

ILLINOIS

STATE

Incandescence

One word captures the life of television's exceptional lighting designer Jon Kusner.



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FirstWord

If asked to describe Illinois State, what would you say?

'Redbird Family' is a likely response, conveying the unique bond felt by all with a campus connection. As I consider the University, two other words also come to mind: Strong and Stable.

Let me explain.

ISU has not only withstood a financial storm within the state of Illinois, but has continued to progress through a period of uncertainty. For those unaware, the current fiscal year began without a state budget in place. Months passed through summer and the fall semester with no sense of what our state appropriation would be—although it was certain a cut of some magnitude was inevitable.



Other universities across the state were forced to enact furlough days, impacting academic programs and student services. Illinois State is positioned with such strength and stability that we did not short-change students. In fact, we found a way to cover tuition waivers the state no longer provides and allow students waiting for state supplements to continue attending without penalty.

Hiring has been frozen, leaving more than six dozen administrative-related positions unfilled. Professional travel has been curtailed, equipment purchases postponed, and renovation work pushed

back. But our students have been served with such uninterrupted excellence that our enrollment continues to increase.

The fact that the fall 2015 freshman class set a 26-year record high is an amazing achievement. Numerous other indicators provide more evidence to support my word choice.

The Washington Monthly ranks ISU fourth in the Midwest as a Best Bang for the Buck institution. *The Chronicle of Higher Education* named us A Great College to Work For, and *U.S. News & World Report* places us in the top 80 of Best National Universities.

We remain in the top 10 percent nationally for retention and graduation rates, and continue to be recognized as a national model for civic engagement. Our student default rate is low and dropping, expected to be 2.8 percent this year compared to a national average of nearly 11.7 percent.

I applaud all Redbirds for a positive attitude and stellar performance during difficult times. I have confidence in our institution and our people because Illinois State University has a long and proud tradition of quality.

Our standards of teaching, learning, research and service bow to no superiors. Our excellence lies with our belief in and our adherence to our mission, our vision, and most of all our values—and they remain as strong and stable as bedrock.

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



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university



ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 16, Number 3, February 2016

FEATURES

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Adolescents in East St. Louis are often on a path to college, the military or trouble. Judge Walter Brandon Jr. '82, M.S. '84, chose college. An associate judge handling juvenile and family court issues, Brandon is determined to make a difference.
- 12** **A tally of traditions**
With more than 200,000 alumni from across generations, graduates have different memories of their days on campus. There are some events, rituals, and places that define Redbird life regardless of attendance years.
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Amidst the bedlam that is live television lies a calm, cool and collected ISU alum. With two Emmy wins to his name, Jon Kusner '95 is a lighting designer for live television events. His niche career has taken him all over the world.
- 20** **Orientation celebration**
This year marks the 50th anniversary of Preview. Created in 1966 by President Robert Bone, the summer program for freshmen transforms incoming students and guides. Rooted in an effort to make the University a warm and welcoming environment, Preview put ISU ahead of other large institutions and remains a point of pride.
- 24** **Going against the grain**
Nestled in the Corn Belt, Central Illinois farms are largely reserved for corn and soybeans. That didn't deter Mary (Mouser) Hofmann '76 from taking a different direction. She opened a vineyard on 22 acres just minutes from campus.



DEPARTMENTS

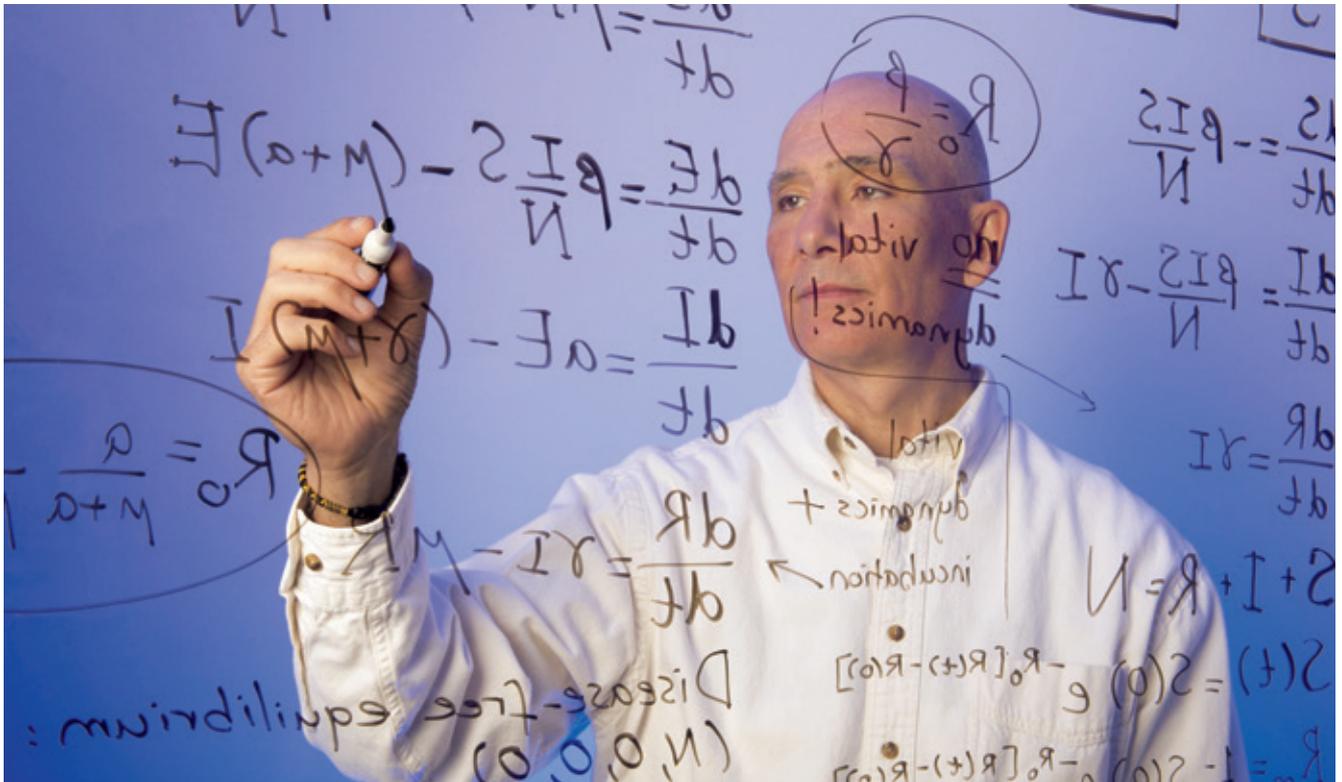
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On the cover: Jon Kusner rarely takes the stage himself, as his job is to keep the spotlight on others. He has worked with myriad celebrities and politicians, including President Barack Obama.

What's trending on **STATE** side

-  **Five things you'll discover in ISU's new research magazine**
 -  **More campus landmarks, then and now**
 -  **Reggie surprises four future Redbirds with acceptance letters**
- Read those stories and more at IllinoisState.edu/STATESide

UniversityNews



Emerging field

University at the forefront of biomathematics

The University is becoming a national force in the study of biomathematics—the intersection of math, computer science and natural science. ISU has a scholarly journal making international headway and is spearheading a consortium of universities dedicated to advancing the field.

Mathematics Professor Olcay Akman is at the center of the success. He developed the idea for a consortium named Intercollegiate Biomathematics Alliance (IBA).

“Biomathematics is a young science, which means there are not many faculty members dedicated to the field,” Akman

said. Illinois State is, for example, one of few universities to offer a graduate program in biomathematics.

Akman, *above*, thought universities could improve opportunities by partnering. The consortium allows for sharing academic, intellectual, infrastructural and physical resources. The IBA also enables students to engage experts across university lines.

The field cuts across the sciences, with many research avenues. Scholars might work to compute the rate of infection of a disease or help farmers estimate the amount of pesticide needed for crops.

Akman partnered with faculty at Benedictine University and Chicago

State University to start the IBA. Four additional institutional members joined. The alliance provides research and professional development opportunities via colloquia, workshops and teleconferences.

“Thanks to the funding from IBA, mathematics instructors from all over the U.S. can stream or record lectures to share with other institutions,” Akman said.

IBA members benefit from a supercomputer housed at Illinois State, proving the partnership is a viable approach to advance programs despite the reality of shrinking higher education budgets.

Millions in federal grant helps at-risk children

The University has received a nearly \$5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families to empower at-risk youth in Champaign. The funds will assist with creation of the Champaign Area Relationship Education for Youth (CARE4U) program.

Family and Consumer Sciences Chair Ani Yazedjian is principal investigator for the grant, which will be distributed as nearly \$1 million annually for five years.

The program will target youth ages 15-24 throughout Champaign County, where one in five children live in poverty. Sessions will cover communication skills, job readiness skills, and financial literacy. A component for subsidized summer youth employment or community college tuition reimbursement is also planned.

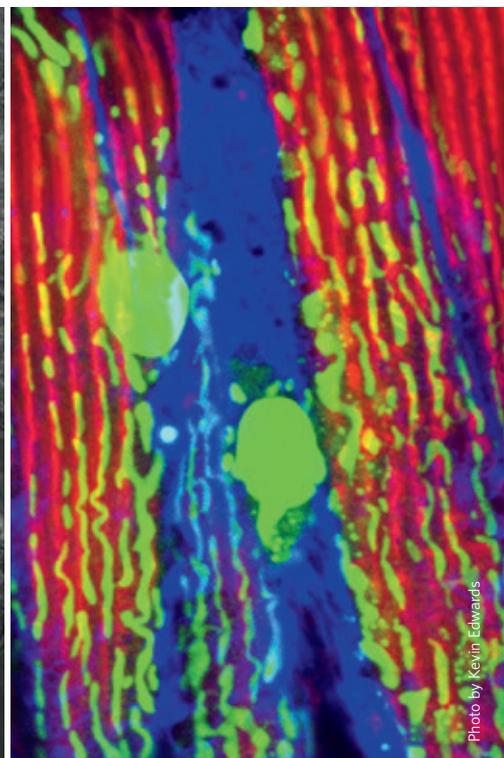
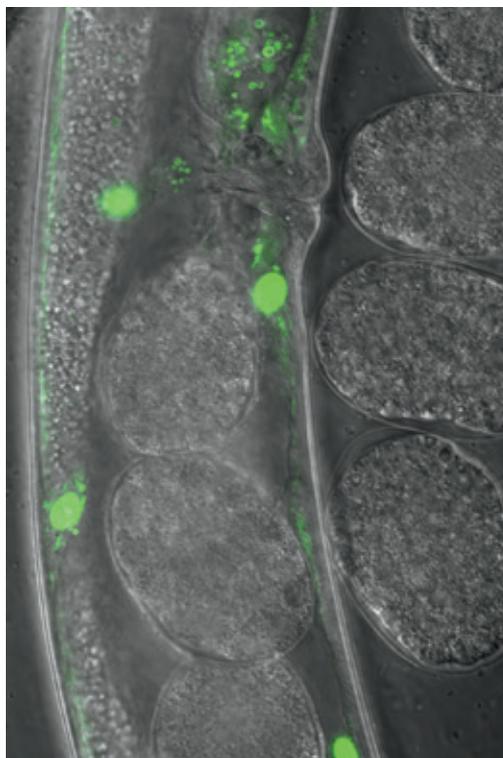
"The goal is to enhance the well-being of these young people and support their successful transition to adulthood," Yazedjian said. Partners include the United Way of Champaign County and Champaign Urbana Cradle to Career. ISU psychology faculty Renée Tobin and Leandra Parris will lead the program's evaluation team.

Minuscule worm brain reveals migration key

It is known that animals use the Earth's magnetic field to migrate. Through the research of Andres Vidal-Gadea, it is now also known what the magnetic receptor looks like and how it works.

An assistant professor of molecular neuroethology, Vidal-Gadea has identified the first sensor of the Earth's magnetic field in the brain of tiny worms called *C. elegans*. The worms possess an antenna-like structure that allows them to navigate through soil.

"There are a lot of critters in the soil that use magnetic fields to do vertical migrations. Now we have a better idea how they do it," he said, noting the



Students in Vidal-Gadea's lab combine genetically encoded dyes of green, left, with standard histochemical stains of red and blue, right, to study the neural and genetic basis of behavior.

research could unlock the key to all animal migration.

Labs around the globe have been racing to be the first to find the receptor. Vidal-Gadea has taken the lead worldwide in the study of how animal behavior is linked to the nervous system.

His research, published in the journal *eLife*, is supported by the National Institutes of Health and the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke.

ISU's quality confirmed with two national rankings

The University's excellence has once again been noted by separate publications in rankings that assess academic quality and value for dollars invested.

Illinois State is listed as the 79th best public university in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report*, which considers student retention, faculty and financial resources, and graduation rate performance. The report, released last

fall, places the University at 149 among all public and private universities in the nation.

ISU has kept 34 percent of classes at fewer than 20 students despite rising enrollment and maintained a 71 percent graduation rate, which far exceeds the national average of 56 percent.

Washington Monthly ranked Illinois State as fourth among the Best Bang for the Buck Colleges in the Midwest category of its 2015 college rankings. The report identifies colleges that are doing the best job of helping students attain marketable degrees at a reasonable cost. ISU is the only university from Illinois ranked in the top five.

Gates Millennium Scholar part of ISU freshman class

For the second consecutive year, Illinois State has been the University of choice for a Gates Millennium Scholar. Christa Hale, a graduate of Epic Academy in Chicago, is one of only 1,000 students

Where are they now?

Neil Skaggs arrived on the Illinois State campus in 1979 after completing a doctorate in economics at Duke University. At the time, he was searching for his first faculty position. Skaggs chose ISU based on the quality of the Department of Economics. The University became his professional home, as he remained on faculty until his retirement in 2010.

Skaggs developed an expertise in the areas of monetary theory, money and banking, and public choice. He enjoyed a teaching load covering those subjects in classes of graduate, undergraduate, and Honors students. He also taught Principles of Economics, Intermediate Macroeconomics, and History of Economic Thought.

His research specialty is the history of monetary economics. His work has appeared in the *History of Political Economy*, *Southern Economic Journal* and *Canadian Journal of Economics*. He has also published numerous journal articles on the development of British monetary theory and policy in the 19th century. In addition, Skaggs co-authored a *Principles of Economics* textbook while with the department.

On campus, Skaggs was active as chair of the ISU Credit Union board for three years and was also vocal in leading a resistance to faculty unionization. He served as an administrator as well, taking on the interim duties of department chair for economics, psychology and chemistry.

Beyond the classroom, Skaggs was very involved in the Christian Collegians campus ministry for many years and remained an avid fan of Redbird basketball. He also spent two semesters teaching as part of ISU's study abroad program in Salzburg, Austria.

Travel remains one retirement pleasure for Skaggs and his wife, Barb, who continue to make Bloomington-Normal their home. The two have four adult daughters and especially enjoy spending time with their five grandchildren. Skaggs has remained active, continuing to enjoy running, pursuing scholarly projects and staying involved with ISU's Campus Christian Faculty.

He can be reached at ntskaggs@IllinoisState.edu.



Economics Professor Emeritus Neil Skaggs

to be awarded the scholarship through graduation.

Offered by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the scholarship competition drew 57,000 applicants nationwide. Recipients pursue an undergraduate degree at the college of their choice with all expenses covered.

Hale enrolled as a criminal justice major. She joins fellow ISU Gates scholar Dyrell Ashley from Chicago, who began studying biology teacher education in 2014.

Students produce book to address trafficking issue

A graphic novel produced by the University's Publications Unit was key to a United Nations presentation made last fall by the director of Children of the Forest. The not-for-profit agency assists

children who have been trafficked along the Thailand-Myanmar border.

Publications Director Steve Halle made the connection to create *Forget Me Not: Stories of Child Trafficking from the Thai-Burma Border*. Illinois State students took the lead in production.

Artist Andrew Zeal volunteers with Children of the Forest, which is a half-way house for stateless children. Zeal traveled to the border with the children to complete an art project that grew into the novel.

Halle donated the time needed to produce the book. ISU students completed the project in just eight weeks. Senior Tess Culton appreciated the experience. "By having the chance to work on this book, I feel like I've been part of something that has the potential to change lives."

Center's market research helps small businesses

Small businesses and entrepreneurs have access to free customized market research intelligence through ISU, which now provides an Illinois Business Intelligence (IBI) service.

The Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development makes the information and quality referrals available to any business owner or start-up. Service is provided within one business day.

By subscribing to private databases, IBI can generate reports on consumer spending habits, market potential, and national financial benchmarking metrics.

Easy-to-understand data provided in real-time allows clients to make informed decisions when developing business plans. IBI also has a large network of referrals, directing entrepre-

neers to the organization that can best meet their needs.

For more information on IBI's free services, call (309) 438-0610 or visit www.illinoisbusinessintelligence.org.

Cyber defense education in the national spotlight

The Center for Information Assurance and Security Education in the School of Information Technology has once again been designated as a National Center of Academic Excellence in Cyber Defense Education.

The recognition, from the National Security Agency and the Department of Homeland Security, covers academic years through 2020. Illinois State first received the national designation in 2009. The University's center is committed to furthering information assurance education on campus, across the state and nationwide.

The honor places ISU among the leading institutions in the U.S. for information assurance and cyber security education. Students have an opportunity for federal scholarships in those areas of study as a result.

History faculty member named Obama Fellow

History Professor Alan Lessoff is the spring 2016 Obama Fellow at the Transnational Institute for American Studies at the Johannes Gutenberg University in Germany.

An internationally recognized scholar of U.S. and comparative urban history, Lessoff will continue his research as an Obama Fellow, give presentations, and take part in seminars at the German university.

On ISU's faculty since 2000, Lessoff is the recipient of two Fulbright appointments at universities in Germany and Turkey.

He presents his research across Europe, is a prolific author, and served for more than a decade as editor of the esteemed *Journal of the Gilded Age and Progressive Era*.

ISU senior chosen as Student Laureate in state

Maureen Christensen has been named a Student Laureate of the Lincoln Academy of Illinois by Governor Bruce Rauner. A senior, she is majoring in marketing and broadcast journalism.

The award recognizes excellence in curricular and extracurricular activities. It goes to seniors from each of the state's four-year, degree-granting colleges and universities. One student represents the state's community colleges.

Christensen holds a 3.93 GPA and is a Robert G. Bone Scholar, which is the highest honor for ISU undergraduates. She has received several scholarships and is civically engaged as a Student Government Association leader as well as human relations commissioner for the Town of Normal.



Maureen Christensen

Program partnership will improve mental health care

The University has joined The Campus Program in support of student well-being and mental health.

The program offers self-assessment and feedback tools as well as technical assistance that helps colleges create more comprehensive solutions to support their students. It is funded by The Jed Foundation and The Bill, Hillary and Chelsea Clinton Foundation.

"The program is designed to help schools prevent the two leading causes of death in young adults: suicide and unintentional injuries—including those caused by prescription drug overdoses or alcohol poisoning," said Student Counseling Services Director Sandy Colbs.

Participating schools make a four-year commitment. They receive a framework for supporting student mental health, substance abuse and suicide prevention programming.

Mail

To the Editor,

I was very pleased to see that there is an effort underway by Professor Michael Gizzi to allow ISU students to have an option to study in Israel and the Palestinian Authority (August 2015).

It is my hope that if approved, this program will be presented in an objective and impartial manner so that students can see all aspects of life in this region and the complexities that surround it.

Rob Festenstein '92

To the Editor,

I entered ISU (then ISNU) as a freshman in the fall of 1953. Although a non-smoker, I noted the strict warning to all freshmen: No Smoking On Campus. We understood that it was unseemly for a student to smoke, especially a student training to be a teacher.

Some years later, the University tried to "catch up with the times" and allow smoking. Your August story ("Policy change eliminates tobacco from campus") makes no moral judgment, saying the prohibition "promotes the health and well-being of Illinois State students, faculty, staff and visitors." Still a non-smoker, I heartily agree.

Kenneth Janda '57

To the Editor,

As a former Union Board member under the leadership of Bruce Kaiser, and as a student and later faculty member and friend of President Robert Bone, I was part of the rapid growth of ISU. I am sure both Bruce and Bob would approve of the design concepts of the new Bone Student Center.

Online comment
Richard Nimz '62

To the Editor,

It's a quote! From Chaucer! I'd go back to the original quote with the old(e) spellings and everything! I think our graduates are smart enough to figure out what it means.

Online comment
("Making of the motto," November 2015)
William Starkweather '71

Redbird Athletics



Conference champions

Second consecutive title, playoff run for football

After making it to the national championship game a year ago, Brock Spack's football team had one objective this past season: return to the finals and bring home the trophy. Although falling short of that goal, the men had a spectacular 10-3 season. They retained the Missouri Valley Football Conference championship title and took a No. 2 seed into the FCS playoffs.

The Redbirds advanced to the quarterfinals, but fell to the Richmond Spiders. While the loss was a disappointment, Spack praised his players for achieving a 23-5 record over two seasons.

"That is always going to be our goal here. Everybody in the program knows that," Spack said of a national title. "It was a struggle. This season could have gone south in a heartbeat, but the players didn't let that happen. I think it was a successful year to get this far and win 10 games."

Spack noted that the team advanced despite obstacles that weren't a factor a year ago. "We won differently this year than last year. It wasn't as easy, it wasn't as smooth," he said. "We had kids banged up. It was a tough year from that standpoint. The kids just fought through it."

Quarterback Tre Roberson and tailback Marshaun Coprich, both seniors, were the offensive force that led the Redbirds through a season that started with

a battle against the University of Iowa on the Hawkeyes' field.

In just two seasons of play as a transfer, Roberson made his way into ISU's record books for yardage and pass completion. The season ended with Coprich nominated as one of three finalists for the national FCS Offensive Player of the Year. He and wide receiver Anthony Warrum captured All-America honors, with Coprich selected as first-team.

"Our players have nothing to hang their heads about. They have done a great job here. They have set a level of performance never before seen at ISU, and that's something to be very, very proud of," Spack said.



Tre Roberson with Athletics Director Larry Lyons

Leader in women's athletics mourned

Former Director of Women's Intercollegiate Athletics Laurie Mabry passed away last October at the age of 86. She built ISU's women's sports into a major national program as director from 1960-1982.

A physical education professor, she coached golf and women's basketball before retiring in 1985. She was inducted into three halls of fame, including ISU's Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame. A banner hangs in Redbird Arena in her honor.

Mabry served from 1975-1976 as president of the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women, the national governing body for college women's athletics. Mabry played a key role in authoring and sponsoring the Title IX regu-

lations for equality in women's sports, which were enacted by Congress and signed into law by President Gerald Ford.

"Laurie was a big part of Illinois State Athletics and was particularly instrumental in progressing the cause of women's athletics," Director of Athletics Larry Lyons said. "She was a strong advocate nationally. One of the reasons Illinois State has had such a strong presence in women's athletics is because of the foundation Laurie set here."

Mabry moved to Vandalia in 1991, where she loved playing golf. She also enjoyed playing cards in various bridge and poker groups. Donations in her memory can be made to the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund at WeisbeckerFund.com.

Athletes serve community and beyond

Student-athletes logged 2,666 hours of community service during the 2014-2015 academic year.

Redbirds worked with children in the Recess Buddies program and helped at a holiday party for local families. They collected canned goods at Halloween and helped social service agencies. Senior C.J. Hamilton, a track and field athlete, logged 146 hours alone with the Bloomington Crisis Help Line.

The outreach extended beyond Central Illinois. The football team took time last season to volunteer with the Miracle League while in Frisco, Texas. The men's

basketball team scheduled time to help others during a pre-season trip to Spain in August.

The international trek allowed for visits to a local orphanage and center for individuals with disabilities. Team members and staff provided instruction and played with nearly 50 youngsters in the community of Mataro, outside of Barcelona.

There will be plenty of upcoming opportunities to serve, with a challenge for student-athletes to set a record of 3,000 service hours this academic year.

Four take top annual awards

Rachel Tejada and Tre Roberson won top honors last fall at The Reggies, which is the annual awards ceremony sponsored by State Farm Insurance Companies.

Tejada, of the soccer team, received the Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year Award. Quarterback Roberson won the Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year Award.

Tejada finished her collegiate career last fall as the MVC Player of the Year for the fourth consecutive year. She set several ISU and MVC career records. Roberson led the football team to a national championship game appearance, while earning All-Missouri Valley Football Conference First-Team honors after setting several single-season records.

Gymnast Sami King received the Linda Herman Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award and Jacob Hendren, of the baseball team, captured the Doug Collins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year Award.

King finished her career last spring as a four-time NCAA Regional qualifier. She completed an exercise science degree with a perfect 4.0 GPA. Hendren posted a 10-2 pitching record and a team-leading 2.80 ERA, while striking out 99 of 106 innings pitched for an ISU single-season record. His 3.83 GPA as a mathematics major helped him earn Capital One Academic All-America and All-Region honors.

Athletes remain strong as classroom students

Statistics for the Graduation Success Rate (GSR) released last fall by the NCAA shows an 87 percent for Illinois State, which equals ISU's all-time high. The national average is 86 percent.

A total of 11 Redbird teams recorded a GSR equal to or better than the national average in their sports, and six of those teams achieved perfect rates: men's golf, men's tennis, women's golf, women's tennis, soccer and volleyball.



ONE MAN'S MISSION

Judge combines compassion with justice in juvenile court



by Kevin Bersett

Judge Walter Brandon Jr.

looked as placid as a pond, as he had all day, while he waited for the next case to begin in St. Clair County's juvenile justice courtroom. Everyone who was supposed to be there was there except the one person for whom the hearing had been called.

It was 1:43 p.m. Tuesday, August 25, and it had already been a long day. Brandon had the court skip lunch so he could get through the afternoon docket.

Finally, 15 minutes late, an East St. Louis man rushed into the courtroom and into a mess. The man was launching a last-ditch effort to gain custody of his two children, 10 months and 2 years old. They had been living in foster care while their mother, a drug addict, sat in a St. Louis jail and their father tried to turn his life around after a stint in prison.

The father was lucky the hearing had been called at all. The Illinois Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) had failed to follow a court order issued by Brandon granting custody of the children to their maternal grandmother. The department disobeyed the order so the father could have another chance to do a set of assessments, including one for domestic violence, that he had repeatedly ignored over the previous two years.

"Now he knows the department isn't playing," a DCFS representative testified.

The father had a few things in his favor: He had a job and acquired a car. And a home inspection didn't turn up any bottles of alcohol in his yard. He, however, couldn't offer a coherent explanation for his continued defiance of the mandatory assessments, other than he didn't understand why he had to do them.

"So sir, basically you have not done anything on the service plan," Brandon said.

What to do? Should Brandon give the children to the father, leave them in foster care, or grant custody to the grandmother, who lives hours away in Tennessee?

These are the imperfect decisions that Brandon '82, M.S. '84, faces all day, every day in cases of child custody, child abuse and neglect, and juvenile delinquency.

"You want to get the kid integrated back into the home if at all possible," Brandon said, back in his office. Jazz pumped from a radio behind his desk and a mechanical waterfall rumbled soothingly nearby. "But our main premise is what is in the child's best interest."

Despite being a serial witness to human and institutional error, misbehavior, and short-sightedness—sometimes all in

“I want to protect the community. The best way to protect the community is to make that individual feel that they don’t have to do what they did to come in here.”



Judge Walter Brandon Jr., a graduate of East St. Louis Senior High School, maintains strong ties to his hometown through community service and his work on the bench. (Photos courtesy of Zia Nizami.)

the same case—Brandon rarely betrayed any sign of frustration. When the father offered his business cards in the middle of the hearing to everyone in the courtroom, without any prompting or logical tie to the case, the judge didn’t chastise him or laugh. Brandon just said that as the judge he couldn’t accept the card.

“People come from different situations and circumstances. Sometimes it takes people a long time to get an understanding,” Brandon said. “My whole focus is the best interests of the children.”

Brandon handles an average of 500 cases a year as the main juvenile court judge in St. Clair County. He has served in the post since 2008.

“My mission in life is to be a servant,” he said. “Our time here is short. So you got to seize the moment. And try to make a difference in somebody’s life. I deal with a lot of situations, and circumstances, and problems that kids have.

“This is one courtroom where you can really make a difference in the future.”

It’s a heavy job that he wears light. Brandon keeps in mind a saying he learned at Illinois State: “You feel the way you feel because you think the way you think. Change the way

you think, and you change the way you feel.” He finds solace in his Christian faith—his wife is a minister—and a daily exercise regimen.

“I pray a lot. I can’t get inside of someone else’s mind. What is rational to me is not rational to them,” he said. “A lot of people deal with trauma. I can’t change that, but I can apply kindness and try to put the services in place so that won’t be their future. So that’s the way I look at it.”

Back in court, it was 3:07 p.m. A pole-thin 17-year-old in shackles stood awkwardly in front of the judge. The boy pleaded guilty to pushing a relative in his home and pleaded with the judge not to put him in juvenile

detention, even though he had missed an earlier court date. He said he wouldn’t be able to find a job or go back to school behind bars.

Brandon warned him to follow court orders this time.

“If you decide not to, we are going to lock you down,” Brandon says. “We will find you if you run.”

Moments later a second teen stumbled forward in handcuffs. The scrawny kid, 16, with an empty face and a T-shirt with the No. 3 on the back, was tied to an assortment of crimes: breaking into an East St. Louis home, stealing a GPS system from a car, possessing a stolen vehicle, giving police a fake name. He pleaded guilty and was detained until his next court date.

Brandon said he makes sure each juvenile defendant undergoes mental health and substance abuse evaluations. He tries to provide services up front—even though budget cuts are making that more difficult—so the teens don’t end up in felony court as adults.

“I want to protect the community. The best way to protect the community is to make that individual feel that they don’t have to do what they did to come in here,” Brandon said.

Brandon grew up in East St. Louis, a St. Clair County town along the Mississippi River, that has long been synonymous with crime and urban decay. Many of Brandon’s friends went to college or the military; others ended up in prison.

Now he works in Belleville, an old German town that serves as the seat of a county of 265,000. Belleville has its share of problems, but it is light years from the apocalyptic landscape of East St. Louis and its troubled neighboring communities. There daytime gunfights, blocks of vacant lots and blown-out homes, and a desperate sense of abandonment pervade.

“Any time you are looking at the inner city, there is a lot going on,” Brandon said. “Lack of resources. Like right now, we have a lot of youth who don’t have the mentors, don’t have the guidance. You have the stuff that is going on in Ferguson. A lot of people have problems. A lot of people are hurting. I have to have that ear: to decide what is right and what is wrong and apply the law.”

Similar racial, poverty, and law enforcement issues that added fuel to the protests and rioting across the river in Ferguson, Missouri, are also present in St. Clair County.

“You still have the same issues. You still have the allegation of racial profiling. It’s the same thing, but it just hasn’t blown to that proportion in St. Clair County,” Brandon said. “It’s a good thing that it hasn’t, because then you have more poor people who will find themselves dead.

“I do believe you have individuals in the communities who are working to try to stop that. But I think more needs to be done. You have a lot of juveniles out here, man, that don’t have the guidance.”

Brandon learned a lot from his father, a former East St. Louis police lieutenant involved in his local union. Brandon grew up working in the trenches of city politics. He pursued those interests at Illinois State, earning a bachelor’s in political science and a master’s in criminal justice.

“Like most students, I didn’t have any idea what I was going to do,” he said. “I wanted to change the world. I wanted to help people. Saw there was a need, and we had to roll up our sleeves.”

Brandon started in sociology and took business and philosophy classes. It wasn’t until later he thought of criminal justice, thinking there was a lot of employment in that area. “The one thing about it was crime wasn’t deteriorating,” he said.

Accepted into the University provisionally, he worked his way through school at the Bone Student Center and selling hot dogs and soda on the Quad. He honed patience with tasks like using a toothbrush to clean crevices in student union elevators.

Brandon served with several committees and organizations, including the Academic Senate and the Pi Beta chapter of the Omega Psi Phi fraternity. He maintains strong campus ties through the Black Colleagues Association and the Attorneys Advisory Board, and is a season ticketholder for Redbird football.

“I had a great experience there,” he said. “I met a lot of good people.”

Brandon attended law school at Southern University in Louisiana. The historically black school encouraged students

to serve their communities after graduation. “So I came back to do exactly that,” Brandon said.

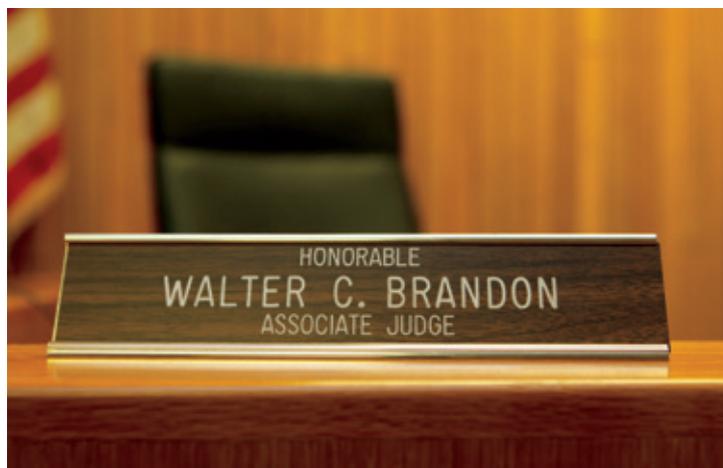
He served as a prosecutor in St. Clair County State’s Attorney’s office before moving into the Public Defender’s office. He then worked as a civil attorney for the locally prominent Cueto law firm. He started a private practice and represented East St. Louis’ municipal government and neighboring Centreville for a time in the 1990s.

Brandon was appointed an associate judge in 1997. He requested the juvenile court post after years in adult courts because it is where he thought he could do the most good.

“It’s challenging when you have to take kids,” he said. “You give birth to them, then I take them away.”

That’s the choice Brandon had that August afternoon. Things weren’t going well for the man who was trying to get custody of his two children. Leaving them in foster care also didn’t seem like a good option, especially considering the caretakers weren’t allowing the judge’s monitors into the home to see the children.

The grandmother pleaded her case to Brandon and described a bureaucratic nightmare. She was supposed to get the children a year ago but that got delayed once the father became aware of her plans. When she was finally granted cus-



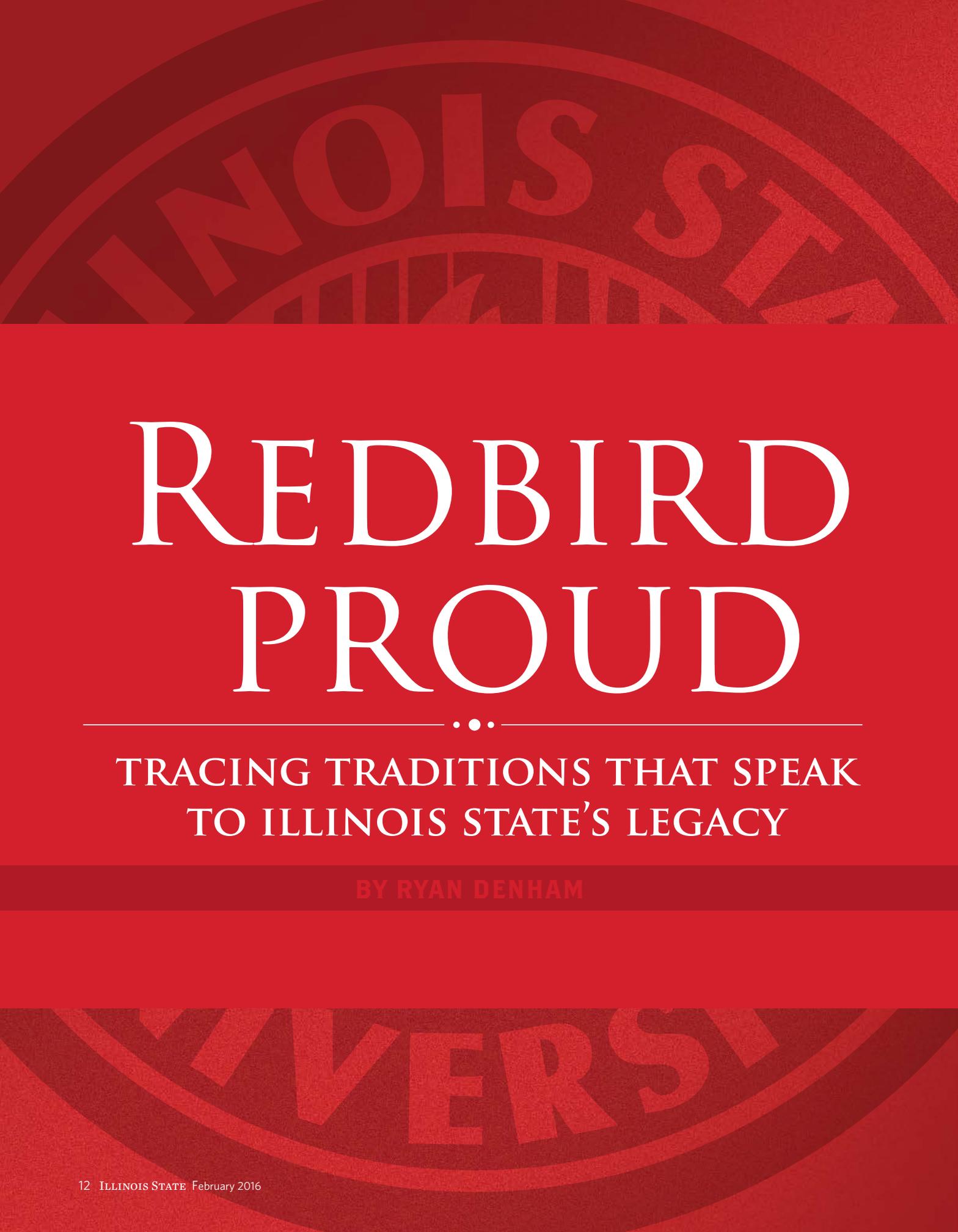
today, DCFS failed to act on Brandon’s order that would have allowed her to take the children out of their home state.

“I’ve done everything that I’ve known to do,” she said.

The children’s guardian ad litem advocated for her: “The kids should be placed with their grandmother.” Brandon agreed and restarted the legal process of granting her permission to take the children out of Illinois.

The father apologized to the grandmother as he left the courtroom: “I hope you get them.”

Brandon turned to his clerk and said, “All right, go to the next one.”



REDBIRD PROUD

TRACING TRADITIONS THAT SPEAK
TO ILLINOIS STATE'S LEGACY

BY RYAN DENHAM



What are Illinois State's traditions? That's a complicated question.

There are easy responses like Homecoming and Founders Day. But every Redbird knows the Illinois State experience is more than just a few annual events.

A cross-campus team undertook an extensive exploration of Illinois State's traditions, answering the question by identifying a range of events, people and places that make ISU unique. The work was completed in the fall semester and is showcased on Traditions.IllinoisState.edu. The website offers facts, photos, videos, and stories that help cement the core traditions of Illinois State's culture.

The website is part of a larger plan to increase the visibility and value of traditions at Illinois State, according to Doris Groves '81. The executive director of Alumni Relations, Groves partnered with Lora Wey, director of ISU's Annual Giving, in debunking the notion Illinois State lacks traditions when compared to other historic campuses.

"What we discovered is that there are a whole lot of traditions at Illinois State," Groves said. "We just haven't been intentional in talking about them or promoting them."

The team's work started with long-standing events such as Homecoming. The mascot and ISU Fight Song made the list of traditions without debate. The work became difficult as conversation

moved beyond all that is readily identified as meaningful to Redbirds. It quickly became clear that the idea of what stands as a tradition is hard to define.

Can a tradition be a place? Can it exist off campus? Can a tradition just be on Fridays? The team answered with a resounding yes when making the decision about what to deem worthy of inclusion. The Quad, for example, made the list.

"The Quad was more difficult to define because it's a place, but it becomes a tradition to a lot of people because of the variety of activities that take place there," Groves said. The center of campus means something different to alumni across generations depending on their years of attendance.

For some of ISU's oldest graduates, the Quad is meaningful because it's where they walked at commencement. For others, it's where Rites of Spring took place. Many who attended during the 1970s still recall the music festival as some of their best ISU memories. Today's students will remember the Quad as a social hub where Frisbees fly and hammocks hang.

Wey and Groves recognize that graduates from across generations will undoubtedly respond differently when asked to identify ISU's traditions. They worked to define the idea in such a way

that alums and current students will equally embrace the list that includes people, events and places, Wey said, regardless of when they attended the University. One of the newest traditions is Wear Red on Fridays, which was initiated in 2002.

Work on introducing the traditions to current and prospective students has begun. The website, which is easily accessed on mobile devices, was the first step. A printed traditions book is planned. Students will hear more about traditions at future Preview orientations and Welcome Week convocations. A "traditions room" may even pop up on campus.

Why is it important to understand campus traditions? If today's students have a stronger sense of pride and ownership in ISU, they're more likely to be engaged alumni—maybe even become financial supporters.

"That all starts with tradition. We all win on a campus that has very entrenched traditions," Wey said. "I'd feel like we succeeded if, five years from now, we stopped a student on the Quad and asked them, 'What are the traditions at Illinois State?' If they rattled off the same traditions that our team identified back in 2015, I think that would be success."



TRADITIONS.ILLINOISSTATE.EDU



SOME OF WHAT HAS BEEN IDENTIFIED AS A TRADITION AT ILLINOIS STATE IS EXPECTED, WHO

ALMA MATER AND MOTTO

The alma mater was composed in 1926 by faculty members Wanda Neiswanger and Jennie Whitten.

*Glory hast thou, might and power;
proud the halls of ISU.*

*Deeds that live in song and story,
loyal sons and daughters true.*

*So shalt thou in years increasing
send they grads of honest worth,
forth to bear with zeal unceasing
wisdom's torch throughout the earth.*

The original motto traces to Geoffrey Chaucer's 14th century *Canterbury Tales*. The motto was changed in 1992 to "Gladly we learn and teach."



BATTLE BIRD

The bronze sculpture was unveiled in 2000. Each coach and student-athlete touches the battle bird prior to every home game.

COLLINS-ROBINSON STATUE

A statue honoring ISU basketball great Doug Collins '73 and his coach, Will Robinson, was unveiled in 2009. The work was sculpted by Lou Cella '85 and donated by the Don Franke family.

COMMENCEMENT

The ceremonial awarding of degrees is Illinois State's oldest tradition. The first event was held in Old Main in 1860.

FESTIVAL ISU

Created as an event to welcome students to campus, Festival ISU began in 1989. It is held annually on the Quad every fall and now includes nearly 400 booths.

FIGHT SONG

The song was penned in 1932 by alum Kenyon S. Fletcher, who was also an industrial technology professor and the school's band director.

*Go you Redbirds onto battle!
Fight for ISU.*

*Raise the banner, red, and white;
to this emblem we'll be true.*

*So let us cheer the Redbirds on
to victory! Every voice proclaim:*

*'We've got the fight! We've got
the might! Let's win this game.'*

FOUNDERS DAY AND OLD MAIN

Old Main, was the first building constructed on campus. It opened in 1860 and cost \$200,000 to complete. Demolition occurred in 1958.

Founders Day ceremonies merged with convocation during the Depression and World War II. The day was restored as a full-fledged campus birthday celebration in 1955.





WHILE OTHER ENTRIES MAY COME AS A SURPRISE. DO YOU HAVE A TRADITION TO SUGGEST?

GAMMA PHI CIRCUS

The University's circus dates back to 1926, making Gamma Phi the oldest collegiate circus in the United States. It is one of only two still in existence.

HOMECOMING PARADE

Beyond commencement, the Homecoming parade is Illinois State's oldest tradition. A precursor event was organized in June 1919 to recognize the service of ISNU students and alumni in WWI. The first official Homecoming was held in November 1921. The celebration became an annual tradition with a downtown Normal hobo parade in 1923.

ILLINOIS STATE NORMAL UNIVERSITY

The University's first name was chosen because the school was established to prepare teachers. The name was changed to Illinois State University in 1964 to reflect the broadening scope of learning and teaching.



JESSE FELL AND ABRAHAM LINCOLN

Jesse Fell and Abraham Lincoln shared a mutual interest in education. Fell, considered founder of the Town of Normal and the University, asked Lincoln to represent the board proposing the school. Lincoln agreed, drawing up the bond and bill of sale documents for property that became the campus.



QUAD

The Quad has been a focal point of campus since the University's founding. Jesse Fell obtained \$3,000 from the state legislature for campus landscaping in 1867. He hired William Saunders—known for his design of the Gettysburg National Cemetery—to create a campus grid. Fell planted nearly 1,900 trees in two years.



REDBIRDS

Athletics Director Clifford E. "Pop" Horton and *Daily Pantagraph* sports editor Fred Young collaborated in 1923 to change the University's unofficial nickname away from Fighting Teachers. Horton wanted Cardinals. Young instead changed the nickname to Red Birds to avoid confusion with the St. Louis baseball team. Over the next decade Red Birds morphed into Redbirds.

VICTORY BELL

On the sidelines at Hancock Stadium since the 1964 football season, the bell came from an old Navy ship and was procured by an ISU cheerleader. It was rung the first time at Homecoming in 1965. Today the bell leads the team onto the field prior to kick-off, is rung after every Illinois State touchdown, and is a mainstay of the annual Homecoming Parade.



WEAR RED ON FRIDAYS

Showing pride by donning red every Friday is one of ISU's newest traditions. The idea was introduced by the Redbird Pride Committee—a group of campus staff, faculty and Bloomington-Normal community leaders.

SUBMIT YOUR IDEA ONLINE AT TRADITIONS.ILLINOISSTATE.EDU OR CALL ALUMNI RELATIONS AT (309) 438-2586.

by
Susan
Marquardt
Blystone

Wizard of Watts

Alum masters the art of illumination



Jon Kusner has one of the most significantly subtle jobs in a working world that is known for glitz and glamor. Television audiences of multiple thousands have seen his talent displayed on live productions for years, and yet few viewers know of the 1995 School of Theatre alum.

That's because Kusner prefers to put everything *but* his name into lights.

Kusner is a lighting designer for live television events. Such a short and simple title belies the enormity of creativity he brings to chaos. The first is crucial and the second inevitable for the work Kusner does with celebrities and high-profile politicians.

He has served as designer or director of lights for the Academy Awards and Emmys for more than a decade. MTV Video Music Awards and Grammy telecasts are on his resume as well, with his work on the latter bringing him two Emmy wins and numerous nominations.

Kusner has brought to life stages and stars at the Country Music Awards (CMA), Billboard Music Awards, MTV Movie Awards and in VH1, Nickelodeon and BET productions.

Other assignments have included the Salt Lake City Olympics and the Democratic National Convention in 2008 and 2012, where he met President Barack Obama. He later worked the Kennedy Center Honors, which included a White House event with Obama again at the podium.

From "*Sports Illustrated* Swimsuit: 50 Years of Beautiful" to more than a decade working Victoria's Secret fashion shows, Kusner has traveled across the country and around the world to elevate the art of lighting from mere illumination.

He does it with humor, humility and a level of calm that is baffling given the potential for nationally televised glitches that can happen despite months of

team planning and years of personal experience.

“We get in the door and hit ‘go’ at the same time. We have one shot to get it right. We are in the background flirting with disaster,” Kusner said in discussing live shows of grandiose proportions,



Theatre Professor John Stark remembers fondly his days of having Jon Kusner in class. He was a driven student ready to seize every opportunity, Stark recalled when the two took to a campus stage last fall. Kusner returned for his induction into the College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame. He spoke with students, advising them to give their all no matter how menial a task.

such as the Grammys and Academy Awards.

“The worst and most complicated circumstances are when the artist doesn’t come back to stage as planned,” he said, recalling instances where an entrance was delayed or opposite what was expected.

Planning is tricky for award programs, as Kusner revealed in explaining the work done prior to the 2015 CMA Awards. “We sat down months in advance as a creative unit with a producer, director and set designer. We knew what set we were using and discussed how to augment it. But we had to guess who would be nominated and probably performing, so it became a spitball session of visuals appropriate to an artist and particular song.”

Even if assumptions are made correctly, issues surface when talent opts for a new direction shortly before the curtain rises. “We have gone through rehearsals and then had the artist come back with the decision to do a different song,” he said, which requires an immediate new lighting plan to set the appropriate mood and helps explain 16-hour days prior to a show.

Such is the work of Kusner, who was inducted into the College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame last fall. In the two decades since entering the profession, he has never regretted the decision made as a teen.

A self-described mediocre student, he was literally drawn to the theater within Maine East High School in his hometown of Park Ridge.

“It was parent orientation and I walked past the theater, which had lights on and there was music playing. It grabbed my attention.” His enthusiasm grew exponentially under the wing of David Jeffers, chair of fine arts at the school, who gave Kusner the opportunity to work in productions. He became comfortable with the technical side of performances and was determined to study theater in college. Jeffers pointed Kusner in the direction of Illinois State, where he “jumped in with both feet.”

“I was ready to do shows from day one of my freshman year,” Kusner said. From the start of his first semester, he was working with Dennis Mays in the theater department’s shop. “The best part of my ISU experience was the hands-on work with shows.”

He handled props and lighting for several campus productions, including *Joe Turner’s Come and Gone*, *Adding Machine* and *Bloody Poetry*, for which he also did scenery. When not working for a College of Fine Arts production, Kusner was across the Quad at the Bone Student Center. There he joined the Braden Auditorium crew to gain more experience.

Always eager for the next challenge, Kusner convinced his parents he should attend a trade show in Texas during his senior year. An impromptu conversation while there with the CEO of Vari-Lite, a premiere lighting company in the 1990s, resulted in a two-month internship.

“The first three days I sat quietly, then I sorted equipment,” Kusner said. It was an early lesson in the wisdom of making himself useful. That first real-world experience resulted in valuable networking opportunities that opened unexpected doors for Kusner, who also met lighting designer Ken Billington that senior year.

Billington has done more Broadway shows than anyone the past 40 years, including *Chicago*. The connection resulted in a significant career boost for Kusner when he headed to New York University after completing his undergraduate degree.

Plans to complete a graduate program in lighting were scrapped as Kusner pursued working with Billington. For seven years Kusner honed his theater skills, learning the important lesson of what he calls doing the homework.

“You have to know what happens when you are on site,” he explained. “What are the physical needs once you get to the venue? The rigging, the lights, scenery, physical set all have to come together as pieces of the narrative.”

The puzzle is complicated on Broadway but in a different way, as theater incorporates months of rehearsals and numerous performances to allow for perfecting and executing a plan that is repeated. That is a luxury Kusner left behind when he began to do corporate productions with fellow ISU fine arts alum Joseph West '85.

The steady income from such high-end productions as the WorldCom and Mary Kay Industrial Show gave Kusner the freedom to explore another sphere of lighting—live television. It was

Regardless of his work location, one constant exists. He must problem-solve.

“The circumstances we work in are never linear. There is never enough time to finish, and no one cares,” Kusner said. As an example, he recalled the China World Exposition in Shanghai. The head of the Communist Party wanted a light show that would encompass two bridges two miles apart. Kusner was responsible for the design of one small corner of the project, which was only partially completed when the party leader called for the performance to begin.

The White House event, which included as honorees David Letterman and Dustin Hoffman, presented a completely different challenge beyond a litany of security rules.

“We get in the door and hit ‘go’ at the same time. We have one shot to get it right.”

through Billington that Kusner met Bob Dickinson and became part of the Full Flood Lighting Family.

“Bob is involved in 85 percent of live television productions,” Kusner said. “He is the second generation of TV lighting. Fearless, he brought moving lights into the television world. Before it was more of a mechanical or practical approach.”

In his early days with Dickinson, Kusner was far removed from the executive work he now leads. “I got coffee and did script revisions,” he recalled without complaint. “I learned in high school to pick up a broom and sweep the floor. Make yourself useful. Attitude is as important as finding your niche.”

He patiently studied the intricacies of his craft under Dickinson and gained wisdom that carries him forward today. “I made a career by learning how to light under someone else’s name.”

And what a professional journey it has been. Now 43, Kusner readily admits he never anticipated all he has experienced while working projects in Sweden, Berlin, Buenos Aires, Mexico City, Japan, India and Sri Lanka. Now most of his work is in New York or Los Angeles. He chooses to live in Utah with his wife, Anne Brahic, who is a professional production designer; and their daughter, Lucie.

“From a camera perspective, we had to expose the room so it would look like a happy place and not a dark hole, but from a theatrical sense you would have asked what we are lighting since it seemed very under lit. It was like working in a museum,” Kusner said. Even the most glamorous of events, such as Victoria’s Secret, is a struggle. “There is a lot more science to that show. There is the long distance of the runway to cover with a flattering and consistent manner of lighting. It’s difficult.”

Whether working in an outdoor tent or Hollywood theater, the end goal is always the same. Kusner and a production team unite to move beyond “the vanilla” of ensuring visibility to make an event an experience. As his mentor Billington has explained it, the job is to paint with electricity.

“It’s an intangible, as the sense of lighting is visual but not quite physical,” Kusner said. Creating that sensory experience is what drives him and remains his focus.

“I am totally thrilled where I landed,” he said, and equally excited about what lies ahead. “There is the demon out there called success, of getting where I want to go. I can’t tell you where that is, but I have a never-ending thirst for what is next.”



50

YEARS OF

PREVIEW

WHY ILLINOIS STATE'S SUMMER ORIENTATION PROGRAM WAS AHEAD OF ITS TIME / BY RYAN DENHAM

1966/2016

A few summers ago, Ann (Stanley) Dobbels '87 took her daughter, Alyssa Damato, to her Preview orientation at Illinois State. As the first day's program ended, she watched as her eldest child ran off with her new friends for her first overnight stay away at college.

Dobbels knew exactly how she felt, because she lived the experience herself 31 years earlier when she was a new student at Preview. Back then the clothes were different and course catalogs were still made from paper, but everything else was the same.

Nervousness fades. The beginning of independence. A new adventure.

"By the second day, Alyssa didn't want to leave. She was ready to stay," Dobbels said.

It's a moment that's played out thousands of times since Illinois State created the Preview program 50 years ago. So much has changed on campus in the past half century, but Preview remains remarkably similar. It's aged incredibly well, perhaps because it was so ahead of its time when first created in 1966 by

visionary University President Robert Bone.

That 50-year history of success is due in large part to Preview Guides, the student leaders who help incoming Redbirds navigate and feel comfortable in their new home. There's something special about that summer job—really only two months—that's sparked a camaraderie among former guides that lives on 20, 30, even 50 years later.

Turns out, the freshmen weren't the only ones learning.

"Having the opportunity to represent Illinois State and be the face of the University as a student was really transformational for me," said Steve Smith '89, M.S. '93, a former guide and current member of the ISU Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Prior to 1966, Illinois State's orientation was less formal and typically took place in September. There were tests, academic meetings, and old-school social gatherings such as Watermelon Picnics in 1953 and "All-University Hootenanny" in 1965.

As the campus and student enrollment grew, Bone and others

worried about Illinois State becoming impersonal, like other large institutions. They created a plan for a new summer orientation program, called Preview, that would build closer relationships between staff and incoming freshmen, and between parents and the University.

"Bone wanted to make sure we kept that small-college feel," said Mary Jo Fabich, coordinator of Preview for the past 25 years. "We still talk about that need today."

Dave Templeton '67, M.S. '71, was among the first guides in summer 1966, or "Premiere Preview Guides," as he calls them. Templeton loved the experience so much—especially building relationships with the other guides—that he came back for a second year.

"The fact that the University looked at us as leaders, that they felt we were the right people to lead incoming students, that felt good," Templeton said.

Most large institutions weren't doing full summer orientation programs



GUIDES SPAN GENERATIONS

Watch Steve and Zack Smith talk about their special Preview connection: IllinoisState.edu/Magazine

Fifty years after its start, the Preview experience continues to get high praise from parents and incoming freshmen. Small group sessions are the backbone of the program, which relies on student guides to make families feel comfortable on campus before the academic year begins. The guides, shown in various uniforms from years past, consider it a privilege to represent the University.

in the 1960s, and even less included parents in the experience. The important role of parents has been integrated in the program from the very beginning, just like its two-day/overnight schedule. In the official 1971 Preview schedule booklet recently unearthed by the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives, “DISCUSSION OF CONCERNS BY PARENTS IS ESSENTIAL” is plastered in all-caps.

“We were ahead of the curve,” Fabich said.



During today’s Preview, parents and students still split up for certain sessions and rejoin for others. Alumni parents like Dobbels get to wear a special Redbird pin. Parents who’ve been through Preview before with an older student are called “Expert Parents.”

Dobbels especially liked it when her daughter and the other students returned and greeted their parents with custom cheers in the Center for the

Performing Arts Concert Hall. The goal, Fabich said, is to make parents feel like a Redbird too—not just a checkbook.

“It was amazing. It’s uplifting,” Dobbels said. “It was all very interesting and fun.”

Talking with the parents was the best part for Aaron Watson ’97, a former guide who is now the office manager for Preview.

“I remember how nervous I was as a student at Preview,” he said. “Hearing



parent questions and realizing that they were just as nervous as their students, but in different ways, was very eye-opening to me. Talking with them, giving them honest answers, and helping them feel comfortable with their student’s choice in coming to ISU, that really felt good.”

Smith’s son, Zack Smith, was a first-year Preview Guide last summer, a job that now requires three stages of

interviews. The junior public relations major said Preview had a “huge impact on me” as a freshman, and he wanted to have that same impact on the next generation.

“I met a ton of people. It really made me feel comfortable on campus,” Zack said. “A lot of times when students first come in, they’re a little bit shy, or nervous, or excited. So my job as a guide is to bring them out of their shell, help them meet people, and build connections.”

Today’s Preview is strikingly similar to those from the 1970s, ’80s, and ’90s. Even some of the training materials used by guides today date back to the 1960s, Fabich said.

“It’s nice to know that legacy continues and that’s a shared experience people at ISU have,” said Smith.

Some things have changed. Gone are the paper catalogs and punch-card registration. Today’s students—some of whom attend orientations at multiple colleges to help make their final decision—can pull up their schedules on the Illinois State University mobile app.

Preview is no longer themed, like it was in 1996 (“Set Sail for Preview”) or 2001 (“Welcome to the Redbird Zone”). Since Fabich took over, they’ve moved away from “talking heads” in big rooms toward smaller group interactions, such as EXPO and conference sessions.

There were 20 guides last summer,





FROM THE PARENTS



These are real quotes from parent evaluations collected at Preview in summer 2015:

“I liked that this was parent-centered as well as student-centered. I don’t feel like a checkbook anymore.”

“I feel my child is in great hands. You truly want them to succeed.”

“The best part was being separated from my student to allow her a glimpse of what decisions she will have to make on her own.”

“My son passed on a full scholarship ride at another college, but I’m still pleased he is coming here.”

“This program is great, and I’m proud to say as an alum that ISU is a great school. This is our second child attending. Thank you for making this experience so enjoyable!”

“My daughter was sulking, ‘Why do I have to be here for two days?’ on the way here, but now she has met some new friends, hung out last night, and is looking forward to fall.”



PREVIEW STAFF 50TH ANNIVERSARY REUNION

April 22–24 / Illinois State University

RSVP online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Preview
or call Alumni Relations (309) 438-2586.



up from just nine in 1971. And they got to wear shorts and polo shirts, unlike the red blazers that Templeton’s Premiere Preview Guides endured. (The fashionably questionable guide uniforms through the years are perhaps Preview’s greatest flaw.)

“It was definitely warm most days wearing those blazers,” Templeton laughed.

Guides bonded over more than just uniform gripes. Each summer’s group would fill dry erase boards and scrapbooks with favorite quotes, funny photos, Preview Proverbs, and other memories. Templeton’s crew would perform skits for the freshmen and their parents every night in the basement at Linkins Dining Center. Smith’s group always dreaded giving the after-dinner bus tour of Bloomington-Normal, but made it fun with a heavy dose of corny jokes.

Some guides, like Templeton, make

lifelong friends. Others fall in love. Twenty-five years after his last outing as a guide, Smith still occasionally gets recognized by former students.

“It’s only two months of their life, many years ago, but it’s still a part of who they are today,” said Fabich.

That’s why everyone in this story, and many others, plan to attend the Preview staff 50th anniversary reunion April 22–24. (See adjacent column for details and RSVP information.)

Smith has another son in high school, which means the family is starting to visit other college campuses for tours and open houses. The welcoming atmosphere that Illinois State has grown and sustained is now part of our culture, Smith says, and it sets us apart.

“It’s not a sales approach. It’s very authentic. It’s very real,” Smith said. “And it’s been that way for 50 years.”



Unique Field

BY STEVEN BARCUS





ALUMNA'S VINEYARD DREAM TAKES ROOT IN ILLINOIS

America's love for wine continues to grow. A U.S. Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau report reveals that more than 835 million bulk gallons of wine were produced in 2014, up almost 1.7 million gallons from 2010. For those unwilling to do the math, that amounts to consuming more than 21 billion, five-ounce glasses. While California still leads production at 709,647,220 bulk gallons annually, Illinois produces 373,089 gallons—enough for 9,551,065 five-ounce glasses.

Among those meeting the demand are Central Illinois winemakers Mary (Mouser) Hofmann '76 and her husband Rudi, who operate White Oak Vineyard in Carlock. Their passion for operating the business just northwest of Normal was the culmination of a lifelong dream that took them across the world and back again.

Mary grew up on a farm that bordered the old university farm in north Normal. Her home's proximity to campus made the choice to attend Illinois State an easy decision. She enrolled as a music major intending to study vocal performance. The major required students study a foreign language. Her father suggested Spanish, but she chose German.

"That is the moment my life changed," Mary said. "I think there is a plan for all of us out there, and that plan began to reveal itself to me. Now that I look back and see what has happened in my life, German was the first step that started to change it."

Mary fell in love with the language, something she attributes to ISU professors Wolfgang Pfabel and Jim McEntyre.

She changed her major to German and immersed herself in the language, traveling to Germany with a group of students. It was there another defining moment occurred. Mary became acquainted with Elizabeth, who worked at the guesthouse where the group stayed, and the two continued to correspond after Mary returned to the United States.

During her final senior semester, Mary received a letter that her friend was coming to Minnesota for Farm Fest '76, the largest farming exhibition in the United States. She would be traveling with her brother-in-law and his brother, Rudi. The visit the ladies arranged resulted in Mary meeting her future husband. The relationship blossomed when Mary took a translator's job in Germany in December 1976. She worked at a company close to where Rudi lived in Ebrach, allowing the two to reconnect and eventually marry in August 1977.

Over the next 23 years, Mary and Rudi made a life in Germany. While raising their two children—Stephanie and Michael—Rudi was managing his woodworking business and Mary worked in translation and teaching English. In 1986 she joined Delta Air Lines in Munich as the assistant to the manager, but was transferred to inflight services in 1998. She primarily flew international routes as Purser and German and Dutch speaker. It was then the couple decided to relocate closer to her Illinois family. They also decided it was time to realize their dream of farming.

"Ever since we met, we knew we wanted to do some sort of farming," Mary said.

They bought seven acres in the White Oak Township, land that was set to a corn and soybean rotation. They began exploring an alternative crop, considering everything from strawberries to ginseng. During a drive through Mackinaw Valley, they saw grapes planted and stopped to speak with the vineyard's owners.

"A few hours later, we came back knowing that we were going to start a vineyard," Mary said. "We started with three acres, and we have been adding ever since."

That was in 2002. Today they own 22 acres, with 12.5 of them on the vine. Two houses sit on the property, with a

before. That's what we enjoy—seeing perfect strangers sitting out there and getting to know one another," Mary said.

"What you see when you walk in here is that romantic vision. I think we and all of the vintners around are good at presenting a pleasant picture without letting anyone know what goes on behind the scenes. This is just the tip of the iceberg."

She and Rudi keep their focus on the time and energy that goes into perfecting each drop of wine. They tend more than 6,000 plants across their vineyard. All of them were put in by hand, primarily by Rudi. He attended several viticulture seminars sponsored

the smaller grapes must be plucked off and the vines tended.

"Every year, without exception, we start pruning mid- or late-February depending on the weather," Mary said. "Every one of those plants has to be pruned before bud-breaking time."

After that there is mowing and weeding, as well as behind-the-scenes administrative duties such as marketing, bottling, labeling, and licensing paperwork. Labeling itself can be a complicated process. Each label must be approved by the federal government, which can take two weeks to several months.

"Things have to be verified," Mary said. "The wine you put into the bottle



Mary and Rudi Hofmann enjoy meeting with visitors from around the world in the tasting room, which is decorated to proudly display the couple's German ties.

remodeled log home serving as a tasting room. The large wrap-around porch is perfect for guests to enjoy a quiet afternoon sipping on one of 15 wines. The idyllic building with sweeping views of the vineyards offers visitors a place for peace and relaxation.

"We find that when people come out here, they tend to relax. They talk with people they haven't spoken with

by the Illinois Grape Growers Association and Southern Illinois University to learn exactly what needed to be done. The task is arduous, so much so that finding help with the process is difficult. Planting the grapes is just the beginning. They must be trained up a bamboo pole and across a wire, or trellis, as they grow. It can be three to four years before the grapes are useable, during which time

has to reflect what is on the label."

Though the initial idea was to grow grapes and sell them to local wineries, the Hofmanns decided to enter the world of winemaking after the demand for grapes from other wineries decreased. Having no previous winemaking experience, Mary enrolled in an online program at University of California-Davis and traveled to the campus for



The winery's Bernese Red-Frontenac bottle captured a silver medal at the 2013 Illinois State Fair Wine Competition. The wine's label features Moritz, one of two dogs who roam the property as the official mascots for the vineyard. The design of the tasting room, below, allows guests an opportunity to enjoy the peaceful surroundings of a Central Illinois landscape.

several semester seminars. She completed her training at the University of Missouri–Columbia.

“The certificate is just paper,” Mary said. “You don’t learn anything until you’ve made enough mistakes and learned what you did wrong.” Such real-world lessons are shared with students from ISU’s Department of Chemistry. They welcome the chance to partner with the two, who have perfected their process in part by staying close to their roots in Germany.

They employ a European winemaking style, allowing wines to ferment on their own as much as possible so that their natural flavors can surface. Occasionally Mary will select certain yeasts compatible with a particular variety of grape to uncover a hidden taste. For the most part, she avoids adding flavoring.

Some bottles find ties to the couple’s dogs, Moritz and Maxl—the

WE FIND THAT WHEN PEOPLE COME OUT HERE, THEY TEND TO RELAX. THEY TALK WITH PEOPLE THEY HAVEN’T SPOKEN WITH BEFORE. THAT’S WHAT WE ENJOY—SEEING PERFECT STRANGERS SITTING OUT THERE AND GETTING TO KNOW ONE ANOTHER.

vineyard’s official mascots—such as Golden Days or Bernese Red. Many others reflect the German connection. Landhaus, made from Norton grapes, translates to “country home.” Weiße Eiche is dedicated to the White Oak Township for which the vineyard is named. Schlittenfahrt, a bestselling red table wine, translates to “sleigh ride.”

Despite the intense labor, Mary and Rudi continue to delight in sharing their heritage through wine with individuals from around the world. Many are surprised and impressed to realize California is not the

only place for quality wine. Visitors also marvel at the personal story of how Mary and Rudi literally planted their dream. Their journey reveals the couple’s passion and patience—both of which remain a key ingredient in maintaining a successful winery in the middle of corn country.



#RedbirdProud



Stay connected

University's first mobile app is convenient tool

In a move to make Illinois State online resources more mobile-friendly, the University has launched an app available to all Redbirds at no cost.

"We wanted to provide a platform where you're just two clicks away from the information you need," said Arturo Ramirez, M.S. '01, '07, director of Web and Interactive Communications (WEB).

The unit spearheaded the app, which offers guides for various topics and special events such as Homecoming. Beyond a general ISU guide, there is one for Athletics that features schedules and ticket information. Some guides are campus specific for students, such as one during move-in that gave parking updates and maps.

This is Illinois State's first university-wide app. Its launch is in response to changing expectations among Redbirds as they look for information about ISU online. They want it anytime, anywhere.

In response to more traffic from smart phones and tablets, WEB has developed approximately 100 mobile-responsive websites across campus. More are on the way.

"We're keeping track of what kind of information people are trying to look for on their mobile devices. What terms are they searching? What are they trying to find?" Ramirez said. "That's what's going to really drive content on the app."

Expenses tied to the app are paid for through cost-sharing among ISU part-

ners, including the Division of Student Affairs. It has become a valuable tool for reaching out to students, who prefer to access information on their mobile devices.

"The app provides us with another way to communicate with students to provide them with important information about safety and security, housing, dining, health and wellness, involvement opportunities, advice from the Career Center, activities in the Bone Student Center, and much more," said Katy Killian '92, M.S. '14, chief of staff for Student Affairs.

Download the app for free from the App Store or Google Play Store at IllinoisState.edu/app.

Alumni News

Alumni events set for milestone anniversaries

Graduates from the Class of 1966 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on April 29 and 30 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 1966 will be inducted into the Half Century Club on Friday evening.

Members of the classes of 1961, 1956, 1951, 1946 and 1941 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, and 75th reunions will be honored that evening and receive a special recognition gift.

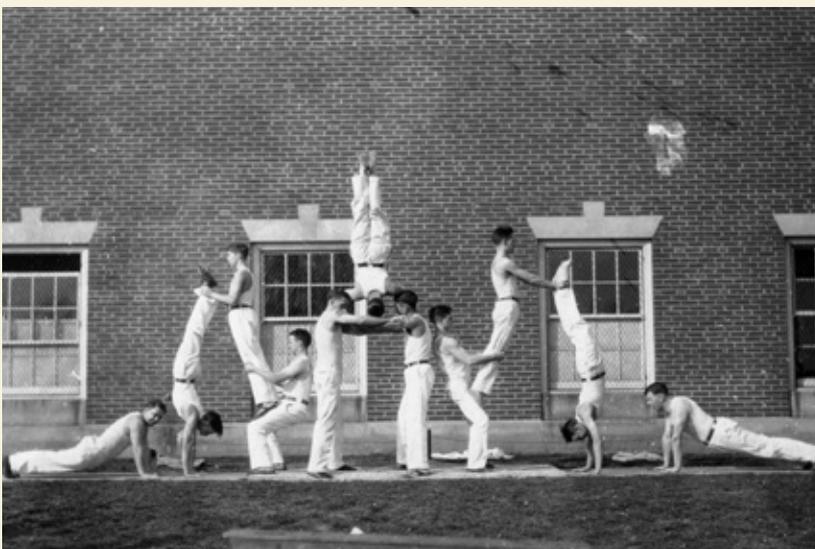
Two other milestone celebrations will take place in April as well. WZND will hold its 35th anniversary reunion on April 8 and 9. Women's and men's rugby will mark 40th and 45th anniversaries respectively on April 29 and 30. Several events and special recognitions will take place on campus for both events.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or email Stephanie Duquette at saduque@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 2017 recipients is the end of May. Make a nomination online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards or call (309) 438-2586.



From the archives

Established in 1929 by Clifford "Pop" Horton, Gamma Phi Circus is the nation's oldest and largest collegiate circus. Much has changed over time, with more simplistic routines years ago, *top*, compared to recent years. The group has developed tightwire, teeterboard, Russian swing, partner balancing, juggling and rolling globes acts. Graduates have gone on to perform with Cirque de Soleil, as well as at Disney World and Universal Studios-Florida. Annual campus performances began in 1931 and continue this year on April 15 and 16. Information, including ticket prices, is available at GammaPhiCircus.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2586.

ClassNotes



Marketing movies

Making trailers is alumna's unique, creative challenge

"I am an alien from outer space. Sell me a Diet Coke." That line hooked Heather (Wilson) Artis '94 on advertising. It's what her professor said on the first day in her first College of Business advertising course.

Now a vice president for creative advertising at Fox Searchlight Pictures, Artis still thinks of that alien. What if he's never had a soda before? What if he's never had liquid?

"It comes up to this day," Artis said. "I have to remind myself that no matter how well I know the product I'm trying to sell, the people I'm selling to may know absolutely nothing about it."

The passion sparked at ISU led Artis to one of the top studios in Los Angeles.

Its work includes Oscar contenders *Wild*, *The Grand Budapest Hotel*, and Best Picture winner *Birdman*.

The marketing alum is responsible for producing all trailers, TV commercials, and radio spots for every movie Fox Searchlight releases. Each is a different challenge.

For example, how should you sell *Birdman*, the Michael Keaton film about a has-been superhero-movie actor who is directing a play in New York?

"It was a movie that needed a lot of marketing help, because people could've easily dismissed it as being too weird, too New York, too arthouse," she said. "We embraced the attitude and boldness and originality of it and were defiant in our advertising."

Such a challenge is a perfect fit for Artis, who grew up in Des Plaines wanting to write. She met someone in a Los Angeles screenwriter class who worked for a company that made movie trailers. She started writing scripts for them part-time.

Having been with Fox Searchlight four years, Artis works on films gearing up for production or release. She knows a good trailer is more than eye-rolling puns and cheap gimmicks.

"A film is like a 10,000-piece puzzle. We're going through those pieces and trying to find the corners," she said. "I basically play creative games all day long."

1950s

Ivan Maras '52 served in the 65th infantry regiment during the Korean War. He taught 47 years and now volunteers at St. John's Hospital. He still carries his Alpha Tau Alpha membership card from 1951. He and his wife, Lorene, reside in Rochester.

1960s

John McKenzie '60, M.S. '65, is completing 56 years in the classroom. He taught middle school math for 31 years, retiring in 1991, and has continued to substitute. He was employed by the Chicago Cubs for 10 seasons. He and his wife, Doris, reside in North Aurora.

Tipton McCawley '62, M.S. '65, is a retired educator. He taught in Wheaton Warrenville District 200 and the College of DuPage. He volunteers with School and Community Assistance for Composting and Recycling Education (SCARCE), which provides recycled education materials to teachers. He and his wife, Marilyn, reside in Wheaton.

William Sharp '65 leads The Mad Bavarian Brass Band, which performs at the Oktoberfest Show Band in New England. He directed ISU's first basketball pep band in the 1970s. He resides in Lebanon, New Hampshire.

1970s

Larry Chapman, M.S. '70, retired after 45 years in education. He worked 44 years in special education, serving as teacher, coordinator and principal. He retired as a director. He now writes for the local newspaper. He and his wife, Christine, reside in Port Byron.

Arland "A.J." Johannes '70 completed a master's and doctorate in engineering at West Virginia University and University of Kentucky, respectively. He retired from Oklahoma State University, where he was a professor of chemical engineering. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

William Dunham '71 is a managing partner with DunhamTrimmer LLC. He resides in Bridgewater, New Jersey.

Catherine (Schafer) Cavanaugh '72 worked as a medical technologist for 20 years. She returned to school and became a cytotechnologist. After 22 years in the field, she is retired. She and her husband, Loren, reside in DeMotte, Indiana.

Patrice (Alexander) Hughes '72 is a former high school French and social studies teacher. She has worked in real estate the past 22 years. She and her husband, Johnny, reside in Troy, Michigan.

John Rauschenberger '72, M.S. '74, is the executive vice president and general manager of the Technology and Manufacturing Association. He is a partner at Rauschenberger Partners LLC. He has been named by Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner to serve on the Secure Choice Savings Plan Board. He resides in Chicago.

Patrick Winters '72 is president and CEO of S2ET Consulting. He has taught board governance and policy development classes at the U.S. Chamber of Commerce's Institute of Organization Management at the University of Arizona. He resides in Maylene, Alabama.

Thom Cobb '73, M.S. '74, is president of the National Dance Education Organization. He retired after teaching 40 years at the university level, most recently with Slippery Rock University. He received the 2013 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching from the school. His wife, **Christine (Pedersen) '76**, is a professor at Youngstown State University and director of the dance major program. They reside in New Castle, Pennsylvania.

Kathy (Peak) Knott '73 retired from teaching deaf/hard of hearing students after 40 years. Her husband, **Doug '72**, retired from downtown development administration for the City of Rochester, Minnesota. They reside in Loveland, Colorado.

Deborah (Van De Voort) Mink '73 completed a doctorate at Curtin University in Perth Australia. She is an associate professor in the School of Education at Indi-

Pause for applause

Leading the way



Julie (Williams) McMillin '01 is a role model for every retail dietitian in the country. She was named Retail Dietitian of the Year for 2015 by the Retail Dietitians Business Alliance. The award recognizes her leadership in utilizing business skills and industry knowledge to impact consumer behavior change through the retail sector.

From her start working part-time in a Hy-Vee deli and kitchen, McMillin has worked her way up the corporate ladder. She is an assistant vice president of the chain, supporting 228 dietitians, three retail dietetic supervisors and one corporate dietitian.

Game changer

The Chicago White Sox, Milwaukee Brewers and Phoenix Coyotes are just a few of the organizations on the resume of 2015 College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame Inductee **Mike Bucek '82**. During his time with the Coyotes, the team's marketing department won the NHL's Best Member Club Marketing Campaign.



The award is presented for overall marketing efforts. Now with the Kansas City Royals, Bucek is vice president of marketing and business development for the franchise. He helped the Royals secure the 2012 MLB All-Star Game, establishing franchise records with ticket and corporate revenues for the 2015 World Series Champion.

Head of the class



Already praised as an inspiring and motivating math teacher at Woodruff Career and Technical Center, **Kim Thomas** is now also known as the 2016 Illinois Teacher of the Year. The 1993 elementary education graduate brings an energy to her Peoria Public School District classroom, using teaching techniques that help her students

change their attitude toward the subject of math. A lifelong learner herself who keeps pace with the best teaching practices, Thomas will begin a speaking tour this spring. She will represent Illinois at the NASA Space Camp in Alabama and the National Teacher of the Year program.

At the helm of oral health

Robert Moore '95 will put his degree in industrial/organizational psychology to good use as the first chief operating officer of the American Dental Hygienists' Association (ADHA). He brings to the position a wealth of industry knowledge and experience, having worked with the Technology Councils of North America and the Institute of Food Technologists. Moore will be crucial in the continued growth and development of the association's programs, services and support structure. ADHA promotes oral health care access, research, and dental hygiene education. In 2015, Moore was named a Diversity Executive Leadership Scholar by the American Society of Association and Executives.



How we met

Alexander “Lex” Samaras grew up in the Illinois agricultural town of Hoopston. He transferred to Illinois State Normal University in 1941 with a love for music and a passion for music education.

His second day on campus, he headed to the University’s Co-Op. “You got everything you needed at the Co-Op—books, soda fountain, and sandwiches,” he said.

For Samaras, there was one thing more. “I walked in and saw four girls in a booth. I told my roommate: ‘I want to meet that girl.’”

The one who caught his eye was freshman Carolyn Jean Brown from Virden, the same hometown as Samaras’ roommate, who would introduce the two. Samaras knew instantly that he had met his wife.

In those days, poor college kids met for a soda, Samaras recalled. “It was a cheap date, but money was scarce,” he said. “You’d spend a nickel on a coke. It was the style then.”

They set up a coke date, and it went pretty well. They married on Dec. 26, 1943 and were together until Carolyn’s death in July 2014 at age 91. He described her “as the same beautiful girl I met at the Co-Op 72 1/2 years before.”

Serving in the Navy during World War II, he landed at Normandy on D-Day. Later, aboard a landing craft support ship at Okinawa, he witnessed the terror of kamikazes.

“I felt so sorry for Carolyn,” he said of that time. “During the war and after D-Day, everyone else was hearing from their spouses. She didn’t hear anything until August. All those months she thought I was dead.”

When the mail finally caught up, her P.O. Box was filled with 56 letters from her very-much-alive husband.

Lex taught music for more than 20 years and owned a confectionary/restaurant business. He and Carolyn had four children. Now 94, just to speak her name turns the corners of his eyes soft and watery.

ISNU, as he still calls his alma mater, “meant my life,” he said.



Lex and Carolyn were together more than 70 years.

ana University Southeast. She was a teacher and administrator in Miami-Dade County Public Schools for 33 years and taught eight years at Winthrop University in South Carolina. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Louisville, Kentucky.

Paul Dunn '74 is a salesman at BND Express. He resides in Bloomington.

Mark Janssen '74 retired from Rock Island Schools. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Le Claire, Iowa.

Greg Stoda '74 has retired after 40 years as a newspaper sportswriter. He earned national recognition multiple times for excellence in event coverage and column writing. He worked for the *Wilmingon Star-News*, *Dallas Times Herald*, the *Detroit Free Press*, and the *Palm Beach Post*. He and his wife,

Pat, reside in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida.

Lisa (Larsson) Ashley '75 retired after 24 years as a school social worker for the Hopkins public schools in Minnesota. Her husband, **James '75**, retired from Godfrey & Ashley, having worked 24 years as an insurance defense litigation attorney. They reside in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Pam (Albertson) Cass '75 is a psychotherapist with Shorehaven Behavioral Health. She resides in Burlington, Wisconsin.

Brad Reynolds '75, '07 retired from Fisher Junior High School, where he taught social studies. He has held 64 jobs and lived in 13 states. He resides in Savoy.

Thomas Black '76 is a systems business analyst for State Farm Insur-

ance Companies. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Oxford, Georgia.

David Bueltmann '76 received an honorary Doctor of Letters degree at Concordia University-Nebraska. Now retired, he is interim director of Camp CILCA in Cantrall. He and his wife, Charlotte, reside in Buffalo.

Claudia (Cangilla) McAdam '76 has published *The Mermaid's Gift* and *Kristoph and the First Christmas Tree*. Both are children’s picture storybooks. She is the author of 16 books in total and has won the Highlights for Children national fiction contest. She resides in Highland Ranch, Colorado.

Tom McClure '76, M.S. '01, is an associate professor in ISU’s Department of Politics and Government. He is the director of the Legal Studies Program and author of

“Developments in Search and Seizure Cases in the Post-September 11 Era.” It is a chapter in *Privacy in the Digital Age: 21st Century Challenges to the Fourth Amendment*. He resides in Bloomington.

Terese Pawletko '76 completed a master’s and doctorate at Penn State and post-doctorate work at the University of North Carolina School of Medicine. She lectures across the U.S. on working with children with visual impairments and autism spectrum disorders. She has contributed a chapter to the book *Vision and the Brain: Understanding Cerebral Visual Impairment in Children*. She resides in Eliot, Maine.

Barbara Schwind '76, M.S. '10, is a special education teacher with Lowpoint-Washburn Unit 21. She and her husband, David, reside in Roanoke.

Russell Haschke '77 retired after working more than 35 years for Texas Instruments, Inc. He completed process engineering work in Massachusetts, Texas and Maine. He and his wife, Jill, reside in Portland, Maine, during the summer months and winter in Cedar Creek Lake, Texas.

Paul Johnson '77 is a quality engineer with J.L. Clark. His avocation is basketball officiating. He enjoys working the girls' state finals tournament at Redbird Arena. He resides in Stillman Valley.

Bill Porter '77 is interim executive director of WCBU-FM, the National Public Radio station for Peoria and surrounding counties. He is also chief engineer for the station and WTVP-PBS. He resides in Carlock.

Debbie (Davis) Yates '77, M.S. '82, passionately cares for the elderly. She is the clinical nutrition manager at Sarasota Health and Rehab in Florida and nutrition consultant for the Sarasota County Senior Friendship Center. She is past president of a local district dietetic organization. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Sarasota, Florida.

Dee Leman '79 is the national director of rehabilitation services for The Goodman Group. She has more than 25 years of experience in rehab services and holds National Board Certification in Occupational Therapy. An avid cyclist, she has raised more than \$15,000 biking for the Multiple Sclerosis Society. She resides in Lees Summit, Missouri.

Viviana Lopez '79 is director of educator initiatives at Texas Education Agency. She and her husband, Ric, reside in Austin, Texas.

Tim Schweizer '79 is a public service administrator for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. He is the voice of high school sports in the Springfield area. The Illinois High School Association honored him with the IHSA Distinguished Media Service Award for his work on WFMB. He resides in Springfield.

1980s

James White '80 retired from Caterpillar, Inc., where he worked as a purchasing category manager. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Peoria.

Deborah (Spinner) Ahlden '81, M.S. '87, retired from West Aurora School District 129. She and her husband, Mark, relocated to Ooltewah, Tennessee.

Royal Delegge '81 is environmental health director at the Salt Lake County Health Department. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Murray, Utah.

Lyn Fedden '81 is an engagement manager at Cisco Systems. She resides in Hudson.

Alice Jo (Shannon) Rainville, M.S. '81, is a professor of nutrition and dietetics at Eastern Michigan University. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Plymouth, Michigan.

Denise (Maggiore) Schwartz '81 is a graphic designer at Schwartz Artz Creative Solutions. She resides in Longmont, Colorado.

Steve Haywood '82 is chief of the Ottawa Fire Department. He and his wife, Jessica, are parents of three daughters and reside in Ottawa.

Mary Lynette "Lyn" (Engelhardt) Landon '82 is the controller at Pinnacle Actuarial Resources, Inc. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Bloomington.

Jean Yeung, M.A. '83, is a Provost's Chair Professor in the Department of Sociology in the National University of Singapore. She is also director of the Center for Family and Population Research in the faculty of arts and social sciences at the school. She is leading a research cluster at the Asia Research Institute. An author, she is affiliated with the University of Michigan and Peking University.

David Clark '84 is an IT analyst at John Deere. His daughter is now attending ISU. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Moline.

Gina DeSanto '85 is manager of strategic change and communications

with McDonalds Corporation. She resides in Burr Ridge.

Dean Popovich '86 is the trade association manager for Heritage-Crystal Clean. He and his wife, Rita, reside in Algonquin.

Jennifer Bloom '88 is an associate professor in the Department of Educational Leadership and Research Methodology at Florida Atlantic University. She coordinates the Higher Education Leadership master's degree program.

was a principal 12 years. He has started studying at Kent School of Law in Chicago. He and his wife, Jacqueline, reside in Minooka.

C.M. Stiel '88 is an educator at Riverside Brookfield High School and a freelance writer. She resides in Oak Park.

Dan Wagner '89, M.S. '94, is a licensed broker and senior vice president of government relations for the Inland Real Estate Group. He serves on governmental boards



Four decades later

In the fall of 1972, five freshmen girls met on Colby 5. They were joined by another friend the following year. The connection established in that residence hall has continued for 43 years. Over time, some of the group has regularly met at ISU or in their homes. After a 19-year lull, the entire group reunited in 2015. Their Illinois State legacy continues through children who also chose to be Redbirds. The friends include, *front row from left*, Lynn (Westphal) Sierpinski '76 of Wisconsin; and Judy (Dirksmeyer) Kastler '76, M.S. '83, of Illinois. *Back row from left*, Alison (Holste) Bartoli '76 of Illinois; Lynda (Record) Grogan '76 of Indiana; Nancy (Meyer) Hocker '76 of Illinois; and Beverly (Pauli) Nichols '76, M.M. '78, of Missouri.

She and her husband, Steve, reside in Boca Raton, Florida.

Michael Cline, MBA '88, is vice president of finance and treasurer at Kansas City Southern. He obtained the CFA designation from the CFA Institute. He serves on two non-profit boards for performing arts organizations in Kansas City. He resides there with his wife, Leatha.

Donald McKinney '88, M.S. '95, is superintendent for Nettle Creek CCSD 24. He taught 10 years and

and committees, including the International Council of Shopping Centers. He has advocated for the Marketplace Fairness Act debated by Congress. He is also an advocate for special needs children. He and his wife, **Lisa (Thompson) '93**, are the parents of four children and reside in Wheaton.

Redbird legacy

Megan Geigner doesn't have to look far to see how her family got connected to Illinois State. It began with her parents.

Charles Geigner Sr. and Judy Fletcher got the Redbird legacy ball rolling decades ago. Chuck, from Lombard, met Judy from Wheaton at the College of DuPage. Judy's plan was to continue her education at Illinois State. She arrived in 1970 and earned a special education degree in 1972. She was among the early residents of Watterson Towers.

"Dad didn't have a firm plan for after junior college. But he was devoted to Judy, and so decided to attend ISU too," said daughter Megan '01, M.S. '03.

A year after Judy arrived, Chuck followed. The two married a few months after Judy's graduation. Chuck '73 went on to earn a master's in psychology in 1986 and his Ph.D. in educational administration in 2001.

The two started a line from the Geigner home to campus. Megan earned degrees in theatre. Megan's brother, Charles "Logan" Geigner Jr., attended Illinois State, as did his wife, elementary education graduate Kelly E. (Misch) '04.

Several family members also made ISU their place of employment. Chuck became an applied computer science instructor. He also ran InfoTech for more than a decade. Megan worked for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. There she met her husband, Joel, which wrought yet another connection when the two married at Ewing Manor.

Chuck and Judy's nephew, Chuck T. Geigner '97, studied industrial technology and stayed to work at Milner Library for several years. His wife, JoAnne, was also an ISU employee.

Judy went into teaching and retired from Bloomington District 87 in 2013.

Chuck was well known around Bloomington-Normal for his portrayal of Santa Claus at a number of venues over the years. He dubbed himself "Santa Chuck of Central Illinois."

Sadly, last August the Geigners lost Chuck to lung cancer. The many shared Illinois State memories have helped sustain the family through the loss.



Family patriarch Charles Geigner Sr. loved his role as Santa Claus.

1990s

Leigh (Knobloch) Bowen '91, M.S. '96, is a transition specialist in Peoria Public Schools District 150. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Dunlap.

Paul Rosen '91 completed an MBA from the University of Chicago. He is the chief sales officer for On Deck Capital. He and his wife, Shari, are parents of twin boys and reside in Pittsford, New York.

William Stinnett '91 is a quality assurance manager at American Utility Management. He resides in Bellwood.

Edward Anderson '93 is vice president of sales for SG360, a Segerdahl company. He and his wife, Jenn, reside in Elgin.

Heather Bates '93 is a resource teacher of learning and behavior. She resides in Auckland.

Lisle Kauffman, M.S. '93, is a Fulbright Scholar working with faculty of Volodymyr Dahl East Ukrainian National University in Kyiv, Ukraine. He is teaching online distance courses to deaf students displaced by the fighting in East Ukraine, providing in-service training to secondary teachers and partnering to write a book on educating deaf and hard of hearing students. He resides in Kansas City, Kansas.

Amy (Burian) Laures '93 is senior finance manager at Kraft Heinz Company. She and her husband, Tom, reside in Mount Prospect.

Nicole (Benson) Thompson '93 is an HIM operations manager at Lake Regional Health System. She resides in Osage Beach, Missouri.

Jason Haddock '94 is a certified management accountant and completed an MBA from Washington

University. He is the chief financial officer and chief operating officer for Berg, a biological research company. He and his wife, **Yvette (Boultinghouse) '94**, reside in Robbinsville, New Jersey.

Tonya (Bobbitt) Barra '95, M.S. '11, is a special education teacher at Pekin Community High School. She and her spouse, Quinn, reside in Pekin.

Kevin Griffin '95 has completed a master's in mental health counseling and is pursuing his Ph.D. in counseling education and supervision at Capella University. He is a mental health specialist at Riverside Hospital. He resides in Plano.

Donald Rush II '95 is a driver for Crossroads LLC. He resides in Golconda.

Corey (White) Murphy '96 is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Christopher, have two children and reside in Antioch.

Mark Quesenberry, M.S. '96, is an instructor at Rhodes State College in Lima, Ohio. He resides in Lakeview, Ohio.

Nicole Brandenburg '97 is the SNAP-Ed program coordinator at Ohio State University. She resides in Powell, Ohio.

Jeffery Davis '97, M.S. '99, is a school counselor in District 300. He resides in Crystal Lake.

Alyssa (Lanhue) DeLosSantos '97 works as a tutor with Northside Independent School District. Her niece, Taylor Pholman, is completing her freshman year at ISU. DeLosSantos and her husband, John, reside in Fair Oak Ranch, Texas.

Rebecca (Aldrich) Hansen '97 is a special education teacher with PSUSD. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Desert Hot Springs, California.

Stephanie (Doolin) Craig '98 is a therapist in private practice. She resides in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

Bart Gampe '98 is a project manager at Meredith Xcelerated Marketing. He resides in Los Angeles, California.

Jill (Mason) Huse '98 launched her own consulting business, Society 54 LLC. She resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Whit Chaiyabhat '99 is a global security manager with Raytheon Missile Systems. He and his wife, Amanda, reside in Oro Valley, Arizona.

Benjamin Grabowski '99 is an officer with the Aurora Police Department. He won a silver medal in submission grappling at the 2015 World Police and Fire Games. He resides in North Aurora.

Brian Henkels '99, M.S. '01, is a compliance manager at N.F. Stroth & Associates. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Northbrook.

Laurie Krolikowski '99, M.S. '10, is a content leader with Parent Family and Community Engagement. She resides in Normal.

Ryan Lawless '99 is an environmental scientist with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. He has worked for the Illinois Department of Nuclear Safety and Krueger Engineering and Sciences. He resides in Springfield.

Bryan Terry, Ph.D. '99, is associate provost at the University of North Carolina Greensboro. He resides in Burlington, North Carolina.

Elna Williams, Ed.D. '99, retired after 33 years with the Davenport School District. She was the school library media specialist at Davenport Central High School for a decade. She volunteers in community and church activities, and completes genealogical research for lineage organizations and a

county library. She resides in New Cambria, Missouri.

Jason Zimmer '99 owns Parlay Mortgage and Property. He was accepted into the prestigious Goldman Sachs 10,000 Small Businesses initiative. He and his wife, Lisa, are the parents of twin girls and a son. They reside in Mokena.

2000s

Braden Cheshier '00 is a sales account manager at CDW. He and his wife, Lisa, reside with their two children in Volo.

Wendy (Witowski) Culp '00 is an administrative assistant at True Value Distribution Center. She and her husband, Chuck, reside in Wonder Lake.

Nichole DePaul-Miller '00 completed a Ph.D. in secondary science education. She is on the Professional Women's Bowling Association tour, the national staff for Real Bowler's Tape, and the regional staff for DV8 Bowling and Logo Infusion. She and her husband, Jason, were married in July 2015. They reside in Baytown, Texas.

Dawn Riordan '00 retired as the managing director of the Normal Theater. She is a self-employed visual artist and resides in Bloomington.

Jeffrey Waple, Ph.D. '00, is vice chancellor for student affairs at Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. He previously served as assistant vice president for student affairs and dean of students at Northern Kentucky University. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Glen Carbon.

Jen (Sjostrand) Centimano '01 is talent director of GFX International, Inc. She and her husband, Tony, reside in Elgin.

Chelsea (Davis) Schopper '01, M.A. '06, is a college prep and reading

intervention teacher, and the registrar at Westlake Christian Academy. She and her husband, George, reside in Ingleside.

Susan (Cunningham) Werner '01, M.S. '10, works at Prairie Central CUSD 8. She resides in Bloomington.

Meaghan White '01 is a special education teacher with Harvard CUSD 50. She resides in Fontana, Wisconsin.

Mike Bogle '02 is a guest service manager at Walt Disney World. He and his wife, Melissa, reside in Windermere, Florida.

Aubrey (Howie) Carpenter '02 is an instructional math coach for Danville District 118. She and her husband, Brian, have five children and reside in Danville.

Elizabeth (Lowery) David '02 completed her master's in special education from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville. She is a special education consultant with the Mississippi Bend Area Education Agency in Davenport, Iowa. Her husband, **Brian '03**, is a family consumer science teacher at Davenport West High School. They have two daughters and reside in Andalusia.

Anna Eiskamp '02 is a financial administrator at Northwestern University. She resides in Chicago.

Dawn Burns '03, M.S. '13, is a special education teacher at Washington School District 52. She resides in Washington.

Zac Chase '03 is a National Fellow for the Institute for Democratic Education in America and an original Freedom Writer Teacher. He has co-authored his first book, *Building School 2.0: Creating the Schools We Need*. He resides in Washington, D.C.

Jennifer (Blumthal) Kettering '04 is an early childhood special education teacher with Community Unit School District 95. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Spring Grove.

Erica (Johnson) Rehm '04 is with Grayslake High School District 127. She resides in Round Lake.

Kimberly (Goyke) Sanderson '04 is a marketing specialist with Sonoco Alloyd. She and her husband, Kurt, were married in July 2015. They reside in Sycamore.

Jill (Gotter) Delin '05 has taught math nine years at Glenbard North High School. She and her husband, Phillip, reside in Glendale Heights.



Four friends forever

It was the fall of 1985 when four young women connected in Atkin Hall. Their friendship remains strong through regular gatherings. They met for a luncheon last year, reliving memories that were sparked when sharing a photo taken of the four the winter they met. They are, from left, Amy (High) Cornelius '90, of DeWitt, Iowa; Diane (Nelson) Lade, '89, M.S. '90; Lisa (Lucki) Simpsen '89; and Laura (Cluskey) Meyer '89, all of Bloomington.



REGGIE READS

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

Amber (Pellum) Duncan '05 is a benefits manager at Carle Foundation. She and her husband, Justin, reside in Champaign.

Kate (Fuehne) Haselhorst '05 is the diversity officer for the Virginia Community College System. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Chester, Virginia.

Jim Rossetti '05 is an English teacher with Leyden High School District 212. He resides in Palatine.

Claudia Curtis, M.S. '06, is a licensed athletic trainer with ProHealth Care. She and her husband, Josh, reside in New Berlin, Wisconsin.

Nick Greco '06 is a commercial insurance producer with Esser Hayes. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Park Ridge.

Kimberly (Wetter) Munoz '06, M.S. '09, is a speech/language pathologist in the Chicago Public Schools. She works with children from preschool to fifth grade. She resides in Chicago.

Hitomi (Tsukioka) Oum '06 is an academic counselor at Glenwood Academy. She and her husband, Sam, reside in Schererville, Indiana.

Todd Scheffert '06 co-owns Maaco and has opened a bodyshop in Bloomington, where he and his wife, Kelly, reside.

David Starke '06 is a senior graphic designer with Professional Medical, Inc. He and his wife, Ashley, are parents of a daughter. Sophie Grace was born in July 2015. They reside in Aurora.

Christine Van Fleet '06 is a production manager at The CW Television Network. She resides in Burbank, California.

Hailey (White) Gould '07 is an international logistics analyst for Commercial Packaging. She and her husband, Judd, reside in Bloomington.

Katrina Hockin, M.S. '07, is a special education teacher in Rantoul City. She resides in Piper City.

Erica (Gerth) Kelly '07 is a certified school nurse with the Naperville Community Unit School District 203. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Naperville.



Adventurous group reunites

Graduates from 18 states, including Alaska, returned to Normal for an Outdoor Adventure Program reunion in the fall. Former program director Jim Rogers hosted the event with Georgi Baird. She worked 14 years with the unit that gained national recognition as part of Recreation Services. Trips offered provided students the chance to explore beyond Central Illinois and gain leadership skills. Nearly 160 past assistants, outing center managers and coordinator supervisors gathered to share stories of how the program touched their lives. Among the group were four couples who met through the program and later married.

Rebecca Kovar '07 released her first novel, *Faire Play*, with the second in the series due out in 2016. She is an administrative aide and ethics training coordinator at ISU. She resides in Minier.

Sarah (Woodward) Orwick '07 is an office support specialist at the University of Illinois. She and her husband, Jared, reside in Saint Joseph.

Ross Richards '07 is the associate director for annual giving operations at the University of Illinois Foundation. He resides in Champaign.

Kristin (Scachette) Adams '08 is an instructional designer at OSF Healthcare Systems. She resides in Metamora.

Mark Albrecht '08 works in the hazardous waste management area at the University of Florida. He and his wife, Dehlia, reside in Willis-ton, Florida.

James Allendorph '08 works for the Illinois Attorney General. He resides in Chicago.

Deidre Graham '08 is a juvenile justice specialist supervisor with the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice. She resides in Aurora.

Sarah (Melton) Jiter, M.S. '08, is a recruiter at the Community College of Aurora in Colorado. She

and her husband, Brady, reside in Thornton, Colorado.

Sarah Lotter '08 is a project specialist at Nosco. She resides in Wauconda.

Bailey (Slechts) McMurray '08 completed her master's in organizational leadership and not-for-profit management. She is a member relations coordinator at Orthopedic Research Society. She and her husband, Edd, were married in September 2015. They reside in Villa Park.

David Rose '08, MBA '10, is a project manager at Lend Lease Construction. He resides in Wheaton.

Lynsey Sloan, M.S. '08, is the director of clinical and placement services for ChildServ. She resides in Lombard.

Michael Bares '09 is the traffic producer for Fox Chicago News and the Total Traffic and Weather Network. He resides in Wood Dale.

Amanda (Eggemeyer) Johnson '09 teaches Spanish at Glenwood High School. She and her husband, Wes, reside in Springfield.

Michael Kennedy '09 is an account manager for Brown Distributing. He resides in Winter Park, Florida.

Stephen Laphen '09 is a sales representative for Promet Steel, Inc. He resides in Chicago.

Brian Mueller '09 completed a master's in curriculum and instruction at Saint Xavier, where he works as the undergraduate clinical compliance and support officer for the School of Nursing. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Evergreen Park.

Jennifer Mullins '09 teaches social studies at Champaign Central High School. She resides in Urbana.

Dena Poppe '09 is an instructional designer for Kelly Services. She resides in Tinley Park.

2010s

Tara Adams '10 is a training manager in the administrative office of the Illinois Courts Judicial Education Division. She resides in Chicago.

Ricky Alfonso '10 is assistant vice president and brokering leader with Willis. He resides in Chicago.

Brian Bak '10 is a superintendent with Skender Construction. He resides in Chicago.

Lauren Benson '10 is a middle school teacher at St. Agatha School. She resides in Freeburg.

Daniel Brennan '10 is in human resources for Southern Wine and Spirits. He resides in Chicago.

Debra Carl '10 is a cultural arts specialist with Waukegan Park District. She resides in Waukegan.

Nate Coon '10 teaches music and drama to elementary students in Des Plaines CCSD 62. He resides in Lakemoor.

Sean Fenske '10, M.S. '12, is a health educator with ORISE. He resides in Tacoma, Washington.

Chris Gardner '10 is a student in Mennonite College of Nursing's family nurse practitioner program. She works as a registered nurse at St. Joseph Medical Center and resides in Normal.

Faith (Evans) Grapes, M.S. '10, is a production supervisor at Alcore, Inc. She and her husband, Jonathan, married in June 2015. They reside in Bel Air, Maryland.

Sarah (Long) Greenaway '10 is a registered nurse at Rush University Medical Center. She and her hus-



Friends and fans

Four men who attended ISU during the 1960s remain close despite living in separate states. Nearly 50 years after all graduated, they still gather periodically. ISU football is one way they stay connected, as they united to support the team at last year's national championship game. They are, *from left*, Tom Lorig '64, M.S. '65, of Arizona; Dale Perona '67, M.S. '68, of Illinois; Dave DiPaolo '65 of California; and Bill Sneddon '67, M.S. '70, of Florida. Lorig and Perona were on ISU's math faculty in the late 1960s.

band, Bryan, reside in Arlington Heights.

Mackenzie (Lee) Hankins '10 is an accounting analyst with Archer Daniels Midland Company. She and her husband, Jacob, reside in Shelbyville.

Jeremy Hennings '10 completed a master's degree in educational leadership. He teaches middle school math with West Central School District 235. He and his wife, Jamie, reside in Burlington, Iowa.

Colleen (McKenna) Ittner, Au.D. '10, is a pediatric audiologist with Ann and Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. She and her husband, Brian, are parents to a daughter. Emerson was born in August 2015. They reside in Lisle.

Kyle Kroening '10 is an application support analyst with TriZetto, a Cognizant Company. He and his wife, Kristen, are the parents of a son. Kainen Andrew was born in May 2015. They reside in Yorkville.

Tara (Osterhoff) Latz '10 is a staff accountant with the Village of Bourbonnais. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Manhattan.

Mark Long '10 is a regional creative services director with Cumulus Media. He resides in Normal.

Heather O'Leary '10 is an administrative assistant at the University of Illinois. She resides in Chicago.

Mark Schmitt '10 is an academic instructor at Chicago Job Corps. He resides in Downers Grove.

Jerry "Randy" Simpson '10 is an accomplished drag racer and champion. He is general manager of Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis. He oversees the daily operations of the historic, multipurpose facility in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Samantha (Brown) Spence '10 is a process analyst with Growmark, Inc. She and her husband, Samuel, own and operate Band of Brothers Martial Arts LLC. They reside in Bloomington.

Genevieve (Gibson) Stevens '10 is the coordinator of student life at Carl Sandburg College. She and her husband, Aaron, reside in Galesburg.

Steve Suess '10, M.S. '12, is the director of convergent radio broadcasting at ISU. He resides in Normal.

Lauren (Jump) VanNatta '10, M.S. '12, is an instructor at the University of Illinois-Champaign. She runs her own business, LHV Photography. She and her husband, Andrew, reside in Effingham.

Carrie (Pope) Vogt '10 is a registered nurse working at Mayo Clinic. She and her husband, Steven, reside in Rochester, Minnesota.

Kristen (Doe) Waller '10 is an assistant clinical manager of surgical services with Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Plainfield.

Julianne Zajac '10 completed a master's in scene painting specialization. She is a lead scenic artist for the scenery company Sets to Go in Los Angeles. She has painted a guest house in the Bahamas and a roller coaster at Hershey Park. She resides in Northridge, California.

Matthew Zawicki '10 is a senior marketing specialist with G & W Electric. He and his wife, Elizabeth Sisler, reside in Chicago.

Jeffrey Cleveland '11 is completing a graduate degree in music and human learning at the University of Texas. He is a teaching assistant for the Longhorn band and pep band. He resides in Austin, Texas.

Sarah Michel '11 is an investment technician with State Farm Insur-

ance Companies. She resides in Danvers.

David Noord '11 is a production technician with DuPont Pioneer. His wife, **Amanda (White) '11**, is a preschool teacher with Princeton Elementary School District. They reside in Malden.

Kathleen (Rose) Sampson '11 is a special education teacher. She and her husband, Andrew, were married in July 2015. They reside in Franklin Park.

Kara (Witz) Winslow '11 is a registered dietitian with Aurora Health Care. She and her husband, Aaron, reside in Hainesville.

Rachael (Vallender) Behrens '12 is a graphic design and Web manager at the Bloomington-Normal Area Convention and Visitors Bureau. She and her husband, Bradley, reside in Bloomington.

Emily Burklow '12 is a software engineer with GoWeb1. She resides in Springfield.

Delia Daly '12 is a registered nurse in the operating room of Rush University Medical Center. She resides in Chicago.

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Cassie Goodman '12, M.S. '14, works for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. She and her husband, Gregory, reside in Point of Rocks, Maryland.

Hannah Hassler, M.S. '12, is sorority programming coordinator for Gamma Phi Beta International Sorority. She resides in Denver, Colorado.

Andrea (Garay) Lopez '12 is a guidance counselor at East Aurora High School. She and her husband, Joel, reside in Woodridge.

David Nelson '12 is a financial analyst at John Deere. He resides in Fargo, North Dakota.

Rachel Bohlmann '13 is a space management analyst for Sears Holdings Corporation. She resides in Algonquin.

Jacob Carlson '13 is an associate solutions consultant with Signal. He resides in Chicago.

Michael Dyer '13, M.S. '14, is an auditor at Ernst and Young. He resides in New York, New York.

Chelsey Gallegos '13, M.S. '15, is a speech-language pathologist with the Chicago Public Schools. She resides in Chicago.

Marko Govedarica '13 is a financial advisor for Morgan Stanley. He resides in Bloomingdale.

Renee Kirkton '13 is a special projects coordinator with Education for Employment System 330. She resides in Champaign.

Ian De La Rosa '13 is a digital marketing coordinator with Revenew. He resides in Chicago.

Megan (Morrison) McMullen '13 is a language arts teacher at Broadmoor Junior High School. She and her husband, Jimmy, reside in Bloomington.

Andrew Meyers '13 is a social worker with Waukegan Public Schools. He resides in Evanston.

Amy Micik '13 teaches at Springfield Ball Charter School. She resides in Chatham.

Kailey Perez '13 is an operations consultant with Allstate Insurance. She and her husband, Sebastian Pazderski, reside in Crystal Lake.

Kyla Peterson '13 is an English teacher at Beecher High School. She resides in Peotone.

Mindy (Spear) Switzer '13 is a physical education teacher at Chester East Lincoln Elementary School. She and her husband, Zachary,

were married in June 2015. They reside in Mt. Pulaski.

Andrew Torbert '13 is a music teacher at Buckeye Elementary School District. He resides in Avondale.

Jeanine Williams '13 works as office staff at State Farm Insurance Companies. She resides in Peoria.

Samantha Atkinson, M.S. '14, is a graduate student at the University of Iowa. She resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

Jeremy Ber '14 is an application developer with Allstate Insurance. He resides in Wheeling.

Ellen Blindt '14 is an associate account executive with Brighton Agency. She resides in Belleville.

Teja Bloom '14 is customer experience coordinator in event planning for Creative Group, Inc. She resides in Lake Zurich.

Mia Bogusz '14 is an art teacher at Thurgood Marshall Middle School. She resides in Elmhurst.

Ryan Busha '14 is an institutional fixed income broker with Baird. He resides in Chicago.

Quinn Carlson '14 is a mechanical associate with Nuclear Power Technologies, Sargent & Lundy. He resides in River Forest.

Dana Christopher '14 is a payroll coordinator with Arthur J. Gallagher. She resides in Crystal Lake.

Matthew Cosenza '14 is a project engineer with F. H. Paxdhen S.N. Nielsen. He resides in Lombard.

Carolyn Cox, M.S. '14, is a social worker in senior behavior health with McDonough District Hospital.

Jacqueline Dellamano '14 is an admissions and records representative at ISU. She resides in Bloomington.

Shayla Dennis '14 works in ISU's Campus Dining Services. She resides in Normal.

Stacy Dressler-Brown '14 is a purchasing officer at ISU. She and her husband, John, reside in Bloomington.

Tyler Fuller '14 is an accountant at COUNTRY Financial. He resides in Bloomington.

Nick Goodwin '14 is a geospatial analyst with Northrop Grumman. He resides in Troy.

Arturo Hernandez '14 is a sales consultant with Best Buy Mobile Sales. He resides in Champaign.

Nicholas Johnson '14 is an outpatient therapist with Heritage Behavioral Health Center. He resides in Tinley Park.

Jennifer Jorgensen, M.S. '14, is an administrative assistant with Fresno State Athletics. She resides in Visalia, California.

Juliann Kelly '14 is a communications coordinator for the American Heart Association. She resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Alyssa Koerner '14 teaches second grade in Washington School District 52. She resides in Washington.

Sara Lindsey '14 is a business analyst with COUNTRY Financial. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Heyworth.

Tess Losada '14 is a physical therapy technician and a Pilates instructor in training with Balanced Body. She performs and teaches with Good Dance, a professional contemporary dance company in New Orleans, where she resides.

Erin Marten '14 teaches math and science to seventh grade students in Schiller Park School District 81. She resides in Willowbrook.

Meghan McGuire '14 is an image and safety consultant at G&K Services. She resides in Bloomington.

Carter Mulvihill '14 is a sports writer at the *Kankakee Daily Journal*. He also writes a blog, Premier League Prowler, covering the British Premier Soccer League. He resides in Peotone.

Nicholas Nalley '14 is a ministry intern at Dickson Valley Camp and Retreat Center. He resides in Newark.

Ronald Otoo, M.S. '14, is a business analyst with Caterpillar, Inc. He resides in Peoria.

Hazel Ozuna, M.S. '14, is a research assistant graduate student at University of Louisville. She resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

Tiffany Parks '14, is a spa and front desk receptionist with Formula Fitness Club. She resides in Oak Park.

Samantha Petrella, M.S. '14, is a program manager with Vanderheyden. She resides in Clifton Park, New York.

Bianca (Gerardi) Pietro '14 is a life skills special education case manager with SAU 61. She and her hus-

band, Kevin, reside in Dover, New Hampshire.

Alex Pilgrim, B.S./M.S. '14, is an audit associate at BKD, LLP. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Stephanie Rahn '14 is a fourth grade teacher at Washington Academy. She resides in Lake Zurich.

Nathan Reed '14 is a GPS precision mapping and ag application UAV pilot with Rock River Lumber and Grain. He resides in Sterling.

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

Zachary Rose '14 is a sustainability manager at ISU. He resides in Germantown Hills.

Lindsey Sebade '14 is a registered nurse with OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She resides in Hudson.

Alison Seberger '14 is an assistant women's basketball coach at Lenoir-Rhyne University. She resides in Geneva.

Andrew Seketa '14 teaches special education in Community High School District 117. He resides in Grayslake.

Michelle Sherman '14 is a guest animal experience educator at Walt Disney Parks and Resorts. She resides in Kissimmee, Florida.

Nathan Stein '14 teaches at Pontiac Township High School. He and his wife, Velia, reside in Chenoa.

Rebecca Swanson '14 is a training specialist with First American Bank. She resides in Saint Charles.

Emily Szymczak '14 received a Fulbright grant for the 2014-2015 school year to serve as an English teaching assistant in Mexico. She now serves as a mentor to the new English teaching assistants. She resides in LaGrange Park.

Dane Thompson '14 is a residence hall manager with Interlochen Arts Academy. He resides in Interlochen, Michigan.

Armando Torres '14 is a registered nurse with OSF St. Francis Medical Center. He resides in Oglesby.

Amy (Follmer) Wyant '14 is an agriculture customer service representative with Springfield Plastics,

Inc. Since graduation she has married, purchased a home, accepted the job and remains a cancer survivor. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Witt.

Jenessa Zimmer '14 is a middle school art teacher with Rockton School District 140. She resides in Rockton.

Fakhri Abbas, M.S. '15, is a Web application developer at ISU. He resides in Normal.

Joseph Biel '15 is an underwriter with United States Liability Insurance Group. He resides in Crest Hill.

Thomas Bolivar '15 is an admissions counselor at the medical school of Loyola University in Chicago. He resides in Lombard.

Rebecca (Vaessen) Bontz '15 is an accounting associate with Growmark, Inc. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Amboy.

Paul Bristow '15 is the director of sales at Home2 Suites by Hilton. He resides in Champaign.

Brooke Davis '15 is an associate securities compliance specialist with COUNTRY Financial. She resides in Bloomington.

Erika (Smoes) Kennedy '15 teaches third grade with Clinton CUSD 15. She and her husband, John, reside in Normal.

James Kenney '15 is an executive team leader with Target. He resides in Batavia.

Marissa Mason '15 is an administrative loan assistant with First Farmers State Bank. She resides in Armington.

Ryan Mortenson '15 is a tax staff accountant with Plante Moran. He resides in Schaumburg.

Cassidy Obis '15 is a public relations account coordinator with Fishman. She resides in Grayslake.

Tammy Pollard '15 is the technology coordinator at Gifford Grade School. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Sibley.

Brianna Reed '15 is an English educator in the Mesa public schools. She resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Johnna Schmitt, M.S. '15, is a speech language pathologist with the

Rockford public schools. She resides in Peru.

Michael Schoose '15 is an internal auditor with State Farm Bank. He resides in Bloomington.

Carley Strader '15 is an underwriter with CCMMSI. She resides in Danville.

Kelley Sullivan, M.S. '15, is a coach education manager with USA Rugby. She resides in Boulder, Colorado.

Herlinda Vargas '15 is a bilingual teacher with CCSD 15. She resides in Palatine.

Luke Vernam '15 is a marketing content specialist with Apple, Inc. He resides in San Jose, California.

Scott Walding '15 is an associate underwriter with Zurich North America. He resides in Deer Park.

Our troops

Kenneth McComas '87 has retired from the U.S. Navy. He and his wife, Connie, reside in Temple, Texas.

U.S. Army Major **Terrance Deuel '98** retired from active duty in May 2015 after serving at U.S. Central Command. He enlisted in the Army Reserves while attending University High School. During his 27 years in the military he deployed to Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Haiti, Afghanistan and three times in Iraq. He has returned to Afghanistan as a training and development specialist working with the Afghan military. His home is in Waleska, Georgia.

Sebastian Coates '12 is a ranger battalion medical operations officer with the U.S. Army. He resides in Tacoma, Washington.

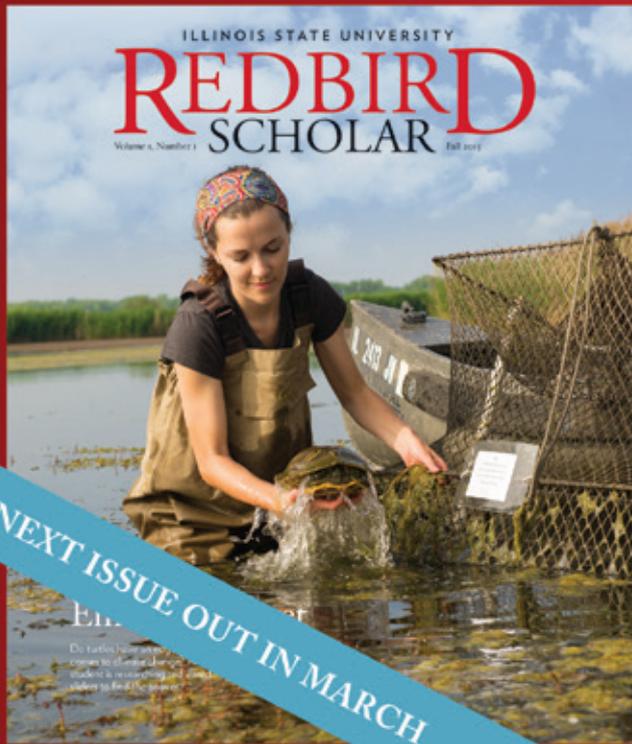
In memory

Faculty/Staff

Margaret (LaPorte) Balbach, Agriculture; 9/15

Audrey "April" Francis '63; Special Education; 9/15

Barbara A. Glenn, Provost's Office; 9/15



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Ivo P. Greif, Special Education; 8/15

Richard R. Hart, Geography/Geology; 8/15

Robert W. Koehler, Health, Physical Education and Recreation; 9/15

Fred A. Putnam, Building Service Worker; 9/15

William Weakley, Building Service Worker; 8/15

30s

Dolores M. (Harty) Connor '36; 9/15

George W. Latham '36; 8/15

Ellen R. Hendrix '39; 9/15

40s

Frances E. (Neeson) Brownfield '41; 8/15

Florence M. Hensen '42; 9/15

Elston "Steve" E. Roady '42; 8/15

Doris J. (Gunsten) Hunt '44; 9/15

Ellen (Dawson) Thomas '45; 6/15

Marjorie (Young) Ashbrook '47; 8/15

Dorothy (Lyles) Claus '49; 8/15

Melvin Kuethe '49; 4/15

50s

Barbara E. (Funk) Richmond '50; 9/15

Robert D. Webb '50; 10/15

Roy Underwood '51, M.S. '54; 8/15

Maurice E. Seymour '52; 10/15

Mary J. (Maloney) Kraft '54; 10/15

Barbara A. Prince '54, M.S. '61; 9/15

Carolyn A. (Moody) Knudson '58; 10/15

Frances J. Timmerman '58; 9/15

Jo Ellen (Jones) Maske '59, M.S. '81; 6/15

60s

Beatrice F. (Shult) Marting '60; 9/15

David H. Grimm St. '62, M.S. '68; 9/15

Barbara L. (Butterfield) Arntzen '64; 8/15

Kathleen Alderman '65, M.S. '66; 6/15

Norman L. Robeson '65; 10/15

Harold D. Showalter, M.S. '65; 10/15

Antoinette A. (Galinausky) Hodor '66; 1/15

Gordon D. Hawes '67; 5/15

Joseph H. Kelley '67; 10/15

Catherine A. (McKean) Dubuisson '68; 9/15

Sara (Roesler) Francis '69; 9/15

M. Lynn (Ballantyne) McKinley '69; 10/15

Raymond W. Zimmerman '69; 9/15

70s

Cecile (Jarte) McCarthy '70; 7/15

Carol A. O'Hare '70; 10/15

Brian G. Tesar '70; 12/13

Guy E. Johnson '71; 9/15

Jean E. (Burns) Lord '71; 8/15

Martin Sack Jr. '71; 10/15

Michael W. Rabbe '72, M.S. '73; 8/15

William S. Swinney '72; 9/15

David R. Stumpe '73; 9/15

Cynthia A. Watson '74; 8/14

Stephen F. Davis '75; 9/15

Joseph S. Gnidovec, M.S. '75; 8/15

Kafondi Okwumabua '75; 8/15

Marilyn R. Moody '76; 9/15

John. T. Tomassetti, M.S. '76; 9/15

John Troiani '75; 8/15

James H. Bower '77; 9/15

Jack J. Heverly '77; 9/15

Arthur Larson '79, M.S. '82; 8/15

80s

Laura L. Nier '80, M.S. '82; 8/15

Marie (Maslajczuk) Schechtman '81; 6/15

John P. Daly '82; 10/15

Sandra J. (Stappenbeck) Elder '82; 8/15

Nancy A. Havens, M.S. '82; 9/15

James L. Valkema '82; 6/15

Carol L. Woodbridge '83; 9/15

Cheryl (Turner) Eagles '85, M.S. '92; 8/15

Karen (Carlson) Greer '85; 7/15

Julie Lindemann, M.A. '89; 8/15

90s

John M. McQuary, M.S. '90; 7/15

Cynthia L. Fleck '91; 8/15

Heidi K. (Bricher) Hennig '91; 6/15

Todd "T.J." Johnson '91; 8/15

Gail C. (Wallace) Gordon '92; 9/15

Kristi (Monferdini) Baechle '93; 8/15

Lori (Maul) Shipley '94; 9/15

John W. Cowell, MBA '98; 9/15

John "Jack" Moore III '99; 7/15

00s

Jeffrey P. Tangeman, M.F.A. '01; 8/15

Matthew C. Nelson '03; 9/15

Laura E. Fisher '05; 10/15

Jonathan S. Franklin '15; 7/15

Our troops

U.S. Marine Corps Major Retired Donald J. Buczynski Jr. '86; 6/15



Thanks to you!

Alumni, students, faculty, staff, retirees and friends of Illinois State came together on Giving Tuesday on December 1 to support the University's people and programs. More than 1,400 gifts exceeded a total of \$556,733 in the 24-hour campaign launched primarily via social media.

This was the second consecutive year ISU strategically reached out for support on the worldwide day dedicated to giving back. Donors were engaged through Twitter, Facebook and email to spread word across the country of Illinois State's excellence and endeavors.

Planning evolved over many months. Throughout the day, several individuals issued challenges that encouraged others to give at any level. Most donors chose to indicate how their gift would be used, with options ranging from specific academic programs to the Red

and White Scholarship Fund that provides emergency dollars to students in a crisis situation.

Students were actively involved in the day and grateful for the support that empowers them to continue pursuing their passion as a Redbird. Now more than ever, private support is critical to meet student needs. Scholarships in particular are life-changing for those who would otherwise be unable to attend the University.

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



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Advancement Operations

Campus Box 8000

Normal, IL 61790-8000

Warm greeting on cold Quad

February weather in Central Illinois can make the walk to class dreadful. History major Mike Anglemire doesn't mind snowflakes or dropping temperatures. He took the time to share a smile with a friend on a blustery winter day.

