

Illinois State

alumni magazine

VOLUME 11 • NUMBER 2 • FALL 2010

Nursing alumna Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins '06 excels in caring for infants in crisis.

SPECIAL ISSUE
Donors make a
difference!
pgs. 19-26



The First Word

Nothing makes a person more uncomfortable than a conversation about money—except perhaps when the discussion turns to giving. I was reminded of this reality very quickly when I assumed the presidency, as the job demands an intense involvement in fundraising efforts.

The work of securing private dollars has never been more crucial, as the University's state funds continue to steadily decline and now account for less than 23 percent of our total annual budget.

This significant shift in funding from yesteryear has generated many administrative discussions about the challenges that must be overcome for our stellar academic programs to be maintained. And yet the angst caused by dwindling dollars has been minimized by the exciting possibilities for new partnerships with people who care about this institution.

In the six years I've been privileged to lead this institution, I've realized that making others aware of the myriad ways they can become involved as a donor is an equal opportunity scenario.

I have the thrill of sharing the areas of excellence found across the University that make Illinois State an institution of choice for the best high school graduates in the nation. Donors in turn have the opportunity to invest in something that is meaningful to them, and to use their resources to have a profound impact on others.

Giving is a source of joy that I have witnessed on numerous occasions as donors step forward to support a program, advance a research project, or help a student afford a semester. Donations of all amounts make a significant impact when combined. For example, the University brought in more than \$13.25 million in gifts in FY2010, with members of the campus community contributing \$907,896.

These statistics confirm that despite tough economic times, people who care about Illinois State continue to make the University a priority. You'll read about some of these individuals in this issue of *Illinois State*, which includes the Foundation Annual Report.

I'm excited to share with you this update, which has typically been sent as a separate document to just our donors. Please take a moment to examine the statistics and understand the impact of ongoing private financial support. Then read the stories of donors who know firsthand the satisfaction that comes in advancing Illinois State's mission to gladly learn and teach.

Al Bowman
President, Illinois State University

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alumni magazine

Volume 11, Number 2, Fall 2010

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PRODUCTION COORDINATOR, Mary (Mulhall) Cowdery '80

WRITERS, Kate Arthur, Steven Barcus '06, M.S. '09, Sean Kelly, Tommy Navickas '08

Illinois State (USPS 019606) is published quarterly for members of the Illinois State University Alumni Association at Alumni Center, 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, Illinois 61790-3100. Periodicals postage paid at Normal, Illinois, and at additional mailing offices.

Magazine editorial offices are located at 1101 North Main Street, Normal, Illinois 61790-3100; telephone (309) 438-2586; facsimile (309) 438-8057; e-mail alumni@IllinoisState.edu; Web site www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni. Postmaster: Send address changes to *Illinois State*, Illinois State University, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Voluntary subscriptions of \$25 per year to help defray the mounting expenses associated with publishing *Illinois State* are greatly appreciated. Checks payable to the Illinois State Foundation can be sent to Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Call Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 with any questions.

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8

Nursing in the NICU

It takes a special combination of skill and compassion to meet the medical needs of patients in a neonatal intensive care unit. Mennonite College of Nursing graduate Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins '06 excels with both as she cares for the most frail of infants at OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria. **Cover:** Now a neonatal nurse practitioner, Jenkins attends all high-risk deliveries and has a caseload of up to 12 critical care infants.



12

Contents

2 UNIVERSITY NEWS

12 BATTLING BACTERIA

Thousands die annually from infections caused by bacteria that are resistant to antibiotics. Distinguished Professor Radheshyam Jayaswal has garnered millions in research dollars to examine the potentially fatal superbug. Students in the Department of Biological Sciences are in the laboratory with jayaswal, who advocates internationally for caution with prescription drugs.

16 MEET THE *SUN-TIMES*' SAVIOR

Newspapers across the nation are struggling to survive, and yet James Tyree '78, M.B.A. '80, led an investment group that purchased the Sun-Times Media Group Inc. out of bankruptcy. A business whiz and CEO of Chicago's Mesirow Financial, Tyree is confident saving the *Chicago Sun-Times* will prove to be a good investment.

19 SPECIAL REPORT: DONORS' DOLLARS AT WORK

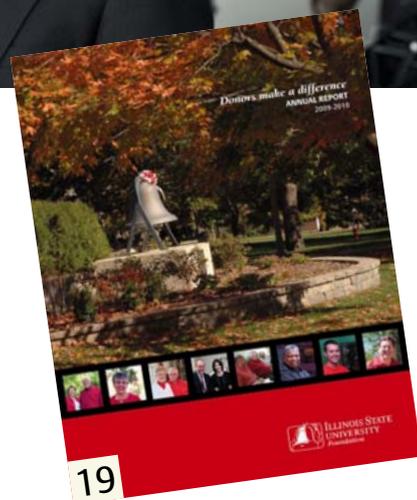
As state funding dwindles and higher education costs escalate, Illinois State's donors stand in the gap. Every financial gift empowers the University to provide an exceptional education and unique collegiate opportunities to students. The annual report reflects the campus community's gratitude for your donations, which do indeed make a difference.

28 ALUMNI SERVICES

30 CLASS NOTES



16



19

UniversityNews

The Cardinal Court project will break new ground as Illinois State's first public-private venture.

Significant housing changes are on the horizon, as the University will raze Cardinal Court apartments to make way for an 800-bed student apartment complex. Demolition begins in January, with completion expected by August of 2012.

Approved by the Board of Trustees in June, the \$59.1 million project marks the first time the University has engaged in a public-private housing initiative. ISU will lease the 14.5-acre Cardinal Court property on Gregory Street northwest of campus to the Collegiate Housing Foundation (CHF).

CHF will create a limited liability company on behalf of Illinois State to construct, finance, and own the complex. When the lease with CHF ends in 40 years, the buildings become Illinois State's property.

The project will be led by American Campus Communities (ACC), a Texas company that has completed housing projects with 11 campuses. ACC has partnered with Solomon, Cordwell, and Buenz (SCB) as lead architect for the project. SCB is a Chicago design firm that developed the University's long-range housing and dining plan, as well as the design firm for the Wilkins Hall renovation. The general contractor will be Weis Builders from Chicago.

"This is an important first for Illinois State University as we create new partnerships to continue to provide attractive, modern, and cost-effective living spaces for our students," Illinois State President Al Bowman said.

The complex is needed because the University will lose more than 1,500 beds with the closure of Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten residence halls at the end of this academic year. Other submitted housing proposals are still under review, as the Cardinal Court project will not fully replace the number of beds lost.

Cardinal Court was built in the 1950s to house students with families, however, most families now live in the University's Shelbourne complex. More than 80 percent of Cardinal Court's occupants are single students.

Apartments with two, three, and four bedrooms will be available at the new complex, which will be managed by university staff. Sophomores, juniors, and seniors will have 12-month lease options. Freshmen will be required to live in conventional dorms.

The units will have amenities such as a washer, dryer, and dishwasher. The complex will include indoor and outdoor recreation facilities, ample parking, and will be served by Illinois State's bus transportation system. An enhanced pedestrian walkway will connect the complex to the main campus.



Built in the 1950s, the Cardinal Court apartments are now in such need of repair that the University has opted to raze them. A new apartment complex will be ready on the site by the fall of 2012.

ILLINOIS STATE MAKES GAINS IN NATIONAL RANKINGS

The University moved up in its overall ranking among “America’s Best Colleges” and improved in several criteria used to determine the annual *U.S. News & World Report* rankings. The magazine released its annual report in August.

Illinois State moved to 156 in the “Best National Universities” category, up from 162 in last year’s ranking. The category includes 262 American universities that offer undergraduate, master’s, and doctoral degrees.

“It is important to note that we continue to make progress in many areas that are closely connected to our core teaching and learning values,” President Al Bowman said. “It is reflective of the excellent academic, cocurricular, and extracurricular environment that we’ve established on our campus.”

Illinois State’s improvements came in the subcategories of acceptance rate, average freshman retention rate, percent of classes of 50 or more, and percent of faculty who are full-time. Rankings are based on academic quality and excellence.

STUDENTS EXCEL ON PROFESSIONAL HUMAN RESOURCES EXAM

Twice within the past year a cohort of Illinois State College of Business students have achieved a 100 percent pass rate on the Professional in Human Resources certification examination. The national pass rate is 55 percent.

Given by the Human Resource Certification Institute, the exam is a four-hour test that covers strategic management, workforce planning and employment, human resource development, employee and labor relations, and risk management.

“This credential shows mastery of the HR body of knowledge and gives an edge in the job market,” Department of Management and Quantitative Methods Chair Jim Jawahar said. The University pays for half of the exam fee as an encouragement to students to obtain the credential.

SALES PROGRAM RATED AMONG BEST IN THE WORLD

Illinois State’s Professional Sales Institute has been included in the Top University Sales Education Programs 2010 listing compiled by the University Sales Education Foundation. The Professional Sales Institute is one of only 48 such programs globally to meet the requirements for the listing.

The foundation reviewed university programs that focus on professional selling and require the completion of at least three sales-specific courses, the offering of sales internships, and university recognition about program completion.

Illinois State’s Professional Sales Institute boasts a comprehensive sequence of sales and management classes, including seven sales-specific courses; state-of-the-art training facilities; numerous internship opportunities; executive education programs; and core faculty members with extensive real world sales experience.

To learn more about Illinois State’s Professional Sales Institute, go online to www.cob.ilstu.edu/profsales.

MILNER LIBRARY DEAN AN INTERNATIONAL LEADER

Sohair Wastawy, dean of libraries, has been honored with an Association of College and Research Libraries International Relations Committee Special Recognition Award for leadership.

Wastawy received the award for her distinguished leadership and outstanding contributions to international librarianship through her work with academic and research libraries in the U.S. and the Middle East. Prior to becoming dean of libraries at Illinois State this summer, Wastawy was chief librarian at the Bibliotheca Alexandria in Alexandria, Egypt.

While there she trained more than 100 new librarians on modern librarianship practice, established two professional development programs to address the shortage of library education in Egypt, and combined five major specialized libraries into one library institution.



FURNITURE FROM WORK OF DORM RENOVATION HELPS NEEDY

Incoming students are not the only ones to benefit from ongoing efforts to renovate the residence halls. Illinois State is working with a Bloomington charity to distribute furniture that would otherwise be discarded.

During the summer months the University began work on a \$29 million renovation of Watterson Towers. Approximately 11,000 pieces of furniture will be replaced as part of the project, including mattresses, bed frames, desks, chairs, and dressers.

“That would be a lot to put in a landfill,” said Housing Director Maureen Blair. When other state agencies declined most of the pieces, ISU made the furniture available to St. Anthony’s Outreach Ministry in Bloomington.

As a result, semitrailers were filled and the furniture distributed to refugees who are in the U.S. after fleeing Iraq, Somalia, and Cuba. Other pieces were given to homeless shelters and poor Appalachian communities, with loads also going to sites in Honduras and Guatemala.

SCHOLARSHIP SUPPORTS MCN FACULTY’S GRADUATE WORK

Charlene S. Aaron is the recipient of the Building Academic Geriatric Nursing Capacity (BAGNC) Pre-Doctoral Scholarship from the John A. Hartford Foundation. The \$100,000 scholarship will support the completion of her doctoral training with research interest in African-American family dementia caregivers.

Aaron is coordinator of the Expanding Teaching Nursing Home Project for

Mennonite College of Nursing. She is completing her doctorate at the University of Iowa, where she is focusing her studies on vulnerable populations of older adults.

African-Americans are at increased risk of acquiring Alzheimer's disease, and their caregivers are at increased risk for deleterious conditions resulting from the stress associated with dementia care giving.



ENROLLMENT NUMBERS ARE STRONG FOR CURRENT ACADEMIC YEAR

For the 14th consecutive year, Illinois State University's total fall enrollment is above the 20,000 mark. The student count for the 2010-2011 academic year is 21,134, including on- and off-campus enrollment.

On-campus numbers remained stable at 20,762. The total includes 3,190 new freshmen and 1,838 new transfer students, meeting almost exactly the fall 2010 enrollment goals.

Off-campus students include College of Education graduate cohorts meeting in schools across the state, working professionals taking grant-supported courses, and other students not attending classes on campus.

The quality of the freshman class is again very high, with an average ACT score of more than 24 and a high school GPA of 3.38. The GPA of incoming transfer students is 3.11 on a 4.0 scale.

"Illinois State continues to attract strong numbers of high-achieving stu-

dents, which reflects the high quality teaching, support, and academic programs offered at the University," President Al Bowman said.

The retention rate for fall 2009 new freshmen returning this fall remained very strong at 85 percent, a record high. Diversity of the student body also increased. Graduate enrollment was 2,508, essentially unchanged over the past three years.

"It is gratifying to know that while the state's economy continues to struggle, Illinois State remains a top-choice higher education environment for undergraduate and graduate students."

Associate Vice President for Enrollment Management and Academic Services Jonathan Rosenthal is equally pleased. "Our goal was stable enrollment, and we met our freshman and transfer targets just about perfectly," he said. "This is a sign of the continuing strength of Illinois State as we enter a particularly competitive period for recruiting top quality students."

SUSTAINABILITY EFFORTS TARGET MORE FOOD WASTE RECYCLING

Illinois State composts more than 4,000 pounds of campus food waste each school year. University officials are working to push that number higher by purchasing equipment that will allow processing of food waste from nonresidential sources in the Bloomington-Normal community.

By early 2011 the University plans to collect food waste from businesses, schools, restaurants, medical facilities, grocery stores, and hotels.

Campus mourns death of Admissions director

Molly (Hirt) Arnold '83, M.A. '86, lost a courageous nine-year battle against cancer on August 4. A memorial service held in the Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom celebrated her life and commitment to Illinois State students. She worked at the University for 20 years, and served as the director of Admissions since 2004.



During her breast cancer battle, Molly overcame many obstacles and persevered through numerous treatments with determination and a positive attitude. She met frequently with fellow cancer patients and survivors to offer words of encouragement.

She gained many accolades, including the University's Administrative Professional Distinguished Service Award and the Missouri Valley Conference Most Courageous Award.

Molly is remembered for her sense of humor, her frankness and honesty, an ability to keep the best interest of students at heart, the liveliness that followed her into every room, and her dedication to family and friends. She is survived by her husband, Scott; three children; and three grandchildren.

“This composting project showcases the commitment that Illinois State and its partners in Bloomington-Normal have to furthering sustainability efforts in the community,” said Enid Cardinal, director of Illinois State’s Office of Sustainability.

Once food waste has been ground, it is mixed with yard waste and livestock manure, and spread into windrows for composting. After six to eight months, the finished organic material is used as a soil amendment at the farm and on campus. It is also available for purchase.

SIGNIFICANT CAMPUS CHANGES DETAILED IN UNIVERSITY’S MASTER PLAN

Alumni have the opportunity to get a glimpse of the University’s future campus by reviewing a draft of the *Master Plan 2010-2030*, which will be finalized by February. The long-range plan contains 65 recommendations on the future physical development of campus in size, form, character, image, and environment.

The document includes proposals for 19 new buildings or additions. The need to renew buildings and define outdoor spaces that unify all functions of the University is also addressed. There are 28 recommendations for renovations and remodeling, and 12 recommendations for demolition.

The draft is available online at www.Masterplan.ilstu.edu. Comments on the plan can be made through the Master Plan Blog, which is online at <http://blogs.ilstu.edu/masterplan>.

Alumni

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SPONSORS INSURANCE PROGRAM

The Alumni Association has been a longtime partner with the American Insurance Administrators, a USI Affinity Company that provides opportunities for alumni to acquire health, life, and travel insurance.

A wide variety of insurance plans are offered with the goal of bringing peace of mind through quality products

and excellent customer service. For additional information on the products available to alumni and costs, call (800) 922-1245 or go online to the insurance link at www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/services.

REPLACEMENT DIPLOMA SERVICE AVAILABLE FOR ALUMNI

Illinois State University recognizes the importance of displaying a degree in a professional or personal setting. The University Registrar can help alumni do just that by replacing lost or damaged diplomas.

Diplomas are available at a cost of \$12, while a new diploma cover costs \$4. To obtain either, download the request form at www.Registrar.ilstu.edu/graduation/diploma.shtml. A request may also be made in writing. Send letters to Illinois State University, Evaluation Services, Campus Box 2202, Normal, IL, 61790-2202.

Please provide the quantity of diplomas or covers desired, as well as the current name, and the name to be printed on the diploma. A University Identification Number (UID) is required, or date of birth if you do not have the UID. Date of graduation, mailing address, e-mail address, and phone number are also needed. Your signature is required to release your diploma.

Due to the danger of identity theft, persons who wish to change their first, middle, or last name on their diploma must provide a copy of their marriage license, a court order, or a dissolution decree certifying their name change. Please send a copy of one of these documents with your diploma replacement request.

Payment may be made by credit card by completing the box on the request form, or by check or money order payable to Illinois State University.

CONNECT WITH ILLINOIS STATE THROUGH SOCIAL NETWORKS

For the past four years the University’s Internet presence has continually expanded through social networks. Thousands of alumni, students, and friends have been using the sites to reconnect, network, and cultivate relationships with fellow Redbirds.

The official Illinois State University Facebook page serves as a viral messenger for the extended campus community. Daily updates are shared with those who “Like” the page, along with memories and snapshots of past campus life.

Go to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/facebook to stay connected with the latest information, as well as your fellow Redbirds.

DIRECTORS ELECTED TO LEAD ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

Two individuals have joined the Alumni Association Board of Directors, which works in cooperation with the Alumni Relations staff to provide programs, services, and events for alumni.

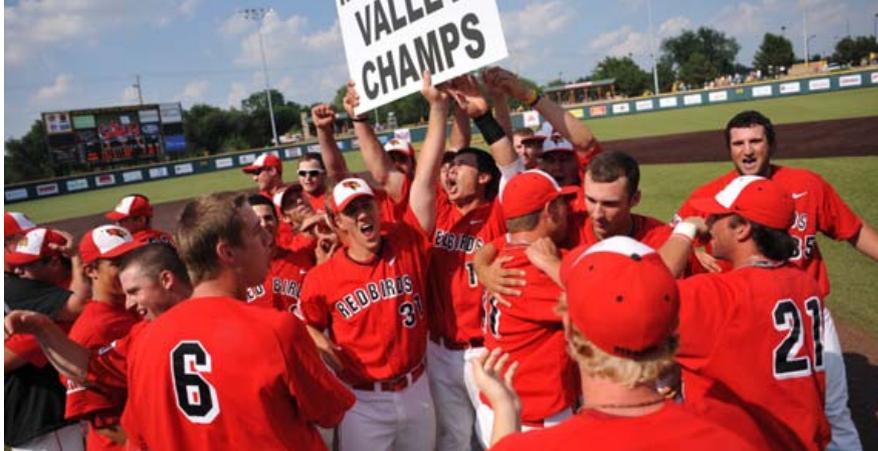


Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors include, front row, from left, Greg Ayers, Jerry Kerber, Ashley Mayor, and Terrence Sykes. Back row, from left, are Mary Ann Louderback, Gary Tiffany, and Janessa Williams.

Elected for the first time to three-year terms were Michele Pfeilschifter ’01 and Dave Horstein ’08. Pfeilschifter lives in Chicago, where she works as the vice president of health promotion and advocacy for the Arthritis Foundation. She is a member of the Chicago Young Alumni Network. Horstein, who lives in Park Ridge, works as a project manager for AmericanEagle.com. He is also a member of the Chicago Young Alumni Network.

Matt Miglin ’10 began his one-year term as the Student Alumni Council representative. He lives in Rockton and served as president of the Student Alumni Council during his senior year at Illinois State.

The following board members were elected as officers: President Mary Ann Louderback ’74, M.S. ’80, Ph.D. ’84, of Cary; Vice President/President-elect Janessa Williams ’89 of Normal; and Secretary/treasurer Greg Ayers ’90 of Kalamazoo.



Three at-large executive committee members confirmed were Jerry Kerber '74 of Bloomington; Ashley Mayor '08 of Normal; and Terrence Sykes '93 of Elwood.

All graduates are automatic members of the Alumni Association. Alumni who have made a gift to the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding year have active membership status and are eligible to serve on the board.

STAY CONNECTED WITH CAMPUS WHILE AWAY DURING WINTER MONTHS

Are you headed to a warmer climate for winter? Make certain you receive this magazine and other important Illinois State mailings while away from your home address. Simply send your seasonal address to Alumni Relations, along with the dates for the change of address. Doing so guarantees that you'll receive information about alumni events in the area you are visiting.

If you annually travel to the same location during the same time period, just one notice is required. If you travel to a different destination each year, please contact Alumni Relations each time you temporarily relocate.

Your name, telephone number, e-mail address, seasonal address, and the start and end dates for the period of your relocation are needed. The information can be submitted online at www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/update. Mail should be sent to Migrating Redbirds, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100.

Athletics

BASEBALL TEAM CLAIMS DUAL MISSOURI VALLEY CROWNS

Donning a soaked uniform and hat from the icy water jug that was just dumped on his head, first-year Illinois State baseball coach Mark Kingston admitted that the Redbirds exceeded expectations in 2010.

"I don't think anyone saw this coming," Kingston said, after the Redbirds won their first State Farm Missouri Val-

ley Conference Tournament title since 1994. "I'm so proud of our guys."

ISU not only won the tournament, but also a share of the regular-season title. Since joining the Valley in 1982, the Redbirds had never before won the regular season title. "I hope everyone that has ever been connected to the program takes pride in this accomplishment," said Kingston, who received the Valley Coach of the Year award.

After beating Wichita State 17-8 to clinch the State Farm Valley Tournament championship, the Redbirds advanced to the NCAA regionals in Louisville, Kentucky. ISU won its first NCAA Tournament game since 1976 by beating St. Louis, 8-3. They were eliminated by Vanderbilt, ending the 2010 season with a 32-24 overall record, which marked the most wins for Redbird baseball since 1999.

Along with the Valley titles, Redbird second baseman Kevin Tokarski was named the Joe Carter Valley Player of the Year and the Valley Tournament MVP. Tokarski garnered three All-America awards, joining five other Redbirds as All-Valley regular-season and tournament selections.

MAKE PLANS NOW TO BE PART OF ANNUAL MARCH MADNESS

Alumni are encouraged to make the trip to the St. Louis area during the first two weekends of March to support the Redbird basketball teams. Be a part of the 2011 State Farm Missouri Valley Conference men's basketball tournament from March 3-6. The following weekend, March 10-13, return to the area and cheer on the ISU women's basketball team at Family Arena in St. Charles, Missouri.

Help "Spread the Red" in St. Louis as you join other alums in cheering on the Redbirds. Stay in the Millennium in downtown St. Louis, which serves as the Illinois State team hotel for the men. The women will be staying at the Sheraton Lakeside Chalet in Westport, Missouri.

Visit GoRedbirds.com for more information on either event, or call the Athletics Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000.

ATHLETICS SIMPLIFIES GAME DAY WITH ETICKET PURCHASE OPTION

Say goodbye to "will call" lines and eliminate the worry of having tickets lost in the mail. Now fans have the option of purchasing at home single-game Redbird tickets, which can then be printed via the GoRedbirds.com website.

After completing an online purchase, two e-mails are sent. The first is the print-at-home message with tickets attached, while the second is the order confirmation. Each electronic ticket contains a unique barcode that is scanned at the event.

Tickets may also be purchased by calling (309) 438-8000.

STUDENTS PRODUCE NATION'S BEST BASKETBALL PROGRAM

For the second time in three years and for the fourth time since 2000, the official Illinois State men's basketball game-day program was voted the best in the nation in the annual publications contest conducted by the College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA).

Athletics Media Relations graduate assistants Kevin McCarty and Lauren Hutchcraft coedited the program, which

finished ahead of West Virginia and Missouri State. Since 2001 Illinois State's publications have earned 10 top-three finishes from CoSIDA, including five first-place finishes. This is the third straight year CoSIDA ranked the men's basketball game-day program among the top three nationally.

"Kevin and Lauren did a tremendous job on this publication. They raised the bar in desktop publishing, not only within our shop but nationally with the use of innovation through the quick response codes," said Illinois State Associate Athletics Director for Media Relations Todd Kober '97, M.S. '99. "We take a lot of pride in our publications, and I'm really proud of both Kevin and Lauren with this well-deserved accomplishment."

The contest rankings were decided upon by judging in categories that included team information, change pages, feature material, graphics and design, editorial content, and additional information.

REDBIRD TAKES SEVENTH AT WORLD JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Nearly a month after claiming the shot put title at the 2010 United States Junior Outdoor Track and Field Championships, Brittany Smith of Oak Park was representing her country and Illinois State at the 13th International Association of Athletics Federations (IAAF) World Junior Championships in Moncton, Canada.

"It was a really exciting day and it was a lot of fun," Smith said after win-



ning the national title with a throw of 50 feet, 6.75 inches. "I felt really good in the shot put competition, and I am excited to compete in the shot put internationally."

Smith improved her effort by nearly three inches with a throw of 50 feet, 9.25 inches at the World Championships, and finished in seventh place. She recorded a throw of 51 feet, 11.75 inches in the qualifying round earlier that day.

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; fax to (309) 438-8411; or mail to Illinois State, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790-3420.

To the Editor,

I was very pleased to read that Illinois State University numbers among the top 15 percent of schools nationwide that support the educational endeavors of veterans (Winter 2009-2010). And yet, I am not surprised.

As a Navy petty officer stationed halfway around the world, every contact I made (by U.S. mail in those days, when it was available) was one of great help and encouragement, be it with the application process or obtaining the necessary documentation for being discharged a few weeks early in order to attend the fall semester.

Once I arrived on campus, I was afforded excellent advisement with registration, course selection, G.I. benefits, placement tests, and evaluation of credit for courses that I had taken while in the service. I was and remain deeply appreciative for all the help that Illinois State gave me as a veteran.

That I can read that Illinois State is continuing its fine tradition of service to veterans makes me proud to be an alumnus.

Stephen Pilewski '73

To the Editor,

I read your article about the Rites of Spring (Spring 2010) and it brought back a lot of fun memories. I was there for four of the fests and was really disappointed when the decision was made to stop the annual party, however, I did have to agree that many people abused the grounds and were irresponsible about their trash. The group of friends I shared those days with were very exacting in cleanup measures. We even brought a garbage bag with us to put our empties in. It was worth it for the free show.

Seeing those pictures and reading the story reminded me of how we were in the news that summer of 1977. I was working on the air at WGLT finishing up my final year for Ben Paxton when President Lloyd Watkins made his decision. His reasoning was very sound and could hardly be debated, but he was still disliked by those who enjoyed the Rites. After all he had just arrived at the campus days before his decision. How could he know there was no way to make the fest safe, or improve the sanitation, or even make it profitable? After all one year we held it in Hancock Stadium, and you certainly could charge admission there.

Thank you for the memories!

John Volpe '77

Editor's note: Many alumni have shared their Rites of Spring memories and photos on the Rites of Spring at Illinois State Facebook page. Let us hear from you! Log on today to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/rites.





Cradled in care

Young alum nurtures infants in their fight for life

BY TOMMY NAVICKAS '08

While her classmates hung out at movie theatres and football games, Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins '06 endured a battery of medical testing and treatments during her freshman year of high school. Chronic pain syndrome kept her in the hospital months at a time.

The experience was traumatic, yet there was a positive outcome. Jenkins eventually received a clean bill of health, and while fighting her illness she found her life's vocation: nursing.

Before her time in the hospital, Jenkins aspired to become a physician. She wanted to understand the way diseases affect the human body, and work to alleviate suffering. She was convinced medical school was the only way to reach that goal.

Her perspective changed during the course of her own treatment. Jenkins lost interest in the doctor's role as she realized the impressive and often underappreciated work of the nurses.

"I was a lot more comfortable with the way nurses approached a patient than did doctors," Jenkins said. "I think nurses look at the whole patient rather than just the medical issue in need of fixing. In my constant

interactions with the nurses, they took the time to know me and recognize my needs beyond just medicine."

The appeal of a holistic approach to healthcare prompted Jenkins to enroll in Illinois State's Menno-nite College of Nursing (MCN), where she gained a greater understanding of individual patient needs. She entered the program with an interest in neonatal care, which also arose in high school as she was entrusted to babysit a preemie during the child's first six months of life. She crossed the commencement stage equipped to pursue her passion.

"The biggest thing I got out of my MCN education was the critical thinking skills—to step back and look at the pieces of the picture. What is important is what you do with your brain, not your hands," she said. "They taught us all along to focus on a patient's culture, their spirituality. That was drilled into every class that we took, rather than just focusing on the medical issue."

The college also gave Jenkins a competitive advantage through work experience prior to graduation. Her stellar academic record resulted in three hospitals offering a nursing externship for the summer between

her junior and senior years. She chose OSF Saint Francis Medical Center in Peoria because it is equipped to care for the sickest of infants. For eight weeks she worked with a veteran nurse in the neonatal intensive care unit (NICU).

“The biggest thing I got out of my MCN education was the critical thinking skills—to step back and look at the pieces of the picture.”

“I would have been happy in any other related field, but from the minute I stepped foot into the neonatal intensive care unit, I knew I was home,” Jenkins said. “I learned so much through my externship, in terms of being able to manage patient situations. Saint Francis was wonderful in that they allowed me to take on as much responsibility as possible within the defined rules. By the time I finished the program that summer, I was able to take care of critical care babies with very little supervision.”

Jenkins was responsible for the assessment and technical nursing care of one to three infants, as well as education for the parents. She amazed her peers with an ability to stay calm under pressure—even when expected to care for critical babies weighing less than a pound. She so impressed the medical staff that when she applied for an R.N. position after graduating, Saint Francis hired her immediately.



Janessa (Stimpert) Jenkins '06, left, gained so much from her studies at Mennonite College of Nursing that she is excited to mentor others as they complete their education. Ashley Doering has gained practical knowledge working with Jenkins.

The hospital's Neonatal Clinical Nurse Educator Cheryl Colgan called Jenkins one of the best new graduates she ever worked with because of her strong work ethic, critical thinking, and advanced decision-making skills.

“Janessa is mature enough to speak up and interact with the neonatologists in the unit,” Colgan said. “She is very willing to work as a team player, and appreciates the role of each member of the NICU team and what they bring to patient care.”

Jenkins became such a valued caregiver that Saint Francis covered all of her expenses for a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program at Vanderbilt University. The program, which earned her a master's in nursing, helped fulfill an ambition Jenkins had possessed since first deciding between nursing and medical school.

“Being a nurse practitioner gave me the best of both worlds,” she said. “I would still be a nurse—I'll always be a nurse—but I'd also have the knowledge and the advanced skills to be able to take care of my patients on another level. I decided I wanted to do that at some point. The scholarships just fell in my lap.”

During the grueling 12-month program, Jenkins traveled to Vanderbilt for a week every other month while receiving hands-on training at Saint Francis. The work was in addition to her responsibilities as an R.N. in the hospital's NICU. Upon graduation Jenkins became a neonatal nurse practitioner, filling an important need in the new, tremendously larger NICU that Saint Francis opened in August of 2010.

She is now required to attend all high-risk deliveries, and is in charge of resuscitating newborns on the hospital's new 60-bed neonatal wing. Beyond handling advanced procedures such as central lines and intubations, she has a caseload of eight to 12 critical care infants.

Every day she makes rounds with the doctors, appraising each patient's situation by checking lab results, optimizing ventilator settings, and adjusting medication. She then presents a 24-hour treatment plan to the patient's interdisciplinary NICU team. Team members most often include a doctor, nurse, dietician, social worker, physical therapist—and the patients' parents.

Bringing the family into the decision-making process is a departure from paternalistic medicine. The approach to patient care is so new that other units within Saint Francis come to observe the team meetings.

“Patient care is evolving now that people have access to so much information,” Jenkins said. “We have people come in and say ‘What about this? Have you tried this treatment?’ Twenty years ago they wouldn't have known that kind of treatment even existed.”

Jenkins excels at providing helpful communication to patient families, and her colleagues have noticed.



Jenkins bonds with parents as she nurtures newborns. Erin Shinnick '06 and her son, Jack, are among the many families who have been blessed by Jenkins as they go through the stressful time of caring for a critically ill infant.

“She never shies away from conversations with parents who are struggling with how their child is doing in the NICU,” Colgan said. “Families acknowledge Janessa in follow-up phone calls positively. They appreciate the care and concern she has given to them and their infant.”

Her ability to put herself in the shoes of her patient’s family is one of Jenkins’ greatest strengths. “For every family, I think ‘What if this were my baby? And what if this were me?’” Jenkins said. “I take care of everybody in that way, and I think it shows.”

She is equally committed to nurturing those who are following her footsteps at MCN. Jenkins gladly serves as one of the hospital’s preceptors for Mennonite nursing students in the Parent Child Nursing course, providing the same guidance to students that she received. Her willingness to partner with her alma mater is greatly appreciated by the MCN faculty, including Instructional Assistant Professor Lynn Kennell.

“From the minute I stepped foot into the neonatal intensive care unit, I knew I was home.”

“Janessa has been very supportive in the program,” said Kennell, who observed Jenkins as a student and worked with her as a mentor in the Mennonite clinical lab. They are now professional partners through the NICU observational experience that MCN students complete.

“She is soft spoken, but when under her guidance the students need to know their stuff. We feel confident to send students to NICU at Saint Francis,” Kennell said, fondly recalling the days when Jenkins was in the nursing program.

“Janessa was a stellar student not just from an academic perspective,” Kennell said. “She wanted to expand

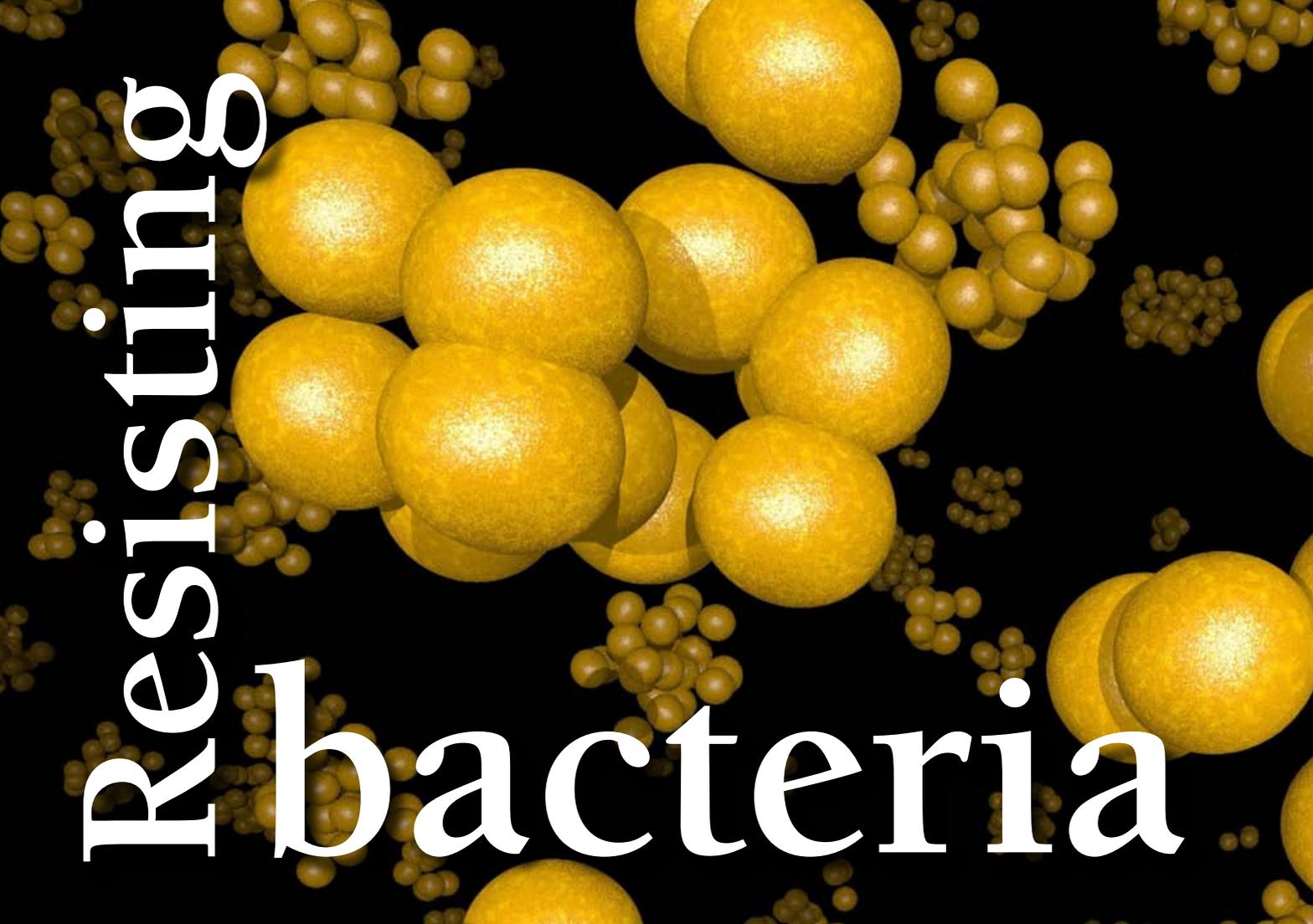
her knowledge of the pathophysiology and understand why implementation of certain interventions would help alleviate the problems. She is a very committed young lady, and is very serious about providing safe, compassionate care to babies and their families, and lifelong learning because she wants to be the best she can be.”

Illinois State formally recognized Jenkins’ dedication to the field of nursing in the spring, presenting her with Mennonite College of Nursing’s Young Alumni award. Jenkins was awed by the nurses who were in her company at the ceremony.

“To be there with so many great veteran nurses, have them congratulate me, and present me with an award was such a dichotomy,” Jenkins said. “I was thinking, ‘You have been in nursing for 60 years,’ and here I am with just four years experience.”

Jenkins obviously did belong. She was thanked by several nurses for her inspiring words as she shared her dedication to the field. Her reflections on the strong bond that inevitably forms with the patients and their families moved several in the audience to tears.

“It’s very difficult not to become attached, very difficult. I go to birthday parties, we have reunion picnics, and I get Christmas cards. But I also go to funerals,” Jenkins said. “That’s the real fact of the job. You have to do all those things. And you never know on a given day which one you’re going to have to do.”



Resisting bacteria

Research team seeks solution to **superbugs**

BY STEVEN BARCUS

While bacteria are all around us, Illinois State University's Science Laboratory Building is home to a particularly hazardous strain. Distinguished Professor Radheshyam K. Jayaswal is purposefully nurturing *Staphylococcus aureus* (*S. aureus*), which he and a team of colleagues and students within the Department of Biological Sciences are studying to unravel mysteries surrounding the superbug that can be fatal.

Staphylococcus (staph) is a common genus of bacteria that comprises some of the body's natural faunal; however, not all forms of staph are

tolerated by humans. *Staphylococcus aureus* is rapidly becoming immune to antibiotics. Specifically strains such as *Methicillin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (MRSA) and *Vancomycin-resistant Staphylococcus aureus* (VRSA) are difficult to treat.

The Center for Disease Control reports an estimated 94,360 invasive MRSA infections occurred in the United States in 2005 alone, with 18,650 deaths. The threat continues to grow through the misuse of prescribed drugs.

Jayaswal, who has obtained more than \$2 million in external funding for his research, is an international expert who advocates restrict-



Distinguished Professor of Biological Sciences Radheshyam Jayaswal is respected internationally for his research on the deadly bacteria *Staphylococcus aureus*, which is becoming resistant to antibiotics. The bacteria, *magnified left*, is named for its yellow hue and berry shape.

ing prescriptions. According to Jayaswal, “About 30 percent of prescriptions are unnecessary, but just to please the patient they are prescribed anyway. Sometimes doctors prescribe unnecessary medications because they want to avoid potential lawsuits. If they make a misdiagnosis and didn’t prescribe anything, they could be in trouble.”

Unnecessary antibiotics are consequently given for ailments that can typically be overcome by the body’s natural immune system, including minor viruses and the common cold. Bacteria exposed to the antibiotic may die, but exposure to an antibiotic over time may create a resistance in the next population of the bacterium.

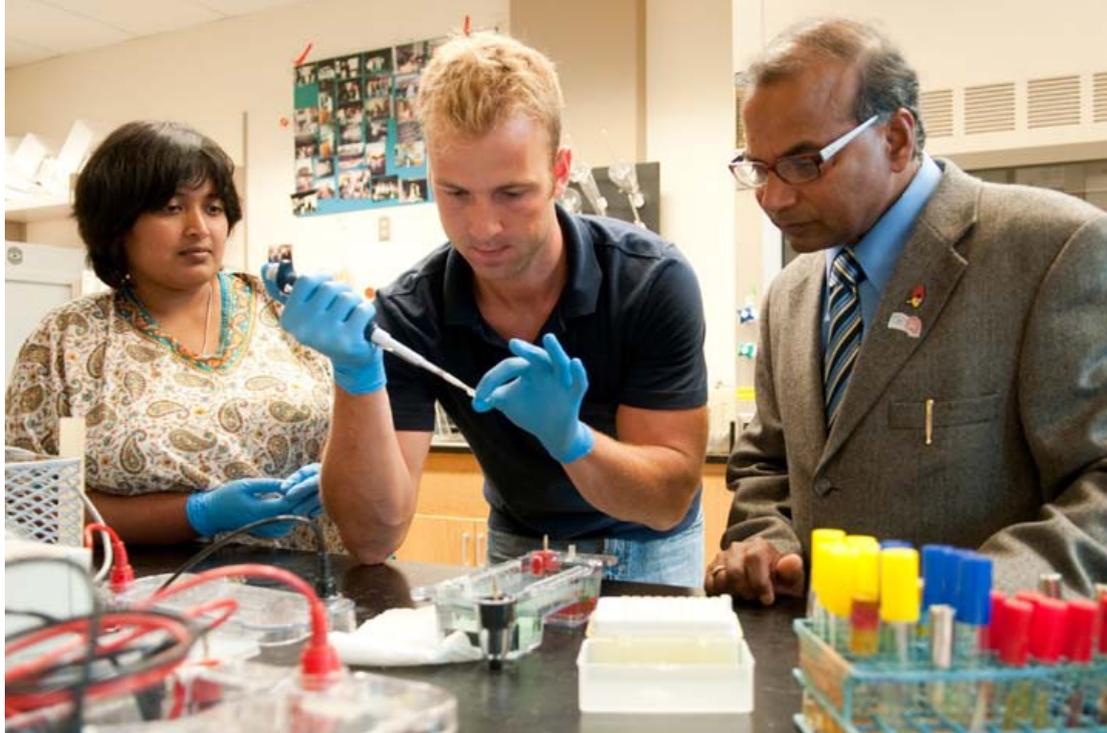
The problem is compounded by the fact that *S. aureus* is easily spread on such common items as a sink knob or a towel. Exposure results in a range of infections, from simple skin abscesses to

toxic shock syndrome, pneumonia, septic arthritis, endocarditis, and food poisoning.

Though *S. aureus* can live harmlessly on the surface of the skin, serious infections occur when it enters the blood stream. Infections are common in sterile environments, such as hospitals, even though medical staff strive to keep tools and rooms sterile and clean. The most minuscule amount of bacteria can result in an infection. The ease of which it can be transferred and the versatility of the bacteria make *S. aureus* the number one cause of hospital-acquired infections.

MRSA bacteria can infect skin, blood, bone, heart, and lungs. Because it is resistant to the antibiotic methicillin, MRSA infections require special antibiotics—if they are available. The same is true for VRSA, which is resistant to vancomycin and was identified in 1997. Jayaswal studied why this occurred and found that under pressure, the

Students are actively involved in Jayaswal's laboratory. Doctoral candidate Mrittika Sengupta from India and master's student Darren Wozniak from the Chicago suburbs work cautiously to avoid contact with the bacteria they are researching under Jayaswal's watch.



bacteria mutated several genes to become resistant to vancomycin.

“Since there was no parent strain from which it became resistant, we examined the difference between parent and resistant strains before comparing the VRSA obtained from a patient and our own parent strain,” Jayaswal said. Other studies were completed at the University of Chicago and Rockefeller Center in New York.

“We were all coming up with the same data and were getting published at the same time. Though we are a smaller school, we are getting the same regard that bigger schools are receiving, and got the same results. It makes you proud of your research and your school,” said Jayaswal, who came to Illinois State in 1988.

An undergraduate student of chemistry and physics at the University of Mumbai, Jayaswal joined the Tata Institute of Fundamental Research as a lab assistant. He completed a master's in molecular biology from Bombay University and his doctorate at Purdue University.

“My interest has always been in science, but as I grew my interest changed from medicine to microbiology,” he said. During his post-doctoral work at Purdue, he began exploring the molecular biological aspects of plant-microbial interactions. “From there my interests kept growing in the mechanism in disease development,” said Jayas-

wal, who passed on the opportunity to work for several biotech companies and preferred to do research at ISU.

“When I came to Illinois State one of my collaborators, Brian Wilkinson, was working on the physiological/biochemistry aspect of staph,” Jayaswal said. “We started working on the various aspects of staph and have been focusing on the mechanism of how drug resistance develops in the bacteria.”

Jayaswal has developed a master's sequence in biotechnology and a doctoral sequence in molecular and cellular biology while at Illinois State. He also obtained independent research funding through the National Institutes of Health, the American Heart Association, and the American Cancer Society. He has published 76 peer-reviewed articles in journals and has presented his research findings at conferences worldwide, becoming a respected voice on *S. aureus* internationally, particularly as the issue of antibiotic use becomes a global concern.

More than 70 percent of the antibiotics produced in the United States are given to animals to influence growth or protect against diseases. In this way, staph bacteria grows resistant through interacting with animals before finding its way to humans.

“When the bacteria are exposed to the antibiotics, they develop their resistance. If we don't

control the misuse of antibiotics, there will be a big problem,” Jayaswal said. He also warns that depending on pharmaceutical companies to produce new drugs is an unreliable strategy, as research on new antibiotics is rapidly being discontinued.

“It takes approximately one billion dollars to produce a new antibiotic. That includes research, testing, and FDA approval. It’s time consuming and can take 10 to 25 years before it gets to the pharmacy,” Jayaswal said. “When you spend so much time and money on a new antibiotic, and an antibiotic becomes resistant in two to three years, companies do not see the value for them.”

They instead focus on designer drugs, such as Lipitor and Viagra. These drugs can easily make back the substantial company investment and enjoy a much longer period on the market. The result is that the drugs methicillin and vancomycin, which are generally used to treat MRSA and VRSA infections, have few successors. Daptomycin can be used to treat both, but just as the bacteria eventually acquired a resistance to the first two drugs, it is only a matter of time before daptomycin becomes ineffective.

Despite studies showing the increasing resistance, little has been done at the government level to restrict the use of unnecessary medications. The Preservation of Antibiotics for Medical Treatment Act introduced in 2009 by New York Sen. Louise Slaughter calls for the Food and Drug Administration to review use of drugs on animals that are not sick. The bill has not been passed.

“Farmers lobby against the bill because they are concerned that if they do not continue the use of these antibiotics, the animals will die or not be as productive,” Jayaswal said. “Other lobbyists are from pharmaceutical companies themselves. They sell 70 percent to the farmers and don’t want to lose that money.”

On the state level California, Illinois, New Jersey, and Washington have passed bills that require hospitals to take measures to prevent the spread of MRSA by tracking, reporting, screening, and testing designated at-risk hospital inpatients for colonization and active infection.

“I think that every state should pass a similar bill that will restrict the spread of MRSA from the

“We have been using new technologies to look for similar problems in the future. We always expect new problems, and continue working toward the future.”



hospitals. As far as misuse is concerned, no state has done anything about that,” Jayaswal said. He noted that other countries such as Denmark and Norway have restricted antibiotic use in animals to situations where there is illness.

In the meantime Jayaswal continues to study various strains of staph to understand how they change to gain resistance. He welcomes students to his laboratory, supervising more than 50 undergraduates and serving as major professor to 23 graduate students. In an environment where even the slightest contact can cause infection, Jayaswal makes sure all of his students are protected.

“We minimize the risk to researchers by taking precautions. There is no eating or drinking. They have to wash their hands if they want to touch their nose and face. Any scratch or wound must be entirely covered,” Jayaswal said. “Whenever we do the experiments all strains are killed completely when we are done. Nothing is disposed of improperly. Everything is completely destroyed.”

With such strict precautions in place, Jayaswal’s lab has remained incident free in the quest to comprehend the minute molecules that can pose such an enormous threat. The work is daunting, but Jayaswal and his team are determined to win the fight.

“We have been using new technologies to look for similar problems in the future,” he said. “We always expect new problems, and continue working toward the future.”

Individuals are exposed to *Staphylococcus aureus* in a variety of ways, as the bacteria is easily spread. A range of infections will appear, with painful skin wounds a common problem.

MAKING HEADLINES

Sun-Times purchase puts business grad in the spotlight

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

When it comes to matters of money, it's hard to find anyone more savvy or successful than James Tyree '78, M.B.A. '80. Under his leadership as chairman and CEO, Mesirov Financial has flourished to become the largest independent financial services firm in Chicago. The company manages \$40 billion in assets and reported \$526 million in revenue at the end of fiscal year 2010.

And yet late last year Tyree made a personal investment that had his friends, peers, media commentators, and even a percentage of the general public wondering what he was thinking. He bought the Sun-Times Media Group Inc. out of bankruptcy, saving the *Chicago Sun-Times* and its sister publications from pending demise.

"Why in the world would you do that?" I heard that question a lot," Tyree said, and with good reason. Newspapers across the country are collapsing, hit hard by the nation's recession and a steady decline in readership numbers as the Internet offers news on demand for free.

The Media Group listed \$479 million in assets and \$801 million in liabilities when filing for bankruptcy in March of last year. Tyree assembled private investors who formed Sun-Times Media Holdings, LLC, and successfully bid \$25 million for the 58 suburban Chicago papers and websites, including the *Chicago Sun-Times*.

"It's a media company, not a newspaper," Tyree said, explaining that the investment team focused on content. Members pursued the deal



under Tyree's leadership with the belief that "there is tremendous opportunity and untapped potential" in the news business. They saved more than 1,800 jobs, as well as a legendary Chicago institution.

"There is high interest in high quality news that is very locally focused. It's critical for the community, whether it be sports, news, or just entertainment," Tyree said. "The problem is that the business model has evolved imperfectly and has to change. Content must become more mobile and interactive, and the print must merge with that. We need to create a new model. Status quo is no longer an option."

Tyree knows the transformation will be a painful process, but sees no limit to what the future holds. He conveys his optimism despite the industry's current struggles, comparing the anxiety surrounding newspapers now to what was felt more than a century ago as automobiles rolled onto U.S. roads.

"It was sad to see the horse and buggy go, but if you're in the business of transportation you know that business has continued to flourish."

The analogy reveals much about Tyree, who brings a common sense approach to mega-business deals. He has an innate gift to comprehend the big picture, and the courage to take calculated risks. Add his humor and work ethic to a love of life after facing death, and it's no wonder the kid once ostracized evolved into a man intent on helping others.

"I grew up dirt poor and hungry. I was the kid from the broken home that other kids weren't allowed to play with," Tyree said, recalling his childhood on Chicago's South Side. The youngest of seven, he and his mother shared a one-bedroom apartment during his high school years.

Too optimistic and driven to be defeated, Tyree was determined to get a college degree. Long before graduating from high school he was applying for financial aid and working various jobs to build a college fund. He took community college classes and tested out of courses to save money, making it possible for him to enroll at Illinois State as a sophomore.

He tried to play basketball and initially planned on a physical education degree. But Tyree also had enough experience from working retail in high school and at Bloomington's Eastland Mall as an undergraduate to know he was good in

the business world. Before long he was pursuing a business administration major with a concentration in finance. He also completed minors in accounting and economics.

"ISU was spectacular. Very few people could take advantage of a place from an academic stand-



point as I did. I searched out the hardest professors and found the greatest opportunities," Tyree said.

He finished in three years, staying during summer terms to keep his job at Campus Recreation, where he started by checking hand stamps as students entered. He rose to become the student director. With the help of faculty, Tyree applied to graduate schools, including Harvard and Stanford. He stayed two weeks at Indiana University before returning to Illinois State's M.B.A. program.

"They cut the financial assistance I needed, so I packed up and moved back to ISU," Tyree said. He went to work as a graduate assistant at Hamilton-Whitten halls, and soon became a full-time hall manager in Watterson Towers.

The downside to the promotion was a restriction that he could take no more than six hours

Dual alumnus James Tyree has deep roots in Chicago that go back to his childhood on the South Side. Today he works not only with a view of the city's skyline, *opposite page*, but a vision for the future of the *Chicago Sun-Times*, which he recently purchased.

Tyree has a deep appreciation for his Illinois State education, and maintains strong ties to the University. Invited back to campus in 2009 as the College of Business Week keynote speaker, Tyree reconnected with President Al Bowman, Assistant Provost Chuck McGuire, and Provost Sheri Everts.

"ISU was spectacular. Very few people could take advantage of a place from an academic standpoint as I did."

of classes while working the job. "I snuck into more, including a CPA review," Tyree admitted. He passed the exam, earned his M.B.A., and plunged into a job search.

"I wrote hundreds of letters," Tyree said, revealing that he "does everything in extremes."



Tyree's drive and work ethic lead to long hours in his office at Mesirow Financial, above, where he serves as chairman and CEO. While his business endeavors often make headlines, the purchase of the *Chicago Sun-Times* was especially big news in the Windy City, below.

With job offers in New York, Indiana, and Chicago, he chose a research analyst position at Mesirow Financial.

"I showed up on my first day wearing a J.C. Penney suit that I bought for \$49. It had a reversible vest. Since I had to allocate what little money I had, I bought boots so I could still wear my white gym socks," he recalled. "I had \$1.69 for my lunch, which was a cheeseburger, fries, and a soda."

That was 1980. Tyree never left the company and in the 30 years since has worked his way to the top while battling diabetes so severe it nearly took his life. His heart has stopped, he's been temporarily blinded, and he has no feeling below his knees. A kidney and pancreas transplant nearly four years ago proved miraculous.

"I never knew what it felt like to feel well," Tyree said. At 53 he is more energized than ever as he runs a firm that includes a business ranked in the nation's top 30 independent insurance consultants, with more than \$1.5 billion in premium volume.

Founded in 1937, Mesirow Financial has become a multi-asset class money manager of assets for institutions and an investment advisor for private clients. With \$300 million in firm capital, the employee-owned firm has remained

consistently profitable, even during the recent economic turmoil.

One reason is the company's purposeful diversification into four main divisions of investment management, global markets, insurance services, and consulting. Another is the commitment of the 1,200 employees in offices around the world. Tyree values their expertise so much that he became a client to complete the *Sun-Times* deal.

"The secret is you've got to work with great people and lead by example," Tyree said. And he does, consistently putting in 14-hour days that still include time for his wife, Eve, and their children: Jessica, 11; and 9-year-old twins, Joseph and Matthew.

He indirectly nurtures myriad others as well through a strong commitment to give of his time and money, especially through his work with the Juvenile Diabetes Research Foundation International for more than two decades. Tyree chaired a \$1 billion campaign for the organization that is working to find a cure for the disease.

He has been on more than 50 corporate, civic, and not-for-profit boards. Education remains critically important to Tyree, who served a 10-year term as chairman of the Board of City Colleges of Chicago by Mayor Daley. The organization oversees seven colleges and more than 121,000 students. He's also chaired the Chicagoland Chamber of Commerce for three years.

"I get up everyday smiling. I have been blessed so many different times that I am driven to help," Tyree said. "I am the sum total of everybody I meet. I emulate the good and forget the bad."

He counts those he met at Illinois State as among the best, and remains loyal to the University. A Distinguished Alumni Award recipient, he sits on the Foundation board and is a donor. He is a member of the College of Business Hall of Fame as well, and a strong advocate of the college.

Tyree returned to campus in 2009 as the Business Week keynote speaker, eager to encourage students to learn how to learn and then build on their "spectacular education." He used his own life experiences to attest that Illinois State students have the strong foundation needed to walk into the workplace with confidence, courage, and the belief that there is no limit to what tomorrow can bring.



WEB EXTRA

Hear James Tyree reflect on his years at Illinois State. View a video clip online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.

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2009-2010



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Foundation



Darrell and Karen Kehl are bolstering the Redbirds.



Hailey Kelley



Knowing others are dreaming big for us will hopefully encourage us to go into another season dreaming big.”

The Kehls thought the locker room project would be a way to recognize the Redbirds and honor their daughter’s love of the game.

“We’re proud of our daughter, Jami, her husband, Greg, and our granddaughters Falyn and Avery,” Darrell said.

And Illinois State’s values mirror those of his family.

“We were taught by our parents to share our good luck in life. We’ve been a little bit lucky and it was just a match. We’ve stayed close to ISU because it hasn’t lost its values or

principles. They believe in student athletes and that aligns with the values we have. I respect what they’re trying to do with the athletic program, but more I respect what ISU wants to be as a university and academics come first.”

When the volleyball season began this fall, the Kehls were in the stands. And when the locker room is finished, they’ll walk through the narrow hallways in the lower level of the Arena to see what their gift made possible.

“ISU volleyball is a great tradition,” Darrell Kehl said. “It has a great future and it’s fun to be part of that.”

FOR THE LOVE OF THE GAME

The Redbird volleyball players have needed something for a long time – their own locker room. And one family is making a gift that will finally enable them to gather in their own space.

The team has shared a locker room with the women’s basketball players, but that’s about to change with the Jami Kehl Head Volleyball Locker Room.

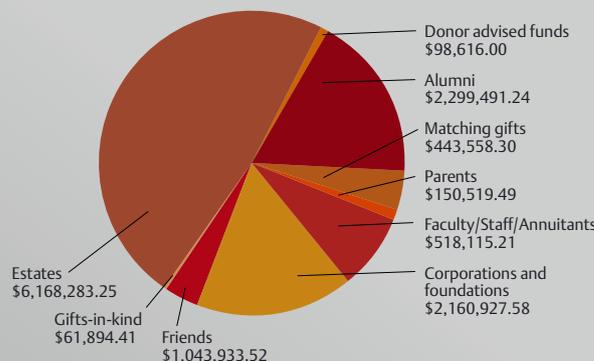
Darrell ’64 and Karen Kehl named the project for their daughter, Jami, who played and coached volleyball in high school and came to Illinois State to earn a second degree in 1997.

Senior volleyball player Hailey Kelley said the team spends a lot of time in the locker room, whether it’s mentally preparing for a game, watching film, celebrating a win, or recovering from a tough loss.

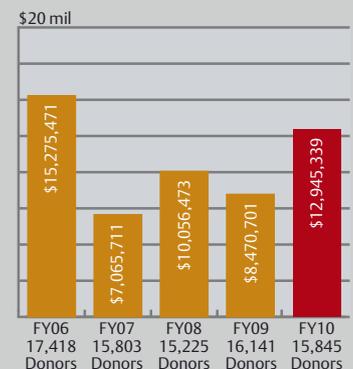
“A lot of relationships are born in that locker room,” she said. “A lot of emotions are expressed in that locker room. There are some serious, intense times in there.

The purpose of the Illinois State University Foundation is to assist in developing and increasing educational opportunities and the facilities of Illinois State University and to receive, hold, and administer gifts with the primary objective of serving the education purposes of the University.

FY10 Summary of gifts by donor category



Gifts and number of donors





Sandy Broers Jurgens gives struggling students a hand.

RIPPLING EFFECTS OF A SCHOLARSHIP

After 10 long years of attending night classes at a community college, Sandy Broers Jurgens '97 was ready to get her bachelor's degree.

She chose Illinois State University, even though it was a one-hour commute, because she was familiar with the campus and she had relatives who graduated from ISU.

The empty-nester was in her mid-40s and recently divorced. After working all day, she drove to classes two nights a week for five years. Her goal was to graduate before she turned 50.

Last spring she stood in front of Fell Hall and talked about how fortunate she was as a nontraditional student. She had a secure job, a supportive boss and good friends, including one who was always

ready with a cup of tea and conversation during late night visits on the way home from class.

In her senior year, Jurgens received the Scott Scholarship, which helped her pay for books and gas and inspired her to establish a scholarship for nontraditional female students.

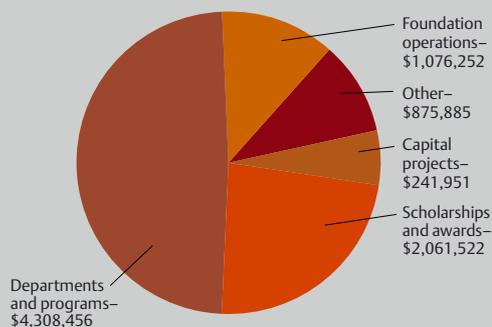
"That scholarship meant a great deal to me," she said. "There are a lot of women like me who didn't go to college when they should have. After a divorce, when they're on their own and they find out they need a degree, it's difficult to go back. I'd like to help them."

And she will. Through a bequest, she's established The Sandra Broers Jurgens Endowed Scholarship. Her daughter, Beth, also received a scholarship, a bequest from a teacher who lived through the Depression and died in the 1930s but left money for a scholarship for Magnolia Township students.

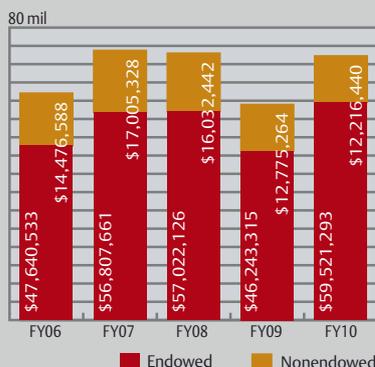
"We all want to make a difference in this world," Jurgens said. "And I found, through the scholarship I received and a scholarship my daughter received, that by leaving money for education you have the opportunity to affect many lives. The ripples go on forever."

Now a tax specialist for the Illinois Department of Revenue, she wants to help women who face the same struggles she has.

FY10 Foundation expenditures



Long-term investments market value



Each and every gift to the University is appreciated. In order to make wise use of our resources and be environmentally friendly, our Honor Roll of donors is located on the University Advancement website, www.Advancement.ilstu.edu. If your name appears in the online listing and you do not wish for it to appear there, please accept our apologies and contact Kathy Alexander, director of Stewardship, at (309) 438-5711 or kkalexa@IllinoisState.edu.



GLADLY SUPPORTING CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Elaine (Hakey) Cushman '58 grew up in a poor mining town. If not for scholarships, she wouldn't have been able to come to Illinois State University.

She also wouldn't have met her husband Roger '62, been launched into an education career, or still be involved with the University nearly 60 years later. Now that she is a donor the roles have been reversed, and she proudly gives students the same opportunities she had.

"We've received so much from ISU, our education, our livelihood, our entertainment, everything, so it's just a matter of giving back," she said.

The Cushmans met in September 1952, just weeks after Elaine arrived on campus. They have been involved with Illinois State ever since. For Roger, the choice to become a Redbird was one of the best he ever made.

"It's family. It's just been such an important part of our lives," he said. "I owe basically everything good in my life to the University."

The Cushmans moved to Missouri in 1963 so Roger could pursue his master's degree in journalism at the University of Missouri-Columbia. They jumped at the opportunity to come back to Illinois State in 1966 when Roger was hired as sports information director at Illinois State.

"We didn't hesitate, not at all," Elaine said. "We never once regretted coming back."

Roger left that position in 1980 to become Illinois State's director of news service, retiring in 1995. Elaine taught in Normal's Unit 5 school district until 1991.

The couple donates to the Redbird Club, Senior Professionals, Friends of the Arts, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival. For them, donating is a way to attract students to the University while keeping programs they love alive.

Senior Professionals is an organization that brings together retirees from the campus and the community, students, and faculty. Started in 1989 by Charles Bolen, former dean of the College of Fine Arts, it offers creative learning experiences, social interaction, and mentoring opportunities.

Anita Revelle, director of Senior Professionals, said it allows retirees to see what is going on in college life while allowing students to see what it is like in the professional world.



Roger and Elaine (Hakey) Cushman fund Senior Professionals.



"It's a way to open a door for that intergenerational interaction," Revelle said.

Roger recently went to a meeting expecting to fill the role of mentor and teacher. What happened was a bit of a surprise to him.

"I thought I might go to that meeting giving some of my knowledge. What I soon discovered was that these students are so sharp that I was learning more from them than they were learning from me."



Dave and Karen (Ropp) Magers support nursing and insurance students.

FUELING PASSIONS THROUGH BEQUESTS

Leave things better than you found them. That is the personal motto of Dave Magers '77, '86 M.B.A., and Karen (Ropp) Magers, RN, '79.

"That's the way the world improves," Dave said. "I've seen great improvements at ISU, and that's because people before us have left things better than they found them."

Born in Paxton and raised in Normal, Dave became close to the University through athletic and campus events, even before his first day of classes. Unsure of what he would study when he first attended Illinois State, Dave found his love for business by working as a night auditor for a local hotel.

"Like every other 14-year-old, I originally thought my career was going to be professional basketball," he said. "I walked over to the North Gym one day and started playing with a kid named Doug Collins. And I found out very quickly that I was not going to play professional basketball!"

Karen, who grew up in Bellflower, came to Illinois State to study nursing. While some nurses can take years to find their niche in the field, Karen found hers right away.

"There are so many sub specialties, and I was lucky to find what I love right out of school—ophthalmology and eye surgery," she said. "Whenever I have the opportunity to share that with students I do so."

Dave is chief financial officer of COUNTRY Financial and Karen is director of the Bloomington Eye Institute. Both continue to share their passions with Illinois State as they return to visit with students or serve in leadership roles. Dave serves on the Katie School Advisory Board of Executives and the Community Partners Committee. Karen works with the Mennonite College

of Nursing Alumni Organization. The Magers also will serve on Mennonite's inaugural community advisory board.

"We have a top-notch college of nursing," Karen said. "A lot of the community may know of the college, but may not realize the level of excellence of the nurses produced. If we can show people that, they might become more involved. That's why it's important to get the word out about what we actually have here."

"Everything continues to improve from when I was here, and it was a great institution then," Dave added. "As other alumni look at the University, what it has provided, it becomes apparent that the only way it continues to improve is if we all give back."

These sentiments have caused the Magers to create two scholarships through bequests: The David and Karen Magers Insurance Scholarship, and The Karen and David Magers Scholarship. The scholarships target students who are in the insurance and nursing fields, have records of high academic achievement, and are from small communities.

"I'm glad to be connected with a college of nursing that has such a reputation of excellence, and glad that I can still contribute to that and help them maintain the legacy," Karen said.

There is no doubt the couple is making Illinois State an even better place than when they found their passions here. "We're proud to be a part of ISU and to continue to be a part of ISU," said Dave. "It's a great institution; it has world-class academics, athletics is fun and exciting and competitive. Top to bottom it's a great institution."





Sam Van Scoyoc, Art Adams, and Dale Sutter, from left, united to help fine arts students.



LIFELONG FRIENDSHIPS SPARK SCHOLARSHIP

Nothing was sacred when it came to the Blackfriars.

The male-only organization that produced an annual show wrapped in satire was blamed for everything from footprints on the Old Main dome to a missing birdcage after the lights suddenly went out in the Old Union's Cage restaurant.

The social organization was as Greek as it could get, building loyalty at a time when fraternal organizations were not allowed on campus, from 1934 to the late 1960s. When the Greek community took shape the group disbanded, but the lifelong friendships never did. That's why the Blackfriar Scholarship still exists today.

On a late May afternoon three former Blackfriars, all neighbors, sat in the sunroom at the home of Art Adams '50, M.S. '51. Alongside him were Dale Sutter '61 and Sam Van Scoyoc '66, who said the friars probably earned their reputation as pranksters.

"They were pretty creative in a lot of different ways," Van Scoyoc said, chuckling.

"We had a real commitment to fun," Adams added, mentioning that when they needed a door prize at the annual show, they gave away a door.

"Those friendships have lasted," said Sutter, looking through old photos. "I still have almost daily contact with some of these people."

A few years ago the three decided to endow a scholarship, making phone calls and sending out letters and e-mails to former friars to raise \$20,000. The scholarship is awarded to a fine arts student. It didn't take long to raise the funds, Van Scoyoc said. Once again, the friars shared a common purpose.

"We were an integral part of the campus, and we're getting to the point where somebody's not going to know who the friars were or even care," he said. "We wanted to give the name the ability to be out there for awhile."

Knowing the name will go on forever, "that's a nice feeling," he said. "Something that meant a lot to us while we were at ISU, that name is going to be there forever."

Editor's note: This article was written based on interviews conducted early in the year. Sadly, Sam Van Scoyoc '66 and Art Adams '50 passed away during the summer of 2010.



Willie Brown's gift empowers a College of Business student.

FEEDING DREAMS

Willie Brown '73 was dropping spoonfuls of batter on a grill when the owner of the Pancake House suggested he take a few college classes because the business might be sold.

With that encouragement from Louie Striegel, he signed up for six hours at Illinois State University, which turned into 12 hours, which turned into a degree in business administration. That launched a 38-year career that ended with Brown's retirement as State Farm Insurance Companies executive vice president and member of the Chairman's Council.



And now he intends to pay it forward. "Somebody believed in me," he said. "I had a lot of help along the way."

Brown recently established the Willie Brown Endowed Scholarship Fund, which will provide support for an African-American student or any nontraditional student majoring in business.

"My intent is to be able to offer some help when a little help is needed," he said. "There are plenty of people going to school just like I did who are working but finding time to take four hours here or six hours there because they have a dream. I want this scholarship to be able to help them. I hope that it makes a difference in some individual's life the way education has made a difference in my life."

Brown has stayed connected to Illinois State through his leadership on the College of Business and College of Arts and Sciences advisory boards. He also stops in classrooms to talk to students, and has provided countless mentoring experiences.

"ISU has been so good to me," he said. "It's been the cornerstone for my success. I have an opportunity to give back right here in my hometown and be involved with the University, and it's just a natural fit for me. The beautiful thing about it is sometimes you don't even know who you've helped, but you know that somewhere along the line maybe you gave someone a helping hand that made all the difference."



Trevor Grant's scholarship eases the load for an economics student.

A FIGHTING LEGACY

Trevor Grant '10 always manages to set himself apart from the crowd and at 25, he's already left a legacy to the Illinois State University. A couple of them.



During the University's first football game against the University of Illinois in 2003, Grant helped the Redbirds hold their own against the Illini. As the Reggie Redbird mascot, Grant led the crowd in cheering the Redbirds. The team set records in the Illini's Memorial Stadium, putting up a fierce fight against the Big 10 team.

"Our team comes in and starts setting records in their own house. It was wild," Grant said.

Off the field, he served as a combat medic in the National Guard, seeing to the safety of his fellow soldiers while in hostile territory. His service earned him numerous awards, including an Army Commendation Medal, the Global War on Terror Medal, and a NATO Service Medal.

While other soldiers used their precious free time watching DVDs or playing games, Grant had his nose buried in textbooks. He completed his capstone paper focusing on war and defense economics as they relate to conflict theory. The paper was presented at the Midwest Economics Association—a first for an undergraduate Illinois State economics major.

What most do not know is that Grant set himself apart from his peers yet again before leaving for his tour in Afghanistan. He created the Trevor Grant Endowed Scholarship. The scholarship will provide support to a student majoring in economics who has a proven academic record and is involved in community service.

The scholarship ensures that Grant's legacy will live on through future economics students. It also completes a circle of giving. Grant benefited from a donor's kindness himself as an undergraduate who received a scholarship from the Scott Elliott Endowment in Economics.





Kate Norcross benefited from the scholarship created by Neil Styczynski.

MATCHING DREAMS

It didn't take long for the retired IBM sales representative to realize he wouldn't be getting the highest grade in his Spanish class. A homeschooled student was picking up the language effortlessly, and Neil Styczynski was humbled by Kate Norcross.

Although she was working her way through school, Kate was always prepared for class and attacked her lessons. The father of four was impressed.

"Here was someone who was highly motivated and I thought, 'How do you develop that? How do you reward it?'"

On breaks they'd sit at a table and chat, and he found out she planned to transfer to Illinois State to study education. She planned to finance it through student loans and two jobs, one as a Spanish tutor. Styczynski talked to his wife, Joan, about how they might help such students. The couple decided to establish an Illinois State scholarship for transfer students who wanted to teach and demonstrated financial need. The second year it was awarded, Norcross received it.

"It was very clear to me Kate not only had what it took, but had something special," he said. "I don't think she knows what her limits are, and I was looking for that kind of student. One of the things I wanted the scholarship to do was to bear fruit, not just develop one person but to develop a person who will open doors for other people. There are lots of deserving young people who need a chance, who have a passion for learning and a passion for teaching."

Norcross recently started graduate school and said the scholarship made that possible by giving her the freedom to focus on school and service work, which built her academic resume. She may become a college professor.

"A gift like this makes every difference in the lives of students like me, who may be big on dreams but small on funds to realize those dreams," she said. "It helps students go into service professions like teaching without having the burden of debt. But it also gives scholarship recipients a real burden of responsibility. Realizing that these people believe in us and they want us to go out and help others really is an encouragement to stay the course, even when we encounter challenges."

The Styczynskis also credit their employers, IBM and State Farm Insurance Companies, with making the scholarship happen through matching gifts.

"When Kate looks at it, she's looking at full tuition. When I look at it, I'm looking at my donation, State Farm's donation, IBM's donation, and a small percentage of Uncle Sam's because of the tax benefit," he said. "That brings it down to it's not just rich people who can give. It's people who work for companies who have generous matching gift programs."

Norcross won't forget what that gift means.

"I'm really hoping that once I become an established teacher with more of an established income that I'll be able to someday financially help students that I might have," she said.

And Styczynski, who has a love of learning languages, also hopes to run into her again in another classroom.

"Someday she will be teaching me, and I look forward to that day," he said.

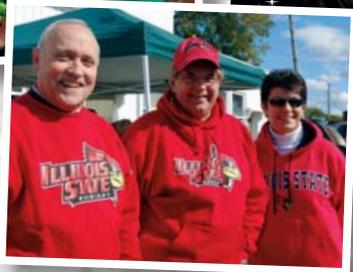
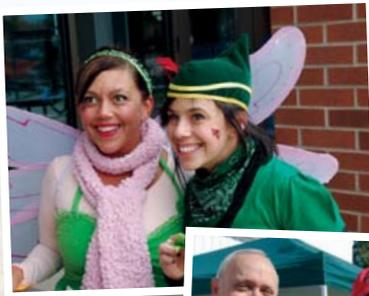


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The 90th Homecoming at Illinois State was celebrated October 11-17. Alumni, students, faculty, staff, and community members participated in a variety of events that included the annual parade in Uptown Normal, tailgating, a football game, and much more. The memorable moments were captured by photographers and can be seen in online photo albums, as well as a recap video. To view the albums, go to the Homecoming website using the address below. Mark your calendar now for next year's celebration, which will be held October 10-16, 2011.



IllinoisStateHomecoming.com

AlumniServices

Magazine column showcases the work of alumni authors

There are some graduates who are more than happy to escape the routine of reading and writing, which is such an integral part of collegiate life. JoAnna Stephens Mink '73, M.S. '75, D.A. '85, is not among them.

After completing her undergraduate work and two graduate degrees all in English at Illinois State, Mink went on to become an English professor and an author. Literature is her passion, and especially British literature.

As a professor at Minnesota State University in Mankato, Mink taught survey courses and graduate students. She lectured on topics that ranged from British and American women in literature to the Gothic tradition in British literature and family relationships in literature. Her research on the life and work of Thomas Hardy has made her an expert on the British writer.

She served as director of a program titled The England of Thomas Hardy and Jane Austen, a five-week summer course in England. She has served as docent at Max Gate, which is Thomas Hardy's home owned by the National Trust, and was archivist pro tem for the Hardy Society. She has authored numerous articles and given presentations at conferences in the U.S. and Great Britain on nineteenth-century authors.

Once again living in Normal, Mink actively volunteers with the ISU Alumni Association, the Heartland Theater, the board of Beyond Normal Films, and the Thomas Hardy Association Bibliographical Checklist. She is enjoying retirement, as it provides the opportunity to become familiar with even more authors—and especially the work of fellow Illinois State graduates. She reviews books by alumni and presents summaries in the Reggie Reads column, which is now an additional online feature of each issue of *Illinois State*.

Alumni who have had a book released by a publishing house within the past decade are encouraged to send their work to the Illinois State editor for possible inclusion in this column. An autographed copy is especially appreciated. Once reviewed each book will be added to a collection of work by other alums on display in the Alumni Center.

Having coedited several books herself, Mink appreciates the effort involved as a writer and editor. She is proud to be involved in acknowledging the work of Redbirds who are successful authors.



QUICK REFERENCE

RESOURCE:

Reggie Reads book column

CONTACT:

Susan Blystone
Illinois State editor
Illinois State Alumni Center
1101 N. Main Street
Normal, IL 61790

(309) 438-2667
sjblyst@illinoisstate.edu

WEBSITE:

www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/reads

A new magazine for a new year.

Watch your mailboxes in February 2011 for the all new *Illinois State*, recreated and redesigned just for you.



Where are they now?

Alumnus remembers caring Illinois State couple

Gary and Judy Fish exemplify why Illinois State can claim to be a place where faculty and staff care about students. Their kindness to Bill McMichael empowered him to finish his business administration degree in 1980. Personal interaction with students is what made an Illinois State career so meaningful for the couple.

Gary is a CPA who joined the accounting faculty in 1966. "I chose Illinois State because it was a great place of opportunity," he said, recalling how he helped build the curriculum and hire additional faculty. He even secured the department's first gift while teaching undergraduate and graduate classes.

Judy taught at the junior high level before joining the University's Academic Advisement Center in 1974. Both created a strong bond with their students up to the time of retirement, which was in 1996 for Judy and 1997 for Gary.

They continue to participate in campus activities, with Gary still involved in professional affiliations. The volunteer work allows for much travel. They also treasure time with family, which includes sons Terry, Rob, and Mike, as well as five grandchildren. Volunteer and church outreach is also an important part of their lives, as Gary and Judy continue to make it their mission to care for others.

Gary and Judy Fish, 1908 Oakwood Avenue, Bloomington, IL 61704
garyfish@ilstu.edu or judyfish@comcast.net

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, call (309) 438-2667, or mail to 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, IL 61790.



WEB EXTRA

Read more online about the years Gary and Judy dedicated to ISU students, including the details of how they helped Bill McMichael. Go to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.

ClassNotes

U-High alum dedicates himself to the cause of sexual violence

by Crystal Person-Tillman '07

Joshua Daniel Phillips '02 had no idea his life's work would turn out to be raising awareness for sexual violence.

A state champion wrestler at one of Illinois State's Laboratory Schools, University High School, he went on to Central Michigan University. There he joined a peer advocacy group that operated a 24-hour rape counseling line.



"At first I didn't know this issue was so prevalent," Phillips said. "But after hearing so many people's stories, I couldn't help but stay involved."

And he did, as an undergraduate and graduate student. Each fall he completed 60 hours of training and talked about sexual violence with students, organizations, and colleges as far away as Boston.

After graduating in 2006 with bachelor's degrees in broadcasting and the cinematic arts and world religion, Phillips worked in homeless shelters and after-school programs with Mission Year in Camden, New Jersey. He returned to Central Michigan and began his master's in communication, continuing his peer advocacy group work.

To raise awareness, he and a group of peers decided to walk the East Coast. They started the 1,800-mile journey from Miami to Boston in May of 2008 and crossed into Boston in July.

"We met a lot of survivors and heard a lot of stories," he said. "Out of the 85 days, we only pitched our tent five times. On most nights people either took us in or paid for a hotel room."

When they reached Connecticut, they were invited to stay with Sen. Chris Dodd and his family. The senator gave them a free night's stay at a Boston hotel, complete with massages and fine dining.

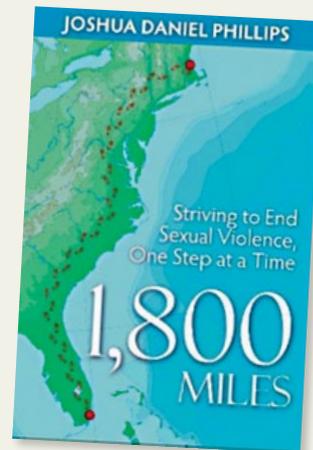
After completing his master's degree a semester later, Phillips found himself unemployed for six months. He decided to write about the stories he'd heard, unintentionally ending up with a book that reinforces the reality that "sexual violence is not just a college issue, it's a social issue. People don't seem to know about it."

The message he hopes readers take away is that you don't have to walk the East Coast to make a difference, just look around your community and get involved.



WEB EXTRA

Go online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine to the Reggie Reads column for a review of Phillips' book titled *1,800 Miles: Striving to End Sexual Violence One Step at a Time*.



30s

Lucille E. (Speers) Shurr '35 celebrated her 100th birthday in September. She taught in a one-room schoolhouse in Fairbury and retired from Pontiac Central Grade School after 35 years of teaching. She has twin sons, three living grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren. She resides in Iowa City, Iowa.

50s

Dorothy L. (Edwards) Moore '53 is retired and writing her memoirs. She resides in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Helen E. Sommers '58 stepped down after 45 years of service as choir director of the First Presbyterian Church in Berthoud, Colorado. She also taught elementary music and did substitute teaching in many areas at Berthoud High School. She and her husband, Jack, reside in Berthoud. They are the parents of three children.

60s

Lucy (Van Eman) Larson '60 and her husband, **Carl '61**, are the owners of Break Away To Southwest Florida, Inc. In business since 1995, they were honored in 2009 by the United States Chamber Association as Real Estate Managers-Best of Bonita Springs, where they reside.

Marsha Turner Hall '62 has retired. She and her husband, Lee, reside in Bourbonnais.

Linda K. (Pease) Powell '63 was selected by the *Moline Dispatch* and *Rock Island Argus* as a Master Teacher of 2010 after 40 years of teaching elementary and special education students. She continues to teach in the East Moline School District in the Quad Cities area. She and her husband, **Lanny C. '64, M.A. '67**, reside in East Moline.

Robert "Ray" Young '67 retired as associate vice president of graduate programs and research at California State University in Fullerton. He previously served as associate dean of the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, and chair of geography at Fullerton. Young was a 2008 recipient of the PEN Award from the California division of the American Planning Association for lifetime achievement in planning education and research. His wife, **M. Kiyo (Takakoshi) '67**, manages the university's speech and hearing clinic. They reside in Fullerton, California.

Rita Kohn, M.S. '68, authored *True Brew: A Guide to Craft Beer in Indiana*, which was published in 2010 and is her 20th book. She also authored two plays produced within the past year: *Before the Shadows Flee* and *Rich Lives*. She is a writer for *NUVO Newsweekly* and resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Carol Vaupel '68 retired from Open Hands Preschool after teaching 21 years. After receiving her degree, she taught in public schools in Ashton, Paw Paw, and Waterman for three years, and then in her home for 13 years. She and her husband, Denny, reside in Waterman.

Carolyn Copeland Wharton, M.S. '68, is a minister at Plymouth Heights Christian Reformed Church. She and her husband, William, reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They have 10 grandchildren.

James A. Swartz '69 is an agency manager for COUNTY Financial in Livingston, Ford, and Iroquois counties. He has worked for the company since 1976 and has been named to the distinguished COUNTRY Financial Hall of Fame, which is the highest honor a representative or agency manager can receive. A chartered life underwriter, Swartz has won national awards, including the National GAMA Management Award. He has served on the Agency Advisory Committee. He and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Watseka.

70s

Ronald L. Thomas, M.S. '70 is a retired high school teacher. He and his wife, Judith, reside in Salem. They have three sons and eight grandchildren.

Christine (Bacha) Guinther '71 was re-elected for a second term as president of the Missouri NEA. She is on leave from the Francis Howell School District to serve as president. She and her husband, William, reside in Lake Sherwood, Missouri.

Ronny C. Anderson '72 has been named chief of staff for the City Colleges of Chicago. He is responsible for working with the chancellor to develop policies that will affect 5,800 employees and 140,000 students at seven campuses. His 13 years as a staff member at Illinois State University in the areas of Admissions, Financial Aid, and Student Affairs was a significant part of his preparation to assume

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/update; 2) E-mail your news to 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, name at graduation and any name change, 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.

his new position. He resides in Glenwood.

Stephen M. Dyer '72 has retired from Richland Community College after 36 years of service. He was a professor of design engineering, coordinator of the welding department, and coordinator of Institutional Program Review. In 2006 he was named Faculty of the Year. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Hindsboro.

Hammed Ayodele Ibraheem '72 is a medical doctor. His family founded the first private medical university, EKO University of Medicine, in Nigeria. He and his wife, **Basirat (Abiola) '73**, reside in Nigeria.

Janet L. Kasbeer, M.S. '72, retired in 2005 and now substitute teaches in the Milwaukee public schools. She spends her summers golfing, taking her grandchildren camping, and traveling. She resides in Racine, Wisconsin.

Steve Burgauer '73, M.S. '74, published a book based on the memoirs of a WWII soldier. He and his wife, **Debra (Laaker) '74, Ph.D. '04**, reside in Peoria.

Gregg Davis '73, is a physician who received his M.B.A. from the University of Massachusetts in 2010. He is a member of Phi Kappa Phi and Beta Gamma Sigma. He resides in Princeton.

Craig M. Gilmore '73, is a CPCU and serves as State Farm Insurance Companies director of multicultural markets in the Great Lakes zone. He is also a member of the 100 Black Men of Chicago, Inc. He accepted the organization's Chairman's Award for Corporation of the Year in 2010 on behalf of State Farm in a ceremony earlier this year. He resides in Chicago.

Stephen J. Hagge '73 is executive vice president, chief operating officer, and secretary of Aptar-Groups, Inc. He has been elected as an independent director of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. He will serve as a Class II director and is expected to stand for re-election by stockholders at the company's 2013 annual meeting. He resides in Crystal Lake.

Sally John '73 taught middle school and is now the author of more than

15 novels that reflect contemporary life. Her passion is to create a fictional family, turn their world inside out, and then portray how their relationships change with each other and with God. She is a three-time finalist for the Christy Award and teaches writing workshops. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Oceanside, California.

Paula Stadeker '73 has retired from the Illinois State Board of Education after 30 years of service at the agency. She held various positions in several divisions, including grants management, external assurance, and vocational education. Her last position was as a principal consultant in the Department of Specialized Services. She also served for 12 years as president of the Illinois Federation of State Office Educators, Local 3236, IFT-AFT, which is the union for professionals at the Illinois State Board of Education. She is currently vice president of the executive board of the Illinois Federation of Teachers. She resides in Springfield.

John P. Flynn, M.A. '74, is a producer and artistic director who attended The London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art. He directed the multi-award-winning world premiere of *Henry Murray's Treefall*, and the critically acclaimed Los Angeles premiere of *Rogue Machine's* Inaugural production *Compleat Female Stage Beauty*. Flynn is *Rogue Machine's* founding artistic director, and has been the executive producer of all three successful seasons. He helmed the Craig Lucas' hit *Small Tragedies* at The Odyssey Theatre, and the world premiere of John Pollono's *Lost and Found* at the Lounge Theatre. The executive producer and director of Lifetime's award-winning series *Strong Medicine*, he has produced two other series and 14 television movies or miniseries—including the Emmy nominated *Burden of Proof*. He resides in Venice, California.

David K. Schauer '74, M.S. '81, is superintendent of the Kyrene School District in Arizona. The Kyrene Elementary School District is an award-winning suburban district comprised of 25 schools. He oversees more than 2,000 teachers, administrators, and staff. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dorothy (Feicke) Blake '75, M.S. '78, is program manager for the Greater Cincinnati World Affairs

Council. She and her husband, Alan, reside in Cincinnati, Ohio. **Rebecca Johnson '75**, is the director of the pathology residency training program and chair of pathology and clinical laboratories at Berkshire Medical Center in Pittsfield, Massachusetts. She is also clinical professor of pathology at the University of Massachusetts Medical School. She was named Southern Illinois University School of Medicine's Distinguished Alumni Award recipient for 2010. She completed fellowships in hematology/hematopathology at the National Institutes of Health at Bethesda and Hartford Hospital in Connecticut, and residencies in anatomic and clinical pathology at Baystate Medical Center in Massachusetts and Hartford Hospital. She resides in Richmond, Massachusetts.

Nancy Haenstein-Kleffman '76, M.S. '81, has retired from the Ortho Department at Peoria High School after working one-on-one with children facing physical disabilities. She taught there for 33 years.

Mary C. Heenana '76 received the Illinois Outstanding Citizen Award at the College of Lake County 2010 commencement ceremony. She is a news anchor/reporter at KRON-TV in San Francisco. In addition to many regional Emmys, she has won a national Emmy and a Peabody Award. She resides in San Jose, California.

James Taphorn '76 retired as assistant principal from the Rockton School District after 33 years. He spent his entire teaching career in Rockton. He steps aside after watching the district build two school buildings during his tenure—Whitman Post Elementary School and Stephen Mack Middle School—as well as a number of additions to Rockton Grade School. He resides in Rockton.

John T. Werthwein '76, M.S. '78, retired in December of 2009 after 33 years with the State of Illinois. He worked two years at Illinois State, two years at the Illinois Bureau of the Budget, and 28 years with the Illinois Department of Transportation. His wife, **Martha (Diderich) '76**, is a clinical chemist for St. John's Hospital. They reside in Springfield.

Stephen M. Collie '77, M.S. '78, is a senior lecturer of speech and associate director of forensics at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. He has served on numerous state, regional, and national forensics



There were many events during the summer that gave alumni an opportunity to reconnect. In June members of the Chicago Young Alumni Network enjoyed a beer tasting event. Among those who attended were Molly Arbogast '07 and Eric Ellison.

boards and committees, and is president of the Menomonie Theater Guild. He received the Grace Walsh Award and the AFA Distinguished Service Award, which he shared with his wife, **Susan J. (Kalasmiki) '78, M.S. '80**. She is also a senior lecturer of speech and the director of forensics at the University of Wisconsin-Stout. They reside in Menomonie, Wisconsin. **Kevin J. Doyle '77** is a CPCU serving as vice president of mergers and acquisitions for Arthur J. Gallagher. He has been with the company for 24 years. His sons, **Ryan '09 and Patrick '09**, graduated from Illinois State's Katie School of Insurance. They both work for Gallagher. His oldest son, Kevin, is an attorney for Gunty & McCarthy, Chicago. He and his wife, Christine, have been married more than 30 years and reside in Homer Glen. **Ron Kuhlmann '77** was inducted as a basketball official into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 2010. He began his officiating career as an intramural referee at Illinois State. He officiated for 34 years, working the IHSA state tournament finals three times. He was named NHFS Basketball Official of the Year in 2003. He and his wife, **Jenni '77**, reside in Beardstown. **Beth Lafenhagen Mathews '77** is a nurse practitioner in adult medicine for the Carle Physician Group, Champaign. She resides there with her husband, Jay. **Wayne P. Rosenwinkel '77** is chief investment officer for the Alliant Credit Union. He has served as senior vice president for Bank of America. He has also been vice

president of Alliant Credit Union Foundation, and served on the board of directors. He resides in Lombard.

Brian Frink '78 is an artist and professor at Minnesota State University. He received the school's 2010 Distinguished Faculty Scholar Award in recognition of his excellence in teaching and creative research. He and his partner, Wilbur Neushwander, reside in Mankato, Minnesota.

Stephen J. Heine '78, is a partner with the law firm of Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen. He has tried cases throughout the State of Illinois in the areas of trucking, railroad, automobile, professional liability, product liability, construction, and first-party property insurance claims. He is the past president of the Illinois Association of Defense Trial Counsel. Heine has been elected vice president of the Association of Defense Trial Attorneys. In 2011 he will be the president-elect, and will assume presidency of the organization in 2012. He resides in Peoria.

Michael Gibbons '79 has joined Indiana's farmer-owned Country-Mark Energy Resources, LLC, as vice president of production. He previously worked as engineering manager for local operations with Nobel Energy. He resides in Princeton, Indiana.

Ann C. Smock '79 left teaching in 2010 to become the chief editor in the communications department and the production of the Swinomish Tribal newspaper. She and her husband, David, reside in Anacortes, Washington.

80s

Don Perry, M.S. '80, retired as principal of Kennedy Junior High School after 13 years. During his tenure the school was named a National Blue Ribbon School by the U.S. Department of Education, a State Middle School to Watch twice by the National Middle School Association, and an Illinois Horizon School twice by the Illinois Association of Middle Schools. He has been an educator in District 203 since 1988, and for the past four years has been named an Illinois Award of Excellence winner. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Naperville.

Dennis Andrews '81 is the vice president of sales in the U.S.A. for Artisan Software Tools. He previously worked for Telelogic/I-Logix and managed the North American sales for the French software company, Verilog, where he increased sales 10-fold in five years. He resides in Plano, Texas.

Mildred T. Holmes '81 completed a master's in counseling education from Governors State University. She is a licensed clinical professional counselor serving as president for the Association for Multicultural Counseling. She is the counseling department chair and supervisor of counseling and advising at Joliet Junior College. She and her husband, William, reside in Joliet.

Peter Lynch '81, a Cozen O'Connor law firm member and Reserve Marine Lieutenant Colonel has returned from deployment to Afghanistan. He was a military advisor to the Afghan National Army (ANA) GS Legal based out of Kabul. He helped train security forces, judges, prosecutors, defense counsel and CID officers, assessing courthouses and detention facilities throughout Afghanistan. He was awarded a Defense Meritorious Service Medal. He was awarded a Bronze Star during his previous deployment as a member of the Operation Iraqi Freedom Forces. He resides in Indian Head Park.

Paul Slade '82 is president and CEO of Old Plank Trail Community Bank. He was an organizing member of the bank formed in 2006 with offices in Frankfort, Mokena, and New Lenox. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Frankfort. They are the parents of three children.

McKay Smith '82 was a 2010 inductee into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame. A graduate of Southeast High School, he is the school's former all-time leading scorer. He resides in Dallas, Texas.

John J. Buck '83 is national account manager with Bic Consumer Products. He has been with the company for 25 years. He and his wife, Adela, celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary in 2010. They reside in Monroe, Connecticut.

Catherine Hutchison Boyd '84 is a space planner/designer for bio-Mérieux, Inc., in Durham, North Carolina. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

Daniel Gartlan '84 is the cofounder and president of Stevens & Tate Marketing. He oversees the full-service advertising agency known for its creative, integrated message development and cost-effective media planning and execution. Prior to starting the agency in 1992 he held positions ranging from creative vice president to marketing director. He resides in West Chicago.

Glynis (Bryan) Gibson '84, M.S. '85, has been in business 19 years. She is president, CEO, and founder of Gibson Communications, Inc. She was named the 2009-2010 Outstanding Alum in Public Relations by the School of Communication at Illinois State University. She resides in Chicago.

Christine (Istambouli) Kirk '84 is a paralegal consultant in litigation, aviation and space, and intellectual property. She resides in Roswell, Georgia.

Alice A. (Kaufmann) Lowry '84 is senior tax manager for KPMG LLP. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Frisco, Texas.

Gary Canaday '85 received his M.B.A. degree from Southern Illinois University at Edwardsville. He is vice president and insurance sale executive for Huntington Bank. He and his wife, Natalie, reside in Dublin, Ohio.

Linda S. (Davidsmeyer) Hageman '85, '87, M.S.N. '98, is a family nurse practitioner at Quincy Medical Group. She and her husband, Tracy, reside in Rushville.

James M. Brown '86 is a Lieutenant Colonel with the United States Army, HQ's 1st Cavalry Division at Fort Hood, Texas. He and his wife, Roxanne, reside in Fort Hood.

Daniel Kilroy '86 earned his M.B.A. degree from DePaul University. He

Pause for applause

Teaching a world apart

Kevin Suess '99, '01, is among the nation's best high school history and geography instructors. He was one of six teachers across the U.S. awarded a 2010 Grosvenor Teacher Fellowship. Offered through Lindblad Expeditions and the National Geographic Society, the program welcomed teachers aboard the National Geographic Explorer to survey the Arctic Circle during the summer. The experience empowered Suess to further enrich his classroom. He will incorporate his photos of glaciers, polar bears, and blue whales into a Google project for his students. He is developing a videoconference to link his Normal Community High School classes with students in Nunavut.



The Photograph/Steve Smedley

Mastering the abstract

Abstractionist painter **Deborah (Muirhead) Dancy, M.S. '76, M.F.A. '79**, has had solo exhibitions across the country, with her work in the permanent collections of The Bellagio Hotel in Las Vegas; Detroit Institute of Arts; The Baltimore Museum of Art; and the Vanderbilt Museum of Art. The Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship award-winning artist has been covered by *The New York Times* and *The Boston Globe*. Dancy's newest work investigates the liminal world of space and place where in forms collide and transformed fragments merge, becoming new elements. Her paintings are on display through December 18 at the G.R. N'Namdi Gallery in Chicago.



WEB EXTRA

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums. Go online to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine and click on Reggie Reads.

Basking in rebounds

College of Business alumnus **Glenn Hudson '77** can take partial credit for helping to improve the talent of future NBA stars. The certified public accountant from Florida has invented the SKLZ Rapid Fire. The 14-foot net clips onto the bottom of a backboard and returns the ball to the player after every shot. The net can stretch to 13 feet wide, allowing the player to stay in the rhythm of shooting instead of chasing the ball. The invention was initially produced and shipped worldwide from Hudson's home. It is now available in retail sporting goods stores nationwide and online.



The Photograph/Steve Smedley

Keeping a Latin beat

Manny Cepeda '70 is an international Latin music expert. He took to the stage at age 7, performing in a Salsa Band televised in his native land of Puerto Rico. After completing his music education major, Cepeda joined the U.S. Navy music program. He traveled around the world during his three decades with the service, and led the famous Navy Steel Band. Now leader, vocalist, and composer for the band Ritmo Caribe, Cepeda lives and performs in California. He teaches at Grossmont College, has released CDs, and is making headlines, as his work has been showcased in the *International Musician*.



An Illinois State legacy

by Cassie Monroe

What was it like to attend Illinois State University more than 80 years ago? The Shurr family answers the question by asking their mother, grandmother, and great-grandmother Lucille—who reached the century mark in September.

Lucille Elizabeth (Speers) Shurr, born and raised in Odell, graduated in 1930 with a two-year degree in elementary education. She immediately began teaching all eight grade levels in a one-room schoolhouse in the Amish town of Cropsey. After a year she moved back to Odell to teach all eight grades at the school she had attended in her youth. In



An Illinois State connection goes back eight decades for the family of Lucille Elizabeth (Speers) Shurr, who graduated in 1930. She celebrated her 100th birthday in September with relatives, including son David Shurr '68, M.S. '70; and his wife, Barbara (Karstedt) '69.

1935 she began working at Pontiac Central Grade School (PCGS), where she retired as a third grade teacher in 1970 after 35 years of service.

“One grade is certainly easier to teach than the whole eight grades,” Lucille said. “Of course then they didn’t limit how many students you could have, so sometimes I would have 30 students in one grade.”

After moving to Pontiac, Lucille met Charles “Red” Shurr. They were married in 1941 and had twin sons, David and Donald Shurr. David followed in his mother’s footsteps and enrolled at Illinois State as a freshman in 1964.

“Both of my parents knew that for our generation college was going to open doors. They didn’t know which door it was going to open, but they knew it would open more doors,” David said.

While at the University, David met Barbara (Karstedt) Shurr. They married in 1968, the same year David received his bachelor’s degree in business administration education. He received his master’s degree in economics in 1970. Barbara completed her degree in 1969, becoming the first woman to graduate from the Economics Department.

Yet another graduate from the University was Lucille’s older sister, Grace (Speers) Jones, who received her teaching certificate in 1931 and her bachelor’s degree from Illinois State in 1935. Grace’s grandson, David Barker, teaches in the University’s Mathematics Department.

Lucille celebrated her 100th birthday at Oaknoll Retirement Residence in Iowa City, Iowa, where she moved in 1996 to be closer to her son Donald. The family event gave Lucille a chance to reflect on so many wonderful memories, including her start at Illinois State decades ago.



WEB EXTRA

Lucille Shurr has a vivid recollection of her teaching adventures, including the days spent in a one-room schoolhouse. Read more of her story online by going to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.

is senior vice president and chief financial officer at CUSO Financial Services, L.P., which is a full-service broker dealer and registered investment adviser entity. He resides in San Diego, California.

Stephen Schwelke '86 is a staff geologist for BCI Engineers & Scientists' forensic engineering and science group. He resides in Thonotosassa, Florida.

Kathy (Anderson) Loveland '88 is a teacher. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Wheaton with their two children.

Donald McKinney '88, M.S. '95, is superintendent of the Peotone Community Unit School District 207U. He was selected as the 2010 Principal of the Year by the Illinois Association of Principals for his work at Meadow View Elementary School in Plainfield.

Elizabeth Crowley O'Leary '88 is the video producer, director, and writer of award-winning broadcast and corporate projects for Crowley and Company. She and her husband, Patrick, were married in May of 2008. They reside in Chicago.

90s

Sandy Crowley '90 was named Barnes & Noble College Bookstores regional manager for the greater Chicago region. She resides in Naperville.

Amy Minton Thiery '90 is a special education teacher for the Creve Coeur School District 76. She and her husband, David, reside in Mapleton.

Mike Carney '91 is employed by Travel Ireland as the North American coordinator for the Emerald Cup International Soccer Tournament in Limerick, Ireland. He organizes the North American branding of the Youth Soccer Tournament, and group activity tours to Ireland and Scotland. He and his wife, Kate, reside in Springfield, Massachusetts.

Carol L. Cortilet-Albrecht '91, M.S. '93, completed a doctorate in educational psychology from National Louis University. She has been named associate vice chancellor for enrollment management at Purdue University Calumet. She will oversee the offices of admissions, financial aid, student accounts, and registrar. She will also manage the student assessment and testing area, the Office of Retention Strategies, and the Honors Program. She resides in Plainfield.

Xin Wang '91 is president of Elkton Investments LLC. He and his wife, Ping Hu, reside in Bethesda, Maryland.

Michael Bender '92 earned a master's degree in special education from Roosevelt University and is completing a master's in educational leadership from the American College of Education. He is athletic director at Maine East High School, Maine Township High School District 207. He is the softball coach at the high school, where he also teaches special education. He resides in Cary.

Nancy Gibson. C.A.S. '92, Ph.D. '96, has retired as superintendent of O'Fallon District 90. She came to O'Fallon from the Blue Ridge School District in Farmer City, where she was superintendent for three years. She will become a full-time associate professor at Concordia University in Chicago. She resides in O'Fallon.

Terrance P. Peeples '92 is an adjunct assistant professor of music at Lewis University and a professional musician in the Chicago area. He and his wife, Holly, reside in Channahon.

Shonette Sims '92 holds a master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University, where she is currently enrolled in a doctoral program. She is the principal for Harrison Street School. She has been employed with the district since 2004, when she was hired as dean of students at Geneva High School. She was later appointed the high school's assistant principal in 2005 and associate principal in 2007. She resides in Batavia.

Stacey Burris '93 joined CSE Software in 1997 and has held several roles in multiple departments, including support, quality assurance, and group leader of software development. In 2009 she took on the role of serious gaming project manager with the DBT software team. She will now spearhead the new development and expansion of the serious gaming simulation software development group. She resides in Metamora.

Leigh Schmidt Hayes '93, M.S. '09, is an early interventionist II for school-based services at Chestnut Health Systems. She provides counseling and supportive services to students within the school setting. She and her husband, Rick, reside in Downs.

Cathy Oloffson '93, M.S. '94, is the director of corporate learning and development at COUNTRY Finan-

cial, and is the current chair of the YWCA McLean County Board of Directors. She is also a member of the American Society for Training and Development, and serves on the advisory council for the Society for Insurance Trainers and Educators. She received the 2010 Emily Valluri Professional Development Award from the Bloomington-Normal Association for Women in Communications. She resides in Normal.

Andrew Velasquez III '93, M.S. '94, has been appointed by President Barack Obama to serve as FEMA regional administrator for Region V, which includes the Midwest. Velasquez has served as director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency since 2007. He has directed the response and recovery effort of more than 100 Illinois counties declared state disaster areas. He has also served as the state coordinating officer and the governor's authorized representative for eight presidential disaster declarations. He serves on the board of directors for the Central United States Earthquake Consortium. He resides in Chicago.

Jill Parcher Fraser '94 is vice president and Eastern regional manager of the Primary Casualty Division for Navigators Management Company. She is a member of the New York chapter of the Advancement of Professional Insurance Women, and volunteers for Tailor's Wildlife Rehabilitation Sanctuary. She and her husband, Trevor, reside in Stamford, Connecticut.

Deborah Gabhart Hogan '94, M.S. '09, is a teacher for the Champaign Unit 4 School District. She resides in Urbana.

Leslie Betz, M.B.A. '95, Ph.D. '09, was selected as registrar at Illinois Wesleyan University. She joins

Wesleyan after serving as the associate dean of the graduate school at Bradley University, coordinator of development at Heartland Community College, and an academic advisor and coordinator for the M.B.A. program at ISU. She resides in Carlock.

Michael O'Sullivan '95 earned a master's degree in graphic design from North Carolina State University. He is creative director for UBM Studios. He is responsible for developing creative strategy and managing day-to-day creative production for the UBM Studios Virtual Product Suite. He resides in Chicago.

Dan Phelps '95 is a musician. He resides in Rockford.

Jennifer (Gresens) House '96, M.S. '05, completed an advanced certificate in education at ISU in 2007. She is a clinical assistant professor and university supervisor at Illinois State. Her husband, **Jason '98**, is a budget analyst for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. They reside in Springfield.

Sharon R. Lenius Knobbe '96 started her own law firm. Knobbe, Laho, Gradishar & Mack, LLC, concentrates on family law and collections. She is the past president of the DuPage Justinian Society of Lawyers, current president of the DuPage Association of Women Lawyers, and the 2nd vice president of the DuPage County Bar Association. She has two daughters and resides in Plainfield.

Mark Kozlowski '96 has returned to the Oak Brook Police Department as a street patrol officer. He previously served as the fifth grade D.A.R.E. instructor and the Oak Brook Police Department crime prevention/community relations officer. He resides in Aurora.

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. Detailed information for all university events can be found on the University Calendar at www.Calendar.ilstu.edu.

Mark Specht '96 completed a master's of social work degree from the Brown School of Social Work at Washington University. He concentrated in environmental concerns, urban sustainability, and social economic development. He has since started his own energy efficiency business, Cool Roofs: St. Louis, LLC. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Brian Waddell '96 is a sales manager at MARCO N.P.K., Inc., in Clinton. He and his wife **Jill (Otto), M.S. '07**, reside in Normal.

Kern Wasan '96 is the associate director of business development at Global Private Funding, Inc. He resides in Santa Monica, California.

Kerry Cote '97 works in the Systems Learning Center at State Farm Insurance Companies and is an adviser to Illinois State sorority Chi Omega. She is the vice president of finance for the Bloomington-Normal Association for Women in Communications. Cote received the organization's 2010 Outstanding Chapter Member award. She resides in Bloomington.

Dawn Durr-Mormon '97 is an education specialist in parenting with the Women's Substance Abuse Treatment Center. She and her husband, Corey, are the parents of a daughter. Genesis Ava was born in August of 2009. They reside in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Patricia (Vitek) Furlanetto '97 received a master's in education from St. Xavier University. She is an early childhood special education teacher for Community Unit School District 300 in Carpentersville. She and her husband, John, are the parents of a daughter born in April of 2010. They reside in Streamwood.

Travis Lobbins '97 completed a master's degree in educational leadership from Aurora University. He is the principal of Barrington Middle School-Prairie Campus. He resides in McHenry.

Scott Roper '97 received a master's degree in educational leadership from Western Michigan University. He has been named the principal at Lapeer East High School after serving for five years as principal of Brown City Junior/Senior High School. He began his career as a middle school teacher. He went on to be a high school teacher and basketball coach at Schoolcraft Community Schools. He serves on the board of directors for the Michigan Association of Secondary

School Principals and committees for the Michigan High School Athletic Association. He resides in Brown City, Michigan.

Todd Bolhouse '98 is employee benefits/HRIS manager at AbelsonTaylor. He is a member of the



A Peoria Chiefs game was the setting for a summer reunion of Illinois State friends. The older alumni were in the ATO service fraternity and lived in a co-op house on Main Street. They started having reunions in 1968 and have reconnected every year, often including their children.

From left, front row, Don MacGregor '64, M.S. '70, Pekin; Bob Neal '68, M.S. '74, Pekin; Mark MacGregor '95, Peoria; Gloria (Chung) Neal '67, M.S. '80, Pekin; Lyle Hall '68, Seaton; and Nancy Whittington '65, Naperville. Back row, from left, Larry Jacob '72, and Alice (McGrath) Jacob '68, Monument, Colorado; David Currie '69, and Margaret (Wilcox) Currie '67, '87, Scottsdale, Arizona; and Charlene (Beneski) MacGregor '64, Pekin.

Society for Human Resources and the International Foundation of Employee Benefit Plans. He resides in Bolingbrook.

Jacob Gourley '98 earned a master's in educational leadership and administration from Chicago State University. He is completing a second master's in history at Illinois State. He is a social studies teacher at Thornton Fractional South High School. Gourley was selected as one of the 2010 recipients of The Golden Apple Award for excellence in teaching, and is the second individual in award history to win after being a previous Golden Apple Scholar. He resides in Lansing.

Joseph Jannazzo Jr. '98 has been promoted to agency manager for COUNTRY Financial in the Greater Milwaukee Agency. He and his wife, **Jennifer (Williams) '00**, are the parents of two daughters. They reside in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Jay Conforti '99 is vice president of business systems at HSBC in Mettawa. He and his wife, **Kris (Lewandowski) '01**, were married in September of 2009. She is a senior analyst for the Bank of New York-Mellon. They reside in Chicago.

Chris Eaves '99 is corporate communications manager for Ace Hardware Corporation. He and his wife, Kerry, have two daughters. Hannah Riley was born in the spring of 2010. They reside in Schaumburg.

Ryan Lawless '99 is an environmen-

West and the varsity assistant head coach and defensive coordinator. A former Redbird football player, he played a large role in the Hilltoppers Class 7A runner-up finish in 2009.

Anna Fahy '00 is a lower-tier profit and loss accountant for Caterpillar, Inc. She resides in Naperville.

Kathy Guthrie, M.S. '00, completed a doctorate in educational organization and leadership from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is an assistant professor in leadership studies at Florida State University. She was awarded the Outstanding Contribution to Student Affairs Award for the Southeastern United States. She resides in Tallahassee, Florida.

Megan (O'Donohue) Weber '00 is an athletic trainer. She and her husband, **Ryan '00**, reside in Galena.

Margaret (Gorski) Conaghan '01 completed a master's degree in teaching from Webster University. She teaches first grade in McHenry District 15. She and her husband, Douglas, were married in October of 2009. They reside in McHenry.

Zach Rambach '01 is a sales agent for AAA Insurance. He has performed at the Champion level for insurance sales in the Illinois/Indiana region since 2006, and reached the President Elite level annually since 2007. He was named the Insurance Sales Agent of the Year in 2009. His wife, **Rachel '02**, works in music therapy at The Hope Institute. They reside in Springfield.

Gia Pourroy Thompson '01, '09 has passed her Family Nurse Practitioner boards. She and her husband, Doug, reside in Chandler, Arizona.

Katie DeSerf Zeller '01 is a self-employed photographer. Her husband, **Seth '00**, is a project manager for Zeller Electric. They reside in El Paso.

Kevin Hanrahan '02 is a network administrator. His wife, **Anna (Manswaring) '01, M.S. '05**, is a teacher. They reside in Heyworth.

Stephanie M. Lara '02 is director of regulations at the National Stock Exchange in Chicago. She and her husband, David, were married in June of 2009. They reside in Chicago.

Marci (Hogan) Rockey '02, M.S. '05, is director of student life and college administrator at Lincoln Land Community College. Her husband, **William '02**, is a teacher for Mt. Zion schools. They reside in Macon.

Lisa M. Blimling '03 is a terrorism research specialist for the Illinois State Police. She resides in Springfield.

tal scientist at Hanson Professional Services, Inc. He and his wife, Colleen, were married in April of 2010. They reside in Springfield.

Nathan A. Pyatt '99 earned master's and doctorate degrees in ruminant nutrition from the University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana. He is a beef technical consultant for Elanco. He previously worked as manager of beef research for ADM. He resides in Monticello.

Jennifer Smith '99, M.M. '05, is musician first class for the United States Navy Band. She resides in Washington, D.C.

00s

Nicholas Chin '00 completed a master's degree in teaching English as a second/foreign language from Northeastern Illinois University. He is the middle school science, language arts, and mathematics teacher for Waukegan Public School District 60. He resides in Lincolnwood.

Jeremy Cordell '00 is the head varsity football coach and a physical education teacher at Glenbard South High School. He has served as assistant coach at Glenbard



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— Erika (Vedra) '08 and Matt Wilkerson '02



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LeAnn E. (Rocha) Bylo '03 is manager of global accounts for HelmsBriscoe. She and her husband, Ronald, reside in Knob Noster, Missouri. **Shanay Huerta '03, M.S. '05**, is an academic advisor at Danville Area Community College. She resides in Danville. **Mary Lake '03, M.S. '05**, is a speech pathologist working with children with autism, and children age 3 and younger to develop basic skills. She is employed at Early Intervention, Trinity Services, Kids Can Do. She resides in Oak Forest. **Jamie Leffelman '03** is the assistant director of marketing for Illinois State University Housing. She has been active in local organizations, including the Sunrise Speakers Toastmasters Club, Junior Achievement of Central Illinois, and is the immediate past-president of the Bloomington-Normal Association for Women in Communications. She received the organization's 2010 Outstanding Chapter Member of the Year award. She resides in Bloomington. **Rory Nolan '03, M.S. '05**, is principle consultant and project management analyst for Keane, Inc. He and his wife, Selena, reside in Bloomington. **Willie C. Sanders '03, M.S. '05**, is manager of housing technology at DePaul University. His wife, **Santresaj Johnson-Sanders '03, M.S. '05**, is a

manager at the University of Chicago. They reside in Matteson. **Brandt Whitehurst '03** graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2010. He is completing a general surgery residency at the University of Kansas School of Medicine. He and his wife, Angel, have twin sons. **Veronica Lynn '04** works for a nonprofit agency and spends her evenings and weekends performing with local theater companies in Chicago, including Live Wire, Right Brain Project, Artistic Home, and Kirk Players. She worked in New York with a children's theater, first as an intern and then as a teaching artist, before returning to Chicago. **Taren (O'Brien) Martin '04, M.S. '08**, is the women's basketball head coach for Eureka College. She previously served as the director of women's basketball operations at Illinois State. As a student-athlete at ISU, she received the Jill Hutchison Endowed Scholarship and the Jill Hutchison Coach's Award for leadership and performance. She and her husband, Patrick, are the parents of two children. They reside in Washington. **Timothy E. Adams '05** is a retired postal worker from the U.S. Postal Service. He and his wife, **Sharon J. (Garrelts) '74**, reside in Normal.

Melissa R. Flores Alcorn '05 is a homemaker. She and her husband, Neil, reside in Bloomington. **Penelope (deFrates) Baran '05** teaches first grade for Fieldcrest School District 6. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Minonk. **Justin Barrett '05** is in outside sales for Dynamic Fastener. He resides in Joliet. **Amy L. (Rau) Beintum '05** teaches seventh grade science to regular education students and those with IEP's for the School City of East Chicago. Her husband, **Jason '01, '04**, is an art teacher for Bloom High School. They reside in Homewood. **Matthew Biggs '05** is an IT analyst for OSF Healthcare. He resides in Peoria. **Phil Block '05** is a sales representative for Southern Wine & Spirits. He also has a blog about spirits. He resides in Chicago. **Teresha (Lewis) Bossingham '05** is an admissions officer at Illinois State. Her husband, **Charles '80**, works for LeRoy Fertilizer, Inc. They reside in LeRoy. **Kelly Jo Cardinal '05** is a bank teller for Heartland Bank and resides in Champaign. **Jennifer M. Carroll-Haas '05** is a licensed and certified athletic trainer with Select Medical. She is also the basketball and track and field coach for Clark County School Dis-

trict. Her husband, **Jeremy '99**, is an athletic trainer for Select Medical. They reside in Las Vegas, Nevada. **Sarah Corbin '05** is a marketing director for the Kingston Financial Group. She resides in Bloomington. **Jamie (Boeckmann) Fields '05** is a marketing coordinator for ApexNetwork Physical Therapy. She and her husband, Adam, reside in Breese. **Stefanie Freckelton '05** teaches first grade for the Chicago Public Schools. She resides in Chicago. **Connie A. (Sondgeroth) Gustafson '05** has obtained her Professional Human Resources certification. She is a human resources specialist for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. Her husband, **Carl '04**, completed his M.B.A. He is a financial manager with Citi Financial. They reside in Crystal Lake. **Kimberly Hagener '05** is in customer operations at American Transport Group, LLC. She and her husband, John Figure, reside in Chicago. **Dominic Halbach, M.S. '05**, is completing an M.B.A. with the goal of working in the business development within the pharmaceutical industry. He is a scientist working in the materials characterization/preformulation department at PPD in Middleton, Wisconsin. He resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Amy Hammarstedt '05 is a resource consultant for Community Consolidated School District 93. She resides in Carol Stream.

Mary Blanchard Hollywood, M.S. '05, is an instructional assistant professor at Illinois State. She was the 2005 cowinner of the Cavanaugh Award for best master's student in the History Department. She and her husband, Brett, reside in Bloomington.

Angelyn Hyland '05 is a recreation supervisor for the park district in Belvidere, where she resides.

Bryan Jones '05 is a grocer at Trader Joe's. He and his wife, Emily, reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Matthew Jones '05 is a program technician for Rock Island County Farm Service Agency. He resides in Moline.



Business connections create vital partnerships that enrich Illinois State's programs and benefit students as they enter the workplace. Corporate alumni receptions are held frequently, including one earlier this year at Afni, Inc. President Al Bowman and Afni President and Chief Operating Officer Ron Greene attended the event.

Clark Kays '05 has worked as the assistant vice president of Aon Aviation, which represents in the insurance marketplace various segments of air travel. He and his wife, Kimberly, left their Chicago home earlier this year to travel around the world for 10 months. They began in Latvia and will explore Europe, the Middle East, Northern Africa, India, and Southeast Asia. Their journey is documented on www.touncertaintyandbeyond.com.

Amy Cwiakala Kehr '05 is a physical education and health teacher for Valley View School District. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Plainfield.

Michael Koch '05 is the athletic trainer and high school math and science teacher for the Lutheran

School Association. He previously worked for five years as an athletic trainer at two clinics concentrating on sports enhancement and physical therapy, as well as providing every day practice and game coverage at two high schools. He and his wife, Sarah, are the parents of two daughters. They reside in Decatur.

Courtney Kronforst '05 is a registered nurse in the level 1 surgical/trauma intensive care unit at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. She resides in Prospect Heights.

Ryan Lammle '05 is a sales representative and channel coordinator for SMC Corporation of America. He was named Trainee of the Year at the Chicago branch in 2006.

In 2009 he received a certificate of appreciation and the Those Who Excel award for his business partnership and educational con-

tributions at Naperville North High School. He resides in Plano.

Brook N. Lampkin '05 works at the Peoria City/County Health Department as the HIV outreach health educator. She travels to various locations around Peoria providing HIV/STD information, HIV testing and counseling, risk reduction, group prevention services, and intensive case management. She also facilitates a center for disease program and behavioral intervention program for African American young women. She was featured in the *ICC Role Models Book Volume 1*, and received a Red Ribbon Award in 2008. She resides in Peoria.

Emily Lenard '05 earned her master's degree in communication

at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is the social media and public relations coordinator for Comet Branding + PR. She previously was the associate director at Wired Wisconsin while working at Nation Consulting. She resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Ashley Link '05 is a family and consumer science teacher for Bremen High School and Tinley Park High School. She resides in Chicago.

Katelynn Little '05 is a kindergarten teacher for Riverton School District 14. She resides in Riverton.

Brett Loewen '05 is project manager for F.J. Kerrigan Plumbing Co., Inc. He and his wife, **Laura (Haab) '05**, reside in Aurora.

Gregory J. Love '05 is owner and manager of Medical Horizons Consulting, LLC. He and his wife, **Norrene**, reside in Normal.

Meghan Fisher Lundeen '05 and her husband, **Scott '04**, worked in news for five years. Meghan now works for the Peoria Housing Authority doing public relations and marketing. She runs a nonprofit program that helps low-income families become self-sufficient, and an internship program at Peoria Housing Authority. Scott is now media manager for Chevrolet, leading the online efforts for the car business through creative videos and promotions. They reside in Pekin.

Constance Thompson Lusietto '05 is senior accountant for Archer Daniels Midland. She and her husband, **Steve**, reside in Decatur.

Carolyn Oland Lynch '05 is an accountant for the City of McHenry. Her husband, **Daniel '04**, is Web master for the Huron Consulting Group. They reside in Grayslake.

Erin A. Lynch '05 graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2010. She is completing an obstetrics and gynecology residency at the University of South Carolina School of Medicine-Palmetto Health Richland in Columbia.

Stephanie Yates Manno '05 is a teacher for Plainfield School District 202. Her husband, **Daniel '04**, is in human resources for the Tribune Group. They reside in Joliet.

Christin (Elligan) Masten '05 teaches seventh grade social studies for the Cabarrus County Griffin Middle School. She and her husband, **David**, reside in Concord, North Carolina.

Cory Matheny '05 is a firefighter and paramedic for the City of Bloomington, where he resides.

Brian P. Matthews '05 is an auto underwriter for State Farm Insurance Companies. He resides in Bloomington.

Janel Meade '05 is an account manager for Marketing Resources, Inc., and resides in Sugar Grove.

Brook (Mayhood) Moberly '05 is a cancer registrar/CTR at Decatur Memorial Hospital. She is responsible for accurately reporting cancer incidence and first course of treatment of all patients, and helping the facility maintain accreditation. Within the cancer program, she is the quality improvement coordinator responsible for documenting and promoting improvements that directly affect patient care. Her husband, **Ryan '04**, is a buyer for Caterpillar, Inc. They are the parents of two daughters. **Adria Nicole** was born in November of 2009. They reside in Moweaqua.

Katie Mueller '05 is a second grade teacher for Wheeling School District 21. She resides in Chicago.

Kelly Nagle '05 is the recreation supervisor for Bensenville Park District and resides in Westmont.

Jennifer Parlier '05 received a master's degree from Concordia University and has begun a second master's in reading and literacy. She is a special education teacher at Glenbard East High School. She resides in Palatine.

Shannon Peters '05, M.S. '07, is a Spanish instructor at Wayland Academy. She and her husband, **Eric**, reside in Beaver Dam, Wisconsin.

RuthAnn Barker Petrov '05 is a stay-at-home mom for four foster children. She and her husband, **Michael**, reside in Morton.

Amanda Engels Porsche '05 completed a master's of education degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. She teaches second grade for Galva Community Unit School District 224. She and her husband, **Mark**, reside in Galva.

Jamie Pritscher '05 is CEO and cofounder of That's Caring. The company was a 2009 *Inc. Magazine* and *Alibaba.com* Newpreneur semifinalist. Pritscher resides in Elk Grove Village.

Jessica (Koontz) Rahn '05 owns a daycare. She and her husband, **Zachary**, are the parents of two children. They reside in Sigel.

Ryan Regal '05 is an end user computing analyst who does Web application development for State Farm Insurance Companies. His wife, **Heather (Nelson) '07**, is senior finance assistant for State Farm. They reside in Bloomington.

Alicia Rosenow '05 is an occupational therapist for The Comprehensive Group and resides in Mount Prospect.

Kimberly (Carpenter) Rummer '05 is completing a master's degree in educational math and sciences at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She is a special education teacher/case manager for Maroa-Forsyth Middle School. She and her husband, Andrew, are the parents of a son. Jackson Carter was born in December of 2009. They reside in Forsyth.

Amber Telford Salinas '05 is a substance abuse counselor at Wells Center in Dwight. She and her husband, Felix, reside in Pontiac.

Ryan Schneider '05 is an acute care nurse practitioner in emergency medicine for The Schumacher Group. His wife, **Ann (Perry) '05**, is a registered nurse in gynecology at Barnes Jewish Hospital. They are the parents of a daughter. Charli Jane was born in January of 2010. They reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jeffrey Shewfelt '05 is a paramedic and firefighter with Paramedic Services of Illinois. He resides in Chicago.

Brad Sickler '05 is a security guard. He resides in Montezuma, Ohio.

Melissa Skinner '05 is regional human resource manager for Alter Trading Corporation. She resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Don Snider '05, M.S. '07, is a deputy U.S. marshal for the Department of Justice. He and his wife, **Debra (Schramer) '06**, reside in Corpus Christi, Texas.

David S. Sollich, M.S. '05, has completed a doctorate in theatre from Bowling Green State University. He is a professor of theatre at Blackburn College. He resides in Carlinville.

Carly Steurer '05 is taking prerequisite courses to enter a graduate program in occupational therapy. She is a SAFE teacher and childcare provider for an after school program. She resides in Elgin.

Ronald "Louie" Stewart '05 is a physical education teacher at King High School in Chicago. He also holds the position of department chair, head coach of the boys swim team and girls softball team, assistant head coach of football and wrestling, and future athletic director. He and his wife, Kelley, reside in Riverdale.

Brianna (Staley) Stiers '05 teaches second grade for Fayette County Public Schools. Her husband, **Ben '06**, is a student at the University

of Kentucky. They reside in Lexington, Kentucky.

Audrey Till '05 is a press secretary for the United States Senate. She resides in Chicago.

Lisa Sorensen Timm '05 is a language pathologist. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Normal.

Stacey Tippet '05 is a learning disabilities resource teacher at Diamond Lake School and resides in Trevor, Wisconsin.

Cara (De Lacey) Tomasek '05 teaches second grade at St. Barnabas School. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Oak Lawn.

Sonya Munson Weber '05 is a store manager for Walgreens. She and her husband, Paul, were married in October of 2009. They reside in Normal.

Devon (Weidner) Wentz '05 is an officer, NC, RN in the U.S. Air Force. She and her husband, Luke, reside in Pekin.

Stephanie Wisner '05 completed her juris doctorate degree at Southern Illinois University School of Law. She resides in Marengo.

Jacqueline Wolgat Zaller '05 is a speech language pathologist for the Clark County School District in Nevada. She works with preschool, primary, and intermediate students with autism. She and her husband, Kevin, were married in September of 2009. They reside in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Justin L. Fischer '06 graduated from the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in 2010. He joined the otolaryngology research team at the University of Southern California, Los Angeles County Hospital. His wife, Ashley, is also a member of the graduating class. They reside in Pasadena, California.

Eric J. Hartke '06 is a safety coordinator for Edward Hospital. His wife, **Ashley J. (Adelizzi) '06**, is a health educator for Indian Prairie School District 204. They reside in Crystal Lake.

Katie Guilbault Jacobs '06 is a retail supervisor with Crossmark. Her husband, **Timothy Jr. '06**, is in sales for Facekey. They reside in San Antonio, Texas.

Teale (Huff) LaRosa '06 is a prevention specialist for the Piatt County Mental Health Center. She teaches about alcohol, tobacco, and other drug prevention in middle school classrooms. She and her husband, Eddie, reside in Bement.

Joshua Simkins '06 is completing a master's degree at Des Moines University in Health Care Administra-

tion and is employed at St. Anthony's Medical Center, Rockford. He and his wife, Kelly, were married in May of 2010. They reside in Cary.

Lindsay Vahl '06, M.S. '09, is an Illinois State Admissions counselor. She resides in Normal.

Megan Buckman '07 is a teacher for the St. Charles School District. She resides in South Elgin.

Nick Dagers '07 is finance director for Bill Foster for Congress. He and his wife, **Christina (Brown) '07**, were married in May of 2010. She is a legal assistant for Lowis and Gellen. They reside in Aurora.

Eric M. Darr '07 received a master's degree in accounting from St. Louis University. He is a CPA and licensed in Missouri as a consultant at Hoffman Clark LLC. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Aaron Hillebrandt '07 was awarded the Fellowship designation by successfully completing nine examina-

tions that are administered by the Casualty Actuarial Society. He is a senior actuarial analyst at COUNTRY Financial. He resides in Normal.

Brandon P. Joyce '07 was with the Minnesota Vikings in 2009 before joining the Toronto Argonauts of the Canadian Football League practice squad. He spent the 2009 season with the Las Vegas Locomotives of the United Football League, and had been doing demolition work when he got the call to tryout for the Rams. In May of 2010 he signed as a free agent with the Rams.

Asheley (Bell) Kram '07 is a Spanish teacher at Plainfield Central High School. She and her husband, **Michael '08**, were married in July of 2009. He is a CPA. They reside in Woodridge.

Shannon Nicholson '07, M.S. '09, is an assistant softball coach at

Support our troops



Industrial technology graduate **Aaron Proctor '97** is on active duty, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. A specialist with the Army Reserves, he is assigned to a corps of engineers unit and works on a survey team that is planning a variety of infrastructure improvements. He is pictured at the

Saddam Hussein palace complex outside of Baghdad. The mural of Hussein is one of only two that still exist in Iraq. When Proctor completes his deployment he will return to his work as a CAD designer in the global accessories department of Kohler Company. He resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Thank you to troops serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Names will be published as they are received. Submit information to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu or by mail to Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

Maj. R. E. Layman III, M.D., '97

U.S. Army, 915th Forward Surgical Team

Illinois State University. She resides in Normal.

Alexis B. Olivo '07 is a multi-media producer and resides in Katy, Texas.

Julie (Leffelman) Ross '07 received a Professional in Human Resources designation. She works at The Farnsworth Group in Bloomington, where she resides.

Jennifer Allen '08 works in the securities products department as a mutual fund representative at State Farm Insurance Companies. She and her husband, Michael, are the parents of two daughters. Molli Rose was born in August of 2009. They reside in Normal.

Patrick Anders '08 completed an internship in the programming department and as a promotions coordinator at WSCR-670 The Score, Chicago's Sports Radio Station. He is a contemporary marketing team representative for City Beverage-Chicago, which is an Anheuser-Busch wholesaler. He resides in Chicago.

Stephen Batton '08, is an engineer for Insight Promotions. He resides in Elgin.

Emily A. (Clark) Nolan '08 is an environmental health and safety administrator for Cargill, Inc. She and her husband, Corey, reside in Lexington.

Joel C. Anders '09 is an executive team leader for Target. He resides in Naperville.

Ashlee K. Barr '09 is an insurance producer agent for Henrichs Insurance Services, Inc. She resides in Pontiac.

Sandeep Basnet, M.B.A. '09, is the system market analyst for Adena Health System. He previously served as the finance officer at Illinois State, and worked at Standard Chartered Bank in Kathmandu, Nepal. He resides in Normal.

Thomas R. Baulos '09 is a mathematics educator at Thornridge School. He resides in Homewood.

Lindsay Boeckelman '09 is a special education individual aide for Addison School District 4. She resides in Hoffman Estates.

Dan Brennan '09 is a part-time employee of Arlington Heights Park District. He resides in Arlington Heights.

Nicole Carvey '09 is a substitute teacher for East Peoria District 86. She resides in East Peoria.

Infinity N. Cole '09 is a law student. She resides in Homewood.

Vanessa Contreras '09 is in a risk analyst management training pro-

gram with Munich Re. She resides in Plainsboro, New Jersey.

Clayton Cooper '09 is employed by Fujifilm Hunt Chemicals in Rolling Meadows. He resides in Oakbrook Terrace.

Stephen Cullinan '09 is product manager for WESCO Distribution. He resides in Peru.

Nicole Deutscher '09 is a preschool teacher for Princeton Elementary School District 115. She resides in Ransom.

Jessica Faber '09 is a marketing communications specialist for Kerry Ingredients and Flavours. She resides in Rockford.

Wade Gadberry '09 is a correctional officer for the Illinois Department of Corrections. He and his wife, Shannon, reside in Virden.

Julianne Galati '09 is a teaching assistant for the Indian Prairie District 204. She resides in Aurora.

Maria Garcia '09 is an early head start teacher for the TLC Learning Center in Blue Island. She resides in Chicago.

Katie Gregson '09 is a special education teacher at Freeburg Community High School. She resides in New Athens.

Lindsay M. Wiese Guikema '09 is a kindergarten teacher for Springfield Public School District 186. She and her husband, James, were married in October of 2009. They reside in Springfield.

Jennifer M. Haas, M.S. '09, teaches first grade for El Paso-Gridley Unit 11. She resides in El Paso.

Kamilah Hampton '09 is a speech paraprofessional for School District 143 and resides in South Holland.

Elizabeth Hauck '09 is a sales associate at Toys R Us, and a service associate for Kmart. She resides in Washington.

Brittany Helfer '09 is completing a law degree at Thomas M. Cooley. She received the Raymond Burr Award for the highest grade in criminal law, and the Shane Joseph Johnson Memorial Scholarship for her first-term performance. She resides in Grayslake.

Luke W. Henrichs '09, is a farmer, insurance producer, and agent for Henrichs Insurance Services, Inc. He resides in Pontiac.

Tyler Holman '09 is a project engineer for BMW Constructors, Inc. He and his wife, **Diane (Schuster) '09**, reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Eric T. Huber '09 is a professional intern with Disney Youth Programs at Walt Disney World Company. He assists with Festival Disney

and all other youth programs. He resides in Orlando, Florida.

Sara Iwinski '09 teaches K-5 general music and band for grades four and five at Copeland Manor School, Libertyville School District 70. She resides in Arlington Heights.

Kevin Kelly '09 is a retail services graduate assistant working in the Bone Student Center at Illinois State.

Joseph Kinzer '09 is completing a master's in music at Northern Illinois University, with a focus on ethnomusicology and diasporic studies relating to music. He is also an independent sales contractor. He was selected to present an essay at the 20th annual Philosophy and Religion Conference at Truman State University. He resides in Ottawa.

Jason Kokos '09 is an estimator for Trainor Glass Company. He resides in Grant Park.

Sarah R. Lance '09 is employed by Cass School District 63. She resides in Geneva.

Rachel Latz '09 is a graduate assistant at Northern Illinois University, where she is completing a master's degree in orientation and mobility. She resides in Essex.

Ashley Lindeen '09 is an audit associate for McGladrey & Pullen. She resides in Lombard.

Jessica Lowe '09 is a clinical research coordinator for the Millennium Pain Center. She resides in LeRoy.

Barbara R. Mayden '09 is a special education teacher for grades three to five. She works with autistic students in regular classrooms at the Chicago International Charter School. She resides in Chicago.

Katherine McCullah '09 is a clinical dietician and registered dietician for Sodexo. She resides in Yuma, Arizona.

Michelle A. Mosley '09 is a research fellow and graduate student at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She resides in Galesburg.

Amy Olson '09 is a member assistant for CEFCU. She assists members, runs transactions, and refers products and services that meet members' needs. She resides in Bloomington.

Todd Olsted '09 is in market development for Clearwire. He resides in Chicago.

Dustin Oros '09 is a computer and network analyst for Association Technologies. He and his wife reside in Sugar Grove.

Lindsay Otten '09 is an environmental and safety services coordinator for Growmark. She reads and interprets new regulations for the member cooperatives, and advises on compliance. She resides in Normal.

Sarah Pachowicz '09 is a special education teacher. She resides in Park Ridge.

Amber Pescitelli '09 is a K-8 physical education teacher at Lostant Grade School. She resides in Toluca.

Kristy Rapps '09 is the coordinator director at the Boys & Girls Club of Elgin, where she resides.

Margaret Rowe '09 is a teacher for the Chicago Public Schools. She and her husband, Tim O'Shea, reside in Chicago.

Mayank Saraswat '09 is a systems administrator and IT support for Bluefin Trading LLC. She resides in New York, New York.

Scott A. Servis '09 is a customer service associate at Lowes Home

United States Postal Service

Statement of Ownership, Management, and Circulation

1. Publication Title		2. Publication Number		3. Filing Date	
Illinois State		119606		10/1/10	
4. Issue Frequency		5. Number of Issues Published Annually		6. Annual Subscription Price	
Quarterly		4		0	
7. Complete Mailing Address of Known Office of Publication (Not printer) (Street, city, county, state, and ZIP+4)				Contact Person	
Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100 Normal, McLean Co., IL 61790-3100				Annette Levitt	
8. Complete Mailing Address of Headquarters or General Business Office of Publisher (Not printer)				Telephone	
Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100 Normal, McLean Co., IL 61790-3100				(309) 438-2586	
9. Full Names and Complete Mailing Addresses of Publisher, Editor, and Managing Editor (Do not leave blank)					
Publisher (Name and complete mailing address)					
Stephanie Epp, Campus Box 3100, Normal, McLean Co., IL 61790-3100					
Editor (Name and complete mailing address)					
Susan Marquardt Blystone, Campus Box 3420, Normal, McLean Co., IL 61790-3420					
Managing Editor (Name and complete mailing address)					
Susan Marquardt Blystone, Campus Box 3420, Normal, McLean Co., IL 61790-3420					
10. Owner (Do not leave blank. If the publication is owned by a corporation, give the name and address of the corporation immediately followed by the names and addresses of all stockholders owning or holding 1 percent or more of the total amount of stock. If not owned by a corporation, give the names and addresses of the individual owners. If owned by a partnership or other unincorporated firm, give its name and address as well as those of each individual owner. If the publication is published by a nonprofit organization, give its name and address.)					
Full Name		Complete Mailing Address			
Illinois State University		Campus Box 1000, Normal, IL 61790-1000			

How we met— Illinois State University connections

When Jack Powell Sr. '52 entered the now demolished Old Main for his English class in November of 1949, something other than the syllabus captured his attention. He noticed Wanda Rae Bryant '55, who was a switchboard operator making 50 cents an hour.

“He wrote me a note saying, ‘I was going to go home this weekend, but if you go with me to the dance I’ll stay,’” Wanda said. “Of course I said yes, and we had a great time at the sock hop.”

Dating led to an engagement on New Year’s Eve. That winter classes were cancelled for a week because there was not enough coal to heat the University. The two used the time to marry. A few months later the Army began drafting men to fight the Korean War. Jack had served during World War II, but was still eligible for the draft.

“If we had waited until June like we originally wanted to for the wedding, chances are I would have been drafted,” Jack said. “Since I was recently married I was pushed to the end of the list.”

A teacher shortage in the 1950s gave education majors with more than 60 credit hours the opportunity to start teaching. Wanda left to lead a third grade class in LeRoy. Jack graduated in 1952 with a science and agriculture degree. He moved to Kansas to work for Metropolitan Farm Mortgage, and traveled the Midwest doing appraisals.

In 1953 Wanda gave birth to their first of five children, Diana, and returned to campus to finish her degree. With Jack on the move, Wanda brought Diana with her to the Home Management House, now known as Rambo House. They were the first mother-daughter pair in residence. Wanda graduated in 1955 with a home economics degree.

She and Jack became lifelong teachers, travelling for work to several different states. Jack had famous television personalities John Ritter and Jaclyn Smith as students, while Wanda taught NBA superstar Vince Carter.

The two retirees enjoy their 16 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. They are thankful for the opportunities they received at Illinois State and do their best to stay involved, making it to the occasional play or basketball game.

The couple recently celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary and enjoyed meeting with friends they hadn’t seen in years. Both remain grateful Jack couldn’t keep his mind focused on that English class.



ISU's graduation day remains a fond memory for the Powell family. Jack posed after his commencement in 1952 with his wife, Wanda, who graduated three years later. The two shared teaching careers and now enjoy their extended family.

Air rifle team shoots past competition

by Michael Boyd

“Sports can be a game of inches.”

Although true with many sports, this adage does not do justice to the Illinois State University Air Rifle Team and their sport of competitive target shooting. Truly a game of millimeters, target shooting has quickly evolved into both a competitive sport and global pastime.

The team, comprised of the University’s four top shooters, took third place at the NRA National Intercollegiate

Rifle Club Championships at Purdue University in April. More than 280 collegiate teams attempt to qualify for this event every year, with only the top 10 sectional qualifiers invited.

“We normally enter around 11 tournaments and try to qualify for the national championship every year,” said Joe Miller, head coach.

Each shooter takes 60 shots at a target 10 meters away using an air rifle capable of firing pellets more than 680 feet per second. Twenty shots are from a standing position, 20 from a kneeling position, and the last 20 are from a prone position.

The round targets have 10 rings inside, and the score increases

closer to the center. A perfect score of 10 is the size of a pin head.

Narrowly edging out Illinois State (2,176 points) was second place Clemson University (2,177 points) and first place University of Michigan (2,186 points).

“You can really see how close we were to a national championship,” Miller said. “After four shooters, Clemson beat us by one point. That is just one little ring on the target.”

Although only four shooters participated in the championship, the team averages more than 25 members a year. Six members of last year’s team weren’t students and participated simply for enjoyment.

“Anyone in town can join the team. We’ve had kids as young as seven or eight and adults in their 60s,” Miller said. “It costs \$20 a semester and we have all the equipment you need. The money buys the pellets and targets we use all semester.”

Many students join the team as a hobby, and after a couple years of practice start to shoot competitively. Once you start shooting seriously, it’s hard to stop, the coach said.

“It’s easy to shoot one 10. We can have you doing that in three weeks,” Miller said. His goal is to have team members shoot the perfect score of 10 for 10 consecutive hits. “That’s the difference.”



Improvement. His wife, **Lyssa J. '03**, is a sales specialist at Lowes. They reside in Peoria.

Stephanie Sherman '09 is a paralegal for Tuggle, Schiro & Lichtenberger. She resides in Westville.

Basia Sikora '09 is director of operations at For the Good of Illinois and resides in Justice.

Joshua Smith '09 is the manager for Jimmy Johns in Bloomington.

Jeremy Steffen '09 is an agent for State Farm Insurance Companies. He resides in Colorado.

Rebecca Straple '09 has been accepted to the master's program in medieval English literatures at the University of York in the United Kingdom. She is a technical writer and Web developer for the College of Arts and Sciences at Illinois State.

Greg Straub '07 is a systems analyst II for Caterpillar, Inc., in Morton. He and his wife, **Rebecca (Crady) '09**, reside in Chillicothe.

Lauren Sybert '09 is a researcher at the Southern Illinois University School of Medicine and otolaryngologist in the surgery department. She resides in Springfield.

Kellen Vail '09 is a graduate student and assistant at Oklahoma State University, and resides in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Stephan Vandenbroucke '09 is an earth science teacher in secondary education, working with both regular and remedial classrooms for J.S. Morton High School District 201 in Cicero. He resides in Chicago.

Courtney Vanderford '09 is a registered nurse for Carle in Champaign. She resides in St. Joseph. Jared Volk '09 is an IRS criminal investigation special agent. He and his wife, Rachel, reside in Brimfield.

Stuart Ware '09 is a freight broker for Archer Daniel Midland in Decatur. He resides in Oreana.

Allison Warzecha '09 is a registered nurse at the Louis A. Weiss Memorial Hospital. She resides in Chicago.

Jeremy Welch '09 is a support manager for Wal-Mart. He resides in Bloomington.

Jeanine Ryan Wester '09 is a behavior therapist for Circles BCS in Bloomington. She and her husband, Thomas, reside in Peoria.

Laura E. White '09 is a speech-language pathologist for the HCR Manor Care Heartland Rehabilitation of Paxton. She resides in Normal.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Patricia D. (Craft) Berndt '98, Social Work; 5/10

Elsie L. (Lux) Bryan '38, M.S. '66, Metcalf; 6/10

Nathaniel Nnamdi Kerry "Nam" Clark, Art; 4/10

Ethel Galvin Feicke '45, M.S. '62, Curriculum and Instruction; 5/10

Eva J. Kempin, English; 6/10

Harvey R. Mays, Theater; 5/10

Olgert Pocs, Sociology; 5/10

Alumni

30s

Barbara (Denzer) Thompson '33, M.S. '48; 4/10

Lucile (Larkin) Middleton '36; 5/10

Marvin O. Teer Sr. '37; 5/10

Margaret A. Savidge '38, M.S. '60; 5/10

40s

Dorothy A. Uphoff Camp '40; 5/10

Eustacia E. (Ruyle) Kibbons '40, '63; 6/10

Bruce E. Orr '40; 4/09

Marjorie Andersen '41; 10/06

Martha Janssen Knudtson '41; 5/10

Edna M. (Bachman) Currier '42; 5/10

Leo D. Kerber '43, '46; 5/10

Albert M. Trumpy '43; 5/10

Evelyn J. Williams '43; 7/10

Minnie (Slovsky) Kaplan '44; 6/09

Josephine (Costanza) Walker '47, M.S. '53; 5/10

Evelyn M. (Stalter) Aitken, M.S. '48; 4/10

Doris M. Thompson '48; 12/08

Ara (Ward) Pearson '49; 6/10

Arlene R. Schneider '49 6/10

Frank W. Thompson '49, M.S. '52; 12/01

50s

William R. Douglas '50, M.S. '56; 5/10

Nellie R. (Bennett) Boner '52; 6/10

Wayne E. Schaible '52, M.S. '59; 5/06

Don Shader '53; 4/10

Robert H. Deuterma '54; 9/92

Richard A. Johnson '54; 9/02

R. Bruce Holcomb '56, M.S. '58; 5/10

Mary R. Kinsella '57; 4/10

Robert E. Abbott '58, M.S. '66; 6/10

Marilee A. Foglesong '58; 5/10

Betty J. Knudsen '59, M.S. '68; 5/10

Martin J. Rademacher Sr. '59; 5/10

60s

Wanda L. Mahoney '61, M.S. '64; 12/09

Wayne L. Simms '62; 6/10

William R. Noonan '63, M.S. '66; 6/03

James A. Ringel '64; 5/10

Jean L. Lane, M.S. '65; 4/01

Daniel R. Baker Jr. '66; 3/01

Donald J. Ryberg '66, M.A. '75; 2/10

William M. Sweeney '66; 6/10

Janice K. (Barger) Tovey '67, M.A. '88; 6/10

Joseph Diaz, M.A. '68; 5/08

Gloria (Lasker) Cowdery, M.A. '69; 5/10

70s

Mary D. (Kirts) Brent '70; 6/10

Bonnie M. Hellrigel '70; 6/10

Jan P. Varney '70, M.M. '71; 5/10

James G. Culkin '71; 2/03

Jack L. Hays '71; 11/09

Rita E. (Leibig) Pritchard '71, M.S. '74; 7/09

Thomas R. Clydesdale Jr. '72; 4/10

John E. Hatzler '72, M.S. '76; 6/10

Laura J. (Gilmore) Kaufman '72; 6/10

Percy W. Miller, M.S. '72; 11/06

Ronald E. Spevak, M.S. '72; 11/06

Danae Fox '73; 1/07

Thomas D. Lowry '73; 5/10

Sandra K. (Ludeman) Lubbers '73; 5/10

Patricia M. Shapiro '73; 6/04

David L. Simonson '73; 3/09

Jacob E. Uhrich, M.S. '73; 12/00

David L. Hoyle '74; 12/94

Sherry L. Reich '74; 6/06

Frederick V. "Rick" Wellington, M.A. '74; 5/10

Robert L. Maxey '75; 6/10

Christopher P. Jakulski '76; 6/10

Betty L. Culley, Ed.D. '78; 3/09

Margaret A. Herman '78, M.S. '81, Ph.D. '88; 6/10

Franklin Fair '79; 5/10

80s

Wayne Byram '81; 2/10

Tyler G. Goodman, M.B.A. '81; 6/10

Scott C. Stancik '82; 9/04

Donald P. Alpers '83; 12/09

John E. "Swanee" Swanson '83; 6/10

Harold L. White, D.A. '83; 2/09

Stephen D. Smith '85; 12/02

Eric "Tap" Tapley '85, '96; 5/10

Freda W. (Elder) Butler '87; 5/10

90s

Lois A. (Weimer) Witney, Ed.D. '90; 5/10

Suzan M. Fellhauer '93; M.S. '95; 7/08

Jeannie Sykes Bretag '96; 3/05

William S. Hinkle '96; 4/10

James B. Hinkle '99; 5/10

00s

Michelle A. Conrady-Brown, M.S. '03; 5/10

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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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Alumni Association awards first scholarship

The Alumni Association Scholarship was created to assist students who exhibit outstanding academic achievement and leadership, and who demonstrate a financial need. For the first recipient of the scholarship, Philip Carter, receiving the scholarship opened a world of opportunity.

Carter, a music education major from Collinsville, began his freshman year at Illinois State this fall. Though he was exposed to many different campuses while performing with the Collinsville High School band, the decision to attend ISU came easily after receiving an endorsement from his band director, who is an alumnus of the University.

“The more I came to know the campus and learn about my major program, the more I knew that ISU was the right fit for me.”

Once Carter made his decision, the search for financial assistance began.

“My math teacher told me to look into the Alumni Association Scholarship. I found the scholarship and got my letters of recommendation and essays ready right away and sent them off,” Carter said.

“Receiving it means a lot to me. I worked hard in high school not only academically, but to be involved with organizations and be a big part of them. I put my whole self into them. This is a big payoff for those efforts.”

A seasoned trumpet player, Carter is studying music education so that he can spread his love for music the way his teachers did.

“I started playing trumpet in fifth grade. I looked up to my middle school band director and wanted to be like him. That’s where my passion for music education comes from,” Carter said.

And he has wasted no time in pursuing his ambitions. Carter quickly made friends with other music education majors and even another trumpet player during Preview, which further sparked enthusiasm for his collegiate years.

“I’m looking to become a part of the Big Red Marching Machine and also a student leader,” Carter said. “I was active on student council and other organizations in high school, so it’s something I’d like to pursue at the university level.”

Illinois State recruits and retains outstanding students with the help of donors. Join fellow Redbirds in supporting the Alumni Association Scholarship. With your gift we can build a \$1 million endowment so that multiple renewable scholarships can be awarded annually to Illinois State students. You can make a difference in providing financial support to deserving students such as Philip. Return the envelope enclosed in this issue of *Illinois State*, or contribute online at www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support. Contact Alumni Relations Executive Director Stephanie Epp at (309) 438-2586 or by e-mail at saep@IllinoisState.edu. Every gift matters!



WEB EXTRA

Learn more about the Alumni Association Scholarship by viewing a video online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.



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The Last Look



Winter route

With the seasons changing and snow about to fall once again, many Redbirds will travel to a warmer winter home. Don't walk away from your Illinois State connection! Go online to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/update or call (309) 438-2586 to provide your temporary address.