

ILLINOIS

STATE



ON THE ROAD

ALUM GOES NATIONWIDE AFTER LANDING HIS DREAM JOB IN THE CAR INDUSTRY.



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ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

FirstWord

Students, faculty and staff paused this month

to reflect on the enormous transition this institution has undergone since its founding 160 years ago. Beyond a shared celebration, our annual Founders Day provides the opportunity for a look at the many transformative experiences that have helped define Illinois State University.

One such transformative experience is happening on campus this year through the work of a task force formed to help ISU grow as an inclusive and welcoming environment. I appointed the task force last spring to address the findings and recommendations

of the Campus Climate Assessment, conducted during the 2015-2016 academic year by the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Race and Equity in Education, and released in late April 2016.

The Campus Climate Assessment included focus group interviews and an online survey for all students, faculty and staff members. The assessment also included an examination of current ISU diversity information. The complete 40-page assessment report can be found on the President's Office website at IllinoisState.edu/President.

The task force comprises 25 students, faculty, staff members and alumni, who represent the diverse ISU community. The group began its work during the fall

2016 semester by learning about existing programs, policies and organizations that already contribute to our core value of diversity. Many task force members were surprised by the depth and breadth of current university diversity initiatives. A compilation of those initiatives can also be found on the President's Office website.

The task force then began reviewing and discussing the Climate Assessment findings and recommendations. Based on their review, the task force has already suggested several actions, including prominently featuring the research and creative works of Illinois State women scholars of color; providing more access for employee affinity groups; expanding the award-winning ISU diversity newsletter, *Identity*; and better marketing the University's myriad of diversity efforts.

The task force will continue its work through the spring semester, making short-term and long-term action recommendations. ISU's new vice president for Student Affairs, Levester Johnson, is working closely with the task force. Coming to Illinois State after an impressive tenure at Butler University, Dr. Johnson—or L.J. as he likes to be called—has worked extensively with diversity efforts over his career, including helping establish a diversity center and diversity lecture series at Butler.

Like me, L.J. believes there is a power that comes from bringing individuals together who have a passion and commitment for creating new and evolving levels of diversity. I look forward to the task force's continued work this semester, and to its contributions to the further transformation of Illinois State University.

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

FEATURES

8 **When there is no cure**
As a young nurse, Vickie Lannie knew more could be done for terminally ill individuals. Her determination to embrace these patients resulted in her creating the first hospice in Central Illinois. Over 35 years, she has helped more than 9,000 patients find peace and empowered loved ones to stand strong. Her experience has resulted in many insights that she shares with *Illinois State* readers regarding how to best interact with a loved one in the last days of life.

12 **Driven by a passion**
Dave Magers is retired from a top corporate position. He is not, however, in idle. Magers is happily thriving in a second career that blends his love of cars with his business knowledge. Traveling the country to help sell exotic and antique automobiles worth millions is challenging and fulfilling. It is just one example of a Redbird enjoying the prime of life.

16 **Baseball's secret star**
Shoulder expert Kevin Laudner leads a double life. Part of the year, he spends at Illinois State University teaching and researching in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. The other part, he spends with the Texas Rangers working to prevent shoulder injuries to the team's players. For the last decade, Laudner has helped the team develop an innovative approach that has been mimicked across the major leagues. His work also benefits his students, who travel with him to evaluate players and gain hands-on experience.

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On the cover: Retired insurance executive and automobile enthusiast Dave Magers has finally reached one of his career goals—he's selling cars for Mecum Auctions. *Photo illustration by Evan Wallis.*





Residual loss

Study helps military with damaged hearing from combat bombs

Military men and women face many difficult issues when returning home from active duty. Among them are serious medical struggles that are frequently in the headlines. One health concern less reported is the level of hearing loss suffered, which is the focus of research by ISU Assistant Professor Antony Joseph, *above*.

He is part of a team that received \$1.2 million in grants from the U.S. Department of Defense to study the long-term impact of blast-related injuries on soldiers, sailors and Marines. The subject is of interest given his work as an audiologist and in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders, as well his military service. He joined ISU

in 2014, after retiring from the U.S. Navy as a commander.

“Blasts have a different noise signature that brings about a potentially different type of hearing loss,” Joseph said. “Most of the research on blast-related hearing loss represents civilians” and stems from events such as the Oklahoma City or Boston Marathon bombings.

“These investigations include individuals of all ages, which is not representative of the combat-military population. So we wanted a database that might explain what is happening to our blast-injured deployers who have been exposed to IEDs, mortars and other explosives.”

Joseph will analyze data from a blast-related auditory injury database that has information from nearly 17,000

Navy and Marine personnel with hearing loss. The team, made up of Joseph and Naval Health Research Center scientists, received two grants.

One will explore if auditory injuries can be a predictor for other combat-related injuries, such as post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury or depression. The second grant will examine how pre-existing hearing problems impact the extent of injury and recovery process for soldiers and sailors.

The long-term goal of the research is to gain a better understanding of how to diagnose and treat blast-related hearing loss for the military. “We want to know what makes these injuries different,” Joseph said, “and what people might be facing on the road to recovery.”

Fitness center now home to new campus Starbucks

The fall semester brought a welcome addition to campus for all within the ISU community who frequent Starbucks. A franchise of the national coffee chain opened in the lobby of the Student Fitness Center.

“Students have been asking for Starbucks for years. In fact, we did a market research study in 2015, and Starbucks was the coffee shop most requested by our students,” said Bill Legett, interim director of Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality. “We are thrilled to make this happen.”

Beyond the main recreation center entrance, the store can be reached through McCormick Hall off the Quad. In addition to its notorious beverages, the venue will provide bakery items and retail merchandise tied to Starbucks.



Campus and Student Affairs administrators celebrated the opening of Starbucks.

Federal funds continue to support nurse preparation

Menonite College of Nursing has received a federal grant of nearly \$350,000 from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support educating family nurse practitioners (FNP) this academic year.

The grant funds traineeships to increase the number of advanced practice nurses prepared as primary care providers. It also increases the number of participants caring for rural and underserved populations in clinical experiences.

“The nurse practitioner plays a vital role in the provision of primary care,” said Professor of Nursing Denise Wilson, who is director of the grant. “This includes not only the care of individuals with acute and chronic illnesses, but also stressing health promotion, disease prevention, and providing education to assist patients to optimize their health status.”

This is the third department grant the college has received. The federal funds support the 32 students in the sequence who will have tuition, fees, and stipends for classes covered this academic year.

National rankings confirm ISU's excellence continues

Data from two separate ratings show that the University maintains a strong reputation across the country for overall excellence and value.

USA Today relies on College Factual for its annual college guide. In its numbers for 2017, the company places Illinois State as 22nd in the nation for Best College for the Money. The ranking from more than 1,200 schools reflects ISU's ability to combine an excellent education, programs and services to help students succeed.

ISU was also named as one of the Best Colleges for Veterans, placing 58 among more than 1,400 schools. The University works hard to provide an environment where veteran students meet their education and life goals.

The University has also been recognized by *U.S. News and World Report*, ranking as the 78th best public university compared to 79th last year. It continues to rate excellent in student class size, with 33 percent having fewer than 20 students despite record-breaking enrollment.

ISU's increased graduation rate of 73 percent is also praised as a rate far above the national average of 60 percent for public universities, as reported by the U.S. Department of Education.

“Numbers never tell the full story, but this year's ranking shows that people are aware of the excellence of Illinois State,” President Larry Dietz said. “It is another reminder that we are a leader in public education.”

Peace Corps program advances civic training

A new certificate program is being offered to help students interested in applying for the Peace Corps work in the U.S. or abroad.

“This program is for any student who is ready for the next step in leadership and engaging in the world,” said Beverly Beyer, associate director of the Stevenson Center, where the Peace Corps Prep program will be housed.

Classes already available in ISU's curriculum will be required for completing the certificate. The Peace Corps is

Where are they now?

Since his retirement in 2012 from the Department of Politics and Government, Professor Emeritus Robert Bradley has continued his interest in civic education with media interviews and presentations. He is invited to speak at the Illinois State University Senior Professionals, Luther Oaks Academy, Illinois Wesleyan's Lunch and Learn series, and a number of community organizations.

He and his wife, former International Admissions Officer Maureen "Reenie" (Morgan) '83, split their time between Bloomington-Normal and the gulf coast community of Dunedin, Florida. Their daughter and son-in-law, Erin Bradley and Luke Broholm, reside in Chicago.

While golf, fishing and birdwatching are still a priority, Bradley is an active volunteer in both Bloomington-Normal and Dunedin. He assists with food banks, at nature preserves, as well as in hospitals and museums.

He has served on several not-for-profit boards, consulted with the Illinois and Florida Supreme Courts on access to justice concerns, and was a member of the Normal Planning Commission and a condo association board.

His current projects include landscaping, disaster relief, the Young Hearts for Life program, community development, and co-curating an updated politics gallery at the McLean County Museum of History.

Bradley enjoyed his 30 years of teaching at Illinois State and working with students on co-curricular projects. He still believes that the University provides the best undergraduate education in Illinois. He would love to hear from former students and welcomes them to visit in Bloomington or Dunedin. He can be reached at rbradley@IllinoisState.edu.



Politics and Government Professor Emeritus Bob Bradley

also funding a graduate assistant at Illinois State to serve as a campus recruiter.

The program is open to all majors, and application to the Peace Corps is not required to earn the credential. Those who do become volunteers will tackle needs of people around the world.

Mosquito life cycle key in research against virus

The problem of stopping serious disease from expanding through mosquitoes is the focus of research by a team of ISU students led by Distinguished Professor of Ecology Steven Juliano.

He received a \$435,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health to investigate the best time during the life cycle of mosquitoes to kill them.

The three-year grant allows for exploring ways to reduce mosquito populations without increasing growth, which can happen with some chemical insecticides as adults survive. Juliano is targeting mosquitoes that can carry

viruses, such as Zika, West Nile, yellow fever and dengue.

In controlled lab experiments, Juliano and his students will study how different species of mosquitoes react to the timing of added mortality. The work will be done in Central Illinois, the St. Louis area and in Florida.

"We want to know when mortality of larvae produces the best result, and how different mosquito species differ in their response," Juliano said. "Timing may need to be tailored to the species."

Dedicated CAST academic chosen as college's dean

Todd McLoda is dean for the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST). He began the job in January, replacing interim dean Jan Murphy. He joined CAST in 2000 as a faculty member and director of the athletic training program in the School of Kinesiology and Recreation, which earned national accreditation under his leadership.

With a doctorate from Ohio University, McLoda earned the rank of professor of athletic training at ISU. In 2006 he was named assistant director of the school, developing the athletic training major and completely revising the graduate sequence in athletic training. McLoda became an associate dean of CAST and was named senior associate dean in 2015.

McLoda's work has appeared in scholarly journals and has been supported with more than \$700,000 in grants and contracts, including \$250,000 from the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Computer protection is goal of new program

An undergraduate degree in cybersecurity has been approved through the University's Board of Trustees. The degree program will be offered through the School of Information Technology.

To the Editor,

I really enjoyed the article *Exceptional English niche* (May 2016). I graduated in 1976 with a degree in elementary education. I do not remember any of my professors except Professor Taimi Ranta. I love books, and I loved her class. I took as many classes from her as I could. I still have a few of the assignments I had to do for her class. I used what I learned from her in my years of teaching. She was a great influence in my career as a teacher. Thank you for the article and the memories.

Tamara (Bateman) Wheatley '76

To the Editor,

Imagine my surprise when I read the May issue of *Illinois State* and saw the picture of Jamie Schumacher with a group of Haitian children (*A heart for Haiti*). Four of the girls were wearing pillowcase dresses that I had made.

I retired after 35 years of teaching all levels of special needs students. I manage Threadworks Cottage Kindness Sewing Mission. It serves counties in central Pennsylvania as well as Appalachia and Indian reservations.

It's amazing what a few minutes of time can do to brighten the lives of others. We seldom see our outfits in use, so this was a real treat. I wish Jamie continued success with her compassionate endeavors.

Deborah (Johnson) Richter, M.A. '71

To the Editor,

I was delighted to see the well-deserved praise of the children's literature offerings at ISU (May 2016). It brought back a wonderful memory of 1953, when as a special education major I took children's literature. Some of the books read are still my favorites today!

I returned to my native state of Oklahoma and applied for a teaching certificate. Oklahoma required a library science class for a teaching certificate. I gave them a synopsis of my children's literature class and got my certificate! That class saved the day. Thank you ISU!

JimAnn (Smith) Oliver '53

The bachelor's degree curriculum will help students acquire the knowledge and skills necessary for protecting information and information systems. Students will be prepared to assess the security needs of computer and network systems; recommend safeguard solutions; and manage the implementation and maintenance of security devices, systems and procedures.

The 80-credit hour degree is an extension of the existing information assurance and security sequence within the school. Enrollment in the new major is projected to be 125 students once the program is fully implemented.

Professor's study of genes tied to muscular dystrophy

Individuals suffering with "limb girdle" muscular dystrophy will appreciate research in the School of Biological Sciences. Alysia Vrailas-Mortimer, assistant professor on aging and physiology, is studying genetic keys tied to the disease.



Assistant Biological Sciences Professor Alysia Vrailas-Mortimer

A \$435,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health will help her and students focus on why the disease attacks muscles in the shoulder or pelvis. The result is inability to walk or lift the arms. There is no cure.

Scientists have identified 31 genes tied to limb girdle muscular dystrophy. Mortimer's team has one that may contribute to the disorder, as well as Parkinson's and Alzheimer's.

She believes if the gene called p38 is not working properly, there can be a build-up of toxic proteins that can lead to muscle weakness motor dysfunction. Studies are conducted using the fruit fly, a close genetic relative of humans.

"About 75 percent of all genes that cause diseases in humans have an equivalent in the fly," Mortimer said. "Because the fly has such a simpler system, and we know its genome, we can understand how it might contribute to a disease in a very basic way."

Bat deaths at wind farms topic for ISU researchers

The mystery behind large numbers of dead bats around wind farms is the focus of research by Associate Zoology Professor Angelo Capparella. Theories include spinning blades creating localized low-pressure fronts that rupture their lungs.

"We found they were essentially getting whacked when they migrated" and came into contact with wind turbine blades with tips that can spin more than 100 miles per hour.

"When they migrate, they do not echo-locate because they only use that when they are feeding or moving through forests," Capparella said. "They are not adapted to anticipate there will suddenly be big, metal structures in their way."

He is working to learn more about bat migration so that wind farms can adjust turbine speeds and avoid the deaths. Bats are difficult to study, however, because they are nocturnal and vocalize in a range above human hearing.

Ultrasonic recorders catch the sonic calls of bats as they hunt for insects. The Echo Meter recordings can be matched to a database to identify the bat species. Associate Professor of Geography John Kostelnick then maps migration routes that will help protect bats, which are important to the ecosystem.

"They are really vital in the food web," Capparella said, as they eat pests.

Redbird Athletics



National accolades

Recognizing Redbird's role in collegiate basketball

The late Darell Garretson, a Redbird athlete credited with shaping collegiate basketball officiating, was inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame during the fall.

A native of Long Point, Garretson played on the ISU men's basketball "B" team during the 1950-1951 season. He was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 1983 in recognition of his contributions to the game of basketball.

After serving in the U.S. Navy, Garretson officiated recreational, high school and college basketball games while working as a salesman. His life changed when he was hired by the National Basketball Association in 1967, initially to serve as chief of staff over officials.

Garretson's career included officiating five NBA All-Star games. He was eventually put in charge of supervising, assigning, training and evaluating the NBA officiating crew. He is praised for increasing the number of referees from two to three beginning in the 1988-1989 season, allowing for better coverage of the entire court.

The concept of refereeing the defense also began with Garretson. He encouraged officials to put their focus on a defensive player instead of keeping their attention on the ball. He was instrumental in organizing and heading the National Association of Basketball Referees, which was the first representation available to those handling officiating.

From 1981 until 1998, Garretson served as NBA chief of officiating staff

and as director of officials. He is the only person to hold the leadership role while still serving as a referee. He retired in 1994 and died in 2008.

Garretson was one of 10 individuals named to the national hall of fame in 2016. Others chosen for the honor included NBA All-Star Allen Iverson; Tom Izzo, twice named NABC Coach of the Year; John McLendon, first African-American professional league coach; NBA Finals MVP Shaquille O'Neal; and four-time WNBA champion Sheryl Swoopes.

Illinois State men's basketball great Doug Collins '73 was also honored during the fall with induction into the National Collegiate Basketball Hall of Fame, as reported in the August 2016 issue of *Illinois State*.

Soccer Redbirds take regular season title

The Illinois State soccer team had a historic season, achieving a 15-game unbeaten streak, which is the longest in program and Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) soccer history.

After winning their 11th regular-season title last fall at Evansville, the Redbirds continued their success in the MVC tournament. They were seeded No. 1 heading into the tournament and came out on top.

“I am so proud of our team and their performance,” said head coach Eric Golz. This earned the Redbirds their seventh automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament in program history. They faced the University of Michigan in the first round, advancing to the second round against the Blue Devils of Duke in Durham, N.C. After a close first half, the Blue Devils pulled away with a 3-1 victory. Illinois State finished the season with a 14-6-3 record. “This team has made so much progress in the past year,” Golz said.



Coach inducted into college hall of fame

Melinda Fischer, head softball coach and the winningest coach in ISU history, has been inducted into the College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame. Fischer '72, M.S. '75, was a student-athlete who helped the Redbirds to the 1969 Women's College World Series.

Fischer, who is also in ISU's Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame, began coaching at ISU in 1974 as a graduate assistant. She has led the softball program since 1986, earning nine NCAA Regional appearances and 10 regular season Missouri Valley Conference titles. She has two Gateway Conference regular season championships to her credit and four MVC Tournament titles.

Only 18 head coaches in NCAA Division I softball have won 1,000 games in their coaching career. Fischer can claim such an honor with 1,020. Beyond leading total wins as an ISU coach, she is the MVC All-Centennial Head Softball Coach. She has a combined nine MVC and Gateway regular season championships and is included in the NFCA Hall of Fame.

Fischer continues to utilize her softball knowledge, not only as a coach and administrator, but also as a teacher. She shares her skill through camps and clinics, while continuing to mold Illinois State into a national contender.



Ashley Rosch and Jill Hutchison

Athletes take top honors

The success of student-athletes during the 2015-2016 academic year was celebrated during the annual academic excellence awards ceremony sponsored by State Farm. The Reggies event was held last fall.

Top winners of the evening were Ashley Rosch and Ryan Rutherford, volleyball and cross country respectively. Rosch was named Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year, with Rutherford capturing the Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year honors.

Illinois State student-athletes overall posted a combined GPA of 3.15 during the fall of 2015, as 294 student-athletes made the AFNI Honor Roll. They turned in a record-breaking 3.23 GPA during the spring of 2016, with 295 on the honor roll.

In addition to classroom success, student-athletes completed more than 2,500 hours of community service during the 2015-16 academic year.

ISU ready to host four Valley championships

Illinois State will host four Missouri Valley Conference Championships during the 2016-17 school year. ISU last served as host for all four of the championships in 2014.

“It is always a privilege to host MVC championships, and we are pleased to be able to bring four back to Normal,” Director of Athletics Larry Lyons said. “We will strive to provide a great championship experience for the student-athletes competing on our campus.”

The action began in November with the 2016 women's soccer championship. The 2017 men's and women's tennis team championship will be played in April, while the 2017 softball championship is set for May.

The Valley on ESPN3 will air all softball games during the tournament.

when
EVERY
MOMENT
matters

Alumna fulfills life mission
creating hospice care

By Kate Arthur



As a young nurse, she didn't understand why dying patients were kept at the end of the hallway with their doors closed.

Vickie Lannie asked her nursing supervisor, "Why do we do this to people? When they need us the most, why do we put them furthest away and never go in there?"

The answer came back, "Because we don't know what to do, and we don't know what to say." That started Lannie on a 35-year mission, establishing the first hospice in Central Illinois that led to comforting more than 9,000 patients and their families—even if it meant driving through heavy snow or away from the tail of a tornado while trying to make it to the home of a dying patient.

When the 1965 Mennonite School of Nursing graduate started her career on a medical/surgical unit at Mennonite Hospital, no one knew what hospice was. Medicine was focused on cures and treatments, not letting death in. Lannie clearly remembers the first time a patient told her she was dying. "I didn't know how to respond," she said.



Soon after she saw a brochure about a workshop with Elisabeth Kubler-Ross, the Swiss psychiatrist who wrote the groundbreaking book *On Death and Dying*. She identified the five stages of grief and the importance of listening to what dying patients tell us.

A hospital volunteer who provided music therapy attended along with Lannie, who would occasionally join in with her guitar. Kubler-Ross heard about their nontraditional therapy and announced from the podium that she'd like to have lunch with them. Lannie had

duced herself and the two talked until morning. She spent the next five years in independent study with the hospice pioneer, traveling to her Flossmoor home. Years later, when her mentor's health was failing, Lannie visited and cared for her, lifting her in and out of bed each day.

Inspired to bring hospice to Central Illinois, Lannie started a program at Methodist Medical Center in Peoria. That began her long career of advocating for the dying and their families, while educating physicians and hospital staff.

patient's only or last church. Their spiritual well-being, however they expressed it, was as important as their physical well-being."

She also wanted to share knowledge, including three things critical to the dying: They want to be assured their pain will be controlled; to know their family and friends will be allowed to be with them; and that their life had meaning and purpose. One question frequently asked is: How am I going to die?

Lannie explains the progression of the specific disease and listens for the

“I wanted to know everything I needed to know.”

committed to eating with the woman next to her, who was crying throughout the presentation, grieving the recent loss of her daughter.

But that night, while unlocking her hotel room door, Lannie heard a woman speaking Swiss struggling with her key and knew it was Kubler-Ross. She intro-

Several disciplines are weaved into hospice care, and Lannie wanted to study all of them. She completed a bachelor's in sociology and psychology, with a master's in pastoral theology.

“I wanted to know everything I needed to know,” said Lannie, who is now 72. “Sometimes we were the

next question. If it doesn't come, she avoids prompting. Beyond symptoms and fears, Lannie also listens to a patient's memories.

“My experience as a Mennonite student nurse included the teaching and skills to look past all else to see the patient, to listen in reverence to their

story,” she said. “I am grateful for that kind of humane, compassionate training from the best school ever.”

Often she’s asked if working with the

seen came through it. Lannie remembers the swish of her uniform, her chalk white shoes and perfectly straight cap. The nurse told her they were putting a

“It’s reciprocal. They teach you how to live, and we teach them how to die.”

dying is depressing. Quite the opposite.

“It’s reciprocal. They teach you how to live, and we teach them how to die. You’re with patients every day who are saying goodbye to everything. And you’re still saying hello to new adventures, new opportunities. When you realize that you are finite, that you are mortal, you don’t take things for granted.”

At 49, Lannie had to struggle with her own mortality. She needed triple heart bypass surgery, and her cardiologist warned that her work was killing her. She admits making the common mistake of believing that everything on her to-do list was important.

“For most people all they have to do is open the office door, and they’re caught up in all the illusionary urgencies of life. And then all of a sudden, a call comes and they are forcibly reminded of what is really important.”

She learned that at 9 while growing up in a small town in Ohio. She and her older sister, Connie, jumped on their bikes and raced to the pool on summer days, going in different directions. Her sister always beat her until one day, Lannie got to the pool and didn’t see her. Ecstatic, she threw her bike down and jumped in.

But 45 minutes later, she was called out of the pool and told her sister had been hit by a car. Grabbing her bike, she pedaled to the hospital as fast as she could and sat alone in the waiting room. Crying and dripping wet, she believed her sister was dead.

A sign said no children under 12 were allowed. As she started for the door, the most beautiful nurse she’d ever

big cast on her sister’s leg and she could watch, and then she scooped her up.

“The whole time she carried me down that corridor, there was a voice inside of me saying, “This is what I’m going to be when I grow up,” Lannie remembered.

Although she tried to thank the nurse the next day, no one seemed to know who she was. It wasn’t until a decade later, when Lannie was a first-year nursing student at Mennonite and faculty were being introduced, that she saw her again. Kathy Yutzee had moved from that same small town more than 300 miles away to teach at Mennonite.

“You talk about providence,” Lannie said.

More than 50 years later, her connection to Mennonite remains strong. The 2015 recipient of the Mennonite Distinguished Alumni Award is a popular speaker at the annual candlelight ceremony and serves as director of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization. She has left her home to the college in her estate plan, designating the proceeds be used for scholarships. Her only regret is that she won’t be able to meet those students.

“They will be my children,” Lannie said. She and her late husband, Bernard, were never parents. “Students helped by the financial support will reach out and minister to the ill, the dying. It will just be an extension of my heart, my principals, my philosophy and my hands. I would just love to meet them so badly now, but that’s OK. What I care about is that my house and the land will make this profession possible for someone else.”

What you need to know

There are no easy answers for how to handle the impending death of a loved one. Elisabeth Kubler-Ross identified five stages of grief: denial, anger, bargaining, depression and acceptance. Alumna Vickie Lannie knows from experience how to help the terminally ill.

Follow their lead. If they want to talk about dying, listen. It’s likely the person understands what’s happening.

Allow them to tell their story. Reassure them the survivors will be OK. If the person has small children, offer assurance that they will be cared for and loved.

Provide as much normalcy and routine as possible.

Reassure the loved one that the pain will be controlled, then keep them comfortable.

When conversation is no longer possible, still connect physically. A gentle touch lets them know they’re not alone.

Keep talking, even when they’re no longer able to respond. Get close to their ears. Hearing is the last sense to leave the body, so it’s possible they can still hear you. Avoid loud noises, but have their favorite music playing when no one is in the room.

Always leave on a soft or dim light. People who are dying will often turn toward light.

The dying often use symbolic language. If they talk about wanting to go “home,” ask what that means. It may mean the comfort or security of home, not the place, or it may have religious meaning. Work to get them home with hospice care.

Say goodbye before it’s too late. The dying have an uncanny ability to choose the moment of death. Many will wait until the family leaves. Understand it may be the patient’s choice to spare loved ones those final moments.

F U L L
S P E E D
A H E A D





A L U M N U S T R A D E S
B O A R D R O O M F O R C A R L O T

B Y J O H N M O O D Y

All Dave Magers ever wanted to be was a car salesman. He loved classic and exotic cars and didn't really care if he sold any. He just wanted to be around them. Life steered him in another direction, but his passion never faded.

Magers '77, MBA '86, is a car guy from birth. His dad loved cars, and his grandfather and uncles were mechanics. Growing up, his family had a one-car garage, but they always had at least four vehicles.

He and his dad restored their first car together—a 1927 Chevrolet—when Magers was 14. At about that same time he bought his first car, an Austin Healey Sprite.

"I didn't have a driver's license, so I wasn't supposed to take it out of the garage," Magers recalled. "One day my friend and I decided to take it for a spin when my parents weren't home. I tore the driver's door off backing it out of the garage."

The consequences didn't lessen his love for the automobile, which endured into adulthood and marriage. Over their 33 years of married life, he's often

reminded his wife Karen (Roop) '79, of his original ambition.

Now 61 and having completed a fabulous career at COUNTRY Financial—where he spent more than three decades with the Farm Bureau family of companies—Magers has finally arrived in the car business.

The transition was made possible by Dana Mecum, president of Mecum Auction Company. Mecum's specialty is selling collector cars. The company is described as follows online (Mecum.com): "The Mecum Auction Company is the world leader of collector car, vintage and antique motorcycle, and Road Art sales, hosting auctions throughout the United States."

Magers and Mecum met through David Burrows in 2008. Burrows had been vice president of marketing at COUNTRY before leaving to run the Bloomington Corvette Show, which Mecum purchased.

Burrows asked Magers if he would be available to meet Mecum and provide some advice. That was August of 2012. Magers soon had an offer to work with Mecum handling legal and financial

issues. The opportunity was enough for him to leave his role as chief financial officer at COUNTRY in his rearview mirror.

"On January 1, 2013, I retired from COUNTRY after 35 years," Magers said. It was time, at last, to go sell cars.

Magers' long-suppressed automotive ambition didn't include peddling just any car. Ferrari was the nameplate he'd always wanted to sell. He's doing exactly that, along with just about any other brand on wheels you can think of, as he travels the country helping Mecum put on high-energy auctions.

Magers hangs out in places like Austin, Las Vegas, Denver, the Monterey Peninsula, Anaheim, Louisville, Dallas, Chicago, and Kansas City, to name some stops on the company's annual tour of two dozen cities.

Mecum does things in a big way. The company annually takes more than 15,000 vehicles to market. That's a value in the range of about \$500 million per year. Mecum's biggest event is a 10-day auction in Kissimmee, Florida, with some 3,000 collector cars up for sale at an estimated value of \$100 million. It is the

largest collector car auction in the world, Magers said, drawing even individuals unable to make a purchase.

“No matter what your pocketbook looks like, or if you’re just coming as a spectator, there’s something for you at a Mecum Auction,” he said.

The real joy for Magers is in the emotional connection that people have to certain vehicles. There’s no question that when cars sell for \$5 million to \$7 million it’s a lot of fun, Magers said, but there’s no beating the excitement of certain special moments. It’s something he sees regularly in his work.

“I really like the stories where there is a lot of emotion and sentimentality attached to either the sale or the purchase of a vehicle,” he said.

Last year in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, a man told Magers and Mecum he was there for the very same car he’d known in his childhood.

“I’m here to buy a ’56 Buick in your showroom,” the man said. “I remember when I was a kid, we loaded up and took a drive to get milkshakes, and I spilled mine and stained the back seat. I’m here to buy that car, stain and all, and I’m going to give it to my dad for Father’s Day.”

Magers told the camera crew during a production meeting to be prepared. When the time came, Magers said, the man placed bids on the car unemotionally until the hammer fell, indicating he had the winning bid and had purchased the car.

“He fell apart, head in his hands,” Magers said. “It was the best moment we’ve had.”

Magers considers himself lucky to be doing work he’s dreamed of for three decades.

“I truly enjoy what I am doing. I have to remind friends that it is still a business, with all the challenges of any business,” he said. He is grateful this encore career

allows him as “a car guy for my life, and coming from a family of car guys, a great opportunity to converge professional training and ability with personal interest.”

Magers considers himself lucky to be doing work he’s dreamed of for three decades.

Job satisfaction comes from the diverse nature of projects that range from auctions and finance to legal, regulations and sales.

“Being away from the mega corporate environment allows me to get involved in all aspects of the business, move quickly without numerous committees and meetings, and get timely feedback on what works and what doesn’t,” Magers said.

He travels regularly to New York City, where he’s immersed in the minutiae of negotiating network contracts. NBC’s sports network is where you can catch Mecum Auctions on TV, usually

multiple times per week.

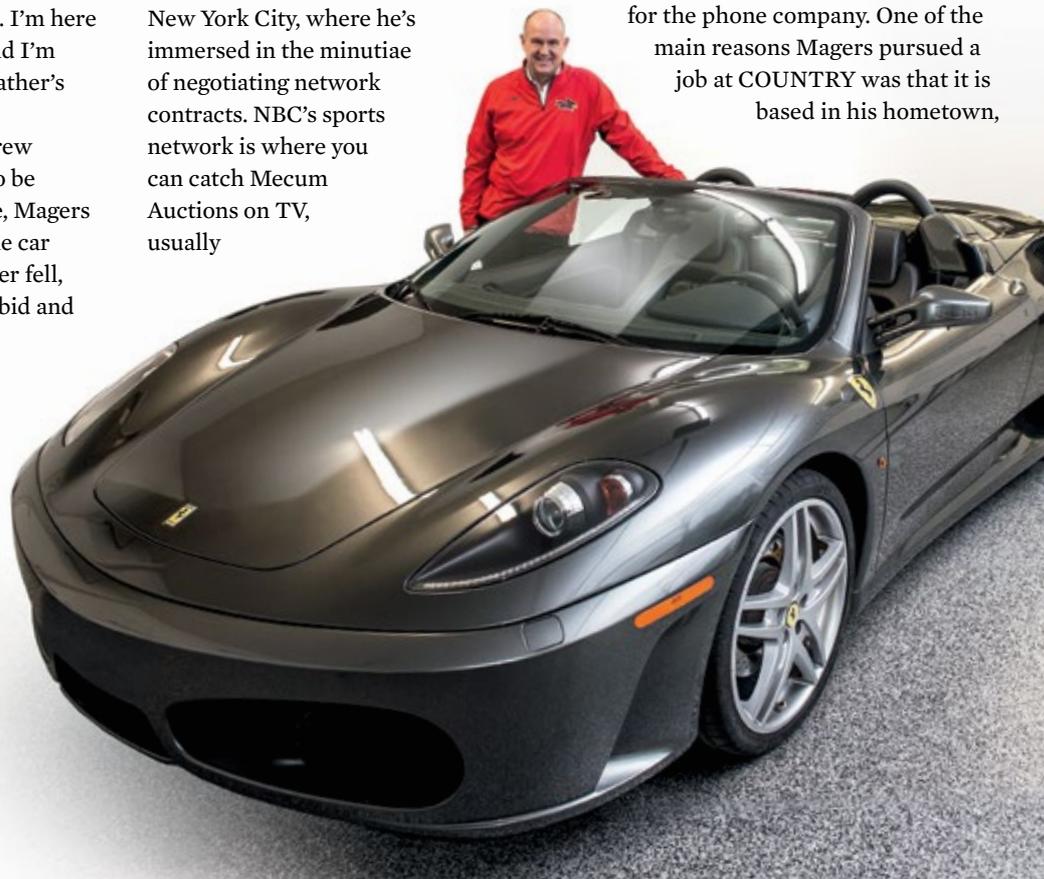
“I’ll be sitting in 30 Rock (NBC headquarters) just outside the SNL studio in a meeting with NBC executives and ask myself: ‘How did I end up here?’”

Television is particularly interesting for Magers, who “never thought about overnight ratings before.” It’s also fun to occasionally work with celebrities. The Mecum group has done business with Jerry Lee Lewis, Richard Petty, David Spade and Josh Flagg from TV’s *Million Dollar Listing Los Angeles*.

“What I like about the celebrity side of the business is when we get together, they aren’t celebrities,” Magers said. “We are all just car guys.”

Weekdays he lives in a Chicago condo and makes 80-mile daily trips to the Mecum offices in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin. Weekends are spent in Bloomington with Karen, who is director of the Bloomington Eye Institute.

His local roots are strong. His mother, Irma, was a florist at Novak Flowers. His father, Jack, worked for the phone company. One of the main reasons Magers pursued a job at COUNTRY was that it is based in his hometown,





which he did not want to leave. He grew up in a neighborhood separated from the company’s headquarters by a cornfield.

An accounting undergraduate, he was inducted into ISU’s College of Business Hall of Fame in 2010. He and Karen received the Distinguished Alumni Award this year. They remain very connected to Illinois State, attending events throughout the year and supporting the University. There are two scholarships in their names. The Karen and David Magers Scholarship Fund, established by Karen who graduated from the Mennonite School of Nursing, supports undergraduate nursing

students. Their second scholarship, the David and Karen Magers Insurance Scholarship Fund, was established at the Katie School of Insurance and Financial Services. This College of Business scholarship provides financial support for junior and senior students majoring or minoring in insurance. Both funds were established in 2009.

“ISU will always be important to Karen and me,” Magers said. “We still have a great many friends at ISU and friendships all over the country that started at ISU. It still feels like home every time we are there.”

Redbird PRIME

New experiences for ISU alumni 55+

Alumni Relations staff members have taken notice in recent years that the University’s “prime” graduates have adopted a very active lifestyle. What was once viewed as a time in life to empty the calendar with children raised, grandchildren to enjoy, and retirement plans either made or executed has instead become a season with a heavy schedule.

Individuals from age 55 on now travel and volunteer more often, are actively engaged in community initiatives, and often even start a second career, as did Dave Magers. Alumni Relations staff asked how Illinois State could engage with this group’s busy lifestyle. The answer resulted in the start of an alumni group dedicated to those 55 years or older, which led to the creation of the Redbird Prime Alumni Network.

From social and professional events to educational opportunities and outings, Redbird Prime helps expand an alum’s network of contacts and continue his or her Illinois State University experience. The network will offer several services tailored to the interest of Redbird Prime alumni, from travel programs and campus events to giving opportunities that support each person’s passion.

One event sponsored by the Redbird Prime Alumni Network is the Half Century Club reunion weekend this spring. Attendees will celebrate their 50th anniversary of graduation by reminiscing about their time on campus and witnessing the progress the University has made within the past five decades. More information on this year’s Half Century Club weekend can be found on page 23.

To learn more about the Redbird Prime Alumni Network, visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Prime. To get involved in the planning of programs and activities for the network, contact Colleen Rice at cglongo@IllinoisState.edu or (800) 366-4478.

Game Changer

ISU's 'shoulder guy' finds second home in major leagues

By *Kate Arthur*

Every February, Major League Baseball pitchers and catchers report to spring training. And so does Kevin Laudner.

The Illinois State University kinesiologist, also known as “the shoulder guy,” has been working with the Texas Rangers’ training staff for over a decade. His expertise has been critical in a sport where shoulder injuries are what most often put pitchers on the disabled list. But don’t blame the shoulder.

“When you throw a baseball, all the force and power is developed in the legs,” Laudner said. “That gets sent up through the core and eventually through the shoulder, elbow, and out through the ball. The force goes from one joint to the next, and these forces build up. The shoulder is the weakest joint, so it’s usually the one that sustains the injury, even if the disruption in that kinetic chain is somewhere else.”

Often weakness or tightness in the hips or lower back disrupts the chain, and the shoulder loses out. Even professional athletes with tremendous shoulder strength and flexibility may be lacking hip strength and flexibility, which can result in a shoulder injury.

Twelve years ago, Laudner was looking to work for a professional baseball team when he met a Rangers’ athletic trainer at a conference. Not long after, Laudner got a call from the Rangers’ team physician, Dr. Keith Meister. They talked about Laudner’s research on shoulder injuries for over an hour. Subsequently, Laudner was invited to meet with the Rangers’ medical staff at spring training in Arizona, and he has been working with the team ever since.

“He’s been a phenomenal partner,” Meister said. “He’s a finisher. He takes the data we collect and makes something

valuable out of it. You don’t find many people who do it as efficiently and thoroughly as he does. It’s not like there’s going to be a cure, but as we build an understanding, we can get better, smarter and build prevention programs that can head off injuries.”

When Laudner wrote his dissertation on shoulder injuries at the University of Pittsburgh, there was a paucity of data. But what he found on athletes was surprising.

“I started looking at things like hip and low back strength and range of motion, and in some of those top-level athletes, it was terrible. They were so tight and so weak, and you’d think that wouldn’t be the case.”

Laudner now splits his time between Illinois State’s School of Kinesiology and Recreation, where he has been a professor since 2004, and the Texas Metroplex Institute for Sports Medicine & Orthopedics (TMI) in Arlington, where he is director of research, overseeing the collection and analysis of data from the Center for Sport and Motion Analysis Laboratory.

“We do a lot of analyses of pitchers, both preventative and after they’ve come from surgery and rehab, to look at their mechanics and hopefully prevent injuries from recurring,” he





said. “I’ve benefitted from it a lot because I get a ton of data for my research, and the team has benefitted because we’ve seen decreases in the amount of their injuries.”

When the players report for their physicals in spring training, Laudner is at one of the medical stations, along with one or more of his Illinois State students. They evaluate

screening tool that will determine whether an athlete is at an increased risk for a shoulder injury. “It’s very difficult to try and figure out what that screening tool is, and lots of people have tried without much success so we’re looking for it.”

At the Texas clinic, he also collects data from college and high school players. Research has shown there is no significant



Professor Kevin Laudner demonstrates how he assesses the shoulder and elbow as part of his research to prevent injuries in athletes.

“If you can prevent injuries occurring at a younger age, you can significantly reduce their likelihood in high school, college, and maybe the professional level.”

players at the beginning and end of the season, and times in-between. Laudner travels to all the team’s sites, including the minor league affiliates scattered across the country. And if the team starts to see multiple injuries in a particular area of the body, he works with the staff to come up with a game plan.

At one point, the Rangers had one of the lowest incidence of injuries in all of Major League Baseball. About that time other teams started similar types of prevention programs to the one Laudner developed for the Rangers.

His research is widely disseminated, and that’s led to work with other teams, including the Pittsburgh Pirates and Chicago Cubs. He’s also seeing colleagues at other universities partner with major league teams. “It was not that way earlier, so it’s great to see more people seeing the value,” he said.

Laudner is working with the Rangers’ staff to develop a

difference between the mechanics used by younger athletes and those deployed by professionals; the force is just greater in the latter group. Younger athletes typically don’t have a lot of scar tissue, so they can respond quickly to stretching. This is often the key to preventing injuries.

“We see the same incidence and prevalence of injuries at the younger levels as we do in professional athletes, and it’s getting worse,” Laudner said. “If you can prevent injuries occurring at a younger age, you can significantly reduce their likelihood in high school, college, and maybe the professional level.”

The increase in injuries is something he attributes to athletes specializing in baseball early in life and competing year-round. He speaks to coaches, players, and parents about simple exercises that the athletes can do to decrease the risk

of injury. He also tells them about the importance of taking time off from baseball and resting completely or playing other sports that don't stress the shoulder and elbow.

When Laudner began his research, he wondered how he'd ever make a career out of studying the shoulder. Now, it's the opposite.

"There's so much we don't know it can be frustrating. Every time I finish a study, I think of three or four more questions that need to be answered. We will never completely stop injuries from occurring; it's impossible. It seems the more we know, the more we realize we don't know enough."

Although the shoulder is his specialty, Laudner is OK with being asked about other joints, but shoulders and baseball are a perfect fit for the former high school catcher.

"I love baseball and got into sports medicine partially because of it and fell into teaching and research. As soon as I started doing it, I realized how this can have a huge impact on the quality of life for a large number of people. And when spring training comes along and there's snow on the ground here and you get to watch some baseball for your work in Arizona, it's not bad."

SHOULDER EXERCISES

Shoulders are among the human body's weakest joints. Ninety percent of people over 60 years old have rotator cuff tears. Working over a keyboard, reaching for the steering wheel, even pulling dinner plates from the cabinet can stress the joint.

"Rarely do I see anybody who doesn't have rounded shoulders and forward head (posture). We are all guilty of it," Illinois State shoulder expert Kevin Laudner said. "Unfortunately, this rounded and forward position places increased stress on the shoulder, creating a pathological cycle until serious injury occurs."

Laudner recommends these stretches to help prevent injury:

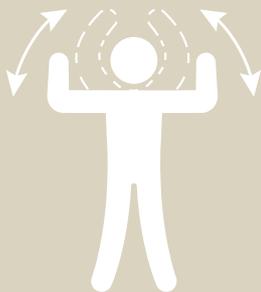
Rows

These can be done in numerous positions. The idea is to create a rowing motion as if you are grabbing something in front of you and then pulling it backward by flexing your elbow and extending/retracting your shoulders. End by squeezing your shoulder blades together.



Wall angels

Stand with your back and tailbone flat against the wall (feet away from the wall). Then raise your arms to your side and flex your elbows to 90 degrees, so that the back of the entire arm is against the wall. Slowly raise your arms up and then lower them back down while keeping your tailbone, back, and arms against the wall at all times.



I's, Y's, T's

Lie on your stomach, or stand while bending forward. To form the I position, squeeze your shoulder blades together, with your arms parallel to your sides. Then stretch your arms in front of you to form a Y. Finally, perform a T by bringing the shoulders back and straightening out your arms in a 90-degree angle from your body. Each motion should end with you pinching the shoulder blades together.





Ask a Redbird Scholar

By *Kate Arthur and Rachel Hatch*

Our top faculty experts answer questions from the Illinois State community.

To submit a question, email kdberse@IllinoisState.edu or tweet to [@ISUResearch](https://twitter.com/ISUResearch).

I understand that nearly everyone has Neanderthal DNA, but are there other traces of species of early humans that are found in the human genome?

—*Allie Beam, freshman, University High School*

Actually not everyone carries Neanderthal genes; only people with Eurasian origins do. Africans or African-derived people do not have these genes, unless their ancestry includes persons of European or Asian origin.

The contribution of Neandertals is consistently small, averaging 1.6–2.1 percent of the total genome, and the averages are about the same for mainland Asians and Europeans. Interestingly, there is another genome of archaic (premodern) humans known from a cave in the Altai Mountains of Siberia. The Denisova Cave has yielded a finger bone with a genome similar to—but distinct from—those of Neandertals. These Denisovans also contribute to modern human populations, particularly to some peoples in Southeast Asia and Melanesia, and they also contribute small amounts to other Eurasians.

Recently, I finally had my DNA analyzed by the National Geographic Genome Project. As someone who has studied Neandertals for almost 50 years, I was devastated to find out I had only 1.8 percent Neanderthal genes in my genome. I was hoping for 5–6 percent, which is the maximum documented in living people. Interestingly, though, I have a 2.3 percent Denisovan contribution.

So what does this tell us about the ancestry of modern Eurasians? It is important to remember that the vast majority of genes carried by modern Eurasians stem from Africa. Both genetic and fossil data clearly show that modern humans originated first in Africa, between 172,000 and 196,000 years ago.

Fossil evidence demonstrates that modern people first left Africa about 100,000 years ago, spreading initially to the Near

East and then eastward through southern Asia. They did not reach Europe until about 40,000 years ago.

For decades, it was argued that these modern people moving from Africa totally replaced the archaic people, like the Neandertals, rendering them extinct in the classic sense of the term. I was one of the minority of researchers who argued, based on morphology, that Neandertals made relatively small contributions to the first modern populations in Europe. In 1989 I formally introduced a new model of modern human origins, the Assimilation Model, based on the morphological evidence. The Assimilation Model was not widely accepted at the time, but thanks to the genomic evidence of Neanderthal and Denisovan contributions, it is now generally considered a very robust model to explain the beginning of people like us.

Fred Smith, University Professor of Anthropology, Department of Sociology and Anthropology

Why don't we have weather in space?

—*Kate Arthur, editorial writer, University Marketing and Communications*

Oh, but there is weather in space as discussed in such places as the Spaceweather.com website. Solar radiation and the solar wind are the most important parts of space weather relative to Earth.

Sunshine is the visible portion of solar radiation and is the driving force in our weather, giving us day and night, summer and winter. About 70 percent of solar radiation is absorbed across the Earth, bringing warmth and driving photosynthesis. The other 30 percent is reflected back to space.

Our atmosphere is a collection of gases and particles held here by gravity. Rain, snow, thunderstorms, tornadoes, hurricanes, and blizzards are what we think of as the exciting parts of our weather, but these occur only in the lowest level of the atmosphere.

Larger commercial planes fly into the stratosphere, which extends above the heights that thunderstorms and hurricanes reach. Perhaps you have had the pleasure of looking down on the tops of thunderstorms. The weather in the stratosphere and in higher levels of the atmosphere is different from what we experience in the lowest level, the troposphere.

The highest levels of our atmosphere are made up of more exotic materials and magnetic fields. The solar wind consists of streams of ionized gases that interact with the magnetic fields of the Earth. In some cases these interactions produce the auroras, better known as the northern lights and southern lights. Bursts in the solar wind may disrupt radio broadcasts and overload electrical systems.

Weathercasters report on solar flares and will predict stronger solar winds that might produce auroras or disrupt communications here.

While we seldom pay attention to weather in space, it exists and has influence on our lives here at the surface.

James Carter, professor emeritus, Department of Geography-Geology

I seem to have noticed more monarch butterflies recently than in years past. Is the population rebounding, or is it just my imagination?

—John Baur, associate vice president for Research and Graduate Studies

The answer is yes and no. You probably saw more monarch butterflies last summer because there has been a boost in their numbers for 2015–2016. But no, sadly, we cannot say they are rebounding from long-term declines.

In general, there has been a decline in the monarch numbers over the past 20 to 25 years. In North America, there are two main populations, both migratory—the western population migrating down to California and the eastern migrating to Mexico to overwinter. The eastern population has declined about 90 percent and the western 50 percent.

It's the eastern monarch population that we see around the Midwest. The adults, who are not fully mature, go down and overwinter in protected forest areas in Mexico. Then they head up the thousands of miles through the United States, all the way up into southern Canada.

This northern migration spans several generations. So the first generation each year is usually in Texas and Oklahoma, and they will hop up to Illinois around the second or third generation. Ultimately, they will make their way to southern Canada.

Monarch populations have always been faced with diseases and predators. The long-term downward population trend is due to a more recent, greater threat—loss of habitat in Mexico and in the United States. Down in Mexico, climate change and the warming of the overwinter sites is causing problems for their survival. And even though forest areas are protected, there is illegal logging that reduces habitat every year.

A large part of the problem in the United States is the loss of plants along the monarchs' migration route.

When they are breeding in the U.S. in the summer, they need two types of plants. They need plants—various species of milkweed—that will provide them with nectar to give them the energy to be able to fly these long distance and they need plants where they can lay their eggs.

There has been a loss of wildflowers in general, but particularly the milkweed. Humans are mowing grasslands within an inch of their life, reducing natural habitat, and removing what some people call “weeds,” but are really a vital part of the ecosystem. Widespread herbicide use is the major threat to monarch habitat.

While monarchs are overwintering in Mexico, researchers can estimate how many millions of monarchs there might be based on counting the trees that are essentially dripping with monarch butterflies clustered for the winter.

The survey from the winter of 2015–2016 saw the population of monarchs go back up to 150 million, after lows of less than 50 million the prior three years. This is good, but the 150 million is still more than 70 percent lower than populations at the start of surveys in the 1990s. Populations fluctuate each year for various reasons, including weather, but the long-term trend is still downward.

Last year was the best weather possible for breeding monarchs, meaning optimum conditions with the monarchs maxing out the habitat they have now.

Unless we take part in active management and restoration of habitat, this is the best year you are going to get. Otherwise, we may not see the same numbers again, and in a few years, migrating monarchs could be no more.

Ben Sadd, assistant professor of infectious disease ecology, School of Biological Sciences



#RedbirdProud



Energize ISU

Entertainment alums part of campus promotion

Add marketing efforts to the long list of what's different from yesteryear at ISU. The University has pushed beyond traditional outreach methods to capture the interest of prospective students.

College of Fine Arts graduates widely known and incredibly popular have been enlisted to use their talent to focus attention on ISU. One is Jane Lynch '82 of the hit television series *Glee*. She is now part of a commercial shown during athletic events (see page 32). Sean Hayes, a music undergraduate famous from the *Will & Grace* comedy, makes an appearance in the same ad.

Keith Habersberger '08, *above*, has also been enlisted to promote Illinois State. He is an entertainer and a devel-

opment partner with BuzzFeed Motion Pictures in Los Angeles. His popularity in the viral video world is a result of his short "person-on-the-street" clips. Unscripted to showcase his improv comedic skills, Habersberger's creative talent has brought him nearly half-a-million Facebook page likes and more than 130,000 Twitter followers.

It's also the reason for immediate recognition among the college-age population. ISU students were thrilled to interact with him last year when Habersberger was on campus for a colloquium with the School of Theatre and Dance. His down time was spent on the Quad quizzing students to discover what they like best about Illinois State. The engag-

ing and comical answers can be viewed at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.

While some more familiar with the traditional higher education messages sent to those investigating college options might question the approach, the ISU Admissions team finds the more unique tactic to reach the 20-something and younger audience very effective.

"Keith has a huge fan base and is especially popular among high school and college students—the exact group we are hoping to reach," said Director of Admissions Jeff Mavros. "His participation and that of other recognizable alumni—like Jane Lynch and Sean Hayes—helps draw attention to Illinois State and reach a larger audience."

Alumni News

Alumni return for milestone anniversary

Graduates from the Class of 1967 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on April 28 and 29 during the annual Half Century Club event. A variety of activities will take place across campus, including luncheons, tours and information sessions. The Class of 1967 will be inducted into the Half Century Club on Friday evening.

Members of the classes of 1963, 1957, 1952, 1947 and 1942 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, and 75th reunions will be honored that evening and receive a special recognition gift.

The events are not exclusive to graduates of the honored Half Century Club years. Any alumnus or friend of the University is invited to attend any or all of the April activities.

Half Century Club weekend gives alumni an opportunity to catch up with classmates, make new acquaintances, participate in exclusive behind-the-scenes tours and learn what's new at Illinois State. The annual event is just one offered through ISU's new Redbird Prime network (see page 15).

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or email Colleen Rice at cglongo@IllinoisState.edu.

Deadline approaches for awards nomination

The Alumni Association honors individuals during Founders Day celebrations. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni, Outstanding Young Alumni, Alumni Achievement, E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service and Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education awards are recognized.

The deadline to nominate 2018 recipients is the end of May. Make a nomination online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards or call (309) 438-2586.



From the archives

The history of Cardinal Court reaches back to 1947, top, when a temporary trailer park was constructed north of campus. By 1959 more permanent housing was completed and used primarily by married students. Over time the apartments needed extensive repair, resulting in the administrative decision to build a new complex. Today's Cardinal Court was completed in 2012 at a cost of \$45.1 million. The complex of apartments that houses 1,500 students was possible through ISU's unique partnership with private entities.

ClassNotes



Talking to the world

Alumna rises to the top in global speech competition

Kim (Behrens) Kaufman has mastered what most dread: public speaking. The 2008 School of Communication graduate competed in the Toastmasters International World Championship of Public Speaking in 2016, finishing in the top 10.

Kaufman spoke in Washington, D.C., to a live audience of more than 3,000 in the finals. Her winning speech was titled “Recalculating,” and can be seen at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. She used a GPS to make the point that sometimes we must rethink our destination.

The seven-minute speech was just one Kaufman had to write to advance in the competition through Toastmasters.

The organization is dedicated to improving communication and leadership skills.

Kaufman joined less than two years ago through the State Farm Insurance club. She made the world stage by winning at her club level on up through a contest within Illinois.

“I’ve always enjoyed public speaking and speaking competitively. I like the rush I get from presenting to large groups of people,” said Kaufman, who was on ISU’s speech team and worked at TV-10 and WZND. A Normal resident, she is a public affairs communications specialist at State Farm Insurance and is a professional public speaker.

In D.C., Kaufman won her semi-final to advance to the world stage. She wrote

and delivered a speech about diversity titled “I’m Different, So What?” The presentation focused on learning how to love one’s physical differences. For Kaufman that meant embracing her height, as she is more than 6 feet tall.

Each step of the process required persistence, planning and determination. She worked through many late nights “writing speech drafts, having great ideas, then ditching those ideas.” That was before she began memorizing and rehearsing.

“I consumed lots of coffee and gummy bears during this process,” smiled Kaufman. “I ended up being one of the top 10 best public speakers in the world. I’m so grateful for the honor.”

1950s

Robert Aussprung '53, M.S. '67, worked 29 years at Peotone School District as a teacher and coach. He is widowed and lives in Mesa, Arizona.

1960s

Ronald Weingrtner '60 worked 27 years in toys and games with Milton Bradley and Hasbro, from which he retired as vice president for inventor relations. He authored *The Toy and Game Inventor's Handbook* and writes a toy industry blog called *Toy Dreamers*. He resides in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

Roger Cushman '61 is retired as director of ISU's news services. His wife, **Elaine (Hakey) '58**, is retired from teaching in Unit 5 School District. They reside in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Darwin Bayston '64, M.S. '69, is the president and CEO of Life Insurance Settlement Association. He previously held the same position with CFA Institute. He resides in Tavares, Florida.

Jo Karr '65, M.S. '67, is Department of Teacher Education professor emeritus at Northwestern Illinois University. She is an ACT and TAT test prep coach for future teachers. She resides in Morton Grove.

Thomas Grites '66, M.S. '67, is the assistant provost at Stockton University. He received the 2016 Service to NACADA Award. The organization is the global community for academic advising. He was a founder, charter member and past president. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Absecon, New Jersey.

Virginia (Soorus) Kelly '67 is retired from working as a teacher and registered dietitian. She resides in Atwater, California.

Kathleen (Rose) Conley '68, M.S. '71, is retired from Milner Library, where she worked for 36 years. She and her husband, Loy, reside in Bloomington.

Ron Henning '68 is retired from teaching at Community High School District 155. He has helped

train secondary school teachers in Tanzania, East Africa. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Crystal Lake.

William Simpson, M.A. '68, Ed.D. '79, is the retired president of John Wood Community College. He was named a 2016 distinguished alumnus by Monmouth College. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in Everett, Washington.

Elaine (Stuit) Roghair '69 is a self-employed farmer. She resides in Okaton, South Dakota.

1970s

Alice (Dudley) Breitzman '70, M.S. '77, is retired from Germantown Hills Elementary School. She taught for 35 years and now enjoys traveling and grandchildren. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Washington.

Diana (Leapley) DeWees '70 left teaching physical education and is the director of human resources for Discovery Cube in Santa Ana, California. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Ladera Ranch, California.

Wayne Durlfinger '71 retired as director of underwriting international insurance with Prudential International Insurance Company. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Bloomington.

Paul McGowan '71 is CEO of Pollux Systems Inc. The firm is partnering with the University of Southern Indiana to create jobs and economic growth. He resides in Evansville, Indiana.

James Ptak '71 is retired from Farmers Insurance Group, where he was a loss control product specialist. He resides in Napa, California.

Ann (Scharff) Sweany, M.S. '71, is retired and volunteers as clinic coordinator with Justice for Our Neighbors—West Michigan-Kalamazoo Clinic. The ministry of the United Methodist Church offers legal services to immigrants, community education and advocacy. She and her husband, Ray, reside in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Jack McAllister '72 is semi-retired as senior vice president of business

Pause for applause



Joe Mazza-Brave Lux

Nation's storyteller

The art of the story has been perfected by **Megan Wells, M.F.A. '88**, who is a Chicago theater artist and director as well as storyteller. She has performed for listeners of all ages at theaters, festivals, museums, symphonies and schools for more than 30 years. "Storytelling is my joy—launching listeners into galaxies of imagination," she has said. Listeners are so enthralled that Wells consistently captures attention and praise. Her most recent honor is the 2016 National Storytelling Network Oracle Circle of Excellence Award. It acknowledges master storytellers who set the standards for excellence and have demonstrated a dedication to storytelling over time.

Checking it off

A potential obstacle for **Marvin Russell '02** as an ISU student resulted in Internet success. He shares his struggle with severe ADHD, which made it hard to focus as a student and complete even simple tasks. He initially created Checkli.com, a personal productivity app to make and share checklists, as a help to himself. Today more than 30,000 members around the world use it, including relief organizations posting needed supplies after a disaster. Thousands of students love it for sharing lists on social media. Russell has also developed MySiteAuditor, a website analysis tool offering digital marketing agencies support in 20 languages.



First in big league

The Arizona Diamondbacks, a professional baseball franchise, named **Kelly Boyce** its first female head athletic trainer in the team's history. She is also the first woman named to the franchise's Sports Medicine and Performance team. A 2014 athletic training graduate, she prepared to break into the field of professional male sports while at ISU. She was active in Campus Recreation as an employee and was president of the athletic training club in the College of Applied Science and Technology. Boyce, who completed a three-year internship with the team, is also a graduate assistant athletic trainer at Mesa Community College.

Across the pond

Robert Fitzgerald, a social science teacher at ISU's University High School, left his classroom this spring. He's put duties as assistant athletics activities director on hold too as he works in the United Kingdom through the Fulbright program. The 1997, M.S. 2004, and Ph.D. 2013 graduate is one of 45 citizens chosen through the Fulbright Distinguished Awards in Teaching Program for the 2016-2017 academic year. He is taking classes at the University College London Institute of Education, while working with U.K. teachers on making the history of the U.S. and the U.K. more inclusive to reflect diverse populations in each country.



How we met

Most couples have years before facing the “for worse” years in marriage. For Elise Boni and Ryan Forner, both 2012 education graduates, the hard times hit before the wedding.

Plans were being made for the July 16, 2016, ceremony when Elise had seizures. Doctors at Chicago’s Northwestern Memorial Hospital found a blood clot in her brain, which caused two strokes and left her unconscious for a month. She had a portion of her skull removed to relieve swelling.

“Thankfully, I don’t remember any of this,” said Elise, who was diagnosed with epilepsy. She awoke in December paralyzed on the right side and unable to talk, walk or swallow.

“I had to rebuild myself,” she said. Intense therapy sessions continued through April, with her skull replaced in March. Through it all, she was determined to keep the wedding date and walk to Ryan.

“Rehabilitation was intense,” Elise recalls, but so was her determination. “The drive to step out on my wedding day and walk toward my future husband was everything I needed to keep me moving during recovery.”

“I joked with her that she would get emotional, but I had more tears than her that day,” Ryan said. The memory of being told she initially was given only a 50 percent chance of living made the moment miraculous.

She not only survived but reached her goal although instead of an aisle, the couple walked the turf at Hancock Stadium. They are the first to be married at the stadium. The location was perfect, as ISU brought them together through mutual friends.

The two became good friends themselves, with Ryan admitting to significant flirting when they were undergraduates. They reconnected in 2015 through the same ISU friends and began dating.

Ryan planned to propose on campus at the couples’ bench. Although they did not have classes together because he studied secondary math and she chose elementary education, both have plenty of DeGarmo Hall memories.

Given the campus connection they still appreciate, it’s not surprising the friends who brought them together were in the wedding. All involved were graduates, including the officiant.

Elise and Ryan reside in Villa Park. Both are teaching and are continuing their education. They agree the crisis made them a stronger couple, and are grateful to be enjoying better days as newlyweds.



development with Versant Supply Chain. He and his wife, Mary Jane, are parents to two daughters and enjoy time with eight grandchildren. The couple resides in Germantown, Tennessee.

Barbara (Duncan) Regal '72 is head of the special education department at Harwood Junior High in the Hurst-Euless-Bedford school district. She and her husband, Raymond, reside in Bedford, Texas.

Kathy (Reed) Cazin '73 owned Accountkeepers of San Diego and worked as a consultant. Now retired, she and her husband, Robert, reside in San Diego, California.

Edward “Bill” Horst '73 is a software configuration manager at Pitney Bowes. He and his wife, Channah, reside in Boulder, Colorado.

Joe Kelleher '73 completed a teaching degree at age 60 from the University of Akron and obtained a state license to teach. He works with Revere Local Schools and resides in Hudson, Ohio.

Jeanne (Marquis) Prickett '73, M.S. '77, Ed.D. '83, is president of the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind. She and her husband, Hugh, reside in Saint Augustine, Florida.

Charles Conzo '74 is treasurer of the City of Lincoln, where he and his wife, Judy, reside.

Mary (Leitzen) Stayner '74 is retired after 35 years of teaching elementary students. She and her husband, Jack, own the family business of Stockton Bowling Lanes. She is a coordinator with volunteer hospice of Northwest Illinois and

a substitute teacher. They have seven grandchildren and reside in Stockton.

Marylee Battaglia '75 completed a master’s in education at Emporia State University. She retired from Kansas City Public Schools after 15 years as a teacher and administrator. She received the 2016 Award of Excellence from the Kansas Division for Early Childhood. She resides in Basehor, Kansas.

Maryllynn (Park) Tyler '75 is a registered nurse retired from Edward Hospital. She worked 22 years as a critical care nurse. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Elwood.

Cindy (Weaver) Aussieker '76, M.S. '07, is retired after teaching 39 years. She and her husband, Brad,

have two children, both ISU graduates. The couple resides in Lincoln.

Edward Bury '76 works as public information coordinator at the Urban Transportation Center in the College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He is completing a master’s degree. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Chicago.

Suanne (Yednock) Perez '76 is the principle owner with Perez and Associates. She and her husband, Cipriano, reside in Irvine, California.

Deb Thomas '76 is University of Nebraska Medical Center vice chancellor for business and finance after serving as interim. She resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Karen (McConnell) Wood '76 is a senior buyer with Hobbico. She and her husband, Kenneth, reside in Champaign.

Dan Daugherty '77 is an initial training lead instructor with Exelon Nuclear. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Clinton.

Janice (Jenkins) Jamison '77 retired as an assistant principal with the Chicago Board of Education. She and her husband, Esau, reside in Chicago.

Kathy (Touchette) Fern '78 is an alumni director and microenterprise specialist at Ranken Technical College in St. Louis, Missouri. She is a cast member in a local Renaissance Fair. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Columbia.

Merry Stover, M.M. '78, is executive director of The Soup Kitchen Inc. She resides in Saint Joseph, Michigan.

Carol (Kochman) Brey '79 is an information resource officer with the U.S. Department of State. She and her husband, Adilson Bezerra de Sousa, are based in Buenos Aires, Argentina.

Christie (Hobbs) Davis '79 retired from teaching music at Riverview Gardens School District. She teaches private piano and clarinet lessons and is a piano accompanist. She and her husband, Drew, reside in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Dave Edyburn '79, M.S. '82, is associate dean of research at the University of Central Florida. He was a professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for 24 years. He and his wife, **Pam (Williams) '81**, reside in Oviedo, Florida.

Linda (Ebert) Kester '79 teaches first grade at Orland Park School District 135. She and her husband, Jack, reside in Lemont.

Steven Knous '79, M.S. '80, is president of Flagstone Financial Advisors. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Basalt, Colorado.

Clema (Williams) Lewis '79, M.S. '82, is executive director of the Woman's Coalition of St. Croix. She has held the position more

than 30 years. She resides in the Virgin Islands.

1980s

Crystal (Stayton) Allen '80 completed a doctorate in animal sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She teaches in the Animal Sciences Department at the university. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Homer.

Mary Krickmire, M.F.A. '80, is director of theatre for a Catholic high school, the Aquinas Institute of Rochester. Her husband, **Michael, M.F.A. '80**, has taught theatre at Collat Brockport, part of the SUNY system for 26 years. He received the 2016 SUNY Chancellor's Award for Excellence in Adjunct Teaching. Both received the 2015 Rod Marriot Award for lifetime achievement in theatre and theatre education from the New York State Theatre Education Association. They reside in Fairport, New York.

Linda (Capper) Yingst '80 works with the Antiquarian Society of the Art Institute of Chicago. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Chicago.

Marsha (Brown) Klein '81 teaches first grade in the Henry-Senachwine Community Unit District 5. She received the Excellence in Education Award from the LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam Counties Regional Office of Education. She and her husband, Stephen, reside in Henry.

Mark Newman '81 is a certified gemologist and owner of Jewelry Arts Inc. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

Michael Phares '81 is a global account director with InterContinental Hotels Group. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Naperville.

Scott Miller '82 is an account manager with In A Pickle Messenger Service. He and his wife, Bonnie, reside in Crystal Lake.

Leslie (Lill) Peterson '82 is a substitute teacher with District 146. She and her husband, David, reside in Orland Park.

Geri (Higgins) Stites '82 retired after working 32 years as an elementary general/choral music teacher.

She and her husband, Bryan, are parents of two grown children and reside in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

Ralph Zarumba '82 is vice president at Concentric Energy Advisors. He is leading efforts to establish the regulatory policy dimension of the restructuring of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority. He resides in Evanston.

Kathleen Comfort '83, M.A. '84, is an associate professor of French at

Becky Whited '83, M.S. '96, teaches science at Henry-Senachwin High School. She resides in Chillocothe.

Julia (Adams) Hammerman '84 is a director of education at Imagine Solutions. She and her husband, Albert, reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

Roy Koelling '84 is a payroll and benefits generalist with Fuchs Lubricants Co. He resides in Peotone.



International connection

A love of literature is shared by alumnae who keep a close friendship despite the distance between Normal and England. Kate Charles, *left*, is a popular mystery author who writes under the pen name of Carol Chase. Her 12th novel, *False Tongues*, was published in 2015 in England and America. JoAnna Mink '72, M.S. '75, D.A. '85, is a retired English and literature professor who writes the Reggie Reads column for *Illinois State*. A recent visit by Mink gave the two a chance to show their ISU spirit. They are at the Berrington House, a National Trust country house and landscape garden not far from the home of Charles in the United Kingdom.

the University of Arkansas. She resides in Fayetteville, Arkansas.

Michael Davidson '83 retired as executive director of finance of the Central Indiana region for Ivy Tech Community College. He worked nearly 20 years in accounting at Lake Land College. He resides in Danville, Indiana.

Elizabeth Petrovski '83 is a finance specialist at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations agencies in Rome. She resides in Italy.

Anne (Aschenbrenner) Sadler '83 owns Choice Realty in Freeport, where she resides with her husband, Timothy.

Jan Scott, M.M. '84, retired as a music teacher in Unit 5 School District. She resides in Normal.

Timothy Gonzalez '85 is an executive with the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. He resides in Springfield.

Timothy Loest '85 has been band director at F.E. Peacock Middle School in Itasca for 30 years. He composes and arranges music for the FJH Music Company. He has co-authored *Warm-Ups and Beyond* and *Measures of Success*. He was a guest conductor at ISU's junior high band camp in 2016.

Redbird legacy

Three generations of women made ISU their collegiate home, beginning with Barbara (Wellner) Ryba '67. The Peru native majored in Latin as she prepared for a teaching career. Her sister, Sandra (Wellner) Becker '70, completed an education degree as well.

Barbara taught many years, beginning at the middle-school level. She chose to stay home when she and husband, James, started a family. They had three children, with Sondra "Sonnie" (Ryba) Blocki '91, the oldest.

Sonnie saw what ISU meant to her mother, equipping Barbara to teach her whole life. She now tutors and helps individuals prepare for the GED, still living in her native Illinois town. Sonnie continued the family's legacy, transferring after completing an associate's degree.

"It was a natural transition for me. It felt like home," Sonnie said. She studied biology in preparation for graduate school and physical therapy work. She is in private practice in Peru, specializing in breast cancer recovery. She and her husband, Scott, are parents of daughters Elise and Allison.

Elise followed her grandmother and mother, starting at Illinois State last fall as a freshman studying international business. Already enrolled out of state, she made a last-minute change to ISU when realizing the campus is where she wants to study.

"It was just a natural fit for her," Sonnie said. "I am absolutely thrilled she can experience Illinois State and its small-town feel on a big campus." Barbara and Sonnie have both maintained friendships with college friends and expect Elise will also build relationships that last a lifetime.

Both have been to campus several times to visit Elise and enjoy the University again through her eyes. It is especially fun for Sonnie, as she lived in Hewett and Elise is in Manchester.

Not much else has remained the same for the elder graduates, especially the rec center and dining hall experience. There is the same school spirit, however, which has created a special bond in the Ryba family. Sonnie explains it simply by saying, "We are Redbird proud!"



Barbara Ryba, Elise and Sonnie Blocki

He and his wife, Cynthia, reside in Wheaton.

Julie (Mueller) Paska '85 is an academic adviser with ISU's Athletics. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Normal.

Cory Cassens '86 has completed 30 years of service as an employee of the U.S. Department of Agriculture Jo Daviess County Farm Service Agency. He is the county executive director. He and his wife, **Kimberly (Hannah) '86**, reside in Stockton.

Scott Snyder '86 is the chief operating officer of David Nielson and Associates LLC. He and his wife, Daria, reside in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Tod Anderson '87 is an area sales manager for Growmark. He and his wife, Tammy, reside in Eureka.

Rodney Christo '87 is the senior vice president of finance and treasurer

of CCC Information Services Inc. He resides in Monee.

Monica Mapel '87 completed a master's from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security. She works in homeland security investigations in the Department of Homeland Security. She resides in New Braunfels, Texas.

Eva (Heren) Newnam '87 is the assistant director of housing and residence life for business services at Ball State University. She resides in Muncie, Indiana.

Holly Whisler '87, M.S. '89, is a self-employed freelance writer. She resides in Springfield.

Diane Graebner '88 completed a master's degree in hospitality management at University of Central Florida and is completing a doctorate there. She works in sales

with Universal Studio resorts and resides in Clermont, Florida.

David Licata '88 is a social studies high school teacher at Cincinnati Public Schools.

Jacques Mobbille '88 is a technical specialist with the College of American Pathologists. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Palatine.

Patrick Hartweger '89 is a managing director of BMO Capital Markets. He and his wife, Cynthia, reside in Geneva.

Diane Hughes '89 is an assistant superintendent with the McLean County Sheriff's Department. She and her husband, John, reside in Normal.

Anamarie Jani '89 completed a master's of arts in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University and has earned several certificates and endorsements.

She teaches fifth grade in Cicero School District 99 and resides in Willowbrook.

1990s

Jillian (Kurhayez) Collins '90 earned a master's in social work and is a special education social worker with Proviso Area for Exceptional Children School. She and her husband, James, reside in Willowbrook.

Stephen Johnson '90 is a regional vice president at Walgreens. He resides in Spring, Texas.

Marylynn (Fitzgerald) Kaplan '90 is a Prison Rape Elimination Act compliance officer with the Cook County Sheriff's Office. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Chicago.

Tom Reese '90 is a full-service supervisor with Great Lakes Coca-

Cola. He and his wife, Pam, reside in Grayslake.

Michael Smith '90, M.S. '92, is the director of manufacturing for CL Smith Company. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Smithton.

Jamie Sons '90 is an American Cancer Discovery Shop Manager for the Iowa region. She resides in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Stacy Klein '91, M.A. '95, is a senior content strategist with Iris Worldwide. She resides in Chicago.

Peter March '91 is an associate director of user experience with FCB Health. He resides in New York, New York.

Brian Brahm '92 is a global compensation manager with John Deere and Company. He resides in Moline.

Cheryl Lambert '92 completed a doctorate and is an assistant professor in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at Kent State University. She previously worked in corporate public relations at Sears, Roebuck and Company. She resides in Kent, Ohio.

Theresa Warner '92 is a communications specialist with BJC Medical Group. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Grechen Wingerter '92 is an assistant professor of theatre at Pellissippi State Community College. She and her husband, Peter Aylward, reside in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Kristen (Kirby) LaMere, M.S. '93, is an athletic trainer with Gundersen Health System. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Holmen, Wisconsin.

Roberto Trujillo '93 is the director of benefits for the Teamsters Joint Council No. 83 of Virginia Health and Welfare and Pension Funds in Richmond, Virginia. He lives in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Gabriella Caldwell-Miller '94, M.S. '98, is a community services manager with Commonwealth of Virginia Department of Behavioral and Developmental Services. She and her husband, Aamon Miller, reside in Glen Allen, Virginia.

Todd Flessner '94 is the vice president of Defined Benefits Account Management. He and his wife, Cyn-

thia (Salrin) '93, have three sons and reside in Naperville.

Jennifer Wills '94 is a physical education teacher in District 204. She resides in Naperville.

William Newton, M.S. '95, is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt Medical School. He is the medical director of the Spine, Joint and Pain Center in the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic. He and his wife, Merissa, reside in Christiana, Tennessee.

Steve Peterson '95 is a research chemist with the USDA Agricultural Research Service. He resides in Washington.

Lisa (Jeske) Castleman '96 is the principal of Olympia West Elementary School. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Bloomington.

Cory Roop '96 is a new account installer with Cintas. He and his wife, Jenny, reside in Hudson.

Sara (Davis) La Bounty '97 is a manager of global accounts with HelmsBriscoe. She and her husband, Cass, reside in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Elisabeth (Steinbock) Sherwood '97 is coordinator of orientation, advising and the transfer center at McHenry County College. She resides in McHenry.

Tammy (Goldman) Wynard '97 is chair of the kinesiology department at North Central College, where she is on the health and education faculty. She resides in Aurora.

Michael Dresden '98 is president of Dart Appraisal. It is a national provider of real estate valuation services. He and his wife, Heather, reside in Birmingham, Michigan.

Jacob Gourley '98 has taught history and worked as a social studies division leader for 18 years. He is principal of Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, where he resides.

Jenny (Foster) Klouse '98 has worked with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for 17 years and is an area director. She and her husband,

Erik, reside in Santa Rosa, California.

Renee (Lenz) Osbrink '98 is an accounting specialist with Hawk Chevrolet. She and her husband, Chris, are parents of two children. Their son, Ian Christopher, was born September 2015. They reside in Manteno.

Christine (Lopez) Austin '99 is a counselor at Joliet West High School. She and her husband, Jerry, reside in Joliet.

Melanie (Hill) Curits '99 is an injury claim specialist with State Farm Insurance Company. She and her husband, Jesse, reside in Mesquite, Texas.

2000s

Nicole (Jarvis) Colburn '00 is a social worker in the Benjamin School District. Her husband, Dennis '99, works in sales. They have two children and reside in Carol Stream.

Joel Fritzler, M.S. '00, is a grant and contract administrator at Northern Arizona University. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Eric Krell, M.S. '00, is the director of orchestra, choir and guitar at Tortolita Middle School. He and his wife, Rebecca, reside in Tucson, Arizona.

Michelle Lindenmeier '00 is a probation officer with the McLean County Adult Court Services. She resides in Bloomington.

Kimberly Martin-Boyd '00, M.M. '03, M.S. '10, is an orchestra teacher in Unit 5 School District. She is president of Delta Omicron International Music Fraternity. She and her husband, Chad, reside in Normal.

Meghan (Dunham) Quinn '00 is an underwriting consultant with State Farm Insurance Company. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Normal.

Aimee (Buhrow) Stoller '00 is a counselor at Bureau Valley High School. She and her husband, Scott '99, reside in Walnut.

Steve Trimpe '00 is a technician at State Farm Insurance Company.



Capturing memories

Members of the Mai Kai Co-Op returned to campus for a 2016 gathering. They searched out the home where they lived and walked the campus. The sculpture near Cook Hall was only one new addition since they attended in the late 1960s and early 1970s. They are, seated from left, Sue (Schwartz) Zugenbeuhler '72; Martha (Bates) Campbell '70, M.S. '71; and Jean (McKim) Propst '72. Standing from left are Joyce (Marmillion) Pingry '71; Cheri (Henderson) Jackson '71; Val (Elbow) Johnston, who transferred before graduating; Carol (Podewell) Seguin '71; Jan (Hurliman) Hasselbring '71; and Lisa (Hlinka) Neyer '71.

He and his wife, Vicki, reside in Bloomington.

Nate Bargar '01 is regional enrollment coordinator at the University of Cincinnati. He and his wife, Meghan, reside in Palatine.

Zachary Callen '01, M.S. '03, is an assistant professor at Allegheny College. He authored *Railroads and American Political Development: Infrastructure, Federalism, and State Building*. He resides in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Justin Frey '01 is an account executive with the David Agency Insurance Company. He resides in Winfield.

Lisa (Bills) Jensen '01 is a substitute teacher with Peoria Public School District 150. She and her husband, Christopher, reside in Peoria.

Tracy (Ray) Kilvinger '01 co-owns an autism and behavior consultation practice. She is director of the national team for Race Guards. The nonprofit group provides volunteers at marathons to keep runners safe. She and her husband, Thomas, reside in Lake in the Hills.

Christine (Murphy) Reinert '01 is a large loss recovery specialist with AIG. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Plainfield.

Brad Smetanko '01 is a network engineering manager with Frontier Communications. He and his wife, Cortney, reside in Heyworth.

Jennifer (Louie) Trainum, M.M. '01, is a Suzuki violin teacher at the University of Alabama Community Music School. She has performed as a guest conductor and violinist with the Tuscaloosa Symphony. She and her husband, John, reside in Northport, Alabama.

Timothy Basham '02 is a support escalation engineer with Microsoft. He and his wife, Erika, reside in Sammamish, Washington.

Gretchen Kemp '02 is the choir director at Raytown South High School. She resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Melinda (Swartz) Meche '02 is billing manager with Louisiana Dermatological Associates. She and her hus-



Break in the action

President Larry Dietz and members of the men's basketball team staff all paused from their regular duties to join in the annual Pig Out with the Prez last fall. The meal is served annually on the Quad for students and the campus community. Pictured are, *front row from left*, assistant coach Dean Oliver, Reggie, President Dietz, and associate head coach Luke Yaklich. In back, *from left*, are video coordinator Darshawn McClellan and director of basketball operations Spencer Johnson.

band, Chad, are parents of a son and reside in Zachary, Louisiana.

Ann (Flaherty) Rothermel '02 is the assistant director of admissions at Illinois State University. She and her husband, Nathan, reside in Bloomington.

Vandana (Rajput) Fotopoulos '03 is a corporate recruitment relationship manager with Allegis Global Solutions. She and her husband, Constantine, reside near Naperville.

Corey (McDonald) Moore '03 is the clinic coordinator at The Autism Clinic. She resides in Chatham.

Eric Neuhaus '03 is a business analyst and project manager with Biomedical Systems. He and his wife, Mary, reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

Anna (Mugnaini) Reidy '03 is a hearing itinerant teacher with Valley School District. She and her husband, William, reside in Plainfield.

Nick Sivertsen '03, MBA '11, is a transportation manager with Caterpillar Inc. He resides in Dunlap.

Shanay (Huerta) Wright '03, M.S. '05, is director of TRIO student support services and student success center at Danville Area Community College. She and her husband, DeMarko, reside in Danville.

Marjorie Aitken, Ed.D. '04, is a psychologist for Chicago Public Schools. She and her husband, Jerome Crowley, reside in Palos Park.

John Karnavas '04 is an administrative supervisor with the Cook County State's Attorney. He and his wife, Sara, reside in Orland Park.

Jamie (DalCorobbo) Healy '05 is a professor of special education at Trinity Christian College. She and her husband, Rob, reside in Crete.

Brett Loewen '05 is an estimator with Structure Tone Southwest. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Dallas, Texas.

Christa (McElyea) Parr '05 completed a master's in strategic marketing at Roberts Wesleyan College, where she is an adjunct. She is a marketing specialist with St. John's Senior Living in Rochester, New York. She and her husband, Tom, are parents of four children and reside in East Rochester, New York.

Kristena Rudloff, M.S. '05, is a library media specialist with Stillwater Public Schools. She and her husband, Peter, reside in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Amy Sajko, MBA '05, is senior director of the NASPA Foundation. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Papillion, Nebraska.

David Sollish, M.S. '05, is chair of the theatre department at Belhaven University in Jackson, Mississippi. He and his wife, Kelsey, reside in Brandon, Mississippi.

Gregory Bruno '06 is a creative designer at COTG, a Xerox Company. He and his wife, Rachel, are the parents of three and reside in Tinley Park.

James Darnell '06 is a senior associate in development research with the United Nations Foundation. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Kevin Kocot '06, is an assistant professor at the University of Alabama and curator of invertebrates in the Alabama Museum of Natural History. His research has taken him around the world. He resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Marissa (Stock) Koeller '06 is a graphic designer with Progressive Impressions International. She and her husband, Christopher, reside in Flanagan.

Lauren (Cygan) Peerbolte '06 is coordinator of new student onboarding at Moraine Valley Community College. She and her husband, Greg, reside in Channahon.

Kara (Gray) Valinski '06 completed a master's in social work at the University of New Hampshire. She is a social worker at Wentworth-Douglass Hospital. She and her husband, Christopher, reside in Sanford, Maine.

Cynthia (Suwalski) Warren '06 is a store manager at Walgreens. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Geneva.

Elizabeth (Woolsey) Bade '07 is a coach of epic applications at Monroe Clinic. She and her husband, Bade, reside in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Dan Goodwin '07, M.S. '09, is director of the student union at the University of Texas-Dallas. His oldest brother, **Matt '00, M.S. '02**, is dean of students at St. Joseph's College in Portland, Maine. His middle brother, **Bryan '04, M.S. '07**, is director of student centers at Loyola

University-Chicago. Dan resides in Roanoke, Texas.

Christina Horton '07 is systems administrator in the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of Inspector General. Her son, Cory, is a student at ISU. She resides in Aurora.

Norma De La Rosa '07 is recruitment coordinator with Elgin Community College. She resides in Aurora.

Erin Laco '07 is a senior information systems auditor with State Farm Insurance Company. She resides in Bloomington.

Pete Lamonica '07 is a software engineer for Amazon.com. He has completed a marathon. He and his wife, **Katie (Johnson) '04, M.S. '07**, met at ISU. They reside in Seattle, Washington.

Kanisha Lites '07 is a project coordinator with University of Chicago Medicine. She resides in Chicago.

Heather Nelson '07 is an executive compensation senior consultant at Allstate Insurance corporate headquarters in Northbrook. She resides in Lake Zurich.

Joe Warning '07, M.S. '11, is completing a doctorate in exercise physiology at Indiana Institute of Technology, where he is an assistant professor of exercise science. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Lindsay (Bierbaum) Allen '08 has changed careers often because her husband, James, is an active duty sailor. She has worked as an administrator at a museum, resort, and now as director of the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society. The couple resides in Japan.

Danielle (Weaver) Beer '08 is a physician assistant with OSF. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Bloomington.

Jorie (Glassner) Bernhardt '08 completed a master's in public health-community health from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is an educator at the Ann Arbor Hands-On Museum. She and her husband, Aaron, were married in August 2016. They reside in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

Laura Braun '08 is a communications associate in the California College of the Art. She is a freelance music journalist for She Shreds, SF Sounds, Thrillist, Fest 30 and The Battery. She resides in San Francisco, California.

Matthew Brooks '08 is an account executive with the Chicago Blackhawks. He and his wife, Jessica, reside in Chicago.

Paul Floyd '08 is an assistant vice principal in District 126. He resides in Chicago.

McKenna (Schweinberg) Harless '08 is a special education teacher in Peoria School District 150. She and her husband, Aubrey, reside in Peoria.

Heather Johnson '08 is the director of scholarships at Community Foundation of the Fox River Valley. She resides in North Aurora.

Diana (Nowakowska) Kearing '08 is a general manager of American Campus Communities. She and her husband, Justin, reside in Lexington, Kentucky.

Kristopher Kerwin '08 is a disability claims adjudicator with the State of Illinois. He resides in Springfield.

Rachel (Higgins) Klein '08 completed a master's degree at Concordia University. She teaches special education in the Dunlap School District. She and her husband, **Anthony '03**, are parents of two children and reside in Dunlap.

Lisa Nicholas, MBA '08, is a financial business analyst at State Farm Insurance Company. She resides in Bloomington.

Andrew Pfister '08 is the vice president of procurement and risk management with Masters Gallery Foods. He and his wife, Lindsey, reside in Plymouth, Wisconsin.

David Rose '08, MBA '10, is a project manager with Lendlease Construction. He resides in Wheaton.

Gretchen (Koehler) Schaefer '08 completed a master's degree in school counseling at Lewis University. She is the director of academic achievement at St. Bede Academy. She and her husband, James, reside in Peru.

Haleigh (Morgan) Stern '08 is completing a master's in new media studies at DePaul University. She is the senior external communications specialist with Follett Corporation. She and her husband, John, reside in Glen Ellyn.

Benjamin Tonner '08 is a claim team manager with State Farm Insurance Company. He and his wife, Kristin, reside in Hoover, Alabama.

Sierra Atkins-Strawder '09 teaches kindergarten at Bright Horizons. She and her husband, Maurice, reside in Normal.

Lindsay Boeckelman '09 is a middle school special education teacher at Rockford Public Schools. She resides in Freeport.

Tyler Clark '09 is the chief of staff for the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology. He and his wife, Christine, reside in Chicago.

Megan (Uher) Fanthorpe '09 is a commercial property specialist with Nationwide. She and her husband, Stefan, reside in Oswego.

Allison Fishbein '09 is director of jobseeker happiness with WorkMonger, an online start-up job

matching service. She resides in State College, Pennsylvania.

Elizabeth Hauck '09 is a front-end and human resources department supervisor at Toys "R" Us. She resides in Bloomington.

Vanessa Kaspar '09 teaches second grade at Chaney Monge School. She resides in Plainfield.

Audrey Kimmeth '09 is a teacher at Bright Horizons. She resides in Palatine.

Jessica (Clifford) Krankavitch '09 is a graphic artist at Sunset Funeral Home. She and her husband, Adam, reside in Perrysville, Indiana.

Bradley Marcy '09 is a history teacher at LeRoy High School. He is completing a master's degree at Illinois State. He and his wife, Ashlie, reside in LeRoy.

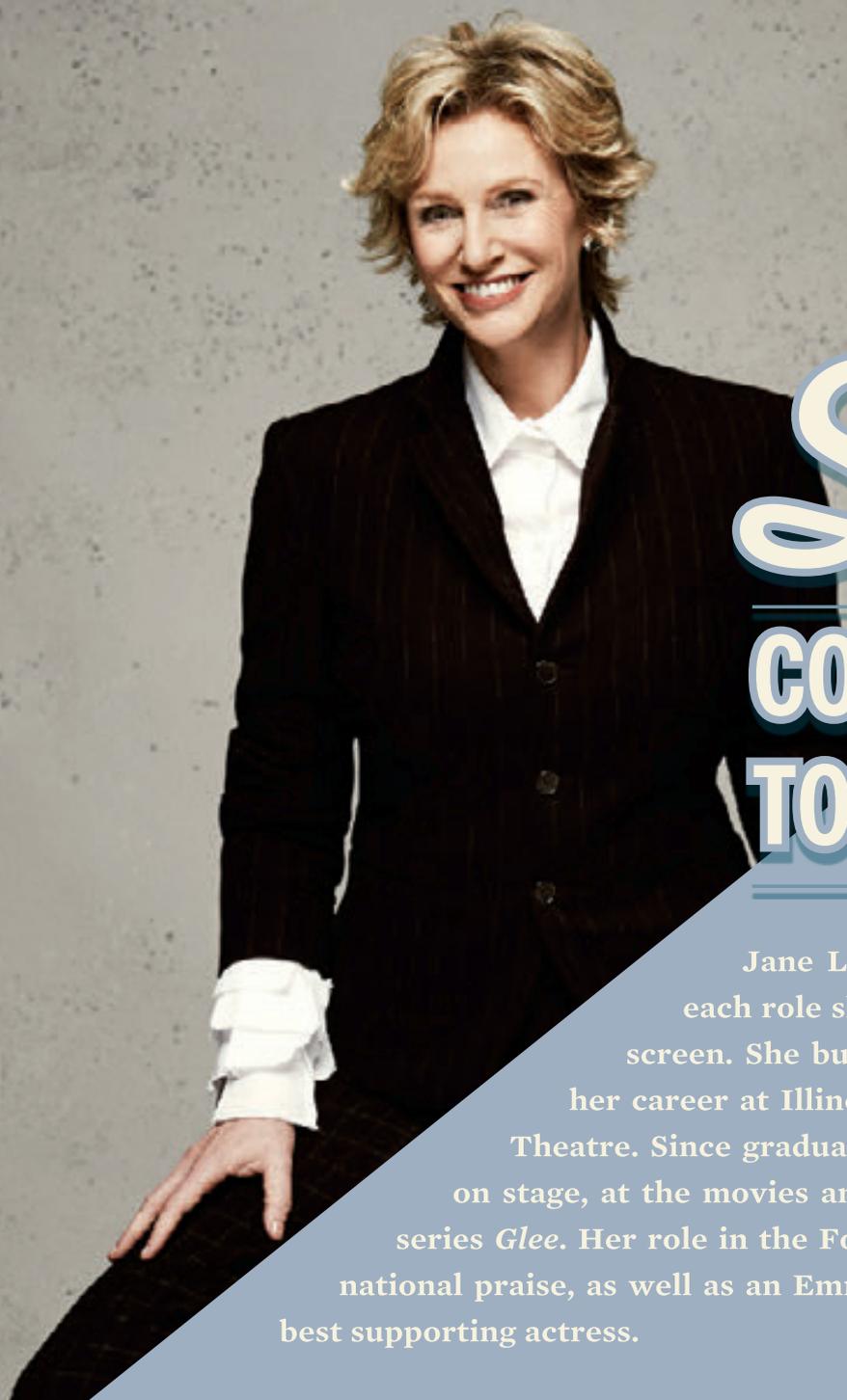
Christina Miller '09 completed a master's in applied family and child studies. She specializes in marriage and family therapy. She works as a therapist at Lutheran Child and Family Services and resides in Bloomington.

Claire Nachowicz '09 is a certified safety professional working at



Adventuring through life

When six education majors met at ISU, they didn't realize that it would be the start of a friendship lasting almost 50 years. The alums meet several times every year, sometimes just for one day of hiking and visiting at Starved Rock State Park. The group of 1971 graduates includes, from left, Carol (Steiner) Hill of Bourbonnias, Sue (Josephson) Hoffmann of Rockford, Val (Tuttle) Horras of Princeton, Pat (Jones) Priniski of Barrington, Gayle (Spies) Wallen of Pekin, and Pat (Nicholls) Warren of Saint Charles.



Still CONNECTED TO CAMPUS

Jane Lynch is passionate about each role she performs on stage and screen. She built a solid foundation for her career at Illinois State in the School of Theatre. Since graduating in 1982, she excelled on stage, at the movies and with the hit television series *Glee*. Her role in the Fox network comedy drew national praise, as well as an Emmy and Golden Globe for best supporting actress.

ADD ANOTHER TAGLINE TO HER TIME BEFORE THE CAMERA, AS JANE SHOWS HER

— *Redbird Pride* —

IN AN ISU COMMERCIAL THAT AIRS DURING TELEVISED GAMES.

VIEW IT AT ILLINOISSTATE.EDU/MAGAZINE, AND THEN JOIN JANE IN TELLING OTHERS WHY YOU ARE #REDBIRDPROUD.

Zebra Technologies. She resides in Elk Grove Village.

Robert Smith '09 is a community support specialist at Burrell Behavioral Health. He and his wife, Jaimie, reside in Jefferson City, Missouri.

Emily Watson '09 is director of marketing and public relations with CityLink. She resides in Lacon.

2010s

Elisabeth Benfield '10 worked in the Chicago Public Schools as a Spanish and bilingual teacher. She is now completing a master's degree in international development at the University of Pittsburgh. She hopes to serve in the Peace Corps while a student. She resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Staci (Wirth) Coussens '10 is a nutrition and wellness program coordinator with the University of Illinois Extension. She resides in Bloomington.

Antishay Gardner '10 is completing a master's degree in social work at Illinois State. She is a case manager at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria Medical. She resides in Carlock.

Rachel (Pepich) Johnson '10, M.S. '15, is a faculty associate at Illinois State. She and her husband, Kyle, reside in Bloomington.

Anna (Pounders) Joria '10 is a special education teacher in Lansing District 158. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Chicago.

Edward Marto '10, M.S. '13, is senior circulation assistant at Flaxman Library with the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. He resides in Chicago.

Katie McBride '10 is a special education teacher with Mannheim School District 83. She resides in Elk Grove.

Rodney McCalister '10 is a UPS hub operations supervisor. He resides in Joliet.

Stephanie (Donjon) Orme '10 is completing a doctorate at Penn State University. She and her husband, Tylor, reside in State College, Pennsylvania.

Katherine (Posey) Sneek '10 is an elementary special education teacher with Pecatonica School District. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Pecatonica.

Brittany (Taylor) Spradling '10 teaches second grade in District 69. She and her husband, Jess, reside in Morton.

Ray Stone '10 is an account executive with West Suburban Bank. He resides in Glen Ellyn.

Enjoli Turner '10 is a foster care case manager with Bethany Christian Services. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sarah (Bryant) Weller '10 is an assistant actuary with RGA Reinsurance. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Edwardsville.

Michelle Woody '10 is an administrative aide in the School of Theatre and Dance at ISU. She is a board member with the Heartland Theatre Company and acts in local productions. She resides in Bloomington.

Melanie Angelatos '11 is a middle office operations manager with Busey Wealth Management. She resides in Savoy.

Kristen Butkovich '11 teaches first grade at Sunset Park Elementary School. She resides in Winter Garden, Florida.

Ashley Carretta '11 is a band director in Granite City School District 9. She resides in Collinsville.

Ann Gibble '11 is a product specialist for men's clothing with Kohls. She resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Austin Hilmes '11 is a veterinarian technician at Edwardsville Pet Hospital. He resides in New Baden.

Courtney Huro '11 is operations assistant with Guaranteed Rate Inc. She resides in Streamwood.

Jessi Manassa '11 is a doctor of veterinary medicine with Randal Road Animal Hospital. She resides in Crystal Lake.

Cassi (Lund) Meitl '11 is a neighborhood revitalization planner and Challenge Detroit Fellow. Her husband, **Ryan '09**, is an engineering



REGGIE READS

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

manager with Bosch. They reside in Detroit, Michigan.

Kyle Moy '11 is a sanitarian with the Will County Health Department. He resides in Tinley Park.

Paul Nolley '11 is a grant writer for the YMCA of Rock River Valley. He resides in Rockton.

Alison Reed '11 teaches at Pikes Peak Prep. She resides in Colorado Springs, Colorado.

Veronica Riepe, Ph.D. '11, is the director of student involvement at the University of Nebraska. She resides in Lincoln, Nebraska.

Jason Ross '11 is a graduate student in project management in Illinois State's Department of Technology. He is an IT support associate for ISU's College of Business. He resides in Normal.

Jessica Sarff '11 is a judicial law clerk with the Illinois Appellate Court. She resides in Peoria.

Amanda (Lentz) Schiel '11 is a registered nurse at East Morgan County Hospital, which is a critical access hospital in rural Colorado. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Brush, Colorado.

Keenan Wimbley '11, M.S. '14, is an athletic academic coordinator at Colorado State University. He and his wife, Brea, reside in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Adriana Aguilar '12 is a special education teacher at Eisenhower High School in CHSD 218. She resides in Villa Park.

Amanda (Konkul) Babarskis '12 is completing a degree in nutrition and dietetics from Benedictine University. She and her husband, Algis, reside in Orland Park.

Michael Bindokas '12 received a paramedic license and is becoming nationally registered through Loyola University Medical Center.

He is a paramedic in Chicago and resides in Oak Park.

Jordan Birch '12 is a paraoptometric with Bellevue Vision Clinic. She resides in Kirkland, Washington.

Renee Changnon '12 writes for the North American Retail Hardware Association's Hardware Retailing magazine. She previously worked at Jimmy John's corporate headquarters. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Andrea Darveau '12 is a speech language pathologist with Champaign Unit 4 School District. She resides in Urbana.

Heather (Hanchett) Even '12 is a bakery clerk with Meijer. She resides in Normal.

Jennifer (Marten) Fenske '12 is an energy assistance supervisor with Nicor Gas. She resides in Oswego.

Kyle Gunderson '12 is a claims specialist with Cincinnati Insurance. He resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Donald Niestrom '12 is a sales director with Anheuser Busch. He and his wife, Kristine, reside in Westmont.

Laura (Miller) Streid '12 is a volunteer specialist with the American Red Cross. She resides in Towanda.

Jaymee Toler '12 is an assistant news director with WMBD News. She resides in Peoria.

Brett Werner-Powell '12 is an account executive at Youtech and Associates. He resides in Bolingbrook.

Jennifer (Williams) Wrigley '12 is a biology, forensics and anatomy teacher at East Peoria High School. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Pekin.

Kara Bryant '13 is a kindergarten teacher at Village Leadership Academy. She resides in Chicago.

Gabrielle DuBoff '13 is a registered nurse working in two Chicago elementary schools. She spent the summer working at multiple summer camps across the country as the nurse on site. She has worked in the hospital setting with postpartum mothers and their babies. She resides in Chicago.

Kayla Garvey '13 is an assistant director at Huntington Learning Center. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Molly (King) Gleason '13 is completing a master's in nursing education at Methodist College. She works at the school as a clinical skills educator. She has a son, Charlie, who was born in March 2016. She resides in Morton.

Andrew Helgeson '13 is a staff accountant with G and D Integrated. He and his wife, Katelyn, reside in Normal.

Lauren Hernandez '13 is a deputy director of film and visual media at the Republican National Committee. She resides in Washington, D.C.

Gabrielle Lager '13 is a self-contained cross categorical teacher with Jewel Middle School. She resides in Aurora.

Julia Luchtenburg '13 works on code enforcement with the Oak Lawn Police Department. She attended the National Park Service Ranger Academy during the summer. She resides in Evergreen Park.

Jessica Mangum '13 is a human resource generalist with ComEd. She runs the internship program, which has approximately 150 participants each summer. She is working to complete an MBA and resides in Marengo.

Andrew Meyers '13 earned a master's in social work from Loyola University. He is a junior high school social worker for Palatine Community Consolidated School District 15. He and his wife, Jodie, reside in Hoffman Estates.

Angela Patarozzi '13 is a provider accounts specialist with GeneDx. She resides in Montgomery Village, Maryland.

Maria Pessman '13 teaches physical education at University High School. She and her husband, Josh, reside in Bloomington.

James Privitt '13 is a graduate student at Wake Forest University. He resides in Winston Salem, North Carolina.

Molly Reick '13 is a science teacher with United Township High School. She resides in Silvis.

Shari Stetson '13 is a building service worker at Illinois State University. She resides in Chenoa.

Stephanie Zitella '13 is a registered nurse at Rush University Medical Center. She resides in Chicago.

Jessica Arroyo '14 teaches kindergarten in the Chicago Public Schools system. She and her husband, Ferdinand Velez, reside in Chicago.

Breana Cameron '14 is a tax analyst with State Farm Insurance Company. She resides in Normal.

Rachel (Grampp) Cargill '14 is an admissions coordinator with Lincoln College. She resides in Normal.

Kathleen Cervera '14 teaches third grade in Adams Elementary within the Quincy Public Schools. She resides in Quincy.

Alexandra Corradetti '14 is a television host at WCIA. She resides in Savoy.

Matthew Donta '14 is a social studies teacher at Quincy Senior High School. He resides in McHenry.

Kyle Garman '14 is a safety standards engineer with John Deere. He resides in Polk City, Iowa.

Bryan Gibson, M.S. '14, is the team leader with ISU's administrative technologies. He and his wife, Holly, reside in East Peoria.

Courtney (Olson) Gordon '14 is a health information management manager with St. Mary's Hospital. She and her husband, Edward, reside in Decatur.

Malia Haanio '14 is a volunteer in management for Illinois State Representative Jack Franks. She resides in Woodstock.

Lauren Haley '14 is a prevention and health promotion specialist at

Dean Health Plan. She resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Adam Hampton '14, M.S. '16, is a graduate student at Purdue University. He resides in Bloomington.

Edward Hurd '14 is cofounder of Brooktower Insurance Group. He resides in Morton.

Jaclyn (Teasdale) Johnson '14 is an accountant with Aldi. She and her husband, Dean, reside in Rosenberg, Texas.

Brian Kulaga '14 is a special education teacher at Jane Stenson School. He resides in Chicago.

Melissa Macias '14 is a paraprofessional at Acacia Academy. She resides in Stickney.

Leo Marquardt '14 is a regional marketing coordinator with Venable LLP. He resides in West Hollywood, California.

Jennifer Mayer '14 is a resident manager with the housing authority in Bloomington, where she resides.

Casey McKinney '14 is an executive administrative assistant with GroupOne Healthsource. She resides in Fishers, Indiana.

Russell Meadors '14 is a broadcast technologist at ISU's public radio station, WGLT. He and his wife, Theresa, reside in Bloomington.

Matthew Morrissey '14 is a supplement support specialist with Snap-sheet. He resides in Chicago.

Erin (Rolando) O'Neal '14 is a registered nurse at Carle Foundation Hospital. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Heyworth.

Travis Phelps '14 is an industrial engineer with UPS and resides in Lake Bluff.

Chelsea Pokrzywinski '14 is completing a master's degree at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign library with a specialization in archives and rare books. She is a substitute teacher in Unit 5 School District and University High School. She resides in Normal.

Gabrielle Thomas '14 is a manager at Target. She resides in Chicago.

Rachel Resler '14 is a registered nurse at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. She resides in Pontiac.

Alison Roberts '14 is an operations manager with Orangetheory Fitness. She resides in Arlington Heights.

Jeremy Sauder '14 is a store manager at Aldi. He and his wife, Kaitlin, reside in Urbana.

Nathan Schober '14 is a lead clinical dietitian at the Cancer Treatment Centers of America. He and his wife, Kirsten, reside in Newnan, Georgia.

Nicole Scott '14 teaches fifth grade with Northside Independent School District. She resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Ashley Souk '14 is the donor relations coordinator for Home Sweet Home Ministries. She resides in Champaign.

Heather Torgler '14 is completing a master's in reading at ISU. She teaches third grade at Riverview Grade School. She resides in Minonk.

Abby Weber '14 is a coordinator of the accommodations office at ISU. She resides in Normal.

Megan Woit '14 is a special education teacher at Grant Community High School. She resides in Round Lake.

Matt Anzelc '15 is the operations manager with TC Enterprises LLC. He resides in Newark.

Holly Black '15 is a graduate student and dietetic intern at ISU. She resides in Taylorville.

Sarah Bollinger '15 is a dual language teacher with Naperville School District 203. She resides in Naperville.

Paul Bristow '15 is an assistant general manager with Homewood Suites in Columbus, Ohio, where he resides.

Brittany Bryant '15 is a kindergarten teacher at Pekin Public School District 108. She resides in Peoria.

Kathleen (Becker) Carter '15 teaches in Urbana School District 116. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Champaign.

Taylor Dubbelde '15 is a medical technologist with Anderson Hospital and resides in Bethalto.

Mark Fruin, M.S. '15, works at 84.51° as an analyst. The firm is a business development center that works with the world's leading CPG manufacturers and partners. He resides in Elmhurst.

Elizabeth Gerrard '15 is office manager in the Department of Technology at ISU. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Bloomington.

Andrea (Wilson) Jefferson '15 is a learning and behavior specialist with Unit 5 School District. She and her husband, Jordan, reside in Normal.

LaPortia Jones '15 is a legal secretary with Goldenberg Heller and Antognoli. She resides in Centerville.

Brianna Koenig '15 teaches mathematics at Empire High School. She resides in Tucson, Arizona.

Kaylee Krapfl '15 teaches kindergarten at Woodland Public School. She resides in Vancouver, Washington.

Ashley Krizik '15 is an early childhood special education teacher with Kirby School District 140. She resides in Frankfort.

Sarah Lehmann '15 is a special education teacher with Antioch District 34. She resides in Lake Villa.

Katherine Martz '15 is a supervisor at Hormel Foods. She resides in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Sabrina McGregor '15 is an operations analyst with Mark Anthony Brands. She resides in Steger.

Anna Miller '15 is a tax accountant with Schneider Downs. She and her husband, Anthony, reside in Moon Township, Pennsylvania.

Nicole Milligan, M.S. '15, is a bilingual first grade teacher in Plano, Texas. She and her husband, Drew, reside in Frisco, Texas.

Alex O'Brien '15 is a registered nurse with Carle Foundation Hospital. He resides in Bloomington.

Jaime Pheiffer '15 is an account coordinator with Adesa Phoenix. She resides in Chandler, Arizona.

Terri Renn '15, M.S. '16, is a corporate auditor with Illinois Tool Works. She resides in Arlington Heights.

Morgan Ritter '15 is a kennel technician with Paradise Pet Hotel and Day Spa. She resides in Bloomington.

Rachel (Powers) Stuckman '15 is a recreation therapist at Blessing Hospital. She resides in Quincy.

Andrea Swick '15 is a lead developer with Swick Solution. She resides in Downers Grove.

Mike Delzoppo '16 is an account associate with Mesirow Financial. He resides in Chicago.

John Gaffney '16 is a deputy with the DeWitt County Sheriff's Office. He resides in Clinton.

Lauren Greiber, M.S. '16, is a speech and language pathologist with Genesis Healthcare. She resides in Suffield, Connecticut.

Alita Kendrick '16 is a program assistant in gift planning at Northwestern University. She resides in Evanston.

Grace O'Brien '16 is the first ISU graduate to earn a Certificate in Principles of Public Relations through the Universal Accreditation Board with the Public Relations Society of America. She is working in social media and resides in Barrington.

Victoria Streitmatter '16 is a talent acquisition coordinator at Growmark. She resides in Sparland.

Molly Tesdall '16 is a senior human relations assistant with Amazon. She resides in Universal City, Texas.

Our troops

James Cloyd '74, M.S. '78, is retired from the United States Air Force. He resides in Gold Canyon, Arizona.

Marine Corps Col. **Drew Doolin '82** retired after a 30-year military career. He is a senior consultant for a not-for-profit public sector firm in Washington, D.C.

Duncan Brown '88 is a retired major in the U.S. Army. He is senior marketing manager with BNSF Railway Company. He and his wife, Dawn, reside in Fort Worth, Texas.

Lt. Col. **Kwame Curtis '00, M.S. '02**, is in the U.S. Air Force. He serves as the Air Force's audiology liaison in the Defense Hearing Center of Excellence. He and his wife, Christy, reside in San Antonio, Texas.

Adam Bolliger '08 is a captain in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Yorktown, Virginia.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Robert L. Duncan, English; 7/16

David L. Leonhard '67, MBA '89; Registrar; 7/16

Mary E. (Johnston) Natale '52, M.S. '59; Curriculum and Instruction, Metcalf; 8/16

Janet I. Ritchie '58; University Housing; 6/16

David A. Rubin, Biological Sciences; 11/16

Emily C. (Diehl) Schlenker, Menonite College of Nursing; 8/16

Robert T. Tussing, Accounting; 8/16

William Paul Vogt '65; College of Education; 4/16

30s

Dorothy A. (Reinken) Keller '37; 8/16

40s

Mary E. (Sorenson) Polly '43; 9/16

Louise M. (Rest) Bauknight '44; 7/16

Betty L. (Trenary) Traister '44, M.S. '69; 9/16

Evelyn (Rieger) Viall '44; 12/15

Della F. (Talbot) Staley '45; 10/16

Edith V. (Olson) Dickey '47; 7/16

Dorothy M. Cairns '48; 8/16

Elizabeth R. (Kerz) Gildner '48; 10/16

Irene H. (Norton) Button Viscum Kenney '48; 8/16

Carol A. (Reig) Johnson '49; 7/16

50s

Edgar S. Alsene '50; 7/16

Cleon L. Fellows '51; 8/16

Caroline G. (Aschenbrenner) McCurdy '51; 8/16

Gene Brandt '52, Ph.D. '68; 10/16

Frederick A. Chapman '52; 10/16

Marie A. (Greve) Fraser '52; 7/16

Lauren E. (Elwood) Frederick '52; 7/16



Three easy ways to submit your information

- 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.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by email at alumni@IllinoisState.edu.

REDBIRD SOCKS ROCK!



For the third consecutive year, alumni and friends proudly wore Redbird socks obtained by making a minimum gift in support of their passion at Illinois State University. Donors shared photos of their socks on social media platforms using #RedbirdSocks. The 2016 design featured red and white stripes with the 1980s retro I-State logo. Not sold through stores, the socks are available each year only by making an annual gift. The 2017 design will be introduced soon this spring. Don't miss this next unique opportunity to show your Redbird pride! For more information, call (309) 438-4309.

Walter C. Herrmann '52; 7/16
Lois (Klump) Hines '52; 8/16
James E. Madole '52, M.S. '58; 9/16
Virginia G. (Dowdall) Brannan '53; 7/16
Melvin H. Phillips '53, M.S. '72; 6/16
Clifford E. Smith '53, M.S. '60; 10/16
Richard D. Sibley '54; 7/16
Dorothy A. (Kirchner) Yoder '54; 8/16
Patrick E. Cain '55; 7/16
Roy E. Snell '56; 8/16
Sally A. (Givens) Young '56; 8/16
Patricia A. Helphinstine '57; 10/16
Ronald G. Moews '57, M.S. '63; 8/16
Dale J. Pierre '58, M.S. '63; 8/16
Carolyn (Hieronymus) Rau '58; 9/16
Lloyd A. Torbeck '58; 8/16
Darrell Foster '59; 10/16
Roger F. Smith '59; 8/16

60s

Ruth J. (Himstedt) Rodriguez Rand '61; 7/16
Valerie J. Wilford '61; 8/16
Mary Ellen (Benner) Ebach '62; 7/16

Judy M. (Halpin) Ruwe '62; 11/15
Dwight A. Baker, M.S. '63; 9/16
Michael Emmons '63, M.S. '64; 10/16
Kathryn E. (Knapp) Funk '63, M.S. '68; 7/16
Merel K. Marine '63; 10/14
Charles Siepel '63; 12/14
Niki (Rasmussen) Swanson '63; 10/16
Nancy J. Babb '64; 7/16
Carol Ann (Hinshaw) Holland '64; 12/15
Roger P. Ryburn '64; 7/16
Harry D. Sabin '64; 4/14
Wanda L. (Bloomer) Weaver '64; 7/16
Larry L. Finley, M.S. '65; 8/16
Richard S. Lee, M.S. '65; 8/16
Barbara A. (Parker) Tuntland Sennett '65, M.S. '82; 7/16
Kent B. Deffenbaugh '66; 10/16
Joyce M. Stebbins '66, M.S. '69; 5/16
David Leonhard '67, MBA '89; 7/16
Enoch "Doby" L. Nunnery, M.S. '67; 10/16
John K. Sweeney '67; 9/16
Carol (Sanger) Binkley '68; 8/16
Marshall W. Dawson Jr. '68; 8/16

William C. Hezlep, M.S. '68; 7/16
Lawrence R. Adkins, M.S. '69; 10/16
Constantine "Dan" C. Danou '69, M.A. '70; 9/16
Margaret (McElroy) Powell '69; 8/16

70s

Ronald C. Cuny '70; 8/16
Richard E. Jones '70; 9/16
Kathleen A. Strange '70; 9/16
Carolyn L. (Silk) Fortin Brinkman '71; 9/16
Virginia C. Buschmann, M.S. '71; 8/16
Katherine J. (Thomas) Layden '71; 10/16
Rollin K. Mercer '71; 11/16
Mina R. (Jackson) Pohl '71; 6/16
Kenneth R. Smithson '71; 9/16
David P. Stephen '72; 2/16
Richard A. Ciganko, D.A. '73; 2/16
Sherrilyn A. (Martin) Taylor '73; 9/16
Elaine T. Merritt '75; 9/16
Thomas A. Nelson '75; 8/16
Carol Fitzgerald, M.A. '76; 8/16
Nancy A. Hoover '76; 10/16
Richard Bisterfeldt '77; 9/16

80s

Robert D. Lindy, MBA '80; 6/16
Wanda I. (Woolverton) Cotner '81; 10/16
Debra D. (Nelson) Preston '81; 9/16
Diane (Laesch) Gieseke '83; 9/16
Kay E. Dahlquist '85; 9/16
Michael E. Sweeney '85; 1/11

90s

Kenneth L. Leonard Jr. '93; 10/16
Brad Benson '94; 8/16
Tracy L. (Richards) Brodt '94; 8/15
Wayne L. Meece '94; 10/16

00s

Matthew B. Schmidgall '09; 9/16

10s

Elstella I. (Eguavoen) Ehicheoya '13; 8/16



Supporting your passion

Clowning is an art, but it isn't often considered serious enough for academic study. Bruce "Charlie" Johnson, an internationally known clown historian, wanted to change that.

He and his wife, Carole, established the Bruce "Charlie" Johnson Circus Special Collections Endowment Fund to help underwrite the cost of maintaining and acquiring circus and circus-related artifacts at Milner Library. The Circus and Allied Arts Special Collection is a treasure that includes more than 8,000 books, photographs, posters, costumes, music and other memorabilia used in teaching courses from graphic design to theater and geography.

Bruce Johnson, *shown above*, is internationally recognized as an entertainer, author, artist and instructor. While working on scholarly clowning articles, he often saw Milner Library referenced. After he heard Special Collections Director Maureen Brunsdale speak at a national conference, he visited the library with International Clown Hall of Fame inductees Richard Snowberg '65, and Arthur Pedlar, a clown historian from England.

"We were impressed by how well the materials are preserved and organized, and by how the collection is integrated into the college curriculum," Johnson said. All three began donating items to the circus collection.

"I hope that the endowment fund will help Milner Library continue the excellent work it is already doing with the circus collection, and to expand upon the collection," Johnson said.

Snowberg and his wife, Janice (Tobler) '65, contributed to the endowment and also presented a gift from Wisconsin's Clown Camp. The oldest and largest clown training program in the world, it was directed by Snowberg for more than 30 years.

Will you make a difference by supporting your passion? Make a gift online at [IllinoisState.edu/Giving](https://www.illinoisstate.edu/Giving) or call (800) 366-4478.



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Fir frame

The trek to class becomes a walk accented by natural snowy beauty during the winter season. Students are seen passing the Center for the Performing Arts on the east side of the Quad, which becomes the place for snowball fights and snow sculptures for those who can tolerate the cold.