

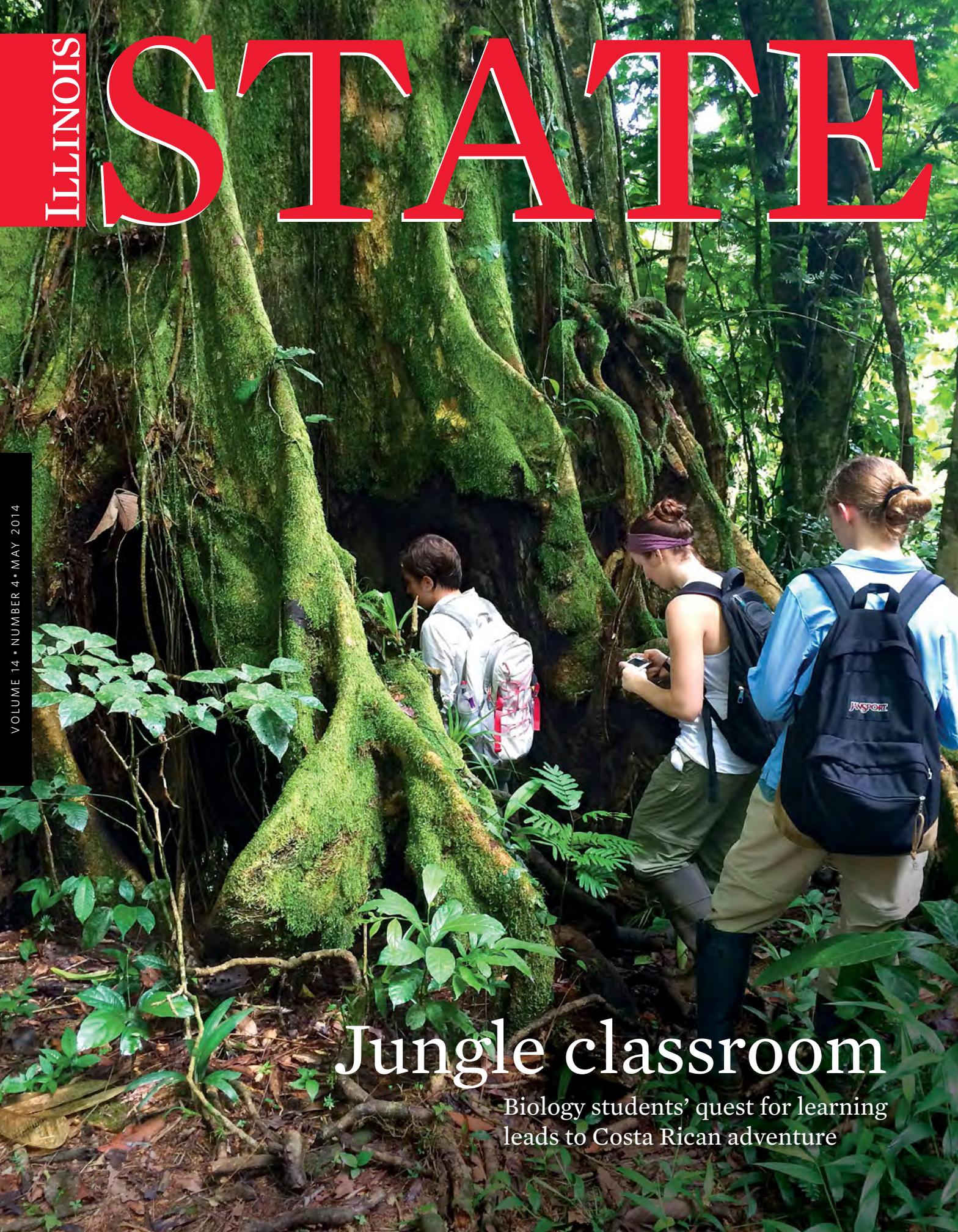
ILLINOIS

STATE

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Jungle classroom

Biology students' quest for learning leads to Costa Rican adventure



EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

Susan Marquardt Blystone '84, M.S. '03

ALUMNI EDITOR

Zach Parcell '08

COPY EDITOR

Kevin Bersett

LEAD DESIGNERS

Dave Jorgensen, M.S. '03

Michael Mahle

DESIGNERS

Jeff Higgerson '92

Carol Jalowiec '08

Jon Robinson M.S. '12

WEB EDITOR

Ryan Denham

PHOTOGRAPHER

Lyndsie Schlink '04

PRODUCTION COORDINATOR

Tracy Widergren '03

WRITERS

Steven Barcus '06, M.S. '09

Kevin Bersett

Ryan Denham

Tom Nugent

EDITORIAL INTERN

Kelsey Lutz

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FirstWord

Four years to finish a degree seemed like an eternity to me when I arrived at Illinois State as a freshman. The thought of navigating through all the classes, papers, and projects on the journey between the first and final semester was overwhelming.

So were the goodbyes at move-in. I vividly remember watching as my parents pulled away from the curb that hot August evening in 1980. The car had been emptied of all my belongings. They were heading home with nothing but memories to fill what had been my spot in the backseat.



Colby 1079 was my new home, a fact that seemed surreal as I walked to the elevator and hit the button for what my floormates affectionately called 'the penthouse.'

That first evening was filled with introductions, nervous laughter, pizza from Garcia's, and a sense of camaraderie that forced me to stop focusing on the distance from my Quincy home. It was a crucial start to gaining a colle-

giate confidence and enthusiasm that carried me through the first year.

I was soon convinced I had the best place to live on campus and eagerly returned the next year, this time claiming Colby 1081. I came back yet again the summer before my senior year, serving as a Preview Guide for the freshman orientation program that was housed in that hall.

It's been decades since I carried a key to South Campus. Since then I returned to the classroom for a second degree and have had the privilege of making my career at Illinois State for nearly 20 years. The ISU memories have grown exponentially, and yet Colby Hall remains among the fondest of all.

News that Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten demolition work will begin this fall is consequently hard to hear. The closing in 2012 was difficult enough, but seeing a wrecking ball swing will be an even more emotional moment. I now have a much more compassionate understanding of the feelings alums shared with me when their residence hall or classroom building was cleared as part of a campus master plan.

The decision for the South Campus halls, which opened in the early 1960s, was reached when changes in Illinois fire codes made it too expensive to bring the buildings to compliance. The footprint will remain as green space until plans are finalized for any future construction.

Regardless of what structure eventually stands on that corner of campus, my mind will envision banter over breakfast in Feeney, lights burning late before finals, and friendships that did not fade with time. I will remember the days and ways I first experienced my Redbird life, and I will remain grateful.

Susan Marquardt Blystone '84, M.S. '03
Editor, *Illinois State*



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY

Illinois' first public university

FEATURES

8 One wild classroom
 Biology students annually exchange the traditional laboratory routine for the experience of hands-on research in Costa Rica's rain forest. Biology professors Joseph Armstrong and Steven Juliano led a team through 10 days of exploration and exotic study that sparked a passion and confidence in the next generation of scientists.

14 Probing through plays
 John Flynn, M.S. '74, was a successful TV producer in Los Angeles. He left that career to pursue his passion—live theater. Flynn's decision to establish an L.A. venue with a focus on producing new plays that challenge audiences philosophically was a risk. Seven years later, Rogue Machine Theatre is sweeping awards.

18 Change agents
 ISU's Peace Corps program is one example of how the University's reach extends far beyond the U.S. border, as participants help communities improve and flourish. Returned volunteers partner with students about to leave for service through the campus program that is praised as one of the best in the nation.

23 No simple solution
 Bullying continues to cause heartache and capture headlines across the country. As a leader in training teachers, the University is actively engaged in taking a stand for change through research and action by faculty and students. They have learned there is no easy answer to a problem that reaches far beyond childhood.

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On the cover: Nothing on campus can compare to the hands-on science research students tackle in Central America. *Photo by biology student Katilyn Gerstner.*



What's trending on STATE side

-  Former Redbird stars on NBC's new TV show *Chicago P.D.*
 -  Illinois State in the snow, images captured then and now
 -  Alum, professor team up to launch a 3-D printing business
- Read those stories and more at IllinoisState.edu/STATESide



Larry Dietz named president

Resignation creates leadership change

Illinois State's Vice President for Student Affairs, Larry Dietz, became the University's 19th president in March. He replaced Timothy Flanagan, who resigned after serving seven months.

Dietz holds a doctorate in higher education administration and is tenured in the College of Education. He was a finalist in ISU's national search conducted in 2013 following President Al Bowman's retirement.

"I got into this business more than 40 years ago, and this business is a special business. We are in the business of changing lives," Dietz said. He expressed gratitude to the Board of Trustees and thanked the campus community for its support and encouragement.

"I will continue to rely on my colleagues in this new role to do the work outlined in *Educating Illinois*, our strategic plan," he said. "I don't think the University will miss a beat."

Hired in 2011 to lead Student Affairs, Dietz came to Illinois State from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He was vice chancellor for Student Affairs on that campus for a decade and oversaw the campus outreach in several countries. He has held administrative positions at the University of Missouri-Kansas City and Iowa State University as well.

His international experience includes representing the American Universities Iraq Consortium, as well as

attending the Iraq Education Initiative on behalf of Southern.

Brent Paterson, senior associate vice president for Student Affairs, will lead the division through June 30, 2016. Formerly at Texas A&M University, he holds a doctorate in higher education administration.

Dietz named Mennonite College of Nursing Dean Janet Krejci as interim provost effective July 1. She holds a Ph.D. in nursing and has worked as a clinical nurse specialist and leadership consultant in acute and long term care. Provost Sheri Everts accepted the position of chancellor at Appalachian State University in North Carolina, creating the vacancy.

Millions in grant money targeted at principals

The Center for the Study of Education Policy has been awarded \$4.64 million from the U.S. Department of Education. The five-year School Leadership Program grant allows ISU to build on work designing new state policies for preparing highly effective principals.

“There are no great schools without great principals and teachers,” U.S. Education Secretary Arne Duncan said. “These grants aim to support the development of these leaders, ultimately improving the effectiveness of educators and the academic achievement of students.”

Universities and high-need school districts have come together in formal partnerships aimed at improving the way principals are prepared and developed in Illinois. ISU’s grant will fund internships in three Illinois school districts: Bloomington, Aurora and Quincy.

“Those preparing to be principals will work a full semester in a high-needs school with our district partners, and this grant will fund that position. They’ll have a pipeline of support and this will prepare a pool of potential candidates for the region,” said Erika Hunt. She is the center’s senior policy analyst and the grant’s project director.

Leadership changes in finance and planning area

Greg Alt ’81, M.B.A. ’94, has been named interim vice president of Finance and Planning. He will hold the office until June 2015 and replaces Dan Layzell, who left ISU in February to serve as vice president for finance and administration at Louisiana State University.

A certified public accountant, Alt has served as associate vice president and comptroller. He has been responsible for overseeing fiscal management functions since 2002, and has played a key role in budget development and management, capital planning and financing, and strategic planning.



The Milner Library kiosk has simplified studying for students. Donovan Carlson appreciates the convenient use of laptops that are available at no charge.

Milner Library among few with laptop kiosk option

Student use of technology requires continual change on campus to meet needs and expectations. One of the latest examples of this ongoing transition can be found at Milner Library, where laptops are now available from a kiosk.

ISU is the first university in Illinois to use the check-out system, which is provided by Laptops Anytime. The company has placed its system in approximately a dozen universities across the country.

“We are trying to provide students with access to everything they need to study in a very convenient way,” said Milner Library Dean Dane Ward. He noted that the system, which was installed shortly before the spring semester began, has become very popular.

The kiosk dispenses 12 laptops and can be checked out for free for three hours by anyone with an ISU identification card. They can only be used inside the library, giving more options to work beyond specific computer stations throughout the building. Once replaced

in the kiosk, the machine recharges the device and uses a program to clear data from the previous user.

Demolition planned for South Campus, Rambo

Significant change will occur on the Illinois State campus this year as demolition of the South Campus residence hall complex begins in the fall. Rambo House is also slated to come down.

Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten opened in the early 1960s, housing students who ate in the adjoining Feeney Dining Center. The complex was closed in the summer of 2012, when the buildings no longer met revised state fire sprinkler codes. Renovation costs were prohibitive given the age of the buildings.

The demolition work is expected to begin with asbestos abatement in September and be completed in 2015. The footprint created will be converted into green space until redevelopment plans are finalized.

Rambo House will also be removed. Built in 1939 as a home-management training house and later used as office

Where are they now?

I came to Illinois State in 1980 and never left! I happily joined a thriving business school nearing AACSB accreditation as I completed my Ph.D. in finance at the University of Cincinnati. It was the right decision.

I taught corporate finance and financial institutions courses at the undergraduate and MBA levels. My research focused on these areas, and I co-authored a textbook on financial institutions management.

After eight years, I became director of Graduate Programs and Research in the College of Business. During those years we offered our first corporate MBA and expanded community partnerships.

In 1997, I was appointed dean after serving as interim and had the honor of leading the college until retiring in 2007. These years were filled with excitement and challenges. So many alumni, friends, and business organizations joined with us to create a bright future for the college and our students. I will always be grateful for their generosity.

My happy memories of Illinois State are many and deep. Students and alumni are at the heart of them. Knowing of their successes is a continuing pleasure. A very special highlight was the State Farm Foundation's gift for a new college home.

I relocated to Tampa, Florida. My days are filled with volunteering, exercise, gardening, international and other travel, time with family and friends, golf, and more. Birding is one new interest that keeps me outdoors, traveling to interesting places and challenged. I celebrate the campus progress and accomplishments of colleagues, and of course continue as a donor.

Contact me at 9801 Emerald Links Drive, Tampa, FL 33626, by email at dlmills@ilstu.edu, and on Facebook.



College of Business Dean Emerita Dixie Mills

space, the building has sat vacant since 2005. It is in poor condition and no longer meets the needs of any university program.

Federal funds help ISU fill computer teacher gap

A \$700,000 National Science Foundation (NSF) grant will bolster the Teacher Education in Computer Science project, which aims to increase the number of Illinois computer science teachers.

Technology Professor Anu Gokhale and Philosophy Professor Emeritus Kenton Machina are heading the project known as TECS. It prepares a new generation to teach computer science and provides current teachers the opportunity to become endorsed in the subject.

"We are hurting for teachers to teach computer systems-related classes in high schools," Gokhale said. "Right now there are very few schools in Illinois that offer

advanced placement computer science classes, and there are not enough teachers prepared to teach those classes."

The TECS project will prepare teachers and ISU teacher education students to earn Illinois endorsements certifying them as qualified to teach two high school courses the NSF has created. The program could be in place as early as next summer.

The project is part of a national effort by the NSF Division of Computer and Networking Systems to have 10,000 computer science teachers in high schools by the end of this year.

National honor affirms pride in campus beauty

For the sixth consecutive year, Illinois State University has been designated a Tree Campus USA. A national program of the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Campus USA honors schools that promote healthy management of campus forests

and engage the community in environmental stewardship.

"Illinois State has embraced the intent of the Tree Campus USA program for the last six years. This is an example of continuing efforts toward the care, preservation, and protection of the trees on campus," said ISU tree surgeon Heather Wilcox.

Illinois State met the five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive the status. The campus is home to the accredited Fell Arboretum, which consists of a 490-acre site with thousands of trees representing more than 150 species.

"Plant species diversity continues as this campus landscape matures and will continue to provide students and visitors with countless opportunities to study the fields of horticulture, botany and biological sciences," said Chuck Scott, executive director of Facilities Management.

The honor is "a significant accomplishment for the University and one that

conveys pride in this beautiful campus,” Scott said. He commended the Grounds staff members for their “tireless efforts, innovative ideas and implementation of proper horticultural practices in achieving this national recognition.”

Math faculty named Distinguished Professor

Mathematics professor Saad El-Zanati has been named a Distinguished Professor, which is ISU’s highest faculty honor. He has been previously honored as College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding College Teacher and by the University with the Outstanding Researcher Award.

El-Zanati has garnered nearly \$3 million in funding from the National Science Foundation for projects such as the Research Experiences for Undergradu-



ates program, which focuses on mathematics research and exemplary teaching practices for in-service and pre-service teachers.

He worked to initiate the collaborative Teacher-Scholar Program in Secondary Mathematics, bringing together education and mathematics faculty, and created ISU S-STEM Scholarships in Secondary Mathematics Education.

His research advances the boundaries of graph and design theory, resulting in myriad publications and presentations around the world.

Mail

To the Editor,

Thank you for your efforts pulling together the alumni magazine. It is enjoyable to stay in touch with my Redbird past. I was particularly excited to see the article in the February issue on the “Study of Latin back through new minor.”

Although I did not receive a minor in Latin during my studies, I did complete three semesters studying the language. As such, I have a rather strong opinion when it comes to the use of the language.

In particular, I am disappointed when people use the words alum and alums to describe individuals who graduated from a particular university. Since the University is touting the new Latin minor, I thought it would be helpful if the language was used correctly.

For clarity, alum is an element on the periodic table and something to cook with. One who graduates from a university is an alumnus or alumna, depending on gender.

Sorry, if I didn’t say something I’d be fearful my Latin professor, Susan Stevens, would retroactively flunk me.

Marty Koehler '86

(Editor's note: While notably more informal, Webster's Collegiate Dictionary does allow for the use of alum in reference to graduates.)

To the Editor,

Being a graduate of Illinois State University and a veteran of the U.S. Army (1970-1973), I am upset that you are telling alumnae to wear red on Friday (“What you can do for ISU,” Feb. 2014).

Wearing red on Fridays has come to symbolize support for our troops. Why infringe on their day? Be bold and wear red on Mondays. Start your week off with a proud statement, and you could end your week with a patriotic statement.

I enjoyed the article about one-room schools and the Normal school. My mother attended Normal, received her teaching certificate, and proudly served the children of Illinois until her retirement. She has since passed on and I still have her thank you certificate from her last teaching assignment.

Laurence D. Lindholm, C.T.R.S., '80

To the Editor,

I am writing in reference to “The End of N” (Feb. 2014).

Fifty years ago Illinois State Normal University became Illinois State University. Does ISU have a reputation for preparing the best educators in America? That is the question to ask.

What is so wrong with Normal? When I think of Normal I think of a noble calling. Teaching. The select Ecoles of France have prepared senior civil servants and government ministers for several centuries. I don’t think they are considering a name change. Too many are eager to be selected and be associated with their reputation.

Had ISU/ISNU focused its resources it might have become the premier Normal school in the United States. It might have influenced other schools to copy the Normal “brand.”

But here we are in 2014 and back discussing a tired topic. Americans, it seems to me, are incapable of focusing on what is really important.

Robert L. Johnson '71

Redbird Athletics



From Hancock to the NFL

Graduate takes head coaching reigns in Minnesota

Football fans who follow the Minnesota Vikings will be backing a Redbird when they cheer on the team during the upcoming season. Mike Zimmer '79 was named head coach, claiming his first top job in the NFL after more than 35 years of coaching.

A physical education-teacher education major, Zimmer was recruited to play quarterback at Illinois State. He became a defensive lineman his freshman season. After a career-threatening injury, Zimmer went into coaching and became a student assistant for the defensive coaching staff.

His father, Bill, was a Hall of Fame high school football coach. Zimmer consequently learned to be a good coach himself early on. He spent his entire career coaching college and professional football, starting at Missouri, with stops at Weber State and Washington State before reaching the NFL in 1994. Zimmer earned a Super Bowl ring as secondary coach with the 1995 Cowboys. He most recently was with the Cincinnati Bengals as defensive coordinator. The team reached the playoffs for the third straight season in 2013.

"I believe in a disciplined and physical brand of football, and I look forward to getting to work on leading a team capable of long-term success," Zimmer said when

introduced as the coach in January. He also expressed his gratitude for the opportunity.

Zimmer was a student assistant at Illinois State under Ted Schmitz, a linebackers coach and later defensive coordinator for the Redbirds. Schmitz recalled Zimmer stood out even back then with a unique ability to both "do the X's and O's but also handle the emotional side of the game too."

He went on to earn NFL Assistant Coach of the Year honors in 2009 from Pro Football Weekly/Pro Football Writers and CBSSports.com. That season Zimmer also won the assistant of the year award from Fox broadcaster and Hall of Fame quarterback Terry Bradshaw.



Student-athletes stay strong in the classroom

Illinois State student-athletes continue to excel academically, as several teams set new grade point averages during the 2013-14 school year.

The Redbird volleyball team was the winner of the highest GPA overall and for the women's teams for the fall semester of 2013. Members recorded a 3.56 team GPA. Volleyball has won the dual academic honor for two consecutive semesters, after achieving a 3.66 GPA for the 2013 spring semester.

The volleyball team just edged out women's basketball (3.55), gymnastics (3.52), and women's tennis (3.52). Six

student-athletes on the basketball team achieved a 4.0.

On the men's side, the golf team (3.376) edged out the tennis team (3.375) as the program with the highest GPA. For the second straight semester, the football program set a team grade point average record with a cumulative GPA of 2.759 during the fall.

A total of 257 student-athletes made the AFNI Honor Roll. The department had a 3.108 GPA overall, with 11 men and 51 women achieving a 4.0 during the fall semester.

Student fans repeat as best within MVC

Illinois State's student cheering section, known as Red Alert, was named the Missouri Valley Conference 2014 Naismith Student Section of the Year. This is the second consecutive year Red Alert has captured the honor.

In addition, Red Alert finished third nationally in a competition against such schools as Arizona State, Colorado, Indiana, Kansas and Virginia. This is the highest national ranking ever received by the ISU student section, which received \$250 for the win. The money was donated to the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund.

"We are incredibly excited for Red Alert to be recognized as one of the top student sections in the country, and the best in the Missouri Valley Conference," Director of Fan Experience Drew Claassen said. "It provides an outstanding home court advantage to Redbird Arena."

Couple honored with Golden Redbird Award

In recognition of their support of the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund and remaining as season ticket holders for 20-plus years, Darrell '64 and Karen Kehel of Hudson were named the recipients of the 2014 Joseph F. Warner Golden Redbird Award.

It is the highest honor bestowed to a donor, recognizing not only financial support but exemplary service and leadership to the Athletics program.

The Kehls have significantly supported several projects within the ISU Athletics Department, including the Redbird Arena Completion Project, the men's basketball and volleyball locker room renovations, as well as the Hancock Stadium Renovation.

Their name adorns Associate Head Men's Basketball Coach Dana Ford's office, while the volleyball locker room is named after their daughter, Jami (Kehl) Head '97. In addition, the family supports the men's basketball team annually.

Football tickets ready for upcoming season

Home field advantage helped the Illinois State football team secure a perfect 5-0 record at Hancock Stadium in 2013. Redbird fans will have the opportunity to catch even more games in the newly renovated facility this fall, as seven home games highlight an 11-game 2014 schedule. ISU will open the season Saturday, Sept. 6, when it hosts Southwestern Athletic Conference member Mississippi Valley State.

Season tickets for the public start at \$155, while faculty and staff can purchase season tickets for \$100. Young alumni or individuals who have graduated from Illinois State in the last five years can get season tickets for \$55. To purchase, call the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000 or go online to GoRedbirds.com.

A person with a backpack is walking on a wooden suspension bridge in a lush tropical rainforest. The bridge is made of bamboo or similar natural materials and is surrounded by dense green foliage and tall trees. The scene is brightly lit, suggesting a sunny day. The text 'WELCOME to the JUNGLE' is overlaid on the top half of the image in a large, white, stylized font.

WELCOME to the JUNGLE

Biology students embrace Costa Rica as unique classroom

BY KEVIN BERSETT

Chicago has the wall-rattling L train. Florence has its church bells. The Costa Rican rain forest has the howler monkey.

The loudest of Costa Rica's four monkey species lets out a distinctive woot, one just as likely to echo through the rain forest at 4 a.m. as at 4 p.m. The canopy-dwelling monkey is heard more than seen. One evening last November as Alexandra Rossi and Illinois State classmate Katilyn Gerstner crossed a suspension bridge on their way to a lab at La Selva Biological Station, a troop of howler monkeys passed overhead.

"There were babies with them," Rossi said. "They were hanging upside down, looking at us. It took 15 minutes

for all of them to cross; there were 10 or so of them. I had never been that close to any wild animal before, and I just thought it was awesome."

For 10 days over the Thanksgiving break, the 12 students of the School of Biological Sciences' Rain Forest Ecology class came eyeball-to-eyeball with tropical monkeys, snakes, and ants in one of the liveliest—biologically speaking—places in the world.

La Selva, which means "the jungle" in Spanish, is a world-renowned research center and nature reserve in Costa Rica's Caribbean lowlands. Biology Professor Joseph Armstrong and his colleagues have been bringing students





The students who went on the trip agree the experience was invaluable in advancing their learning and career.

from Illinois cornfields to this 4,000-acre Garden of Eden annually since 1996. Armstrong started the trips after conducting research there in 1993.

“Opportunities to do things like this course—to travel and see things and collect things in the tropics—were just something that was not accessible to me either as an undergraduate or a graduate student,” Armstrong said. “And that becomes a driving motivation for something like this. You realize, ‘Wow,

“It was just this vast amount of mountainside that was full of jungle. I just felt so insignificant compared to how immense this jungle was.”

I would have really benefitted by doing something like this as a student.”

Even in a country with about 5 percent of the world’s species, La Selva and adjoining Braulio Carillo National Park stand out. The reserve has more than 1,850 plant species, 448 bird species, and 500 ant species. Some of the tropics’ top predators roam this rain forest, including the New World’s largest cat, the jaguar; the notoriously aggressive, venomous, and stealthy fer-de-lance snake; and the tiny but millions-strong and appropriately named army ant.

“We got here in 12 hours,” Armstrong said. “Try to find another place this interesting, this good, within 12 hours of Bloomington-Normal. You can’t do it.”

Until 1983 visitors had to float down the Rio Viejo from the nearby town of Puerto Viejo de Sarapiquí to access the station. Now a two-hour bus ride from the nation’s capital, San Jose, drops off researchers, tourists, and students at what feels like a summer camp set in

a tropical Yellowstone. Visitors get a glimpse of what awaits them when they drive by the forest-covered volcanoes of the Braulio Carillo on the way to La Selva.

“It was just this vast amount of mountainside that was full of jungle,” senior biology student Brandon Mardoian said. “I just felt so insignificant compared to how immense this jungle was.”

Each of the four graduate students and eight undergraduates traveling

for four days did it become obvious why it is called a rain forest.

The record low temperature at La Selva is 64 degrees. On most days the Illinois State group experienced a high in the low-90s and a low in the mid-70s. Costa Rica, like most tropical countries, has two seasons: a dry one and a wet one. La Selva, however, gets so much rain each month that though nearby residents think of January to May as the dry months, in meteorological terms there is only a wet season. As La Selva naturalist guide Albert Urena put it: “We have the rainy season and the rainier season.”

Weather didn’t hinder the students, however, who were there to conduct research projects and experience the rain forest as biologists. They were permitted to research only plants and invertebrates, so as not to disturb the more vulnerable and less numerous larger species.

Mardoian spent several hours a day monitoring a *Senegalia Multipinnata* plant in a section of La Selva known as the successional plots. This is an area in

needed approximately \$1,900 to participate in the immersion experience. They arrived November 27 with Armstrong, Distinguished Professor Steven Juliano, graduate teaching assistant Molly Schumacher, and this writer. The group enjoyed mostly hot and sunny days initially. Only when a storm started the night before Thanksgiving and lingered



Biology Professor Joseph Armstrong with doctoral student Amanda Carter



Distinguished Professor Steven Juliano works with undergraduate Taylor Zarifis to extract water samples from bromeliads.

which sections are cut down annually and allowed to grow back in such a way that the forest can be studied in different stages of growth.

While small herds of peccaries foraged nearby and a green vine snake slithered among the brush, Mardoian con-

for miles into the forest to study web spinning spiders, including the golden silk orb-weaver, so named for its gold-colored web that is strong enough to pluck.

Strange was studying why the spiders sometimes create a thicker

organism (the house wren) on a specific study site, I think this kind of helps me to apply my abilities to do an experiment to a different area completely,” Strange said.

Though neither Mardoian’s nor Strange’s results completely verified their hypotheses, the means were more important than the ends. “You can either learn about science passively or you can do science, engage in science,” Armstrong said.

The team had ample opportunity to do the latter, as each day began at 6 a.m. or earlier, depending on whether the howler monkeys held an impromptu chorus. Students woke up, ate breakfast by 7 a.m., retired to their cabins for a brief siesta, and then headed out in small groups for a two- to three-hour hike in the forest that became a living classroom. Lunch followed at 11:30 a.m. After another brief break, when students lounged on hammocks or

“This (fieldwork) is comparable to a month’s work of indoor research experience. Really getting your hands on and doing it independently is a great experience.”

ducted field research for the first time. He studied the relationship between the nectar-producing plant and the ants that eat the nectar. He hypothesized that the plant strengthens its defenses against herbivores by producing nectar that attracts the ants.

“This (fieldwork) is comparable to a month’s work of indoor research experience,” Mardoian said. “Really getting your hands on and doing it independently is a great experience.”

Master’s student Meghan Strange’s project took her to the successional plots and beyond. She followed a web of concrete and mud trails that extended

white silk called stabilimenta, testing a hypothesis that they weave the more visible structure to keep nonpredators like birds from crashing into the webs. She prowled the rain forest, looking for, measuring, and then systematically damaging the webs as she went, before returning the next day to see whether the spiders responded by creating or enlarging stabilimenta.

“Since my research back in Illinois focuses on a certain study





This orb-weaver spider, *top left*, was among the dozens of spiders spotted during hikes. Kristin Duffield, *center left*, collected and monitored millipedes, while Meghan Strange studied the webs of golden silk orb-weavers, *bottom left*. Students were thrilled to find a spider monkey, *above*, resting in the rain forest canopy.

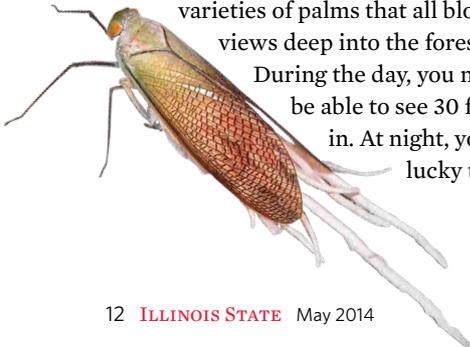
Skyped family and friends back home, they went out again for another long hike and to continue with research projects before returning for dinner.

For many students the 15-hour workday culminated with a night hike. Every night, even in a downpour, the students strapped lamps to their heads and knee-high Wellington boots to their feet to protect against snakes as they searched for the hard to see.

First-time visitors struggle to wrap their heads around how difficult it is to see animals in the rain forest. Many of the jungle residents live in the canopy. If it wasn't for a La Selva guide pointing out the barely visible furry figure high in a tree next to the professors' cabin, no one likely would have noticed the sloth.

The rain forest can be incredibly dense with 160-foot tall, RV-wide sura trees; twisting vines; and innumerable varieties of palms that all block views deep into the forest.

During the day, you may be able to see 30 feet in. At night, you're lucky to



see a hand in front of your face. The wild cats, like many of the animals, blend in to their environments so well that Juliano hasn't seen one since he started coming to La Selva 15 years ago.

Despite the darkness undergraduate Jennifer Achs discovered a young eyelash pit viper, a venomous snake,

“What makes teaching easy is to put students in an environment where they want to learn. Here, you almost overwhelm them with interesting biological stimuli. And they want to learn.”

sitting atop a palm leaf only 5 feet from the path. Other students spotted several species of frog, a kinkajou, wolf spiders, a tarantula, and countless leafcutter ants marching in an endless cycle while foraging and feeding on fungus.

“Seeing stuff in a zoo, that’s cool too,” undergraduate Sarah Kluk said after watching a kinkajou during a night hike. “But when you are out in their natural habitat, you’re not guaranteed to see animals. And you just don’t see them, because they are so good at hiding and they just don’t want to be seen. So when

you do see something, it is just a real cool feeling and experience.”

The most enthusiastic explorer might have been Amanda Carter, a Ph.D. student originally from Virginia, who conducts field research on turtles for her doctoral studies. The diminutive Carter was one of the braver souls on the trip,

joining a herpetologist from Tulsa University on a night hike with the stated goal of finding venomous snakes.

“I love hiking in general,” Carter said. “But I love having the night component because you really feel like you are ... immersed in the environment and not just visiting it. Having that night component really makes you a part of the ecosystem because there are so many animals that you do see, but there are so many more that you don’t see, that see



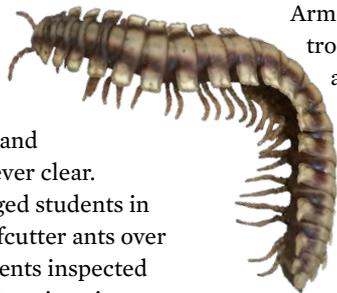
Corinne Cramer, *top left*, worked in an on-site laboratory. A blue jeans dart frog, *center left*, perched on a trailside pole. Ants were the subject of study for Sarah Kluk, *bottom left*, while another student focused on the *Senegalia Multipinnata* plant, *above*. Pictured are, *from left*, Brandon Mardoian, Molly Schumacher, and Meghan Strange.

you. You really become part of the rain forest, which is really cool.”

Students were especially appreciative of the opportunity to partner with professors throughout the adventure. From sunrise to well past sunset, Armstrong and Juliano helped the students better understand their surroundings. When “class” started and when it ended was never clear.

Armstrong engaged students in discussions about leafcutter ants over breakfast. When students inspected what appeared to be hanging vines on a hike, he explained that the plant was actually a tropical cactus. Juliano used his expertise in insects to identify a katydid that undergraduate Taylor Zarifis had photographed. “They’re predatory,” he said. “Those can give you a nasty bite.”

When they weren’t casually dropping knowledge, the professors were helping students with their research, like the morning Juliano spent with Zarifis collecting water samples from bromeliads.



“It’s an opportunity that all institutions or all departments can’t offer,” Juliano said. “Some of the little schools can offer these kinds of trips. But they don’t often have people with research backgrounds.”

Armstrong has been studying tropical floral biology for decades around the world and has a doctorate in botany. He is the director of Illinois State’s Laboratory for Plant Identification and Conservation and the curator of the George S. Vasey Herbarium. Juliano was named Distinguished Professor in 2002 for his decades of nationally recognized research. He has a Ph.D. in zoology, a master’s degree in entomology, and a bachelor’s degree in biology.

Armstrong and Juliano delight in sharing with the students a deep enthusiasm for learning and an awe of the rain forest and its inhabitants. Both professors are hopeful for private investment in the School of Biological Sciences that will further support students who

want to take of advantage of the unique academic program.

“What makes teaching easy is to put students in an environment where they want to learn,” Armstrong said. “Here, you almost overwhelm them with interesting biological stimuli. And they want to learn. From the first coffee until lights out, it is informal instruction.”

Editor’s note: Photos provided by Kevin Bersett, Rebecca DeHeer, Steven Juliano, Sarah Kluk, and Molly Schumacher.

If you would like to support students who participate in future rain forest explorations, contact Development Director Stephanie Sellers at (309) 438-7725 or seselle@IllinoisState.edu; or School of Biological Sciences Director Craig Gatto at (309) 438-3669 or cgatto@IllinoisState.edu.



Explore more of Costa Rica

See video of the trip online at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. Additional coverage can be found at IllinoisState.edu/STATEside.



John Flynn is not the only graduate in the spotlight at Rogue Machine Theatre. ISU alums are a key part of many performances including, *from left*, Brenda Davidson '03, Donnie Smith '00, and Corryn Cummins '01.

ROGUE

PRODUCER

Alum creates original theater
in land of television

BY TOM NUGENT



Audiences are challenged by productions that probe controversial topics. Recent hits include *American Dead*, left; *Dying City*, top; and *One Night in Miami*, bottom.

Hunched over a cup of steaming black coffee and frowning like a badly stumped TV quiz-show contestant, John Flynn, M.S. '74, has just asked himself a brutally difficult question.

“What could lead a man to become so foolish as to attempt to establish a theater that specializes in producing new plays in Los Angeles?”

He pauses for a moment. His bushy, silver-streaked eyebrows flare dangerously, and then a moment later, he explodes in a rush of language that perfectly captures the passion he feels for daringly original theater.

“If you’re a dramatic artist, you have to question why we exist,” roars the 66-year-old Colorado native, who’s also part Chickasaw Indian and proud of it. “What is existence, anyway? That’s the kind of question that theater should be asking.

“If theater is to survive, it must find its own voice in each new generation. And back in 2007, when I decided to try and launch a new live theater in L.A., I was determined to create a space for that voice and a space for new work. I knew it would be hard at first, and it was. But all of us who were involved in creating Rogue Machine Theatre (RMT), well, I think we understood that if we could give people original plays, they would

respond and we would gradually be able to build an audience.”

And they did.

Since the 2008 opening of the 140-seat theater complex on Pico Boulevard in a battered and somewhat scruffy-looking section of the city, RMT has produced more than a dozen original plays while also nailing down more than 50 local and regional artistic awards for its bold-hearted insistence on challenging theatergoers to the max.

“I spent 30 years producing and directing TV movies and TV series in Los Angeles,” said the well-known television exec who now regularly sweeps L.A. theater awards. His TV credits in recent decades include the popular cable series *Strong Medicine*, the widely praised remake of *Fantasy Island* as a multi-year TV series that starred *A Clockwork Orange* legend Malcolm McDowell, and a hugely successful TV-movie version of Scott Turow’s smash-hit thriller, *The Burden of Proof*.

“I think I was reasonably successful in television, but live theater had been my first love, starting all the way back at Illinois State in the 1970s. I finally came to a place where I said: ‘You’ve got to go back to what you love most!’”

Driven by his passion for the mysterious energy that erupts on “the boards” when great actors blaze through the dialogue in great plays, Flynn took

a giant risk and put together a plan to purchase a crumbling old theater complex that contained two different performing spaces. After convincing a second L.A. theater group to join him in the project, Flynn & Co. borrowed a ton of money and assembled a team of actors and directors who would labor more for love than for cash. After many months of hard work, he and his artistic crew launched what has now become one of the city’s most promising venues for neglected older plays and daring new works alike.

Relying on a staff of about 100 theater devotees—most unpaid volunteers—and while doing his best to manage a yearly budget of about \$300,000, the indefatigable Flynn has achieved a theatrical goal that critics and theatergoers alike would have said was impossible a decade ago. He has created and sustained a theatrical enterprise heavily devoted to launching new works.

The editors of the highly influential *LA Weekly* acknowledged as much in 2011, while presenting a coveted Lifetime Achievement Award to the unstoppable Flynn. Agreeing wholeheartedly with the selection, the influential Terry Morgan at *Variety* described the daringly original Rogue Machine Theatre as “one of the most ambitious and accomplished theater companies in Los Angeles.”

Spend an afternoon hanging out with Flynn at the increasingly popular Rogue Machine Theatre, and you'll soon discover that he minces no words when it comes to explaining what he's after as the high-profile founding artistic director of L.A.'s most talked about new theatrical enterprise.

"I think we're here to challenge audiences, and I think they really respect that," said the former ISU theater arts graduate student during a tour of the Pico Avenue showplace. "In recent years, we've brought one daring work after another to town—including some highly provocative new plays by some of America's most original, younger playwrights—and the reaction has been quite positive.

"For me, that reaction underlines what I've always believed to be true about theater: As soon as you start pandering to your audience, you start destroying your audience."

To illustrate his point, he described two recent RMT productions that left audiences (and critics) reeling with shocked excitement after watching Flynn's high-voltage actors attack hugely controversial topics.

In *Dying City* by the widely admired playwright Christopher Shinn, a damaged Iraq War combat veteran has apparently split into two schizophrenic halves. One is addicted to violence and hates women, while the other is a sniveling, terrified wimp who's lost control of his life.

"*Dying City* is all about questions," said Flynn, the delighted producer of the well-reviewed play. "Is Baghdad dying from the wartime violence that began there with the Iraq War in 2003? Or is the 'dying city' really located in America, as an entire society is brutalized by the endless, bloody warfare? Theater is all about asking those kinds of questions, it seems to me, and that show didn't hesitate to do so."

Another recent RMT hit—Kemp Powers' relentlessly provocative *One Night in Miami*—explores the powder-keg issue of racial anger and race-related violence. Four instantly recognizable

African-American celebrities—former heavyweight boxing champ Muhammad Ali, pop singer Sam Cooke, pro football star Jim Brown and black-power advocate Malcolm X—gather in a booze-soaked Miami motel room to debate whether or not their superstar billing as deeply admired African-Americans really has liberated them from the "shackles" of racial discrimination.

"That show was one of the dozen or so original plays we've produced at Rogue Machine," said Flynn, "and our audiences really loved its naked honesty. The play was developed right here at RMT as part of our Playwrights Development Workshop, and watching it unfold on opening night was a great thrill for all of us who believe in the importance of staging new plays in Los Angeles."

Describing the "terrific passion and excitement" that Flynn has brought to building and managing a new L.A. theater, the award-winning playwright John Pollono says Flynn loves to see both "honesty and raw action" in every play he produces or directs.

"John Flynn has a rare gift—a burning passion and dedication to the theater," said Pollono, whose highly praised *Small Engine Repair* enjoyed its world premiere at RMT a few years ago and then went on to a New York City off-Broadway production in 2013.

"Once he made the decision to build Rogue Machine, he became totally dedicated to the task. I remember one afternoon when we were all down there refurbishing the building, and John fell off a platform and badly injured his leg.

"But you know what? The very next day, he was back in the theater hobbling around and back at work. To this day, we still love to kid him about that. We tell him: John, you dedicated your leg to the cause of theater in L.A.!"

Henry Murray, another budding L.A. playwright who's had several shows produced by Flynn, points out that the ISU grad "founded RMT at a time when no one else in Los Angeles was willing to take a chance on new plays. The big

institutional theaters had closed their development programs [for new plays], and the small theaters weren't willing to take a risk.

"But John is a risk-taker and six years later, L.A. has a new play scene, led by the most-awarded theater of the last three years, Rogue Machine."

Ask Flynn to explain why he left big-time TV directing and producing at the tender age of 60 for the low-budget world of original theater in Los Angeles, and the unflappably Irish showman will give part of the credit to the highly regarded Illinois State theater arts program which, he noted, had helped to launch the famed Steppenwolf Theatre Company and numerous other theatrical initiatives during the years right before Flynn landed on campus.

"That was a magical time for me," Flynn said. He gained "huge inspiration and also very practical advice" in courses with such legendary ISU theater faculty as the late Professor Jean Scharf-enberg and Professor Emeritus John



Rogue Machine Theatre opened in 2008 on Pico Boulevard in Los Angeles. It was once a crumbling complex.

Kirk. "When I arrived, some of the Steppenwolf people were still there, people like Francis Guinan Jr. '74, M.S. '76, and Terry Kinney '76, and the excitement was palpable.

"That excitement left an indelible impression on me," Flynn said. "In the end, I think it's what helped most to bring me out of the TV world and return me to my first love: the world of live theater!"



CORPS VALUES

HOW ILLINOIS STATE'S PEACE CORPS PROGRAMS CAN CHANGE EVERYTHING

by Ryan Denham

There are infinite ways to make the world a better place. Students in Illinois State's two Peace Corps master's programs have a passion to do just that and without delay. They become involved in international projects while completing a degree that prepares them to have a global impact long after graduation.

Department of Politics and Government graduate student Lauren Karplus has been serving with the Peace Corps in Swaziland, Africa, since 2012. She lived on a rural homestead with a Swazi host family and some cows, chickens, dogs, goats, and pigs. Her work at a rural Swazi health clinic included facilitating projects with an HIV/AIDS support group to generate income and starting an HIV/AIDS support group for children. Karplus also participated in traditional Swazi activities, from cooking to weddings and weeding communal maize fields. She also helped by teaching computer skills, resume writing, and mental health classes at the local high school.



Lloyd Banwart speaks at an economic development center in the Philippines.



Banwart during a tree-planting activity in the Philippines.

Lloyd Banwart, M.S. '12, uses data to make a difference. Whenever a private foundation or the U.S. government sends money to help fight hunger in Africa, for example, they want to know if the money was well spent. That's where Banwart comes in.

Today there are 30 to 35 active students at any given time, half on campus, half in the field. The 117 graduates so far are in addition to the more than 500 Illinois State alumni who have served in the Peace Corps separately from the Stevenson Center's programs.

the Peace Corps programs.

At its core, Peace Corps is about change—for those in the communities it serves and the volunteers who describe the experience as transformative. Such has definitely been true for Banwart, who grew up on a Wisconsin horse

At its core, Peace Corps is about change—for those in the communities it serves and the volunteers who describe the experience as transformative.

He had global development credentials long before he joined TANGO International as a research associate, working from 2005-2007 in the Philippines as a Peace Corps volunteer, followed by a 3,000-mile bike ride across Southeast Asia.

But he needed more than a stamped passport to jump-start his career. He needed hard skills and job experience. So he enrolled in Illinois State's Peace Corps Coverdell Fellows Program, specifically built for former Peace Corps volunteers like him.

Banwart is one of 117 graduates of Illinois State's two Peace Corps master's programs, Fellows and Master's International, which date back to 1994. Politics and Government Professor Emeritus Robert W. Hunt worked with Western Illinois University to launch the Fellows program—the first in the country to focus on community and economic development. It was followed three years later by Master's International.

The programs bring together returned Peace Corps volunteers (Fellows) and those about to leave for their service (Master's International), creating a unique cultural exchange where future global leaders learn from each other on campus.

It's perhaps the marquee example of how far Illinois State's reach extends beyond Normal, or Illinois, or even the U.S. border, and how the big lessons students learn overseas pay off at home. Illinois State was No. 8 in the U.S. in the 2013 rankings of Master's International graduate schools. ISU was in the top 10 nationwide in 2011 and in 2009 too.

"It's been a long, rich history, and we have a lot of great students and alumni to be proud of," said Beverly Beyer, M.S. '03. She is associate director of ISU's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development, which oversees

ranch. His international know-how as a kid was limited to a Canada trip.

A semester abroad in England as



“It wasn’t enough for me to simply learn and be aware of disparities and inequalities...I wanted to be able to do something about them.”

an undergrad woke him up to the wider world. Eager for an adventure, he signed up for Peace Corps and volunteered in the Philippines. Banwart was assigned to a local government unit working on planning and development issues, such as setting up markets for remote villages and helping a group of potters move from ground firing to a kiln.

Banwart returned home in mid-2008—not exactly boom time for the U.S. economy. When he landed at an arts nonprofit in Minneapolis, he realized he had a lot to learn. He chose Illinois State’s Peace Corps Fellows program in part because of its applied community and economic development sequence.

Those hard skills are put to use daily with TANGO, which evaluates the impact of international development projects. For a recent U.S.-funded food security project in Malawi, for example, Banwart traveled to the southeast Af-

rican country to train 30 interviewers to deliver a 3,000-household survey. He received the data, analyzed it, and helped produce a report about the project’s effectiveness.

One of the best parts of Illinois State’s Peace Corps programs, according to Banwart, is that there are two of them—one for past and future volunteers. Both share the same curriculum for one year on campus before either shipping out (Master’s International) or starting an 11-month internship in the U.S. (Fellows). ISU is the only institution in Illinois to have both programs.

The dual coursework unites the two groups of students in their Community Project Design and Management course. They partner in studying big local issues such as recycling in Normal or the feasibility of a local cooperative grocery store.

“There’s just a great community of students here,” Beyer said. “The Stevenson Center brings together these like-minded students who care about international development, and the students really thrive when they’re here.”

Banwart took on a mentoring role with the younger Master’s International students.

“When you come back from Peace Corps, you want to talk about it all the time. But with a lot of people, their eyes just glaze over,” he said. “When



Kate Slisz was assigned to the small village of Serinane, Botswana.

you have people who are about to embark on the same journey, their eyes don’t glaze over.”

Kate Slisz was on the receiving end of that wisdom.

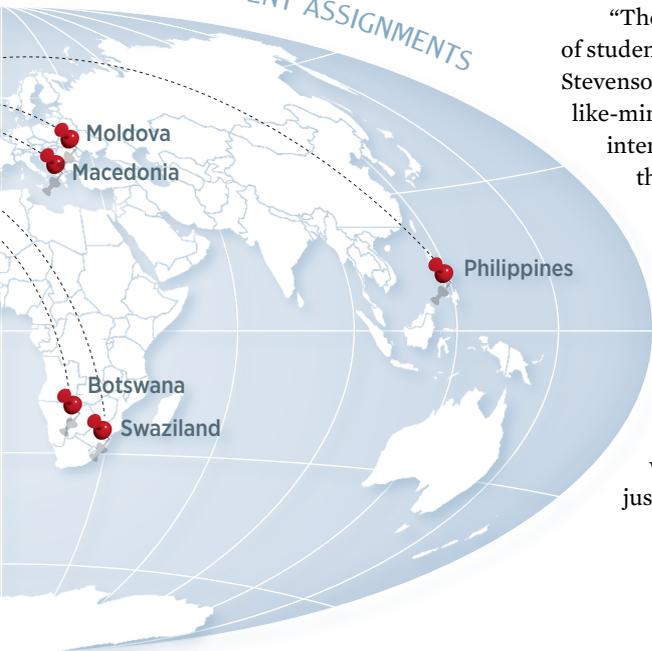
A Peace Corps Master’s International student in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Slisz serves as a school and community liaison in a rural Botswana village. Among her many jobs, she helps bolster the Peace Corps’ main mission in Botswana—combating the spread of HIV and AIDS.

Slisz was drawn to the Peace Corps idea since high school, but also wanted to attend graduate school. Her Peace Corps dream was further stoked when, as an undergraduate in Wisconsin, her study of sociology opened her eyes to a career path in community and economic development.

“It wasn’t enough for me to simply learn and be aware of disparities and inequalities,” Slisz said. “I wanted to be able to do something about them.”

She arrived in Botswana in September 2012, assigned to a village of 787 people called Serinane. Few homes have electricity or running water, and most families have a pit latrine in their yard. She misses hot showers now and then, but her mind is occupied with bigger moments—like when she opened Serinane’s first library, or organized a five-day camp focused on various life-skills

INTERNATIONAL STUDENT ASSIGNMENTS



and friendship for 32 boys and girls from six different villages.

“I’m constantly surprised by how little I miss my way of life in America,” said Slisz, who would like to get her Ph.D. and eventually become a college professor, though international development remains her passion.

Her year of coursework before heading to Africa helped her put theory into practice, but it was interaction with expe-

rienced former volunteers that was most beneficial. “Those conversations provided me with information and insight that I couldn’t learn in a classroom or from a textbook. They made me feel better prepared for the task ahead,” Slisz said.

Others have likewise found their way through the program. Jeremy Richart, M.A. ’07, was somewhat “lost” after finishing his undergraduate degree in Minnesota, lacking a career or strong sense of where he wanted to go. The son of a Peace Corps volunteer, he signed up and on extremely short notice was shipped out to Armenia in 2002.

Richart worked to instill more sustainable business practices in the nongovernmental organization where he was assigned. He spent his second year working on health programs and later served as a teacher in the capital city of Yerevan. The challenging living conditions and the solitude allowed Richart to better understand himself.

“When I came out, I had a sense of a confidence,” Richart said. “It’s like, ‘I can handle anything you throw at me.’”

Illinois State’s Peace Corps Fellows program in political science also helped Richart transition back into daily U.S. life. One of the big draws of Fellows, other than the full tuition waiver and paid in-

ternship, was its three-pronged approach to community development. Those three degree programs—political science, sociology, and applied economics—represent the reality of how global problems get solved. Work is consequently being done to extend the Fellows program to existing master’s degrees at ISU.

“It helped me continue what I had started in the Peace Corps—thinking outside the box, pulling in a lot of different information, and looking at a problem from all three of those angles,” Richart said.

His 11-month internship was with Mikva Challenge, an organization that helps engage low-income Chicago youths in civic discourse and politics. He coordinated election campaigns with 166 students and 26 teachers in 18 high schools, and also did a capstone project.

lets, promoting cultural exchanges and managing the Embassy’s social media platforms. He’s also in charge of the Embassy’s American Corners program in Georgia, which installs American-style community centers in local schools or libraries to promote cultural understanding and educational opportunities between the two countries.

Richart’s time in Georgia follows a two-year assignment in Moscow, as well as a yearlong stint with the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Afghanistan. “I like the idea of getting outside my comfort zone,” he says, “getting my fingers dirty, actively helping somebody at the grass-roots, ground level.”

It’s a call to action that ISU Peace Corps graduates are quick to hear and eager to answer.



Jeremy Richart, right, during his year with the U.S. Agency for International Development in Afghanistan.

“I like the idea of getting outside my comfort zone... getting my fingers dirty, actively helping somebody at the grass-roots, ground level.”

BREAKING A BULLY'S GRIP

WHAT'S REQUIRED TO STOP THE TEARS AND FEARS

by Steven Barcus

Bullying is a problem that transcends generations. The devastating effects have forced victims into isolation and pushed some to suicide. Every story of bullying gone too far sparks a firestorm of frustration and outrage. Parents, teachers, and society as a whole are blamed. Along with the accusations come demands for action. Despite calls for legislation, programs, or harsh punishment for bullying, there is no simple solution. Yet the situation is not hopeless. As the largest preparer of Illinois teachers, Illinois State University faculty, staff, and students are taking a stand against bullying through research, curricula, and programming.

TRANSFORMING LIVES

It was a hot afternoon when Patty Franz, School of Communication administrative aide, pulled in front of her granddaughter's junior high. She emerged from the building running and with streaming tears. She threw her backpack in the back seat, jumped in the car, rolled

up the window, and told her grandma to drive.

"She said, 'Get out of here right away, grandma. Some girls are going to beat me up,'" Franz recalled. "I asked why. She said, 'I don't know. I guess they don't like me.'"

Franz knew what was happening to her granddaughter wasn't isolated. She had seen reports of children bullied to the point of mental breakdown, or in extreme cases, suicide. She decided to take action.

"I have access to a lot of resources working at ISU," Franz said. "I talked to the chair, I talked to faculty, and I talked to graduate students."

With civic engagement a high priority for the School of Communication, four graduate students who had their own dealings with bullying volunteered to help Franz. One student was a mother of a child who had been bullied at the same school, one had a sister that bullied students at that junior high, one had been bullied, and another had a friend

who had committed suicide as a result of bullying.

The group named themselves Transformers and partnered with teachers and administrators at Normal's Parkside Junior High School to deliver lesson plans promoting positive social behavior.

When word spread, the group of four students grew to 20.

With so many ISU students involved, School of Communications Professor Cheri Simonds began working with the Transformers to make sure students were consistently trained. Simonds adapted the curriculum in her Seminar in Communication Education course to allow students to take an academic approach to the problem.

"I knew there was a connection between social aggression and the solution of using communication skills to address it," Simonds said. "I wanted to see what could be done in terms of teacher training to address the problem."

Transformers students enrolled in Simonds' course and examined programs on modeling and teaching social and emotional learning. One program identified was Second Step, a nationally renowned bully prevention program that uses social-emotional learning skills to address problems. Simonds led her students in developing a training program on using Second Step kits that could be delivered by Transformers.

After assessing their efforts, Simonds and her students found that programs have a greater impact when lessons are delivered in the classroom and by a person with whom the students already have a relationship.

"What we decided was that we needed to focus our efforts on teacher training," Simonds said. "If we could train the trainer to go in and deliver the instruction, then we could have a greater impact and more sustainability with our efforts."

Despite the focus on teachers, Simonds does not believe that the burden of bullying should rest solely on teachers.

"We have state mandates in place without prerequisite training teachers need to address them," Simonds said. "It's not the teachers' fault. They have not been equipped with the tools they need to address the problem."

Transformers has evolved from a volunteer group creating programming focused on students to an academic workshop experience that develops programming for teachers. The group partnered with ISU's Documentary Project to host a screening of Director Lee Hirsch's documentary, *Bully*. The film gave viewers a candid look at the impact of bullying. The group has since moved

from delivering training based on Second Step kits to instead distributing the less costly resources and materials that accompany the book and documentary as a way of reaching a wider audience.

Simonds and Franz continue their efforts to stop bullying, now partnering with School of Communication instructors Anna Wright and Julie (Boyd) Navickas '07, M.S. '10, through the Peaceful Schools Committee. Members work with students, teachers, and other community members to ensure all children have a safe place to learn and grow.

"The end goal is to give educators the tools they need to implement these social-emotional learning skills and reduce social aggression," Simonds said. "Bullying is the problem. Social-emotional learning is the solution."

PREPARING FOR THE CLASSROOM

Bullying is a prominent topic in Erin Mikulec's Issues in Secondary Education. An assistant professor in the School of Teaching and Learning, Mikulec discusses bullying with her class from the perspectives of general classroom management to legal implications. Such a broad spectrum highlights how the topic can become convoluted.

"Schools, districts, and states are wrestling with to what extent they are responsible for bullying that happens off of school property. It used to be that if you and I didn't get along in school, I went home and home was a safe place," said Mikulec, who is also an assistant professor of education. "But now we have things like Facebook, so it follows you everywhere and you can't get away from it. That perpetuates a lot of issues with bullying."

Mikulec encourages her students to be mindful of potential bullying situations.

"Very few students will come to a teacher and say they are being bullied by another student between classes in a hallway," Mikulec said. "So I tell them to be mindful, stand in the doorway during passing periods, and listen to what kids are talking about."

Mikulec also offers her students clinical experiences through a partnership with The Alliance School of Milwaukee. Founded with a mission to reduce bullying, the Alliance School is an LGBTQ friendly school. It has become nationally renowned for its emphasis on restorative justice, democratic governance, and as a haven where students are free to be unique.

Alliance students are able to take any issues they have with one another to the "restorative justice circle," which allows participants to recognize that harm has been done to another and then begin to repair the relationship.

"It is a powerful experience," Mikulec said. "It is an opportunity to hear some of the things students have been through, the things teachers did

BULLYING DEFINED

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services defines bullying as "unwanted, aggressive behavior among school-aged children that involves a real or perceived power imbalance. The behavior is repeated, or has the potential to be repeated, over time." (StopBullying.gov)



or didn't do to help them, and how they may have facilitated the harm caused by other people."

To Mikulec, beginning the dialogue on bullying is an important step toward reducing occurrences. However, while online forums and social media create an outlet for the full impact of bullying to come to light, they also create other venues for bullies.

"The same thing that can perpetuate bullying is also the same thing that is increasing dialogue," Mikulec said. "It's an interesting catch-22. The dialogue needs to continue. It's not just an issue for schools to deal with. Teachers, parents, and the community are all responsible for modeling appropriate behavior."

A PROBLEM FOR EVERYONE

Stories of children turning to suicide to escape tormentors regularly shock audiences, but have become commonplace in today's media. Unfortunately these tragedies are often the culmination of problems that have festered for generations.

Studies conducted by federal agencies over the 2007–2008 school year showed that 25 percent of public schools reported bullying occurring on a daily or weekly basis. BullyingStatistics.org noted that 71 percent of students report bullying as an ongoing problem. Along that same vein, about one out of every 10 students drops out or changes schools because of repeated bullying.

Professor of Special Education E. Paula Crowley studies the abuse and neglect of children with disabilities, and her research has given insight into bullying behavior.

Where most see bullying only as a childhood problem, Crowley identifies it as a lifelong problem.

"We're concerned about bullying in schools, but bullying happens in every institution in every aspect of our society in every corner of our world," Crowley said. "It is present anywhere human beings are not respected and accepted and cared for and shared with. When there is incivility or intolerance, there is bullying. It is not a childhood problem. It is a human problem, and it occurs across the lifespan."

To Crowley, we all fit into one of or a combination of the following roles: bully, victim, bully-victim, bystander, or prosocial advocate. Aside from bully and victim, bully-victims are those who have been bullied and in turn become bullies, thereby exhibiting the behaviors they have experienced. Bystanders observe bullying behavior and consequently promote it by not taking action. Prosocial advocates model tolerance, respect, acceptance, sharing, caring, and genuine curiosity. In most cases prosocial advocates do not even realize they are advocating against bullying as these positive behaviors are part of their disposition.

"Bullies will not continue when someone intervenes on an individual basis," Crowley said. "Bullying is addressed one-by-one, child-by-child, and interaction-by-interaction."

So what is the solution to the bullying problem? While Crowley acknowledges that there are no easy answers, she endorses a three-tiered model: promoting prosocial behavior on a universal level, creating programs to foster development of communications and positive problem-solving skills in children and adults at the secondary level, and engaging individuals in programs that focus on those who are bullies, victims, or bully-victims on the tertiary level.

"Bullying prevention is not just the work of teachers only, nor is it the work of parents only," Crowley said. "We all like to point at everyone else and too quickly it becomes everybody's business and nobody's business."

ANTI-BULLYING RESOURCES

StopBullying.gov

A website with anti-bullying resources managed by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

TheBullyProject.com

The official website of the social action campaign inspired by the documentary, *Bully*.

cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/YouthViolence

Statistics and resources on youth violence and prevention compiled by the Center for Disease Control.



Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored six award recipients during Founders Day celebrations on February 20.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Carl E. Kasten '66
Retired Senior Partner: Kasten, Ruyle, Sims and Bellm P.C.
Carlinville

Carl Kasten was a student from 1962-1966. While completing a social sciences education degree with a Russian minor cum laude, he was elected and served as Student Senate president. He worked with those seeking the change to Illinois State University during the institution's historic name debate.

Kasten obtained a law degree cum laude from Northwestern University in 1969, receiving the Wigmore Key for his dedication to service and scholarship. The Carlinville native returned home to practice law, becoming active in his community and profession.

Kasten's dedication to the University did not stop as an undergraduate. In 1990, he was appointed to the Board of Regents by Gov. James Thompson. Six years later, he was appointed to the University's inaugural Board of Trustees by Gov. Jim Edgar. Kasten served as board secretary and was elected chair in 2003. He held the position until resigning in 2008. That same year the Carl E. Kasten Alumni Association Board Room was unveiled in the Alumni Center.

His involvement at ISU has included leadership roles with the Alumni Association Board of Directors and serving as a founder and member of ISU's Attorneys Advisory Council. The pre-law leadership award from the Attorneys Advisory Council bears his name. He has also served as a State Universities Retirement System trustee.

Kasten supports the University financially by attending Athletics events and fine arts performances, through speaking engagements, and annually hosting alumni receptions. He and his wife of 48 years, Donna (Gerber), daughter Heather DeNeve '93, and son Martin '95 are all proud graduates.

He received the Distinguished Service Award in 2004 and was inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame in 2006. He is proud of ISU and remains determined to advance the University, its people and programs.



Alumni Achievement Award

John "Jack" Hartung '79, M.B.A. '80
Chief Financial Officer, Chipotle Mexican Grill
Naperville

Chipotle was a privately held company with fewer than 200 restaurants when Jack Hartung became chief financial officer in 2002. Chipotle became a public company in 2006 and now has more than 1,500 restaurants—including internationally—and a market capitalization above \$16 billion.

Chipotle is changing how people think about and eat fast food by serving dishes made from sustainably raised ingredients, and by developing a high-performing people culture. Nearly all managers are promoted from crew.

As CFO, Hartung oversees all of Chipotle's finance department, including financial and strategic planning, financial reporting, investor relations, and tax and business strategy. He also oversees IT; benefits and compensation; and safety, security and risk.

He holds a bachelor's degree in accounting and economics, and an MBA with a concentration in finance, both from Illinois State University. He earned his CPA and CMA shortly after graduating from ISU.

Hartung's family includes his wife, Nancy, and five children. He is an avid runner, world traveler and restaurant aficionado.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Jessica (Thompson) Rau '03
Communications Manager, McDonald's Greater Chicago Region
Wheaton

Jessica Rau is communications manager for McDonald's Greater Chicago Region. She develops strategic management communications, manages media relations, the regional planning process, key initiatives, and issues management.



Check out video interviews with our 2014 Alumni Award winners at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.



John "Jack" Hartung



Jessica (Thompson) Rau



Willie Brown



Kathleen Hogan



Dr. Ronald Williams

Her McDonald's career began in 2004 in Corporate Media Relations. After several promotions, she was responsible for implementing strategic media relations programs and protecting the McDonald's brand. In 2009, Rau became Manager of External Communications for McDonald's USA and developed innovative public relations programs. She leveraged emerging communications channels and became the official "tweeter" for @McCafeyourday.

Rau is cofounder and field liaison officer for McDonald's Young Professionals Network. She sits on ISU's College of Business Marketing Advisory Board. She has received McDonald's President's Award, Circle of Excellence Award twice, ISU's College of Business Early Career Achievement Award, McDonald's Outstanding National Marketing Team Award, and McDonald's Bill Lamar Marketing Excellence Award for the McCafe team.

She resides in Wheaton with her husband Ryan and their two children, Carter and Maxine.

Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Willie Brown '73
Retired Senior Executive Vice President,
State Farm Insurance
Bloomington

Willie Brown began his career at State Farm in 1971 before completing a business administration degree. He worked there until 2009, retiring as senior executive vice president.

Brown's community service, passion for education, and determination to help young people succeed continues. He has leadership roles in countless service and

charitable projects, including on ISU's College of Business Advisory Council.

He was integral in renaming the COB facility as the State Farm Hall of Business. He also endowed a scholarship for diverse and nontraditional ISU business students.

Brown has led United Way campaigns, and worked with the Salvation Army, Relay for Life, and 100 Black Men of Central Illinois. He received the NAACP's Roy Wilkins Award for lifetime achievement.

He is a member of the Hall of Fame for the College of Business, the College of Arts and Sciences, and Bloomington High School. He has received the Martin Luther King Jr. Human Relations Award from the Bloomington-Normal Human Relations Commission.

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Kathleen Hogan, M.S. '72, Ed.D. '85
President Emerita, Mennonite College of Nursing
Bloomington

Kathleen Hogan served Mennonite College of Nursing for 30 years. She provided leadership as a professor, course chairperson, director of Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing, founding dean of Mennonite College of Nursing, and president and CEO of Mennonite College of Nursing for nine years until her retirement in July 1999.

Under her direction, the college became the first single-purpose, upper-division bachelor of science nursing program in the country accredited by the National League for Nursing.

This led to granting bachelor degrees and development of master's and doctoral programs. Hogan served as a consultant to 16 nursing-diploma schools transitioning

to grant degrees and was crucial in Mennonite's transition to Illinois State in 1999.

She remains actively engaged with the college, university and community. She is a recipient of the Woman of Distinction award from the McLean County YWCA and the Service Award from the Mennonite College of Nursing Alumni Organization. She served for 20 years on the McLean County Health Department Board of Directors.

Dr. Ronald Williams '60
Staff Pediatrician, MultiCare
Olympia, Washington

Biology graduate Ronald Williams completed a medical degree at the University of Illinois and a master's in public health at Johns Hopkins University; a year at the U.S. Army War College in Pennsylvania; a Fellowship in Pediatric Infectious Disease; and a residency in Public Health and Preventive Medicine. He is American Board Certified in pediatrics and preventive medicine.

As commanding officer of the U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Disease, he studied the defense of infectious disease of biological weapons. He was commanding officer of the General Leonard Wood Army Hospital and deputy director and chief of medicine at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Science, Thailand.

Formerly with the Department of Defense, he was a member of the U.S. delegation to the Third Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention during the Gulf War.

He and his wife offered medical aid in Sri Lanka following the tsunami. He has cared for incarcerated youth and Native Americans. Retired from the military, he remains a practicing pediatrician.

AlumniConnections



Sport clubs enrich student life

Alums who participated across the years actively sought

For a large percentage of campus, ISU's Sport Club program is a hidden gem. Many are unaware students have the opportunity to engage in inter-collegiate competition as a way to stay fit, make friends, and gain leadership experience.

There are 30 sport clubs, all established and run by students through Campus Recreation. Some have been in existence since the 1960s and 1970s, according to Campus Recreation Associate Director Mary O'Mahoney.

Options range from common sports such as baseball, volleyball, and basketball to ultimate disc, equestrian, lacrosse, fencing, and rugby. Each club has a national governing body that dictates

rules and eligibility, with a collegiate club national championship as the ultimate goal. Dues are paid, practices are part of the semester, and fundraising is done to cover travel expenses.

"These students have all the rigor of classes and most have part-time jobs. They have to really be dedicated to their sport," O'Mahoney said. "Many choose to participate so they can wear ISU across their chests" as university representatives.

There is much to be proud of, as several sport clubs consistently win at the regional or national level. This is true despite the fact no experience is required to join many of the clubs and not all have coaches formally involved. The dedica-

tion and hard work creates memories that last a lifetime.

"I firmly believe that students who participate in sport clubs claim that as their affinity to the University," said O'Mahoney, who is building rosters of past members. If you were involved in a sport club, contact her at (309) 438-5373 or mcomaho@IllinoisState.edu. An online form can be completed at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/SportClubs.

Learn more about the current teams at CampusRecreation.IllinoisState.edu and click on the Sport Clubs link. To provide financial support, use the envelope enclosed in this issue, call (309) 438-8041, or contribute online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving.



Nominations sought for Homecoming royalty

The Alumni Association Homecoming committee is seeking nominations for the 2014 Homecoming court alumni king and queen, and the prince and princess.

The alumni king and queen will be crowned at the Homecoming luncheon on Friday, October 3. They will reign over events throughout Homecoming weekend with the student king and queen, as well as members of the student court. The Homecoming prince and princess will help lead off the annual parade and other events on October 4.

To be eligible for alumni king and queen, graduates must have celebrated

their 50th class reunion, have a strong connection to the University, and be able to attend Homecoming events throughout the weekend. King and queen nominations are due July 1.

Children between the ages of 4 and 7 at the time of Homecoming 2014 whose parents are ISU graduates are eligible for nomination as the prince and princess. Nominees must display Redbird spirit, pride, and enthusiasm. Prince and princess nominations are due August 25.

Applications are available online at IllinoisStateHomecoming.com/Royalty.

Mark your calendar for Homecoming 2014

It's not too soon to begin making plans for Homecoming weekend this fall. As in the past, activities for all ages will be scheduled. Beyond the traditional parade and football game, make an effort to reconnect with faculty and friends from your area of study or affinity group. Learn more about the events at IllinoisStateHomecoming.com.

Alumni Association annual meeting set

Alumni are invited to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. on Saturday, June 21, in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of Alumni Association Board of Directors members and officers.

Alumni with active membership status in the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the meeting. To be active, alumni must have made a gift through the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding fiscal year.

For more information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, email Alumni@IllinoisState.edu, or go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu.

Alumni invited to Shakespeare event

The annual Alumni Night at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival is July 19. Seating will be reserved for alumni and their guests, who will enjoy a performance of *Much Ado About Nothing*.

A social hour begins at 5:30 p.m. and a buffet dinner will be served at 7 p.m. Participants will have a backstage tour. The show begins at 8 p.m.

Performance tickets range from \$25 to \$35, depending on seating preference. Tickets for the dinner only are available for \$20. Call Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 to reserve tickets, or reserve them online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Shakespeare. Registration deadline is July 1.



Capture your Redbird pride when traveling

From tropical beaches to famous landmarks or maybe even a family reunion, Redbirds are gearing up to roam during the upcoming summer months. As you prepare to pack, don't forget to take along your ISU red!

We want photos of your travels that show the different locations where your Redbird pride is on display. Send your captured moments to us on social media using the #RedbirdProud hashtag or email RoamingRedbirds@IllinoisState.edu.

Images may be mailed to ISU Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790. We'll share the photos on ISU's social media outlets.

As an added benefit, you'll be sure to meet fellow graduates while traveling. With alumni scattered across the country and around the world, it will surprise you how many will recognize your Illinois State garb or memorabilia and be ready in a moment to share a campus memory.

ClassNotes



Meet ISU's youngest graduate

College of Business student joins alumni ranks as a teen

Isiah Roberts '13 became the University's youngest graduate on record when he crossed the commencement stage at age 19. He celebrated the moment in December's ceremony, when he received a marketing sales degree.

Roberts was home-schooled in the tiny Illinois town of Magnolia. He started classes at Illinois Valley Community College (IVCC) at age 15 after scoring a 24 on the ACT.

He took a ton of classes. During his last semester at IVCC in spring 2012, he finished 24 credit hours, had an internship, and held two part-time jobs. He started his junior year as a Redbird on his 18th birthday.

"It was more the challenge of having to do it, knowing it would be complicated, but seeing if I could get it done," said Roberts, referring to his early graduation.

He didn't just study while at ISU, but was involved across campus as an advertising sales team leader at *The Vidette* and one of two students on the College of Business social media committee. As one of seven College of Business Enterprise Rent-A-Car Foundation Professional Sales Scholars, he mentored students in the Professional Sales Institute lab.

Roberts chose Illinois State partly because of its nationally recognized sales program. As a kid, he'd send letters to his neighbors offering to do odd jobs, and he was good at selling Boy Scout popcorn.

"I liked how competitive it was, and the numbers aspect of the business field," he said.

Roberts was also drawn to ISU for its mock trial team. He captured an individual mock trial award, and was a member of a winning team that advanced to nationals in Washington, D.C.

If Roberts begins law school in the fall as planned, he'll graduate at age 22, eager to begin a career in corporate law. He appreciated how Illinois State's programs allowed him to meld his passions—marketing and sales, and the law.

"That's where I think ISU has been great," Roberts said. "I loved ISU. I would not change a single thing about it."

60s

Don Korte '63 is a retired educator and active IHSA track official. He has been inducted into the Illinois Track & Cross Country Officials Association's Hall of Fame. This is his 42nd year of officiating track. He and his wife, Judy reside in Park Forest.

William Kauth '64 is a professor of sports medicine at Illinois State. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Normal.

Judith (Franz) VeZain '67 has retired from the Oswego School District. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Oswego.

Marcia (Curby) Inman '68 is a project coordinator with MTI Construction Services, LLC. She and her husband, Thomas, reside in Crest Hill.

Susan (Busing) Zimmer '68 is president of the California-Nevada Department of Daughters of Union Veterans of the Civil War, 1861-1865, a national lineage society for descendants of Civil War veterans. She and her husband, Alan, reside in Bonita, California.

Samuel Gore '69 is retired as chair of the art department at Mississippi College. He is still a working artist and teaches part-time at the college. A book of his work is soon to be released. He resides in Clinton, Mississippi.

Carolyn Lauing-Finzer '69 is an artist and storyteller. She is active in the Wild for Monarchs campaign. The yard of her home is registered with the University of Kansas as a Monarch wayside. She and her husband, Melvern, reside in Naperville.

70s

James Hughes '70 is vice president of mission services with Goodwill Industries of lower South Carolina. He is responsible for workforce development in nine coastal counties. He and his wife, Dena, reside in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

James Petersen '70 is a lawyer and partner at Ice Miller, LLP. He is a Fellow of the American College

of Trial Lawyers and focuses on litigation. He has been recognized in *Indiana Super Lawyers* 2013 and 2014, and is listed in *International Who's Who of Franchise Lawyers*. He is also recognized by Chambers USA in the litigation/general commercial practice area. He resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Marjean Spayer '70 is a clinical psychologist. She resides in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

David Eversole '71 completed a law degree at St. Louis University School of Law and engaged in general law practice until his retirement last fall. He practiced in Shelbyville, where he resides.

Joe Nohl '71 is retired from Morton's Public Works Department, where he served for 35 years. He has been re-elected to his second full term as village clerk of Morton, where he resides.

Sally (Lutz) Bell '72 has retired from teaching and works part-time as an optician. She resides in Madison, Alabama.

Shirley Bellm '73 teaches at Highland Middle School. She received the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for her achievements and dedication to teaching. She resides in Highland.

Cindy Ross-Ringer '73 has retired as communications director from State Farm Insurance. She and her husband, John, reside in Towanda.

James Daley '74 is a product manager at Morningstar. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Arlington Heights.

Marvin Carlton '75, M.M. '77, is a vocal music teacher with Hamilton County Unit 10. He was a composer in The Atlanta Opera's 24-Hour Opera Project last fall. He had 12 hours to create a 10-minute opera that was performed after 10 hours of rehearsal. His opera, "3D's Dance Hall," received the competition's Audience Favorite Award. He resides in McLeansboro.

Bob Copes '75 retired after 36 years in the equipment industry, most recently as a site manager with Voith Industrial Services. He was contracted to Ford Motor Co.,

Pause for applause



Teacher graded superior

Elementary education major **Matthew Lawrence '00** is Hawaii's 2014 State Teacher of the Year, and an automatic contender for the National Teacher of the Year honor this spring. He was selected from more than 11,000 educators for the honor, which comes after

13 years of teaching math and science at Waikiki Elementary. A National Board Certified Teacher, he keeps students intrigued and engaged with projects that include building climbing walls, solar powered go-carts, model homes, and a tennis-ball launcher. Lawrence's students also created a bicycle generator that powered six bulbs and kept the class lights on during a power outage.

Ready for the worst

As the homeland security program manager for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency (IEMA), dual criminal justice sciences graduate **Michelle (Hillman) Hanneken '99, M.A. '00**, is dedicated to helping communities prepare for disaster. Her work gained White House attention. Hanneken was honored as a 2013 Champion of Change. Only 18 were chosen for the award, which recognizes individuals who do extraordinary acts to empower and inspire their communities. She oversees Illinois' Citizen Corps Council, which received the FEMA Outstanding State Citizen Corps Initiatives award. Only seven corps groups were recognized at the national level for building local partnerships to support emergency preparedness.



Kudos for caring career

John Boyer '69 is chairman of the MAXIMUS Foundation and MAXIMUS Federal Services, which is a leading operator of government health and human services programs in five countries, including the U.S. He completed a 24-year career with the U.S. Department of Defense, working as a Navy nurse during the Vietnam War and within the Office of the Secretary of Defense. While there he advocated for health care benefits for military families. Boyer received the Robert Kennedy Ripple of Hope Award in 2013 for his lifelong health care advocacy and philanthropy work. Past recipients include President Bill Clinton and Archbishop Desmond Tutu.



Exhibiting excellence

Kevin Fett '91 co-founded Evo Exhibits in 2009 with a vision for helping trade show exhibitors market their products by offering displays and services to fit any need. Fast forward to 2013 and Fett celebrated that his firm is now recognized by *Inc. 500* as one of the fastest growing private companies in America. Companies chosen in the past include Microsoft, Intuit and Zappos. Evo also ranked in the Top 100 Advertising and Marketing companies, as well as in the Top 100 Illinois Companies and Top Chicago Metro Area Companies. Evo Exhibits remains a full-service trade show exhibit company, helping clients nationally and globally.

How we met

Jim Hoss '80 and Karen Iggins '79 met in 1977. Having mutual friends, they spent much of their time together. One activity they both enjoyed? Foosball. While Jim heavily negotiated to get Karen on his team, it was two years before he asked for a formal date.

He invited Karen to his ISU hockey banquet, which fell on her birthday. Jim captured an award and then won points with Karen by having the crowd sing to her. The evening was such a hit that they continued dating and their relationship blossomed.

There were challenges as Karen graduated first, which created a year apart. They managed to not only persevere but grow stronger. On May 22, 1982, they made their commitment official by exchanging vows.

The two welcomed to the family a son, Adam, and daughter, Alison. Both chose Illinois State and, like their parents, they each found their true love on campus. Adam '08 married Natalie (Sanchez) '07 in November of 2012. They reside in Elk Grove Village. Alison '13, met her current boyfriend Derek Pleva '12 at ISU as well. They have been dating for nearly four years, with him in Lockport and her now in Homer Glen, where her parents also live.

Karen and Jim were so pleased with the choice each of their children made to attend ISU, which enabled them to spend time with their children attending functions like Family Weekend and Redbird basketball games.

All of the couples gathered for a photo on campus during Alison's December graduation. "We will miss the University dearly, but are all connected to it forever," Alison said. "Love is truly in the air at ISU."



The Hoss family found romance at Illinois State. Couples include Jim and Karen Hoss, center, daughter Alison Hoss and Derek Pleva, left, and son Adam Hoss with his wife, Natalie.

overseeing mobile equipment fleet at the Ford Rouge facility in Dearborn, Michigan. He and his wife, Audra, enjoy traveling and reside in Novi, Michigan.

Jeff Olsen '75 retired from the U.S. Postal Service after 37 years, most recently working as the postmaster of the La Jolla Post Office in California. He is the parent of two children and resides in Encinitas, California.

David Smith '75, M.S. '81, is a math professor at Missouri Baptist University. He received the 2013 Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award for his achievements and dedication to teaching. He resides in Troy, Missouri.

Brian Brown '76 teaches economics and American history at Window Rock High School on the Navajo Indian Reservation. He resides in Defiance, Arizona.

Adele (Castillo) Eklund '76, M.S. '78, is a pediatric speech-language pathologist working with children from birth to 3 at St. Francis Children's Center in Wisconsin.

She and her husband, Michael '75, reside in Glendale, Wisconsin.

Michael Johnson '77 owns National Tool and Die Company in Speedway, Indiana. He is a founder and past president of Citizens for Better Neighborhoods in Hamilton County, Indiana. He serves as Lutheran High School board of directors president. He and his wife, Ruth, reside in Carmel, Indiana.

James Knodell '78 is the principal assistant director of law enforcement for the Pentagon Force Protection Agency with the Department of Defense. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in Ashburn, Virginia.

Mark McCurdy '78 is the senior vice president and director of Citigroup. He and his wife, Annette, reside in Grapevine, Texas.

Nanette (Raddatz) Sowa '78 is the superintendent of development at Special Leisure Services Foundation, the fundraising arm of Northwest Special Recreation Association. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Wheeling.

Keith Storey '78 has published the third edition of the book *Functional Assessment and Program Development for Problem Behavior: A Practical Handbook*. He resides in Berkeley, California.

Debie (Buck) Bogash '79 is the global engineering director of Cabot Microelectronics. She and her husband, David, reside in Coal City.

John Carlson '79 is a landscape architect and president of Carlson Landscape Associates. He and his wife, Sharon, reside in Green Oaks.

Penny (Bond) Cheever '79 has retired after 34 years of teaching business education, all but one year at Milford High School. She and her husband, Craig, have two adult children and two grandsons. The couple resides in Milford.

Thomas "Ted" Hendry '79 is the president of the United Way in Greenville, South Carolina, where he resides with his wife, Donna.

Linda Mendenhall '79 is an estimating specialist with Hennegan Printing. She resides in Florence, Kentucky.

80s

Timothy Como '80 retired after teaching high school for 30 years with the Fulton County school system in Georgia. He is an instructor of technology with the American School of Brussels for the Department of Defense. He is also coaching American football and girls basketball. His team won the European championship, taking its division last season. He resides in Belgium.

Terry Robinson '80 completed an MBA at the University of Illinois-Springfield. He is the executive director of continuing and community education at Cuyahoga Community College in Cleveland. It is the largest community college in Ohio. His wife, Marla, is completing a Ph.D. at Illinois State. They reside in Cleveland, Ohio.

Kenneth Silverman '80 is the director of accounting and finance with Vermilion Development. He is treasurer of Diabetes Research and Education Advocated of Michigan (D.R.E.A.M.), a charitable organization that funds diabetes

research. He and his wife, Leslie, reside in Chicago.

Kevin Waszak '80 is the manager of health and safety with Chrysler Group, LLC. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

Gregory Anderson '81 is the treasurer at Sam Houston State University. He and his wife, Janet, reside in College Station, Texas.

Missy (Rosebery) Gross '81 is a licensed assistant to Tony Calvis at Calvis Wyant Luxury Homes. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Cave Creek, Arizona.

Steven Klay '81, M.S. '83, has worked in higher education all of his career, mostly in California. He returned to ISU in 1998, joining Student Affairs. He is coordinator of the Student Involvement Center and resides in Bloomington.

Rebecca Benner '83, M.S. '01, is interim vice president of advancement at Binghamton University. She served as director of the school's campaign, which raised more than \$100 million. She resides in Binghamton, New York.

Bill Adams '84 is the vice president of Comcast University's central division in Atlanta. He resides in Mableton, Georgia.

Shawndel (Cothran) Rose '84 is a manager at RubinBrown, one of the nation's largest accounting and business consulting firms. She focuses on federal and multi-state credit incentive reviews, is a member of the AIM Tax Committee, and a volunteer with Ronald McDonald House. She resides in St. Jacob.

Colleen (Crawford) Steinbeiser '84 teaches health and family and consumer sciences at Pittsfield Middle High School in New Hampshire. She has three children in college and resides in Pembroke, New Hampshire.

Pat Sielski '85 was an audio tech in television and video production, working on the first four episodes of the *Survivor* series. She is now a realtor and resides in Safety Harbor, Florida.

Scott Stephens '85 is a State Farm Insurance agent. He and his wife, Joyce, reside in Oregon.

Michael Barla '86, M.S. '87, is the director of early childhood education with Rockwood School District. He and his partner, Rich Leighton, reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

Scott Ensminger '86 is a clinical assistant professor of medicine at the University of Wisconsin Hospital and Clinics. He and his wife, Carole, reside in Prairie Du Sac, Wisconsin.

Joseph McNeely '86 is CEO of FreightCar America in Chicago. He and his wife, Christine, reside in New Lenox.

Robert Munkittrick Jr. '86 is the director of instruction at Hartefeld National Golf Club in Avondale, Pennsylvania. He and his wife, Michele, reside in Wilmington, Delaware.

Mary (Warren) Solon '86 is a certified kitchen designer working at R.P. Lumber Co. in Streator. She and her husband, Pat, are the parents of two children, including **Emily '11**. The couple resides on the family farm west of Streator.

Ken Talty '86 is the principal dealer at Talty Chevrolet Buick Cadillac. He resides in Morris.

Chris (Dimitrov) Vicik '86 is the director of public affairs and marketing with Advocate Health Care. She resides in Mundelein.

Kelly (Biggs) Marsh '87 is the office manager and handles marketing at Castle Rock Foot and Ankle Care. She resides in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Nancy (Cimino) Porter Pounds '87, M.M. '91, is an adjunct professor of piano and a staff accompanist at Illinois Wesleyan University. She and her husband, Benjamin, reside in Bloomington.

David Dwyer '88, M.S. '91 is senior solution consultant with IBM Corp. business analytics. He resides in Aurora.

Suelyn Lathrop '88 is the archivist at Western Kentucky University. She resides in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Dawn (Bertolotto) McKay '88 is in her 20th year teaching elementary art at Hilltop School in McHenry. She and her husband, Andrew, are the parents of two sons and reside in McHenry.

Brad Reid '88 is the managing director and co-head of cross business risk at BMO Capital Markets. He resides in Chicago.

Adrienne (Marek) Smith '88 is a self-employed artist and a tour guide at Farnsworth House. She and her husband, Clark, reside in Oswego.

Cheryl (Stein) Walker '88 is the cancer registry coordinator at Southeast Georgia Health System. She resides in Brunswick, Georgia.

Jean (Lusk) Wells '88 is a reading specialist with East Moline School District 37. She resides in Silvis.

Christopher Batio '89 is the director of business development at Arent Fox LLP. He and his wife, Olga Alexandrova, reside in Odenton, Maryland.

Jason Myers '89 is an in-house attorney with Hudson Advisors, LLC, which is a large private equity firm. He and his wife, Victoria, are the parents of a son and reside in Arlington, Texas.

90s

Susan (Musselman) Foecking '90 completed a master's degree in school leadership at Concordia University-Chicago and is an art teacher at Grayslake North High School. She and her husband, David, have two children and reside in Wauconda.

Pat Marcotte '90 is the regional director of risk control at J. Smith Lanier Co. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Woodstock, Georgia.

Tom Anderson '91 is senior director of planning at Siemens Healthcare Diagnostics in Tarrytown, New York. He and his wife, Mary, reside in New Rochelle, New York.



Unexpected campus connection

Three graduates who attended ISU during the 1990s and pursued similar majors did not cross paths until each was settled into a career in Alaska. They met by chance at a social event, realizing each was involved in the oil industry. A banquet brought them together again, creating the opportunity to show their Redbird pride. They are, *from left*, Wesley Heinhold '91, vice president of health, safety and environment for ConocoPhillips, Alaska; Renee Huntman '96, health, safety, and environment manager with Halliburton; and Dave Daum '92, health and safety director for BP's Alaska region.

Redbird Legacy

Growing up in the small Illinois community of Bartlett, the Taylor sisters wanted a warm campus where they could easily transition to college life. All three found that and so much more at ISU.

Laury (Taylor) Patwardhan '76, was the first of the three girls to attend, continuing a family connection that began with two aunts.

"They were educators and they told me it was a good school," Laury said. A German major interested in international activities, she knew Illinois State was a good fit for her academically and financially.

Laury soon met Pat Patwardhan, M.S. '76, a graduate speech communication student from India. Both worked in the Fell Hall dining center. They started dating and eventually married. Now in North Ridgeville, Ohio, he teaches business administration at Cuyahoga Community College and she is an IBM marketing manager.

Based on Laury's experience, her two sisters chose Illinois State as well. Cara (Taylor) Sermeno '83, arrived interested in education but completed a degree in sociology. "I'm the strangest sister, as I changed my major 10 times," said Cara of Arlington Heights. Her fond campus memories include living in Atkin-Colby and working in Feeney. She remains in food service today, working as a general manager at a Chili's franchise.

Beth (Taylor) Worley '85 recalls that her decision to study economics at Illinois State was "a natural progression." Like her sisters, she found it easy to become immersed in activities and her studies, which prepared her for a career in direct marketing. She works with the Board of Certification for Emergency Nursing and lives in Elburn.

The family's connection continues to grow, as Cara's daughter has completed community college classes and will continue her education at Illinois State this fall.



Beth Worley and Cara Sermeno, seated from left, with Laury and Pat Patwardhan standing.

Scott Burgess '91 worked at Alexian Brothers Center for Mental Health in Illinois. He co-authored mental health legislation that became law in Illinois for the state's first-ever, five-year strategic plan and served on the governor's task force to put the plan into action. He is CEO of David Lawrence Center, a mental health center in Naples, Florida.

Mike Chism '91 is an accounting manager with Caterpillar. He and his wife, Terri, reside in Metamora.

J. Chris Richmond '91 is the Springfield Fire Department deputy division chief. He resides in Springfield.

Mark Sergot '91 is senior vice president of global sales organization for FRHI Hotels and Resorts, which is the parent company of four luxury and upscale hotel brands. He oversees the firm's worldwide sales network. He is on the sales advisory board of the Hospitality Sales and Marketing Association, which recognized him in 2012 as one of the most extraordinary minds in sales and marketing. He and his wife, Cynthia, reside in Oakville, Ontario.

Kim Tillery '91, M.S. '92, is a professor and chair of the Department of Communication Disorders Sciences at SUNY-Fredonia. She served as the 2013 president of New York State Speech-Language-Hearing Association and is an appointed regional clinical director of Health Hearing Special Olympics in North America. She resides in Snyder, New York.

Anthony Trendl '91 completed a graduate degree in international communications at Wheaton College. He writes speeches for leading executives across the nation and resides in Wheaton.

Christopher Cosat '92 is an academic advisor and instructor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He resides in Champaign.

Rochelle (LeSure) Davis '92 is a co-pack production planner with the Quaker Division of Pepsico. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Glenwood.

Linda (Wedwick) Haling '93, M.S. '96, Ed.D. '05, is the associate director of the School of Teaching and Learning at ISU. She and her husband, Terry, reside in Normal.

Kerry J. Kelly '93 is the manager of Milledgeville Do It Best Home Center. He and his wife, Debbie, reside in Dixon.

Jennifer Russell '93 is vice president of Kysela Pere et Fils, LTD, a wine importer and distributor that was chosen as the 2013 *Wine Enthusiast* Importer of the Year. She resides in the mountains of Romney, West Virginia, which she declares is "almost heaven."

Daniel Smolensky '93 founded The Modal Group, which is a commercial real estate firm. He has been initiated into the Society of Industrial and Office Realtors. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Chicago.

Mitchell Wirey '93 is a legislative aide in the Illinois House Republicans. He and his wife, Amber, reside in Farmersville.

Jeanne Schultz Angel '94, M.S. '05, is the executive director of the Illi-

nois Association of Museums. She has worked in the museum field since 1994. She resides in Chicago.

Daniel Cain '94 completed a master's in homeland security from the Naval Postgraduate School, Center for Homeland Defense and Security. He received the Outstanding Thesis Award for his research on the use of social media in disaster response. He is the senior industrial hygienist with the Oregon Health Authority. He and his wife, Catherine, reside in Hillsboro, Oregon.

Gwendolyn Druyor '94 has published her first novel, *Hardt's Tale*. She and her partner, **Jeff Niedbalski '97**, reside in North Hollywood, California.

Chad Elgas '94 is a financial advisor with Northwestern Mutual. He and his wife, Jaime, reside in Frankfort.



REGGIE READS

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

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All #RedbirdProud posts by June 15 give you a chance to win some new Redbird Vintage gear!



Kyle Hendren '94 is marketing programs manager for Ply Gem Windows. He and his wife, Angie, reside in Wake Forest, North Carolina.

Gwen Williams '94, M.S. '97, is the self-employed owner of Sohna Mango, Inc. She partnered with her husband, **Tahir Sandhu, M.S. '94, D.A. '01**, to launch the 3-D printing company. They reside in Saint Cloud, Minnesota.

Tina Dyches, Ed.D. '95, is a professor and the associate dean of the McKay School of Education at Brigham Young University. She and her husband, David, reside in Spanish Fork, Utah.

Shyla (Domaracki) Jannusch '95 co-owns In Chicago Sedan and Limousine. She and her husband, James Szymczak, were married in September of 2013. They reside in Arlington Heights.

Teresa Meyers '95 is an environmental, health, safety and sustainability specialist with Janssen Biologics, Inc. She resides in South Beloit.

Dawn (Grace) Raycraft '95 is the IT service manager for Hospital Sisters Health System. She and her husband, James, reside in Sherman.

Anita Revelle '95, M.S. '97, retired as the director of Senior Professionals at Illinois State. She resides in Lexington.

Morgan (Collier) Henington '96 is the chief development officer with Holy Name Cathedral. She resides in Chicago.

Veronica Mayer '96 has completed an MBA and a master's in accounting from Keller Graduate School. She is self-employed as an owner and/or partner in several ventures. She resides in Arlington, Texas.

Robert Kass '97 is the director of commercial strategy, media analytics for Nielsen in New York City, where he resides.

Margaret (Wilkins) Lee '97 is principal with LEE Consultants. She has authored the book *Leading Virtual Project Teams: Adapting Leadership Theories and Communications Techniques to 21st Century Organizations*. The book explores



Surprise meet and greet

A return to campus last fall included an unexpected encounter with Reggie. Five friends, who were college roommates and graduated in the 1980s, were touring the Quad when they met up with the beloved mascot. Reggie happily posed with the group. They are, *from left*, Debbie (Smart) Barton '87, Bloomington; Brenda Bos '87, Wheeling; Kim (Leonard) Banker '88, Hoffman Estates; Vicki (Wertheimer) Wiggenhauser '87, Homewood; and Susan Esch '87, Peoria Heights.

e-leadership. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Elkhart.

Steve Masucci '97 is a senior estimator with Manhattan Construction. He resides in Tampa, Florida.

Peggy Fraser, Ed.D. '98, is a professor of education at Metropolitan State University in Denver. She designed and taught a study abroad course to allow students to participate in a primary school in London. She was invited to tea at #10 Downing Street in London with Oliver Dowden, David Cameron's Chief of Staff. She resides in Littleton, Colorado.

Tim Scheller '98 is the area manager of RailWorks Track Services, Inc. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Maryville.

Christopher Welber, M.A. '98, is the executive director of the North American Neuromodulation Society. He and his wife, Megan, reside in Mount Prospect.

Kimberly (Grandinetti) Bradley '99 is an environmental health specialist with the City of East Moline. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Moline.

Matthew Drase '99, M.M. '13, has been director of bands at Windsor High School since 2005. He took a sabbatical to complete his master's in conducting. He resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Joseph Fluder '99 is the regional vice president of SWCA Environmental Consultants. He and his wife, Shannon, reside in Homer Glen.

John Hanson '99 teaches business education at Neuqua Valley High School in Naperville, and also serves as the department chair. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Romeoville.

Brett Hartley '99 is a children's mental health social worker with Beltrami County Health and Human Services. He works with child welfare and child protection services. He resides in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Mary Tosch, M.S. '99, is the student life manager at Waubensee Community College Sugar Grove campus. She resides in Oswego.

Matt Vaughan '99 is national director of convenience store sales for the Ferrara Candy Company, which is the third largest candy manufacturer in the U.S. and is known for brands such as Trolli,

Brach's, Lemonhead, and Sathers. He resides in Roberts.

Amie (Szymanski) Zander '99 is the executive director of the West Ridge Chamber of Commerce. She resides in Chicago.

00s

Adam Davidson '00 is a marketing manager for Sunstar Americas, Inc., a global oral hygiene company. He manages their floss and flosser businesses marketed under the GUM brand. He and his wife, **Noreen (Bartels) '02**, reside in Chicago.

Jessica (Brown) McCurdy '00 is a production planner with DuPont Nutrition and Health. She and her husband, John, reside in Wood River.

Kathryn Schafer '00 is a case manager in the PATH program with Michigan Works. She resides in Plymouth, Michigan.

Molly (Gholson) Carlson '01 completed a doctorate in higher education from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She is the director of instruction at Hagerstown Community College. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

Remy (Finch) Garard, M.A. '01, is the building chair for the English department at Normal Community West High School. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Gibson City.

Anna Kahl-Kubarek '01 is a physical education teacher with Evanston Skokie School District 65. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Chicago.

Amy Schrage '01 is communications director at Aurora University, focusing on the school's additional location, George Williams College. She resides in Palatine.

Julie (Setterdahl) Shepherd '01 is a math teacher at Internationella Engelska Skola i Bromma. She and her husband, Tyson, reside in Sweden.

Elizabeth Bartelt '02 is an academic advisor in the Herberger Institute for Design and the Arts at Arizona

State University. She resides in Tempe, Arizona.

Aimee (Hale) Butcher '02 is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, **David '86**, are the parents of a son. Matthew was born in March of 2013. They reside in Normal.

Martin Deutsch '02 is a self-employed State Farm Insurance agent. He and his wife, Lindsey, reside in Spring, Texas.



Redbird proud

Several Illinois State graduates enjoy working together as teachers at Mount Pulaski Grade School. They wore ISU attire during American Education Week to show their school spirit and promote higher learning. Alums on the teaching team include, *front row from left*, Karen (Molt) Allspach '82, Barbara (Hohenstein) Maske '83, Jenna (Zimmerman) Kloba '02, Megan (Allspach) Jones '09, Mary Ann (Gasaway) Radtke '74, Lindsey Lex '13, and Becky (Boward) Kunken '81. *Back row, from left*, Kathleen Tarrant '89, Jennifer (Taylor) Bone '87, Brooke (Eeten) Ciaccio '05, Rob Siebert '01, and Gene Newton '91, M.S. '99. Others at the school but not photographed include Carrie (Rossi) Anderson '00, M.S. '02, Kelly (Richardson) McCraith '92, and Todd Hamm '96.

Stephanie (Greenberger) Kiefer '02 is a stay-at-home mom and freelance graphic designer/photographer. Her husband, **Brian '02**, is director of public relations at the international law firm of Seyfarth Shaw. They are the parents of two children. Jackson Logan was born in February of 2013. They reside in Roselle.

Corey (McDonald) Moore '03 is a board certified behavior analyst. She works at The Autism Program in Springfield, where she and her husband reside.

Nicholas Nielsen '04 is a marketing manager with UPS. He resides in Dallas, Texas.

Katie (Henry) Allmaras '05 is in corporate communications with Discover Financial Services. She and her husband, Chris, were married in October of 2013. They reside in Buffalo Grove.

Benjamin Anderson '05 is a graduate student at New York School of

Interior Design. He resides in New York, New York.

Brent Boardman '05 is a claims processor with State Farm Insurance. He resides in Rochelle.

Heidi (Traugher) Buys '05 is a teacher at Highland Park ISD. She and her husband, Timothy, reside in Sunnyvale, Texas.

Steven Carlisle '05 is the marketing manager at UBM Canon. He is responsible for marketing the Design News brand. He and his partner, Mark Duda, reside in West Hollywood, California.

Stefanie Freckelton '05 is a preschool for all teacher with the Archdiocese of Chicago. She resides in Oak Lawn.

Jarmila (Kovacikova) Kadlub '05 is an international traffic analyst at Hunter Douglas Metals. She and her husband, Michal, reside in Oak Lawn.

Sarah (Jozaitis) Kudrys '05 is a project manager with JPMorgan Chase. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Bartlett.

Alvin Medina '05 is completing a master's in nursing at Loyola University, with a focus on informatics. He received the 2013-2014 Greater Chicago Chapter of Healthcare Information and Management Systems Society scholarship through a statewide competition. He resides in Chicago.

Trisha (Linn) DeBoer '06 is an ordained pastor with Bethlehem Evangelical Lutheran Church. She and her husband, Jacob, reside in Steele, North Dakota.

Marissa (Stock) Koeller '06 is a graphic designer with Progressive Impressions International. She and her husband, Chris, are the parents of a son. Henry Charles was born in August of 2013. They reside in Flanagan.

Michael Freedman '07 is the manager of grants systems for the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Gerald Gugerty '07 graduated with a dual bachelor's and master's in accounting. He is a financial management officer with the Foreign Service under the U.S. Agency for International Development. He resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Holly (Holmes) Lhamon '07 teaches physical education to kindergarten through fourth grade students at Norwood School District 63 in Peoria. She resides in Pekin.

Rose (Crockett) Matthews '07 is a copyright specialist for the Library of Congress. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Savage, Maryland.

Mike Miserendino '07 has completed a master's in secondary education from Roosevelt University.

He teaches English and theater at Bartlett High School. He resides in Hoffman Estates.

Ashley Petrovich '07 and **Matthew Raimondi III '07** were married in December of 2013. They are both employed by School District U-46 and reside in Roselle.

Julie Snoreck '07 teaches sixth and seventh grade math in Northbrook School District 27. She resides in Chicago Ridge.

Andrew Sutter '07 is completing an MBA at DePaul University. He is an HR business partner at Schawk, Inc., and resides in Downers Grove.

Marissa Gaines '08 is the director of communications for Illinois State Sen. Patricia Van Pelt. Gaines resides in Chicago.

Jennifer (Werth) Harvey '08 is an RN working in the cardiovascular ICU for Unity Point Health-Methodist. She and her husband, Ty, reside in Pekin.

Leslie Hohenstein '08 is self-employed with his business, Dr. Leslie L. Hohenstein Educational Consulting and Resources. He and his wife, Cathy, reside in Springfield.

Emily Laipple '08, M.S. '09, is an associate in the transaction advisory group-healthcare with Alvarez and Marsal. She resides in Chicago.

Lauren (Leggett) Melzer '08 is the regional technology director of Hanover Insurance Group. She and her husband, Bradley, reside in Aurora.

Allison (Lehrke) Ancona '09 completed a master's in nursing at Frontier Nursing University and is a family nurse practitioner. She is a nurse supervisor at Sanford Health and Rehabilitation in Sanford, North Carolina. She resides there with her husband, Brandon.

Mallory (Lootens) Brucker '09 is an auto underwriter with State Farm Insurance. She and her husband, Bryan, reside in Normal.

Katherine (Boundy) Conklin '09 is a reimbursement supervisor for the myHumira program at AbbVie. She and her husband, **Shane '12**, were married in July of 2013. Seven of

their eight wedding party members attended ISU. The couple resides in Grayslake.

Allison (Vandorn) Gray '09 teaches physical education in the Olympia School District. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Bloomington.

Kristi Kawanna '09, M.S. '11, is the event/marketing coordinator for G3 Communications, a digital media firm specializing in B2B marketing. She is an adjunct faculty member at Governors State University and resides in Chicago.

Ryan Meitl '09 is the technical project lead, lighting and controls, with Bosch. He and his wife, Cassi, reside in Northville, Michigan.

Caitlin Perry '09 is an office support specialist with the University of Illinois-Springfield. She resides in Springfield.

Katherine (Hutchings) Shaykin '09 is a corporate relations manager at Abbott. She and her husband, Steven, reside in Wauconda.

Amanda Stark '09 is an esthetician working at Massage Envy Spa. She resides in Chicago.

Wesley Williams '09 is a sales manager with Coyote Logistics. He resides in Forest Park.

10s

Vincent Boyd, Ph.D. '10, is an associate professor of higher education and director of the Doctor of Education in Community College Leadership program at Missouri Baptist University. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Ashley (Fletcher) Briggs '10 is a quality management data analyst with Health Alliance Medical Plans. She and her husband, Ben, reside in Champaign.

Michael Ditore '10 is a graduate of Loyola University Chicago School of Law. He is a Cook County assistant state's attorney and resides in LaGrange.

Jim Fox '10 works at Carpet Time in Mokena. He resides in Romeoville.

Anna (Pounders) Joria '10 is a special educator at Eastview Elementary

in Canton. She and her husband, **Tim '06**, met at ISU and were married in July of 2013. They reside in Pekin.

Salvatore Licata '10 is a senior financial analyst with Navistar, Inc. He resides in Lisle.

Mallory Maher '10 is a process analyst with State Farm Insurance. She resides in Normal.

Phylicia Manley '10 is a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer serving in Paraguay, South America.



A roommate reunion

It's not unusual for roommates to stay connected long after graduation. Having three generations of one family bonded to their roommates over time is, however, unique and celebrated by women in the family of Barbara (Kappler) Van Cleave '62. The group of six ladies met for a campus tour and lunch last year. *From left*, Rose Pascal '62, M.S. '67 of Bloomington; Barbara of Peoria; current nursing major Katie Peterson; speech pathology major Jenni Peters; Dawn (Van Cleave) Peters '89 of Oneida; and Dee Dee (Hellige) Neuhaus '88 of Peoria. Barbara is mom to Dawn, whose daughter is Jenni.

Jennifer Schauer '10 is a technology consultant with West Monroe Partners. She resides in Seattle, Washington.

Amanda Chorley '11 is the sales and catering coordinator at the Chicago Marriott in Naperville. She resides in LaGrange Park.

Kaylea Donley '11, M.S. '12, is a project specialist at Illinois State University. She resides in Bloomington.

Kimbra Fuesting '11 is an assistant athletic trainer at Bradley University. She resides in Peoria.

Stacey Hassler '11 is a registered nurse at Illinois Valley Community Hospital. She resides in LaSalle.

Kimberly Karnatz '11 has worked as a teacher in New Delhi, India, and England. She is now at the English International School in Moscow, Russia, where she resides.

Taylor Lawless '11 is a sales coordinator at Clear Channel Media and Entertainment in Sarasota, Florida. She and her husband, Zach Jones, reside in Englewood, Florida.

Ryan Wilkinson '11 is an analyst with Nuveen Investments. He resides in West Dundee.

Brian Wojcik '11 is an assistant professor in special education and assistive technology at the University of Nebraska in Kearney. He resides there with his wife, Kelly.

Amanda (Konkul) Babarskis '12 is a personal trainer with Charter Fitness and a blogger. She and husband, Al, were married in September of 2013, with ISU classmates as her bridesmaids. The couple resides in Orland Park.

Kevin Casey '12 is an accelerated rehabilitation-certified athletic trainer at Robert Morris University in Peoria. He and his wife, Molly, reside in Bloomington.

Lauren Hanson '12 has gained CPRP certification. She is a recreation supervisor for Lemont Park District and resides in Plainfield.

Melissa Herman '12 is a pricing technician analyst for Allstate at company headquarters. She resides in Waukegan.

Jordan Jeffers, M.S. '12, has authored an epic fantasy novel, *The Towers*. He and his wife, Madelyn, reside in Bloomington.

Zach Owens '12 is a project manager with Sprint Nextel. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Eric Porter, M.A. '12, is program coordinator of Illinois State's Stevenson Center for Community and Economic Development. He resides in Bloomington.

Anita Smith '12 is a youth and family interventionist with Project Oz. She resides in Bloomington.

Keri Soukup '12 is a student services advisor for Career Education Corporation in Downers Grove. She resides in Countryside.

Rebecca Cullen '13 is the public health reporting and outcomes coordinator with the Arthritis Foundation. She resides in Hickory Hills.

Justin Duncan '13 is a U.S. Congressional intern and resides in Washington, D.C.

Karly Grice, M.A. '13, is a graduate teaching assistant at Ohio State

University. She resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Desirae Hunsley '13 is a registered nurse in the medical/oncology area of OSF Saint Anthony Medical Center. She and her husband, Jeff Linden, reside in Sycamore.

Patryk Kraulis '13 is an account executive with Worldwide Express. He resides in Chicago.

Adam LaPorte '13 is a loan workout analyst with Northern Trust. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Andrienne N. Mandrell, M.S. '13, is an associate accountant with BKD, LLP, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Oriel Morris '13 is the sales coordinator at Grizzly Jack's Grand Bear Resort in Utica. She resides in LaSalle.

Debra K. Ogden '13 is a case manager/QIDP in community integration at Community Workshop and Training Center. She resides in Bartonville.

Alexis Pudlo '13 is completing a master's degree in marriage and family therapy at Mercer University. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

A.J. Riley '13 is an outreach athletic trainer with ATI Physical Therapy. He resides in Minooka.

John Ryan '13 is a carrier sales representative with Visual Pak Logistics. He resides in Libertyville.

Martin Santoyo '13 is an investigator and public defender in Will County. He resides in Onarga.

Robin Shaffer '13 is completing a master's at Illinois State University to become a family nurse practitioner. She is a registered nurse at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center and resides in Normal.

Andrea (Hemphill) Smith '13 is a registered nurse at Genesis Medical Center. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Geneseo.

Raven Smith '13 is a graduate assistant at the Illini Union Board. She resides in Urbana.

Rhiannon Steffen '13 is an outpatient therapist with Heritage Behavioral Health Center. She resides in Urbana.

Christine Tasca '13 is a wine consultant with PRP. She resides in Arlington Heights

Sarah Verdun '13 is a science teacher with Pontiac Township High School 90. She resides in Bloomington.

Jennifer Walker '13 is a registered nurse in the rehabilitation services at Blessing Hospital. She and her husband, Jeffrey, reside in Quincy.

Lacey Walsh '13 is an assistant environmental health consultant with Alaska Native Tribal Health Consortium. She resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

Our troops

Christopher Holmes '95 is serving in the U.S. Army. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in Arlington, Virginia.

Jennifer (Grampp) Aurora '96 is a personnel superintendent with the Illinois Air National Guard. She and her husband, Nitin, reside in Bloomington.

Heather Robinson '02 is serving in the U.S. Army. She resides in Evans Mills, New York.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Wesley C. Calef, Geography/Geology; 4/13

Connie K. (Lawson) DuBois, Food Services; 9/13

Judi Gibbons, College of Education; 11/13

Florence M. (Naas) Hays, Food Services; 9/13

Ted R. Jackson, School of Communication; 9/13

James J. Johnson, M.A. '64, Psychology; 10/13

Robert W. Kief '70, M.S. '72, Athletics; 10/13

Faye E. Mansfield '34, '40, Metcalf Elementary; 9/13

Maurice "Bert" J. O'Connell, Physical Plant; 9/13

Elizabeth (Twaddell) Pope, Milner Library; 10/13

Loyd E. Wells, Criminal Justice Sciences; 10/13

30s

Mabel J. (Van Dettum) Clauss '31; 11/12

Evelyn Mader Cote '31; 10/13

Kathryn (Frey) Holler '31; 12/13

Helen Lash Wolf '35; 11/13

Esther W. Liehr '36; 10/13

Virginia B. Weichert '36, '42; 10/13

Denton E. Alexander '37; 2/04

Mary (Glennon) F. Rigsby '39, '79; 10/13

Leota E. Smith '39, '52, M.S. '57; 1/13

William S. Weichert '39; 1/01

40s

Wilma J. Doyle '41; 11/13

Martha Knudtson '41; 5/10

Otis Knudtson '41; 11/12

Dorothy Walters '42; 2/10

Florence J. (Wilken) Mehlberg '43; 10/13

Vanitta F. (Elledge) Olinger '43; 10/13

Elsie B. Fulton '44; 9/13

Robert E. Edwards '46; 9/13

Bernadette Long-Houston '47; 11/13

Doris E. (Zimmer) Moore '47; 11/13

J. Dalen Shellhammer '47; 10/13

Phillip Atkinson '48; 9/13

Kenneth L. Curry '49, M.S. '51; 10/13

Earl M. Dunn '49, '93; 9/13

Eunice Mize Ioder '49; 2/13

Charles D. McKeehan '49; 7/06

Edith (Scholl) Shunk '49; 11/13

50s

Laura E. (Pedley) Horton '50; 11/13

Guido "Skeezix" Markionni '50; 11/13

William G. Bates '51; 9/13

Maryanne Cavenee '52; 8/13

Rose A. (Nelson) Mullen '52; 4/13

Jack G. Powell Sr. '52; 10/13

Irene M. Wey '53; 12/13

Evelyn M. (Schneider) Serdar '54; 10/13

Edward Stock '54; 6/13

Hobart J. Tompkins '55; 11/13

John H. Warren '55; 12/13

Kay (Penn) Hawken '56; M.S. '66; 10/13

Marjorie F. McKee '56; 9/13

Shirley C. Sprehe '56; 9/13

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Three easy ways to submit your information

- 1) Go online to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ClassNotes and click on "class notes." Information submitted using this method will also be posted online.
- 2) Email your news to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.
- 3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

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



ROCK your Redbird SOCKS

Make a gift of \$25 or more and receive a pair of socks to show your Redbird pride.

These one-of-a-kind socks are available only through June 30. Gifts can be made using the enclosed envelope or at IllinoisState.edu/Socks. Once you receive your pair, share how you rock your socks by posting a photo on Twitter or Instagram using #RedbirdSocks.

(This offer applies only to individuals who make a gift of \$25 or more before June 30. Per IRS regulations, the \$4 cost of the socks is not tax deductible. Limit 1 pair per donor.)

Donald G. Lucas '57; 12/13
Bill L. McBride '58, M.S. '72; 11/13
Janice L. Simmons '58; 9/12
Darlene M. Smith '59; 9/13
Richard A. Tredup '59; 11/13

60s

Phyllis A. (Wells) Beck '60; 11/13
Deana Pommert Trail Yountck Kletzel '60; 9/12
W. Dean Timme '61, M.S. '67; 10/13
Spencer R. Bowers '62; 9/13
Iris J. Sonkin '62; 11/13
Judith A. Wessel '62; 9/13
Howard G. Getz, M.S. '63; 9/13
Charles Laundra '63; 10/13
Martha A. (Winter) Winzeler '63; M.S. '70; 10/13
Philip C. Elsabee '64, M.S. '66; 8/13
Michele K. Howell '64, M.A. '68; 11/13
Terry Lundgren '64; 1/13
Evelyn I. (Young) Rudisill '65; 9/13
Rosalind (Mathias) Reed '66; 10/13
Elvera K. (Sartorio) Mudge '67; 9/13
Paul E. Ruden '68; 9/13
Craig Brunskill '69, M.S. '71, '77; 10/13

Michael A. Havenar '69; 12/10
Jerome L. Hunt '69, M.S. '79; 10/13
Karen L. (Jarmotz) Maness '69; 11/13

70s

Cynthia Builta Taylor '70; 9/13
Stephen G. Terrando '70; 11/13
Allan R. Thornburgh '70; 10/13
Aaron K. Weitzel '70; 10/13
Bruce C. Anderson '71; 10/13
Randal L. Becker '71, M.S. '74; 10/13
Francis E. Hacker Jr. '71; 11/13
James R. Mitchell '71; 11/13
Nancy D. (Beale) Holm '73; 11/13
Cynthia L. (Zimmerman) Pepper '73; 9/13
Dixie Smith '73; 10/13
Howard "Ed" Eagleson '74; 11/13
Paul R. Jansen '74; 10/13
Barbara E. Morris '74; 10/13
Natalie G. (Larkin) Pliura '74; 9/13
James Vanatta '75; 10/13
Georgia A. Wysocki '75; 10/13
Barbara F. Brannon '76; 9/13
Andrew J. Kensington '76, '84; 11/12
Charles Bronson '77; 11/13

Wendy (Voigt) Huckstadt '77; 10/13
Gerald Melton '77; 9/13
Diane M. (Lind) Nyman '77; 10/13
Rex A. Okerberg '77; 11/13
Jack M. Davis '78, M.S. '85; 9/13
LeAnna (Early) Karnopp Grimsley '78; 7/13
Joan M. (Olson) Fincham '79; 9/13
Susanne R. Sarron, M.S. '79, Ph.D. '87; 9/13

80s

Betty J. (Wikowsky) Keil, M.S. '81; 11/13
Craig Holmes '82, M.S. '93; 12/13
Caroline J. Peterson '84; 10/13
Suzanne (Becker) Smith '87; 10/13
Sandra E. Lentz '88; 10/13

90s

John J. Cudmore III '90; 11/13
Mary E. Diaz, M.A. '91; 11/13

Jeannie L. (Lee) Church '92; 11/13
Andrew R. Krull Jr. '92; 11/13
Dwanette "Christy" C. Buzick '94; 11/13
Arthur Rosekopf '94; 11/13
Kathleen M. Connor '96; 7/12
Joanna L. Featherstone '96, Ph.D. '11; 10/13
Aaron L. Proctor '96; 8/12
Thomas P. Hosty '98; 8/13
Matthew L. Mills '98; 11/13

00s

Jesse A. Wolfe '04, M.S. '11; 11/13
Christopher S. Mann '05; 11/13
Vicki Eads '06; 11/13
Dana (Fogarty) Mitchell '06; 9/13
Kurt A. Phillips '07; 11/13

10s

Marc J. Mitchell '11; 9/13

Correction

Alumnus Leslie Hohenstein '08 was misidentified in the Class Notes column of the February issue. He is self-employed with his business, Dr. Leslie L. Hohenstein Educational Consulting and Resources. He and his wife, Cathy, reside in Springfield. The magazine staff regrets the error.



Thanks to you

Chuck Yurieci, M.S. '72, appreciated the scholarship he received as an undergraduate, even though he gave little thought at the time as to who provided the support.

"You realize as an adult that there is no free lunch," he said, explaining his gratitude for the investment others made that allowed him to pursue his college dreams. He completed an accounting degree at Millikin and earned his master's in business at Illinois State.

Chuck's wife, Gwen '73, also felt the financial strain while studying medical records at ISU. She held a job at Mennonite Hospital to help meet the costs of her education.

"There is always a need," she said, noting students today carry an even heavier burden in trying to cover college expenses that have skyrocketed.

Their appreciation has resulted in an amazing dedication to make certain programs flourish and students can afford to not just attend Illinois State but actively engage in the collegiate experience.

The two have given to the University for 31 years, making them among the most loyal Redbird donors. Beyond their colleges, they support Athletics, Friends of the Arts, and the Illinois Shakespeare Festival.

"We do it because we want to see the activities continue," they agreed. "It's important to give back."

The Loyalty Circle recognition society honors donors who invest in the University on an ongoing basis. Gifts of all sizes make a difference. Use the enclosed envelope to get involved, or go to IllinoisState.edu/Giving to support your passion.



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Table talk

Friendships are nurtured over many a meal in the residence halls. The fun captured in this conversation at Watterson Towers is a common occurrence, as students enjoy connecting with friends as much as they appreciate the food. The dining centers stay busy even when the semester ends, as ISU hosts youth camps and the Special Olympics Illinois.