

ILLINOIS

# STATE



## Calling the shots

Meet former Redbird standout Dan Muller, who reveals his motivation as a player and shares his game plan as head coach.

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# FirstWord

## Economic trends and forecasts dominated

this year's presidential campaign. The prolonged spotlight on the nation's employment situation put college campuses under scrutiny.

Headlines lamenting unemployed graduates sparked myriad conversations in my role as president the past several months. The question as to the value of a degree in today's economy inevitably surfaced.



I understand the concern. College is a significant investment for every family. Frustration mounts as finding that first job after graduation requires more patience and persistence than in years past. Still, I remain firm in my conviction that the collegiate experience is crucial preparation to seize the moment and secure the future.

Georgetown University's Center on Education and the Workforce confirmed in a study completed this year that college graduates have fared better since the beginning of the recession than those without a degree. Nearly all jobs created since 2007 have required at least a bachelor's degree.

A separate study released by George Washington University's School of Media and Public Affairs in August revealed that individuals who hold a bachelor's degree earn on average twice the salary of those who ended their education with a high school diploma. The difference equates to roughly \$1 million during a lifetime.

These statistics provide reassurances that a degree remains an essential and life-changing investment. And yet I am keenly aware of the questions and concerns now attached to college aspirations. All of the campus community understands the heightened anxiety current students face as they prepare for a profession in a time of turmoil.

There is consequently a renewed urgency at Illinois State to empower students for their future. The University's commitment to do so is founded on a promise to minimize the financial burden in every way possible, while working to maximize learning opportunities that create a competitive advantage.

We do both through crucial partnerships. Graduates and friends of the University invest in ISU's programs and people, ensuring current students receive the education needed to thrive in today's marketplace. A sampling of the impact made by our donors' commitments is found in this issue's special section. Employers and alumni are also key players, as they create internships within their companies and actively recruit our students to join their workforce.

I cannot predict when the cloud of uncertainty hanging over the nation will lift, but I can state with confidence that those individuals who earn an ISU degree are equipped to weather the economic storm.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Al Bowman".

Al Bowman  
President, Illinois State University

FEATURES

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 Fans of late-night comedian Conan O'Brien know his show has a reputation for high-energy skits and humor based as much on visuals as monologue. He relies on a team that exerts enormous energy for each show. Supervising art director of the television hit, Christopher Goumas '90, has plenty of back-stage stories to share.

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 The image of old age as a time to relax and relish years of leisure is fading fast in America. Susan Geffen '85 knows the reality is often much more harsh, as individuals increasingly outlive their resources. Families struggle as loved ones sink, which is why Geffen is advocating change for the elderly.

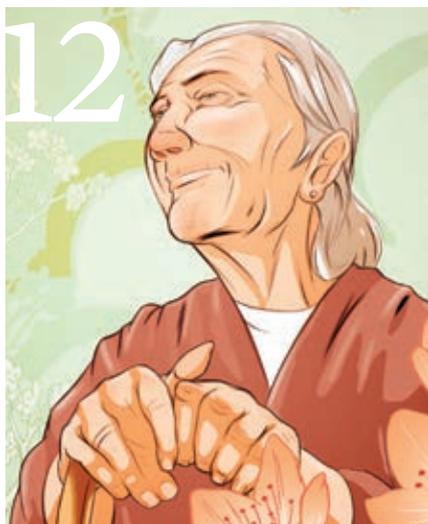
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 Dan Muller '98 is back in Redbird Arena where he made his mark as an outstanding student and member of the men's basketball team. He returns as the team's coach, ready to raise the program using a rulebook that starts with the basics of each player maximizing his talent through best effort.

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 Individuals who support Illinois State with a financial gift have a desire to make an impact. Their investment in the University is a vote of confidence in ISU's mission, legacy, and future. Each donation promotes programs and people. A special section included in this issue showcases how private giving especially empowers students.

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**On the cover:** Already comfortable in Redbird Arena, Dan Muller is focused on seeing the team soar through the season.



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Courtesy of The Pentagraph

## Partnership converts food waste into compost

ISU significantly reduces campus landfill footprint

**A** million pounds of food waste was diverted from landfills during the first year of a composting partnership between Illinois State University and Midwest Fiber, a full-service recycling firm in Central Illinois.

Food waste from the residence halls has been diverted to the ISU farm for the past two decades, with the resulting compost used around campus for landscaping. With limited resources, the University could not expand the operations.

ISU consequently approached Midwest Fiber to create a partnership. Both entities applied for separate Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity grants.

Grants for \$125,000 were awarded to both. Midwest Fiber used the funds to buy a truck to collect food waste and transport it to the Illinois State farm in Lexington. ISU used its dollars to pour a concrete pad near the farm's composting sites, allowing them to operate year-round. A grinder needed to break down the food waste was also purchased.

ISU expanded its collection to all campus dining centers and catering services, as well as some restaurants in Bone Student Center. Midwest Fiber sought contracts in the community. As a result there are now nine participants, including local hotels, corporations, schools, and retailers.

“We tried to develop it so it could be as budget neutral as possible,” said now retired director of ISU’s Ground and Fleet Operations Mike O’Grady. “While it’s the right thing to do, you can only expect businesses to do it if it doesn’t affect the bottom line.”

ISU expects more businesses to participate in the project and only charges Midwest Fiber \$20 per truckload to dump waste at the farm—about half the cost of landfill tipping fees. While participants pay Midwest to pick up the food waste, they are paying less for garbage pickup because the garbage flow is reduced. Food waste makes up nearly 30 percent of landfill space.

## Students gain skills unearthing the past

Distinguished Sociology and Anthropology Professor James Skibo and a team of students were the first to unearth a new archeological site, which may offer insights into more than 4,000 years of human history.

Skibo lead a team this summer on an annual Grand Island Archaeological Research Project through the Hiawatha National Forest in Michigan. Grand Island has a history of inhabitants from roughly 2,000 B.C. to present day. This year was the first dig on the island's west side.

The dig was near Mather Lodge, built by tycoon William Mather, who owned the island in the early 1900s. The Forest Services is considering opening the lodge up as a museum, and requested Skibo and his team excavate the area.

Students learned field techniques of archaeology and created detailed maps of the sites with a Geographical Information System. They also helped lead activities for the Hiawatha National Forest, from working with a youth workshop to giving detailed site tours.

## National grant supports research on mosquitoes

Biological Sciences Distinguished Professor Steven Juliano has received a \$426,500 National Institutes of Health (NIH) grant to continue three decades of research on ecology of larvae of North American mosquitoes that transmit diseases.

The funding advances Juliano's research of aquatic environments in which mosquitos lay eggs. He is targeting mosquitos drawn to water in man-made containers, such as bird baths, old tires, and cemetery vases.

Juliano and a team of students will focus on the species that carry diseases, such as West Nile and La Crosse encephalitis. The work involves manipulating habitats ranging in size from a tea cup to a rain barrel.

"The NIH is interested in getting a better idea of the container sizes where



Archaeology master's student Jeff Painter and undergraduate anthropology major Jennifer Goldman participated in the Michigan dig.

certain mosquitos grow to maturity, giving us a better ability to target those containers," Juliano said.

He hopes the study will help health officials understand what kinds of containers provide the best sites for immature, disease-transmitting mosquitos. "If a main concern becomes West Nile, then officials can target containers of a certain size, with a certain level of water permanence, to help limit mosquito populations."

## College of Business remains among best in the nation

*Bloomberg Businessweek* magazine has ranked Illinois State's College of Business as one of the nation's best undergraduate business schools. ISU has had a consistent presence in that ranking in recent years.

The *Bloomberg Businessweek* 2012 rankings use measures of student satisfaction, post-graduation outcomes, and academic quality to identify the top business schools. The methodology also includes feedback from job recruiters who evaluate schools on the overall quality of their graduates, the strength of their curricula, and the effectiveness of their career placement services.

## Technology key tool in teaching impaired

SMART Boards are being made accessible to visually impaired children through a project titled SMARTer Boards: Girls Solve Visual Accessibility Issues.

Headed by ISU staff and Laboratory School teachers, the project encourages educators and pre-service teachers to incorporate interactive features of the SMART Boards used in classrooms.

"Technology is so advanced that we always need to be working to make it accessible to all students," said Metcalf Elementary School faculty associate Lisa Tabaka, who cochairs the initiative.

Design teams involved include visually impaired students, middle school students and teachers from Metcalf, Illinois State pre-service teacher candidates, computer science instructors from Heartland Community College, and students from Illinois State's computer club.

Ideas from the teams were implemented this fall at Metcalf for students with visual impairments, with findings from the project shared with other school districts.

## Where are they now?

Betty Keough, M.S. '52, arrived on campus in the 1950s to complete a master's in physical education. She served as a graduate assistant, which began an Illinois State connection that remains strong.

Keough taught elementary and junior high students, as well as at the Illinois Soldiers' and Sailors' Children's School, before joining ISU's faculty in 1955.

She was a member of the Department of Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance—now the School of Kinesiology and Recreation. Keough advanced the department as a teacher, mentor, and administrator.

She coordinated student teaching, placing students beyond the University's Laboratory Schools into the community. She also introduced to the campus the idea of videotaping students during their classroom teaching assignments as an evaluation tool.

Keough served as the department's acting chair just prior to retiring in 1985, at which time the Betty Keough Fund was established. The endowment funds an annual scholarship that supports a female junior or senior physical education major.

Her campus legacy lives on through the College of Applied Science and Technology as well. Keough was among the inaugural class of inductees to the college's Hall of Fame in 2009.

She has held numerous statewide and national positions within her field. Now 86, she remains active in the local Audubon Society chapter and still enjoys attending women's basketball and volleyball games.

Keough can be reached at 14098 Rhodes Road, Bloomington, IL 61705.



Professor Emerita Betty Keough

### Medical partnerships key in student cancer research

Illinois State University has begun working with Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and the Central Illinois Neuroscience Foundation to expand research opportunities for graduate students in the biological sciences.

Researchers will be provided with residual tissue samples from patients undergoing surgical resection or biopsy for suspected cancer. The samples are something new for students at Illinois State University.

"Most of the samples our students study are models, and these are lab-generated," said Assistant Professor of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology Erik Larson. He is overseeing research that explores the connections between the body's DNA and cancer.

Actual patient lab samples that otherwise would have been destroyed will be tested "to see if we can discover patterns that will be useful in understanding cancer," Larson said.

He and two graduate students will utilize the samples, which will provide a continuous resource for the cancer research team. The same samples can be used for multiple projects.

### University's radio station continues to take honors

The tradition of excellence at WGLT continues, as the staff captured two regional Edward R. Murrow Awards for broadcast excellence earlier this year. The public radio station licensed to Illinois State has received 20 of the prestigious Murrow awards since 2005.

The recent honor was in the category of Best News Series for the "Since 9/11" program. Staff members looked at how Central Illinois has reacted over the past 10 years to the terrorist attacks of 2001. Charlie Schlenker was also honored with a Best Writing Category win.

In addition, the station won four awards for broadcast excellence from the Illinois Associated Press. GLT competed

in the regional category that includes Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, and Michigan.

### Student team finished in national solar car race

The students of Illinois State's Team Mercury built a new solar-powered vehicle for the American Solar Challenge, a 1,650-mile race that ran in July from Rochester, New York, to St. Paul, Minnesota. Of 16 teams that entered the competition, ISU finished seventh.

More than 30 ISU students from across campus and majors worked to build Mercury IV, which cost \$5,000. Materials were donated by companies for the car, which is comprised of a steel tube frame covered in an aerodynamically designed carbon fiber shell. It weighs 600 pounds with a driver and has a top speed of 75 mph.

The Solar Car Challenge is a national effort that attracts universities across the United States and Canada. This was the fifth year for Team Mercury to race.



Industrial Technology major Matt Steinacher was one of 30 on the solar car team.

Four students drove the vehicle, with a back-up team of seven students as crew.

“The work we do transcends the classroom and gives students a hands-on approach to not only building a car, but problem solving, crisis management and teamwork,” Team Mercury advisor Jim Dunham said.

Learn more about the team online at [www.solarcar.ilstu.edu](http://www.solarcar.ilstu.edu).

## Federal grant a boost to nursing diversity push

Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) has received a grant of more than \$1.1 million from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to support developing diversity in the nursing workforce.

The Nursing Workforce Diversity grant provides \$370,000 each of three years toward recruitment and retention of underrepresented groups to the nursing profession, as well as leadership development throughout the educational experience.

“The grant will support the infrastructure necessary to ensure that MCN can help to prepare the workforce needed for the future,” Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Janet Krejci said. Current-

ly, nurses from minority backgrounds represent approximately 16.8 percent of the registered nurse workforce.

The grant will ensure scholarships and programming that will positively impact the entire college and MCN’s community partners, including area schools and hospitals.

## Governing board approves adding graduate programs

Illinois State’s Board of Trustees has approved a new doctoral degree program in nursing practice and a master’s degree in anthropology.

The doctor of nursing practice program in Mennonite College of Nursing will prepare nurses to serve as clinical or administrative leaders and educators in a variety of settings.

The new master’s degree in anthropology will incorporate and expand on areas currently taught in the master’s program in archeology—prehistoric, historical and biological. Sequences in cultural anthropology and Japanese studies will be included as well.

Administered through the Department of Sociology & Anthropology, the program will prepare students for work in a broad range of government and private specializations.

## Laboratory School ranked among best in the country

ISU’s University High School was named in 2012 as one of the best 1,000 high schools in the nation. The ranking was done by *Newsweek*, which has included U-High each of the past four years. This year the school was 547.

The magazine found that U-High has a graduation rate of 98 percent, that 95 percent of U-High students head to college, and that graduates have an average ACT score of 25.5.

There are approximately 26,000 high schools in the country. *Newsweek* highlights those schools that are the most effective in turning out college-ready graduates.

# Mail

To the Editor:

I am writing in response to a letter published in the August 2012 edition that scolds you for your “left-wing propaganda” (“Voice of dissidents,” May 2012) in blaming “greedy people for the crash of the economy. It makes no mention of the real blame, which is the Community Reinvestment Act from 1977 that forced banks to loan money to people unable to ever pay it back.”

I have to ask what section of the Act included that “requirement.” I read it and couldn’t find it. The only thing that comes close is in Sec. 2903 (a) (1): “assess the institution’s record of meeting the credit needs of its entire community, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods, consistent with the safe and sound operation of such institution;...”

Serving the credit needs of the entire community consistent with “safe and sound operation” of the financial institution is the exact opposite of a requirement to make loans that would never be repaid.

ISU taught me a lot in my time there.

I value most the lessons in critical thinking and research.

**Terry M. Bush '71, M.S. '73**

The story of Greg Gardner lightened my load (“Triumph over tragedy,” May 2012). He makes me stand up and count my blessings.

In June of 2007 I was struck by a car while walking into the entrance of the company where I worked. I was out of work for several months, but I am OK now.

Greg restored my faith that I can overcome obstacles. He makes me believe that my problems are not insurmountable. Thank you for your story, Greg, for the love of your family that you share with us, and the fact that you are a real-life champion.

Online comment

**Ann Eads**

# Redbird Athletics



## Alums partner to improve golf programs

Team practice facility becomes a reality

**W**hen renovations to ISU's golf course were completed in 2001 by D.A. Weibring's design firm, the PGA and Champions Tour star expressed his hope that the course would eventually add a top-notch practice facility. That time is now, as the University completed this fall The Jim and Carole Mounier Golf Training Facility at Weibring Golf Club.

The club is named in honor of Weibring, a stand-out Redbird golfer who has helped raise more than \$1.4 million for ISU through D.A. Weibring Redbird Golf Classic events held annually for years.

Weibring has also invested his expertise with the initial upgrades,

and now creation of the practice facility made possible with support from the Mouniers.

The Mouniers are both alums, with Jim graduating in 1974 and Carole (Czeraniak) in 1975. They made a financial contribution to help with construction of the training facility's first phase, which includes a team-only driving range. Completion of additional phases will allow for community use.

Weibring-Wolfard Golf Design of Texas configured the facility to be about 500 yards in length. There are two tee areas able to accommodate about 50 golfers on the south end. A north tee area is smaller.

With six to eight target greens, golf team members can now practice hitting in different wind directions. They no

longer travel to an area golf course for extended practices.

"This takes the programs to another level," ISU men's coach Ray Kralis said. His players have the opportunity to visualize hitting shots into a fairway, as the design includes contrasting areas with different grassing.

"To have the golf course on campus is huge. Now we're putting up a facility to match the golf course," Kralis said. Women's coach Darby Sligh is equally pleased.

"This will put us right with the bigger programs in the Midwest," she said. "It's the missing piece in a lot of ways." Kralis agreed.

"This is a major commitment to golf," he said, noting the practice facility will not only strengthen current team members but create a 'wow factor' that is vital in recruiting.



## Redbird earns second NCAA championship

Industrial engineering major Tim Glover finished his junior year, capturing his second consecutive national javelin title at the NCAA Division I Track and Field Championships.

Glover set a new Illinois State and MVC record with his winning throw of 268 feet. The distance places him No. 9 all-time in NCAA history. He won the title in 2011 with a throw of 263-06.

Glover was named the 2012 Division I National Men's Field Athlete of the Year by the United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association. He competed in the U.S. Olympic Trials, along with fellow Redbirds Leigh Patronoff in the javelin, Aisha Prought in 3,000 steeplechase, and Brittany Smith in the shot put and hammer.

Glover and Smith represented the U.S. at the 2012 North American Central American and Caribbean (NACAC) Under-23 Championships held in Mexico. Both captured a gold medal.

## Hall of Fame 2012 inductees honored at Homecoming

Illinois State Athletics welcomed five former student-athletes into the ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame during Homecoming, while also honoring a volunteer with the Stretch Miller Award.

The 2012 inductees include Chris Bailey '00, an NCAA All-American and 10-time MVC cross country and track and field champion; track and field athlete Metria Bell '93, who was a five-time league champion and school-record holder in the outdoor 800-meters; basketball stand-out Jenny Schmidt, who was a three-time, first-team All-Valley selection and a career 1,500-point scorer; softball athlete Wendy Smith '81, M.S. '99, who led the Redbirds to a No. 9 national ranking in 1981; and Lou Stefanovic, a member of three straight NCAA Tournament men's basketball teams who led the squad in scoring during the 1984-1985 season.

Marta Eynatten '78 received the Stretch Miller Award for her commitment to ISU Athletics. She has been supporting athletic programs in various volunteer roles for close to three decades.

## Women's team chosen for preseason tourney

The women's basketball team started the season participating in the 2012 Preseason Women's National Invitation Tournament (WNIT). The annual, invitation only tournament includes some of the nation's top women's Division I basketball teams.

Invitations are based on the team's expected success in the upcoming season, relevant past performance, conference standings, fan base, and geographical location. Only one institution per conference is allowed in the tournament in a given year.

This year's teams included Davidson, Delaware, Duquesne, Georgetown, Grambling State, Iowa, Kennesaw State, Liberty, Memphis, Middle Tennessee, Morehead State, North Carolina, Northern Illinois, Sacred Heart, and Sam Houston State.

Eleven of the teams are coming off of postseason play, including Illinois State. ISU's berth in the 2012 Postseason WNIT put the Redbirds in the post-season for the sixth-consecutive season, with five WNIT appearances and NCAA Tournament action in 2008. Illinois State finished last season 19-13 and took second in the Missouri Valley Conference after being picked to finish sixth. Head coach Stephanie Glance was named the 2012 Valley Coach of the Year, while Jamie Russell was named the Newcomer of the Year.

There are four starters returning to this year's team, which hosted Morehead State in the first round of the Preseason WNIT this month. Follow the team's at GoRedbirds.com. Tickets can be purchased at the site or by calling (309) 438-8000.

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# Setting

**T**he urgent email arrived at 10:26 a.m. The moment Christopher Goumas '90 laid eyes on it, he knew trouble was ahead.

*Chris: We need a live donkey wearing a "missile nose cone" by one p.m. It's for a video gag about those phony missiles the North Koreans were displaying at that military parade the other day.*

Goumas eyeballed the email carefully and for a moment, the supervising art director of the hugely popular *Conan* late-night talk show sat paralyzed in his office chair.

A live donkey?

Wearing a nose cone?

By 1 p.m.?

Ridiculous! Absolutely impossible! And yet it had to be done.

Goumas is the chief artistic design executive on the *Conan* crew of high-powered set builders, costume creators, and lighting specialists. The 44-year-old ISU art alum had to deliver the prop for that night's show—which was scheduled to be taped at 4:30 p.m.

Why the donkey? The writer was calling for a video-taped gag that superstar talk-show host Conan O'Brien could run during his opening monologue on that night's show. The gag would be built around reports that the North Koreans had faked missiles displayed during a parade.

Conan would introduce the video as follows: "We actually obtained footage of the parade, and I have to agree the missiles aren't very convincing. Check it out!" The video of the "donkey nose cone" would run, hopefully to laughter from the live studio audience.

But with less than three hours from the show's first production deadline, Goumas and company had exactly 150 minutes to create the video from scratch.

Goumas got busy in his office at the famed Warner Bros. Stage 15 studio. He flipped through phone numbers for agencies that provide live animals in the world of L.A.-based showbiz. Within 20 minutes, animal trainers were loading a



# the Stage

by Tom Nugent

**Insanity is the norm for Conan's artistic director**



photogenic donkey into a cushioned van for the quick ride to the Warner Bros. lot. So much for the jackass.

Goumas zoomed along a twisting labyrinth of aging props that had been used to make some of the most memorable movies—including *A Star Is Born*, *Ghostbusters* and *All The President's Men*. He hurried past the giant “tank room” where Warner magicians had assembled *The Perfect Storm*. (Yes, that entire rain-lashed epic was filmed in a giant tank surrounded by monster-sized fans).

“I need a cardboard-type missile nose cone that a donkey can wear,” he told startled painters, carpenters, and set designers in the studio workshop, “and I’m hoping we can put it together now!”

He huddled with his top aides, all of whom were bending, shaping, and painting a cardboard-and-plastic artifact that perfectly portrayed a donkey-sized missile nose cone decorated with all the vibrant colors of the North Korean flag. By 10 minutes past noon, the cone was on the donkey’s nose and the shoot was underway.

“All we did was attach the ‘missile cone’ to his nose and walk him while we shot the video,” Goumas said. “We got it all done by 1 p.m. and we liked the way it came across. Somehow, we had delivered the goods! The whole thing was a great example of the kind of work I do on the *Conan* show each day. We call it ‘creative collaboration,’ and that’s what we’re all about.”

By 2 p.m. Conan was rehearsing his monologue in front of an audience of staffers and interns. While the producer tweaked the gags and the technicians lugged lights, Conan paced the sound stage practicing.

At precisely 4:30 p.m., and with a studio audience of about 150 captivated fans, the lights went up and the Conan house musicians lurched into the show’s theme song. After a few warm-up jokes, it was time for the moment of truth: the North Korean missile cone gag.

A giant screen lit up with the video. First a tiny economy car rolled by with

“In many ways, I think we’re like circus hands. We come to work each day with the knowledge that we’re going to have to build the show from the ground up. And then we just do it.”



Photo by Meghan Sinclair

Always working at a fast pace to finish the props for Conan’s next skit, Christopher Goumas is rarely found in his Los Angeles office.

a pint-sized “missile” on its roof. Then a single soldier marched into view carrying a six-inch “missile” that he obviously intended to throw at the enemy. And then the donkey finally arrived, marching proudly along with the Goumas-inspired nose cone firmly in place.

The audience loved it. Conan capped the moment with a perfectly timed punch line: “There’s nothing I fear more than the Great Donkey Missile!”

It’s such moments that explain how Goumas has captured national acclaim as art director for some of the biggest names in talk-show television, including David Letterman, Ellen DeGeneres, and Conan.

After 15 years of pulling together sets and rounding up outlandish cos-

tumes for TV idols, Goumas is accustomed to outrageous demands of writers and producers. They think nothing of asking him to create a giant water buffalo or chicken sandwich the size of a Volkswagen within a few hours.

“The thing I love most about this job is the way that no two days are ever alike,” the former ISU set designer said while describing what it takes to create a brand-new TV show four days a week. “But there’s also something wonderful about the collaboration that’s required each day.

“In many ways, I think we’re like circus hands. We come to work each day with the knowledge that we’re going to have to build the show from the ground up. And then we just do it. There’s an old



Goumas and his creative crew do more than scramble in California. The set above was created for the taping of Conan's show during a Chicago stint this past summer.

one-liner that I've always loved, because of the way it so perfectly describes how truly zany show business can be at times: 'Hollywood is basically junior high school—except that they have million-dollar budgets!'"

Goumas picked up his knack for creating comedy shows out of thin air during his undergrad days as a wannabe art director at ISU during the late 1980s.

"The great thing about studying theater arts at Illinois State was that the faculty gave you the opportunity to fail," he said. "They were very helpful and supportive, but they also let you go way out on the edge so you could learn about your talent and also about your limitations.

"Teaching us how to fail properly was a huge gift, and I took full advantage of it. I remember on one occasion I was working on a set for a musical comedy and I somehow managed to nail a piece of Masonite to my leg. It took me several seconds to pry it off. That's the kind of 'failure lesson' you don't soon forget!"

Goumas was raised in the Chicago suburb of Mount Prospect and landed at ISU in 1985, already dreaming of a theater career. "I'd been very active in theater in high school, and of course I

knew all about the great ISU program that had helped to launch Steppenwolf [Theatre Company] and great actors like John Malkovich, Gary Sinise, and Laurie Metcalf during the 1970s.

"That was a terrific program in a lot of ways, but what I liked most was the freedom we were given to develop our skills. At the same time, most of the ISU faculty members were extremely supportive." He fondly remembers faculty and staff greats such as Al Goldfarb, Denny Mays, and Billy Ruyle. His classmates included such standouts as Billy Clow, Tim Mann, and John Miller, who is still teaching in the college.

"That was a fantastic bunch of teachers and students. They touched my life deeply, to the point where I hope I can teach theater in college myself someday."

Thanks to a recommendation from ISU Professor Dan Wilhelm, Goumas completed a master's degree at Brandeis University. He signed on with a New York City company that staged musical

### Backstage at ISU

Go online to [IllinoisState.edu/magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/magazine) to hear Christopher Goumas recall putting the nail in his leg. His comments are part of a tribute to ISU's late scene shop supervisor Denny Mays, who has been remembered with the creation of a scholarship fund. Contributions can be made at [IllinoisState.edu/giving](http://IllinoisState.edu/giving), or by contacting Brian Gawor at (309) 438-7735 or [bjgawor@ilstu.edu](mailto:bjgawor@ilstu.edu).

shows for corporations. He spent several years learning there before jumping to Letterman's late-night talk show during the early 1990s.

Having fully mastered the art of fly-by-the-seat-of-your-pants backstage art direction by 2003, he was firmly ensconced as the art director on the hugely popular *Ellen: The Ellen DeGeneres Show*. He captured two Emmys for his work on the show and was nominated four times.

When fast-rising Conan fluttered up from his late-night perch on NBC to inherit Jay Leno's spot on the fabled *Tonight Show* in 2009, Conan quickly recruited Goumas to run the backstage operations.

Now married to former William Morris Agency operative Elizabeth (Wessel) '89, whom he met while she too was an ISU College of Fine Arts undergraduate, Goumas still loves the daily adrenaline rush of his television career. His energy and talent have resulted in legendary skits, such as the life-sized Angry Birds game he created on the Conan stage, which is still posted on YouTube.

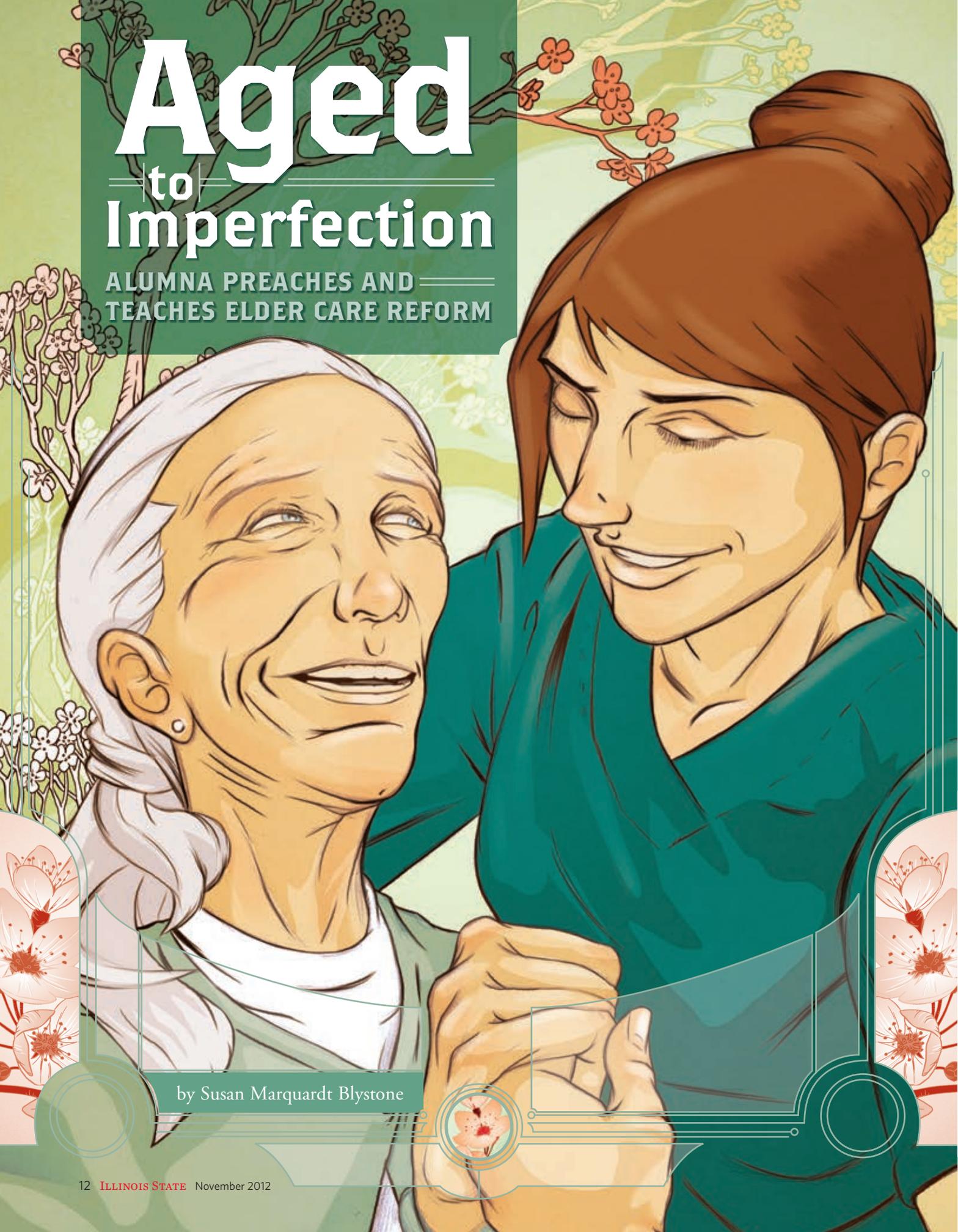
Working 10 to 12 hours a day, five days a week, he never tires of facing the manic challenges that go with serving as the art director for one of the most frenetic talk shows in television. He especially enjoys partnering with the legendary Conan.

"As a comedian, he's incredibly smart. He's also quite imposing, as a physical presence. A lot of people don't realize that he's 6 feet 4 inches, if you include his hair. He's tall, and he has a very large head," Goumas said, noting that most of the backstage maestros on the Conan show are similar to the star's size.

"Maybe you need a giant head," Goumas contemplates, "in order to meet the insane deadlines we face every day."

# Aged to Imperfection

ALUMNA PREACHES AND  
TEACHES ELDER CARE REFORM



by Susan Marquardt Blystone



**L**awyers are trained to spot the issues. Elder law attorney Susan (Loob) Geffen '85 used the skill to hone in on the fact America is heading into a crisis that is “not even on our radar.”

“We worry about nuclear bombs, our food supply, and if we will run out of energy,” Geffen said. She marvels that an issue of equal significance—aging—is not on the nation’s short list of crucial concerns.

“We live in an ageist society. It’s as if older adults aren’t worthy of anything. That’s why I want to fight for the elderly,” said Geffen, who has started “a grassroots movement across the country to change the future of what it is to be old.”

One of few in the country with a graduate degree in gerontology combined with a law degree that she uses to advocate for the elderly and disabled, Geffen is taking a pro-active stance in preparing people for the struggles and difficult decisions that will accompany the elder care crisis she knows is looming.

“The only chance we have is through education,” said Geffen, who teaches with statistics.

“Every seven seconds somebody turns 65 in our country. The largest growing population is that of 85 years and older. The second fastest growing demographic is 100 years and over.”

The U.S. Department of Health & Human Services Administration on Aging reinforces Geffen’s numbers. The department reports that in 2010, persons 65 years or older totaled 40.4 million, which is an increase of 5.4 million since 2000. By 2030 there will be about 72.1 million older persons—more than twice the number in 2000. The agency also notes that people who reach age 65 now have an average life expectancy of an additional 18.8 years.

“We used to die much younger,” Geffen said, noting Americans still have a mental portrait of life ending around age 75. But medical advances that prolong the lifespan are only one reason the nation is entering the overwhelming realm of elder care.

Another is that the U.S. has morphed from an agrarian society. Families no longer stay united across generations, which complicates aging issues. Geffen extensively researched and documented this paradigm shift while writing her recent book on nursing homes.

The reality that decisions typically aren’t made or action taken until a loved one enters a crisis stage is yet another fact that compounds problems for the elderly, as does a “not me” mentality adopted by too many middle-aged adults who fail to envision the challenges they will face as senior citizens.

Geffen is on a mission to reverse the negative trend. She created a seminar titled “Raising UP Your Parents,” which has been attended by thousands of baby boomers and seniors alike. She has authored *Susan’s Essential Book of Elder Care Forms* and *The Seven Triggers of Mental Health Decline in Seniors*. This fall she released her third book: *Take that Nursing Home and Shove It: Join the Revolution!*

Her role as educator is extended through a bi-weekly e-newsletter, watchdog alerts on senior scams, The Elder Life Series on YouTube, and an Elder Life Radio Show that presents top experts in the aging industry. All are available through her website, where she lists her top picks on everything from Alzheimer’s care to wheelchairs. She blogs on issues that range from financial questions to long-term care options and how to prepare for the future.



Geffen also works as a consultant near her home in Redondo Beach, California, partnering with families who need her guidance as a geriatric care manager, an estate planner, or an advocate to secure benefits or protect assets. The cases she handles explain why she is adamant that a significant societal shift is needed.

“I worked with a 94-year-old woman who was down to her last \$20,000. I had to tell her to give notice she was moving out because she could no longer afford her two-bedroom apartment and caregiver. She had lived there for 20 years. She told me she never expected she would live so long.”

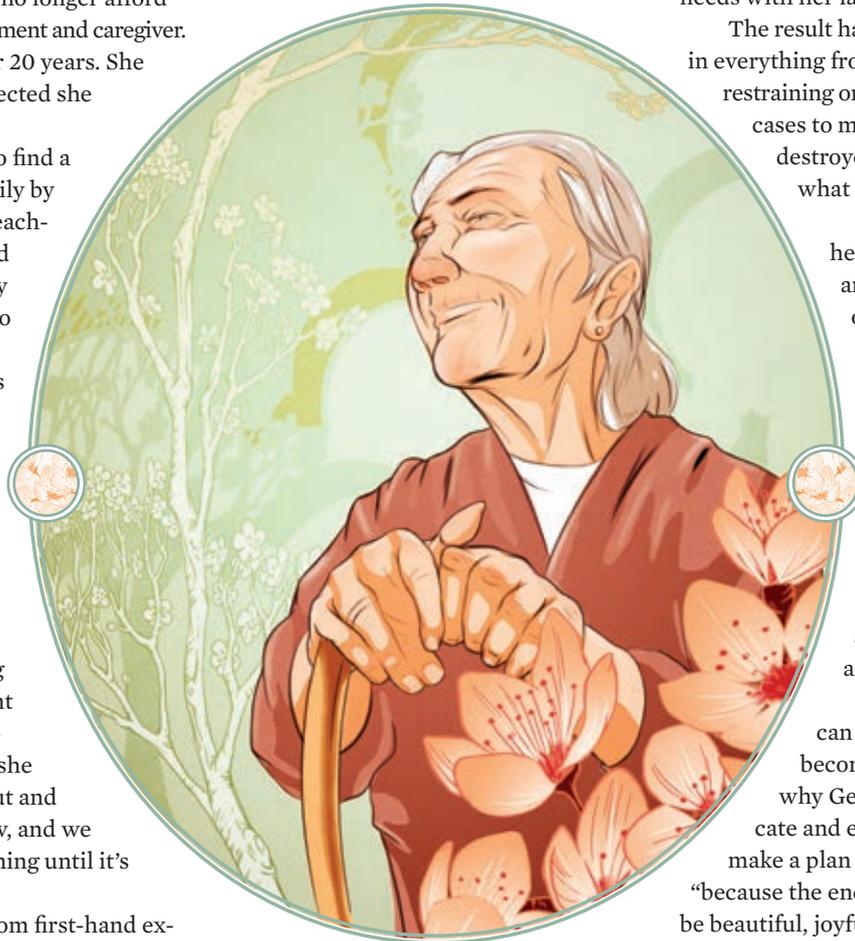
Geffen was able to find a solution with that family by acting on what she preaches, which is to plan and prioritize. Her primary goal in all she does is to help people overcome what she calls “analysis paralysis.”

“We do care about older people, but I also think that we have brain freeze. We have so much information at a rapid pace all the time and are constantly juggling so much in the moment that we can’t think beyond to the next day,” she said. “We don’t step out and contemplate tomorrow, and we don’t deal with something until it’s a problem.”

She knows this from first-hand experience in her career, which gradually evolved from her days as an Illinois State undergraduate studying speech pathology and audiology. She chose the University in part because her uncle, Gerald Lambert ’64, is a graduate of the ISU program.

Realizing she needed a master’s degree to continue in the field, Geffen opted to enroll at Loyola Law School of Los Angeles. She completed her degree in 1989 and joined the faculty as an adjunct teaching elder law. Her goal at that time was to become an advocate for the disabled.

“I am wired to be very vociferous when it comes to people who have nobody else to fight for them,” said



Geffen, who has worked as a lawyer for 22 years. With expertise in employment age discrimination and disability rights, she proved herself by taking on an international mail carrier that discriminated against an employee of 35 years who developed Parkinson’s. Geffen refused the firm’s settlement offer of \$70,000, moving forward to trial where she secured a \$1.4 million verdict.

The case sparked Geffen’s contemplation about the challenges that come with aging, which in turn resulted in her completing a master’s degree in gerontology from the University of Southern California.

She took a break from the classroom and the courtroom to be a full-time mom. When she returned to the workplace, Geffen fulfilled her passion to help others by blending her knowledge of geriatric needs with her law expertise.

The result has been her involvement in everything from hearings to secure restraining orders in elder abuse cases to mediating with families destroyed by arguments over what is best for a loved one.

Geffen has lived that heartache herself, as she and a sibling separated over disagreements that arose while caring for their mother during a battle with cancer that ended in her death. They have since reconciled, but Geffen knows of many who never speak again because of words and deeds during such a stressful time.

The painful scenario can be avoided if families become proactive, which is why Geffen is working to educate and empower. “I go out and make a plan for people,” she said, “because the end of our lives should be beautiful, joyful, and happy.”

For such an idyllic ending to unfold, however, Geffen emphasizes that each individual must anticipate their longevity and take responsibility for how their elder years will unfold.

“We live in a land of theory. People walk around saying things, but they don’t move their feet in a way that matches their words,” Geffen said. “They will say they don’t want to be a burden to their children, yet they don’t do anything to prevent that from happening.”

Too many individuals expect government programs will provide what is needed as they age. At the same time, most don’t even understand the basics of what aid is available, such as the difference between Medicare and Medicaid.

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## Geffen is working to educate and empower.

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The majority do not put in place a power of attorney or articulate in writing their wishes for how they want to live out their later years. They do not downsize to build necessary savings, or secure long-term care insurance. The majority also overlook the most obvious and easily implemented step of a healthy lifestyle long before the senior years arrive.

“The best way to live a dignified existence is to take care of our bodies and our health,” she said. “Most paths to chronic health issues—diabetes,

high blood pressure, stroke, and even Alzheimer’s disease—and the need for skilled care emanate from smoking, a sedentary lifestyle, poor eating habits, and obesity.”

She has equal concern for the well-being of those responsible for an elderly loved one, noting that “the mortality and sickness rate amongst caregivers is very high.”

Action and awareness are the best prescription for avoiding myriad painful pitfalls that accompany aging, which is why Geffen remains convinced education is the most fundamental requirement to live well until death.

She cites a study done in 2011 by Metropolitan Life that reveals up to 70 percent of 65-year-olds will require long-term care, yet only 43 percent can identify the cost for assisted living, which is currently around \$6,000 a month. Individuals who reach the age of 85 have a 50 percent risk of developing Alzheimer’s, yet few Americans have a clue of how they will pay for their medical care.

“Why are we not doing anything now? We are complacent,” Geffen said. “There is a pandemic of ignorance. The problems we are going to have if we don’t start paying attention to our future are vast, which is why I want to wake people up.”



### NEED A HELPING HAND?

As one of few gerontologists who is also an elder law attorney, Susan Geffen ’85 is uniquely positioned to advocate for the elderly. She shares her expertise online at [www.susanbgeffen.com](http://www.susanbgeffen.com). The Website provides an opportunity to seek Geffen’s help, a link to subscribe to her newsletter, and information about her seminars and books. She can also be found at [facebook.com/susanbgeffeneldercareguru](https://facebook.com/susanbgeffeneldercareguru).



# RULES OF THE GAME

COACH'S FORMULA WORKS BEYOND A BASKETBALL COURT

by Randy Kindred '80



**The rules were pretty basic in the Lafayette, Indiana, home of Cliff and Tricia Muller.** They were not posted on a wall or recited each night at the dinner table. Their four sons simply knew them by heart.

They were the cornerstones of a family built on love more than money. Follow them and you got along fine, regardless the situation.

Son No. 2 recalls learning them at “an early age.” At 36, Dan Muller '98 still can rattle them off without hesitation.

“Do the best you can and treat people the right way,” Illinois State University’s first-year men’s head basketball coach said.

Is that it?

Not quite. Mom and Dad had one more requisite for living under their roof.

“That God gave us certain talents, and it was our responsibility to use those talents,” Muller said.

It is all so simple, familiar. Who hasn’t been told to do the best you can, treat people right, take advantage of your God-given ability?

The secret to Dan Muller’s success—as a student, player and coach—is no secret at all. He just followed the rules more diligently and unconditionally than most.

Muller arrived at Illinois State in the fall of 1994 as nervous and unsure as any freshman. He wasn’t thinking about becoming a Bone Scholar, or being in the starting lineup from the opening game of his college basketball career.

“It wasn’t a goal of mine to start. It wasn’t a goal of mine to average a certain amount of points,” Muller said. “I really just wanted to do that best I could, and I’d be fine with whatever.”

Do the best you can. Not tomorrow or in two weeks or somewhere down the road, but every day. A lot of people aspire to that mindset. Muller had it ingrained in him.

It drove him to become a better student in college than he was at Lafayette Central Catholic High School. Mom and Dad weren’t around to remind him anymore. It was all on him, and time to find out what his “best” truly was.

“You get there in the fall and you just worry,” Muller said of being a freshman. “It’s college and you want to do your best. As time went on I was just way more motivated because it was about me.

“I had a semester of really good grades and then another semester. After that, it kind of just snowballed. It was like, ‘All right, I might as well keep it up.’ The bar was raised and stayed up there.”

Turned out it was historically high. Muller is the only Redbird men’s basketball player to become a Bone Scholar, ISU’s highest academic honor. He also was a two-time GTE Academic All-American and received the NCAA’s Post-Graduate Scholarship. He graduated cum laude with a bachelor’s degree in organizational leadership.

“Education was something that was important in our family,” Muller said. “It wasn’t something that was like ‘every day hammer it home’ with my parents. I had the foundation with the schools I’d attended and I had the intelligence, but I started to take more pride in it when I got here.”

God had supplied the ability. Muller’s responsibility was to use it. No need for Mom and Dad to tell him. The voice in his head was loud and clear. It got him through a lot at ISU, on the court as much as anywhere.

Muller’s 1,445 career points rank 10th in school history. He led the Redbirds to a 91-37 record while making 128 straight starts, still a school record. He was a two-time Missouri Valley Conference Defensive Player of the Year and MVP of the Valley Tournament as a senior.

ISU won back-to-back MVC regular-season and tournament titles his final two years, qualifying for the NCAA Tournament both seasons. The Redbirds have not been back since.

Look at all that and it would appear Muller’s playing career was smooth sailing. He will tell you otherwise. Muller was among eight new players on then-ISU head coach Kevin Stallings’ roster in 1994. Stallings was entering his second season and eager to establish a culture with so many new faces.

“It was hard,” Muller said. “Coach Stallings was very intense. It was not just your ordinary intensity, but even more with our team because Coach knew how important it was to build toughness, build togetherness.

“There are a lot of groups that can’t handle that. We had a group that could handle it. That can get you through a lot of hard things if you stay together. Coach certainly knew how to get the best out of us.”

The payoff was NIT berths in Muller’s first two years. They were followed by 24-6 and 25-6 NCAA Tournament campaigns the next two seasons. All the while, Stallings kept the heat on. There was nothing smooth or easy about it.

## THE PLAYER YEARS

**1995**

Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Freshman of the Year

**1995; 1996**

Two-time MVC Defensive Player of the Year

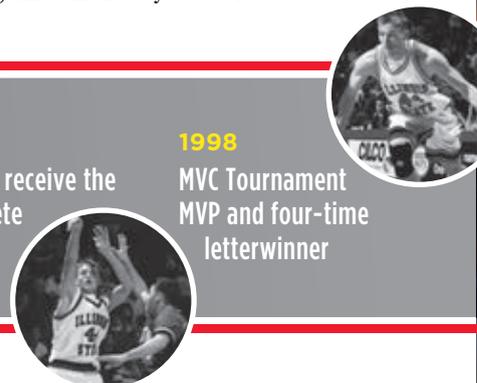
**1997**

First Illinois State student-athlete to receive the athlete of the year and scholar-athlete of the year awards in the same year

**1998**

MVC Tournament MVP and four-time letterwinner

THE VALLEY



“You have to  
do things the  
right way  
& **WIN.**”



**1998**

Finished with 81 career double-digit scoring games and 204 three-point shots; two-time GTE Academic All-American and recipient of the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship



**1998-2000**

Played professionally for two years, including with the NBA's Vancouver Grizzlies



**2009**

Inducted into ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame

“He was very demanding, very hard to play for at times,” Muller said. “There were a lot of times we didn’t like him, and he knows that. But we trusted him, we knew he loved us, and we knew he had our backs.”

“Even in the times we didn’t like him, we knew those things. We didn’t want to admit it, but we did always trust him. Even if we didn’t agree with the beatdowns he was giving us, and we would complain to each other about it, deep down we knew it’s what we needed, it’s what we deserved, it was going to win us championships.”

Muller spent the past 12 years coaching under Stallings at Vanderbilt, helping the Commodores to six NCAA Tournament berths and two Sweet Sixteen appearances. He knew of Stallings years earlier, prior to being recruited by him.

Stallings played and later was an assistant coach at Purdue, the hometown team when you live in Lafayette. Cliff Muller is a Purdue grad. He and his sons were “huge, huge Purdue fans,” Muller said.

The dream initially was to play there, and the Boilermakers recruited the 6-foot-6 Muller in high school despite a knee injury that required surgery following his junior year. It never reached the point of a scholarship offer.

Stallings began an all-out pursuit of Muller in February of 1994, and signed him to a national letter of intent in April.

Now Muller is settled into Stallings’ former Redbird Arena office, intent on returning ISU to the top of the Missouri Valley and the NCAA Tournament. He has a clear vision for the program he seeks to build, beyond what happens on the court.

It starts with every player getting a degree. It also includes getting out in the community, creating a “great connection with Bloomington-Normal.”

Muller sees the basketball program as “the front porch of the University,” adding, “We’re the best way for free marketing for the University. That’s a responsibility I look forward to doing a good job with and embracing,” he said.

Then there is the basketball side. His expectations are high.

“I want to win championships,” said Muller, who bolstered the Redbirds’ schedule by adding competitions against Dayton and Louisville to the 2012-2013 season within days of his arrival.

“I want this experience for our players to be an unbelievable college experience. The only way to do that is to win. To create the best experience you can create, you have to do things the right way and win...win championships and play in the postseason.”

Muller scored the winning basket in ISU’s last NCAA win, an 82-81 overtime victory over Tennessee in 1998. He won’t talk about that or much else from his playing days with the current players.

This is their time, and Muller said he won’t ask any more of them than he asked of himself as a player.

“I also won’t ask them for more than I’m doing as a coach, or what my staff is doing,” Muller said. “We’re going to work extremely hard. We’re going to treat people the right way. We’re going to coach with toughness. We’re going to play with toughness.”

“We’re going to have good sportsmanship. We’re going to respect people and we’re going to compete. Every program has a culture. The head coach obviously defines that culture. There’s no job too small for me. I truly believe that and that will never change. We’re going to do what it takes the right way and do what it takes to be successful.”

The rules will be simple. Do the best you can, treat people right, make the most of your God-given gifts.

It’s the Muller way.

**R**edbird Arena has been energized by the return of Dan Muller as the men’s basketball team head coach. With most of the season still to come, there is plenty of time for alumni to share in the excitement!

The season’s schedule is available at [GoRedbirds.com](http://GoRedbirds.com), including information about which games will be televised. Tickets can be purchased from the Web page, or by calling (309) 438-8000.

Fans unable to see the game in person can still follow the action. A link on the Web page makes it possible to listen to live coverage, or go to [WJBC.com](http://WJBC.com). Updates are also available with the mobile app [GoRedbirds.com/wireless](http://GoRedbirds.com/wireless).



### In his own words

Visit [IllinoisState.edu/magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/magazine) to watch a video of Dan Muller’s introduction as the team coach in May, as well as footage from his days as a Redbird. A photo album from the news conference and of Muller’s days on the court is also available.

## THE COACHING YEARS

### 2000-2012

Assistant at Vanderbilt under former ISU coach Kevin Stallings



Took over as Vanderbilt’s recruiting coordinator in 2006; built the highest-rated recruiting classes in school’s history



Vanderbilt tallied seven 20-win seasons during Muller’s years on the coaching staff and six NCAA tournament appearances.



“I want to win championships.”

The school had a 100 percent senior graduation rate in college basketball under Muller's watch as director of player academics.



Named by FoxSports.com in 2010-2011 as one of the top two men's assistant basketball coaches in the SEC, as voted on by coaches in the league

Named Illinois State head men's basketball coach in May 2012



ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY

# Grounds and Fleet

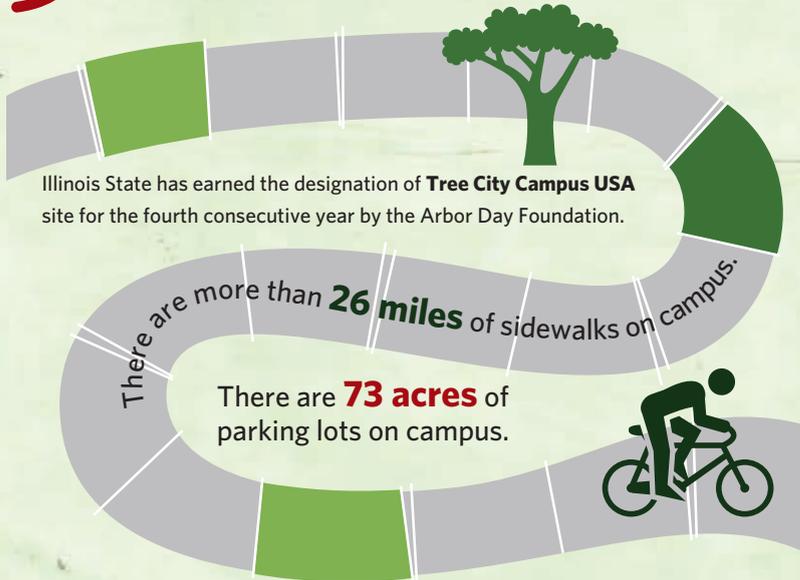
BY THE  
NUMBERS



Grounds Management annually plants more than **65 trees**



Fleet Services uses more than **100,000 gallons of gasoline and diesel fuel** to keep its fleet running.



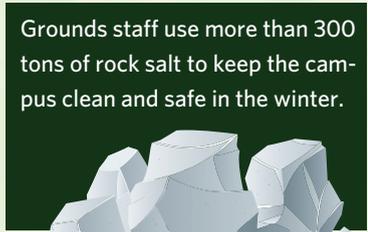
Illinois State has earned the designation of **Tree City Campus USA** site for the fourth consecutive year by the Arbor Day Foundation.

Employees mow the equivalent of **14 home lawns** each day in the mowing season.



The Illinois State University campus is comprised of

**490 ACRES**  
160 acres of that is turf



Grounds staff use more than 300 tons of rock salt to keep the campus clean and safe in the winter.

ISU was the first University in Illinois to install **PERVIOUS CONCRETE** in its parking lots. This special concrete allows water to drain through the concrete rather than storm drains to help remove storm water impurities from the parking lots.

**Illinois State University is a registered arboretum—Fell Arboretum. Our collection represents more than 5,000 trees, of 154 different species.**

Each year the Grounds staff grows and installs more than **12,000** annuals in the flower beds of Illinois State.



**Our 44 rental fleet vehicles average 15,000 miles a year for campus business.**

Since 1992 the Illinois State University Grounds Department has been awarded **8 NATIONAL AND 5 LOCAL AWARDS** for campus aesthetic beauty and overall maintenance plan.

The Town of Normal and Illinois State University partner in a Town Gown effort to reduce solid waste. ISU collects discarded lumber, desks, chairs, doors and trees, hauling it all to the Town of Normal. The material is ground and used on campus as mulch to protect and hold moisture and nutrients for the campus trees and shrubs.

## the benefits

- \$18,000** saved yearly on solid waste hauling
- \$27,000** saved a year in purchased hardwood mulch
- \$3,000** saved a year for staffing, trucking, and distribution
- \$48,000** saved yearly by taxpayers

# STATE

YOUR PASSION.

THANK YOU TO OUR ALUMNI,  
DONORS, AND FRIENDS.

Because of your support, our  
students have pursued their passion.



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY  
*Illinois' first public university*

**Because of your support, nearly \$15 million in new cash gifts and commitments were recorded at Illinois State during the past fiscal year.**

More than 30 new scholarship funds were established during the same time period, as well as six new funds to support departments and faculty.

Your gifts allowed more than 950 scholarships to be awarded through the Illinois State University Foundation.

Each investment empowers students to go forward and pursue their personal and professional dreams.

The impact is significant and appreciated, as the following recipients reveal in sharing their personal story.

## ERIN MORTIMER

**For biology major Erin Mortimer, a scholarship means the difference between being a good student and being a great student. She came to Illinois State knowing she wanted to go into veterinary medicine, not only for a love of helping animals but of people as well.**

“If you’re working with small animals, you are treating someone’s best friend. If you’re helping the animals, you are also helping people,” Mortimer said. “Also vaccinating animals affects public health and helps people. I love the idea of that.”

But competition for veterinary schools can be tough, and she knew the way to set herself apart was to make the most of her time at Illinois State. She interned at a local animal hospital, had leadership roles in the Pre-vet Club, attended symposiums, and even found a spot on a research group experimenting on a compound found in coral that could be used to cure cancer. Such a roster of activities left little room for a part-time job, which is why the Dr. Fred Gletten Memorial Scholarship has been vital to her success.

“The Dr. Fred Gletten Memorial Scholarship helped me because I can work fewer hours to sustain myself and can do research, be more active in my club, volunteer, and focus on activities that are key to being accepted into vet school,” she said.

The scholarship not only allowed her to focus on becoming a prime candidate for veterinary school, it also gave her the confidence to seek additional funding.

“When I started as a freshman, I applied for many scholarships but was not awarded any. Receiving this one encouraged me to apply for others.”

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*The Dr. Fred Gletten Memorial Scholarship was established to pave the way for future scientists yearning to make a contribution to the institution of medicine. Dr. Gletten established the scholarship as part of his contribution to the University, which helped nurture his foundation in science and challenge his scientific reasoning. Gletten is an assistant clinical professor of medicine at UCLA. His son, Fred, is a student at Illinois State.*





## KATIE ZDANOWSKI

**Few undergraduates can claim a world premiere, but music major Katie Zdanowski '12 has the achievement on her resume.**

She arranged a work for a tuba/euphonium ensemble, originally written for other instruments. Her arrangement premiered with the ISU Tuba/Euphonium Ensemble at the University's Evening of Brass concert in 2010, and was performed at the Illinois Music Educators Association All-State Conference in 2011.

The unusual assignment came from one of her professors. Though Zdanowski was a bit reluctant at first, she later discovered such opportunities are an advantage of going to ISU.

As a high school senior, Zdanowski had her sights set on another school. She was offered the chance to audition at ISU when she contacted the School of Music in search of an instrument. Faculty judges were so impressed, they awarded her the Mary Jo Brown Scholarship. She also received a Friends of the Arts Student Award.

"The scholarship made an incredible difference and enabled me to graduate with very little debt," she said. "I know many students my age who are graduating with tens of thousands of dollars of loans. Not having to deal with that kind of financial burden after graduation is an incredible blessing. It opens my life to an endless number of possibilities. It makes a difference as to what direction you can take your life."

Zdanowski is working in music education as a band director in the Illinois community of Robinson, and continues to perform part-time.

"I am very grateful to the entire ISU School of Music for their generous help and support during my undergraduate studies," she said. "The help I received from them and the fine arts community enabled me to pursue my studies to the fullest."

*Katie received the Mary Jo Brown Scholarship and a scholarship from Friends of the Arts. The Brown scholarship was established in 1990 by Betty Robertson in memory of her sister. The company from which Betty retired matches her gifts, increasing the size of the scholarships awarded. The Friends of the Arts (FOA) is an ISU organization that supports outstanding students. Its mission is supporting the arts and helping students with promising careers in the arts pursue their education and careers with minimal financial debt. There have been 116 recipients of the Brown scholarship since 1991, and more than 170 recipients of the FOA scholarship since 2009.*

## KYLIE RIESER

**In high school, Kylie Rieser '12 was fascinated with anything medical. She was so intent on getting into Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) that she earned a certified nursing assistant certificate and got some experience before applying.**

Rieser was able to attend MCN with support from the Peter A. and Ella G. Schertz Scholarship, which is awarded to an undergraduate student who is strong in leadership, community service, and/or volunteerism.

The new \$2 million MCN Nursing Simulation Lab enabled Rieser to practice hands-on nursing skills and interventions on lifelike mannequins with “live” responses.

“It gave us this ability to go through the hard and difficult simulations that maybe you don’t want your first time on a unit,” Rieser said. “We were able to do all procedures from beginning to end and also critique the practice with a video review. It was amazing.”

When Rieser heard about the opportunity to study nursing abroad through the Jana L. Edge Endowed International Transcultural Nursing Scholarship, which would pay part of her expenses, she knew she had to apply. She was able to study nursing in Great Britain, where she learned how a universal health care system works.

“It’s a system focused on preventative care, rather than chronic illness. The system is less taxed by the higher costs of disease management, and patients are less stressed while in care because there is someone always keeping in touch with them. This approach can really affect how people heal.”

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*Kylie received the Jana L. Edge Endowed International Transcultural Nursing Scholarship and the Peter A. and Ella G. Schertz Scholarship. The Jana L. Edge fund enables nursing student leaders in the program to broaden their knowledge through travel, learning, and application of their knowledge and skills in other cultures. (Another Edge fund, the Orlyn Edge Scholarship, provides scholarships to actuarial science students.) The Schertz scholarship was established by Beulah Schertz Roth and Velma Schertz, Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing (MHSN) graduates, in memory of their parents. Beulah’s daughter, Cinda Roth, is also a 1965 MHSN and 1972 ISU graduate. Family and friends continue to support the fund. The scholarship is awarded to a full-time Mennonite College of Nursing student who demonstrates leadership, a spirit of friendship, sharing, and service.*



## KATHRYN (TRAU) VAN VALEY

**It didn't take long for Kathryn (Trau) Van Valey '10 to realize that deaf education was her calling. During her senior year of high school she began exploring special education programs at Illinois State. Once she started learning about deaf education, she knew she had found something special.**

"Deaf education chose me," she said. "I have loved it from the minute I started my freshman year, and that feeling has not changed. It will continue to be part of me for the rest of my life."

Van Valey's passion made her an ideal recipient for the Wanda and Dale Weaver Endowed Scholarship and Fellowship Fund, a scholarship for students who plan to teach persons who are deaf or hard-of-hearing. The scholarship supplemented the modest income Van Valey received from a part-time job at marcfirst, a Central Illinois agency that serves those with developmental disabilities. She was also able to enhance her education through membership in the Deaf Redbirds Association.

"When I began my teaching practicum, I was able to use the scholarship and get supplies for my classroom, which many other teachers do not have," Van Valey said. "I learned a lot working at Metcalf and through the Deaf Redbirds Association. You can't fully prepare yourself for a new classroom because every classroom is going to be a new experience, but experiencing as much as you can eases that transition."

Van Valey was more than ready to lead her first classroom. The fall after graduation she accepted a position as a permanent substitute teacher at the Illinois School for the Deaf in Jacksonville. The following spring, she was offered a new position teaching math, reading, and consumer education for high school students.

Thanks to philanthropists with similar passions, Van Valey was able to seize the opportunities around her and cultivate her passion into one that will make a difference to her students for years to come.

*Wanda Weaver '64 and her husband, Dale, established the Wanda and Dale Weaver Endowed Scholarship and Fellowship Fund. It assists juniors, seniors, and graduate students studying special education. Special consideration is given to students in the deaf and hard-of-hearing sequence. Wanda has made arrangements to provide additional funding to the scholarship through her estate. Dale applies for matching gifts from his employer, doubling the impact of their gifts.*





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40%



## DOMINICK RUSSO

**Dominick Russo '05 was drawn to a financial career when, as a high school student, he opened an investment account online and began following stocks.**

After his sophomore year at Illinois State, his trading career kicked off in earnest when he started working as a runner for Archer Daniels Midland on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange. Russo worked in the “meats,” an area of the exchange that focuses on agricultural commodities such as live cattle and lean hogs.

“There was a lot of energy and it was great to actually be a part of the whole process that people read about in the *Wall Street Journal*,” he said. Russo worked on the floor of the Chicago Mercantile Exchange and Chicago Board of Trade during college breaks.

At ISU, he participated in the Educational Investment Fund (EIF), a real-dollar, student-managed investment portfolio overseen by a board of directors who are industry professionals.

“I’d have to say it was the best class that I took in terms of learning hands-on,” Russo said. “EIF gave me a real-world look into money management. The game certainly changes when you have real money on the line and you are held accountable for your decisions.”

That was good preparation for his career as head resin trader for The Plastics Exchange. “The trading world is very fast-paced and exciting,” he said. “The skills I learned in EIF carried over.”

As a donor to EIF and a member of the board, Russo has the opportunity to advise and mentor students. “I get to sit on the other side and help students come into their own with financial markets.”

*The Educational Investment Fund (EIF) program provides a real-world investing opportunity for students who have a strong academic background in finance, as well as academic and career goals that match the course objectives. Participants are responsible for managing an actual portfolio of securities in a challenging, hands-on learning experience. The EIF Enhancement Fund consists of gifts from many donors, including generous contributions from Professor of Finance Thomas Howe and his wife, Ellen. It covers the cost of EIF student scholarships, technology used by EIF students, and other EIF activities.*

**STATE**  
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The personal stories of gratitude shared by these students are increasingly the norm at Illinois State University, as more alumni and friends of Illinois State make an investment in the University’s programs and people. Every gift received has a positive impact. Private support reveals each donor’s passion, while fueling the passion of students whose college experience is either made possible through financial assistance or further enriched because campus offerings are bolstered. State your Passion today by making a contribution online at [IllinoisState.edu/Giving](http://IllinoisState.edu/Giving), calling (309) 438-8041, or sending an email to [jdhutch@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jdhutch@IllinoisState.edu).

# Pages from the past

Yearbooks that captured the best of college life are a keepsake for alums across generations. Bound volumes that preserve precious memories are treasured by the graduates who were able to purchase and protect their yearbooks. But time takes its toll on the pages, which is why Milner Library's staff worked to digitize the University's entire yearbook collection.

Alums can now go online and scroll or search through pages of *The Index* from 1892 to 1971; the *New Student Record* from 1975 to 1994; and the *Graduate Record*, which was published from 1975 to 1993. All years are represented with the exception of 1984 to 1988 and 1992, when the yearbook was either not published or none were available for digitization.

The work was completed this year with support from the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois. Take a stroll down memory lane online!

**[Library.IllinoisState.edu/  
unique-collections/  
archives/yearbooks.php](http://Library.IllinoisState.edu/unique-collections/archives/yearbooks.php)**



# AlumniConnections



## Illinois State magazine launches campus blog

New online feature connects alumni to daily ISU life

**W**e have so many stories to tell here at Illinois State University—about our people, our history, and what’s happening on campus every single day. You read about events and individuals in this magazine and in other Illinois State publications, but our stories multiply with each incoming freshman and outgoing graduate.

To help tell all these stories, we’ve launched a new *Illinois State* magazine blog, *STATEside*, which you can find at [IllinoisState.edu/STATEside](http://IllinoisState.edu/STATEside).

What we’ll do on this blog is build a bridge that reconnects our alumni and friends with everyday life on campus. But like every bridge, it’s a two-way street.

### What’s on *STATEside*?

- Photos
- Videos
- Alumni stories
- Social media recaps
- This Week in Illinois State History

We’ll also use the space to tell today’s campus community about notable work, philanthropy, and personal accomplishments from our Illinois State alumni.

We’ll do this with original content, updated every day or so, including photos, video and social media. We’ll talk to professors about current events. We’ll look back at history through old photos and newspaper clippings. We’ll curate and collate tweets and Facebook posts during big events on campus.

The goal is to engage you, the reader, in a conversation about today’s Illinois State University. That means we want you to comment on our posts and share your memories. In fact, our first post on the new blog back in August was a compilation of your memories about four residence halls and a dining center on South Campus that were decommissioned before this school year began.

The *Illinois State* staff is excited to provide yet one more avenue for you to access the campus community. We hope you like it.

Questions about *STATEside* can be directed to the blog editor, Ryan Denham, at [rmdenha@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:rmdenha@IllinoisState.edu).

## Alumni Relations welcomes new director

Doris Groves '81 has accepted a leadership role in Alumni Relations, becoming the executive director of alumni engagement in August. She oversees the University's continuing efforts to build relationships advancing the mission of Illinois State.

A business administration graduate, Groves has a lengthy career in higher education and many years of service at Illinois State. She held the position of Illinois State's Office of Admissions director since 2010.

During her career with the University, Groves served the Office of Admissions in student recruitment; student application processing; and as the coordinator of the Preview program, which introduces new students to the University. She served as associate director of Admissions before being named acting director in 2010.

She worked for 16 years at the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling, the professional association for college admission and high school guidance professionals in Illinois.

## Alumni Association directors elected

There is new membership within the Alumni Association following a board of directors campus meeting in September.

Jennifer M. Groezinger '02, Julie A. Jones '90, and Scott A. Preston '10 were elected to their first, three-year term.

Groezinger teaches middle school in Park Forest, where she resides. Jones is an attorney with Protecting Legacies, LLC, in Chicago, where she resides. Preston is employed by the Illinois Business Center. He resides in Normal.

The board also elected officers. Greg Ayers '90 of Portage, Michigan, is presi-

dent. Jerry Kerber '74 of Normal is vice president/president-elect. The position of secretary/treasurer is held by Kaci Rollings '94 of Ottawa.

The Alumni Association is a volunteer, nonprofit group that serves more than 180,000 alumni, the University, and its students. 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.



## Redbird couple chosen as Homecoming royalty

This year's Homecoming celebration was especially meaningful for Elaine (Hakey) '58 and Roger Cushman '62, as they were chosen to serve as the alumni king and queen.

The Cushmans met in September of 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 that 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.

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 retiring in 1991. The Cushmans now reside in Colorado.

## Milestone celebration approaching for alumni

The Illinois State University Alumni Association will mark its sesquicentennial in 2013. The anniversary year creates an opportunity to celebrate the first century and a half of dedicated service on the part of students and fellow alumni to the University.

The anniversary year will officially kick off at Founders Day in the spring semester. Watch for more information in the February issue of *Illinois State*, in the monthly Illinois State news eNewsletter, and online at [IllinoisState.edu/alumni](http://IllinoisState.edu/alumni).



# ClassNotes



Normal Community High School students evacuated following a shooting in the classroom of Derrick Schonauer. (Photo by David Proeber/*The Pantagraph*. © 2012; used with permission.)

## Alum becomes “hero teacher” in shooting

First-year educator humble after “scary” day in classroom

**D**errick Schonauer '12 is being called a hero for subduing a student who fired a gun during school earlier this fall, but he didn't spend much time basking in the limelight.

“I won't be taking any questions today, because I need to get back to my kids,” the College of Applied Science and Technology graduate told reporters during a press conference on the first day school resumed after the incident.

Schonauer was teaching a health class at Normal Community High School on September 7 when a 14-year-old student allegedly fired multiple shots into the ceiling and briefly detained several classmates. Schonauer subdued the stu-

dent when he put the weapon down for a moment.

The 25-year-old graduated from Illinois State last spring with a major in health education and a minor in physical education. A Lincoln resident, he played football and basketball in high school. The last teacher hired at Normal Community High School over the summer, he explained to reporters what led him back to the classroom as an educator.

“I became a teacher to influence young people's lives, especially those told that they can't do something or will never amount to anything,” the first-year teacher said.

Schonauer did not go into details about what happened inside his classroom on only his 12th day on the job, call-

ing it only a “scary” situation. But he did describe his first moments with his students after school resumed September 10.

“After announcements, I gathered all the kids, and I said, ‘Everybody come in here in the middle.’ We had one giant group hug, and I just told the kids that I loved every single one of them, I was proud of the way they handled it—not just me—I was thankful, and the most important thing was nobody got hurt. No lives were taken,” Schonauer said.

Unit 5 school district Superintendent Gary Niehaus called Schonauer “our hero.”

“He's somebody we're proud of,” Niehaus said. “Instinctively, we all have that fight-or-flight inside of us, and obviously he had the right instinct.”

## 40s

**Vanitta F. (Eledge) Olinger '43** retired in 1979 after teaching, working in a personnel office and as a school librarian. She represented the Women's National Lawn Bowling Team in South Africa in 1995 and was elected to the U.S. National Lawn Bowling Hall of Fame in 2002. She resides in Santa Rosa, California.

**Barbara (Horton) Theriault '48** and her husband, Richard, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in 2011. They reside in Clearwater, Florida.

## 60s

**Patricia L. (Long) DeGeeter '62** retired from Lee County High Tech Center North in Florida, where she taught office skills. She was part of the original faculty for the office administration program at Collin County Community College. She received the college's Outstanding Faculty Award. She and her husband, Darrell, reside in McKinney, Texas.

**Alfred Mirande '63** is a professor of sociology and ethnic studies at the University of California. He has published seven books, including *Rascuache Lawyer*. He resides in Riverside, California.

**Ray L. Brownfield '65** is president of Land Pro, LLC, which provides agricultural property management and real estate brokerage services. He served in 2012 as president of the National REALTORS Land Institute. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Naperville.

**James T. Hancock Jr. '67** retired from Caterpillar, Inc. He is a Peoria Park District trustee and commissioner for the City of Peoria Human Resources Commission. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Peoria.

**Richard J. Forrest '68** retired after teaching special needs students for 36 years. He was an adapted physical education specialist teacher and consultant through the Contra

Costa County Office of Education in California. He resides in Brentwood, California.

**J. Arthur Rodger '68** has retired from Arlington County Government as dean of the Arlington Institute. He previously spent 19 years with the U.S. Peace Corps in Africa, the Pacific Islands, and the Caribbean. He resides in Arlington, Virginia.

**Sherrill Ann Sprowl '68** has retired from Streater Elementary. She and her husband, Lee, winter in Sarasota, Florida. They reside in Crest Hill.

## 70s

**David L. Schaffer '70** has retired from Caterpillar, Inc., as a business systems and processes project manager. He and his wife have two adult children and six grandchildren. The couple resides in Bloomington.

**Marion Scherer-Stengel, M.A. '70**, is a playwright focused on social issues. *A Prison of the Mind* concerns the death penalty. *To Do Something Good* is about human cloning. *I Belong Here Too* ties immigration issues with racial profiling.

**Terry L. Ziemke '70** retired as dean of students at Downers Grove North High School. He is an Illinois State Board of Education Those Who Excel Award winner in Student Services. He coached the Downers Grove North High School football team and resides with his wife, Carole, in Lockport.

**Deborah (Starbuck) Albrandt '71** is the managing broker/owner of Starbuck Realty Group, which specializes in residential, investment and relocation in the Denver area. She resides in Arvada, Colorado.

**Richard S. Dennis '71** is president and CEO of Athens State Bank, where he has worked 40 years. The bank had assets of \$5 million when he began and grew to \$120 million. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Petersburg.

# Pause for applause



## Speaking of safety

**Dave Weber, M.S. '75**, spent more than 40 years ensuring the safety of others. From managing environment health and safety departments for five international corporations to teaching at a college and working as an OSHA safety inspector, Weber is dedicated to safety issues. He shares his knowledge through a website he created, Safety Awakenings. The free site shares life-saving safety resources. One of the fastest growing occupational safety and health websites, Weber's site receives more than 20,000 visitors a month. It was recognized earlier this year by the American Society of Safety Engineers.

## Recipe for success

Memories for **Kara Sigle '03** include serving as co-captain of the Illinois State Redline Express dance team, entertaining as a San Francisco 49ers Gold Rush cheerleader, and competing on national television. Sigle was a finalist in season eight of *The Next Food Network Star* reality series that aired earlier this year on Food Network. A marketing graduate, Sigle attended a culinary arts school and started her own company, Nostalgic Catering, in Chicago. An avid fitness guru, she puts a healthy spin on her dishes. Sigle is also a fitness instructor for The Total Body Bootcamp.



## Broadcasting excellence



**Lee Gordon '97** put his broadcasting degree to use for 15 years as a sports and news anchor for CBS. He was also a FOX network NFL sideline reporter. Now a vice president at 180 Communications, Gordon handles the company's PR, media training, web and video. He writes for various magazines and hosts SportsCenter updates on ESPN radio. Gordon excels in working as a media trainer with corporate executives and athletes at all levels, helping them create their brand and explore the uses and pitfalls of social media. He worked with three of the top four 2012 NFL Draft picks.

## Heralding a hero



When communication alum **Joel Waldinger '86** toured former Gestapo headquarters in Berlin, he learned of a Wisconsin woman who was executed for her role in the underground Nazi resistance. An Emmy award-winning producer for Wisconsin Public Television, Waldinger brought her story to life with the documentary *Wisconsin's Nazi Resistance: The Mildred Fish-Harnack Story*. The film was awarded the 2012 TV Award by the German-American jury of the RIAS Berlin Commission. All German and American television stations can participate in the transatlantic competition. Waldinger's film also captured first place awards from the Northwest Broadcast News Association and the Wisconsin Broadcasters Association.



## Reggie Reads

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums at [IllinoisState.edu/magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/magazine). Click on Reggie Reads.

# How we met

by Brian Smith '12

Tom Smith '80 and Marlys Hinz '80 met the spring of their freshman year in 1977. Tom's roommate dated Marlys' roommate, so the two were occasionally in the same social scene. The first real sparks began to fly during Rites of Spring in 1977.

The day was filled with music, walking around, and getting to know one another. "She practically watched the entire concert from my shoulders, and by the end of the day we knew there was something strong between us," Tom said.

That summer was spent apart. The two wrote back and forth, visiting each other a few times. "We were able to talk about anything, and loved the same activities, such as biking, swimming, and just being outside," Tom recalled. "It wasn't long before we knew we were in love."

The two appreciated their time together at ISU. They explored each other's interests through various campus activities. Tom showed Marlys his love of music and sports by taking her to concerts and games. Marlys' passion for dance was evident to Tom when he attended classes and performing arts events with her.

The couple wasted little time tying the knot after graduation, marrying in August of 1980 in Normal. They moved to the suburbs, where Marlys accepted a position at McDonald's corporation with her degree in accounting. She held the job for 32 years. Tom used his mass communications degree to pursue a career at CDW in Vernon Hills. They raised their two children, Jennifer and me, Brian Smith '12, in Glen Ellyn.

Their vow of "in sickness and in health" was put to the test in the spring of 2009, when my mom was initially diagnosed with breast cancer, and again when it returned in the fall of 2011.

My parents spent every day together while she was sick. I was able to witness firsthand the true meaning of love. Unfortunately, my mom passed away in July of this year, but her teachings and caring nature live on through me, my sister, and my dad.

One of my most precious memories was my graduation weekend in May, as my mom was able to attend. She and my dad made their way to the couple's bench while at ISU for a photo on the campus where their romance that ended all too soon had its start.



**Kathleen A. Kaye '71** owns Kaye Communications, which provides medical consulting and writing services. She completed a certificate in winemaking and has a vineyard. She published a novel, *The Case of the Missing Cobras*. She resides in Shoreline, Washington.

**Lawrence R. Johnson '72** is an actor. He and his wife, Catherine, circumnavigated the globe by motorcycle from 2010 to 2011. They blogged about the adventure at [www.2by2Wheels4theWorld.com](http://www.2by2Wheels4theWorld.com). They reside in Johns Creek, Georgia.

**Steve O'Neil '72** is the commissioner for St. Louis County in Minnesota. He is chair of the county board's Health and Human Services Committee. He and his wife, Angie, reside in Duluth, Minnesota.

**Allen W. Scharf '72** has retired after 38 years in public education, most

recently as a superintendent. He worked as a middle school teacher and principal and taught high school. He is president of Belleville Township High School's board and owns Scharf Farms, Inc., with his wife, Nancy. They reside in Millstadt.

**Gregory Hultgren '73, M.S. '74**, is CEO of Dent Zone Companies. He became a CGMA in 2012. His wife, **Rose (Boehm) '76**, is self-employed in investments. They reside in Irving, Texas.

**Donald Charles Klein Sr. '73** completed a master's in construction. He is the facilities engineering project manager for equipment installation, new construction and remodeling/renovation work for the Kroger Company. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Glendale, Arizona.

**Joseph A. Taliano '73** is a public service representative in the

Princeton Drivers Facility. He has been named Jaycee of the Year and served as an alderman, city clerk, and mayor of Spring Valley, where he resides.

**Jerry Voegele '73** has retired from the City of Peoria Police Department after 33 years of service and attaining the rank of lieutenant. He is the director of safety and security for Harrison School District Two in Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he resides with his wife, Nancy McElhiney.

**Almon H. Cleg '74** is self-employed as a consulting engineer and technology manager for international-based manufacturers. He was named a Life Fellow Member of Audio Engineering Society and of the Institute of Electrical and Electronic Engineers. He was chosen to speak at the International Conference on

Consumer Electronics this year. He resides in Cumming, Georgia.

**William Hughes '74** retired after 38 years as an educator and athletic trainer. He was president of the Illinois Athletic Trainers Association (IATA) and the Great Lakes Athletic Trainers Association (GLATA). He is in the IATA Hall of Fame and received the Golden Pinnacle award from the GLATA. He and his wife, Mary, have two grandchildren and reside in Warrenville.

**Michael Edward Sherman '74** has retired from the State of Illinois after 31 years as a bank examiner. He remains active in the Knights of Columbus and church activities. He resides in Springfield.

**Nancy D. Anderson '75, M.S. '76**, is a speech pathologist at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center. She is a Fellow with the Illinois Speech

Language Hearing Association. She and her husband reside in Normal.

**Maritia Griffith '75** completed her juris doctorate at Northern Illinois University. She is the regional counsel for the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services. She previously served as assistant State's Attorney in Rock Island County Juvenile Court. She and her husband, Ronald, reside in Moline.

**Brad H. Reynolds '75, '07**, has held 57 jobs in fields ranging from real estate appraiser to rodeo announcer. He returned to complete an ISU teaching certificate at age 56. He teaches social studies to middle school students in Fisher Community School District #1. He resides in Savoy.

**Cynthia S. (Weaver) Aussieker '76, M.S. '07**, is a National Board Certified Teacher. She works as a resource learning disabilities teacher at Northwest Elementary School in Lincoln. Her husband, **Brad '07**, is a pharmacist at Mt. Pulaski Pharmacy. They are the parents of two adult children and reside in Lincoln.

**Robert DeKeyser '76** is a school psychologist with Winnebago County Special Education Cooperative. He received the Ted Smith Practitioner of the Year Award for School Psychology—the highest award given to a school psychologist in Illinois. His wife, **Mary L. (Kidney) '76**, is a librarian at Beloit Public Library. They reside in Rockton.

**Denis M. Medeiros '76** is vice provost and dean of the School of Graduate Studies at the University of Missouri-Kansas City. He previously served as head of the Department of Human Nutrition at Kansas State University. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Prairie Village, Kansas.

**Jeffery O. Orton '76, M.S. '80**, retired after 33 years of teaching history and geography at Geneseo Middle School. He and his wife, **Mary J. (Asplund) '74, M.S. '78**, met at Preview. She retired after 33 years of teaching high school English and business classes. Their daughter is a junior at ISU. They reside in Geneseo.

**Larry G. Bafford '77** is a project manager and chief estimator for Christy-Foltz, Inc. He is a management trustee for Mid-Central Illinois Regional Council of Carpenters and a Joint Apprenticeship Training Committee Member of Central Illinois Builders Education/Safety Committee. He resides in Decatur.

**Dorothy J. Isaacson '77** passed the CPA exam and is a tax accountant with Caterpillar, Inc. She and her husband, James, reside in Edwards.

**David Roy Baker '78** works for the State of Illinois as a field supervisor over regulation of the long-term care program. His son is attending Illinois State. Baker and his wife, Janet, reside in Morton.

**Marjean Largent '78** graduated from Grand Canyon University in the R.N. to B.S.N. program. She is a registered nurse working at Scottsdale Healthcare. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**Scott Scholten '78** is the director of studio operations for The Coming Home Network International, which provides weekly television and radio programming for the Eternal Word Television Network. He produces and directs *The Journey Home* and *Deep In Scripture*. He and his wife, **Barbara (Bradley) '78**, reside in Granville, Ohio.

**Duane A. Schroeder '78** owns and operates Duane A. Schroeder State Farm Insurance. He is a governance council member with Advocate BroMenn Regional Medical Center, a Paul Harris Fellow, and a Rotary member. He and his wife, Rachel, reside in Roanoke.

**Mark S. Victor '78, M.S. '83**, has retired after 19 years with Seneca Township High School, where he directed bands and led driver education. He taught 34 years total. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Seneca.

**Richard Harold Strom '79** is an editor in the sports department of the *Chicago Tribune*, where he has worked for 33 years. He and his wife, Madonna, reside in St. Charles.

## 80s

**Rocco D'Alessandro '80** is a seasoned veteran in the natural gas business. He served as executive vice president of Nicor Gas prior to being named president of Millennium Pipeline Company, LLC. The company is an interstate natural gas pipeline serving the Northeast and located in New York.

**Michael A. Jones '80** is chief administrative caseload officer at the St. Clair County Court Services and Probation Department in Belleville, where he resides.

**Kevin Paul Ostendorf '80** is the vice president of loan services at Lakeside Bank. He has been appointed director of the Crest Hill Police Pension Board. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Crest Hill.

**Carl W. Ervin III '81** has been named director of cultural diversity at Carroll University. He previously was assistant director of the Center for Inclusive Excellence at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He resides in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

**Richard J. Wulbecker '81** is the superintendent of recreation for the Hanover Park District. He and his wife, Janet Brunke, have two adult children and reside in Hoffman Estates.

**Roland Spies '82** is in the legislative/regulatory field for State Farm Insurance Companies. He serves on the private sector board of directors of the American Legislative Exchange Council and received its Member of the Year award in 2011. He resides in Bloomington.

**Scott A. Tucker '82** is vice president of leasing for the Chicago region of Kimco Realty. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Northbrook.

**Sara Kathleen Crew '83** is a Frontier Communications dispatcher. She has four children and resides in Sherburne, New York.

**Douglas B. Jones '83** has been promoted to president of Edward Hines Lumber Co. He and his wife, **Vicki D. (Berkley) '83**, reside in Batavia.



### Commissioned piece honors professor

*and gladly would he learn and gladly teach: a tribute to Gordon Fidler* is a lithograph print created by ISU Art Professor and Normal Editions Workshop Director Richard Finch. The print was commissioned as a memorial to Fidler '51 by his daughters, Tammy Swinford-Potts '73 and Marta Eynatten '76. He was an ISU business professor, president of the University's Alumni Association, and recipient of the E. Burton Mercier Alumni Award. The lithograph print was dedicated during Homecoming weekend and is displayed in the Alumni Relations Office at the Alumni Center. Visit [IllinoisState.edu/magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/magazine) for a high-resolution PDF of the original piece.

## Redbird legacy

Sheryl (Lessen) Reeser '61 came to Illinois State for the excellent education program. After graduating, she taught at a school for the developmentally disabled in Rockford. She went on to teach fourth grade before taking a professional break as she and her husband, Don, started a family that eventually included five children.

When it came time to consider sending them to college, Illinois State became the choice for all five. Sheryl and Don consequently bought a house in Normal two blocks from campus. It became the collegiate home for Brian '87, Todd '88, David '89, Julie '92, and Brent '94.

With much of Don's family in Bloomington, the siblings had plenty of support as they pursued different majors. "It was nice for them to have grandma and their aunts and uncles around," Sheryl said.

Sheryl remembers how helpful the hands-on undergraduate experience was for Brian, who graduated with a degree in geology. He now lives in Texas with his wife, Candace, and works at an environmental firm.

Todd, who graduated with a degree in general finance, worked with actual business portfolios during his stint at the University. He has become one of the top brokers at Edward Jones Financial. His wife, Diane (Reiff) '89, is a marketing graduate. They reside in Kewanee.

David earned a mathematics degree and has advanced to become a computer analyst for Northern Trust's Chicago headquarters, and lives with his wife, Sandy, in Bartlett. His brother, Brent, who resides in Yorkville with wife Angie, was a history major at Illinois State. He followed his father's footsteps in the insurance industry, becoming a successful adjuster with Farmers Insurance Group.

Julie initially mirrored her mother's interests and studied elementary education at ISU. She has since also become an adjuster, working at COUNTRY Financial in Bloomington. She and her husband, Bill Quigley, reside in Normal.

While Sheryl returned to the classroom and taught learning disabled children when Brent entered into first grade, she is now retired. She and Don reside in Tennessee, where she continues to appreciate and build upon Redbird memories that not only go back 50 years but encompass her family.



**Joseph M. Mouser '83** is an Edward Jones Investments financial advisor. He has received numerous awards for selling excellence. He and his wife, Tara, reside in Mahomet.

**Steven Spurling '83** is regional vice president of Columbia Mutual and president of District 303 Board of Education. He and his wife reside in St. Charles.

**Jeffrey N. Boone '85** is a police investigator with the Illinois Secretary of State. His wife, **Vicki '92**, is an elementary/special education teacher. They reside in Metamora.

**Judith (Bogdanski) Epcke '85** is director of instructional technology for Lake Forest School District 67. She chaired the Illinois Computing Educators state educational technology conference in 2011 and 2012. She and her husband, William, reside in Des Plaines.

**Susan M. Ford '85** is a conversion plan administrator with United

Healthcare. She resides in the Chicago area.

**Gregory M. Godsil '85** is sales manager-USA with Biocatalysts, Inc. He is the parent of two adult children and resides in Carol Stream.

**Kenneth L. McComas '85** has retired from the U.S. Navy and as a substitute teacher. A widower, he is an avid motorcycle rider. He resides in Temple, Texas.

**Timothy B. Moulton '85** is the plant controller for Simonton Windows. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Oakwood.

**Randy Richardson '85** is an attorney and author whose essays have appeared in *Chicken Soup for the Father and Son Soul*. He wrote the novel, *Cheeseland*, and is president of the Chicago Writers Association. He and his wife, Mitsuko, are the parents of one son. They reside in Evanston.

**Laura M. McDonough '87** is executive assistant of New Builds-West

Region for JP Morgan Chase. She resides in Downers Grove.

**Michael G. Chausse '88** is an agriculture education instructor and vocational director with Mercer County CUSD 404. He is an alderman in the City of Aledo, where he and his wife, Kris, reside.

**Diondria Sharisse Jones '88** completed a master's in counseling from Chicago State University. She is a Department of Children and Family Services child welfare specialist. She has a home-based travel agency, DeeLightful Travels. She has a teen daughter and resides in Chicago.

**Stephan F. Diol '89** is an associate vice president of investments at Wells Fargo Advisors. His wife, **Karrie (Keefe) '89**, is a principal of Robert Crown Elementary School in Wauconda.

**H. Keith Owsley, M.S. '89**, is director of fitness, associate athletic director and head athletic trainer

for Prairie School. He previously served as a firefighter/paramedic. His wife, **Melody (Ottinger), M.S. '89**, is a PE teacher and head girls basketball coach at Prairie School. They reside in Racine, Wisconsin.

**George P. Sullivan '89** is the first officer to be assigned to Hanover Park Police Department's Strategic Enforcement and Prevention Unit. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children and reside in Mt. Prospect.

## 90s

**Christina M. Melott '90, M.S. '93**, is self-employed. Her husband, Daniel, is an Air Force officer. They have lived across the country, in England, and now reside in Heidelberg, Germany.

**Patrick Millmore '90, M.S. '94**, is completing a doctorate in counselor education and supervision at Oregon State University. He is an ASCENT counselor at Denver Pub-

lic Schools. He and his wife, Allison, reside in Thornton, Colorado.

**Stephen Olle '90** is an associate editor at the National Association for the Education of Young Children in Washington, D.C. He works on the journals *Young Children* and *Teaching Young Children*. He resides in Takoma Park, Maryland.

**Chrissie B. Strong '91, M.S. '07**, is an assistant study abroad and National Student Exchange coordinator at ISU. She hosts WGLT's *Center Stage*. She and her husband, Todd, reside in Bloomington.

**Lorraine S. Muhammad '92** is service manager of analysts at State Farm Insurance Companies. She is an author and inspirational speaker with For the Family Productions. Her husband, **Maurice '92**, is a life underwriter at State Farm. They reside in Bloomington.

**James P. Walters '92** is the executive director of Dove, Inc., a faith-based nonprofit that serves Decatur. He and his wife, Brandy, have four daughters. Isely James was born in December of 2011. The couple resides in Charleston.

**Joseph P. Zydlo Jr. '93** is a senior account executive for Weber Shandwick Worldwide of St. Louis.

He is the play-by-play announcer for McKendree University's football and men's basketball programs. He and his wife, Dana, reside in Webster Groves, Missouri.

**Jay L. Griffin '94** is a licensing surveyor and examiner in the speech and hearing licensing section of the Arizona Department of Health Services Division of Licensing. He is a past Employee of the Month. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Peoria, Arizona.

**Jeanette L. Higham '95** is vice president of human resources at Sealed Air, Inc. She is working to integrate the companies of Diversey and Sealed Air. Her husband, **Christopher '95**, is a corporal in the Wheeling Police Department. They are the parents of a daughter and reside in Gurnee.

**Carie Walter '95** is principal of Central Middle School in Northern Illinois. She previously served as a middle school math and science teacher, an assistant principal, and principal. She resides in Marengo.

**Kathryn (Shrigley) Bordignon '97** owns Tuscanycreative, selling gifts for kids and babies online and in boutiques. She and her husband, Anthony, are the parents of two

children. They reside in Carol Stream.

**Dana Fisher '97** completed a master's and ESL certification. She is a learning support teacher in Seneca Valley School District. She and her husband, Jeffrey, have three children and reside in Harmony, Pennsylvania.

**Colleen (Fleming) Hanna '97** worked in corporate communications before becoming an R.N. She and her husband, Chris, are the parents of a son. She is a stay-at-home mom. They reside in Salem, Massachusetts.

**Jason Marker '97** is an attorney and partner in the firm of Quinn, Meadowcroft & Marker. He has been named a Rising Star by *SuperLawyers* magazine. His wife, **Erin (O'Neal) '99**, is an assistant principal at Naperville Community Unit School District. They reside in Plainfield.

**Matthew J. Poskonka '97** is a mobile claim representative with State Farm Insurance Companies. He and his wife, Charity, are the parents of two daughters. Madison Noelle was born in December of 2011. They reside in Naperville.

**Douglas Botkin '98** completed his doctorate in microbiology and molecular genetics from the University of Texas Health Science Center. A senior scientist with Enterprise Advisory Services, Inc., he works at NASA/Johnson Space Center. He and his wife, Michelle, are the parents of a daughter. They reside in Pearland, Texas.

**Amy M. Hansen '98** is the director of GCP services for The Weinberg Group, which is a scientific consulting firm in Washington, D.C. She resides in Davenport, Iowa.

**Kristina M. (Peterson) Hoffman '98** completed her M.B.A. through the University of Phoenix. She is a master dispatcher with PJM Interconnection. She and her husband, Joe, were married in June of 2012. They reside in Stowe, Pennsylvania.

**Jeffery L. Stein '98** is an athletic trainer/physical therapist who was with the men's basketball team at Purdue University before now

working with the Chicago White Sox. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Lombard.

**Carlin Trammel '98** has completed a master's in library and information studies from Florida State University. She and her husband reside in Tallahassee, Florida.

**Gary Washington '98** works at State Farm Insurance Companies and is the track and field coach at Bloomington Junior High School. He and his wife, Julia Barrow, are the parents of two sons. They reside in Bloomington.

**Brad Wilhelm '98** is a cost accountant for Silliker Laboratories in Chicago. He and his wife, Monica, are the parents of two sons. Ryan Charles was born in September of 2011. They reside in Manteno.

**LaToya M. Asad '99** completed a master's in gerontology. She is a community liaison with IlliniCare Health Plan-Centene Corporation. She and her husband reside in Lisle.

**Ryan C. Nelson '99** is director of small group sales with American Westbrook Insurance Services. His wife, **Gina (Pagano) '96**, is an account executive with the company. They are the parents of two children and reside in Frankfort.

## 00s

**Heather (Schamal) Boyd '00** has completed a master's from The College of William and Mary. Her husband, **John '00**, is a JAG Lieutenant in the U.S. Navy. They reside in San Diego, California.

**James S. Galco '00** completed his juris doctorate at Thomas M. Cooley Law School and a master's in tax law from John Marshall Law School. He is a business ops analyst and wealth planner with U.S. Bank Wealth Management Group. His wife, **Anita (Kasza) '01**, completed a doctorate in physical therapy at Rosalind Franklin University. She works at Accelerated Rehab. They are the parents of a daughter and reside in Chicago.

**Heather Gray '00** is a stay-at-home mom who helped create Vivi-LeDish.com to provide children



### Flying high with Redbird pride

Tim Mitchell '97, M.S. '99, and his wife, Tiffany (Forbes) '00, of Bloomington celebrated their 10th wedding anniversary in June by exploring Alaska. Their adventure included a plane trek to Denali National Park near Mt. McKinley. They showed their Redbird pride on Ruth Glacier, which is 6,000 feet above sea level.

kitchen and wellness education. Celebrity chefs have contributed recipes to the site, which averages 25,000 views per month. Gray partnered with Jonelle Galuska and Nicki Mason on the project. Gray resides in Normal.

**Michael Knuth '00** is the founder, owner, and president of EvenFlow Music & Spirits in Geneva. His wife, **Elizabeth (Neville) '01**, is a business teacher in Indian Prairie School District 204. They reside in Aurora.



### Alum backs the 'Birds with his barn

Dale Sutter '61 remains close to the campus he attended as an industrial education student decades ago. He not only lives near ISU with his wife, Alice, but shows his affinity with a barn quilt that was hoisted into place on his farm east of Bloomington during the summer.

**Gretchen Anderson '01** is a Mayo Clinic nurse practitioner. She and her husband, Ezekiel, are the parents of a daughter. Reese Sophie was born in March of 2012. They reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

**Krisine Kuntz '01** completed a master's in nurse administration at Loyola University. She is a clinical coordinator and resides in Chicago.

**Jennifer L. Trainum, M.M. '01**, is a University of Alabama violin instructor. She received Suzuki certification from the Virginia Suzuki Institute in Virginia and the I AM Festival in Indiana. She and her husband, John, are the parents of a son. They reside in Northport, Alabama.

**Elizabeth A. Bartelt '02** is an academic advisor at Southern Illinois

University-Edwardsville. She resides in Glen Carbon.

**Scott M. Garrett '02** is assistant athletic director at Kansas State University, where he supervises marketing and ticket sales. His wife, **Kristy L. (McGann) '02**, is a stay-at-home mom. They are the parents of two children and reside in Manhattan, Kansas.

**Lauren C. Strnad '02** completed her doctorate at Washington University in the School of Medicine. An occupational therapist at Barnes

Jewish Hospital, she resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Ronald S. Blumenberg II '03** is assigned to the Community Policing Unit within the Evanston Police Department. He and his wife, Anisha, are the parents of a son. Ronald Stanley III was born in May of 2012. They reside in Morton Grove.

**Rebecca Johnston '03** completed a master's in library science at Dominican University. She is a library media specialist at CUSH 201 in Westmont. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Chicago.

**Joseph M. Swierczek '03** is an EMPI manager with SSM Healthcare. He and his wife reside in Fairview Heights.

**Pamela C. Tintori '03, '07**, completed a master's in communication from the University of Illinois-Springfield. She is an English and speech teacher at Springfield School District 186, and teaches part-time at Lincoln Land Community College. She resides in Rochester.

**Jordan Arseneau '04** is a videographer for the Tribune Company. He and his wife, **Nicole (Erickson) '04**, are the parents of two sons. Ian was born in July of 2012. They reside in Homewood.

**Jeri Anne Hose-Ryan '04** is the volunteer coordinator for Heartland Hospice of Rockford. She is a member of the American Association of University Women, the League of Women Voters Greater Rockford, and the PAWS Humane Society. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Machesney Park.

**Gabrielle Kardas '04, M.S. '10**, is part of the American Rabbit Breeders Association. Her husband, **Michael '01**, is employed by Exelon. They are the parents of a daughter. Ginger Hazel was born in February of 2012. They reside in Normal.

**Brent M. Kearfott '04** is a senior claims representative with COUNTRY Financial. His wife, **Kristina (Iskrzycki) '03**, is a benefits administration coordinator at Growmark, Inc. They are the parents of two children. Cassidy Jade was born in February of 2012. They reside in El Paso.

**Patrick J. McKenna '04** completed a master's of public health at DePaul University. He is an educational specialist in the Department of Psychiatry at NorthShore University HealthSystem. He and his wife, Megan, are the parents of a daughter. Riley was born in October of 2011. They reside in Lombard.

**Bridget Sibthorp-Moecker '04** works for Lee Enterprises as regional digital services director for Central Illinois. The Decatur *Herald & Review* captured many awards for its sports and overall Web sites in the past year. She and her husband, **Tony '04**, are the parents of two boys and reside in Decatur.

**Catherine Kopka '05** is an educator in Burbank School District 111. Her

husband, **Nick '05**, is an IT consultant with Intelligent Solutions, Inc. They are the parents of a daughter, Elizabeth, who was born in January of 2012. They reside in Bolingbrook.

**Jason Parkinson '05** is vice president and CMO of OneFire Media Group, which specializes in iPad strategy and app development for companies. His wife, **Amber (LeMasters) '07**, is the fitness coordinator at RiverPlex Recreation & Wellness Center. They reside in Peoria.

**Shannon Peters '05, M.A. '07**, is a Spanish instructor at Tatnall School. She is a contestant in the 2013 Mrs. Delaware competition. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Wilmington, Delaware.

**Adam Stadler '05, '07** is a PE teacher in Bellwood District 88. His wife, **Nicole (Souza) '06**, is a high school history and ESL teacher. They are the parents of a daughter and reside in Glen Ellyn.

**Eric Alberico '06** is an investment professional with JPMorgan Private Bank. He and his wife, **Breanne (Scarcelli) '06**, are the parents of a child and reside in Oswego.

**Ryan Diepen '06** is the business officer coordinator with Sunrise Senior Living. He and his wife, **Mallory Waliczek '10**, were married in October of 2011. She is a recreational therapist at Manor Care. They reside in Lemont.

**Megan L. Eskew '06** completed her master's in teaching and leadership from St. Xavier University. She is an exploratory reading teacher at Woodland Middle School. She and her husband, Derek, reside in Round Lake.

**Marissa L. Koeller '06** is a direct marketing association certified marketing professional and graphic designer with Progressive Impressions International. Her husband, **Christopher C. '06**, is a farmer. They reside in Flanagan.

**Michael Kurt Sharp '06, D.A '09**, is chair of the Educational Audiology Association's Scholarship & Grants Committee. He is director of audiology services at Blessing Physician Services in Quincy, where he resides.

**Miles C. Truckenbrod '06** is a logistics analyst with Clover Technologies Group. He has authored the book *Girl-Shaped Shadows*. He resides in Mendota.

**Kathleen Brooks, M. S. '07**, is associate professor of agricultural business and economics at West Texas A & M University. She and her husband, Rustin, are the parents of a son. Karson was born in November of 2011. They reside in Amarillo, Texas.

**Brenda M. Cain '07** is a Defense Information Systems Agency information technology specialist. She received a two-year competitive Scott Air Force Base internship. She is head coach of McKendree University's dance team. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Dushyanth K. Dokuru '07** is an associate scientist at Amgen, Inc. He and his wife, Sravya, reside in Simi Valley, California.

**Quincy Duncan '07** is a merchandising manager with Anixter, Inc. His wife, **Kiah '08**, is an educator. They reside in Matteson.

**Sarah Franzen '07, M.S. '10**, is the volunteer coordinator for Habitat for Humanity of McLean County. She resides in Normal.

**Duane Gieseke '07** is an innovation specialist at BASF. He and his wife, **Heather (Grant) '08**, were married in June of 2011. She is a marketing representative for Cargill Risk Management. They reside in Des Moines, Iowa.

**Brian Greenenwald '07** is a police officer with the Riverside Police Department. He was 2010 Officer of the Year and named a 2011 MADD Hero by Mothers Against Drunk Driving. He and his wife, **Allyson (Hocking) '07**, were married in October of 2011. She is a music therapist with Schiller Park School District 81. They reside in Westchester.

**James A. Mahan Jr. '07** is an accountant with Hurt & Associates. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Glen Ellyn.

**Lauren McDonald '07** completed a master's in educational leadership. She teaches third grade. Her husband, **Michael '07**, is a special education teacher. They reside in Westmont.

**Troy Joseph Michalek '07** is a PE teacher at Thomas Jefferson Jr. High School in Woodridge School District 68. He and his wife, **Sophia (Petmezas) '07**, were married in July of 2011. A PE teacher at Geneva High School, she was chosen as a Chicago Bears Hero In the Classroom in 2011. They reside in Naperville.

**Michael Miserendino '07** held the starring role of Princeton in the Chicago premiere of the musical *Avenue Q* this summer. He resides in Hoffman Estates.

**Joseph R. Mitacek '07** is a Chicago Public Schools high school teacher. He was a fellow in the Yale National Initiative for the summer of 2012. He resides in Chicago.

**John Morris, M.S. '07**, served as the associate vice president for advancement at Benedictine University before being named regional development director for the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis.

**Linden L. Murdie '07, M.S. '12**, completed a master's in special education. She is a special education teacher in Grundy County Special Education Cooperative and resides in Manhattan.

**Elizabeth Robinson '07** is a career services program assistant at Heartland Community College. She was honored by the YWCA Women of Distinction in 2011. She resides in Bloomington.

**Kyle Schneider '07** is choral director of the middle and high schools in Homer, Alaska. He performed in the Midwest Institute of Opera's 2012 production of *Don Giovanni*. He resides in Seward, Alaska.

**Matthew R. Walsh '07** completed a master's in educational leadership from Aurora University. He is a social studies teacher, head varsity girls golf coach, and head sophomore boys basketball coach at St. Francis High School. He resides in East Bartlett.

**Clinton J. Warren '07** completed a doctorate in kinesiology and sport management from the University of Minnesota. He is an assistant professor at Eastern Illinois University. He and his wife, Tamie, reside in Charleston.

**Craig Wojtkiewicz '07** is a sales rep with Global Track Warehouse. His wife, **Janna (Belinski) '06**, is a certified nurse assistant at Edward Hospital. They are the parents of a daughter. Sophie was born in May of 2011. They reside in Naperville.

**Nicole Zurawski '07** completed a master's in forensic psychology from the Chicago School of Professional Psychology. She works as a community support specialist for Thresholds, a mental health psychiatric rehabilitation company. She resides in Chicago Ridge.

**Jamie L. Friend '08** is an academic support specialist focused on literacy interventions. She works in Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123 and resides in Oak Lawn.

**Michelle C. Johnson '08** is the Northern California regional sales manager for Armstrong World Industries. She resides in Dublin, California.

**Katherine L. Paullin '09** is completing a doctorate in mathematics and is a graduate teaching assistant at Saint Louis University. She and her husband, **Eric '07**, were married

in October of 2011. He is an audio technician with CSS Audio. They reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Susan Springer '09** is an English teacher at Mount Pulaski High School. She and her husband, Brian, were married in June of 2011. They reside in Stanford.

**Elizabeth A. Strain '09** completed her master's of public health and is working as the health and nutrition coordinator for Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. She resides in Chicago.

**Jessica Whitcomb, M.A. '09**, teaches Spanish at McHenry County College. She is a member of a faculty team that received a Newberry Library's Out of Many: Religious Pluralism in America: An NEH Bridging Cultures in Community Colleges Program grant. She resides in Wheaton.

## 10s

**Deanna L. Gillett '10** is a financial analyst at Navistar's subsidiary, Pure-Power Technologies. She resides in Lexington, South Carolina.

# ILLINOIS STATE

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- 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

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

**Alexandra Hirth '10** is housing coordinator with Experient, Inc., responsible for booking VIP reservations, reviewing hotel contracts, and managing hotel inventory. She resides in Mundelein.

**Ryan L. Niehaus, M.B.A. '10**, is the e-communications coordinator for the Alumni Association at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he resides.

**Noelle K. Swanson '10** completed a master's in library and information science at Dominican University. A youth services librarian at Riverside Public Library, she resides in Beecher.

**Kathleen (Malone) Clesson, Ph.D. '11**, is an instructor and course developer for Illinois Virtual School. She graduated in December of 2011 with her son, **James, M.S. '11**. She and her husband, Barry, reside in Heyworth.

**Kim Daniel '11** has obtained her ESL endorsement. She is a middle school teacher with Beach Park School District 3. She resides in Mount Prospect.

**Kaitlin Fink '11** teaches fourth grade science at Iroquois West Upper Elementary School in Thawville. She resides in Onarga.

**Matthew Fuller '11** is an assistant professor at Sam Houston State University and adviser of the school's master of arts in higher education administration. He was selected as a Fellow for the National Center for Educational Statistics Data Institute, and is principal investigator of the Survey of Assessment

Culture. He and his wife, Kerri, reside in Montgomery, Texas.

**Amy Glueck '11** completed Saint Louis University's dietetic internship. She is a clinical dietitian at Memorial Hospital and resides in Troy.

**Kirsten Kookan '11** is a middle school communication arts teacher for Nixa Public Schools. She resides in Springfield, Missouri.

**John Kratschmer '11** passed the CPA exam on his first attempt. An assurance associate with Price-waterhouseCoopers, he resides in Plainfield.

**Kyle S. Musgrave '11** is an analyst with JESS3. He is the lead analyst on Google Politics and Elections accounts. He and his wife, **Corrie (Bloom) '11**, reside in Chandler, Arizona.

**Rachel Perveiler '11** is an inclusion/resource teacher at a K-8 elementary school in the Chicago Public School system. She is a recipient of a Unite classroom grant and resides in Chicago.

**Paige M. Sibley '11** is employed by the Chicago Bears in Fan Services. She resides in Plainfield.

**Samantha Szczynder '11** is completing a master's in school counseling at Governors State University. She resides in Oak Forest.

**Ryan Weaver '11** works for York Center Park District. A member of Gamma Theta Upsilon International Geographical Honors Society, he resides in Lombard.

**April Wenzel '11** is a PE and health teacher at Washington Community High School, and a personal trainer. Her husband, **Matthew '00**, is a business analyst at State Farm Insurance Companies. They are the parents of a daughter. Savannah Christine was born in March of 2012. They reside in Washington.

## Our troops

**U.S. Army Col. Mitchell G. Malone '83** started in the U.S. Navy, graduating from the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. He was commissioned as an engineer officer. He has attended seven military schools and served in 19 major duty assignments. He began his career in the Army reserve as a private first class and was commissioned through the Officer Candidate School in 1986. He is the commander of the 652nd Regional Support Group of Helena, Montana. He and his wife are the parents of two children.

**U.S. Army Col. Arlan M. DeBlicek '84** started his military career in the U.S. Marine Corps and was commissioned as a lieutenant prior to transferring to the Army Reserve. He has been confirmed by the U.S. Senate as brigadier general and command of the 103rd Sustainment Command (Expeditionary), which is an Army Reserve unit in Des Moines, Iowa. He has served two tours of active duty to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and was deployed from Afghanistan for two year as part of Operation Enduring Freedom. He and his wife, Carrie, are the parents of four sons and reside in Indianola, Iowa.

**Kenneth B. Howard '86** is an inactive CW02 Warrant Officer in the U.S. National Guard. He is vice president of asset management with Wells Fargo and a UH-1H helicopter aviator senior appraiser. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Elgin.

**U.S. Army 1st Lt. David B. Goode '92** has served in the Army for more than 12 years. He is assigned at Fort Bliss as the battery executive officer of the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 2nd Battalion 43rd Air Defense, 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade. He is responsible for the

logistical, administration, and maintenance operations within the unit. He and his wife, Ulonda, reside in El Paso, Texas.

**U.S. Navy Chief Musician Patrick J. Hill '04** received the Navy Commendation Medal, Navy/Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Naval Reserve Meritorious Service Medal. He served onboard the USS Samuel Eliot Morison. Hill has been selected to be a Limited Duty Officer Bandmaster and is a master training specialist. He resides in Norfolk, Virginia.

## In memory

### Faculty/Staff

Mary J. Anderson '59, M.S. '69, Special Education; 5/12  
 Minnie Perrin Berson, Curriculum and Instruction; 4/12  
 James W. Bommarito, Special Education; 5/12  
 F. James Davis, Sociology and Anthropology; 4/12  
 Tella M. Debose, Music; 4/12  
 Victor C. Hamlow, Food Services; 7/06  
 Francis J. Leary, Building Services; 4/12  
 Ed Livingston, School of Music; 5/12  
 Patricia A. Meckstroth, Milner Library; 5/12  
 Ruth (Burger) Witzig, Purchasing; 4/12  
 Kevin "Charlie" E. Yates, Dining Services; 5/12

### 30s

Beatrice G. Schramm '33; 7/12  
 Lorraine V. Schriefer '33; 6/12  
 Richard C. Tuttle '34; 5/12  
 Mildred E. Lucas Messamore '35; 7/12  
 Lola H. (Huisinga) Reed '36; 6/12  
 Olive L. (Kuehling) Fite '37; 4/12  
 Melba P. Winn '37; 6/12  
 Geraldine B. (Ross) Stone '38; 4/12  
 Gladys L. Wene '38; 6/12  
 Margarete F. Yonk '38; 11/04  
 Juanita M. (Moore) Johnson '39, '66; 5/12  
 Raymond W. Thompson '39; 7/12

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## 40s

Stanley Breen '40; 11/11  
Harlan S. Hosler '40; 5/12  
Richard Koehler '40; 4/12  
Agnes M. (Endres) Mangan '40; 5/12  
Mable F. (Coy) Meyer '40; 4/12  
Dale L. Deneal '41; 4/12  
Mary Moody Harshbarger '41; 10/11  
Mary J. (Lee) Kuipers '42; 6/12  
Marjorie E. (Irwin) Mason '44; 3/12  
Leland T. Wright '46; 10/11  
Barbara Adkins '48; 7/12  
Elizabeth A. Arnold '48; 2/11  
Marvin M. Johnston '48, M.S. '52; 5/12  
Dorothy A. (Allen) Litherland '48; 4/12  
Blanche D. Madole '48; 7/12  
Iris S. McConnell '48; 5/12  
Carl J. Bell '49, M.S. '50; 7/12  
William F. Brady '49; 4/12  
M. Keith Hauge '49; 6/12  
F. Arthur Wolfe '49; 1/12

## 50s

Laura J. Kellogg-Kipping '50; 4/12  
Rosemary Raffaele '50; 7/11  
Willard F. Berger '51; 7/12  
Kathleen K. (Corcoran) Tuntland '51; 6/12  
William R. Armstrong '52; 4/12  
Eric W. Fielitz '52; 2/12  
Marilyn S. Lee '52; 4/12  
Marianne Nelson O'Rourke '52; 5/12  
Sam K. Tortorici '52; 5/12  
Mary L. (Pilgrim) Myers '53; 5/12  
M. Jack Parker '53, M.S. '54; 3/12  
Charles L. Aschenbrenner '54, M.S. '60; 5/12  
Gayler Boettcher '54, M.S. '57; 6/12  
Ruth E. (Derry) Majesky '54; 5/12  
Donald L. Reside '54; 4/12  
Dale I. Brownell '56, M.S. '62; 8/11  
Ada (Staker) Magers '56; 6/12  
Marie C. O'Brokta '56; 5/12  
Louis Barron '57, M.S. '67; 2/11  
Jack Dickerson '57; 5/12  
Georgia L. Dvorak '57; 12/11  
Leslie C. Hellemann '57, M.S. '65; 4/12

George W. Kimball '57; 5/12  
Kenneth J. McCaleb '57, M.S. '59; 3/12  
Carolyn (Grumish) Christy '59; 6/12  
Marilyn (Topliss) Eckhoff '59; 9/11  
Norma J. Harris '59; 5/12  
William R. Stuckey '59; 5/11

## 60s

Madeline Sauerbier '60; 4/12  
Ronald E. Ipsen '61, M.S. '65; 6/12  
William M. Alcock '62; 6/12  
Peggy J. Davidson '62; 1/12  
Henri L. Warren '62; 11/11  
Richard J. Swanson '63; 6/12  
Carolyne R. Hamann, M.S. '64; 4/12  
Pierce G. Johnston Jr. '64; 4/12  
Mary E. Evans '67, M.M. '70; 5/12  
William G. Randol '67; 2/12  
Kent T. Richardson '67; 11/11  
Sally L. (Gustavison) Thorsen '67; 7/12  
Linda G. (Hunt) Little '68; 6/12  
Barbara (Riddels) Wilson '68, M.S. '72; 5/12  
J. Michael Adams '69; 6/12  
Phyllis J. Blaum '69, M.S. '71; 5/12  
Walter A. Groesch '69; 6/12  
Audrey A. Ingle '69, M.S. '80; 4/12  
Ruth H. Rowe, M.S. '69; 5/12  
Penny (Taylor) Schingel '69; 7/12  
Robert M. Stengel '69; 10/10  
Lynn E. Stevens '69; 7/12

## 70s

Betty A. Baxter '70; 6/12  
James "Tim" Fitzgerald '70; 5/12  
Ronald J. Foster '70; 5/12  
Daniel B. Pritchett '70; 5/12  
Eleanor (Young) Slagel, M.S. '70; 4/12  
Mark D. Brown '71; 4/12  
Norman L. Meade '71; 7/12  
Jon Rau '71; 2/12  
Lucille J. Guyer '72; 2/12  
Mary Lou (Evans) Hicklin '72, M.S. '75; 5/12  
Gary E. Kuhlmann '72; 6/12  
Edward Lesniak '72; 4/12  
Helen M. (Mix) Brighton '73; 6/12  
Ronald W. Easton '73; 6/98  
Tammy L. (Maas) Eaves '73; 5/12



## Friends for 45 years

A group of 1967 ISU physical education majors remain close, enjoying annual trips. Their 2012 destination was Hot Springs Village, Arkansas, to visit group member Royleen Tipton, who resides in Hot Springs. Members of the group are, *front row from left*, Diane (Beins) Broege of Mundelein; Kathy Cronk Schmid of Marengo; Cindy Adams Butkovich of Champaign; and Sue Harmeson Hayton of Neoga. *Back row from left*, Sharon Zersen Ketterhage of Fontana, Wisconsin; Kathy Hornback of Elgin; Joyce Goodrich of Princeton; and Tipton.

Marilyn J. Berg '74; 7/12  
Victory P. Deffenbaug, M.S. '74; 2/12  
Jan R. Hansen '74; 5/12  
Gail (Fouts) Hanson, M.S. '74; 4/12  
Allyson Harding Lawhorn '74; 3/12  
John "Jack" Schaller '74; 4/12  
John J. Schreiber Jr. '74; 5/12  
Chris (Heising) Moore '75; 6/12  
Sara J. Benton '76; 5/11  
Arthur B. Cooper Jr. '76; 5/12  
Karen J. (Thiessen) Miner '76; 9/11  
Elaine J. (Held) Parker '76; 6/12  
Juanita B. (Bogue) O'Keefe '77; 4/12  
Pamela R. (Hare) Smith '77; 4/12  
Martin J. Kuhn '78, M.S. '84; 7/12  
Melissa S. (St. George) McNamee '78, M.S. '80; 12/11  
Teresa M. Zielinski '78; 5/12  
Rhonda C. (Ritenour) Dropik '79; 2/11

## 80s

Dring N. Crowell '81; 6/12  
Tim D. Kelley '82, M.S. '87; 8/09  
Cheryl K. Klein-Holbo '82; 5/12  
Juliann H. Spirios, M.S. '82; 10/11  
Timothy A. Bez '86; 5/12

William R. Gustafson '86; 7/12  
Paul Snyder '86; 7/12

## 90s

Brenda J. (Stezowski) Certa, M.S. '90; 5/12  
Jeffrey J. Grunloh '91, '93; 6/12  
Cathy D. (Reiners) Kaiser '91; 6/12  
Kimberly A. (Twigg) Keegan '91; 7/12  
Stephen W. Sutton '91; 4/12  
Christine K. Johnson '92; 5/12  
Sharon L. Cameron '93; 4/12  
Shirley Sandage Knecht '94; 4/12  
Debra D. (Mills) Ackerman '95; 5/12  
Eric M. Heerwagen '96; 6/12  
LynnAnn (Grayson) Bostick '97; 6/12  
Richard W. Gillum '98; 4/12  
Kenneth R. Smith '98; 5/12  
Lisa D. (Yancey) Schmidgall '99; 10/11

## 00s

Ayalew Kassa '01; 6/12

## 10s

Bryan D. Christian '11; 6/12

# 'Tis the season

Another holiday is quickly approaching, which means efforts to find that perfect gift for family members and friends have begun again. Think beyond the traditional shopping routine this year. A gift to Illinois State is a unique way to honor a loved one, while also creating an opportunity for students to soar in the year ahead. Support your passion with an investment in the University.

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# Thanks to you

Vance Godbold '11 is grateful for the opportunity to maximize his undergraduate years in the Criminal Justice Department, where he remains as a graduate student.

“The Criminal Justice Department has been instrumental in my life. With the help of courses, professors, and the Dean of Students, I was groomed into an individual who presents himself as a well-rounded person.” Godbold said.

“My professors challenged my thinking in and out of the classroom, and when times were tough, they also provided words of encouragement that helped me continue my journey.”

Godbold took advantage of a criminal justice study abroad opportunity in Croatia and participated in Alternative Spring Break. He became actively involved in Iota Phi Theta Fraternity, Inc., the University Programming Board, and the NAACP. Because of his achievements, he received the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship.

“This award recognized my efforts with civic engagement on and off campus,” he said. “Martin Luther King Jr. gave his life to creating change, and this is exactly what I plan to do. I will use this scholarship to further my educational dreams.”

As is true across campus, the Criminal Justice Department relies on and appreciates private support to attract talented students, recruit diverse faculty, and build an academic program that blends teaching and research.

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## Time to focus

As the fall semester nears an end, students across campus are steeped in academic work that will culminate with finals the week of December 10. From labs to long nights of researching and writing, the college student's routine is one that every graduate remembers.