

# Illinois State

alumni magazine

# Rites of Spring

ALUMNI FROM THE  
1970s STILL CHERISH  
MEMORIES OF THE ROCK  
FESTIVAL ON THE QUAD.



VOLUME 10 • NUMBER 4 • SPRING 2010



### Rites gone wrong

For the better part of the 1970s, Illinois State's Quad was the site of an annual, daylong music festival called Rites of Spring. What began as a peaceful and relaxing celebration to mark the end of a school year in 1972 turned into a day of chaos, drugs, and danger by 1977. That was the final year for an event that started as a bold innovation and become a cherished tradition still fondly remembered by many alumni.

**Cover:** The chance to hear great rock groups of the day was what motivated the students who organized the first Rites of Spring.

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Turner Hall is home to a lab of robots designed to aid in the education and real world experience of Illinois State's technology majors. Students are able to use the lab created with Caterpillar's support to design and build, while gaining a competitive advantage above others entering the workforce.

## 11 CRIPPLED BY PERCEPTIONS

Prejudice remains a very real part of daily life for many in the United States, especially Arab and Muslim Americans. Terrorist attacks have resulted in an increased scrutiny and level of suspicion for these two citizen groups. As an international expert in Arab and Muslim American studies, alumna Louise Cainkar '76 traces hostilities to long before September 11, 2001. Her work attacks stereotypes and has become a call for tolerance and equity.

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# The First Word

## Having spent three decades in higher education,

I am painfully aware of how easy it is for faculty and administrators to fall into the routine of relying on academic jargon. Individuals new to the University are no doubt baffled by our lexicon as we discuss matriculation rates when reviewing our admission statistics, or refer to our budget as a compilation of appropriated funds.

Strategic plans are one area where universities struggle to avoid becoming mired in stilted verbiage so grandiose that the document is rendered meaningless. But not at Illinois State.

We have avoided this pitfall by creating a living and concise document called *Educating Illinois* to serve as our road map. *Educating Illinois* identifies objectives that in turn guide decisions ranging from programming to resource allocation.

If you have not taken the opportunity to examine this document, I encourage you to do so by going online to [www.EducatingIllinois.ilstu.edu](http://www.EducatingIllinois.ilstu.edu). There you will see that the campus community is focused on five goals that include positioning students to excel; maintaining excellence in scholarship, teaching, and learning at undergraduate and graduate levels; and remaining accountable and fiscally responsible.

Promoting a healthy, safe, and environmentally sustainable campus is another goal, as is enhancing university pride and allegiance in multiple audiences—including alumni.

This clear vision has been an invaluable tool for charting the future, allowing us to identify opportunities and address weaknesses. Because of *Educating Illinois*, the University has been able to celebrate remarkable accomplishments in all areas, despite the recent tough economic times. We have doubled the value of need-based scholarships, achieved historically high student retention and graduation rates, and made significant structural improvements through new construction and renovation work to existing buildings.

These are just a few examples of what have been achieved because we carefully crafted a plan with a purpose. More evidence of how the document is the impetus to action can be found online. An entire section of the Web site is dedicated to citing specifically how the University's employees and programs are meeting each of our goals.

I am particularly pleased that this accountability is one key element to *Educating Illinois*, as it demonstrates concretely how we at Illinois State translate our philosophical foundation from text to meaningful and practical application.

Al Bowman  
President, Illinois State University

## Illinois State

### alumni magazine

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# UniversityNews

“The effort to renovate ISU’s softball field and stadium is built on the idea of women supporting women.”



The home field advantage will mean something entirely different to the Redbirds after a \$2.5 million upgrade turns the grassy Adelaide Street field into the Melinda Fischer Softball Field at Marian Kneer Softball Stadium.

The facility is being renovated through gifts from women or in honor of women who have been important in someone’s life. A generous gift from Marian Kneer ’49, M.S. ’57, provided the foundation for the complex.

Kneer pioneered the inclusion of women’s sports in the Illinois High School Association in the 1970s, two years prior to the passage of the Title IX Education Amendment. The Peoria native was called the “world’s greatest softball catcher” in the late 1950s. Kneer, now of Plainfield, was named to the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1976 and the College of Education Hall of Fame in 2004.

The upgraded facilities will have seating for 1,000, including 400 chair backs and 600 bleachers. Synthetic turf, sunken dugouts to improve spectator views, a media suite, event management suite, and heated dugouts with restrooms are also planned.

“Our team takes a lot of pride in their home field, and these improvements will bring a lot of enthusiasm and excitement to the team,” said former team member Shannon Nicolson ’07, M.S. ’09. “Redbird softball is built on tradition, and this is an effort between the administration, alumni, players, and fans that represents everything we’re about.”

The current Redbird Softball Complex has served as the team’s home for 11 years, said Melinda Fischer, ’72, M.S. ’75 who is ending her 26th season with more than 800 wins. The complex replaced historic McCormick Field, home of the Redbirds for 31 years.

“A new look will bring a lot of enthusiasm and excitement to the team. This was something we needed to do to keep us competitive,” said Fischer, who has more wins than any other Illinois State coach in history.

Her love of the game started before she became head softball coach in 1986. As a student-athlete, she helped lead the Redbirds to a second place finish in the 1969 Women’s College World Series. She is a two-time inductee into the Illinois State University Athletics Hall of Fame.

She and the team are eager to take to the new and improved stadium, which could be completed by next spring. Donations are being sought for the project. For more information send an e-mail to Senior Associate Athletics Director Leanna Bordner at [lbordn@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:lbordn@IllinoisState.edu) or call (309) 438-3639.



Melinda Fischer ’72, M.S. ’75, has led the softball team for 26 seasons.



## WEB EXTRA

Go to [www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine) to learn more about the Melinda Fischer Softball Field at Marian Kneer Softball Stadium project. Gifts may be made online at [www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/softball](http://www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/softball).

## NURSING GRADUATES SURPASS NATION WITH EXAM SCORE

Graduates of Mennonite College of Nursing achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX-RN) on the first try in 2009, exceeding national and state averages. The 101 students surpassed the nationwide NCLEX-RN pass rate of 88 percent and the State of Illinois pass rate of 91 percent.

The high percentage of Mennonite graduates who pass the licensure exam the first time is due in large part to the college's Success Plan. Under the leadership of faculty member Cathi Kaesberg, the Success Plan focuses on critical thinking, integration of theory with clinical practice, and mastery in each course before progressing to the next. Mastery exams cover the specific subject matter included on the NCLEX-RN exam.

"This incredible outcome is attributable to our faculty's commitment, expertise, dedication, and teaching prowess in preparing future nurses," said Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Janet Krejci. "It also speaks to the willingness of staff to consistently strive for excellence in their support of faculty and students, as well as Cathi Kaesberg's unrelenting focus on student success in her coordination of the College Success Plan."

The difficulty of the NCLEX-RN exam was increased in 2007 in response to changes in U.S. health care delivery and nursing practice. The increased standards are part of a three-year evaluation cycle for the NCLEX-RN exam to ensure that it continues to address current nursing standards. The passing standard was raised again this spring.

## LINGUIST CHOSEN AS FIRST FOR UNIVERSITY PROFESSOR HONOR



Daniel Everett, chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, has been named Illinois State University's first University Pro-

fessor. The newly created title honors faculty members who are nationally recognized scholars and teachers. The title was officially bestowed upon Everett at Illinois State's Founders Day Convocation in February.

An international linguist, Everett's research has rocked the foundation of his field. He has concluded that human language is not an innate characteristic of our species, but rather that it is developed in each individual based on general human intelligence, problem solving, and cultural learning. His work contradicts the most widespread theory of language to date.

Everett completed his Ph.D. in linguistics at the State University of Campinas in Brazil, and taught at that institution from 1980 to 1986. From there he moved to the University of Pittsburgh, where he was a professor of linguistics and anthropology, and chair of the Department of Linguistics. He accepted a professorship in phonetics and phonology at the University of Manchester, England, in 2000 and served there until moving to Illinois State to become chair of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures in 2006.

Everett has published more than 90 articles and six books. His latest book has been translated into six languages and published in eight countries. Profiles about Everett's research have been published in the *New Yorker Magazine*, *New Scientist*, *GEO Magazine*, *Gehirn & Geist*, *Scientific American Mind*, and *Science News*.

## TWO JOIN THE RANKS OF DISTINGUISHED PROFESSORS

Victor Devinatz and John Pryor were named Distinguished Professors at the Founders Day convocation in February. The title is the highest honor faculty can obtain.

Devinatz joined the Management and Quantitative Methods Department in 1991. His research focuses include collective bargaining, labor relations, union organizing, and U.S. labor history.

He has published extensively, with his work appearing in a number of premier refereed journals and research volumes. His research has been cited in top-

tier management and industrial and labor relations journals, the leading U.S. labor relations textbooks, as well as interdisciplinary social scientific journals. He authored the book *High-Tech Betrayal: Working and Organizing on the Shop Floor*.

Devinatz serves as the editor of the Perspectives Section of the *Employee Responsibilities and Rights Journal* and as an editorial board member for four prominent labor relations journals. He is a frequent media expert for international-level publications and the Bureau of National Affairs in Washington, D.C.

Pryor became a member of Illinois State's Psychology Department in 1985. He is an internationally recognized scholar in the areas of social psychology of stigma and the nature of sexual harassment. He has been at the forefront of social psychological research on HIV-related stigma, and society's perceptions



and attitudes toward people with HIV.

Pryor has published 81 journal articles and chapters in edited volumes, and made more than 180 presentations at conferences and colloquia. His work has appeared in top academic outlets. Pryor has been supported by grants from the Office of Naval Research, National Centers for Disease Control, National Science Foundation, Department of Veterans Affairs, and the AED/Ford Foundation.

Pryor is a fellow of the American Psychological Association, the Association for Psychological Science, the Midwestern Psychological Association, and the Society for Experimental Social Psychology. He is an editorial board member for *Basic and Applied Social Psychology*, *Psychological Inquiry*, and *Sex Roles*.



**INTERNATIONAL LIBRARIAN CHOSEN TO LEAD AS MILNER'S DEAN**

Sohair Wastawy will join Illinois State in June as the dean of University Libraries. She served as the chief librarian at the Bibliotheca Alexandrina/Library of Alexandria in Egypt for the past six years.

Wastawy received a doctorate in library and information management from Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts. She has served as dean/director of Libraries at the Illinois Institute of Technology, and is a board member for three international library associations. Her work has earned her two lifetime achievement awards from the Egyptian Library Association.

"Illinois State University will benefit from Sohair Wastawy's incredible breadth and depth of experience. She has presented across the world and led the library profession in the Arabic speaking

states in a new direction," Vice President and Provost Sheri Noren Everts said.

Milner Library supports all of ISU's academic programs with a staff of 90, a budget of approximately \$8.5 million, and a collection of more than 1.6 million volumes. Wastawy will be responsible for library-wide strategic planning and policy direction in the areas of collection development, public and technical services, facilities planning, and personnel policies. She will assume a university-wide leadership role in the development and implementation of digital library capabilities and information technologies.

**ILLINOIS STATE'S EXCELLENCE RECOGNIZED AGAIN BY KIPLINGER'S**

For the sixth consecutive year Illinois State has been ranked as one of 100 best values in public colleges in the country, according to *Kiplinger's Personal Finance* magazine. Illinois State ranked 89th on the list, up five spots from the November

2008 list. The University was one of only two in Illinois to make the list, with the other being University of Illinois.

"Illinois State University has once again proven to be a high quality academic institution at an affordable price," President Al Bowman said. "Our students, faculty, and staff already know what *Kiplinger's* has once again made apparent—we are one of the first-choice institutions in Illinois."

Other institutions on the list include University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, University of Florida, and College of William and Mary. "To be in the company of some of the finest public institutions in the nation is one more indicator that we are achieving our goals through the University's strategic plan, *Educating Illinois*," Bowman said.

*Kiplinger's* ranks each school's quality based on ACT scores, admission and retention rates, student-faculty ratios, the percentage of faculty with the highest degree in their field, how much each school spends on instruction for each student, and graduation rates. *Kiplinger's* also ranks each school on cost components, including financial aid factors, attendance costs, and the average debt each student accumulates. Quality is weighted more heavily than cost.

**UNIVERSITY RESEARCH PROJECTS ADVANCING WITH FEDERAL FUNDS**

Illinois State has received \$800,000 in federal funding for special projects across campus.

A federal grant of \$500,000 is helping the School of Biological Sciences enhance teaching and research in the field of neuroscience. Faculty members are currently conducting research in the areas of Parkinson's disease, stroke, pain, drug neurochemistry, and neurological and behavioral patterns in addiction.

Another \$200,000 is helping Department of Criminal Justice Sciences Distinguished Professor Ralph Weisheit in his work with a youth drug and treatment program operating in Southern Illinois. The funding will be used to support Weisheit's ongoing review and evaluation of the treatment program aimed at

## Residence hall renovation continues with Watterson



Renovation work is underway at Watterson Towers, which opened in 1968 and is home to approximately 2,200 students. The hall will remain open during work that includes exterior repairs to the facade and interior upgrades. The work is expected to be completed in August of 2012.

Beyond updating the building's overall appearance, the project includes addressing several major deferred maintenance items, insulating the elevator breezeways, expanding the sprinkler system, and adding wireless capability throughout the facility.

Students will especially appreciate updates planned for the bathrooms, installation of overhead lights in the rooms, and the replacement of furniture with beds that can be positioned at multiple heights.

Watterson is the sixth residence hall to be renovated as part of the University's long range plan. For additional information about the ongoing work, visit [www.Housing.ilstu.edu](http://www.Housing.ilstu.edu).

youth offenders who are dependent on methamphetamine and other drugs.

A \$100,000 federal grant is helping more Illinois-based businesses expand into overseas markets as part of Illinois State's Export Project. The funding supports the Export Project's work with agriculture equipment and technology firms and a paint manufacturer in helping those companies explore international market opportunities.

"Funding for these projects represents a validation of Illinois State's growing and positive reputation in Washington, D.C.," President Al Bowman said. "Our Congressional delegation has been extremely helpful and supportive of our faculty's research and outreach efforts. Support for these kinds of projects is vital to the growth and reputation of Illinois State University."

#### **UNIVERSITY'S ACTUARIAL PROGRAM AMONG NATION'S BEST**

Illinois State is one of only nine universities in the nation and the only one in Illinois to be recognized as a Center of Actuarial Excellence by the Society of Actuaries. "We are very proud to be included among these few elite actuarial programs," said Actuarial Program Director Krzysztof Ostaszewski.

Each university recognized as a center must meet specific requirements related to degree, curriculum, graduate count and quality, faculty composition, appropriate integration, connection to industry and research/scholarship.

Information about Illinois State's actuarial program can be found at [www.IllinoisState.edu/actuary](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/actuary), and inquiries can be sent to [actuary@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:actuary@IllinoisState.edu).

#### **THEATRE PROFESSOR RECEIVES KENNEDY CENTER GOLD MEDALLION**

Theatre Professor Sandra Zielinski has earned the Kennedy Center Gold Medallion. The Gold Medallion is a national honor bestowed by the center/festival regional board to faculty who have made extraordinary contributions to the teaching and producing of theatre, and to the development and quality of the Kennedy Center's American College Theater Festival.



"I am honored and humbled to receive the Gold Medallion from the Kennedy Center and KCACTF Region III," Zielinski said. "It is the highest honor the Kennedy Center can present to a nominee within the eight regions in the country."

Zielinski specializes in theatre education and directing. She served as interim chair of the School of Theatre from 1995-1997, and is now administrator of the School's Theatre Education Entitlement Program that trains students to teach in grades 6-12.

She is also coordinator and clinical supervisor of theatre education student teachers.

For several years Zielinski has been an executive committee board member for Region III of the American College Theatre Festival, as well as a member of the Illinois Articulation Initiative, Board of Higher Education, Theatre Arts Articulation Panel, Fine Arts Assessment Advisory Committee, Illinois State Board of Education, Content Advisory Committee for Illinois Certification Testing System, and cofounder and coordinator of the Theatre Education Advisory Board.

## **Alumni**

#### **HOMECOMING ROYALTY NOMINATIONS SOUGHT FOR 2010 EVENT**

Nominations for the alumni king and queen and prince and princess for the 2010 Homecoming court are being sought by the Alumni Association Homecoming Committee and Student Alumni Council.

The king and queen will be crowned at the Homecoming luncheon on Friday, October 15. They will reign over events throughout the Homecoming weekend with the student king and queen, and members of the student court. The Homecoming prince and princess will

help lead off the annual parade and other events on Saturday.

To be eligible for consideration for king and queen, alumni must have celebrated their 50th class reunion, have a strong connection to the University, and be able to attend Homecoming events throughout the weekend of October 15-17. For additional information, or to download a nomination form, go online to [www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com/royalty](http://www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com/royalty).

Children of Illinois State graduates between the ages of four and seven at the time of Homecoming 2010 are eligible for nomination for the Homecoming prince and princess. The prince or princess must display Redbird spirit, pride, and enthusiasm. Nominations may be downloaded online at [www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com).

#### **REUNION PLANNING HELP AVAILABLE**

The Alumni Relations office has compiled a reunion-planning guide to assist alumni who are interested in coordinating a reunion. Whether the intent is to get together with former classmates or club members, this guide will make reunion planning simpler.

The document is available online at [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/reunion](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/reunion), with hard copies available on campus at Alumni Relations. For more information contact [alumni@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:alumni@IllinoisState.edu).

#### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SEEKS AWARDS NOMINATIONS**

Do you know of an alumnus who deserves to be recognized? Share their story with the Alumni Association, which annually recognizes the professional and service accomplishments of graduates as they progress in their careers.

Nominations can be completed online within minutes and may be submitted by members of the University community, alumni, colleagues, or friends of the University. To be considered for spring 2011, nominations must be received by May 28.

Award details and categories as well as an online nomination form are available at [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/awards](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/awards).

Award recipients will be honored on Founders Day in February of 2011.

Questions about the Alumni Awards program may be directed to Alumni Relations Director Gina Bianchi, M.S. '99, at [glbianc@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:glbianc@IllinoisState.edu) or by calling (309) 438-7380.

### **ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING ANNOUNCED**

All alumni are invited to campus to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 25 in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of members to the Alumni Association Board of Directors and board officers.

Alumni with active membership status in the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. To be active alumni must have made a gift to the University through the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding fiscal year. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2589 or (800) 366-4478, or e-mail Executive Director Stephanie Epp, Ed.D. '07, at [saep@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:saep@IllinoisState.edu).

## **Development**

### **ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SCHOLARSHIP NEEDS DONOR SUPPORT**

The Alumni Association has launched an initiative to create the Illinois State University Alumni Association Scholarship. The fund is designed to provide assistance to students who exhibit outstanding academic achievement, leadership, and financial need. A core group of alumni leaders have committed to establish this fund, however, additional donations are needed to meet the goal of offering financial assistance to 20 students throughout their undergraduate experience at Illinois State. Gifts of any amount are needed and appreciated. Donations can be made online at [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/alumnischolarship](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/alumnischolarship).

### **BOYD INTERNATIONAL HOUSE OPENING CELEBRATED**

The contributions of a past International House coordinator were recognized in the fall with the grand opening of Illinois State's Marilyn M. Boyd International House. Boyd served from 1982 to

2006 as coordinator of I-House, which is the University's international living and learning center. Boyd lost her battle against cancer in 2007.

The newly named I-House has relocated to renovated space in Manchester Hall. In addition to updated residence hall rooms, I-House students now have a lounge, programming center, and access to meeting rooms. I-House students, who had previously lived in Atkin Hall, made the move at the start of the fall semester.

The mission remains the same for I-House, which provides social, educational, and cultural programs. International and American students work together to promote cross-cultural understanding.

Beyond the naming of I-House in her honor, Boyd's memory lives on through the Marilyn Boyd International Student Scholarship Fund. The annual scholarship is designated for an outstanding International House student. Contributions may be made online at [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/giving](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/giving). Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8041 or by e-mail at [jd Hutchcraft@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jd Hutchcraft@IllinoisState.edu) for more information.

## **Fell Hall alumni establish College of Education fund**

The bond created among students who lived in Fell Hall while completing teacher education degrees nearly 50 years ago was so unique that the group became known as the Fell Hall Friends. Following graduation the friends all entered the teaching field. They maintained close contact, returning to campus each August for a reunion.

Their passion for teaching and their bond to Illinois State remains so strong that group members last year established the Fell Hall Friends, Class of 1961 Teaching Scholarship. A reflection of appreciation for their own excellent Illinois State education and the opportunity to teach, the scholarship will provide assistance to students planning to become teachers.

The scholarship will be awarded annually beginning this fall, which is also the 50th reunion year for the Class of 1961. All students preparing to teach will be eligible for the scholarship, which will be administered through the College of Education via the scholarship committee of the Council for Teacher Education.

Members of the Fell Hall Friends instrumental in creating the scholarship are 1961 graduates Brenda Varnold Dilts of Canton; Marlene Hack Rohlffing of Addison, MaryJane McClure Roth of Gibson City, and Ann Warfield Hertz, M.S. '64, of Monticello. Donations to the scholarship may be made online by going to [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/giving](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/giving).



Illinois State memories were rekindled last year as members of the Fell Hall Friends returned to campus. They were greeted by President Al Bowman and his wife, Linda, seated and standing, far right. College of Education Dean Deborah Curtis, standing, far left, also met with the group.

# Athletics

## STUDENT-ATHLETES TIED ACADEMIC RECORD IN FALL SEMESTER

The Illinois State Athletics Department achieved great academic heights in the spring of 2009 semester, as student-athletes earned the highest grade-point average (GPA) ever. Classroom excellence continued during the fall semester, with the Redbirds equaling the 3.13 GPA record set last spring.

ISU's seven men's teams posted a 2.94 GPA, while the 10 women's teams combined for 3.32 GPA. The highest men's GPA of 3.41 was achieved by the golf team, with the volleyball team's 3.53 GPA the highest on the women's side.

This is the fourth time in the last six years that the Redbirds achieved a record-setting GPA. Both the men's and women's departments also tied their respective GPA records. The number of student-athletes who achieved AFNI Athletics Honor Roll also improved, rising from 254 in the fall of 2008 to 294. Included in that group were 63 student-athletes who earned 4.0 GPA, surpassing the record of 44.

The student-athletes also continued giving back to the Central Illinois community, compiling 2,316 hours of community service, which is the most hours worked in one semester. Redbirds have donated more than 2,000 hours of community service for five consecutive years.

## REDBIRD CHOSEN TO SERVE ON NATIONAL ADVISORY GROUP

Illinois State distance runner and graduate student Scott Krapf '09 has been appointed vice chair of the Division I National Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC). He will serve this year and become chair in 2011.

The committee reports directly to the NCAA Division I Leadership and Legislative Councils. As vice chair Krapf will serve as a nonvoting member of the NCAA Legislative Council, offering input and assistance in shaping the legislation by which NCAA institutions are governed.

"There are going to be a number of important issues and discussions that the student-athlete voice will be pivotal in shaping," Krapf said. "I will stand firm in expressing the thoughts and sentiments of all 160,000 Division I student-athletes from our conferences and institutions over the next two years."

A seven-time All-MVC honoree in track and cross country, Krapf has served as the Illinois State SAAC President and Missouri Valley Conference SAAC representative since 2007. He became an NCAA Division I SAAC representative in 2008 and was appointed a representative on the NCAA joint SAAC and the Olympic Sports Liaison Committee SAAC earlier this year.

## REDBIRDS ADD FIVE FBS TRANSFERS TO 2010 ROSTER

Five Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) transfers have joined Illinois State's football team. Head coach Brock Spack added defensive end Nickcaro Golding, wide receiver Marvon Sanders, running back Erik Smith, linebacker Leonard Hubbard, and running back Ashton Leggett.

"One of the things we are really focusing on this offseason is improving our team speed. We had some holes to fill after losing 13 seniors in the fall," Spack said, noting the five new Redbirds will "help bolster our depth at key positions and give us some different options with regards to personnel."

Golding spent the last two seasons at Purdue, where he played for Spack while he was the Boilermakers' defensive coordinator in 2008. A 6-foot-5, 225-pound defensive end from Evanston, Golding will have two years of eligibility remaining for the Redbirds.

Sanders has played two seasons at Eastern Michigan. The 5-foot-9, 160-pound wide speedster from Ypsilanti, Michigan, also saw action as a punt and kick returner for the Eagles. He has two years of eligibility remaining for the Redbirds.

A native of Bolingbrook, Smith has three years of eligibility remaining. The 6-foot, 200-pound running back played just one season at Wisconsin after redshirting in 2008.

Hubbard comes to Illinois State from Wisconsin and will be reunited with Smith on the Redbird roster. A native of Springfield, the 6-foot, 230-pound line-backer was a redshirt freshman for the Badgers in 2009.

Leggett is a 5-foot-11, 230-pound running back who will compete for playing time with Smith and junior Clifton Gordon. A native of Muskegon, Michigan, Leggett played for Michigan State in 2008 after redshirting in 2007.

## Letters

*Editor's Note: Letters on issues discussed in Illinois State or relating to university news or policies are welcome. All letters should be limited to 250 words or less and are subject to editing. Send e-mail to [sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu); fax to (309) 438-8411; or mail to Illinois State, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790-3420.*

### To the Editor,

Great and well deserved dedication presentation on Will Robinson and Doug Collins (November 2009). I use to play on the courts with Doug Collins during my years at Illinois State University. He was a very agile and good player. His personality was pleasant and he always respected others. I also had opportunity to talk with Coach Robinson, who was a revered and stately man. The honor of a statue to these two individuals is well deserved. Please pass on my congratulations to the president and Athletics Department. As an African American alum, I feel great pride that you recognized the coach along with Doug Collins.

Rev. James Coleman, '73



# Automated learning

## Robots play integral role in Technology Department's training

BY STEVEN BARCUS

When the ribbon-cutting ceremony for the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory was held in Turner Hall, it was not President Al Bowman or College of Applied Science and Technology Dean Jeff Wood who cut the ribbon. The honor was given to a robot. Its orange mechanical arm picked up a pair of scissors and swiveled to cut the ribbon with a precise snip.

Guests left that 2007 ceremony with a box of chocolates. The assortment was packaged by a team of robots with pneumatic actuators working

in unison. Creation of the chocolate assembly line was one of the first challenges Technology Department faculty members Kevin Devine and David Kennell gave to their laboratory students.

They responded by creating an entirely automated system, with robots programmed to pick up a plastic tray, set it in a box, place specific chocolates on the tray, secure a lid, and label the package. The result was far more than a box of sweet treats. Illinois State students gained the experience of using automation to solve problems as they would in industry.

Such real-world opportunities are what make the \$1.2 million lab a significant learning tool for students and faculty alike. Devine and Kennell conceptualized the lab, which was made possible through the Caterpillar Foundation. Caterpillar's gift allowed for a lab that resembles what students might find in industry.

Devine and Kennell formed an advisory board of industry professionals, ensuring the lab design and equipment would contain equipment used in the workplace, helping students build necessary skill sets. They toured other labs and visited trade shows. Their goal was to have the ability to create challenges—such as the candy assembly line—which enable students to realize the value of teamwork and the challenge of technology.

“The problem is more involved than just programming a robot to pick up a piece of candy,” Devine said. “Students must decide what tooling is needed, how the robot will locate the candy, how to verify it was put in the right place, etc. There are a lot of different layers students need to examine to see the big picture.”

Other students designed and machined molds, and formed the plastic trays. All involved gained an understanding that automation demands more than programming and understanding hardware.

“Our mode is to get students designing and building in the engineering graphics and machining classes, and to have students pull all of that together in automation classes,” Devine said. “Automation doesn't happen by itself. Someone has to design the tooling, the packaging, the product, and ways of handling that product. There's a lot that goes in there.”

That lesson has been taught creatively since the lab opened three years ago. The installation took two years. A year of testing was completed before an additional nine stations were installed—a move of caution as each station costs approximately \$60,000.

Stations consist of ABB robots, a conveyor belt, machine vision, sensors, a computer network, pneumatic valves, actuators, and programmable logic controllers (PLC) that coordinate the work of the station components. These components play a major part in assignments, as stations can be used separately or integrated to accomplish a single task.

“One of the things going on with modern automation is the communication between con-



trollers. The controllers not only talk to the robot and the master controller, they also talk to each other. The whole lab can be focused on one task if that is desired,” Kennell said.

While designing tools and learning how to use PLCs are the most visible part of the robotics lab experience, safety also plays a major role. The lab meets industry safety standards, and includes presence-sensing devices, safety barriers, and emergency stop buttons.

“As more equipment comes into play, the safety level needs to go up,” Kennell said, explaining that robots at each station are capable of running in manual or automatic modes. The various

*Above, left:* Illinois State administrators watch as a robot cuts the ribbon at a ceremony opening the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory.

*Above, right:* A robot selects chocolates for packaging on a student-designed assembly line.

**“Our mode is to get students designing and building in the engineering graphics and machining classes, and to have students pull all of that together in automation classes.”**

modes demand different levels of safety. “Our solution was a state-of-the-art, PLC-based safety system that could meet different levels of safety and the ways these stations interact with each other.”

With the PLC safety system, Devine and Kennell can control what components in the lab are being operated. Industry visitors appreciate the team's efforts to promote safe work habits, which are important in the workplace as well as at ISU. The lab has a flawless safety record, and has proved to be an invaluable learning tool.

Illinois State's technology students have the opportunity to work with the hardware, software, and safety features in the lab. They in turn acquire

David Kennel, left, and Kevin Devine demonstrate a robot exhibit to local area grade school students on a field trip at the Children's Discovery Museum in Uptown Normal.



a depth of knowledge that gives them a competitive advantage when they enter the workforce. Even those who seek positions in project management, process control, quality control, product design, and technical sales benefit from the foundation of educational experiences created in the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory.

The lab also has a community presence through an exhibit at the Children's Discovery Museum in Uptown Normal. Visitors move a marble through a maze shaped like the Redbird head, trying to beat the robot in a race.

Since the exhibit was installed last summer, the maze has been run more than 10,000 times. Users have a good chance of winning against the robot on the easy and normal modes, but a win on hard mode is nearly impossible because of the robot's speed and accuracy.

Cheating is not even an option, as two sensors in the maze must be triggered by the marble for the race to be considered valid. One person has been rumored to have beaten the robot on hard mode, though anyone who has seen the robot's speed would have difficulty believing it.

Adapting an industrial exhibit for children comes with extensive safety precautions. The robot is separated from museum guests by a locked enclosure. When the door is open, a sensor will not allow the robot to run. An inner lock on the enclosure engages when the robot is on, making it impossible to open the door while the robot is operating. Two lasers continuously scan the

floor to ensure that if anyone enters the area while the robot is running, an emergency stop triggers, halting the robot.

The success of the exhibit has inspired Devine and Kennel to find new ways to use the lab for youth outreach. A summer camp for younger students is under consideration, as well as a seminar to recruit high school juniors and seniors.

"We try to leverage the lab in any way we can. We are constantly asking ourselves how we can make the lab have as big of an impact as we can on students," Devine said.

In the meantime he and Kennel work to hone their own skills and pass that knowledge on to students in an industry where technology is constantly changing.

"We keep up with changes by training, attending conventions, and anything else we can. The technology has developed quite a bit since I've been at ISU," said Kennel, who joined the faculty in 2000. "We prepare our students to learn about new technologies and keep up with the changes that are coming. It's a very dynamic industry."

*Editor's note: Gifts to support the maintenance of the Engineering Technology Program and the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory can be made online at [www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support](http://www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support). Designate your gift to the engineering technology program, or the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory.*



#### WEB EXTRA

See the Caterpillar Integrated Manufacturing Laboratory in action at [www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine).

# Peeling back prejudice



## Life in America a struggle for many post-9/11

BY CRYSTAL PERSON-TILLMAN

Louise A. Cainkar '76 was just a five-year-old child when she began noticing the disparity between poverty stricken pockets of downtown Chicago and her family's affluent neighborhood in Evergreen Park. The stark contrast troubled her so much, she remained attuned to such inequities as she grew older.

Her awareness of social injustices increased as she studied in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences at Illinois State. She went on to complete graduate work in sociology, all the while becoming increasingly steeped in the struggle for global human rights. Now a faculty member in the Department of Social and Cultural Sciences at Marquette University in Milwaukee, Cainkar is a national expert in Arab and Muslim American studies.

"I have always studied people who have been silenced. The thread of everything I do is trying to give the voiceless a voice," said Cainkar, who began researching Arab and Muslim Americans nearly three decades ago. Her work took on

new meaning after the terrorist attacks in September of 2001. "Suddenly my area of specialty was considered important."

Cainkar set aside seven years to research, analyze data, and publish her findings on the question of "what it means to be an Arab or a Muslim in a country set on edge by the worst terrorist attack in its history." Her examination of the topic and activism have led to coverage by major media, including the *Chicago Tribune* and *Sun-Times*; an invitation to speak at Harvard University; guest spots on radio and talk shows; and opportunities to offer an analysis on breaking news, such as the tragic shooting at Fort Hood last fall. The military suspect is a U.S. citizen of Jordanian descent, whose religious beliefs quickly became a talking point in media reports. Such a response points to underlying suspicions and hostilities that Cainkar asserts were festering long before 9/11.

"A lot of people think the prejudice started on September 11. In fact the idea that these people were somehow different from everyone else existed before September 11. Those ideas

**“A lot of people think the prejudice started on September 11. In fact the idea that these people were somehow different from everyone else existed before September 11. Those ideas were simply brought to the foreground.”**

were simply brought to the foreground. People were already predisposed to this prejudice,” Cainkar said.

Her conclusion is rooted in research. Cainkar learned while gathering oral histories and conducting more than 100 interviews that a sense of public mistrust is felt not only by Arab and Muslim immigrants, but also by their American-born children. She traced negative sentiments back to the Israeli-Arab War in the 1960s. Perceptions have been molded since then by American foreign policy decisions, media representations, the Gulf War, and immigration policies.

Cainkar’s desire to trumpet the importance of social justice became her motivation to complete such in-depth investigative work. She has long felt a commitment to serve as an impetus for change, which is what led her to Illinois State in the 1970s. Appalled by the state of prisons, Cainkar enrolled with a determination to help create a more humane environment for prisoners.

The University was one of few at the time to offer a degree in corrections. As an undergraduate she spent a semester studying the criminal justice model in Sweden. Another pivotal experience during her years at Illinois State was the opportunity to complete an internship at Dwight Women’s Correctional Facility.

“I found the environment depressing,” Cainkar said. The semester she spent immersed in that workplace crystallized a career path for Cainkar. “I realized the issues I was working with were sociological.” She subsequently completed a master’s degree in sociology and again traveled as a student in 1982. This time Morocco was her destination.

“I became interested in the cultural world around me. I felt that I knew nothing about the non-Western world. I just found it fascinating that people lived their lives in very different ways than we do,” Cainkar said.

It was then she began to research Arabs and Muslims, only to discover a dearth of accurate information. What she did find was filled with stereotypes and caricatures, which only fueled Cainkar’s desire to expose preexisting stigmas about specific populations.

To do so meant completing a doctorate in sociology from Northwestern University and more travel. In 1986 she established the Human Rights Research Foundation, and



Louise Cainkar '76 has devoted years to the struggle for global human rights. From a Mosque in the Chicago suburb of Orland Park to the Jordanian desert, Cainkar has traveled extensively and become steeped in other cultures as an Arab and Muslim American scholar.

Cainkar has documented an increase in Muslim American activism, as demonstrated in the annual Muslim Day Parade held on Madison Avenue in New York City, *previous page*. Hundreds of Muslims attended a peaceful rally in New York City to protest offensive cartoons published in European newspaper, *previous page, bottom inset*. Such awareness makes it easier for friendships to form across cultures, *previous page, top inset*.

served as its executive director until 1992. From 1990-1991 she worked in Iraq and Kuwait, documenting the effects of war on civilians. In 1993 she was named a Fulbright Senior Scholar, which allowed her to conduct research in Jordan for two years.

Back in the United States in 1995 Cainkar envisioned teaching, but soon learned academic sociology departments “were not interested in Arabs and Muslims. Also I was frowned upon by academia for being out in the world for as long as I was,” she said, noting her return to the Chicago area came after travels and research throughout Syria, Lebanon, Yemen, Egypt, Tunisia, Turkey, Israel, Palestine, and Jordan.

Cainkar shifted her focus to community-based research, ultimately becoming project director for a coalition of immigrant organizations in partnership with the State of Illinois. The group conducted research and acted to remove barriers to public services for immigrants. She also served as a senior research fellow at the Great Cities Institute of the University of Illinois, Chicago, prior to joining the Marquette faculty. She now serves on the boards of the Center for Peacemaking at Marquette University, the Arab American Action Network in Chicago, and the Middle East Report in Washington, D.C.

The decades of work took on new meaning after 9/11, which is when Cainkar decided it was time to do something more with the foundational knowledge she had from her earlier research on Arab and Muslim Americans and her years overseas. She received a significant research grant from the Russell Sage Foundation and began conducting interviews



and completing oral histories of Arab and Muslim Americans in metropolitan Chicago.

Cainkar incorporated into that work knowledge gained from research she conducted on human displacement in Jordan after the Gulf War, domestic violence in Muslim communities, immigrant access to public services, barriers to census participation, the impact of economic sanctions on women and children in Iraq, and the relationships between homeland security officials and Arab and Muslim Americans.

The result was an award-nominated book titled *Homeland Insecurity: The Arab American and Muslim Experience after 9/11*, which explores the roots of ignorance and racism toward Arab and Muslim Americans, as well as the ways these attitudes played out in their daily lives in the first few years after the 9/11 attacks.

“I want readers to hear the stories of those who were not heard,” Cainkar said, explaining that her purpose for the publication is to let silenced voices speak. “I would like readers to understand that what happened to Arab and Muslim Americans after September 11 was complex and nuanced. We need to see that we are all human beings deserving of dignity.”

To reach that goal, Cainkar details how history has been repeated. She writes how the Arab and Muslim American experience after September 11 is similar to the Japanese American narrative following Pearl Harbor, which led to U.S. involvement in World War II. In both instances there are the tragedies of the people who lost their lives and loved ones, and the subsequent treatment of groups of Americans who only looked like those accused of orchestrating the attacks.

Beyond providing an historical perspective and documenting ongoing problems—such as harassment Muslim women wearing traditional head scarves still encounter—Cainkar’s unique research points to evidence of positive change in recent years. For example, her work confirms “an increase in Muslim American activism, in the number of



people interested in Islam, and in people wanting to acknowledge their religious heritage,” she said.

“Arab Americans experienced a lot of backlash, but all sorts of Americans came to their defense. It showed the real power and strength of civil society. It showed the importance of having nonprofit advocacy and civil rights organizations that keep society healthy,” Cainkar said. “These organizations helped the Arab and Muslim Americans rise up and defend themselves.”

Cainkar has been praised for doing the same. Among her many accolades are an Outstanding Service Award received in 1989 from the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee in Washington, D.C. She was given the key to Kansas City in 1991 in recognition of her human rights investigations in Iraq and Kuwait after the 1990-91 Gulf War, was named the Carnegie Corporation Scholar Award recipient in 2004 for her research on Islamic revival among Muslim Americans, and in 2008 accepted the Young Scholar Award from the Institute for Social Policy and Understanding in Detroit.

The honors only fuel her passion to keep focused on changing attitudes. She remains vigilant in helping others realize that confronting the impact of prejudice in society is of vital importance in any pursuit of social justice. And she remains hopeful about the future, believing that everyone can make a significant contribution in the struggle that is overcome in part through awareness.

“These ideas of our shared humanity should inform whatever kind of work you do. They should affect the way teachers teach, the way voters vote, how you think, speak, and interact with others and your children,” she said.

“You can’t let the actions of a few determine how you see the rest, and you can’t hold an entire group of people responsible for the actions of a few. We have to be concerned about other people,” Cainkar insisted, not only because it is our responsibility as human beings, but because “it could happen to any of us.”

# Remembering Rites of Spring



## The story behind ISU's unbelievable rock festival

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

Ask graduates who attended Illinois State during the mid-1970s to share one indelible collegiate memory and the response will be nearly unanimous: Rites of Spring. For those who were on campus from 1972 to 1977, Rites of Spring (Rites) stands as the most unique and spectacular social event in the University's history.

Referred to by students and administrators who endured that era of political unrest as Illinois State's version of Woodstock, Rites was an all-day affair anchored by emerging musicians performing on a stage on the south end of the Quad. With no entrance fee and minimal police presence, Rites evolved over time into a celebration that included excessive drinking and the use of recreational drugs prevalent during the 1970s.

By 1977 Rites had become such a legendary event that it drew students from across the country. Nearly 20,000 attended that final year, eager to hear a line-up of groups that included REO Speedwagon and the Charlie Daniels Band. The cost was \$30,000 in student fees—excluding clean-up and the expense of restoring the Quad, which was declared a health and safety hazard by the time the music died.

Bob Mis '73 never envisioned such a finale when he led the effort to organize what became the first Rites of Spring in 1972. Mis was then a business administration major and chair of the Entertainment Board, which was responsible for bringing acts to Horton Field House.

Tired of mundane events, Mis made a connection with a Chicago booking agent. ISU consequently became a stop for groups as they traveled





## What a musical festival!

Rites of Spring began and ended as a day dedicated to showcasing impressive acts on an outdoor stage. Several groups that appeared on the Quad went on to record major hits.

### Rites of Spring I

*Friday, May 12, 1972*

Spencer Davis Group  
Nils Logfren's band, Grin  
Guild  
Soul Messengers  
Grenshaw  
Tayles  
Cajun Desire  
Ebony Review  
Probe

### Rites of Spring II

*Saturday, May 19, 1973*

Head East  
Gerry Grossman  
ISU Statesmen  
Ricky's Spitfire  
Guild  
Ebony Rhythm  
Siegel-Schwall Blues Band

### Rites of Spring III

*Friday, May 3, 1974*

If  
Adrian Smith  
Frijid Pink  
Mighty Joe Young  
Country Joe McDonald  
Richie Havens



### Rites of Spring IV—Hancock Stadium

*Monday, May 5, 1975*

Pooh Bah  
Joe Vitale's Madmen  
Mason Proffitt  
Golden Earring  
Professional comedian Jimmy  
Whig was emcee

### Rites of Spring V

*Friday, April 30, 1976*

Heartsfield  
Thin Lizzy  
Notations  
Mary Travers  
Games  
Creative Arts Ensemble

### Rites of Spring VI

*Saturday, April 30, 1977*

Bonnie Koloc  
The Undisputed Truth  
REO Speedwagon  
Charlie Daniels Band

through Central Illinois between larger weekend venues. "Board members did a remarkable job of luring to campus acts that students enjoyed," Mis said, remembering performances by rising stars such as George Carlin; Santana; and Earth, Wind, and Fire.

"The board got to be very well known because we did a lot of good concerts. We were picking up people just as they were coming up," Mis said. Shows throughout the 1971-1972 academic year were so successful, board members had the problem of what to do with a sizable profit. Since the funds could not be rolled into the next year's student entertainment budget, Mis and two board members pursued the idea of having several acts for a grand finale to the school year. They called it Rites of Spring.

"We decided that during the week of finals we were going to have this outdoor concert on the Quad. We did it because there was extra money," Mis said. The idea of creating an annual festival so embraced by students that it would be lauded decades later was never the intent.

"The people who started it weren't selfish or glory seekers," Mis wrote in a letter to university officials after Rites was permanently canceled in 1977. In that document Mis stated the event was initiated for Illinois State students

"as kind of a 'thank you' for their support of various university organizations. Also it was held toward the end of the school term so it was a way of sending people home to the summer months.

"Finals were also near and people were tense

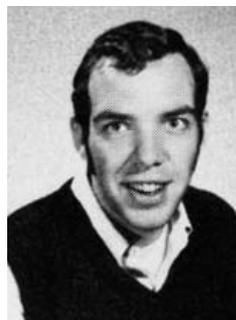




**“It was wall to wall people. We were able to contain it, but it was again bigger than we thought. The whole Quad was filled.”**

—Rites of Spring founder Bob Mis

and tired of studying. The format and location of the event was ideal for letting people relax and enjoy and take their minds off things,” Mis wrote. The fact many students would be heading to Vietnam after graduation made the opportunity for frivolity that much more enticing.



Bob Mis '73, Index photo

And yet Mis admits some trepidation as that first concert date neared. With uncertainty as to which groups would be appearing, there was no promotion in advance of the event that was held on Friday, May 12, 1972.

“We didn’t have anything out about it until right before the actual concert,” Mis said, recalling he was “back stage and nervous as heck” as the music began at noon. “I didn’t know if there would be anybody there.”

By the event’s end at midnight his worries had shifted to controlling the crowd that stretched to the flag pole. Even though alcohol consumption was not expected to be a huge problem, as the Town of Normal was still dry in 1972, Mis was keenly aware of the need to avert any trouble. “I was just waiting for something to go wrong so the police or administrators could come in and shut it down,” he recalled.

An estimated 2,200 people attended Rites of Spring I, which was staged for \$6,500 and exceeded all expectations.

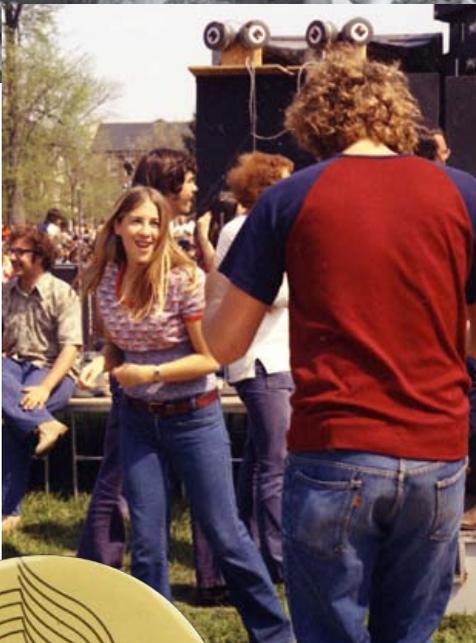
“If ever anything better happened on our Quad, we can’t remember it,” a *Vidette* reporter wrote after the event. “This festival of peace, fun, and music was simply fantastic.” With such feedback from students the norm, there





“There was no standing in lines or camping out for tickets, it was free and open. There was no fear of authority. It was on our campus, and we thought somehow we had gained waiver from existing laws and ordinances.”

—Alumnus Jerry Abner '75, M.S. '92



tion called ‘Rites of Spring Committee,’” Mis’ letter documents.

With a full day of music planned and an expanded organizational team, the focus for Rites II was crowd control. “The second Rites of Spring had such secrecy that only 24 people knew the exact date,” Mis said, “but we still had a lot of people just show up. It was very difficult to control it and keep it to just ISU students.”

Fraternity members served as watchdogs, a volunteer force of 250 students helped with clean-up and as stage crew, chain link fences were in place, and efforts to limit access through official entrances to the Quad were attempted. Still the crowd swelled.

“It was wall to wall people. We were able to contain it, but it was again bigger than we thought. The whole Quad was filled,” Mis said. The appeal was not just free admission, but “the fact that I don’t think anybody else in Illinois tried to do this.”

These unique elements combined to make Rites a short lived but treasured tradition over the next five years. It quickly became the most highly antic-

ipated and celebrated day of the year for ISU students in the 1970s.

“For such an event to be staged on the Quad, well there was something different about it from the start,” said alumnus and Illinois State employee Jerry Abner '75, M.S. '92.

“The music filled the Quad and could be heard for blocks around campus. There was a sense of freedom that evolved during the event, a sense that the Quad had been transformed into a safe haven for at least some cautious expression,” Abner said, remembering the first Rites. He attended the event each year until his graduation.

“There was no standing in lines or camping out for tickets, it was free and open. There was no fear of authority. It was on our campus, and we thought somehow we had gained waiver from existing laws and ordinances,” Abner recalled. “In retrospect the Rites of Spring occurred as a part of the times and attitudes.”

Pat (Stone) Catanzaro '77 agrees. Now co-owner of a bookkeeping consultant business in Morgan Hill, California, she attended Rites in 1974 and years following. While she supported its termination in 1977 when she was

was no doubt Rites would be repeated the following spring.

“Because of the success of the first event, a similar ‘more grandiose’ event was planned for 1973. In fact financial commitments were included in the budgets of several university organizations. I believe the Student Fee Committee even reviewed funding for a special organiza-



servicing as the University's student regent, Catanzaro understands why the event became legendary.

"There was a lot of drinking, a lot of dope, and a lot of good music. I don't remember anybody worried about getting busted at all. Dope was easy to get and booze was legal for most of us," Catanzaro said, noting the drinking age at the time was 19.

"Everybody went to Rites of Spring. It was a good thing. It was peaceful and mellow as everybody filled the Quad. There was no check-in or regulation. You just drug your stuff out there," Catanzaro said, recalling how she and her roommates grabbed quilts off their dorm beds and settled in with their coolers.

Other graduates have similar fond memories of the event that gave students on what is typically a conservative Midwestern campus the opportunity to be something other than conservative Midwestern college kids.

Many alums who attended a Rites feel they experienced the best of times at Illinois State. Mis, who has now retired from Allstate Insurance Company and resides in Huntley, still gets comments from fellow graduates who tell him Rites of Spring was the best thing about their collegiate years.

"For those who were young and on campus, it was an unforgettable experience," Abner said. "It was special. It made our campus special."



Sanitation issues were among the problems that plagued Rites of Spring.



President Emeritus Lloyd Watkins, left, worked with then Vice President of Student Affairs Neal Gamsky, right, to shut down Rights of Spring. The photos of the two administrators are from the 1970s.

## Rites of Spring became the administration's nightmare

As student enthusiasm grew with each Rites of Spring, so did administrative apprehension. Among those watching as the event mushroomed was a Student Affairs leadership team of then Vice President Neal Gamsky; his Associate Director, Jude Boyer, M.A. '68; and Mike Schermer '73, M.S. '78, who was director of Student Life and Programs.

The trio worked directly with students. Schermer had attended the event as an undergraduate. Together they understood as well as any staff the level of passion students maintained for Rites, which Schermer noted became as much a part of ISU's culture as Avanti's and Pub II.

But they also realized disaster was looming on the horizon.

Security concerns that surfaced at the second Rites grew exponentially each year with the number of people on the Quad. And there was no way to prevent outsiders from attending—including community teens.

"The inability to restrict the event to Illinois State students became the real issue. You blend in high school kids and other college kids and you lose any control," Boyer said.

Maintaining order was a concern Mis voiced at the second Rites. With more than double the attendance from the previous year, trouble arose. There were six injuries, according to *Vidette* reports, and one serious drug overdose requiring a hospital visit.

More was done the third year to restrain participants. The date was



## “In my mind it was only a matter of time until someone was killed or maimed for life. It is a borderline miracle nobody died or was seriously injured.”

—Former Vice President Neal Gamsky

The lack of interest was reflected in attendance, which plummeted to 4,000. Students determined to stage a traditional event gathered on the Quad, with those leaving Hancock joining in for an “alternative Rites.” A bonfire was started and fire officials called to extinguish it. The *Vidette* reported beer cans and rocks were thrown at the firemen as the group dispersed. One student charged by the University as an organizer of the melee left the University.

Despite the drama, Rites returned to the Quad in 1976. This time students needed to obtain a button for admittance. The crowd reached 12,000, in part because of a *Vidette* blitz.

“The *Vidette* was asked to be cooperative and help us keep it an ISU event, but they sent flyers to other university newspapers,” Gamsky said. “We had people come from Missouri, Michigan, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Texas.”

The problem was recognized among student leaders. “Over the years the word started to spread that we were having this fabulous party and people should come. We started getting more and more people who didn’t care about ISU at all,” Catanzaro said.

The influx of outsiders reached a critical level at the 1977 event, which became so enormous and unruly it led to the demise of Rites of Spring. Buttons were again distributed, and yet more than 18,000 people made their way to the Quad. Some estimates place the number closer to 25,000.

“Rites was free for anybody who came, and that last year I would guess that close to half in the crowd were not ISU students,” Catanzaro said. “We were putting on this event for people who had no ties to ISU, no commit-

ment to the University, and no appreciation for the campus.”

Bus loads of students arrived from out of state. They were joined by motorcycle gangs from Chicago—some of whom offered to serve as security. High school students again joined some from the community until people were “jam-packed from Hovey Hall to the fine arts buildings and back to the bridge area by Milner,” Gamsky said. “They camped out on the Quad. They were cooking chicken. Everybody had pot.”

ISU police joined Gamsky, Schermer, and Boyer that year in the top DeGarmo Hall office, which became command central for 24 hours. Determined to get a sense of what was happening within the crowd, Gamsky ignored Schermer’s advice and headed into the crowd wearing a three-piece suit.

“I wanted to get a ground’s eye view,” Gamsky said. If what he saw as he cautiously stepped over bodies wasn’t enough to confirm reason for alarm, being pelted in the head with a cup of beer gave Gamsky plenty of evidence that Rites was beyond control.

“In my mind it was only a matter of time until someone was killed or maimed for life,” Gamsky said. “It is a borderline miracle nobody died or was seriously injured.”

Schermer came to the same conclusion. “It was an out of control crowd filled with people

who were obviously taking illegal drugs and not handling them very well, I might add,” he said.

Catanzaro volunteered to work at the last Rites, and is haunted by the memory of what she witnessed near the side of the stage. “I was watching as the crowds pushed closer and closer, knowing that somebody could really get hurt





Damage to university property was one of the reasons President Watkins gave for canceling Rites of Spring. The last event in 1977 left a mark on the Quad, which was so heavily trashed it was declared unsafe and roped off during a clean-up effort that cost \$24,000.

in that crushing because there was no place to go,” she said.

While primarily a peaceful crowd, judgment was seriously lacking. Schermer recalled that during the last Rites people were hanging from light poles, with others trying to get on rooftops of buildings surrounding the Quad. One person drove a car down a sidewalk.

“Kids stoned out of their minds were falling out of windows and trees,” Gamsky said, recalling ambulances were on stand-by and cots were in place when the need arose to carry people out.

Reports from *The Pantagraph* and *Vidette* document more than 80 people were treated on the campus for injuries, with six going to the local hospital. The majority of those individuals were not Illinois State students. Three were there for a drug overdose.

Beyond the medical issues, there were arrests for open alcohol outside the Quad, arrests for possession of cannabis, and nearly 100 complaints

to the Normal Police from individuals in the community disgruntled by the loud music.

But perhaps the most unexpected tragedy was a scarred campus.

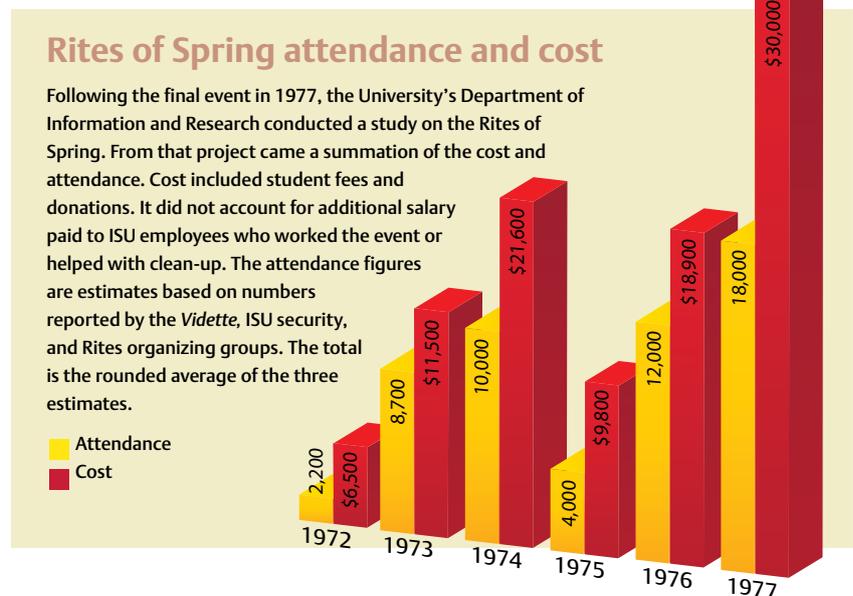
“There was garbage up to your knees, literally. It was a sea of garbage,” Schermer said. Boyer recalled the odor was as repulsive as the ugly piles of trash. “It stunk to high heaven of urine and beer,” she said.

“Trampled chicken bones, Styrofoam from torn-up coolers, crushed apples, bottle tops, metal can tabs and other remnants of the day-long party were spread out amidst the matted grass,” *The Pantagraph* reported.

Gamsky’s memory of the morning after that 1977 event is even more vivid. “I looked out over the Quad and it was shimmering as the sun hit the broken glass and bottle tops. It looked like water,” he said. The condition was made more sad by the fact Rites of Spring that year had a theme of safety and ecology.

Catanzaro, then student representative to the Board of Regents, has a similar memory. “I looked out over the Quad from a Hovey Hall window that Monday morning following and actually had tears in my eyes because of the damage that had been done,” she said.

Illinois State students made a serious attempt to restore the Quad. Kimberly Theobald ’78, who was vice chair of security for Rites in 1977, submitted a written report to Gamsky describing the effort. “Ten, 20-yard dumpsters, which were overflowing, were removed from the Quad. A student group of around 150, which dwindled to 10 by 4 a.m., picked up that amount of garbage.



“I found out how bad it was, and I was appalled. It was very clear that this had to come to an end.”

—Former President Lloyd Watkins

A very small group worked the better part of Sunday to begin picking up the smaller pieces,” Theobald wrote.

So much trash remained embedded in the grass that the University’s Environmental Health and Safety Office declared the Quad unsafe and roped off the area.

Grounds employees worked overtime to restore the Quad. The \$24,000 undertaking had just begun when Lloyd Watkins arrived on campus as a finalist to replace outgoing President Gene Budig.

“They carefully chaperoned me around the mess on the Quad. They made a great effort to shield me from how bad it was,” Watkins said. Having arrived from Texas, he was unaware of Rites of Spring. That changed on his first day in office.

Reports from Gamsky and the other vice presidents, as well as student body leaders, were waiting on Watkins’ desk. All recommended Rites never take place again. Watkins quickly came to the same conclusion.

“I found out how bad it was, and I was appalled. It was very clear that this had to come to an end,” Watkins said. “I studied the whole situation the first week I was president of Illinois State University, and then issued a statement that canceled Rites of Spring.”

Watkins gave six reasons for the decision that came July 25, 1977—just 10 days after he became the University’s 13th president. He gave Gamsky the directive to work toward “an acceptable,

## Why did Rites of Spring end?

Less than two weeks after becoming Illinois State University’s 13th president, Lloyd Watkins made the announcement that Rites of Spring was canceled. A news release issued in July of 1977 listed six reasons for the decision.

1. Rites of Spring was not, and never could be, a controllable event.
2. The potential for serious injuries or fatalities is high.
3. The laws of the State of Illinois and the regulations of Illinois State University were repeatedly disregarded during past Rites of Spring.
4. The costs of the event, direct and indirect, were very high.
5. Damage to university grounds and buildings has been severe.
6. The event offers no apparent contribution to the educational mission of the University.

responsible, and controllable alternative Rites of Spring.” The result was the start of Springfest.

Knowing he was killing a beloved tradition, Watkins purposefully made the announcement during the summer session. There was some anger when students returned, and Watkins was booed at events such as Homecoming for a couple years. But he never regretted the decision, which he said was made easier by the full support of the top administrative team, faculty, and student leaders.

Several students joined Theobald in signing a letter to Gamsky that stated “the concept of Rites is excellent, but the concept is about the only thing which is positive about this event.” They recommended that “Rites of Spring at Illinois State University never take place again” because “the students have proven that they cannot handle it; therefore this privilege must be permanently revoked.”

Watkins appreciated the student leaders explaining to their peers why he had no choice but to end what

had started as a bold innovation and become a cherished tradition.

To this day he is remembered by many an alum as the president who killed Rites of Spring. It’s a label he considers a compliment, as he remains convinced he made the best decision for Illinois State.

“For me the most important thing was that Rites of Spring did nothing to advance the educational goals of the University, nothing at all. In fact it was an event that was ruining the good name of Illinois State University,” Watkins said. “I was not going to let ISU become the party school.”



### WEB EXTRA

Listen to President Emeritus Lloyd Watkins discuss Rites of Spring in an online video clip. Go to [www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine), where you will also find the news release issued by Watkins, as well as additional Rites information and photos. You can also share your Rites of Spring memories.

# AlumniServices

## Shakespeare Festival creates summer fun for the family

Alumni can stay connected to Illinois State by attending events that range from lifelong learning classes to cultural celebrations. Of the myriad activities offered each year, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival has become one that regularly draws individuals from across the country.

Since its inception in 1978, the festival has become a treasured summertime tradition. Performances are created through a partnership between the School of Theatre and the College of Fine Arts. Together they have established a level of excellence recognized by audiences and media from Chicago to New York and back to Shakespeare's home country of England.

Performances begin June 24 and include *The Tempest*, *The Merry Wives of Windsor*, and *The Three Musketeers*. Beyond the main shows, the festival offers an educational outreach program called Shakespeare Alive! that includes a summer camp for young thespians. There is also a special performance of *As You Like It* planned for young audiences this summer.

This season the festival is celebrating the 10th anniversary of the \$2 million Theatre at Ewing. Activities planned to mark the milestone include a preshow event on June 25. Audience members will be able to meet international Emmy nominee Cecilia Suarez and learn of her involvement in Shakespeare Alive! Award winning playwright Robert Kauzlaric will also be on hand prior to the world premiere of his creation *The Three Musketeers*.

ISU alumni night is scheduled for July 23. Enjoy a buffet dinner hosted by President Al Bowman and his wife, Linda, prior to seeing *The Tempest*. Illinois State's Madrigal singers will perform and theatre tours will be available. GLT Night is August 1, with a performance of *The Three Musketeers*. All proceeds will benefit the public radio station's equipment fund.

Throughout the summer festival patrons will have the opportunity to take a backstage tour or attend design talks that give insight into the creation of the sets, props, and costumes. Other extras linked to the festival include Shakesperiences, which includes free performances by Glenn Wilson and Friends Jazz Series.

Free Green Shows will continue this summer as well, with entertainment for all ages while enjoying a picnic at the Gardens of Ewing Manor. Post-show talks and ice cream socials are also planned and also have no charge to attend.

Plan now to make the Illinois Shakespeare Festival part of your summer fun! Get more information online. The festival is now on MySpace, Facebook, and Twitter as well, with videos available on YouTube.



### QUICK REFERENCE

RESOURCE:

**Illinois Shakespeare Festival  
June 24-August 8**

CONTACT:

**College of Fine Arts  
shake@IllinoisState.edu for  
general information**

**festedu@IllinoisState.edu for  
summer camp information**

WEB SITE:

**<http://thefestival.org>**

PHONE:

**For tickets 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.,  
Monday through Saturday  
(309) 438-2535**

**Toll free if out of state:  
(866) 457-4253**

**FOR RESERVATIONS TO ALUMNI NIGHT  
(309) 438-2586**

**Toll free (800) 366-4478**

## An alumni perspective

Math was neither my best nor my favorite subject in school. But these days I'm thinking about it a lot, and specifically how the power of multiplication works in the real world.

I know that two heads are better than one when working through most problems. A basketball team with 12 players will be more successful than opponents with only five on the roster.

And isn't it true that a single M&M never satisfies a craving for chocolate, but a handful usually does the trick?

The idea that a positive force grows stronger when increased exponentially certainly holds true with respect to financial giving. A single gift of any size creates a powerful opportunity when multiplied.

I have seen this truth in my own life. My husband and I have been annual Illinois State donors for 25 years. We proudly support our alma mater, even though we realize that our gifts each year are not so monumental as to create a huge immediate impact. We also know that our efforts over a quarter of a century have resulted in a personal legacy of support for many of our campus passions. And we are confident that because our contributions are added to donations from countless other alums, immeasurable progress has been made.

I often wonder what magnificent opportunities would become a reality for our students if all graduates stopped thinking their gift is just too small to bring change, and instead came together with the goal of providing some financial support for Illinois State.

I'm convinced a little can do a lot when you apply the multiplication formula. Just think: If each of our 175,000 graduates gave an average gift of \$100, Illinois State would have an additional \$17,500,000 for programs and people. That's for just one year! If \$100 is more than you can give this year, that's OK. Give what you can and someone else will help us reach the \$100 average.

A single rain drop doesn't end a drought, but a torrential rain will turn a brown yard green again. Similarly each and every gift of any size creates opportunity when added to the donations of others. Together we can all make a difference in the future of our stellar university and its outstanding students.

*Barbara Tipsord Todd '79, M.S. '84*  
Executive Director, Internal Campaigns  
bttodd@IllinoisState.edu



## Where are they now?

*Editor's note: Are there former mentors you would like to connect with again? Illinois State staff will find them and share their updates in a future issue, including contact information. Send the names to Susan Blystone at [sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu), call (309) 438-2667, or mail to 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, IL 61790.*

### Ira Cohen was dedicated professor, administrator

The last 11 years since my retirement have gotten ever more interesting. Ann retired as well, leaving her post as associate dean in the College of Arts and Sciences. We



relocated to New York City during the summer of 1998 and have remained there since.

Life is divided into several segments. I joined the Illinois State faculty in 1965. My last 18 years at ISU were devoted primarily to the Honors Program, leaving my work in history largely untouched. I have joined one of the faculty seminars run by Columbia University, and am slowly picking up where I left off a couple of decades ago.

It's easy to become overwhelmed by the cultural activities in the city. We basically have focused on several museums. The Met, and MOMA top our list—but not exclusively. The performing arts require discipline; during the season we see several plays, subscribe to the New York Philharmonic, and The New York Gilbert and Sullivan Players. If there are too many cultural opportunities, what does one say about the dining opportunities?

Finally, in my retirement I have become a gym rat. This plus our daily walks of our very large Weimaraner have kept us busy and tired. However, I am not totally out of touch with my ISU past—I routinely join Cal Pritner, emeritus professor of Theatre, for coffee and swap notes.

E-mail address: [icohen3@nyc.rr.com](mailto:icohen3@nyc.rr.com)

# 2010 Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored six award recipients at Founders Day in February, as well as during a dinner program. For video of this year's awards program, visit [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/awards](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/awards).

## Distinguished Alumni Award

**Richard A. Manahan '65, M.S. '71, Ed.D. '75**  
Vice President for University Advancement, East Tennessee State University; President/CEO, ETSU Foundation; Professor of Accountancy/Professor of Educational Leadership & Policy Analysis  
Johnson City, Tennessee

Richard Manahan served in the U.S. Army, receiving an honorable discharge before enrolling at Illinois State. He completed two business degrees and a doctorate in education administration at the University, where he also began his higher education career as an assistant auditor. A certified public accountant, he has more than 40 years of higher education experience in teaching, research, public service, and administrative positions. While at East Tennessee State University (ETSU), Manahan has received national recognition for leading fundraising efforts that have placed endowments in the top 400 universities and colleges in the nation. He has served on more than 30 corporate, civic, elected, profit, and



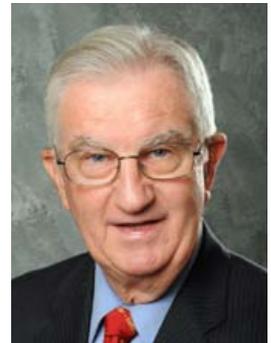
not-for-profit boards. He served on the Tennessee State Board of Nursing, National Education Commission of the States, and currently serves on the Tennessee Court of the Judiciary. Manahan remains committed to Illinois State as well, serving for 15 years on the Alumni Association Board of Directors. He has received numerous accolades, including induction into the University's College of Education and College of Business Hall of Fame, the Illinois Chapter of the National Wrestling Hall of Fame, and the National School Board Association's Distinguished Service Award. The Tennessee Legislature passed a resolution honoring and commending Manahan for his meritorious service to the state and his community.

## Senator John W. Maitland Jr., Commitment to Education Award

**Eugene P. Jontry '58**  
Illinois Regional Superintendent of Schools, Retired  
Normal

Gene Jontry built his career on a passion to help youth. A Redbird on the basketball team and now a member of the Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame, Jontry began his high school teaching and coaching career at Chenoa after completing his education degree at Illinois State Normal University. He served as principal at Chenoa before taking the first of three school superintendent positions at Chenoa, Octavia, and

Ridgeview. Most of his 45 years in education were spent at the administrative level. He retired as the Regional Superintendent of Schools for McLean, DeWitt, and Livingston counties in 2003. Jontry worked through the years to collaborate with the College of Education on many conferences and workshops, and is a member of the college's Hall of Fame. He helped develop the Regional Alternative/SAVE program, which helps students who struggle in a traditional classroom. Jontry received the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois State Alumni Association in 1986. He served on the Illinois State Foundation board for 16 years, and on the Alumni Association board for 12 years, including as president. Driven by a desire to serve, he remains a mentor and friend of education.



## E. Burton Mercier Alumni Award

**Parker L. Lawlis '57, M.S. '61**  
Director of Placement Services Emeritus, Illinois State  
Normal

Parker Lawlis earned business teacher education and business administration degrees at Illinois State. He taught, was a principal, and worked at *The Wall Street Journal* before joining the University in 1965 as the director of Alumni. He retired in 1992 as director of Placement Services, having received state and national awards for his work in the position. He served more than two decades as a member of the Normal Town Council, was a member of the McLean County Board, and is past president of Home Sweet Home Mission. Lawlis also cochaired three Unit 5 referendum initiatives. Lawlis is also involved with the American Red Cross.



He travels the country as a volunteer, ready and willing to help others rebuild following disaster. Named Normal Citizen of the Year in 1997, he continues to help others through his work at the Midwest Food Bank as a volunteer and driver. His service to Illinois State is extensive, and includes a term as president of the Annuitants Association Board.

## Alumni Achievement Award

**Connie Fako Shoemake '77**  
IBM Vice President, Economic Stimulus Initiatives, North America  
Palatine

Connie Fako Shoemake majored in special education, was a member of Delta Delta Delta Sorority, and was nominated as a Bone Scholar while at Illinois State. She taught special education, grades K-12, adult GED classes, and worked as an elementary school administrator before transitioning to the business world. For more than two decades she has been a corporate leader within IBM. She is vice president of Economic Stimulus Initiatives for



North America. Prior to 2009 Shoemake was vice president responsible for IBM's sales within the public sector. Named by *I-Street Magazine* as one of the Top 25 Technology Women in Chicago, Shoemake has been recognized by Women in Technology International for her leadership and mentoring excellence. Shoemake was appointed by Mayor Daley to represent IBM on Chicago Mayor's Council of Technology. Her dedication to bolstering America's competitiveness through improving education led to her inclusion on the Mayor's Council of Technology Advisors Talent Initiative in Chicago. She is involved in leadership and mentoring programs in the Chicago Executive Club, and sits on the Chicago Board of the American Cancer Society. A dedicated mom and wife involved in school, community, and church programs, Shoemake actively seeks opportunities to help others advance and lead in the public and private sectors.



**Tom Irwin '79**  
Actor  
Los Angeles, California

After graduation theatre alumnus Tom Irwin joined the prestigious Steppenwolf Theatre when it moved into its first Chicago home in fall of 1979. He has acted in or has directed more than 50 plays with Steppenwolf. Irwin has performed on Broadway, off-Broadway, and in regional theatre. Irwin has also appeared at the Williamstown Theatre Festival, the Sydney and Perth Australia Festivals, The Royal National Theatre of London, and at the Wyndam Theatre London opposite Madonna. He has appeared in several films, including

*Midnight Run*, *Mr. Jones*, and *21 Grams*. In addition to numerous TV movies and guest spots, he was a series regular on *My Life and Times*, and *My So-Called Life*. He is currently on the TNT series *Saving Grace* with Holly Hunter. Irwin has been on the faculty at De Paul University and Columbia College in Chicago. He cofounded and is teaching with *Steppenwolf Classes West* in Los Angeles.

## Outstanding Young Alumni Award

**Joseph Reynolds '03**  
Red Frog Events, Founder and Owner  
Chicago

College of Business alum Joe Reynolds started his first business while an Illinois State student. In 2007 he envisioned creating a one-day adventure in cities around the country, which is how The Great Urban Race came into existence. Events are held in 20 cities, with participants competing for a spot in the national race. Illinois State became the first university to host the race, with some proceeds from the 2009 Homecoming event benefiting a student scholarship fund. Because Reynolds believes in giving back, each race includes an activity to boost a local charity. With the help of Illinois State alums and student interns, Reynolds has expanded his business to create Red Frog Events. His company now offers even more adventure with new events, such as Warrior Dash.



### Plan now for Homecoming

Join the fun as Illinois State celebrates its 90th Homecoming this fall. The schedule of activities for this annual return of Redbirds includes a mix of campus traditions, with new events planned as well. Whether you graduated this year or decades ago, you'll find something to match your interests. For updated information throughout the summer, check online at [www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com).



# ClassNotes

## Alum's teaching proves potential of struggling students

by Alexander Browne

Growing up in the Chicago suburban neighborhood of Batavia, Kevin Martin '09 had an educational experience far different from that of the struggling students he teaches today. It was at Illinois State that he became empowered to put teenagers on the path to success by creating positive classroom experiences.

A business education major, Martin decided to use his teaching talent as a part of Teach For America.



His assignment following graduation was to teach summer school in the Atlanta Public Schools. His Georgia classroom consisted of students from low poverty communities and single-parent homes.

“Coming from a middle class community, I was truly unaware of the real issues facing our education system, specifically the achievement gap,” said Martin, who drew on his Illinois State training when challenged to prepare eighth-grade students to pass a state exam required for high school admission.

“These kids were years behind in math and reading, faced several obstacles at home, with some even having their own

kids. But in the end they were determined to get an education and had a desire for teachers who cared,” Martin said. He saw their determination pay dividends, as his students’ scores shot up 150 percent in four weeks.

Martin’s next assignment was at Charles E. Sumner High School in St. Louis, Missouri, where he now teaches. Happy to be at the first African-American high school founded west of the Mississippi, Martin teaches algebra, career exploration, and computer applications.

The young people he works with have myriad issues to overcome, from trying to raise their own babies to gang violence that has taken their loved ones. They struggle with everything from overcoming criminal records to finding an income. The ubiquitous poverty and crime that permeates students’ lives is felt by the teachers as well.

“The school conditions at first were shocking to me,” Martin said. “We are provided little to no paper for copies, computer labs are extremely limited with outdated computers, few supplies are given to teachers, students struggle to buy supplies themselves, we use outdated books, and the school has a lack of technology.”

And yet Martin’s passion to teach and motivate is not diminished.

“These students are out there asking for their education, and each day I must and want to provide this,” Martin said. “It’s these kids that make me get up everyday and work all night. When you suspend judgment and give these kids a chance, they are capable, they will learn, and are thirsty for knowledge.”

## 40s

**Marian Kneer '49, M.S. '57**, was inducted into the Department on Aging's Hall of Fame in the education category. She is a member of the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame, the Illinois State University Hall of Fame, and the Coaches Association for Girls and Women Hall of Fame. She is also the author of several articles and books, including *Softball: Slow and Fast Pitch*. She resides in Plainfield.

## 50s

**Arcelia (Hari) Watson '50** retired from teaching after 54 years at Paxton Buckley Loda. She resides in Savoy.

## 60s

**Diana Dreyer '60** is interim dean for the College of Humanities, Fine and Performing Arts at Slippery Rock University. She has served there as assistant to the dean and is retired from the English faculty. She resides in Slippery Rock, Pennsylvania, near two of her three daughters and seven of her eight grandchildren.

**Beatrice (Shult) Marting '60** has retired. She and her husband, Lou, reside in Mission Viejo, California.

**Dale Sutter '61** has been elected to the Board of Barnkeepers, which is dedicated to the preservation of barns on farms throughout Illinois. He retired as vice president and corporate secretary of First of America Bank after 32 years. He and his wife, Alice, reside in Bloomington.

**Charles W. Dunn '62** is past president of Illinois State's Student Senate and chaired the committee to change the University's name from Illinois State Normal University. A past recipient of the Distinguished Alumnus Award, he served as chair of the United States J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board under Presidents Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush, and Bill Clinton. He has authored his 17th book, *The Enduring Reagan*. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Gary Gemberling '63** was one of seven inducted into Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame this year. He is a certified public accountant, personal financial specialist, and certified financial planner. He is a founding partner of O&G Financial, and serves as chairman of the board of First Farmers State Bank. He is also

chairman-elect of the Workforce Investment Board, chair of the audit committee, and a member of the investment committee for the ISU Foundation Board. He resides in Atlanta.

**Ray Brownfield '65** is the 2010 national vice president of the Realtors Land Institute, which is an affiliate organization of the National Association of Realtors. He is a licensed broker in Illinois, working for John Greene Land Company of Oswego. He is a member of Illinois State's College of Applied Sciences and Technology Dean's Advisory Board. He resides in Naperville.

**Gary Garrison '67, M.S. '68**, was inducted into the Illinois Track and Cross Country Coaches Association Hall of Fame in January of 2010. He has dedicated 42 years to coaching. His St. Joseph-Ogden boy's track teams won state championships in 1993 and 2000. He and his wife, **Pamela (Tidmarsh) '67**, reside in St. Joseph.

**T. Daniel Heagstedt '67** and **Laurie J. Willets '70, M.A. '72**, are founders and artistic directors of T. Daniel Productions in Chicago, where they reside.

**Mel Vineyard '69** retired as audit director with the Naval Audit Service after 35 years of federal service. He was directly responsible for information technology and cyber-security audits in the Department of the Navy. He received a Dedicated Service Award from the Auditor General of the Navy. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Washington Grove, Maryland.

## 70s

**Norm Durflinger '70, Ed.D. '82**, has been named the deputy superintendent for District 150. He is also the mayor of Morton and codirector of Illinois State University's Center for the Study of Education Policy. He resides in Morton.

**Duane Livingston '70** was one of seven inducted into Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame this year. He was the first African-American vice president at Caterpillar Inc., where his duties included responsibility for worldwide financial services. He was responsible for securing a six-figure gift from Caterpillar to help fund portions of the construction of Illinois State's College of Business Building. Now retired, he is active in several community orga-

# Share your good news

Alumni are encouraged to share news on job changes, promotions, special honors, retirements, marriages, births, and adoptions. Information will be published in the earliest possible issue, based on the order information is received and as space permits. Information submitted more than one year following the event will not be published. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

There are three easy ways to submit your information: 1) Go online to [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/news](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/news) and click on "class notes." Information submitted using this method will also be posted online; 2) E-mail your news to [sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu) or 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. Information from published news clippings may also be used.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by e-mail at [alumni@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:alumni@IllinoisState.edu).

nizations. He and his wife, Sandra, reside in Peoria.

**Lee Combs '71** received his juris doctorate from the University of Denver. He is a Fellow of the Institute for Educational Leadership.

He has been named the general counsel for the Maricopa Community Colleges in Tempe, Arizona.

**Leslie Pulfer '71** was nominated for 20 Over 60. He is a contract worker, ensuring the tanning booths in the county meet safety standards. He also serves on the advisory board for the Central Illinois Council on Aging, and volunteers to answer senior citizens' insurance questions through the Senior Health Insurance Program. He and his wife, Wilma, reside in Pekin. They have four children, five grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

**Wayne Weinberg '71** has been named president of Leadership Seminole after a long career in media and business development in Central Florida. He will focus on nonprofit fundraising, class recruit-

ment, and program marketing for the leadership development and community improvement program. He resides in Lake Mary, Florida.

**Ronald Christensen, '73, M.S. '78**, is a senior engineering specialist working for FM Global. The company operates in 120 countries and insures approximately 50 percent of the Fortune 1,000 companies. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Streator. They are the parents of two sons and grandparents to four grandsons.

**Donna Hartweg, M.S. '73**, retired as Illinois Wesleyan University's Caroline F. Rupert Professor of Nursing. She dedicated 31 years to the university, where she served as director of the School of Nursing. As faculty her research focus was on assisting health care professionals in communicating with Spanish-speaking immigrant women on healthy living. She was given a 2009 Illinois Nurses Association Nurse Education Award. She resides in Bloomington.

**Dave Gannaway '75, M.S. '89**, retired this spring as Illinois High

School Association assistant executive director. He served for 11 years on the IHSA staff after dedicating 23 years as a teacher, coach, and administrator in Illinois. He oversaw football, wrestling, baseball, and bass fishing for the IHSA. He was also the director of officials, overseeing all aspects related to the 12,500-plus high school officials working in the state. He resides in Mackinaw.

**Maritia (Quinn) Griffith '75** completed a juris doctorate at Northern Illinois University. She has served as an assistant state's attorney for Rock Island County for 15 years, and has taught law classes at Brown Mackie College. She and her husband, Ronald, reside in Moline.

**Kathleen (Lawson) Kane '75** is an early childhood special education teacher with Pocatello School District and an adjunct instructor in teacher education at Idaho

State University. In 2009 she was named a finalist for Idaho's Most Outstanding Teacher from the University of Idaho, and the Pocatello Teacher of the Year. Her husband, **Gregory '72**, is a program supervisor with Road to Recovery. They reside in Pocatello, Idaho.

**Thomas E. McClure '76, M.S. '01**, retired from the practice of law after serving as a litigator for 28 years in a Kankakee County law firm. He is the director of Legal Studies and a tenure-track assistant professor in

ISU's Department of Politics and Government. He completed his first half marathon in 2009. He resides in Bourbonnais.

**Denis M. Medeiros '76** leads the Department of Human Nutrition and is an associate dean for research at Kansas State University. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Manhattan, Kansas.

**Daphne E. Jones '77, M.B.A. '78**, is the senior vice president and chief information officer of Hospira Inc., which is a global specialty pharmaceutical and medication delivery company. She is responsible for Hospira's information technology and systems. She resides in Belle Mead, New Jersey.

**David Magers '77, M.B.A. '86**, was one of seven inducted into Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame this year. He is executive vice president and chief financial officer of the COUNTRY Financial

education and vaccination issues. She and her husband, **John '78**, reside in Mankato, Minnesota.

**Susan M. (Harcharik) Coffing-barger '79** is a training specialist for the Illinois Secretary of State vehicle services department. She has two daughters and resides in Springfield.

**Rita Kennel Lopienski '79** is the recipient of the 2009 Studs Terkel Humanities Service Award presented by the Illinois Humanities Council. She was honored for years of service promoting the humanities, leading multiple cultural presentations on drumming circles featuring drums from around the world. She also founded the Bartlett International Chorus and is president of Arts in Bartlett, where she resides.

**Donna F. Zarcone '79** was one of seven inducted into Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame this year. She is founder of the D.F. Zarcone & Associates LLC, which is a strategic advisory firm providing consulting at the executive and board level. She previously served as president of Harley-Davidson Financial Services Inc., increasing the company's annual operating income from \$20 million to more than \$200 million. She is a certified public accountant who serves on the board of directors for the Chamberlain Group Inc., CIGNA Corporation, and Jones Apparel Group Inc., and the board of managers for Wrightwood Capital. She resides in Burr Ridge.

for the overall management of propane supply and risk management. He resides in Hudson.

**Marty Ward '80** has been named president and CEO of Henderson Products Inc., which is a leading designer and manufacturer of truck equipment products for municipal and contractor markets. He participates in product research and product development projects for select government agencies. He resides in Manchester, Iowa.

**Terra Brockman '81, M.A. '85**, lived and worked as a teacher, writer, and editor in Japan and New York City for 15 years. She founded The Land Connection, which is a nonprofit organization working to save farmland, train organic farmers, and connect consumers with fresh local foods. She is the author of *The Seasons on Henry's Farm A Year of Food on a Sustainable Farm*. She resides in Congerville.

**Patrick B. Cage '81** has been named general counsel of Chicago State University. He resides in Chicago.

**William Erlenbush, M.B.A. '81**, is a certified public accountant. He has been named executive director of corporate compliance for Growmark, giving him responsibility over internal auditing, policies regarding privacy, record retention, and business continuity. He resides in Bloomington.

**Mary Fortney '81, M.B.A. '90**, is controller at Growmark, overseeing several areas including internal auditing, energy accounting, and treasury operations. She resides in Normal.

**Ellen Kirsanoff '81** is the development coordinator for the Urbana Park District and is serving her third term as a board member for the Urbana Business Association. In the spring of 2009 she was selected as one of the 20 Outstanding Women You Should Know in East Central Illinois. She resides in Tolono.

**Liliana Wong '81** lived in Brazil for 10 years. She returned to the United States in 1993 and has worked since as a Portuguese translator. She resides in Peoria.

**Michael Bucek '82** has been named vice president of marketing and business development for the Kansas City Royals. He previously worked as the Phoenix Coyotes' executive vice president and chief marketing officer. He has worked for nearly 25 years in professional sports, with 17 years in baseball.



Campus memories were the topic of conversation when six friends from the Class of 1956 reconnected last fall. The group of women had not been together in 53 years. Five spent four years living in Fell Hall, including two years as Honor Residents. Those who attended include, from left, Carol White Rathbun, South Elgin; Jane (Hoffman) Schleeter, Houston, Texas; Pat (White) Kopp, Mt. Prospect; Sara (Doughty) Gaarde, Chandler, Arizona; Shirley Romano Prunitsch, Hopkinsville, Kentucky; and Ramona (French) Zigman, Lombard. Prunitsch hosted the gathering of retired teachers. Kopp continues to substitute teach, and Schleeter still tutors high school math students.

group. A certified public accountant, he chairs Illinois State's Katie School of Insurance and Financial Services advisory board. He resides in Bloomington.

**Karen (Kubinski) Swenson '78** has served as Nicollet County's public health preparedness coordinator since 2002. She received the LPHA 2009 Public Health Association leadership award. Named Minnesota Environmental Health Professional of the Year in 2000, she is now working on H1N1 prevention

**80s**

**Barbara Butcher '80** is a school psychologist with Hammond City Schools. She was named School Psychologist of the Year by the Indiana Association of School Psychologists. She resides in Dyer, Indiana.

**Donald D. Duncan '80** is a certified financial planner and certified public accountant with D3 Financial Counselors LLC in Downers Grove. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Downers Grove.

**Randy Miller '80** has been named Growmark director of propane operations. He will be responsible

He was the director of marketing and broadcasting for the Chicago White Sox and vice president of ballpark development of the Milwaukee Brewers. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Kansas City. They have three children.

**Janet Cappellini '82** is a principal and director of operations for Alternative Staffing Inc. A certified staffing specialist, she has been appointed chair of the Trident Workforce Investment Board. She resides in Johns Island, South Carolina.

**Steve Driscoll '82** is co-owner of Menold Construction and Restoration in Morton. He was named Big Brother of the Year in the Peoria Big Brothers Big Sisters program and serves on its board. He was also chosen for 40 Leaders Under Forty honors in Peoria. He is a bicyclist who races for Team Mack Racing Inc. of Springfield. He and his wife, Gina, reside in East Peoria.

**John Gillies '82** is a special agent with the FBI. He has investigated white collar crime, including a public corruption case that took down three state Superior Court judges who accepted \$100,000 in bribes from a personal-injury lawyer. The case led to judicial reforms. He has been named the FBI chief in the Miami field office covering South Florida. His region is the fifth largest in the country and includes 460 agents. He resides in Florida.

**Paul Slade '82** is president and CEO of Old Plank Trail Community Bank. He was an organizing member of this de novo bank that formed in 2006. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Frankfort. They are the parents of three children.

**Michael Willis '82** is a Cook County probation officer. He was honored this year for serving as union president of AFSCME for more than 20 years, and for his dedication to youth in the Chicago community. The award was presented by U.S. Congressman Danny Davis. Willis is a member of Illinois State's Alumni Association Board of Directors. He resides in Chicago.

**Jami Simon, M.S. '83**, is an actress. She has worked on *Saturday Night Live* and starred in the short films titled *There's Never Enough Cabbage* and *Aluminum Siding*. She resides in New York.

**Diane M. (Jacobs) Thorp, M.S. '83**, is a master's student of social work at UCLA. She is an intern in the Psychiatry Department of Kaiser Perman-

ente. She and her husband, Michael, reside in La Canada, California.

**Mark Dyer '84** is semiretired and volunteers with ShelterBox, an international disaster relief organization that is part of Rotary International. ShelterBox provides boxes full of equipment for a group of 10 to live on for up to six months. Dyer has responded to disasters in Niger and Somalia. He and his wife, Sue, reside in Elmhurst. They are the parents of two children.

**Mark S. Goodwin '84** completed his juris doctorate at John Marshall in Chicago. He was appointed to the office of associate judge of the circuit judges in the Fifth Judicial Circuit of Illinois. He is currently affiliated with Dukes, Ryan, Meyer, Freed, Goodwin, et al., in Danville, where he resides.

**Andrew Kensington, Esq. '84**, who last attended the University under the name Clark A. Kerr, has been included in the 2009 edition of *Who's Who in American Law*. It was the second consecutive year he was cited in the publication. He has also been listed two consecutive years in *Who's Who in America* and *Who's Who in the World*. He resides in Charlottesville, Virginia.

**Susan D. Mason, M.S. '84**, of Bloomington has partnered with three alumni to begin a business called Munch, Munch, Crunch—Feeding Young Minds. The children's software business is located in Bloomington-Normal with products available online. Others involved in the endeavor are **Linda (Carmichael) Ball, M.S. '81**, of Bloomington; **Marilyn (Frechin) Blank, M.S. '91**, of Towanda; and **Christine (Stolfa) Kraft, M.S. '91**, of Bloomington.

**Melissa Barnhart '85**, has been a practicing attorney for 20 years. A former Kendall County prosecutor, she served twice as assistant state's attorney. She has been named associate judge in the 16th Circuit. She is also a member of the board of directors of the Kendall County Fair Association. She resides in Yorkville.

**Jerry Glattfelt '85** is on the staff of St. Lucie Anesthesia Associates. He served as a Lt. Col. with the United States Air Force and before retiring from the military was deployed supporting OIF/OEF to Qatar and Afghanistan. He has completed medical missions to Tanzania supporting Light of the World charities. He resides in Port St. Lucie, Florida.

## Pause for applause

### Flower power

The Tournament of Roses Parade is a New Year's Day tradition for many Americans, but few celebrate it like **Larry Chiles '76**.

A theatre alum in Los Angeles,



Larry has dedicated countless hours as the coordinator of volunteers for the City of South Pasadena's

float project. He's done the labor of love for more than 15 years. Larry involves other Redbirds in the work, including his daughter **Katie**, who is a senior theatre major. The float tradition is only one outlet for Larry's talents. He is also a freelance technician who has worked for years on the NBC soap opera *Days of Our Lives*.

### Staged excellence

Launched with a core of Illinois State alumni, including **John Malkovich '76**, **Steppenwolf Theatre Company** is an integral part of the Chicago arts. The company has captured numer-



ous Broadway honors and international acclaim through the talents of 42 artists, whose performances attract more than 200,000 patrons annually. Now Steppenwolf is making headlines for what happens

behind stage as well. It was named one of the Top Small Workplaces in 2009, lauded as much for creating a culture of learning as the benefits extended to its 151 employees. Alumni have found a formula for success that establishes Steppenwolf as an example for theater companies everywhere.



### WEB EXTRA

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums. Go online to [www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine](http://www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine).

### The beat goes on

An extraordinary percussionist and marimba player, music major **Kevin Lucas '96** placed in national competitions after graduation. He created a rock ensemble, The Dead Musicians' Society, which opened for Grammy award-winning artist Christopher Cross. The group became The Kevin Lucas Orchestra in 2004, and continued to captivate audiences.

This year the group made headlines of its own with two Grammy nominations. The song *Amber Rain*



was in the Best New Instrumental Composition category, with *Carol of the Bells* nominated for Best New Instrumental Arrangement. Kevin's group was called the Cinderella story of the 52nd Annual Grammy Awards, which aired in January.

### Tennis as a tool

**Helen Moser Petersen '70** competes as a league player within the United States Tennis Association (USTA), but it's much more than a game for her. She has worked diligently within her Indianapolis community to reach needy children by engaging them in the sport. As the founder and president of the Hamilton County Tennis Association, Petersen has changed the lives of countless young people by taking tennis into the schools and launching educational programs. Her efforts have been acknowledged by the USTA, which awarded the national Eve F. Kraft Community Service Award to Petersen in January.



## An Illinois State legacy

A desire to turn a love of music into a career led two sisters to Illinois State in the 1970s. They enrolled confident they would get a great education at a reasonable price. What they didn't know is how many family members would follow in their footsteps.

Sisters Mary Ann (Campbell) Sorensen '78 and Carol (Campbell) Amm '80 were the first in their family to discover Illinois State. Both graduated with degrees in music education, and both chose as spouses an ISU alum.

Mary Ann married Dennis Sorensen '76, who majored in agriculture. They reside in Chebanse. Mary Ann works as a band and vocal instructor at Nash Middle School in Clifton. Dennis is the dean of instruction at Kankakee Community College.

Carol married fellow alum Roger Amm '80, who was a choral and vocal major. She teaches music to grades 4 through 6 at Plano District 88, while Roger teaches vocal music at Ottawa High School. They reside in Ottawa.

With such a solid Illinois State connection established, it's not surprising the couples encouraged their children to consider the University. Four attended, creating a second generation of Redbirds.

Mary Ann and Dennis Sorensen had two children, Sarah Sorensen '07 and Brett Sorensen. A biology teacher education major, Sarah is now teaching biology and chemistry in Morton. Brett is enrolled as a senior completing a degree in history education.

Carol and Roger have three children. While the youngest finishes high school, the older two have an Illinois State connection. Christine (Amm) Armstrong '06 completed an elementary education degree and teaches seventh grade language arts in Plano. Tyler Amm is attending Illinois State as a senior, completing a degree in social work.

Scott Campbell, brother to Mary Ann and Carol, also has an Illinois State connection through his spouse. He married Joyce (Lay) Campbell '79. She has a degree in family and consumer sciences, and works at BroMenn Healthcare System in Normal. She and Scott reside in Bloomington.

As each successive generation graduated and shared their Illinois State memories, extended family members were encouraged to pursue a degree at the University as well. The Campbell family connection subsequently grew stronger through nieces and nephews.

Following in the footsteps of their aunts, Jennifer (Campbell) Read '94, and her sister, Melissa (Campbell) Remolina '91, attended the University as well. Jennifer completed a family and consumer science degree, and is now the design manager for Resource One in Springfield. Her husband, Andy, is employed by the University as the assistant director of marketing at Recreation Services. They reside in Springfield.

Melissa's degree was in social work. Her husband, Rodrigo Remolina '92, M.S. '04, completed degrees in sociology and social work. She is clinical supervisor for the Southern Illinois School of Social Work Integrated Assessment Program in Springfield. Rod is a social service program planner for the advocacy office of the Department of Children and Family Services in Springfield, where they reside.

Whether related by blood or marriage, the Campbell clan is proud to have such a large Redbird family!



Members of the extended Campbell family share a Redbird pride that extends across generations. Alumni, current students, and employees are included. Seated from left, are senior Brett Sorensen, Roger Amm '80, Christine Amm Armstrong '06; Jennifer Campbell Read '94; and Andy Read, Recreation Services employee. Back row, from left, are Dennis Sorensen '76, Joyce Lay Campbell '79, Sarah Sorensen '07, Mary Ann Campbell Sorensen '78; senior Tyler Amm; Carol Campbell Amm '80, and Melissa Campbell Remolina '91.

**Ronald Knutson '85** has been named senior vice president and chief financial officer for Lawson Products Inc., which is part of Frozen Food Express Industries. He previously served as vice president of finance at Ace Hardware Corp. He resides in Batavia.

**Mark Thorndyke '85** is a certified financial planner and certified investment manager analyst. He was one of seven inducted into Illinois State's College of Business Hall of Fame this year. He is senior financial advisor and first vice president of investments at the Global Wealth Management Chicago Metro office. *Barron's Magazine* named him one of the top 1,000 advisors in America this year, ranking him 21st in Illinois. He resides in Lake Barrington.

**James Blunk '86** is senior vice president of business operations for the Chicago Blackhawks. He joined the Blackhawks three years ago after spending 22 years in the front office of the Chicago Cubs. The hockey franchise's season ticket base has risen to more than 14,000 and merchandise sales have increased by 317 percent under his leadership. He also assisted in bringing the NHL Winter Classic 2009 to Wrigley Field. He resides in Chicago.

**Todd Brooks '86** has been named vice president of Eastern Growth Markets for Farmers Insurance Group of Companies. He and his wife, Judy, reside in Moorpark, California. They are the parents of two children.

**John Kunasek '86** heads the energy, natural resources, and chemical practice at KPMG LLP. The firm serves companies in the oil and gas, power, pipelines, utilities, chemicals, forestry, and mining sectors. He resides in Dallas, Texas.

**William "Trey" Short '86** is the assistant provost and chief technology officer at Illinois Wesleyan University. He has been named to the advisory board of the National Institute for Technology in Liberal Education. The institute is dedicated to helping undergraduate-centered colleges, universities, and educational organizations use technology effectively to strengthen undergraduate education. He resides in Bloomington.

**Angela Sparks '87** is vice president of operations in property and casualty underwriting at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington. She heads the

investments unit of State Farm's corporate law department. She has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. She resides in Downs.

**Chris M. Spears '87, M.S. '89**, has been named president and CEO of MJM Electric Cooperative in Carlinville. He worked for electrical co-ops in Shelbyville and Iowa prior to accepting his current position. He and his wife, **Sandy (Mosher) '83, M.S. '85**, reside in Carlinville. They are the parents of three children.

**Matthew Deal '88** is the district channel manager for Mycogen Seeds. He resides in Brownsburg, Indiana.

## 90s

**Tracy Rosenberger '91** is the application development manager in Student Affairs IT at Illinois State. He completed the Disney marathon this year. He resides in Normal.

**Michael Valencia '91** is senior equity analyst at Third River Capital Management in Chicago. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Barrington.

**Steven VandenAvond, M.A. '91**, earned his doctorate in developmental psychology at Loyola University. He is the associate provost of outreach and adult access at the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay in Wisconsin.

**David Wagner '91** has been named chief deputy of the Kane County Sheriff's Department. He has served for 17 years in the department and is a graduate of the FBI National Academy. He is also the commander of the sheriff's office multi-jurisdictional SWAT team and commander of the Kane County Major Crimes Task Force. He resides in Plainfield.

**Douglas Albritton '92** served as assistant legal counsel to the Illinois House Democrats and the Speaker of the House in 1996 and 1997. He is a commercial litigation attorney whose expertise includes the prosecution and defense of trade secret, non-compete and non-solicit disputes in different industries and states. He has joined Reed Smith LLP, in Chicago. He was appointed chair-elect of the American Bar Association's Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section in 2008. He resides in Chicago.



A bond created while completing elementary education teaching degrees has held strong for five 1953 graduates. The group has met each spring for the past 26 years. The friends are, clockwise from left, Joyce (Brown) Berg, Beloit, Wisconsin; Harriett (Cleveland) Brown, LaGrange Park; Janet (Berg) Badynski, Carol Stream; Mary (Uhrig) Seyforth, North St. Paul, Minnesota; and Carroll Jo (Henry) Keller, Lindstrom, Minnesota. Beyond their ISNU memories, the women have plenty of teaching stories to share. Carroll Jo, Joyce, Janet, and Harriett all started their careers in the same school district upon graduation.

**John Alessia Jr. '92** has worked for 17 years with Tri-Creek School Corporation, with nine of those years as a principal. He has been named principal of Grimmer Middle School in Schererville. He resides in Lowell.

**Donald Conant '92** graduated from Logan College of Chiropractic in St. Louis, Missouri. He has been in private practice for eight years and now is a chiropractor at Blackman Chiropractic Center in Dover. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in Petersburg. They are the parents of three children.

**Ronda Benson Ford, M.M. '92**, is second flutist in the Topeka Symphony. She has released her debut CD *Passions*, which features music for flute and piano. It is available online. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Lenexa, Kansas.

**Brian Huonker '92** is a graphic designer for University Marketing and Communications at Illinois

State. He and his wife, Angie, reside in Bloomington.

**Todd Koehl, M.S. '92, Ed.D. '04**, served as a principal and assistant superintendent at Blue Ridge High School and taught high school English. He joined District 90 five years ago as assistant superintendent and chief financial officer. He is now the superintendent for the district. He resides in O'Fallon.

**Michael H. Lansden '92** is the first vice president for investments at Stifel, Nicolaus & Co. Inc. in Jacksonville. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in New Berlin.

**Loralee D. (Campbell) Micklich, M.B.A. '92**, and her husband, Douglas, are the parents of two sons. Benjamin Christian Campbell was born in April of 2009. They reside in Normal.

## Alumni events

Illinois State offers alumni events on campus and across the country. These events are now posted online at [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/events](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/events). Detailed information for all university events can be found on the University Calendar at [www.Calendar.ilstu.edu](http://www.Calendar.ilstu.edu).

**Mary J. Soucie '92** is the director of the Three Rivers Library District in Channahon and Minooka. She and her husband, **Darren '95**, reside in Wilmington.

**James Walters '92** is the executive director at HOPE of East Central Illinois. The nonprofit agency serves victims of domestic violence. He and his wife, Brandy, are the parents of three daughters. Hazel Ruth was born in October of 2009. They reside in Charleston.

**John Brady, M.A. '94**, completed a doctorate of health administration degree at Central Michigan University. He has been named vice president of physician services and organizational planning by Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital. He is also an adjunct faculty member with Capella University, teaching courses in health care management. He resides in Roselle.

**Adam Polacek '94** is the director of client portfolio management at TIAA-CREF Asset Management in Chicago. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Wilmette.

**Eric Ferguson '96** served in the combat infantry in Desert Storm.

He has been certified as a global human resources professional by the HRCI. He has worked abroad in France and Germany. Ferguson is a branch manager with Manpower, helping organizations in recruitment, training, consulting, and HR services. He resides in Champaign.

**Stacy Heuberger '96, M.S. '01**, has worked at Illinois State, the Illinois Department of Corrections, and in public schools in Illinois and Nevada. She is an assistant principal at Triad High School in Troy. She and her daughter, Mia, reside in Highland.

**Larry VanVooren '96** is a social studies teacher at Moline High School. He has coached tennis, basketball, and baseball. He and his wife, Marianne, reside in Coal Valley. They are the parents of a daughter.

**Erin Christiansen '97** has worked as a general assignment reporter, consumer reporter, news anchor, and meteorologist since beginning her television career in 1997. She is now the evening meteorologist on KGUN 9 News and KWBA out of Tucson, Arizona.

**Robert J. Coursey, M.S. '97**, has 12 years experience in the financial services industry. His area of expertise is assurance and cor-

porate governance to private and public companies. He is a certified public accountant and has joined the accounting and management consulting firm of Mueller & Co. LLP. He resides in Elgin.

**Taye Triggs '97, M.S. '99**, is the multicultural education director at Missouri Western State University. She also teaches a course she created to help academically under-prepared students. She resides in St. Joseph, Missouri.

**Michael Dresden '98** has been named the director of operations for DartAppraisal.com based in Michigan. The company provides nationwide residential real estate valuations. He will manage customer service and auditing teams. He resides in Clawson, Michigan.

**Brad Wilhelm '98** is a financial analyst for Silliker Labs in Home-wood. He and his wife, Monica, are the parents of a son. Robert Eric was born in July of 2009. They reside in Manteno.

**Michael P. Heneghan '99** is a senior analyst at Driehaus Capital Management LLC in Chicago. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Chicago.

**Jessica Schuske '99** is an emergency room registered nurse for Hoopston Hospital. She resides in Hoopston.

**Chandra Shipley '99, M.S. '03**, has been named the director of Academic Advising at Illinois Wesleyan University in Bloomington. She will act as a resource on academic advising for faculty advisors and the university community, as well as coordinate academic advising with other campus offices. She previously served as the assistant to the dean at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

**00s**

**Jocelyn (Sebens) Browning '00** is a communications manager with Health Alliance Medical Plans in Urbana. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Farmer City.

**Michael Buczynski '00** is enrolled in the doctor of chiropractic program at Logan College of Chiropractic in Chesterfield, Missouri.

**Richard Fulton, M.S. '00**, is an assistant professor at Troy University. He resides in Peachtree City, Georgia.

**Crystal Hilson '00** is a school guidance counselor with St. Louis

Public Schools. She was named 2008 School Counseling Student of the Year by Lindenwood University. She resides in East St. Louis, Missouri.

**Eric Huddleston '00** is the global EHS/S leader for GE Digital Energy for General Electric. He resides in Brooklin, Ontario.

**Tom Kosloskus '00** is vice president of sales for Next Day Toner Supplies Inc. He resides in Orland Park.

**Shannon Lynn '00** teaches third grade at Sabin Magnet School in Chicago. She was one of seven finalists for the 2010 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Award. The award is the first in the nation to formally recognize the contributions of teachers working with children from infancy through third grade. She resides in Chicago.

**Edward Pieczynski '00** is a special education teacher and head baseball coach with Niles Township District 219. His wife, **Leah (Harting) '99** is a physician's assistant working with Elm Street Pediatrics. They reside in Northfield.

**Takesha Stokes-Dorsey '00, M.S. '01**, is pursuing her CPCU designation. She is a catastrophe field claim representative for ACC Communication based in Indiana. She resides in Bloomington.

**Tanya Brown '01** completed an M.B.A. at the University of North Carolina in Charlotte. She has started a Young Masters business that provides artistic fundraising opportunities for preschools by turning child artwork into keepsakes. She and her husband, Peyton, are the parents of a daughter.

**Charles Davenport '01** completed a master's of music degree at Victoria University in New Zealand. He is a promotion and repertoire specialist for Promethean Editions music publisher in New Zealand.

**Matthew Goodwin '01, M.S. '03**, is the director of student life at Saint Anselm College in Manchester in New Hampshire, where he resides.

**John Kane '01** has obtained his teaching certification from the University of Notre Dame. He has been involved in many volunteer programs to assist immigrants and refugees in his community. He received a U.S. Coast Guard Commendation for service as a civilian volunteer. He resides in Aurora.

**Dennis Warner '01** has joined the mortgage lending team of Busey Bank in Decatur, where he resides.

**Meghan (Farrelly) Cox '02** and her husband, Jason, are the parents of

**Support  
our troops**

Thank you to the individuals listed below for their service to our nation.

Names of alumni serving in the military will be published as they are received. Submit information to Susan Blystone at [sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu)

or by mail at Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

1st Lt. William R. Gaefcke '05  
Illinois Army National Guard  
Afghanistan

Spc. Jared Warmouth '07  
U.S. Army



## How we met— Illinois State University connections

Maintenance issues for students living off-campus can be a huge frustration. For Lisa Shiner '01, a plumbing headache turned out to be a blessing when Chris Marx '02 came over one weekend to fix a bathroom water problem.

Shiner's roommate's boyfriend made the call to Chris, who was working as a plumbing apprentice with a Twin City company at the time while completing a degree in construction management. "We felt an immediate attraction and decided to meet at Pub II later that night," Lisa said of the encounter that was not likely to have happened in the classroom. She was a public relations major with minors in mass communications and business administration.

That first date occurred on March 18, 2001, which didn't give the couple much time together before Lisa's graduation later that year. But the two continued to date after commencement and became inseparable, even as they started their careers. They married November 1, 2008, on a beach in Punta Cana, Dominican Republic.

After more than nine years together, both are happy to be living and working in Normal, not far from campus. Chris has added a plumber's license to his degree and opened Redbird Plumbing in Normal, which he owns and operates. Lisa helps with marketing and advertising for the company. A licensed real estate broker, she also works as a marketing specialist with Farnsworth Group, which is a Normal architecture and engineering firm.

The fun they enjoyed at ISU as a college couple, they still enjoy as active alumni. "We have such a strong connection with the University," Lisa said. She loves working with students as a guest speaker in communication classes. Chris supports Redbird baseball, and they both enjoy Homecoming events each fall. And with the Redbird name prominently displayed on every business van as part of the company's name, it's impossible to miss the pride these two have for their alma mater.



a daughter. Norah Grace was born in September of 2009. They reside in Odin.

**Dameion Houston '02** is program supervisor with the Association House of Chicago. He and his wife, **Tamara (Turner) '97**, reside in Plainfield.

**Jaime Peters '02** is a senior equity analyst at Morningstar Inc. in Chicago. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Bloomington.

**Chris Salrin, M.B.A. '02**, has been named Growmark's Western Region business manager. He and

his wife, Dayla, have two sons. They reside in Iowa.

**Chrissy (Hepner) VanDeVelde '02, M.S. '04**, is an interior designer at Farnsworth Group. She led a design team that won a National Ultron DOC Award for its interior design services on the Citizenship and Immigration Service's building in Denver, Colorado.

**James Orner Van Speybroek, Ph.D. '02**, teaches statistics and math at St. Ambrose University in Davenport. He has been a faculty member there for 28 years. He resides in East Moline.

**Andrea D. (Muscarì) Miller '03** received her master's in human

resources with a concentration in business from Keller Graduate School of Management. Her husband, **Steven '02**, received his M.B.A. with a concentration in project management from Keller. They are the parents of a son, Chase Anthony, who was born in September of 2009. They reside in Hanover Park.

**Dianne Dale Brack '04** has completed an M.B.A. at Winthrop University in Rock Hill, South Carolina. She resides in Fort Mill, South Carolina.

**Gena (Glencinski) Gregoire '04** is a teacher at Aroma Park Primary School. She and her husband,

Matthew, were married in May of 2009. They reside in Kankakee.

**Joseph Kessler '04** is the strength and conditioning coach for the Cleveland Indians. He previously worked as the strength and conditioning assistant with the Indianapolis Colts. He resides in Goodyear, Arizona.

**Kera (McElvain) Tackett, M.S. '04**, and her husband, Craig, were married in November of 2009. They reside in Bloomington.

**Derek Wissmiller '04** has completed a Ph.D. in mechanical engineering at Iowa State University. He is an assistant professor in mechanical engineering at the

University of Wisconsin-Stout. He resides in Menomonie, Wisconsin. **Jason Binde, M.M. '05**, is a musician in the U.S. Army. He resides in Aiea, Hawaii.

**Jennifer (Miller) Buesinger '05** is a medical technologist at St. Francis Hospital in Peoria. She and her husband, **Matthew '04**, were married in August of 2009. He is a nursing student. They reside in Peoria.

**Joshua Humbrecht '05** received his juris doctorate from Southern Illinois University School of Law. He is an associate attorney with the law firm of Hassakis & Hassakis, P.C. in Mt. Vernon. He will focus on civil litigation, including personal injury, wrongful death, and worker's compensation law. He resides in Benton.

**Stephanie Ridings '05** is a graduate of the American Banker's Association National Trust School at Northwestern University and the American Banker's Association Graduate Trust School at Emery University. She is a CGA Level I candidate and has been named an associate portfolio manager on the Lake Forest Wealth Advisory Team at Northern Trust Bank. She resides in Chicago.

**Dominick Russo '05** is a resin trader with The Plastics Exchange in Chicago. He has been named to Illinois State's Educational Investment Fund Board of Directors by the College of Business. He resides in Chicago.

**Melissa Skinner '05** received her PHR certification in June of 2009. She was promoted to regional human resources manager of Alter Trading Corporation's Wisconsin facilities in February of 2010. She resides in Moline.

**Colleen (Murray) Valliere '05** is an accountant with Kraft Foods. She and her husband, David, were married in September of 2009. They reside in Chicago.

**Marcus Hayden '06** is pursuing his AIC designation. He has been named a claims service assistant for ACC Communication based in Indiana.

**David Kramarz '06** is a certified police officer who has served with the Northwestern University Police Department. He has been sworn in as a police officer in Lincolnwood. He resides in Niles.

**Rhiannon (Weber) Lepper '06** is a kindergarten teacher at Odell

Grade School. She and her husband, Jacob, were married in June of 2009. They reside in Streator.

**Kris Lutt, M.B.A. '06**, is the advisor for the office of the chairman at Archer Daniels Midland Company. He joined ADM in 2002. He has been named chairman of the Illinois Biotechnology Industry Organization Board of Directors. He resides in Forsyth.

**Ann Morris '06** is a professional development counselor for the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies in Bloomington. She resides in Peoria. **Matt Blonn '07** is a corporate payroll accountant with Abbott Laboratories. As the sole payroll accountant, he performs accounting functions for all of Abbott's domestically based employees, who number more than 40,000, as well as foreign based expatriate employees in 130 countries. He resides in Wheeling.

**Cristina Bueno Brown '07** is an elementary music teacher for grades kindergarten through five for East Baton Rouge Parish School System. Her husband, **Michael '08**, is a leasing agent. They reside in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

**Edward M. Farmer '07** has completed a juris doctorate at Valparaiso School of Law. He is a veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom and will use his degree to assist fellow veterans in obtaining disability compensation and other benefits through the VA. He resides in Chicago.

**William Merchantz '07** is completing a master's degree in STEM education and leadership at Illinois State. He is a career and technical teacher at Lincoln-Way East. He was awarded a New Teacher of the Year Award by the Technology Education Association of Illinois in 2009. He resides in Evergreen Park.

**Jennifer Ossler '07** is a fourth grade bilingual teacher for School District 129. She is completing a master's degree in reading at Concordia University. She resides in Aurora.

**David Pilkerton '07** is an account executive for Allstate in Geneva. He resides in Aurora.

**Quentin Rabideau '07** is a consultant at State Farm Insurance Companies in Bloomington. He and his wife, Christie, were married in October of 2009. They reside in Normal.

**Kyle L. Schneider '07** is teaching general music in grades K-6, band in grades 4-6, and is a choir and music appreciation teacher for grades 9-12 in Seward, Alaska, where he resides. He also coordinates the community band and directs the community choir.

**Cade Stombaugh '07** is serving in the U.S. Coast Guard. He and his wife, Jessica, have a son, Dez. They reside in Portsmouth, Virginia.

**Jonathan Browning '08**, wrote and directed the short film, *The Job*. It has been screened in more than 150 film festivals and has been seen on every continent. It has received 30 major awards since its debut in 2007, including the 2009 Special Festival Award at the Seoul International Extreme Short Image & Film Festival. He and his wife, Leslie McManus, were on hand to receive the award.

**Beth Caffery, M.A. '08**, is the curator of collections at Liberty Hall Historic Site in Frankfort, Kentucky. She manages the collection, creates exhibits, and is actively researching early 19th century interiors for the continuing restoration of Liberty Hall. She is the author of the *Brief History of Teddy Bears*.

**Sean Calhoun '08** served in the military for four years. He served in Kosovo and Afghanistan, and was recognized with a Combat Veteran Award for combat action in Afghanistan. Calhoun is an account executive for Aflac. He was recognized by Cambridge *Who's Who* for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in insurance services. He resides in Normal.

**Mark Cassata '08** is a commercial real estate broker and investment specialist for NAI MLG Commercial. He previously worked as a regional director of Sigma Phi Epsilon fraternity, managing 23 organizations in Texas, Oklahoma, and Kansas. He continues to be involved with the Sigma Phi Epsilon chapter at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and volunteers with Madison MAGNET in the Civic Engagement Committee. He resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Phil Dahm '08** is an operations manager for Dahm Enterprises Inc. He resides in Wonder Lake.

**Bailey Deitz '08** studied for a semester in South Korea at the Dong Ah Institute of Media and Arts. She is a broadcast journalist who is now reporting for KWQC-

TV6 News in Davenport, Iowa. She resides in Sherrard.

**Michael Haas Jr. '08** is an RN in the cardiothoracic SAC Unit at the University of New Mexico Hospital. He resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

**Kathleen Hansen '08** is completing an M.B.A. degree at Eastern Illinois University. She has joined the professional staff of Doehring, Winders & Co. LLP, certified public accountants. She resides in Charleston.

**April Archer Leitshuh '08** is a read 180/social studies teacher and assistant softball coach at Jefferson Parish Public Schools, Kenner, Louisiana. Her husband, **Michael '07**, is a science teacher and basketball coach at JPPSS, Avondale. They reside in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Christy (Stelzer) McFarland '08** and **Hailey White '07** have started the Twin City Tornadoes High School Rugby Club. It is the first and only high school rugby team in Bloomington-Normal.

**Luke Drone '09** is a former Illinois State quarterback. He was signed to the 2010 roster for the Bloomington Extreme Indoor Football League season. He resides in Mount Carmel.

**Jessica Faber '09** is a marketing associate in the Marketing Communications Department at Kerry Ingredients. She resides in Rockford.

**Amanda Goodyear '09** recently performed in *Night Watch* at the Jedlika Performing Arts Center in Cicero. She resides in Mokena.

**Alyssa Johnson '09** is an elementary school teacher. She authored a 19-minute play that took runner-up honors at the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival 42nd annual Region III Festival in January of 2010. She resides in Pontiac.

**Kristen Vicelli '09** is head of the aquatics department at Life Time Fitness. She resides in Lombard.

**Zack Wolfe '09** is a courseware developer and writer for Axiom. He and his wife, **Kara Bavery '07, '09**, reside in Owings Mills, Maryland.

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## In memory

### Faculty/Staff

Patricia A. (Demling) Barr, M.S. '84, Housing; 12/09  
Mack L. Bowen, Special Education; 10/09  
Elmina A. (Schwartzel) Dunn, Facilities Management; 1/10  
Helen E. (Taylor) Dunn '40, Admissions; 10/09  
Charles "Ed" Francis, Industrial Technology; 1/10  
Leta H. (Miller) Geiselman, Food Service; 10/09  
Alma C. (Fetterhoff) Green, Budget Office; 1/10  
Marilyn J. Howell, Residential Life; 12/09  
Helen M. (Howd) Jones, Human Resources; 9/09  
Evelyn (Joho) Kidwell, Comptroller; 12/09  
Jeanine M. (Eng) Koch, Telecommunications; 9/09  
Cecil S. Lamb, Facilities Management; 9/09  
Aubrey A. MacCannell, Facilities Planning; 11/09  
Frank W. Spanbauer, Continuing Education; 3/08  
Beverly J. (Barclay) Sutter '76, Agriculture; 9/09

Manhar Thakore, Milner Library; 10/09

Leona M. (McKinney) Wach, Payroll; 12/09

Helen W. West, College of Education; 10/09

### Alumni

#### 30s

Bessie L. (Brannon) Johnson '31; 9/09  
Lucy L. (North) Collins '32; 1/10  
Gladys R. (Warner) Garst '32, '42, M.S. '61; 10/09  
Bernard T. Grimes '34; 11/09  
Irene E. (Hill) Dumals '35; 12/09  
Ruth M. (Becker) Frevert '35; 12/09  
Ralph E. Lovell '35; 7/08  
Alice G. Robinson '35; 2/06  
Frances E. (Wiegman) Bailey '36, '40; 11/09  
Mary M. (Leary) Cooley '36, '74; 12/09  
Ardith E. (Armstrong) Norris '36, '60; 10/09  
Ethel L. (Wurmnest) Rapp '36; 1/10  
Alfred M. Andreae '37; 8/09  
Lorraine E. (Hole) Austin '37, '67; 1/10

Ednamary (Mottershaw) Grimes '37; 9/09

Doris V. (Kunkle) Parkin '37, '67; 9/09

Donald L. Paul '37; 10/09

Madeline (Hatteberg) Pugh '37; 9/09

Frances Seth '37; 10/09

Earl R. Chambers '38; 3/08

Helen G. Fairweather '38, '40; 12/09

Sue White Perry '38; 12/09

Mary H. (Carey) Newman '39; 12/09

Bill Small '39; 1/10

Catharine Zang-Sterr '39, '44; 11/09

#### 40s

Luke R. Gleason Sr. '40; 12/09

Jeanne M. Heininger '40; 9/09

Marilyn (Brenneman) Hovious '40, '69, M.S. '75; 9/09

Helen T. Nelson '40; 5/07

Roberta M. Pagel '40; 3/09

Ruth (Adamson) Potter '40; 12/09

Hirrel L. (Swanson) Schmidt '40; 9/09

Bernice (Maras) Woodard '40; 12/09

Phyllis E. (Weber) Zwissig '40; 3/05

Dean H. Davis '41, M.S. '48; 10/09

Mary E. Murray '41; 6/09

Ruth P. Rosendall '41; 12/09

Mary E. (Motherway) Carlock '42; 11/09

Elbert W. "Al" Crandall '42; 11/09

Dorothy J. (Nixon) DeMay '42; 10/09

Loretta (Van Curen) McKinney '43; 10/09

Marilyn J. (Whited) Calvert '44; 9/09

Jean H. Crabtree '44; 1/10

Marion C. (Miller) Trumpy '44; 11/09

Mary M. (Ballard) Lubbs '45; 9/09

Vanita J. (Sunderland) Shepherdson '45; 11/09

Lavern H. Wenzelman '46; 6/09

Ivan G. Bodine '47; 11/09

Marian D. Johnston '48; 10/09

Thelma (Thommen) Valentine '48; 12/09

#### 50s

Richard W. Bruno '50, M.S. '51; 10/09

Mary E. (Miller) Veselack '50; 12/09

Marie Zillman '50; 12/03

Charles F. Harraden '51; 10/09

Elaine Graham '52; 4/06

## Student acting troupe excels nationally

by Cassie Monroe

They laugh, they cry, sing and dance, and occasionally come up with something brilliant enough to use for an upcoming competition. They are Illinois State University's Improv Mafia, and someday they hope to be coming to a theatre near you.

Formed in 1998 with Mikel Matthews '99, Improv Mafia is a self-run, student-based improvisation comedy group that is capturing the national limelight as members sharpen and expand their acting skills.

Initially they only performed short form, which is the most common form of improvisation. "Short form is like 'Whose Line is it Anyway?'" The scenes are shorter and quicker. It's more of a game and usually based on a gimmick, or suggestion from the audience," said Andrew Bogue, junior communication major and two-year member of Improv Mafia.

In the past five years the group has begun to incorporate long form improvisation into their skits as well. "Long form is a more intricate performance. Instead of just one quick scene we have to develop the story, and figure out how to connect the scenes in an interesting and entertaining way," Bogue said.

Since the Chicago Improv Tournament (CIT) started three years ago, Improv Mafia has competed and watched it flourish. The first year CIT only had 16 groups competing in one region. The second year of the tournament Improv Mafia competed against 23 teams from three regions and won first place in nationals.

As the competition winner, the group was sent to the Aspen Comedy Festival where they performed with well-known stand-up comics from all over the world. This year 72 groups entered from seven different regions. Improv Mafia entered with high hopes as the returning champion.

Members of Improv Mafia have a strong camaraderie and form lasting friendships as they sharpen their acting skills. They have gained national attention since their start just three years ago.

"There were a lot of weird circumstances surrounding our return. For instance, about an hour before our performance I came down with food poisoning. It was awful," Bogue said. "They performed anyway, but any time you take a person out of a tight knit performance group, it gets weird."

Improv Mafia got second place in the Chicago regional, but only the first place teams get the chance to compete for nationals.

"We did really well in the preliminary round, and we heard from a lot of people that the judges really liked us," Bogue said.

The improvisation group doesn't have upcoming competitions, but you can catch them on Tuesday nights performing on the ISU Campus in the Center for Visual Arts, and at the Free Stage Festival this April in Normal.

"Basically what we're doing is Commedia dell'arte. It's classic improvisation that started in Italy, and was really popular in the 16th century," Bogue said. "It's cartoonish in style and really fun."



Earl E. Hietter '52; 8/08  
 William R. Greene, M.S. '53, Ed.D. '76; 10/09  
 Edward J. Hinderland '54; 10/09  
 Marilyn "Chloe" (Sveinsson) Mayhall '54; 9/09  
 Edna B. Moser '54; 11/08  
 D. Gene Shull '55, M.S. '64; 12/09  
 Charles "Red" Harrington '56; 11/09  
 Helen "Susie" Knierim '56; 12/09  
 Arlen R. Rittenhouse '56, M.S. '60; 1/10  
 Norma C. Monson '57; 9/09  
 Norman L. Richard '57; 9/09  
 James P. Agner '58, M.S. '61; 12/09  
 Sharon L. Miller '58; 1/08  
 Phyllis A. (Oldman) Martin, '59; 10/09  
 Harold C. Scheidt '59, M.S. '60; 10/09

**60s**  
 Coleen E. Bell '61; 11/09  
 Ronald A. Henderson, M.S. '61; 7/02  
 Lucille M. Jevitz '61; 11/09  
 Edna K. (Anderson) Middleton '61; 12/09  
 Deana D. C. Spencer '61; 11/03  
 Keith L. Runyoun '62; 12/09  
 Clara J. Harweger '63, M.S. '68; 6/93  
 Sandra K. (Roth) Koerner, '63; 11/09  
 Jeanne (Lighthall) Howard '64; 11/09  
 Peggy F. Jones '64; 2/06  
 William H. Benedict Jr. '65; 12/09  
 Brigid A. Garrett, M.A. '65; 11/08  
 Penelope A. Hill '65; 2/05  
 Beverly (Adkins) Jackson '65; 10/09  
 Carol A. Ross '65; 11/09  
 C. William Schenfeldt '65; 7/05  
 Stanley E. Funk '66; 7/06  
 Robert J. Lynn, Ed.D. '66; 4/06  
 Phyllis M. (Struck) Petersen '66; 10/09  
 Sandra L. (DeLannoy) Scott '66, M.S. '68; 10/09  
 Linda L. Elliott '67, M.S. '83; 11/09  
 Frederick W. Kelley, Ed.D. '67; 4/09  
 James V. Whitman '67, M.S. '70; 1/09  
 Mabel F. Byerly, M.S. '68; 3/99  
 Stephen K. Heaton '68, M.S. '73; 12/09

Dennis Johnson '68; 11/09  
 Josephine R. Tucker '68; 2/08  
 Michael B. Correl '69; 12/09  
 Ronald W. Hales, M.A. '69; 8/09  
 David S. Thomson '69; 11/09

**70s**  
 Anne Beveny-Walter, M.S. '70; 8/09  
 Mary E. (Vermillion) Lowery '70; 10/09  
 Edward O. Moore '70; 8/09  
 Jack L. Wilson '70; 1/10  
 Donald E. Bagby Jr. '71; 11/09  
 Patricia (Foster) Baker '71; 11/09  
 Ronald K. Blue '71; 12/09  
 Wilma B. (Birdzell) Erwin, M.S. '71; 1/10  
 Bonnie S. Hudson '71; 3/07  
 Genevieve A. Hughes '71; 12/06  
 Dale W. Kiedaisch '71; 12/09  
 Mary E. (Melby) Le Var, M.A. '71; 12/09  
 Deborah S. (Manners) Livingston '71, M.S. '73; 11/09  
 William C. Rogers '71; 1/10  
 Sherrie L. Sitki '71, M.S. '77; 7/02  
 Barbara A. Smith '71; 9/09  
 Betty L. (Sullivan) Thomas '71; 11/09  
 Cathleen E (Brighton) Towner '71; 11/09  
 Conrad C. Best II '72; 12/09  
 Richard E. Henning '72; 5/05  
 Donald G. Marini '72; 10/09  
 Jerry M. Norgart, M.S. '72; 11/09  
 Dan Swille '72; 9/09  
 Rosalie C. Bard, M.S. '73; 10/00  
 Vicki L. (Thurm) Christensen '73; 1/10  
 Robert B. Kammerud, M.A. '73; 5/09  
 Vyto A. Pabreza '73, M.S. '75; 11/08  
 Rosemarie (Moews) Scarbeary '73; 9/09  
 Terry Steinhour '73; 10/09  
 Alice E. Chase '74; 2/08  
 Melvin E. LeMay, Ed.D. '74; 11/09  
 Gregory J. Sargent '74; 6/79  
 Deborah A. Shippee '74; 4/07  
 Dorothy A. Batson '75, M.S. '80; 8/06  
 John C. Gallagher '75; 1/07  
 Sue L. Peterson '75; 12/09  
 Patricia C. (Jacobsen) Scoggan, M.S. '75; 3/04

John M. Williamson '75; 1/10  
 David M. Cummins '76; 11/09  
 Margaret J. Kehoe '76; 5/09  
 Carrie J. (Kenney) Krug '76; 11/09  
 Melvin H. Nesteby '76; 5/09  
 Nawal Akel '77; 11/06  
 Cathie L. (Pfieffer) Armstrong '77, M.S. '91; 12/09  
 Paul E. Geer '77; 1/09  
 J. M. Glass '77; 1/96  
 Betty J. Krejci, M.S. '77; 3/09  
 Donald L. Sollberger '77, M.S. '84; 3/07  
 Roger D. Hadden '78; 9/09  
 Kathryn (Margar) Murdock '78; 7/07  
 Linda M. (Heck) Smith '78; 9/09  
 Richard D. Smith '78; 1/10  
 Ronald A. Winkler '78; 10/04  
 LaDonna E. (McMahon) Cummings '79, M.S. '92; 10/09  
 Maureen E. (Collopy) Driebergen '79; 8/09  
 Marianne Ozolins '79; 12/08  
 Dennis A. Vinson, Ph.D. '79; 11/06

**80s**  
 Mary E. Athans '80; 8/09  
 Rick D. Bridges '81; 5/05  
 George A. Donnell Jr. '81; 11/03  
 Tim DeLos Kelley '82; 8/09  
 Gale (Hallstrom) Addante '84; 9/09  
 Jacki Marcus '84; 11/09  
 Robert E. Ready '84; 7/09

Raymond T. Arado '85; 9/03  
 Betsy (Powers) Kearley '85; 9/09  
 Anthony Parker '85; 10/09  
 Shirley A. (Kuntz) Swafford '85; 1/10  
 Jamie A. Ralph '87, '90; 10/09  
 Shelley M. Walden '87; 10/02  
 Matthew E. Brown '88; 10/09  
 Robert M. Grothe, M.S. '88; 3/07  
 Bradley J. Lapan '88; 11/09  
 Laura J. McTyre, M.S. '88; 2/05

**90s**  
 Beckie (Moore) Lade '90; 10/09  
 Martin P. Jordan '91; 8/09  
 Mary Kastelic '91, M.S. '94; 5/03  
 Steven E. Alajoki '92; 10/09  
 Stephen Bell '94; 10/09  
 Twila Johnson-Owenah '94; 9/09  
 George A. Cardose '95; 8/09  
 Linda (Schmidt) Meyer '95; 12/09  
 Dawn E. Woodward '95, M.S. '99; 11/09  
 Ruth E. Bogenschneider, M.S. '98; 2/07  
 Anthony L. Bonati '98, M.S. '03; 12/09

**00s**  
 Jill (Lambert) Bane '00; 10/09  
 Eric T. Kopf '04; 9/04  
 Jo Ann Miller '07; 10/09  
 Julie E. Simpson '07; 1/08  
 Clifton W. Aldrige '08; 1/10  
 Sarah (McDowell) Lampe, M.S. '08; 11/09

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# AlumniUpdate

The class notes section of the alumni magazine is one of the best ways to stay connected with collegiate friends. Don't miss the opportunity to be included! Use this form to let fellow graduates know your personal and professional news.

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Major(s)		Degree(s)
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Employer address		
City	State	Zip
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Spouse's/partner's graduation year (if Illinois State graduate)		
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In addition to above, please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births, or memorial information that you would like reported in *Illinois State*. Please report only events that have occurred. Announcements will appear as soon as possible.

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## Scholarships ease student's debt load

Lorryn Neely knows from personal experience what a difference a donation makes. A junior from Flossmoor, Lorryn has benefited greatly from several scholarships that are reducing her debt load by defraying tuition and book expenses.

"It is helping me tremendously," Lorryn said, noting that she is not eligible for financial aid. Without scholarships she would rely solely on loans to pay for her degree in elementary education. She is completing a psychology minor as well, and plans to pursue a master's degree after finishing her Illinois State studies in December of 2011.

Lorryn enrolled as a freshman. Initially looking at schools beyond Illinois, she chose the University after learning from her mother about ISU's stellar teacher education programs. A campus visit sealed her decision, as she felt comfortable with the size and excited by the opportunities.

"I've been involved in a little bit of everything," she said, including her current role as president of the Black Student Union. She is a member of the Homecoming student committee, the Campus Involvement Ambassadors, and Phi Sigma Pi and Kappa Delta Pi national honorary societies.

"I've definitely enjoyed it," Lorryn said of her time at Illinois State. "The classes are amazing." She particularly appreciates the opportunity to complete clinical observations. The work has convinced her she made the right choice when deciding to become a teacher of grade school students.

"I've always known I wanted to be a teacher. I just love helping and especially the little kids,"

she said. Lorryn's plan is to teach in the third or fourth grade in a district where children are underserved.

She's confident she will be ready, and thrilled she won't be hindered by huge debt. Her financial burden has been lifted by Illinois State University's Black Colleagues Association (ISUBCA), which has awarded her the Judge Russell R. DeBow Scholarship each year she has attended.

Lorryn also received the President's Book Scholarship, the Larry and Barbara Efav Endowed Scholarship, a University Club Scholarship, and the Dean of Students Office Run for Academic Success and Excellence Book Scholarship.

"I am just so grateful for the opportunities I've had because of this giving," Lorryn said, encouraging more people to get involved. "It is so important. Cost is one of the big things that holds people back from coming to college in general. If there is no other motivation for people to give, let it be for the students who are missing out because they don't have the money."

**More than one life can be changed when you provide financial support that enables a student to complete an education. Make a difference today by creating a scholarship, or contributing to the scholarship funds that exist through the ISUBCA. Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8041 or by e-mail at [jd Hutchcraft@ilstu.edu](mailto:jd Hutchcraft@ilstu.edu). Donations can be made online at [www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support](http://www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support).**



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# The Last Look



## Under construction

It's impossible to miss the transformation of south campus, as the Student Fitness and Kinesiology/Recreation Building takes shape where Dunn-Barton and Walker residence halls once stood. The \$49.6 million project will add 170,000 square feet. Work is expected to be completed in the spring semester of 2011. Naming opportunities are still available. Go online to [www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support](http://www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support) or call (309) 438-8041.



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