalo Grove police officer and resides in Round Lake Park.

Kara (Taylor) Shaw '94 is an underwriter team lead with Ally Financial; resides in The Colony, Texas.

Jill-Lynn Bruzzini '95, M.A. '97, teaches Spanish at Marie Murphy

School; married Antonio Tabacchi in July 2017; resides in Chicago.

Sheryl DeMott '95, M.S.W. '03, is retired from the Department of Corrections in Tennessee; resides in Hendersonville, Tennessee.

Paul Haisman '95 is chief information officer for the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons; resides in Rosemont.

Kevin Staubus '95 is an EHS/security manager for Caterpillar Inc.; resides with wife, Alicia, in Holly Springs, North Carolina.

Monica (Fortune) Wilks '95, M.S. '97, is human resources coordinator for McLean County School District Unit 5; 2017 Distinguished Alumni Award recipient from Department of Politics and Government; resides in Bloomington.

Elizabeth (Lackner) Floegel '96 is head of commercial information technology for Regeneron; voted one of Hudson Valley 2017 Women Business Leaders of the Year; resides in Ridgefield, Connecticut.

LaShawn (Branion) Lomax '96, is director of special education in Harvard CUSD 50; resides in Crystal Lake.

Dawn (Kukuck) Peterson '96, M.S. '04, is a math professor at Illinois Central College; resides in Washington.

Craig Anderson, M.S. '97, is executive director of the Illinois High School Association; resides in Morton.

Todd Dugan '97, M.S. '06, is superintendent of New Holland-Middletown Elementary District 88; one of three national educators named 2017 Leader of the Year by Tech & Learning; resides in Green Valley.

Jason Gagnon '97 is a Capital One senior manager; resides in Midlothian, Virginia.

Mike Hambright '97 is a professional real estate investor and owner of Flipnerd; resides in the area of Dallas, Texas.

Jennifer Oliphant '97 is the credentialing coordinator at Gastroenterology Consultants of San Antonio, Texas, where she resides.

Chris Rudin '97 is vice president of Rudin Printing Company; resides in Athens.

Jacob Gourley '98 is principal of Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, where he resides.

Tiffany (Taylor) Hall '98 is an adjunct professor and supervisor in the early childhood department at Lewis University; resides in Mokena.

Jenny (Foster) Klouse '98 is area ministry director of InterVarsity Christian Fellowship; released project on engaging awkward social conversations for national campus use; resides in Santa Rosa, California.

Samuel Lyons '98 is a human services caseworker with the Illinois Department of Human Services; resides in Peoria.

Eric Bradley '99 is Zion Park District finance director; resides in Lindenhurst with his wife **Abby (Grum) '00**.

Jason Feiner, M.S. '99, is director of student activities at Lewis and Clark College; elected to Northwest Association of Student Affairs board of directors as treasurer; resides in Portland, Oregon.

Katie Lunzman '99 is communications director for Redeemer Lutheran Church; resides in Peoria.

00s

Andrea (Calcione) Woldman '00 teaches English at Belvidere North High School; resides in Rockford.

Shelly Madjouranis-Clumpner '01 is graphics operator of Home and Family Hallmark Channel show; resides in Encino, California.

Lisa Simon '01 teaches and coaches cross country, track and field, and soccer in Plainfield School District 202; competes in road races and triathlons; swam across Lake Michigan in August for cancer funds; resides in Romeoville.

Jennifer (Louie) Trainum, M.M. '01, is the Suzuki violin teacher at the University of Alabama; received 2017 Wedding Wire Couples Choice Award for placing in top 5 percent of all WeddingWire professionals in ceremony music; resides in Northport, Alabama.



Noteworthy event

Music Professor Emeritus Arthur Corra led a group of ISU music majors through East and West Germany in 1977 to study the life and works of Johann Sebastian Bach. The group reconnected last fall to celebrate the trip anniversary year and Corra's 88th birthday. Shown are, seated from left, William Buss '79, Corra holding a photo from the trip, and Andrew Carlson '79; Standing from left are, Bonnie (Fletcher) DeNully '78, Donna Siemsen '78, and Susan Allan '79. John Cramer '79 attended by video conference. Faculty member Patricia Whikehart, who is deceased, also participated in the trip.



Still Redbird proud

Afiya McDowell '97 returned to campus last summer during an ISU open house event that she attended with her high school daughter. McDowell took time out from the events to have her photo taken with Reggie in the Bone Student Center. An apparel merchandising and design graduate, she resides in Berkeley.

Amanda (Moore) Tucker '01 is human resources director for the City of Edwardsville, where she resides.

Brett Gillan '02, MBA '08, is program/music director at Creativets, which uses art and music to heal combat veterans; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Emily (Wagner) Gold '02, M.S. '05, testified before the Minnesota legislature to increase funding for deaf blind services; mom to a deaf blind daughter; resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Gretchen Kemp '02 teaches music at Raytown Quality Schools; independent director for Thirty-One Gifts; resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Mark Nowakowski '02, M.S. '05, is assistant professor of music technology at Kent State University; released first CD *Blood, Forgotten* through Naxos; resides with wife, Magdalena, and their three children in Canton, Ohio.

Pattama Roopsuwankun, Ph.D. '03, is vice president for administration and student affairs at North Bangkok University; resides in Thailand.

Kristin (Skenderi) Spatzek '03, mom to a child with a terminal genetic illness; authored *Holding Hope in Our Hands*; resides in Chicago.

Aubrey (Gates) Zucco '03 is principal of Tiefert View Intermediate School in Silver Valley Unified School District; resides in Barstow, California.

Julie (Fehrenbacher) McCoy '04, M.S. '06, is food service director and wellness coordinator for District 87; resides in Carlock.

Victoria Martini-Rosowicz '05 is associate general manager of Northlight Theatre; resides in Des Plaines.

Gregory Probst '05 is director of finance and technology at Community Foundation of Fox River Valley; resides in Aurora.

Ryan Cunningham '06 is business resource manager with Caterpillar Inc.; resides in Tucson, Arizona.

Julie (Pakenham) Dannis, M.S. '06, is assistant dean of students at University of Indianapolis; resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Trisha (Linn) DeBoer '06 is pastor of Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church; resides in Steele, North Dakota.

Clinton Mathewson '06 is a history teacher at Farmington Central High School; wife **Ashley (Thacker) '09** is registered dietitian at OSF Healthcare Medical Center; they reside in Morton.

Swetha Singari '06, M.S. '10, is project manager at Dean Health Plan; resides in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Shannon Cunningham '07, M.S. '11, is an assistant professor of criminal justice at Monmouth University; resides in Howell, New Jersey.

Michelle Hill '07 teaches a graduate seminar in theatre history at Arizona State University; has earned a doctorate in theatre from ASU; daughter born to her and husband Nick Klemp; all reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

Giacchino Lech '07 is an athletic trainer at Centegra Health System; resides in Round Lake.

Kanisha Lites '07 is a project coordinator at the University of Chicago Medicine; married James Ku in June 2017; resides in Chicago.

Jamie (Pemberton) Maund '07, M.A. '16, is deaf and hard of hearing teacher in San Diego County Office of Education; girls' golf coach at Carlsbad High School; resides with husband, Ian, in Oceanside, California.

Sara (McCubbins) Spaniol '07, M.S. '09, Ed.D. '16, is STEM outreach coordinator with the College of DuPage; resides in Bolingbrook.

Ashley Venneman, M.S. '07, is student organization development manager at University of Maryland-College Park; resides in Columbia, Maryland.

Lisa Westendorf, M.S. '07, is associate director of communication for financial aid at the University of Denver; resides in Denver, Colorado.

Nicholas Esposito '08 is a regulatory affairs scientist with Oil-Dri Corporation of America; resides in Schaumburg.

Theresa (Tiske) Kasper '08 is a special education case manager in Spring Texas; resides with husband, Brandon, in Cypress, Texas.

Andrea (Shifflet) Rhoades '08 created Selfies to Selfless website to empower new moms; resides in Kenney.

Candis South '08 is a dispatcher with the police department in Markham, where she resides.

Stefanie Abderhalden '09, M.M. '12, is a freelance musician and private music teacher; husband is Erik '08; daughter Lorelai Lorraine born October 2017; family resides in Downers Grove.

Ryan Blonn '09 is manager of internal audit with ALDI; resides in Aurora.

Roberta Codemo '09 is a freelance health journalist; advocate leader for the Ovarian Cancer Research Fund Alliance; resides in Springfield.

Tim Martch '09 is a certified fitness trainer and certified arborist; works for Lisle Public Works; resides in Wheaton.

Amanda Mason-Singh, M.S. '09, is lead data scientist with Zoomi Inc.; she and husband, Nitin, have a son born September 2016; family resides in Reston, Virginia.

Bradley Owens '09, '12, is a special education teacher at Round Lake Area Schools 116; has a son with wife, Genevieve; resides in Lake Zurich.

Kevin Parkinson '09 is the director of teacher onboarding and licensure; resides in Jackson, Mississippi.

Kathryn (Valle) Pedersen '09 is math department chair at Woodstock North High School; resides with husband, Simon, and daughter in Union.

Philip Rudd, M.M. '09, is an assistant professor of music, director of orchestras, and teaches music history and violin at Denison University; resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Kathleen (Cruger) Schuler '09 is student programming coordinator at University of Notre Dame; resides in Mishawaka, Indiana.

Ashley (Wilhelmi) Seanor '09 is a high school counselor for Dunlap High School; resides in Dunlap.

Andrew Wilson '09 is manager of divisional sales for Groupon Inc.; resides in Chicago.

10s

Jacob Bilbruck '10 teaches fifth grade and is head high school football coach at Gillespie Community

School District 7; resides in Gillespie.

Cory Kimble '10 is a senior application developer with COUNTRY Financial; resides in Heyworth.

Matthew Astle '11 is an equity research editor at Kepler Cheuvreux; resides in Madrid, Spain.

Amanda Clayton '11 is manager of special events at Columbia College in Chicago; resides in Crystal Lake.

Jeffrey Cleveland '11 completed a master's in music and human learning from University of Texas; associate band director at Anderson High School in Austin, Texas, where he resides.

Jenna (Carlson) Dietmeier, M.A. '11, is a review and compliance archaeologist with the State of South Dakota; resides in Pierre, South Dakota.

Elisabeth (Lindsey) Gross '11 is a business development specialist with NEC Display Solutions; resides in Bloomington.

Sara Hayduck '11 is a special education teacher with Community High School District 99; resides in Downers Grove.

Christine (Poppe) Hodges '11, M.S. '14, is a physical science technician for the agricultural research service of the United States Department of Agriculture; resides in Bloomington.

Nicole Marks '11 is a master control technician and video acquisition coordinator with The Weather Channel; resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Lauren Richgruber '11 is a Northwestern Mutual recruiter; resides in Aurora.

Kurt Turner '11 is an athletic trainer at Springfield Clinic; resides in Normal.

Kimberly Weems '11 is infection control epidemiologist at Johns Hopkins Hospital; resides in Frederick, Maryland.

Nena Woo '11 has a YouTube channel called Sage Yourself; plans to travel the world with six others this year; follow her at www.nena-woo.com; resides in Evanston.

Elizabeth Doye '12 is a teacher with Unity Point Health Methodist; resides in Peoria Heights.

Aric Faulkner '12, M.S. '15, is a residence director at the University of Vermont; resides in Burlington, Vermont.

Carolyn (Mahan) Goodwin '12 is a pharmacy technician; resides in Mackinaw.

Ryan Lindemann '12 is a geospatial analyst with the U.S. government. He and **Alyssa (Rogge) '12** married in December 2017; resides in Plainfield.

Alysse Mancuso '12 is a family and consumer science teacher with North Scott Community School District; resides in Davenport, Iowa.

Laruen (Miller) Nadeau '12 is a registered nurse at Rose Medical Center; resides in Denver, Colorado.

Colleen (Burger) Pawlicki '12 is an instructor and doctoral student at Indiana University; married to **Dakota '09**; resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Stephen Schefflow '12 is American Indian Studies librarian at University of Wisconsin; completing a master's in archives and records management; resides in Fitchburg, Wisconsin.

Mitch Webster '12 is an analyst with Tek Systems; resides in Normal.

Matthew Werderitch '12 is a manufacturing manager at Medline Industries; resides in Johnsbury.

Sarah Wood '12 is a project designer at Interior Design Associates in Nashville; resides in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Madelynn Austin '13 is adult programming specialist at Warren-Newport Public Library; resides in Zion.

Kendall Beahm '13 is an intake counselor at St. Louis Crisis Nursery; resides in O'Fallon.

Rebecca (MacDougall) Clinite '13 teaches junior high at Shirland School; she and husband, Matt, welcomed a son July 2017; they reside in Rockton.

Jennifer Durst '13 is a trauma nurse at Carle Hospital in Urbana, where she resides.

Eliza Hamer '13 teaches at Pope Francis Global Academy; resides in Park Ridge.

Carly (Schoeneman) Henrickson '13 is a pre-kindergarten teacher at Hawthorn School District 73; married in May 2017; she and husband, Randy, reside in Hoffman Estates.

Lauren Hernandez '13 is creative director with Ascent Media; resides in Washington, D.C.

Ross Leary '13 is golf professional at Oakcrest Golf Club; resides in Roseau, Minnesota.

Julia Luchtenburg '13 is a law enforcement ranger for the U.S. National Park Service; works at Golden Gate National Recreational Area; resides in Sausalito, California.

Tara Marron '13 is an academic advisor at the University of Indianapolis in Indiana, where she resides.

Kevin Norman '13 works in Lake Forest School District 67 as a grade school wellness teacher, middle school coach, and high school cross country, wrestling and track/field coach; resides in Lake Forest.

Kayla Richardson '13, '15, is director of recreation therapy at The Pavilion Behavioral Health System in Champaign; resides in Palatine.

Kelsey Thornton '13 is a board registered dietitian working at Volunteers of America Colorado Branch; resides in Westminster, Colorado.

Alexandra Wazny '13 is completing a second year with the Peace Corps in Ethiopia.

Stephanie Zitella '13 is a surgical ICU and cardiovascular thoracic ICU nurse at Rush University Medical Center; resides in Chicago.

Alex Drawwe '14 is a workers' compensation claims adjuster with One Beacon Insurance; resides in Littleton, Colorado.

Aaron Eades '14 is a news anchor and reporter for WCIA in Champaign; resides in Urbana.

Kyle Garman '14 is a safety standards engineer with John Deere; resides in Altoona, Iowa.

Donna Guenther '14 is a registered nurse at Unity Point Health Methodist Medical Center; resides in Galesburg.

Jenna Kalkwarf '14 is an event planner for State Farm Insurance Company; resides in Mionok.



A different classroom bond

Three Redbirds have formed a friendship as a result of teaching for many years in the same school district in Davenport, Iowa, where each resides. They have a combined total of nearly 100 years of coaching in the Davenport school system. The men enjoy golfing and sharing memories of their time at ISU in the late 1960s. They are, *from left*, Jerry Zinn '68, M.S. '69; Tom Souhrada '69, M.S. '73; and Bill Churchill '71.

Leticia Martinez '14 is a media analyst for advertising agency NSA Media in Chicago; resides in Lockport.

Rob Meier '14 is a senior HRIS coordinator with Medline Industries; completing master's degree at DePaul University; resides in Buffalo Grove.

Daniel Melzer '14 graduated from William and Mary Law School; resides in Palm City, Florida.

Morgan (Benz) Nelson '14 works in analyst services for Epic Systems; resides in Fitchburg, Wisconsin.

Stephanie (Root) Salrin '14 is an account manager with Apex Systems; resides in Normal.

Michael Tonkovic '14, M.S. '16, is regulatory analyst with Kansas City Power and Light; he and wife, **Marissa (Webb), M.F.A. '14**, reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

Elyse Wegner '14 is a program assistant with Seeds of Hope, a nonprofit focusing on food justice; resides in Los Angeles, California.

Katherine Apperson '15 teaches English and directs theatre productions at James B. Conant High School; resides in Schaumburg.

David Brubeck '15 conducts the Symphony Orchestra for the Florida Youth Orchestra and has for 20 years; performed with Duo Brubeck at 2017 International Trombone Festival; resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Brittany Bryant '15 is a kindergarten teacher at Limestone Walters in Peoria, where she resides.

Brianne Daly '15, M.S. '16, is a data analyst with Discover Financial Services; resides in Wheeling.

Elizabeth Davis '15 is an infant care teacher at First United Methodist Child Care Center; resides in Rantoul.

Jason Dockter, Ph.D. '15, teaches English at Lincoln Land Community College; resides in Chatham.

Kenneth Ellul '15 is a student at Palmer College of Chiropractic; resides in Moline.

Kaitlyn Elsen '15 is guest relations specialist at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jessica Infelise '15 is a planning assistant with Canete Medina Consulting Group Inc.; completing a master's degree at University of Illinois-Chicago; resides in Carol Stream.

Rachel Kowalski '15 teaches fourth grade math at Moseley Elementary; resides in Dallas, Texas.

Jessica Melzer '15 teaches math at Oswego East High School; resides in Montgomery.

Miles Spann '15 is a graduate student at University of North Carolina; resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Kelley Sullivan, M.S. '15, is regional sales manager for Cultural Care Au Pair; played with Waverley Rugby Club in Sydney, Australia; resides in Newtown, Connecticut.

Brendan Thompson '15 is completing his third year in the graduate toxicology program at University of Kentucky; is a graduate research assistant; resides in Lexington, Kentucky.

Michael Trujillo '15 is a sales representative for Ryerson; has advanced from wheelchair to using cane; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Noam Aviel, M.M. '16, is assistant conductor at OPERA San Antonio in Texas, where he resides.

Katherine Becker '16 is a horticulturist with Lakeshore Seasonal Services; resides in Crete, Illinois.



Dunn four forever

Nine young women met while settling in on the fourth floor of Dunn Hall in 2007. The bond they formed strengthened through the years. They have remained inseparable while sharing struggles, weddings, career starts and moves. They returned to Homecoming last year to celebrate a decade of friendship. They are, *seated from left*, Alicia Ferraris '11, Charlene (Triplitt) Lawinger '11, Taryn (Cap) Moraga '11, and Cass (Lobb) Fisher '11. *Standing from left are*, Heather Curtin '10, M.A. '13; Liz (Reed) Kearney; Katie (Straub) Jacob '11; Amy Cranston '11; and Caitlin Plaza '11.

Hannah (Ritter) Bickes '16 is the human resources coordinator with Hickory Point Christian Village; resides in Decatur.

Lauren Donar '16 is a registered nurse with Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital; resides in Lemont.

Anthony Gingerich '16 is a financial advisor with Thrivent Financial; resides in Bloomington.

Viridiana Gonzalez '16 is a registered nurse at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center; resides in Aurora.

Kavya Gupta, M.S. '16, is a business analyst with Life Fitness of the Brunswick Corporation; resides in Chicago.

Michael Gutierrez '16 is general music teacher and choir director for elementary and middle schools in Zion District 6; resides in Round Lake.

Nicole Jones '16 completed a year of service through AmeriCorps VISTA in Hawaii; resides in Naperville.

Lorena Lopez '16 is a bilingual admission counselor at North Central College; resides in Bolingbrook.

Al Luszcak '16 started Music City Removal with **Nick Theodore '16** and

Mike Medwed '15; all reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

Alex Pieczynski, M.S. '16, is a licensed athletic trainer with Ascension; resides in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Michael Reiners '16 is director of live programming for DirtonDirt.com; resides in Normal.

Katie Socha '16 is an English teacher at Dundee Crown High School; directs after-school theatre; resides in Glendale Heights.

Marissa Anderson '17 is a graduate student at Virginia Tech; athletic trainer there for cross country, track and field; resides in Blacksburg, Virginia.

Amanda Diesburg '17 is a copywriter in the sprayers and tillage division for John Deere; resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Alexis Econie '17 is a data analysis coordinator at the Office of Sustainability at University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where she resides.

Amber Harvey '17 is a child protection specialist with the State of Illinois; resides in Hudson.



REGGIE READS

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. Click on Reggie Reads.

Olivia Hegber '17 is a youth outreach specialist with Heart Haven Outreach; resides in Bolingbrook,

Aaron Hillebrandt '17 is a consulting actuary with Pinnacle Actuarial Resources; resides in Bloomington.

Kimberly Knoblauch '17 is a medical laboratory scientist in the mycology and tuberculosis laboratory at Mayo Clinic; resides in Rochester, Minnesota.

Pat Moran '17 is a math teacher and volleyball coach at Hoffman Estates High School; resides in Palatine.

Hannah Murdock '17 is a registered nurse working in the NICU at Carle; resides in Monticello.

Troops

Gayle (Lorenz) Morrell '75 was an active member of the U.S. Army Reserve for 20 years; taught elementary school 35 years and now substitutes; resides in East Moline.

Steven Green '86, '97, M.S. '00, is a U.S. Navy Lieutenant Commander; resides in Fox River Grove.

Daniel Hedman '95 retired from the U.S. Army after 22 years of active duty; director of operations with Habitat for Humanity of McHenry County; resides in Woodstock.

Kwame Curtis '00, M.S. '02, is U.S. Air Force Deputy Commander of the surgical operations squadron at 48th Medical Group at Royal Air Force in Lakenheath, United Kingdom.

Toby Neal '02 is an active duty captain in the U.S. Army; served 15 years; stationed at Fort Campbell, Kentucky.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Ronald L. Cook, Chemistry; 9/17

Charles Harris, English; 10/17

Gerlof D. Homan, History; 11/17

George R. Houska, M.S. '72, Purchasing; 12/17

Donald R. Jensen, Biology; 11/17

C. Frank Shaw III, Chemistry; 11/16

Robert Tomaski '81, University Marketing and Communications; 8/17

Kathleen D. Webster '03, M.S. '10; Financial Aid; 9/17

30s

Evadna A. (Kumler) Mooney '37; 11/17

Glenna R. (Kentner) Hughes '38, '52; 11/17

40s

Winifred Thomassen '41; 11/17

Charlene F. (Shirley) Bennett '42; 11/1

Joreece "Jody" G. (Johnston) Crumbaugh '42; 8/17

Virginia A. (Pruden) Hartman '43; 11/17

Alexander "Lex" G. Samaras '43; 10/17

Winnifred A. (Elvidge) Clauson '44; 11/16

Doris J. (Tillmann) Fruetel '45; 12/17

Kathleen E. (Wheeler) Hagbom '45; 11/17

Beverly J. (Smith) Lindsey '45; 10/17

Harriett G. (Brown) Salzman '46, '48; 9/17

S. Lauretta (Schwandt) Coleman '48; 10/16

Julia L. (Martin) Jeffers '48; 11/16

Janet (Bishop) Deprin '49; 4/17

Joan M. (Hollister) Geissler '49, M.S. '66; 12/17

Betty J. (Stephenson) Lippincott '49; 8/17

Marilyn (McCarthy) Quagliano '49; 8/17

Irma J. (Hogle) Sancken '49, M.S. '63; 7/17

Dorothy L. (McNeill) Tucker, M.S. '49; 8/17

50s

Drotha M. (Stuart) Bruno '50; 6/17

Virginia Elaine (Johnson) Gustafson '50; 10/17

Richard M. Metcalf '50, M.S. '56; 9/17

James O. Talbot '50; 9/17

Jack L. Kemmerly '51; 5/17

Sherman M. Phillabaum '51; 10/17

Harriett M. (Cleveland) Brown '53; 5/17

Ann J. (Kennedy) Clifton '53; 11/17

Richard L. Johnson '53; 11/17

Rex L. Brown '54; 9/17

Roger Jacobson, M.S. '54; 9/17

Joy M. (Surgeon) Zimmerman '54; 9/17

James R. Bowers Sr. '55, M.S. '63; 12/17

Betty Jo Goddard '55; 11/17

Bates "Jack" Prather '56; 9/17

Edward Rittenhouse '56, M.S. '59; 4/16

Delite M. Stucky '56; 9/17

Mary E. (Sonderskov) Maley '57; 10/16

Donald F. Manahan '57, M.S. '63; 10/17

Ronald T. Smith '57; 8/17

Gladys J. (Waren) Boyer '58; 8/17

Karen L. (Suesse) Rittenhouse '58; 9/17

Kenneth E. Cottet '59, M.S. '83; 10/16

Kathleen E. Kalchoff '59, M.S. '62; 12/17

60s

Patricia E. (Florent) McCarney '60; 9/17

Wayne A. Patkunas '60, M.S. '70; 8/17

Ruth "Tami" (Sherer) Rolley '60; 11/16

Marilyn J. (Tammeus) Curtis '61; 11/17

Vicki R. (Johnson) Fry '61; 8/17

Annie R. (Mathis) Brown '62; 10/17

Trucy (Voss) Deady '62; 8/17

Sandra K. Gaddis '62; 9/17

Alice F. (Davis) Kukla '62, M.S. '67; 12/17

Nancy C. (Whittler) McKinley '62; 8/17

John R. Myers, M.S. '62; 10/17

Frederick D. Wilcox, M.S. '62; 12/17

Melvin G. Duncan '63; 10/16

Harriet L. (Martin) Ford '63; 5/17

Eugene E. Pace '63; 8/17

Maureen St. Peter '63; 12/17

William Vandever, M.S. '63; 12/17

James G. O'Hare '64; 9/17

Lynn G. Raney '64; 12/17

Judith L. (Brackman) Flahaut '65; 12/17



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- 1) Go online to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ClassNotes and click on "class notes." Information submitted using this method will also be posted online.
- 2) Email your news to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.
- 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

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John J. Kohler '65; 8/17
 Marjorie E. (Reed) Metcalf '65; 12/17
 Frank M. Weber Jr. '65; 8/17
 Mildred B. Lestina '66; 8/17
 William R. Mix '66, M.S. '68; 11/17
 Joe Saxton '66; 8/17
 Terry Shoup '66, M.S. '71; 11/17
 Thomas E. Yerkey '66, M.S. '67; 8/17
 James L. Hesselberth '67, M.S. '69; 9/17
 Betty J. (Cole) Murray '67; 10/16
 Steven M. Oelklaus '67; 8/17
 Terry L. Shoup '67, M.S. '71; 11/17
 Vera J. Sorensen '67; 8/17
 Marilyn Wolf '67; 4/17
 Jessica (Berta) Brandt '68; 8/17
 Lee C. Applegate '69, M.S. '70; 8/17
 Judith A. (Hoh) Ruffus '69; 5/17
 Jean A. (Monroe) Tubbs '69; 4/16

70s

Gary A. Hospelhorn '70, M.S. '73; 10/16
 Donald E. Antenore '71; 12/17
 Lawrence R. Bach '71; 12/16
 Lee A. Fabri '71; 3/16
 Sandra L. (Walker) Ellingson Followers '71; 1/17
 Curtis J. Boyer '72; 12/17

Bruce W. Brown '72; 9/17
 Norman E. Hill '72; 10/17
 Leamon "Lee" K. Jessup '72, M.S. '78; 8/17
 Thomas A. Nesti '72; 8/17
 Steven M. Thaxton '72; 9/14
 Jean A. Vondra '72, M.S. '74; 10/16
 Andrea K. (Deist) Durham '73; 12/17
 Sharon "Mia" (Waugh) Gordon '73, M.S. '77; 5/17
 Barbara J. Gribbin '73; 8/17
 Ronald Gutkowski '73; 5/17
 Steven L. Hendrix '73; 11/16
 Joan L. (Keys) Moxon '73; 12/17
 Katherine R. Petrucci '73; 9/17
 Christine M. Sforza '73; 10/17
 Richard S. Taylor '73; 9/17
 Glenn D. Covert II '74; 9/17
 Diane (Lang) Durst '74; 12/14
 Better J. (Pieper) Gunkel '74; 11/17
 Iraj "Jerry" Kohzadi, M.S. '74; 10/16
 Linda L. (Ksiazkiewicz) Maciejewski '74; 8/17
 Patricia S. (Sortal) Orlow '74; 7/17
 Barbara (Scott) Price '74; 9/17
 Fred J. Reed '74; 9/17
 Carroll D. Ohlde, M.A. '75; 10/17
 Mary Jo (Friedl) Schuster '75; 8/17
 Mary L. (Beilfuss) Byrne '76; 3/17

Terry W. Frey '76; 8/17
 William T. Mitchell '76; 4/17
 Bonnie S. (Moriarity) Petersen '77; 10/16
 Mabelyn "Lynn" (Bertholf) Westcott, Ed.D. '77; 7/17
 Phyllis C. Hammer '78, M.S. '87; 10/16
 Lawrence T. Jacobsen, Ed.D. '78; 12/17
 Judith A. McNamara '78; 11/17
 John E. Noe Jr., M.S. '78; 1/15
 Lillian L. (Carter) Arnold, M.S. '79; 8/17
 Janet E. (Halterman) Dix '79; 12/17
 Celia E. Foltz '79; 5/17
 Thomas Giannini '79; 9/17
 John J. Kingsmill '79; 11/16
 Diane K. (Schwartz) Wickenhauser '79; 12/17

80s

Lorenzo D. Marshall '81; 8/17
 Margaret L. (Morria) Zischke '81; 10/16
 Deborah A. (Hallock) Lubbert '83; 11/17
 Craig M. Berger, M.F.A. '84; 8/17
 Debbie L. (Ritter) Lichtenwalter '84; 9/17
 Jess M. Hanna '86; 9/17

Marsha K. (Ziegler) Miller '86; 10/16
 Lois D. (Wells) Hathaway '87; 12/17
 Andrew J. Meyer '87; 5/17
 James T. Scott '87; 11/17
 Kristi L. (Heath) Yarwood Firth '88; 5/17
 Mark D. Jackson '88; 9/17

90s

Carolyn S. Engstrom '90; 10/17
 Randall D. Rhoades '90; 8/17
 Jeff K. Grafton '92; 11/16
 John "Greg" Hummel, M.S. '93; 10/16
 Todd L. Mathus '93; 11/17
 Aaron D. Hanson '95, M.S. '99; 8/17
 David A. Green '97; 9/17
 Michael Sauro '99; 10/16

00s

Peggy A. Hansen '00; 9/17
 Cori B. Ellis, M.S. '02; 9/17
 Jennifer L. Riedel '07; 11/17
 Tanya M. Childs '08; 1/16

10s

Robert E. Thompson '14; 11/17
 Michael Q. Sierra '15; 10/16
 Emily P. Houska '16; 8/17



Thanks to you!

Carson and Iris Varner trace their Illinois State connection back to 1975, when he joined the College of Business faculty. Iris soon took a position as well, resulting in the couple partnering to advance the college in myriad ways.

They created life-changing opportunities for students by creating the International Business Institute in 2008. The University remains the only public school in Illinois to offer the international business major.

The interdisciplinary program will continue to rise higher in the years ahead through the Varners' generosity, as they have announced a \$1 million gift for the institute. College Dean Ajay Samant calls the gift "transformational," as it will enhance study abroad learning experiences for students and increase global faculty expertise.

"The international business program at ISU would not have been possible without the steady encouragement and exemplary service that the Varners provided for decades," Samant said.

The two have supported ISU and the college throughout the years, including establishing the Carson and Iris Varner International Business Scholarship. Their recent investment is "the gift of our legacy," Carson said. Iris agrees.

"It will truly make a difference in terms of the international business education. We devoted our entire careers to that. This is looking forward to the future," she said.

What lies ahead excites Samant, who is certain the significant gift will "elevate the visibility of our international business program from the national to the global stage."

Will you make a difference by supporting your passion? Make a contribution to Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State by using the enclosed envelope, going online at RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu, or calling (309) 438-8184.



**ILLINOIS STATE
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Advancement Operations

Campus Box 8000

Normal, IL 61790-8000



Nature's decoration

While much has changed at Illinois State University over the decades, there are some iconic places and views that seem locked in time. Cook Hall, silhouetted by spring blossoms, stands as stately as it did when completed in 1898. Named for ISU's fourth president, John Cook, it is the oldest building on campus and is known by many as the castle on the Quad.