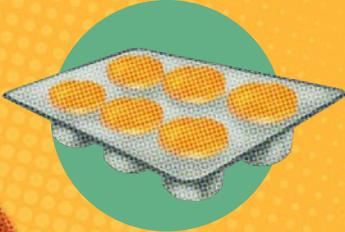
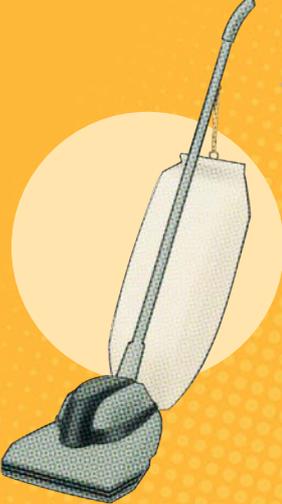


# ILLINOIS STATE

VOLUME 15 • NUMBER 3 • FEBRUARY 2015



## Yesteryear

The home ec program of the 1950s no longer exists.

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# FirstWord

## Every graduate remembers the Quad

as a very special place. On any given day, it is a preferred spot for recreation, relaxation and reflection. I enjoy walking through the heart of campus, savoring the opportunity to mingle with students and colleagues.

Surrounded by the activity and beauty of that central hub, I find myself contemplating Illinois State today compared to its humble beginnings. Imagine the anticipation and expectations 158 years ago for an institution dedicated to training teachers.



As I envision the few buildings and limited curriculum, I wonder how the leaders who came long before me would respond to knowing Illinois State has become a premiere undergraduate institution.

Would they be surprised to know ISU is ranked by *U.S. News & World Report* as one of America's top 100 public universities for its academic quality and excellence?

The school with just 10 in the first graduating class admitted the largest cohort of freshmen since 1989 this academic year, pushing enrollment beyond 20,000 while still maintaining a 19:1 student-faculty ratio. More than a quarter of the freshmen are from

traditionally underrepresented groups. What a change from when the first minority student enrolled in 1867.

The rise in educational costs would undoubtedly be shocking, yet our forefathers would applaud the fact ISU ranks in the top 25 on *Money* magazine's list of 2014 Colleges That Add the Most Value. Knowing that a graduation rate of 71.5 percent puts Illinois State among the top 10 percent of all U.S. universities would be equally lauded.

Today we offer more than 300 Registered Student Organizations, compared to the two debate societies formed at the University's start. Athletics has expanded to include 19 competitive teams that consistently finish in the top three of Missouri Valley Conference All-Sports standings. Students excel in the classroom as well, with a graduation rate for athletes that remains above the NCAA national average.

Even the growth surrounding campus would be a pleasant revelation, as what was once open pasture is now an admired community. In fact, Bloomington-Normal has been named the No. 20 Best College Town in the country.

There are so many points of pride I would relish sharing with those who laid the groundwork for this institution. Beyond expressing amazement for their vision, I would offer assurances that Illinois State remains true to the core values of scholarly achievement, individualized attention, diversity, civic engagement and integrity.

Our mission indeed remains the same, even as we far exceed what was deemed feasible and expected when the University began in February 1857.

Larry Dietz  
President, Illinois State University



ILLINOIS STATE  
UNIVERSITY

*Illinois' first public university*



# ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 15, Number 3, February 2015

## FEATURES

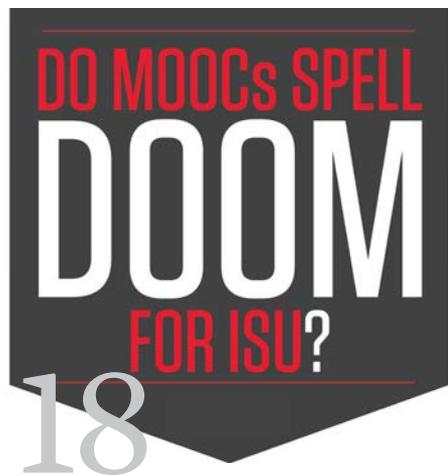
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Few academic programs have shifted as much as those in Family and Consumer Sciences. Decades ago home economics students learned to cook, clean and entertain in Rambo House. Today's curriculum empowers graduates to tackle global issues.

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Adventurer Ron Williams '60 proves passions aren't restricted by a career path. A physician and humanitarian with a military career, he shares his journey that includes cycling across America. His story inspires others to follow their dreams at any age.



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**On the cover:** Images that defined home ec long ago no longer fit with today's high-tech program. *Illustration by Sean Thornton.*

### What's trending on STATEside

-  Meet Illinois State's reality TV all-stars
  -  Your best photos and tweets from Homecoming
  -  Three sisters share Big Red Marching Machine legacy
- Read those stories and more at [IllinoisState.edu/STATEside](http://IllinoisState.edu/STATEside)



## Harnessing social media

Center elevates School of Communication programs

**F**orget hashtags, tweets, or snaps. The buzzword that really matters in social media is analytics. That's one reason the School of Communication has opened a Social Media Analytics Command Center (SMACC) in Fell Hall.

SMACC catapults ISU onto the cutting edge of new media. It's a good fit because social media impacts four core programs in the School of Communication: journalism, mass media, public relations and communication studies. It will also give students an advantage as they gain extensive social media expertise before seeking internships and jobs.

"It's one thing that they see this stuff in their personal lives, but it's another

thing when they learn how to make decisions based on this information," said Nathan Carpenter, the school's assistant director for convergent media. "That ability to make important decisions out of these huge data sets that we're pulling, that's what's key. Employers love seeing 'analytics' on resumes right now."

SMACC is powered by Nuvi, a real-time analytics platform focused on social media listening, engagement and reporting. Users can track keywords, hashtags and topics, and then see data visualizations. It is tied to various classes, independent studies and faculty research. The public was invited to the center to watch election results last fall.

It's extremely rare for a university to have a social media command center

like SMACC, said Steve Hunt. A professor and associate director of the School of Communication, he helped launch the center.

"The rise and prevalence of social media really challenges some of our contemporary notions and theories about how human communication works," Hunt said.

He and Carpenter were inspired in part by a similar center run by ISU alum Joseph Mazer, M.S. '06, at Clemson University. They saw SMACC as a big step toward addressing a phenomenon facing communications professionals everywhere—media convergence.

"It really does fortify the school's excellent reputation, and puts us at the forefront of things that are emerging in the discipline," Hunt said.

## \$10 million grant supports urban teacher preparation

The College of Education and Chicago Teacher Education Pipeline have received a \$10 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education.

The Teacher Quality Partnership funds will develop the URBAN CENTER (Using Research Based Actions to Network Cities Engaged in New Teacher Education Reform) to bolster urban teacher recruitment, preparation and induction/mentoring.

The grant will strengthen the Pipeline model with recruitment and preparation of 500 high-quality teachers for Illinois districts where teacher attrition is high and student achievement low.

“How teachers situate themselves within our schools, interact within the spaces of the community, and view themselves as change agents are just as important as pedagogy and content mastery,” said Pipeline Executive Director Robert Lee.

Now in its 11th year, the Pipeline is an urban education model. ISU works with distinct neighborhoods, allowing student teachers to engage beyond the school before entering the classroom. Residents support the teaching candidates as they become immersed in racially diverse neighborhoods.

## University Galleries moves to Uptown Normal space

University Galleries left the Center for the Visual Arts last fall, settling into a unique 8,370-square-foot space in Uptown Normal. It’s a partnership between ISU and the town of Normal, from whom the space is leased.

“This is the ultimate expression of town and gown,” said University Galleries Director Barry Blinderman. College of Fine Arts Dean James Major called it a sign of a thriving relationship between the community and campus.

Now easily found a few blocks from campus and more accessible, the space features big windows where passers-by can see exhibitions from the sidewalk.



Barry Blinderman, director of Illinois State University Galleries, discusses the work of Walter Robinson, a painter featured in the first exhibition at the new Uptown Station gallery.

Beyond art, it will be used for “any cultural event here that I think we can handle,” Blinderman said. “That’s how we’re going to succeed.”

A space like this is rare for a state university art gallery—closer to what you’d see in the heart of New York City than the heart of Illinois, Interim School of Art Director Michael Wille said.

Students won’t have to drive to Chicago to see world-class art. “By walking 400 yards down the road, they get to see high-caliber art in a state-of-the-art facility,” Wille said.

## Nursing program grant eases doctor shortage

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Mennonite College of Nursing a federal Advanced Education Nursing Traineeship grant of nearly \$700,000 to support the education of nurse practitioners.

A shortage of more than 20,000 primary care physicians is estimated by

2020. Demand for health care providers continues to increase due to population growth—especially in the aging sector—and from the increased number of Americans obtaining insurance coverage as a result of the Affordable Care Act. The shortage could be minimized with an increased number of primary care nurse practitioners and physician assistants.

“The nurse practitioner plays a vital role in the provision of primary care,” said Nursing Professor Denise Wilson, who directs the grant. Nurse practitioners “provide holistic primary health care,” she said. They work to “stress health promotion, disease prevention and provide education to assist patients to optimize their health status.”

The two-year grant will fully fund tuition and fees for 100 percent of the graduate students, as well as provide stipends. There are currently 65 students in the sequence, including newly admitted students who began classes last fall.

## Where are they now?

A ruptured appendix at age 11 set Judy Smithson apart from her classmates. Her long recovery made her more aware of a peer using crutches and another needing a wheelchair—instilling a passion to help people with disabilities. She prepared for the work in ISU's special education program.

Smithson '62, Ed.D. '80, started her career at the high school level after completing her degree. Opportunities to observe students with disabilities in the classroom, teach, and investigate services available while completing her master's at Southern Illinois University prepared her for an ISU College of Education faculty position.

Federal mandates to provide accommodations resulted in the opportunity for Smithson to leave teaching and build what is now Disability Concerns. She was the heart and soul of the University office from 1978 until her retirement in 1999.

Determined to remove barriers, Smithson was an advocate across campus. She did everything from assuring residence hall accommodations to guaranteeing classroom assistance. She educated faculty and staff on needs and negotiated solutions, empowering students to gain life skills as they completed their education.

"My greatest satisfaction was getting to graduation and realizing I had forgotten a student was still on campus. They had reached the point they didn't need me anymore," Smithson said.

She is active on the Half Century Club committee and supports the University through the Dr. Judith Joan Smithson Graduate Scholarship for a student with disabilities. She and her husband, Bob Boehle, reside in Bloomington. They work with NuTran conducting research and traveling to meet with farmers. She remains active professionally as chair of Chestnut Health Systems, Inc., a position she has held for 28 years.

Smithson can be reached by email at [jjsmith@ilstu.edu](mailto:jjsmith@ilstu.edu).



## Campus maintains rank as military friendly school

Illinois State has once again been included in the Military Friendly Schools listing published by Victory Media. The 2015 Military Friendly Schools list honors the top 15 percent of colleges, universities and trade schools in the country that are supporting the educational pursuits of veterans.

Criteria for inclusion includes a strong commitment to recruiting, retaining, and providing financial, academic and social services to student veterans.

Illinois State supports student veterans with a variety of academic, advisement and financial support services. The Veterans and Military Services office is the first point of contact for student veterans.

The office assists with Veterans Administration education benefits, helps student veterans transition into life on campus, and provides referrals to other

veteran services within the community. For more information visit [Registrar.IllinoisState.edu/Veterans](http://Registrar.IllinoisState.edu/Veterans).

## Sustainability efforts up with solar-powered table

A solar-powered picnic table gives students a sustainable way to charge their electronic devices. Located in the Bone Student Center interior courtyard, the table is made from recycled, high-density polyethylene materials such as milk jugs and water bottles.

There are three 45-watt solar panels on the sides of the table umbrella and one 100-watt solar panel on top. The table has outlets to plug in cell phone and laptop computer chargers, as well as USB ports for smart phones.

The \$11,455 table was made possible through a Student Sustainability Committee fund. The committee distributes \$180,000 annually for campus projects

submitted by students, faculty or staff. A total of 15 were funded within the past year, including a solar trash compactor.

"College students constantly need to charge their devices, and these picnic tables seem like the perfect sustainable solution," said Cally Lindenmier, a senior music education major and student government member. The committee funded this project "due to its potential high visibility on campus and the contribution it could have on sustainability awareness."

## Leadership change made in ISU governing board

Rocky Donahue '82 has been elected to serve as chair of Illinois State's Board of Trustees. He replaces Michael McCuskey '70, who retired from the board after serving as chair since 2008.

A finance graduate, Donahue resides in Orland Park. He is the deputy executive director of external relations at Pace

Suburban Bus, which is the regional transit agency providing service in Chicago and surrounding suburbs.

Anne Davis '64 of Tinley Park is continuing to serve as board secretary. Ellen Schumacher, a marketing and organizational leadership major from Teutopolis, has joined the board as the student trustee.

## U-High remains on list of challenging schools

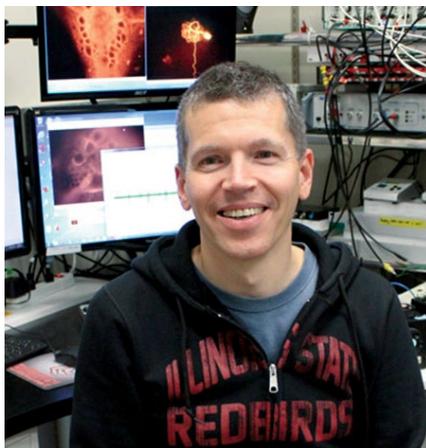
Only 9 percent of the approximately 22,000 public high schools in the nation earn a place on the list of America's most challenging high schools. Illinois State's University High School is among them.

The Laboratory School ranked high on the list compiled by *The Washington Post* in 2014, rising to 1,502 compared to 1,671 the previous year. With an enrollment of 600, U-High serves as a clinical experience and practice site for pre-service teachers and experimental teaching activities.

## Study of how brain works advances with federal grant

The National Science Foundation has awarded Assistant Professor of Cellular Neurophysiology Wolfgang Stein a three-year, \$510,000 grant to study neurons in the brain.

Stein is using optical imagery to examine how the brain functions by



Assistant Professor Wolfgang Stein

injecting a fluorescent dye into the cell. A sophisticated camera captures a neuron as it fires and sends a command within the brain.

"It happens incredibly fast, but this way we see how sensory information is processed in neurons. We can record and manipulate sensory and control neurons and observe different outcomes in the behavior," Stein said.

"We know so little about how the nervous system works and why. This is a small but certainly not simple way to view how the larger system works."

Stein explores neurons through the *Cancer borealis* crab. He runs one of the few labs in the world that studies the neurophysiology of identified neurons with the use of optical imaging. His research has been published in numerous scholarly journals.

## Elite nursing academy includes MCN faculty

Chosen as one of only 13 participants, Mennonite College of Nursing Assistant Professor Elaine Hardy is completing 22 months of training in the 2014-2015 Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy.

The competitive program is an intense international leadership development experience for aspiring leaders in nursing education who have between two and seven years of experience as full-time faculty. It is offered through Sigma Theta Tau International, nursing's honor society.

"It is an honor to be recognized by Sigma Theta Tau International Nurse Faculty Leadership Academy as a scholar. As an early faculty educator, this opportunity has been instrumental in giving me direction as a nurse leader, allowing me to be more self-aware of the qualities that I currently possess as a leader, and developing those that will mold me into a better leader," Hardy said.

She joined ISU in August 2012. A member of the Central Illinois Chapter of the Links, Inc., she is also founder of the Central Illinois Black Nurses Chapter.

# Mail

To the Editor,

I remember watching the Cubs take a 2-0 lead on the Padres in the playoffs and a World Series appearance was one win away. The buzz was in the air. My roommates and I saw the flyer for the rally on the Quad and thought we would check it out, so I brought my camera along ("Oral history of the beer riot," August 2014).

We joined in the middle of the rally and I was taking photos. It took a turn to Redbird Liquors, headed toward 51 and College. Next thing you know, the intersection is shut down and Police Chief Lear is there trying to calm the situation. He is handed a beer and I get my photo of him with the beer in the middle of the intersection.

The crowd moved on toward the police station and that's when things started getting out of hand. We decided to call it a night before the tear gas came out. I printed up the photo and got the shot of Lear and the beer in *The Pantagraph* and *Vidette*.

Online comment

**Dan Bell '86**

To the Editor,

I was so excited to read "Sustaining the Mother Road" (November 2014) about efforts to preserve Route 66. There were pictures of the first home we lived in after our marriage in 1982! We lived above the bridal shop in what was originally Sprague's Super Service. I was a graduate student. We were thrilled to find an apartment near campus. We had no idea about the building's historical significance when we lived there. But we certainly got a kick out of the red neon lights lining the walls of our kitchen. We were sad to leave our quirky little first apartment. I'm so happy to hear about Terri Ryburn's efforts to restore the building. We will have to stop by next time we are in town.

**Jane (Hulbert) '80, M.S. '82  
and Mark Hewitson '84**

# Redbird Athletics



## Champions of the fall

First national title game in ISU football history

**A**spectacular football season climaxed with the 2015 NCAA Division I Football Championship game that put the Redbirds up against fellow Missouri Valley Football Conference foe and three-time reigning FCS champion North Dakota State. The Bison won the battle with a score of 29-27 in the January game played at Frisco, Texas.

ISU went into its fifth tournament ranked No. 5. The first win was at home against Northern Iowa in a playoff round. The team advanced to the finale after toppling Eastern Washington University in the quarterfinals. They were up against top-seeded New Hampshire in the semifinals, playing to a 21-18 victory on the Wildcats' turf in December. The

Redbirds did not take the lead until the fourth quarter.

"It was a relentless pursuit trying to finish that game. That was the No. 1 team in the country. We knew it wasn't going to be easy," Coach Brock Spack said after the New Hampshire win.

The tournament run capped an exciting fall, as the team finished with 10 regular-season wins for the first time. With a 7-1 conference record, the Redbirds shared the conference title for the second time.

A total of 17 players were named to the All-Missouri Valley Football Conference teams, including six First-Team selections. Among them were Marshaun Coprich and Tre Roberson.

A running back, Coprich became ISU's single-season rushing champion

and is top of the school's single-season rushing touchdowns list. He was named MVFC Offensive Player of the Year. Roberson, the starting quarterback, earned MVFC Newcomer of the Year honors. He completed his first season after transferring from Indiana.

Spack, who has led the team since 2009, was MVFC Coach of the Year and an Eddie Robinson Award Finalist for the second time in six seasons.

Beyond the football field, four Redbirds were named to the MVFC All-Academic team. Nominees must be starters or important reserves, be sophomores or above with one academic year completed, and carry at least a 3.20 GPA on a 4.0 scale.



## Two teams advance to national play

Athletics' had its most successful season in history during fall 2014. Football, soccer and volleyball programs ended the conference schedule with a 31-1 combined record. Each team took conference championships. The three earned NCAA tournament bids, Coach of the Year accolades, and a combined seven Player of the Year honorees.

Coach Drew Roff's soccer Redbirds won a record 16 games and a 10th regular season championship. Ending 6-0 in league play for the second consecutive season, they returned to the NCAA tournament one year after becoming the first MVC team to win a NCAA match. They advanced to the second round by defeating South Florida. Rachel Tejada was

MVC Player of the Year for the fourth consecutive year and broke the all-time MVC goals and assists record.

Volleyball won the first MVC regular-season and tournament title since 1997. The team set an ISU record by winning 23 straight matches, earning the first NCAA tournament appearance since 2007. The first NCAA win since 1996 came with a victory over Marquette.

Melissa Myers coached the MVC Player of the Year, Setter of the Year and Libero of the Year. A school-record four players earned first-team All-Conference honors. The Redbirds cemented another record with 39-straight matches in which the team won at least one set dating back to 2013.

## ISU hosts spring Valley finale

The 2015 Missouri Valley Conference Championship for outdoor track and field will be held on the Illinois State campus May 15-17. The University last served as home for the event in 2010. Eight MVC institutions have men's track and field teams, while nine sponsor women's track and field.

"This will be a fantastic opportunity for our staff to showcase our young team and kick start a new era of Illinois State track and field," Track and Field and Cross Country Director Jeff Bovee said.

"We have a unique venue in which the field events are contested inside of the track, allowing for a fan-friendly experience, where one can see all of the events simultaneously from any location."

## Time to plan for March

Alumni and fans from the 10 Missouri Valley Conference member schools will gather in St. Louis for basketball tournaments during the first two weekends of March. The championship team gains an automatic NCAA tournament bid.

Head coach Dan Muller and the men's team will attempt to reach the championship game during the tournament at the Scottrade Center from March 5-8. Women's head coach Barb Smith will lead the ladies March 12-15 at the Family Arena in St. Charles, Missouri.

Tickets for either tournament are available at [GoRedbirds.com](http://GoRedbirds.com), or call the Athletics ticket office at (309) 438-8000.

## Facilities named for two 'Birds

Former quarterback Danny Barnett and his family have been honored with the Barnett Family Locker Room in the Kaufman football building. Barnett '96 contributed to Hancock Stadium renovations, Illinois State football summer camps and locker room upgrades.

The Rudy Klokkenga Press Box at Marian Kneer Softball Stadium honors the Illinois Softball Hall of Fame member and longtime Redbird softball public address announcer. Klokkenga has supported upgrades to the stadium.

**CHAMPIONSHIP RUN**  
Find photos, video, game recaps, and more at [GoRedbirds.com/Frisco](http://GoRedbirds.com/Frisco)  
**#BacktheBirds**

## Soccer, football athletes take top honors

Rachel Tejada of the soccer team and football player Colton Underwood were named the top Redbird athletes for the 2013-2014 academic year. Tejada earned the Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year Award, while Underwood captured the Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year Award.

Tejada was named the MVC Player of the Year. As a junior, she led the Redbirds to their third-straight MVC tournament title and the second regular-season title during her career.

Underwood capped his career with 66 tackles, including 12 tackles for

loss. The defensive end was named an All-American for the second time and was a finalist for the Buck Buchanan Award—honoring the top defensive player in FCS—for the second straight year. Underwood signed a contract with the NFL's San Diego Chargers in May as a member of the team's practice squad.

Anna Stinson '14, of the soccer team was the Linda Herman Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. Parker Freiburg '14, of the golf team, was the Doug Collins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

# Extreme Makeover

by Susan Marquardt Blystone



DEPARTMENT SHIFTS FROM HOME EC TO HIGH-TECH 



**A**prons and omelets, whip stitches and patterns. All were basics in Illinois State Normal University's domestic science curriculum at its start in the 1900s. The program later became known as home economics and today is the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS).

Despite the metamorphosis in name and rigor, degrees under the FCS umbrella are often associated with antiquated training offered more than 100 years ago.

"It's not your grandmother's home ec class," Ani Yazedjian said. With a doctorate in human and community development, she joined ISU as the department chair in 2013.

"The idea that all we do is cook and sew is still out there. People who had home economics classes think that, but we are so much more. We are preparing students for today's global marketplace."

Training of the nearly 600 now enrolled in the department occurs in one of five majors: apparel merchandising and design; food, nutrition and dietetics; human development and family resources; interior and environmental design; and teacher education.

Students graduate ready for challenges in varied roles such as corporate buyers for international retailers, registered dietitians combatting childhood obesity while overseeing school district cafeterias, and commercial designers looking beyond decorating to emphasize sustainability.

*"It's not your grandmother's home ec class."*

The professional and academic focus has shifted gradually, coinciding with the transition of women to the workplace and keeping pace with technology. The American Association of Family and Consumer Sciences changed the field's name from home economics in 1994. The action reflected the profession's complexity and recognized the changing educational mission to instill 21st century global skills, according to the national organization.

College of Applied Science and Technology Dean Jeff Wood has seen the transition firsthand. He joined the college as an agriculture professor before home economics was renamed. Now as dean, he works to dispel lingering misperceptions about the department

that remains one of the University's best-kept secrets despite its national draw of faculty and students.

"The breadth, depth and scope of what we call FCS today is not understood, especially the scientific basis and alignment with allied disciplines" such as chemistry, math, economics, social sciences, political science, education and more.

"Home economics was very focused on homemakers, with an emphasis on the residential setting. We are now more focused on institutional settings," Wood said, noting the former curriculum fit the era in U.S. history when women prepared to be teachers or housewives.

Once a living laboratory for home economics teacher majors, Rambo House will be demolished this year. Among the women who studied there are, *front row, from left*, Charlotte (Peterson) Talkington '61, Janet (Cobble) Haskins '61, and Betty (Ross) Petrusak '61. *Back row, from left*, Nancy (Crump) Sedarat '61, Grayselda (Frederick) Clark '61, and faculty member Jacqueline Karch '43.





Apparel merchandising and design students prepare for fashion industry jobs by working in laboratories, above, where they evaluate stitches and analyze fabric. The creative ideas are on display at an annual fashion show, left, which has been applauded by *Project Runway* star Tim Gunn.

The initial curriculum provided training for both paths. With a manual art building completed in 1908, the domestic science program began a year later. Five courses in cookery and three in household management were offered, each running a full semester.

Cooking instruction ranged from dietetic value to correct methods of serving, planning menus and invalid care. The home sequence was study of the housekeeper's duties. Topics included sanitation, household accounts and laundry work. Advanced classes covered digestibility, food cost and home nursing, as well as caring for lamps and preparing fruit.

Federal law impacted the department in the 1930s, as the Smith-Hughes Act mandated requirements for training home economics teachers. Each senior had to live in a home management house nine weeks. ISU consequently constructed Rambo House for \$34,800. Costs climbed to \$56,000 with furnishings. Completed in 1939, the building was named for Jessie Rambo, department head from 1922 to 1936.

Charlotte Talkington '61 fondly remembers her days as a student in Rambo, which was constructed as a double home with two sections of six rooms each. The *Alumni Quarterly* from 1939 described the north area with traditional gas appliances. A modern electric

kitchen was in the south section. A total of 48 women made Rambo their home during a given academic year, dividing their time between the two sections to gain experience with varied household equipment.

The building became an important part of the home economics program, especially in later years as the University helped meet a shortage in the field. The demand was so great that there were an average of 20 positions available for each graduate in 1963.

The home underwent extensive remodeling in the 1960s with the addition of a stainless steel sink and waist-high dishwasher. "The students have been delighted to run tests of comparison on the time spent on kitchen chores when there is a dishwasher compared to times when none is used," a 1964 *Alumni Quarterly* article stated.

The students also appreciated the change to acrylic carpeting, ceramic tile, and fabric wallpaper. "This is what we mean when we say the students are having a chance to study and work with the latest trends in home furnishings," the article continued.

Talkington fondly recalls the rotation of cooking and cleaning. "We had a lot of requirements and had to manage things, including a budget and weekly grocery shopping," she said. "We took equipment classes at the same time, and

We are the only profession  
that promotes the family...



Food, nutrition and dietetics majors working in Turner Hall, above, are eager for completion this fall of renovation work that will modernize the culinary lab, right.



we cleaned when there was no dirt. We also turned the mattresses every week, end to end and side to side. It was very well kept because there was no money for replacements.

“Rambo was a good experience. It was extremely practical in teaching us to be homemakers,” said Talkington, who remembers comical moments. She confesses adding a bottom layer of lima beans to her macaroni and cheese dish when noodles ran short. The meal was fortunately served on a night the dean did not come for dinner. She also tells of cleaning the waffle irons, planning a dinner party and learning to fold a napkin to open across a lap with one gesture—all lessons required for her teaching credential.

Talkington taught high school home economics courses until returning to ISU in 1968 as a supervisor of student teachers in the department. She became a leader in the field at the state and national levels, retiring in 1994 prior to the name

change and shift in academic emphasis.

A recipient of the ISU Alumni Achievement Award and a member of CAST’s Hall of Fame, Talkington created a scholarship for an FCS teacher education student. She joined the FCS Professionals of McLean County’s efforts to create a second scholarship to support the program, which she too believes exceeds what most envision.

“Our field has never been credited for how broad it is,” she said. “We are the only profession that promotes the family, which is a very complex organization.”

Talkington is amazed by the department’s programs. Today’s courses include CAD for apparel design, dynamics of U.S. contemporary health issues, drafting for interior design, and study of the physiological and biochemical basis for nutritional needs.

She finds the scholarly work done by students with professors especially impressive. “Research wasn’t heard of or

## More to the story

Go to [FCS.IllinoisState.edu](http://FCS.IllinoisState.edu) to learn about the department’s programs and excellence. There are many options for supporting the department financially, including through the Charlotte E. Talkington Scholarship in Family and Consumer Sciences Education Fund. Go to [IllinoisState.edu/Giving](http://IllinoisState.edu/Giving) or call (309) 438-8041 to make a gift.



The imagination and talent of FCS students is evident at Turner Hall, where displays showcase clothing made of magazine pages, far left; lamps created out of recycled materials, center; and unique living concepts represented by a model chair and home.

“We are the ‘discovered major.’”



talked about when I was on the faculty,” Talkington said. The examination of possible links between a high-fat diet and cancer is just one example of ongoing studies.

Yazedjian knows that expanding scientific endeavors will further elevate the department, as will continuing the professional practice requirement. The experience allows students to apply their knowledge before entering the workplace and often results in job offers.

Educating students about career possibilities is another strategy for going forward, as Yazedjian noted the degree programs are still often overlooked by incoming students.

“We are the ‘discovered major,’” she said. Many transfer in as upper classmen after completing general education classes that spark an awareness

and interest in FCS. One step to help better explain what options exist is to eliminate the broad FCS degree, which the department will do beginning with 2016 graduates. Diplomas will be tied to specific majors.

Significant change is also underway with a \$750,000 renovation to the culinary lab, which has not been updated since Turner Hall opened in 1963. When completed in the fall, students will appreciate a commercial kitchen design and equipment, with areas for culinary research.

The space will be on par with the textiles and sewing lab, where students work on both residential and commercial machines to master and evaluate quality stitching while completing scientific analysis of fabrics. Work is also underway to create space for the Lois Jett costume

collection. Some of the more than 2,000 items collected since its start in 1962 will be showcased in a new exhibit area.

It is a significant piece of history that remains, even as demolition of Rambo House is set to begin this spring. The fact it no longer meets the needs of any university program is another indication of the change that has occurred within FCS. And yet, Wood assures alumni that one core department element from yesteryear is firmly in place.

“Our physical plant is changing and our programs are upgraded, but our focus on the student remains,” Wood said. “It is just as sharp as it was for those who graduated decades ago.”

# F C S A L U M

## has designs for a bright future



Victor Lee exemplifies the excellence of ISU's Department of Family and Consumer Sciences today. A 2013 master's graduate of the interior and environmental design program, he completed rigorous courses and real-world projects that prepared him for a national win.

Lee entered the Hospitality Industry Network's NEWH Sustainable Design competition, which challenges students to showcase their design skills while using the best in sustainable products and practices. He was the only graduate student in the country to capture the 2014 NEWH Green Student Award.

His project converted an actual historical building in Tainan City, Taiwan. The five-story structure housed a department store in the 1930s. Lee envisioned a modern, minimalistic, sustainable spa that he named EU Resort.

He built a 3D BIM model that included detailed floor plans. He chose construction materials, creating designs for everything from light fixtures to furniture with an eye to both color and comfort. His finished blueprint took into consideration everything from ease of transportation to incorporation of cultural flavor. A native of Texas, Lee was raised in Taiwan before coming back to the U.S. and settling in Illinois.

While his undergraduate work was in psychology, Lee's interest in design goes back to his childhood days when he delighted in rearranging the family furniture. "The creativity and potential intrigue me in interior design," Lee said. "There are endless possibilities to create something beautiful, but it has to be functional too."

He chose Illinois State when shifting career paths because the department's program is focused on commercial design and holds Council for Interior Design Accreditation. Interior Design Program Coordinator Connie Dyar met with Lee

before he enrolled, becoming his mentor and friend.

Dyar's personal attention is just one reason Lee is grateful for his ISU experience. He was challenged by classes that ranged from research methodology and statistics to drafting and construction graphics. He especially appreciated four interior design studio courses.

In one he conceived a high-end jeweler's store. Another involved studying health care materials and bathroom codes to create a clinic. He partnered with nutrition students on yet another project to develop a cohesive restaurant design. His fourth project evolved into the NEWH submission with the help of Dyar. His win came with a \$5,000 scholarship. Because he had already graduated, Lee donated the money to the department.

"I enjoyed the program and have a lot of appreciation, as ISU helped me become what I am now," Lee said. Beyond the courses, he worked as a graduate assistant with ISU's Facilities Planning and Construction architect, interior designers, space planners and construction managers on classroom and building renovation projects. He became expert in using Revit and AutoCAD technology, which prepared him for his current job as an engineer technician at Chicago's J.A. Watts, Inc., which is a construction management and consulting firm.

His work involves fiber optic drawings for an Illinois State Toll Highway

Authority project and CAD drafting for American Airlines, which is upgrading check-in kiosks around the world.

"It is fascinating, but the scale can be overwhelming," Lee said, noting that he is learning more about project management and how to meet the challenge of matching creative ideas to strict budget lines.

He envisions moving back to interior design in the future, stating with confidence that ISU gave him the skills to fulfill his dream to work as a designer who makes a difference.

"Better design brings better quality of life," Lee said. "I'm always seeking inspiration, always seeking improvement in my design to further improve the quality of life."



Victor Lee, M.S. '13, captured a national design award for his plans to convert an abandoned department store in Taiwan into EU Resort. His work, *above*, included everything from materials to style of furniture.



The nation's oldest city of St. Augustine provides an ideal setting for the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, a pre-K and K-12 public school led by alumna Jeanne Prickett.

# SPECIAL EDUCATION

## ALUMNA EMPOWERS BLIND, DEAF TO SOAR

BY KATE ARTHUR

An 18-month-old, born deaf and with limited vision, had no way of understanding her world or being understood. Teachers sat on the floor and worked with her one-on-one, folding her fingers into one word again and again. Two weeks later, when she'd had enough, she signed the word she'd been taught: Finished. A teacher with 30 years experience cried.

That's what happens at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind (FSDB), where sixth-graders swim with manatees, the varsity football team routinely beats area high schools and a world-renowned jazz alum attracted a *60 Minutes* crew.

How they do it is something Jeanne Prickett '73, M.S. '77, Ed.D. '83, explains succinctly: Intensity.

Personalized and intense teaching leads to equally inspiring growth for other students at the 130-year-old St. Augustine campus, where 600 children are encouraged to be themselves. Inside the gates of the 80-acre campus shaded by live oaks draped in Spanish moss, it's easy to feel a part of something that can't be explained. Students who can't see ride bikes while the deaf learn dance steps. A blind cross country athlete runs around the track, tapping his cane along the inside rail. During track

meets, a sighted runner is tethered to him with a bungee cord.

Such accommodations are normal at the fully accredited state public school available tuition-free to pre-k and K-12 students who are deaf/hard of hearing or blind/visually impaired. The school attracts families from as far as Africa, Peru and Russia.

Prickett, who's been president since 2012, believes her 41-year career prepared her to lead the nation's largest deaf and blind school. "This is where my soul is," she said. "For me, it's a magical world. There's something once you come inside these gates that is so intangible and so inspirational that it would be difficult to put into words."

She comes from a long line of women educators. Her grandmother taught college entomology and her mother, Elizabeth Glidden, M.S. '70, was completing a graduate degree when Prickett started at Illinois State. She wanted to teach high school Spanish until she took a field trip to a special education school program. Her major changed to special education, with a focus on the blind and visually impaired. Evelyn Rex, now deceased, was Prickett's ISU mentor, who prepared her to work with visually



The football team competes with schools across the country and has won multiple national championship titles.



Jeanne Prickett is surrounded by the graduating class of 2013, above. The school's Dance Troupe has performed at the Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts in Washington, D.C., and at the Super Bowl.

impaired students at Thomas Metcalf School. Some were also deaf from rubella, so Prickett completed a master's in deaf education.

She has never quit learning or teaching. One of her passions is educating others about how a highly specialized environment can increase student achievement. With a staff of 600, there's almost a one-to-one ratio. An elementary class may have four students, a high school class only 10. Teachers are certified in deaf/hard of hearing or blind/low vision, sometimes both. More than 80 percent of the school's graduates pursue college or technical training.

"The concept of inclusion is increasingly being taught in teacher training but here, every single student is included in everything every minute of the day," she said. "Our teachers can communicate directly with deaf students. If they're Braille readers, they can help them find their place on the page." Understanding subjects like trigonometry can be staggering when working through an interpreter, she said. "A student could miss 60 percent of what's happening."

Prickett is thrilled to have on staff four Red-birds. Middle school reading teacher Maria Williams '87 was born deaf. Beth (Hopper) Stephens '96 learned Braille to teach high school history. Ryan Anderson '80 is a high school individualized program specialist, and Carrie Marvin '03 oversees

facilities at the school that offers extracurriculars comparable to any other high school.

From athletics to yearbook and student government to the performing arts, students are engaged. They have performed at a Super Bowl half-time show, and the Eyes Alive! Deaf Elementary Theater program produced two movies in sign language.

"What's really beautiful about this campus is students can move freely here without worrying about someone running into them," Prickett said. "Everybody's comfortable in their own skin here."

High school junior Grayson DeLong agrees. Blind and with a twin at the school, her family relocated from New Hampshire. "The outside world's expectations push me here," she said. "I definitely work harder knowing that when I go to college, they're not all going to be like us. You're used to people with canes here and you worry about tripping over theirs. In the real world, you have to worry about them tripping over yours."

Students prepare for life after graduation through apartment-style living their last year on the campus, which has 24-hour health care and its own state-authorized police force.

Children can enroll as early as preschool. The Early Learning Center, which includes a Montessori preschool, serves about 30 children. Some get on the bus as early as 6 a.m. to get there.



Every student talent finds a place for expression at the Florida School for the Deaf and the Blind, with extracurricular activities common in any public school, from music to athletics.

“Some parents don’t have the option of moving, so they make the gut-wrenching decision to bus them here,” said Director Gail Strassel. “At this age, they don’t know who’s blind and who’s deaf. They see that some friends talk with their hands and some talk with their mouths. They don’t know that children can’t see, they just know some need more help.”

She’s grateful for Prickett’s leadership and her commitment to whatever is in the best interest of families. Prickett has a single goal—to increase student achievement—which means preparing students for a lifetime of independence.

“That’s what everyone wants for their children. We want every student to leave with self-determination, the ability to make their own decisions and act on them without having to consult with anyone else.”

Prickett served as principal of the Hawaii Center for the Deaf and the Blind before leading the

Florida school. She immediately felt the fit, as did the staff and community, said retired FSDB principal Joe Finnegan.

“There are very few people who have training and certification in both

low-incidence areas. She’s conscientious, focused, and she’s got her finger on the pulse of what’s going on in deaf and blind education around the country.”

One of the first things Prickett did was move the president’s office inside the gates. She walks the grounds, interacting with the students. When she stopped to sign with a high-schooler from another country, she noticed he was using more facial expressions than when he arrived.

“I love watching that,” she said. “I love these kids. They’re constantly teaching me things about how they learn, how they see, how they hear. The foundation I got at ISU really laid the groundwork for me to realize what I am seeing and hearing from them.”

Stopping into a music rehearsal, she carefully listened to visually impaired students sing. She realized a student on pitch six months earlier was off key. Because that can indicate a hearing loss, she notified the director.

“It touches you,” she said. “Every day. Sometimes more than once a day.”

And always on Fridays, as students head to charter buses that will take them home, as far as seven hours away. She stands nearby and speaks to the students as they pass. A grade-schooler signs “I love you.” A blind 13-year-old searches for his bus. “I will take you there,” she said, folding her arm into his.

Such moments reinforce her commitment. Although her peers are retiring, she’s not going anywhere. There’s no reason to.

“I’m home,” she said.



Blind and low-vision students work with SMART Braille readers, above, and find books in the school’s library, left.



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# DO MOOCs SPELL DOOM FOR ISU?

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*by Kevin Bersett*

**Not likely,**

but free online education and new technology may transform higher education in the coming decades.

**I**magine a world where college students from anywhere on the planet pick, enroll in, and take courses online from a menu of universities as easily as they create and play a YouTube playlist. Don't think too hard—it's already here.

The educational format known as Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) allows students from India to Indiana to take free courses from professors at the world's most prestigious universities.

Online education has been growing in the United States for the last two decades. In 2013 a third of all college

students took an online class at least once, according to an annual report from the Babson Survey Research Group. That was the highest percentage in the study's 11-year history.

The Internet, however, has yet to upend higher education as it has the newspaper business, music world, and

other industries. Traditional universities like Illinois State—where only 6 percent of all classes were offered completely online last school year—rely on bringing students to campus to learn under professors.

Still online is attractive because tuition and student debt have risen dramatically, while states have cut funding. Last year, tuition revenue made up 41 percent of Illinois State’s budget. Only 18 percent of the University’s revenue came from the state, down about half from the turn of the century.

“We need a new revenue model for higher education,” said Illinois Board of Higher Education Executive Director James Applegate. “The good old days are not going to come back in terms of state funding at the levels that used to be funded. We have now hit a ceiling on tuition.”

**We have the technology that will allow us to serve 300,000 students at a time. Then you step back and go, ‘Is this learning experience really of value? How do we know?’**

That’s where MOOCs’ disruptive force comes into play. The idea is simple: Offer free online college classes to whoever wants to enroll. Free and open are what separate them from online universities like the University of Phoenix and could have huge higher education implications. Why spend thousands to attend a traditional college when students can get a self-paced university education with an Internet connection?

That’s a complex question to answer.

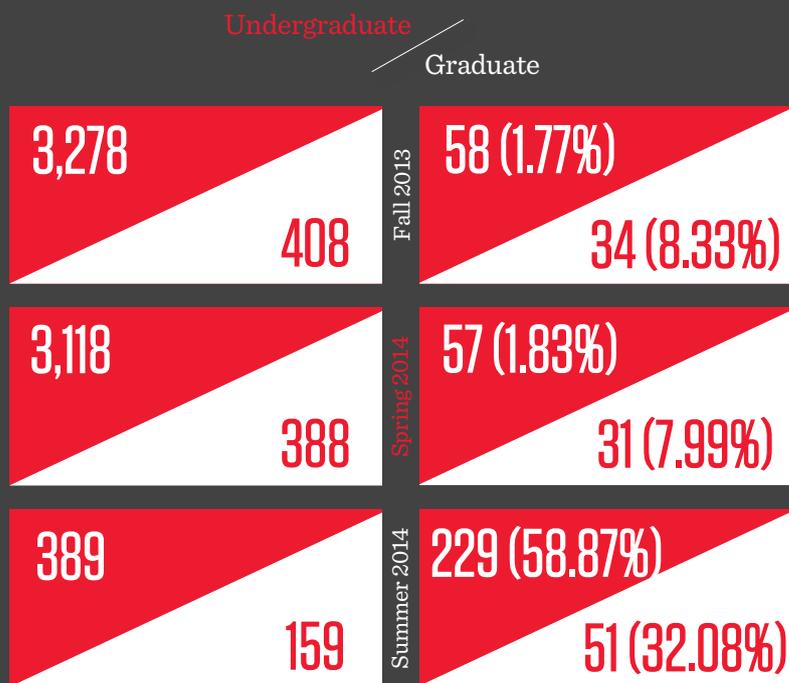
The basic MOOC model is for professors to deliver video lectures and

# ILLINOIS STATE UNIVERSITY ONLINE

**TOTAL COURSES OFFERED INCLUDING ONLINE**

**VS**

**TOTAL COURSES OFFERED 100 PERCENT ONLINE**



Excludes study abroad, thesis/independent study, and professional practice type courses

Online classes and blended classes—those that mix online elements into traditional classes—have been growing features of Illinois State for the last 15 years. All six colleges now offer online courses, and some programs are offered completely online, including the Mennonite College of Nursing’s online version of its RN to B.S.N. program for working nurses. The University also has placed more than half of its summer classes online, in order to meet the needs of students who have to leave campus for the summer but want to continue to progress toward their degree.

assignments online to thousands of students they will never meet.

“We have the technology that will allow us to serve 300,000 students at a time,” said Associate Vice President for Academic Technologies Mark Walbert. “Then you step back and go, ‘Is this learning experience really of value? How do we know?’”

Other questions spring up as well. How are so many students evaluated beyond peer-grading or auto-graded tests? How does the professor interact with students who live on different continents, have various levels of expertise, and learn in different ways? And what about a lack of credentials for students who complete courses?

“The most valuable thing MOOCs have done is open up the conversation in higher education around uses of the rapid increases in capacity in technology and around broader access to more affordable, high-quality higher education,” Applegate said.

It’s a conversation that hasn’t yet happened at Illinois State. In 2009 the University’s Distance Education Task Force—the most recent universitywide effort to investigate online education—produced a report that didn’t mention MOOCs, which were in their infancy.

“The Distance Education Task force, for all its work, did not come up with a blueprint in the end that said, ‘This should be our philosophy for online learning, and this is the path we should take to get it us there,’” Walbert said.

Illinois State is among the majority to not yet offer a MOOC. As of 2013, only 5 percent of universities had MOOCs,

though the percentage is nearly three times as high for universities with more than 15,000 students, according to the Babson study. A smaller group of universities offers MOOCs for credit.

## MOOCs are a good addition if you are an extraordinarily motivated student or if perhaps this is the only way that you can get to a university or higher education. It has a place.

“We need to start with a conversation on the direction to take in support of online learning in general, MOOCs in particular. When we have a direction to take then we need to talk about how much we are willing and able to invest in the resources needed to take us in that direction,” Walbert said. “But now already the conversation will be different today than what it would have been two years ago.”

MOOCs started in 2008. But it was not until fall 2011 that their impact was widely felt: 160,000 students from 190 countries signed up for an artificial intelligence course taught by Stanford University Professor Sebastian Thrun and Peter Norvig, a director of research at Google.

The following year Thrun created Udacity, a for-profit MOOC provider that is one of the “big three” of MOOC providers, which also includes Coursera, a company founded by two Stanford professors, and edX, a nonprofit backed by MIT and Harvard University. They have partnered with dozens of universities—Princeton, Duke, Florida—and have reached millions of students.

Things were going so swimmingly that Thrun boasted in *Wired* magazine that in 50 years Udacity might be one of only 10 higher education institutions left in the world.

“All of a sudden a lot of people started paying attention. What is this new thing?” Applegate said. “Well it wasn’t new. It was just that some of our very visible, top-notch institutions were getting in the game.”

Critics have claimed that the MOOC movement—backed by venture capitalists and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation—is pushing for the corporatization of public higher education behind the guise of offering free education. There is concern the higher education system will split into tiers: a traditional education for those who can afford it and a mediocre MOOC education for the less fortunate. There are also worries that faculty could be relegated to the role of mere facilitators in MOOCs or dramatically reduced.

“I think if we tried to go 100 percent MOOCs, it would basically be dismantling one of the best education systems ever created,” Physics Department Chair Daniel Holland said. “I think MOOCs are a good addition if you are an extraordinarily motivated student or if

# ATTEMPTED CREDIT HOURS BY CLASS

# 2010–2014

## SUMMER SESSIONS

	2010			2011		
	Total	Online	%Online	Total	Online	%Online
Freshman	656	149	22.7	658	174	26.4
Sophomore	2,570	889	34.6	2,337	943	40.4
Junior	7,104	2,740	38.6	6,988	3,081	44.1
Senior	16,043	5,647	35.2	16,177	6,442	39.8
Unclassified	296	33	11.1	274	63	23.0
Master’s	7,123	1,962	27.5	6,615	2,151	32.5
Certificate	265	29	10.9	259	18	7.0
Doctoral	1,213	379	31.3	1,142	147	12.9
<b>Total</b>	<b>35,270</b>	<b>11,828</b>	<b>33.5</b>	<b>34,450</b>	<b>13,019</b>	<b>37.8</b>

perhaps this is the only way that you can get to a university or higher education. It has a place.”

MOOCs are good for continuing education or for students who are curious about a particular school or teacher, said Linda Summers, coordinator of blended and online instruction at Illinois State’s Center of Teaching, Learning, and Technology. She compared MOOCs to correspondence courses.

“It is good for developing countries curious about American education, for example. It’s good for training large numbers of people. It is good for certain certifications,” she said. “It’s not a degree program.”

That changed last year when Georgia Tech launched an online master’s degree in computer science. In addition, the White House has recommended that regional accreditors be flexible when setting standards for online degrees.

“I think where it gets really rocky with MOOCs is number one, we don’t have a lot of policy. We don’t have regional accreditors who are very familiar with MOOCs,” said Vickie Cook, the director of the University of Illinois Springfield’s Center for Online Learning, Research and Service. “And we have MOOCs all over the board. So the whole idea of standardizing the MOOC for credit is going to be quite difficult to meet the accrediting bodies’ requirements.”

Overcoming that challenge will be important, Applegate said, because the credentials and degrees are what impact people’s futures. A lack of interaction between faculty and students could hold back the credentialing.

A variety of online tools can facilitate student-to-student communication as long as they are taking the MOOCs simultaneously. But how does a professor interact with thousands of students?

“Students don’t get that one-one-one interaction. They can’t raise their hand and say, ‘I have a question. Can you clarify?’ That is the interaction we have here on a campus,” Summers said. “When we facilitate the online, we model the traditional classroom as much as we can. The interaction is still there.”

Low completion rates are yet another issue hounding MOOCs, with less than 20 percent of all students commonly completing courses. Also, providers are still trying to figure out how to make money. Some charge students for a certificate upon completing a class, conduct corporate training, and act as headhunters for companies looking to recruit from specific classes.

MOOCs are an expensive endeavor, for example, costing Coursera \$50,000 to purchase computer time on the Amazon cloud for every course it offers. Illinois State would likely have to enter a provider contract to offer MOOCs because the technical infrastructure to support a large online class doesn’t exist.

Walbert doesn’t see a place for MOOCs at Illinois State presently. Long term, however, he can envision a world in which students take them for foundation courses and then attend a traditional college to finish their degree.

“MOOCs are becoming common enough that where it fits with the college’s goal for online learning they can easily find a way—one of several different ways—to make that happen without

reinventing the wheel each time or losing complete control of your classes or whatever,” Walbert said. “It’s not saving the world. And neither will it destroy the world. There is some potential like any change in the format for education.”

Illinois State Technology Professor Borinara Park said MOOCs could be a way for the University to market itself to out-of-state students. Park also thinks MOOCs and other forms of online education present a great opportunity to gather analytics about how students are learning. The University could review student performance annually to determine strengths and weaknesses and then customize their learning.

Whether or not MOOCs gain in prominence, online formats will become more common in the classroom, according to Illinois State Special Education Professor Craig Blum, who has written a book about instructional technology in early childhood classrooms. Professors could use a flipped classroom format more often, where the lecture is online and students spend class time asking questions and meeting with the professor.

“In 20 years, all classes will have some integrated technological component,” Blum said. “I think the residential school will survive as long as it integrates some of these things and becomes more flexible in meeting people’s needs. Most of the students don’t want to be treated one in 40,000.”

With the future of MOOCs still so uncertain, the impact remains a mystery. Walbert voices the need to watch out for a Microsoft or Google university.

Jamie Penrod, who oversees Mennonite College of Nursing’s online RN to B.S.N. program, offers another caution regarding how MOOCs could forever alter the traditional campus collegiate experience:

“When we no longer need multimillion-dollar gymnasiums with climbing walls because we don’t need walls, it’s going to change higher education completely.”

[A longer version of this story is available at Stories.IllinoisState.edu/Illinois-State.](http://Stories.IllinoisState.edu/Illinois-State)

2012			2013			2014		
Total	Online	%Online	Total	Online	%Online	Total	Online	%Online
469	183	39.0	736	323	43.9	777	487	62.7
2,226	1,130	50.8	2,380	1,470	61.8	3,134	2,239	71.4
6,950	3,336	48.0	7,378	3,996	54.2	7,108	4,437	62.4
15,550	6,167	39.7	15,370	6,559	42.7	16,289	8,247	50.6
321	36	11.2	374	46	12.3	441	79	17.9
6,035	2,008	33.3	5,904	1,988	33.7	5,741	2,385	41.5
238	24	10.1	300	36	12.0	290	33	11.4
1,232	194	15.8	1,254	268	21.4	1,349	289	21.4
<b>33,021</b>	<b>13,078</b>	<b>39.6</b>	<b>33,696</b>	<b>14,686</b>	<b>43.6</b>	<b>35,129</b>	<b>18,196</b>	<b>51.8</b>

# A drive to give

## Alumni couple makes record-setting gift commitment by Ryan Denham

Jim '74 and Carole (Czerniak) Mounier '75 have always been part of the Redbird family, but for 30 years they were more like long-lost relatives.

They met through Greek life as students at Illinois State, left Normal after graduation to start their lives and careers—and never really looked back. It wasn't until 2006 that they reconnected with ISU, deciding on a whim to attend an alumni event in Rockford. In the eight years since, the Mouniers' passion for giving has led to big things for Redbird Athletics, including a new scholarship for student-athletes and construction of the Jim and Carole Mounier Golf Training Center.

Now their reunion with Illinois State has led to something even bigger—an eight-figure planned gift that's the largest single-gift commitment in ISU history.

"That's going to be our legacy," Jim said. "If you have kids, you give your money to your kids because you love them. We don't have any kids. We love ISU, so we're giving the money to ISU."

The Rockford-area couple visited campus last fall when their record-setting gift commitment was announced. Athletics Director Larry Lyons '86 called their generosity "transformational."

"Jim and Carole believe in our vision. This incredible act of generosity will have tremendous lasting impact on our Athletics Department by benefiting generations of student-athletes through scholarship support, as well as the Weibring Golf Club and the Mounier Golf Training Center," Lyons said. "It is truly humbling for us and incredible on their part."

Jim and Carole both came to ISU as transfer students, their social lives dominated by Jim's fraternity (Sigma Nu) and Carole's sorority (Delta Zeta). After graduation, Jim went to work as a construction estimator and Carole as a teacher. For 10 years, they focused almost entirely on their careers.

Finally in 1985, they took a breath and decided to try a new hobby—golf. Carole had never played before, and Jim was a novice. Soon it became their new passion, the center of their social circle.

So when an Illinois State development officer visited the Mouniers after the 2006 event, asking if they'd be willing to support the University, they chose golf, a sport that builds character and life success after the 18th hole. They created the Mounier Scholarship in 2007, and the golf training center opened in fall 2013.

"It's a game of integrity. It takes a lot of dedication and discipline to get really good," said Jim, now a senior vice president and wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch. "Young players carry that discipline and determination they have for golf into their careers later in life."

The Mouniers' philanthropic scorecard is full. Both are longtime community volunteers who serve on the boards of various local hospitals, colleges, and agencies. Jim also serves on the Illinois State University Foundation Board of Directors, and the couple has hosted Redbird Welcome Parties for incoming freshmen from the Rockford area.

"We've been very fortunate and blessed. We both feel it is our responsibility to support our community—

whether it be ISU, or a hospital, or a community organization," Jim said. "If we find something we're connected with, we're probably going to support it because they rely on it."

The impact of their gifts on the lives of students and Redbird Athletics gives them "that warm fuzzy feeling on the inside," Jim said. But it's the way they've been treated by the extended Redbird family that's inspired them to give back again and again. Whether it's tailgating outside Hancock Stadium or making a road trip to the Missouri Valley Conference tournament in St. Louis, they've made lifelong friends.

"They have made us part of a family that we had stepped away from 30 years ago," Carole said.

When their gift was announced last fall, Jim and Carole became emotional as their generosity was recognized during a Board of Trustees meeting. (The whole weekend was a "tear-fest," Carole jokes.)

"It's rare in somebody's life that somebody says thank you," Jim said. "The reason we became so emotional wasn't because of what we had done for ISU. It was really what ISU had done for us."

Illinois State President Larry Dietz honored the Mouniers during their fall visit, which included a

# back



dedication of the golf training center—one of the best facilities in collegiate golf.

“This historic commitment speaks volumes of the impact ISU had on the Mouniers and their desire to see the University flourish and ascend to new heights,” Dietz said. “We are so grateful for their friendship and their unprecedented investment in our students and programs.”

At the dedication of the training center, senior Redbird golfer Hayley Guyton thanked the Mouniers for impacting her ISU experience and future generations of Redbird student-athletes.

“I’ll always remember to invest in this program when I get older and become an alum,” Guyton said. “Seeing your generosity and how much that’s truly impacted all of us, you’ve given us so much more confidence going forward. Seeing you two believe in us has truly been amazing.”

The Mouniers believe in Illinois State in part because of its increased reputation in the decades since they graduated. Illinois State is now a Top 75 nationally ranked public university, among other points of pride.

“It shows ISU is on the right track,” Jim said. “We’re very proud. That makes it even easier for us to commit our resources to ISU, because we know it’s going to a good thing.”

Visit [WeisbeckerFund.com](http://WeisbeckerFund.com) to learn more about supporting Redbird Athletics.

TRAVEL  
JOURNAL

# NEXT



Thailand refugee camp in  
Cambodia 1979



Reg. Emily and me on Mt.  
Kilimanjaro summit in Tanzania



Sri Lanka after the  
2005 tsunami

# ADVENTURE

BY STEVEN BARCUS

## AGE NO OBSTACLE FOR GLOBETROTTING ALUM

Cycling across America would be the ultimate accomplishment for most, but not Dr. Ron Williams '60. The 58-day, 3,000-mile ride completed in 2014 is just another line on an already impressive resume of adventurous accomplishments for the retired physician.

The 76-year-old has climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro and Mt. Rainier alongside his family. He and his wife, Margaret, offered medical aid in Sri Lanka after the devastating 2004 tsunami. He has also treated children in Thailand and Cambodia.

Such outreach is an inherent characteristic of Williams, who obtained a master's in public health at Johns

Hopkins University after graduating from ISU with his degree in biology and completing medical school at the University of Illinois. Williams went on to establish a prolific career blending his medical knowledge with military service.

"I was a farm boy from Ottawa, Illinois," Williams said. "Never in my wildest dreams did I think that my career would take me to all of the places

on Earth I've been, and the things I've done and the positions I've held."

Williams planned to become a pediatrician before he was drafted during the Vietnam War. He was granted deferred entry into the Army until he finished his residency. After training at Fort Sam Houston in San Antonio, Williams was given a choice to be assigned to a base in Hawaii for three years or Vietnam for two years. Williams accepted the Hawaii assignment and became the only pediatrician at Schofield Barracks in Oahu.

The assignment marked a significant turning point in his career. Williams applied for and received a Pediatric Infectious Disease Fellowship in Honolulu, and was then offered a Research Fellowship at the Walter Reed Army Institute of Research. Though Williams had planned to leave the military after his three-year commitment, new opportunities caused him to keep renewing his contract.

"The experiences were so good, I kept staying in," Williams said.

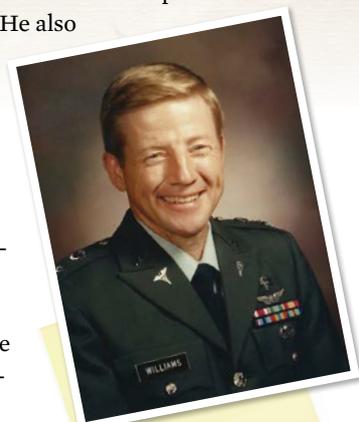
Throughout his career Williams held many posts including commanding

officer of the General Leonard Wood Army Hospital; deputy director and chief of medicine at the Armed Forces Research Institute of Medical Science in Thailand; and commanding officer of U.S. Army Medical Research Institute of Infectious Diseases (USAMRIID).

In that role during the Gulf War, Williams directed the research laboratory dedicated to developing medical defense against biological weapons. He was one of the last Army officers to visit the Soviet Union before its collapse in December 1991. He also

took part in the Third Review Conference of the Biological Weapons Convention in Geneva, Switzerland.

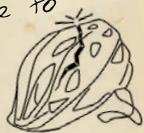
"In the military you have these unique opportunities that present themselves,"



As commander  
of USAMRIID

We all posed for a group shot in San Diego. Planning to stop at every state line sign for photos. Hope I don't miss any!

Broke my tooth during a bad fall while taking photo of Catalina Mts. in AZ. I found a dentist able to repair on our rest day. Ended up cracking helmet as well.



A few contracted Norwalk virus in AZ. I helped tend to the ill and suspect they will rejoin us to complete the journey.

We stopped for the day by about 5 p.m. Just finished a big supper, but desserts still coming! Another local guest speaker is planned shortly. Tomorrow we're slated for a 5:30 a.m. wake-up with 7 a.m. departure. Our gear is prepped and ready.



Saw a lot of this in NM. Today's winds were completely brutal. Some of us horribly fatigued. Can't imagine much worse!

Got attacked by dog today. Injuries not too serious.



Today we took a side trip into Mexico at Big Ben National Park. It was beautiful, relaxing.

Williams said. "I just don't think that if I had stayed in civilian life as a pediatrician I would've had the opportunity to do some of the things I did."

His quest to take on such unique professional challenges spills over into his personal life, as evidenced by the cross-country bicycle trek that was sparked merely by his desire to seize an opportunity.

"My father always instilled in me

that you can do it if you want to," Williams said. "He helped me play baseball. I wrestled at Illinois State, and then I was in the Army for 24 years. I didn't want to ever say 'I wish I would have tried that.'"

Having taken up cycling only three years earlier, Williams researched companies that supported coast-to-coast rides, settling on Bubbas Pampered Peddlers. In addition to transporting gear, arranging meals, and setting up tents

and air mattresses, the group atmosphere guaranteed to make it a more enjoyable—but not easy—experience.

Williams, who resides in Olympia, Washington, left from San Diego with 42 other cyclists on March 8. At only 41 miles, the first day was the shortest of the journey. The group took off anticipating a relatively relaxing ride, however, there was a reason for the shortened distance. The ride featured 3,500 feet of climbing, while fighting a fierce wind.

"About 75 percent of us were wondering what we got ourselves into," Williams said. "We had a headwind of 16–20 miles per hour, and it was just a killer."

Williams and his group generally travelled 70 miles daily. The group woke at 5:30 a.m. to hot coffee and dark skies. A breakfast of oatmeal and eggs was served at 6 a.m. They were on the road by 7 a.m., stopping in a town for lunch and replenishing water supplies from vehicles in the caravan.

The riders rolled into camp between 3 and 5 p.m., after which dinner was served and a representative from



Williams was part of the IS(N)U wrestling team from 1959–1960. He reunited with Reggie Redbird in 2012 during a game against Eastern Washington University in Cheney, Washington.





the local community lectured on the area they had traversed. The day ended with the riders prepping their gear and turning in by 9 p.m.

Meals involved consuming carbs, proteins, and desserts of all kinds. Though Williams averaged 7,000 calories each day, he lost 9 pounds by the end of the trip, dropping to 129 and gaining an inch of muscle on each thigh.

Accidents and personal medical problems claimed three of the group before the trip ended. Some suffered injury and fatigue that eliminated them for miles. Many in the group contracted the Norwalk virus in Eastern Arizona, making them unfit to ride for several days. As a physician, Williams helped tend to the ill but avoided the ailment.

Good fortune occurred at a New Orleans bayou bridge that is just eight miles but too dangerous for cyclists to cross. Just before the support crew hauled the bikes away, a local police officer offered to escort the riders.

"I got to pedal every mile of the entire trip. I felt really good about that," said Williams, who persevered through

some trying moments. He suffered one flat, one dog attack, and one dangerous fall while attempting to take a picture of the Catalina Mountains.

He lost control of his bike and went down, missing a sage bush that would have cushioned his fall. A harsh sound rang out as his head hit hard on a manhole cover, splitting his helmet down the middle.

"It would have just killed me without a helmet," Williams said.

The fall cost Williams the top third of a molar as well. He thought he would miss a day of riding to get the tooth fixed. Luck was on his side again as he was able to find a dentist the next day, which was one of the rest days allotted every seven to 10 days.

The ultimate rest occurred on April 28, when the ride ended in St. Augustine, Florida. The group pedaled silently in a single-file line for the last 3.5 miles. As the oldest cyclist, Williams led the procession through town, through their hotel lobby, straight down the board-

walk, and into the ocean. The waves that lapped up on the feet of the 40 finishers signaled the successful end of a life-changing challenge.

"My eyes just welled up," Williams said. "I felt really good, but I did choke up."

Even while recovering from the ride, Williams began planning his next adventure. He and Margaret plan to hike Mt. Blanc in Europe and do a bike and barge tour of Holland.

Williams has shown that no dream is out of bounds. He still works part-time as a civilian pediatrician, allowing him to travel on a road that he thought he had turned away from decades earlier. With no doors closed to him, only one question remains: What will he do next?



**Memories shared**  
 See more photos from Ron's adventures at [IllinoisState.edu/Magazine](http://IllinoisState.edu/Magazine).

# #RedbirdProud



## Redbirds rally

Thousands show their support on Giving Tuesday

**A**lumni, students, faculty, staff, retirees and friends of Illinois State came together on Giving Tuesday in December to support the University's people and programs. More than 1,150 donors offered more than \$331,402 in the 24-hour campaign.

ISU was one of thousands of institutions and organizations that benefited on the worldwide day dedicated to giving back.

Annual Giving Director Lora Wey coordinated the University's strategic efforts to engage donors with extensive use of Twitter, Facebook and email to spread the word across the country and around the globe. Planning evolved over several months.

"We really had no expectations but were encouraged when we surpassed our donor challenge by 10:30 a.m.," Wey said of the day that included several challenges from alumni and staff. The initial challenger offered \$140,000 if 500 gifts were received.

College of Applied Science and Technology Dean Jeff Wood pledged \$22,000 if 100 new gifts were made, and Interim Provost Janet Krejci offered \$9,000 to encourage Facebook shares and retweets.

Mike Schermer '73, M.S. '78, gave a \$5,000 challenge, followed by two anonymous alums offering \$25,000 to spark new gifts. A final 'buzzer beater' challenge resulted in \$57,000 for 150 donors to push the total involved over 1,000.

All challenges were met and convinced many donors that their pledge of any amount would make a difference. Gifts could be directed to specific areas, including the Red and White Scholarship Fund, which provides emergency dollars to students in a crisis situation. Other options included the Laboratory Schools and WGLT, as well as each specific college.

Students were actively involved in the day as well. Many stopped at the Milner Library plaza to sign a giant thank you card that stood approximately 6 feet. Among them was senior kinesiology major Kristen Schroeder, who had her picture taken with Reggie.

"I've had such a great experience here. I'm going to miss it," Schroeder said. "I definitely will become a donor."

# Alumni News

## Alumni return for milestone anniversary

Graduates from the Class of 1965 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on April 24 and 25 during the annual Half Century Club event. A variety of activities will take place across campus, including luncheons, tours and information sessions. The Class of 1965 will be inducted into the Half Century Club on Friday evening.

Members of the classes of 1960, 1955, 1950, 1945, and 1940 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th and 75th reunions from ISNU will be honored that evening and receive a special recognition gift.

The annual program gives alumni an opportunity to catch up with classmates, make new acquaintances, participate in exclusive behind-the-scenes tours, and learn what's new at Illinois State. The events are not exclusive to graduates of the honored years. Any alumnus or friend of the University is invited to attend any or all of the Half Century Club activities.

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

## Deadline approaches for awards nomination

The Alumni Association honors individuals during Founders Day celebrations. Recipients of the Distinguished Alumni, Outstanding Young Alumni, Alumni Achievement, E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service and Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education awards are recognized.

The deadline to nominate 2016 recipients is the end of May. Make a nomination online at [Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards](http://Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards) or call (309) 438-2586.



## From the archives

Old Main was the first building to stand on campus. Ground was broken in September 1857, but the Great Depression delayed its completion until 1861. The cost was \$200,000. At 160 feet long and 100 feet wide, the three-story building could be seen for miles. In 1946 the clock tower and third floor were declared unsafe and removed. The building further deteriorated and was demolished in 1958. A memorial on the Quad remains and includes the Old Main bell, which marks where the building stood.

# ClassNotes



## Turning tragedy into comedy

Iraq War vet part of *Comedy Warriors* documentary

A roadside bomb in Iraq turned U.S. Army 1st Lt. Stephen Rice's left foot into hamburger in December 2003. Nine years later, Rice '02 was onstage at the Laugh Factory in L.A. joking about the crisis with his prosthetic leg lifted over his head.

Rice's performance was part of the award-winning documentary *Comedy Warriors: Healing Through Humor*, which matched five veterans injured in the Iraq or Afghanistan wars with famous comedians. The veterans got the chance to tell their stories while learning stand-up comedy.

"The point of the documentary is that when you can laugh at your injury

and get past your own baggage is when true healing really starts," Rice said. He went to Iraq in spring 2003, just a few months after graduating from Illinois State's Army ROTC program.

He led a unit in charge of retraining Iraqi police. The bomb exploded while his soldiers were responding to another bomb near Baghdad. "I started running down this highway on-ramp to go assess the situation," Rice said. "As I was running, the second roadside bomb went off. It took me out."

In an instant, Rice went from being an athletic 22-year-old in his prime, to not knowing whether his wounds would derail a career as a police officer. "I was

very angry," he said. "My leg looked like a golf ball had gone through my ankle."

Rice underwent a long rehabilitation to salvage the limb, including several surgeries. Nothing seemed to work, so he decided to have his leg amputated. "I just immediately felt better about everything, about the future, about my situation," he said.

During rehab Rice was able to find an agent job with the National Security Agency. He became involved in the Wounded Warrior Project, which led to the documentary opportunity. He has used the experience to build a side career in motivational speaking.

## 30s

**Ruth Beryl (Thomas) Irwin '34** taught and worked at the Chatsworth Post Office. She celebrated her 100th birthday in 2014. She remains active in her church and community groups. A widow, she has six children, 12 grandchildren and 20 great-grandchildren. She resides in Piper City.

## 50s

**Charles Manson '59** works in sales with Dralco Systems. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Mineral Wells, Texas.

## 60s

**Patricia (Keller) Herzberg '62** is retired. She teaches art to senior citizens and children. She and her husband, Bill, reside in Sun City Center, Florida.

**Dennis Fink '65, M.S. '67**, is an instructor at Northern Illinois University. He authored the book *The Battle of Marathon in Scholarship: Research, Theories and Controversies Since 1850*. He and his wife, Patsy, reside in Plainfield.

**Glenn Bailey '67, M.S. '70**, retired after 47 years of teaching in Illinois public schools. He taught at Sauk Valley Community College in administrative services and served at ISU as coordinator for the Business Teacher Education program. He and his wife, Gaye, reside in Normal.

**Carole (Welch) Venhaus '67** has retired from teaching high school Spanish. She was with the same Texas district for 35 years and was chosen as Teacher of the Year locally and regionally in the 1990s, becoming one of the top 20 in the state. She and her husband, Tom, reside in Iowa Park, Texas.

**John Carlock '68** completed a master's degree in city and regional planning at SIU-Edwardsville. He retired as deputy executive director of the Hampton Roads Planning District Commission after a 40-year career with the agency. He and his wife, Jeanne, reside in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Richard Percy '69** is a consultant with Clemens and Associates, Inc. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Bloomington.

**Arthur Schuett '69** retired from Morton East High School, where he taught German and history; coached football and field events in track; and was chair for English, social sciences, and foreign languages. He supervises student teachers from Benedictine University. He resides in La Grange Park.

**Thomas Sweeney '69** is a playwright and director. He retired from teaching drama in the south suburbs of Chicago. He led students to 16 Illinois High School Association drama championships and the finalist round in the National Forensic League and National Catholic Forensic League. He and his wife, Jane, reside in Hoopston.

## 70s

**Michael "Rudy" Rudicil '70** is an All-state Agency owner who is consolidating his Central Illinois offices under his son. He and his wife, Ellen, are the parents of four, with two grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren. The couple resides in Bloomington.

**Richard S. Dennis '71** retired as president/CEO of Athens State Bank, where he worked for more than 42 years. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Lake Petersburg.

**James Huson '71** retired after 32 years as a senior bank examiner with the Federal Reserve Bank. He and his wife, Carmen, reside in Rio Rancho, New Mexico.

**Susan (Childers) Little '71** taught band for 30 years in Illinois and Florida before serving as assistant supervisor of the Pinellas County Sheriff's Office. Retired from that position, she is active in animal rights and coastal cleanup. She resides in Clearwater, Florida.

**Michael Conner, M.S. '72, Ph.D. '84**, is a retired school superintendent. He authored the book *Small Forces*, which is a novel about an administrator and a special needs student. He resides in Cadiz, Kentucky.

# Pause for applause



## Seen on NBC

While on campus, **LaRoyce Hawkins** made a name for himself by hosting open mic nights, doing standup comedy and performing with the Black Actors Guild. His career began with a supporting role in the film *The Express* in 2008. He has also done some commercials and guest spots on television shows. Now fans of the NBC series *Chicago P.D.* see him regularly as Officer Kevin Atwater. A comedian and family man, the Atwater character has much of Hawkins' personality. The part is Hawkins' biggest to date, putting him alongside recognizable faces such as Elias Koteas, Jon Seda and Sophia Bush.

## Friend to farmers

**David Baker '70, M.S. '74**, is a certified safety professional who joined the University of Missouri faculty in 1975. He developed one of the nation's leading agricultural safety programs there and is now assistant dean and program director for the Agricultural and Natural Resources Extension—one of the largest such programs in the country. His strategic investment in an innovative, pasture-based dairy program and model heifer replacement plan resulted in an estimated \$121 million economic impact for Missouri and more than 1,000 new jobs. He is on many national agriculture boards and received the Award for Superior Service from the U.S. secretary of agriculture.



## Deployed and decorated

**Michael Haerr '85** studied history and was an ROTC cadet at ISU. Commissioned as a second lieutenant, he entered active duty with the 101st Airborne Division. He held numerous Illinois Guard jobs as a Department of Defense civilian, including battalion and brigade training technician and heavy mobile equipment repair supervisor. Now deputy chief of staff-logistics, he supervises nearly 3,000. Deployed twice to Afghanistan, he received the Combat Infantryman Badge, Bronze Star Medal, Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Polish Armed Forces Gold Medal, and a certificate of appreciation from the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan.

## Behind the scenes at Walgreens

A member of Walgreens' leadership team started at ISU as a business administration major. **Timothy Theriault '82** is senior vice president and chief information, innovation and improvement officer for the national chain. His responsibilities include overseeing the innovative solutions division, which focuses on revenue growth and reinventing cost structures. He also supervises Walgreens' health IT infrastructure. His work with health care technologies includes centralizing patient health information, developing capabilities for payers and providers to view patient data. Theriault heads initiatives to use technology to better understand customers, enhance online business and integrate new health care products into Walgreens' core retail offerings.



## How we met

When WZND student director Kim Crouse '08 selected Joe Scrima '07 as part of the promotions team based on his qualifications, she had no idea he would also be all she was looking for in her future husband.

The two met through their involvement in the campus radio station in the spring semester of 2006. Joe was an applicant interviewed by Kim. The two formed a friendship as they spent more time together in Fell Hall and began dating that December. Their first date was at a Chicago arcade, where they played skee-ball and drove race cars.

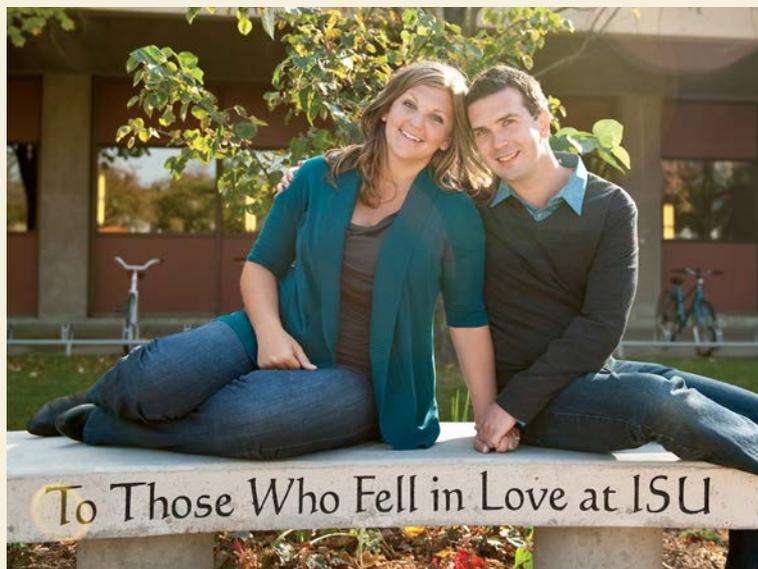
Two years later they both graduated with bachelor's degrees in mass communication. They remained a couple while pursuing their careers. After five years of dating, Joe proposed to Kim in Downtown Chicago.

"The proposal was a total surprise and very romantic!" said Kim, who thought the evening was going to be a girl's night out with her cousin. Joe had her cousin trick Kim into coming downtown, so she wouldn't know he would be proposing.

"We hit the town and went to Rosebud for dinner in Little Italy and then to ROOF at the Wit hotel where my cousin Kara Mead and her now fiancé Mike Rice, both Illinois State alumni, met us to celebrate."

The University remained special to Kim and Joe, who chose to have their engagement pictures taken on campus at the couple's bench dedicated to those who fell in love at ISU, located near the Bone Student Center.

They married on a hotel rooftop in Las Vegas overlooking the entire strip on September 15, 2012. Today Kim works as a meeting planner for American Express Global Business Travel. Joe is a testing services manager at Harper College. They reside in Naperville.



**Ellen (Baker) Bethel '73** retired from Belvidere School District 100 after teaching fourth and sixth grades for 30 years. She and her husband, David, reside in Belvidere.

**Donna Glade-Tau '73** retired from Harper College after 25 years of teaching English as a second language and serving as an ESL and international student advisor. She and her husband, Elmer, are grandparents and reside in Elk Grove Village.

**Nancy Thomas '74** retired from Boise School District. She is a supervisor of student teachers in special education and early childhood for Boise State University. She resides in Boise, Idaho.

**Margaret Tripp '74, M.S. '76**, received the Addy Kelly award from West Chester University of Pennsylvania Athletics. She supports college sports, helping to grow activities with the women's basketball team to raise money for cancer research through the "Pink Zone." She and her husband, Phil, have retired

from the university and reside in Pennsylvania.

**Wayne Anderson '75** retired from Naperville District 203 after 38 years of teaching. He was also coach and athletic director the past 34 years at Washington Junior High. He and his wife, Sarah, have two children and reside in Naperville.

**Steve Campbell '75, '99**, retired as process control engineer after 36 years at Caterpillar, Inc. He and his wife, Terri, reside in Bloomington.

**Linda Corn '75** retired after teaching the deaf for 38 years, with all but four years in the Lee County School District. She and her husband reside in Fort Myers, Florida.

**Barbara (Hand) Kiefer '75** retired from teaching after serving 26 years as librarian for Cambridge CUSD 227. She resides in Geneseo.

**Patricia First, M.S. '76, Ed.D. '79**, completed a juris doctorate degree at the University of Dayton School of Law. She is the Eugene T. Moore

Distinguished Professor of Educational Leadership at Clemson University. She resides in Anderson, South Carolina.

**Elizabeth (Tauscher) Sullivan '76** retired from Chillicothe Elementary Center. She had 30 years teaching experience at the grade school and middle school levels. Her husband, **Thomas '73, M.S. '77**, retired as media specialist at Dunlap High School. He completed 37 years as a high school educator and at ISU. They reside in Lake Wildwood.

**Catherine (Duff) Berrahou '77** is the director of financial aid and scholarships at Walsh College. She resides in Rochester Hills, Michigan.

**Juanita (Condo) Houston '77** is with FCA Foster Care. She ran a play-school in Nigeria and worked as a special education teacher in England. She and her husband, Colin, reside in the United Kingdom.

**Cliff Kruse '77** retired after working for Hostess and being a part of the Teamster's Union for 21 years.

He and his wife, Wanda, reside in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

**Martha (Bronson) Gonzalez '78** teaches seventh grade history at Etiwanda School District. She and her husband, David, reside in Upland, California.

**Mel Schnake, MBA '78**, is director of graduate studies in business in the Langdale College of Business at Valdosta State University. He and his wife, Robin, reside in Valdosta, Georgia.

**Maureen (Komar) Sousae '78** is an elementary art teacher at Kyrene School District. She resides in Tempe, Arizona.

**Bill Kuehn '79** is director of corporate partnerships at Palm Beach International Raceway. He and his wife, Norma, reside in Jensen Beach, Florida.

**Karen (Maley) Munz '79, M.S. '83**, retired after teaching 35 years at Central Grade School District 429 in Pontiac. She resides in Fairbury.

**David Patterson '79** retired as regional sales director of Sanofi-Aventis and runs Dreamcatcher Ranch. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**Teresa (McCabe) Todd '79** owns Point of View Communications and is an adjunct professor at Loyola Marymount University. She has completed an MBA and a master's in strategic public relations. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Santa Clarita, California.

## 80s

**Barry Brown '80, M.S. '82**, is an English instructor at Middlesex Community College. He and his wife, Camille, reside in Nashua, New Hampshire.

**Anthony Coglianese '80** is an elementary school principal with Downers Grove School District 58. He resides in Downers Grove.

**Matthew Guth, M.S. '80**, retired after 34 years of serving as head athletic trainer and modified physical education instructor at Prospect High School. He resides in Palatine.

**Michael Jones '80** is a probation officer at St. Clair County. He resides in Belleville.

**Becky (Boward) Kunken '81** retired from her job as music teacher for the Mount Pulaski School District. She is employed by the Academic Development Institute in Lincoln and resides in Mount Pulaski.

**Dennis Vaughn '81, M.A. '83**, is a disabled, HIV-positive artist interested in the subjects of place and time. He creates drawings on his iPad. He and his spouse, Mark Petty, reside in San Francisco, California.

**Rick Ginter '83** retired after 31 years in the banking/finance industry, most recently as a senior vice president with Midwest Loan Services. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Chassell, Michigan, and winter in Arizona.

**Rodney Pennamom '83** completed a doctorate in counseling and student personnel services from the University of Georgia. He is a counselor educator and coor-

dinator at Webster University in Charleston, South Carolina.

**Douglas Brauer '84** is vice president of Richland Community College. He and his wife, Laurie, reside in Monticello.

**Murray Fisher, Ed.D. '84**, retired as a high school vocational training special education teacher in the Chicago Public Schools. His wife, **Carol (Russell), M.M. '83**, also retired from the CPS, where she taught middle school math and computers. Both were recipients of the Golden Apple Foundation for Excellence in Teaching award. They reside in Morton Grove.

**Tim Kunkel '84** is vice president, retail support manager for Heartland Bank and Trust Co. He and his wife, Cheryl, reside in Princeton.

**Michele Wierzgac, M.S. '84**, is an international speaker and author of *The Talking Stick According to Michele: A Guide for Reflecting on Your Personal Brand*. She resides in Elgin.

**Julie (Basteau) Yepsen '84** is director of Irlen Central for HELP, which treats people with light sensitivity. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Gurnee.

**Amber Wai-Ling Lo '85** was promoted to full professor at the School of Engineering and Computing at the National University-Rancho Cordova and resides in Sacramento, California.

**Ronda (Emmert) Wujek '85** is a senior accountant with Caxton Alternative Management. She resides in Yardley, Pennsylvania.

**Harriet Arkley, Ed.D. '86**, retired as an early childhood and elementary school teacher and principal. She authored *The Good News Chair: A Simple Tool for Shaping a Child's Positive Behavior and Self-image*. She resides in Bellingham, Washington.

**Kim Canova-Romans '86** is a certified therapeutic recreation specialist at the Veterans Recovery Center, which serves veterans with serious mental illness. She and her husband, Caven, reside in Waxahatchie, Texas.

**Rosalind Cummings-Yeates '86** is a freelance journalist who authored *Exploring Chicago Blues: Inside the Scene, Past and Present*. She teaches journalism at Columbia College Chicago. She and her husband, Karl, are the parents of two children and reside in Oak Park.

the pre-licensure nursing program at Aurora University. She and her husband, Jay, have two daughters and reside in Lombard.

**Dennis Scherer '86** is president of Jobco Staffing Professionals. He resides in Dyer, Indiana.



### Together through time

While they may have a hard time telling you their 1976 fall class schedule, seven women vividly remember how they met that same semester. Illinois State united them as friends with a bond so strong it remains nearly 40 years later. The ladies gather for an annual reunion from their homes across Illinois. They are, *from left*, Sandra (Flentje) VanBebber '80, Nancy (Nicolson) Marshall '80, Wendy (Timmons) McGuire '80, Meg (Stubblefield) Hipp '78, Kathy (Hannigan) Siebt '81, Janet (Handlin) Ward '80, and Lorri (Weisert) Neely '80.

**Jim Drumm '86** is the partner in charge of technology practice for Sikich, LLP. He resides in Manhattan.

**Laura (Walters) Goudreau '86** is evaluation and assessment coordinator at Paulding County Schools. She is heading Georgia's new teacher evaluation system at two elementary schools. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Powder Springs, Georgia.

**Constance (Gayden) Gully '86** is a licensed certified public accountant serving as vice president of finance at Parents as Teachers National Center. She resides in Normandy, Missouri.

**Nancy (O'Hara) Petges '86** completed a master's of nursing at Elmhurst College. She is chair of

**Rene Shingles, M.S. '86**, is a professor and director of athletic training education at Central Michigan University. One of the first 20 African American women to become a certified athletic trainer, she received the Distinguished Woman in Higher Education Leadership Award by Michigan ACE Women's Network. She was also named 2014 Woman of the Year by CMU's American Council on Education. She and her husband, Stan, reside in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

**June Stratton, M.S. '86**, owns her speech therapy practice named spkezee: speech therapy for individuals from ages 3 to 103. She resides in Clarksville, Tennessee.

**Scott Brouette '87, '89**, is assistant director for student affairs at

# Redbird Legacy

Lisa (Finch) Obery '84 followed her older sister Sandra (Finch) Linn '81 to Illinois State University, not knowing the decision would start a legacy that has created a special family bond.

Sandra studied math education and now teaches in Houston, Texas. Lisa was also drawn to teaching and chose elementary education. She stayed closer to her Central Illinois home, marrying John Obery and settling on his farm in Metamora. She ran a daycare, substituted, worked as a teacher's aid and taught three years while raising their two daughters, both of whom chose ISU.

Whitney (Obery) Blunier '08 transferred after completing an associate's degree. Knowing of her mom's positive experiences, she decided to study marketing at Illinois State. Beyond obtaining her degree at ISU, Whitney met her husband, Garret '09. He also studied in the College of Business, focusing on human resource management. The two met through a mutual friend, Nick Boone '09, and married in 2012. They reside in Nashville, Tennessee, where he is a police officer and she works in real estate.

Morgan's desire was to choose a school further from home, yet she too found ISU to be a perfect fit for her planned agriculture career. She studied agribusiness and now works for BASF in Raleigh, North Carolina.

The Redbird connection is strong and appreciated by the entire family. Campus visits are planned as often as possible and enjoyed by all, as is the retelling of stories from their collegiate days.

"It's been awesome because we are able to share our experiences," said Lisa, who is grateful for John's support. The two are still farming in Metamora, with Lisa teaching swimming lessons in the summer and managing the farm office. She appreciates the memories and possibilities found at Illinois State, summing up the family's experience by saying, "We are all so very proud of the education we received from ISU."



Obery family members showed their ISU allegiance and humor while tailgating during a Family Weekend on campus. They are, from left, Morgan Obery, Garrett and Whitney Blunier, Lisa and John Obery.

Western Illinois University-Quad Cities. He and his spouse, Joseph Rives, reside in Moline.

**Debra Bethard-Caplick '88** is the founder and managing partner of Quicksilver Edge Strategic Communications. In 2014, her firm won the PRSA Silver Anvil in New York and the Chicago PRSA Skyline Award of Excellence. She is chair of the PRSA Midwest District and is recognized by ISU's School of Communication as an outstanding alum. She and her husband, James, reside in Chicago.

**Carol Eastin, M.A. '88**, is a district superintendent of the United Methodist Church. She and her husband, William, reside in Mt. Vernon.

**Dawn Malone '88** published a middle-grade novel *Bingo Summer*. She teaches writing to youth and adults through the community education program at Heartland Community College. She and her husband, David, reside in Chenoa.

**Dawn (Peleckis) Wilson '88** is the creative projects manager for

Ogletree Deakins Law Firm. She and her husband, Gary, are parents of two children and reside in Marietta, Georgia.

**Yvette (Fish) Evans '89, M.S. '00**, is an associate instructional professor. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Bloomington.

## 90s

**Carolyn Kampe, Ed.D. '90**, is a tutor working with a hearing impairment at Prairie State College's Adult Literacy Institute. She received in 2014 the Spotlight on Literacy Award given annually by Secretary of State Jesse White and the Illinois Press Association. She resides in Tinley Park.

**Michelle (Hill) Shoop '90** is a realtor with Crowne Realty. She resides in Bloomington.

**Janet Zaidenberg-Schrum '90** has retired from the Tucson Electric Power Company and resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Scott Fortin '91** is the senior director of communications and outreach for KePro, a national health care quality organization. He is an adjunct faculty in marketing and leadership at three online universities. He and his wife, Jamie, are parents of two children and reside in Bourbonnais.

**Julie (Doran) Sinnett '91** is a registered nurse working in surgery at John W. Albrecht Medical Center. She and her husband, Kenny, reside in Forrest.

**Douglas Albritton '92** completed a juris doctorate at the University of Illinois and served two terms as assistant legal counsel to the Illinois House Democrats and the Speaker of the House. He is a part-

ner in the national law firm Akerman, LLP. He resides in Chicago.

**Rob Festenstein '92** is an appointed volunteer on the Hamilton County Ohio Community Development Advisory Committee. He resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Ronda Ford, M.M. '92**, is an adjunct instructor of music theory at Lee University in Cleveland, Tennessee. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Chattanooga, Tennessee.

**Karen (Jacobs) Brown '93** is a special education teacher in District 99. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Darien.

**Felix Chu, Ph.D. '93**, has retired as associate dean of university libraries at Western Illinois University.



## REGGIE READS

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

He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Macomb.

**Randy Fox '93** is self-employed, having founded FoxPoint, LLC. He is a speaker, coach and author of *Soul on Fire* and *Refined by Fire*. He resides in the Chicago area.

**Molly (Scott) Nichols '93** is an administrative office support assistant with the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Jefferson City, Missouri.

**Roberto Trujillo '93** is director of benefits and safety for Dominion Enterprises in Norfolk. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

**Jennifer Dirks '94** is CEO of TEMPO Milwaukee, a networking group that strengthens the role of women in the business community of Milwaukee.

**Erik Jaspers '94** is safety director with Gravity Enterprises. He and his wife, Ella, reside in Anaheim, California.

**Douglas Johnson '94, M.M. '97**, is refocusing his career as an ATV artist, completing several commissions for interdisciplinary art. He and his wife, Yuwadee, manage a family rental business. They reside in Towanda.

**Gloria (Harris) Micklos '94** is dealing with multiple sclerosis. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Greenville, Wisconsin.

**Kevin Daniel '95, M.S. '02**, completed a master's in library and information science at the University of Illinois-Urbana. He is a security analyst at State Farm Insurance Companies. He resides in Bloomington.

**Heather (Couch) Meszaros '95** teaches third grade at Plainfield School District. She and her husband, Rich, reside in Sugar Grove.

**Kristen (Kelley) Bane '96** is a vocational coach at The Baby Fold. She and her husband, Sheldon, reside in Bloomington.

**Richard Schilling '97** is a senior business analyst with Brown-Forman. He and his wife, Marie, reside in France.

**Meredith (Struebing) Toler '97** is a licensed certified public

accountant and controller at St. Louis Equity Fund. She resides in O'Fallon, Missouri.

**Julie (McGraw) Zimmerman '97, M.S. '10**, is a reading specialist/RTI teacher at Central Intermediate School. She and her husband, Karl, reside in East Peoria.

**Anthony Franklin, M.S. '98**, completed a doctorate at Clemson. He owns Franklin Collaborative Consulting and holds a faculty position at North Carolina State University. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Morrisville, North Carolina.

**Jennifer Johnson '98** is a journalist with Pioneer Press/Sun-Times Media in Chicago. She resides in Harwood Heights.

**Stacey (Craine) Kopiczko '98** completed a master's in educational leadership. She is a special education teacher at School of Expressive Arts and Learning. She and her daughter reside in Naperville.

**Amy (Hesch) Schelker '98** is a school psychologist with Rock Island-Milan School District 41. She and her spouse, Karlin, reside in Coal Valley.

**Thomas Setters, M.S. '98**, is an internal audit supervisor with Rocky Mountain Health Plans. He resides in Grand Junction, Colorado.

**Cory Baxter '99, M.S. '01**, is clinical director of DeWitt County Human Resource Center. He and his wife, Tina, reside in Clinton.

**Rod Githens '99** is an associate professor in policy, organization and leadership at Drexel University. He resides in West Sacramento, California.

**Emily (Safford) Johnson '99** is a choir and general music teacher at Nippersink Middle School. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Wonder Lake.

**Mark Krogulski '99** is a certified financial planner working as a financial advisor with Merrill Lynch. He and his wife, Nicole, have two daughters and reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

**David Martino '99** is vice president and corporate controller for MarkWest Energy Partners. He

and his wife, Jill, reside in Denver, Colorado.

**Robert Ready '99** is an operating engineer with the Chicago Department of Aviation at O'Hare Airport. He and his wife, Mari, are the parents of four daughters and reside in Chicago.

**Gina (Gilliland) Cox '02** is an elementary general music teacher with Rock Island-Milan School District. She and her husband, Dallas, reside in Coal Valley.

**Katherine (Walters) Rader '02** is the grain accounting coordinator for Evergreen FS at the Yuton grain



### Fell Hall Friends

It was more than six decades ago that four young freshmen settled into Fell Hall as pairs of roommates. As they all worked to complete their degrees and graduate in 1956, a strong friendship formed. The bond remains today for the ladies, who met in Texas last fall to celebrate their 80th birthdays, their good health, and of course their Redbird memories. They are, *from left*, Ramona (French) Zigman of Lombard; Jane (Hoffman) Schleeter of Cypress, Texas; Patti (White) Kopp of Arlington Heights; and Sara (Doughty) Gaarde of Chandler, Arizona. All are retired educators.

## 00s

**Meridith Fee-Cade '00** is a marketing manager at Accenture. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Naperville.

**Karla Schultz '00** is an interior designer with RNL Design. She and her husband, Phillip Blecker, reside in Broomfield, Colorado.

**Ryan Carlson '01, '08**, is a graduate teaching assistant completing a master's in communication at Central Michigan University. He and his wife, Elizabeth, reside in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

**Ruth Getchius '01, M.S. '13**, is an English teacher, librarian and writing coach at Prairie Central High School. She and her husband, Lee, reside in Lexington.

facility. She and her husband, Trent, reside in Danvers.

**Adam Reid '02** completed a medical degree at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. He is an assistant professor of surgery at the school, specializing in trauma surgery. He is also a member of SIU HealthCare, the medical school's practice group. He resides in Springfield.

**Karla Liebers '03** is contact center supervisor at COUNTRY Financial. She resides in Salem, Oregon.

**Suzanna Moore '03, M.S. '05**, is a geologist with Hanson Professional Services, Inc. She is responsible for geotechnical and site assessment investigations. She resides in Normal.

**Kimberly Goyke '04** is marketing specialist at Sonoco Alloyd and the executive secretary at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce in DeKalb, where she resides.

**Kullaya Kosuwan, Ed.D. '04**, is a faculty member at Songkhla Rajabhat University. She resides in Thailand.

**Cassie Burton '05** is an interior design manager with Potbelly Sandwich Works. She resides in Chicago.

**Bobbi Shelby '05, M.S. '09**, is a speech and language pathologist with Plainfield District 202. She resides in Crest Hill.

**Daniel Gadke '06, M.S. '09, Ph.D. '12**, is an assistant professor of school psychology at Mississippi State University. He and his wife, Kasee Stratton, reside in Starkville, Mississippi.

**Ashley Marrs '06** is a business analyst with State Farm Bank. She resides in Bloomington.

**Kristin Rose '06** completed a master's in teaching at Lindenwood University and a master's in teaching English as a second language from Webster University. She is a faculty member at Western State University and resides in Ballwin, Missouri.

**Bobbi Sue (Gibbons) Tellitocci, M.S. '06**, is the director of donor relations and stewardship at Marist College. She completed a master's there in integrated marketing communication. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Poughkeepsie, New York.

**Griffin Hammond '07, M.S. '09**, is a documentary filmmaker with Bloomberg Politics. He will be covering the 2016 presidential campaigns for Bloomberg. He and his wife, Amy, reside in New York City.

**Carolyn Hunt, M.S. '07, Ed.D. '13**, is an assistant professor of elementary education literacy at Illinois State University. She and her husband, Jonathan, reside in Peoria.

**Cari Manypenny '07, M.S. '09**, is a speech-language pathologist with the stroke team at Marianjoy Rehabilitation Hospital in Wheaton. She has been recognized as



### Unexpected Redbird encounter

University of South Carolina professor and administrator Jenny Bloom '88 took the stage at a Frostburg State University academic gathering to speak on appreciative advising. Her introduction included the fact she completed her physical education degree at Illinois State. Two other graduates in the audience joined her for a photo. Kelly Hall '93, '05, left, is a faculty member at Frostburg, while Tom Bowling '70 serves there as a vice president.

a master clinician specializing in stroke rehabilitation. She resides in Chicago.

**Brianne (Berogan) Myers '07, M.S. '09**, is the manager of advancement services at Augustana College in Rock Island. She and her husband, Greg, were married in June 2014. They reside in Moline.

**Kenneth Schuett '07** is the site manager for Pearson's and authored his first novel, *Dustball Aire*. He resides in La Grange Park.

**Breland Smith '07, M.S. '09**, is a doctoral student at the University of Arizona and began her post-doc in the fall. She resides in Vernon Hills.

**Michael Smith '07, M.S. '12**, teaches sixth grade English and language arts at Azalea Middle School. He resides in St. Petersburg, Florida.

**Jessica (Brown) Soddy '07, MBA '12**, is a marketing analyst at State Farm Insurance. She resides in Bloomington.

**Katie Sparks '07** has authored the children's book *Reality Natalie*. She resides in Chicago.

**Ashley Whirity '07** graduated from Northwestern Memorial Hospital Clinical School in radiography.

She is a certified radiologic technologist. She resides in Chicago.

**Kimberly (Gray) Long '08** teaches seventh grade language arts at Lincolnshire Prairie-View District 103. She authored the article "Eight Qualities of a Great Teacher Mentor," which was published on *Edweek*. She and her husband, John, reside in Highland Park.

**Jenny Naujalis '08** teaches Spanish at St. Patrick Catholic School. She resides in Peoria Heights.

**Amy Reiman '08, M.S. '13**, is an English teacher at University High School. She and her husband, Jeffery, reside in Bloomington.

**Lisa (Walwer) Williams '08** is a registered interior designer with Melotte Morse Leonatti Parker. She and her husband, Diondre '09, were married in June 2014. They reside in Springfield.

**Joel Anders '09** is a senior executive team leader at Target. He resides in Bolingbrook.

**John Asplund, Ed.D. '09**, is the superintendent of schools for Farmington Central School District. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Farmington.

**Samantha (Ingmanson) Baker '09** is a production artist with Brookfield Zoo. She and her husband, Jack, reside in Glendale Heights.

**Ashley Brophy '09** is project manager at McCauley Mechanical Construction, Inc. She resides in Lockport.

**Christine (Doman) Bruckner '09, M.S. '11**, is a research and planning specialist in Illinois State's Policy, Research and Planning Analysis Office. She and her husband, Ian, reside in Lexington.

**Vincent Bruno '09** is a financial advisor with Edward Jones. He resides in Peoria.

**Brad Bytof '09** is Southwest U.S. territory sales manager with Petcurean Pet Nutrition. He resides in Rancho Cucamonga, California.

**Jodelle Clayton, M.S. '09**, is a special education teacher with Meridian School District 15. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Taylorville.

**Angela Dae '09** is workforce development coordinator with Heartland Alliance. She resides in Chicago.

**Amanda DeGrush '09, M.S. '11**, is a care coordinator with Alternatives for the Older Adult. She resides in Spring Valley.

**Jena (Allie) Dudek '09** is a high school special education teacher with Bradley Bourbonnais Community High School. She is an assistant coach for the high school boys swimming and diving team. She and her husband, Freddie, reside in Bourbonnais.

**Lisa Eppenbaugh '09** is a middle level teacher with UNO Charter School. She resides in Chicago.

**Kortuney (Tarvin) Erbes '09** is a general manager of Culligan Water Conditioning. She and her husband, Cory, reside in Bloomington.

**Katelyn (McFadden) George '09** teaches first grade in the Clarksville Montgomery County School System. She and her husband, Timothy, reside in Clarksville.

**Rebecca (Springborn) Good '09** is a recreation specialist with West Suburban Special Recreation

Association. She and her husband, Todd, reside in Aurora.

**Nathan Hebda '09** completed a master's in occupational therapy from Midwestern University. He is an occupational therapist at Providence Alaska Medical Center. He resides in Anchorage, Alaska.

**Sheri Hink-Wagner, M.S. '09**, is managing editor of *The Wauneta Breeze*. She and her husband, Brad, reside in Imperial, Nebraska.

**Loren Hizel '09** left his research position at Rush Alzheimer's Disease Center to complete a doctorate in clinical neuropsychology at the University of Florida in Gainesville, where he resides.

**Michael Hoang, M.S. '09**, is an athletic trainer at University of California-Santa Barbara. He resides in Goleta, California.

**Wade Hoey '09, M.S. '10**, is a supervisor with McGladrey, LLP. He and his wife, Yen Tran, reside in Champaign.

**Kellen (Vail) Hughes '09** completed a doctorate in psychology from Oklahoma State University. She is a school psychologist for the Great Prairie Area Education Agency in Iowa. She resides in Keokuk, Iowa.

**Leandra (Smith) Juarez '09** is director of the Burke Scholars Program at Notre Dame College Prep in Niles. The program is one of only 10 in the U.S. that provides an inclusive high school experience for young men with cognitive disabilities. She resides in Glenview.

**Nathanael Kidwell '09** is a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Pennsylvania. He resides in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

**Jennifer (Bock) Kirwan '09** teaches third grade at CICS-Longwood. She and her husband, Patrick, reside in Westmont.

**Alissa (Van Dril) Kloster '09** teaches third grade at Minooka CCSD 201. She and her husband, Neil, reside in Aurora.

**Matthew Koster '09** is head of the social studies department and teacher at South Pekin Grade School. He resides in Pekin.

**Melissa Krant '09** teaches first grade at Yorkville CUSD 115. She resides in Montgomery.

**Alison (O'Connell) Kristoff '09** is an intern with the Boston Museum of Science Planetarium. She and her husband, James, reside in Westborough, Massachusetts.

**Jessica (Kunst) Lakics '09** is an elementary student computer teacher with Fieldcrest CUSD 6. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Peoria.

**Renee (Slagel) Leger '09** is teaching at Cite Lumiere Christian School, a missionary school in Haiti. She resides there with her husband, Robenson.

**Christopher McKay, M.S. '09**, is an engineer with Caterpillar Manufacturing. He resides in Minonk.

**Ryan Meitl '09** is an engineering development leader with Robert Bosch, LLC. He and his wife, Casi, reside in Northville, Michigan.

**Rahul Paliwal, M.S. '09**, owns Pali-comm Communication Ltd. He and his wife, Ruchi, reside in Madhya Pradesh, India.

**Amanda Pellus '09** teaches seventh grade math and science at McHenry Elementary School District 15. She resides in Crystal Lake.

**Shaina (Greenman) Poczowski '09, M.S. '14**, is the English department chair for McHenry School District 156. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Buffalo Grove.

**Jennifer Poduch '09, M.S. '11**, is a speech pathologist with the Chicago Public Schools and with Presence Resurrection Medical Center. She resides in Chicago.

**Katrina (Harjung) Rathbone '09** is a graphic designer and marketer with Wachsmuth and Krogmann, Inc. She is the artistic director of Outlet Dance Company. She and her husband, Gene, reside in Streamwood.

**Katherine (Hutchings) Shaykin '09** is the manager of corporate relations at Abbott. She and her husband, Steven, reside in Cary.

**Rebecca Straple '09** completed a master's in medieval English literature at the University of York in the United Kingdom. She is

pursuing a doctorate at Western Michigan University. She resides in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

**Margaret Swanson, Ph.D. '09**, is associate provost at Illinois Central College. She and her husband, Loren, reside in East Peoria.

**Hillary (Millner) Tanner-Dixon, M.S. '09**, is a social worker with Unit 5 School District. She and her husband, Danny, reside in Hudson.

**Brian Youngerman '09** is office manager of Bradley Machining, Inc. He resides in Geneva.

**Molly Ford '11** is completing the family nurse practitioner program at Texas State University. She resides in Bryan, Texas.

**Rich Green '11, M.S. '13**, is an instructor and FM station manager at Indiana State University. He resides in Terre Haute, Indiana.

**Nauman Malik, M.S. '11** is vice president of the Dubai Islamic Bank. He lives in Dubai in the United Arab Emirates.

**Daniel Sherling '11** is a global citizenship coordinator with Sigma-Aldrich. He was included in the



## Keepers of the past

The Old Main Bell that has been displayed on the Quad for decades is the most prominent treasure from the first building that stood at Illinois State, but it is far from the only campus keepsake. The Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives has literally thousands of rare and precious historical gems. History Department Chair Anthony Crubaugh, left, holds a picture of the University's first graduating class. University Archivist April Anderson has a piece of brick from the first campus building, Old Main. University Registrar Jess Ray '91, M.S. '95, displays the 1857 to 1867 Entrance Verification Ledger of Enrolled Students.

## 10s

**Beth Esler '10** is manager of corporate communications with the Chicago Bulls. She resides in Chicago.

**Joshua Hertel, M.S. '10, Ph.D. '13**, is an assistant professor with the University of Wisconsin-La Crosse. He and his wife, Maria, reside in LaCrosse, Wisconsin.

**Alberto Soloria '10** is accounting and marketing manager with Congress Corporation. He resides in Streamwood.

"30 Under 30" chosen by the *St. Louis Business Journal*. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Scott Siebert '11, M.A. '13**, is a graduate research assistant and is completing a doctorate in political science at Loyola University in Chicago. He and his wife, Elise Anderson, reside in Orland Park.

**Brian Albertsen '12** completed a master's in college student personnel. He is an admissions counselor at the University of Illinois and resides in Urbana.

**Annelise (Krolczyk) Demkowicz '12** teaches French in East Aurora School District 131. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Lisle.

**Katherine Gavin '12** is a certified athletic trainer with Midwest Orthopedic Center. She resides in Morton.

**Kelsi (Logsdon) Grieder '12** is an accounting specialist with Gailey Eye Clinic. She and her husband, Colton, reside in Normal.

**Cassie (Morris) Lothery, M.S. '12**, is a student at the University of Illinois School of Veterinary Medicine. The school is one of only 30 in the nation, and she is one of only 126 admitted to the Class of 2018. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Urbana.

**David Marquis '12, M.S. '14**, is a program coordinator for student involvement in the Center for Student Engagement at George Washington University. He resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

**Kassie (Kallner) Myer '12** teaches social studies at Oglesby Junior High School. She and her husband, Thomas '12, reside in Oglesby.

**Brannon Sanford '12** is a correctional medical software technician with CorrecTek. The work takes him to jails and prisons across the country. He resides in Hickory, Kentucky.

**Jonathan (Quinones) Writer '12** is a musician who released his debut album *Race Against Time* in 2014. He launched a national college tour last fall. He resides in Gurnee.

**Klaudia Areola '13** is a registered nurse with Advocate Condell Medical Center. She resides in Round Lake.

**Jaiclyn Brown '13** teaches at Trinity Catholic Academy. She resides in LaSalle.

**Adam Cameron '13** is a security officer with Heartland Community College. He resides in Bloomington.

**Elizabeth Carlson '13** is an assistant manager with Sherwin-Williams. She resides in Manhattan.

**Kyle Casper '13** teaches English and language arts at O'Neill Middle



### Five decades later

After exchanging Christmas cards for 50 years, three men who met on campus in the 1960s as residents of Dunn Hall reconnected over the summer. All three graduated as English majors and went on to establish a career as educators. They are, *from left*, Bill Tracy '64 of Chicago; Ken Heuser '64, M.A. '68, of Plymouth, New Hampshire; and Gordon Petry '64, M.S. '70, of Pekin.

School. He resides in Downers Grove.

**Erica Connolly '13** is an account representative with Dan Pfeifer State Farm agency. She resides in Bloomington.

**Michael DeGetter '13** is an office support specialist with the English Language Institute at Illinois State University. He received the Outstanding Staff Member in Diversity award. He resides in Normal.

**Veronica Doran '13** is a rehabilitative interventionist with Sequel Alliance Family Services of North Idaho. She resides in Coeur D'Alene, Idaho.

**David Drake '13** teaches chemistry and physics at Flora high School. He resides in Flora.

**Chad Fox '13** is vice president over wealth management with Merrill Lynch. He and his wife, Stacy, reside in Westmont.

**Adam Frederick '13** is completing the Logistics Professional Development Program at Caterpillar. He and his wife, Kristy, reside in Denver, Colorado.

**Zachary Freeman '13** teaches fifth grade at Washington School in Bloomington District 87. He and

his wife, Allie, reside in Bloomington.

**Carissa Gouskos '13** is the department nurse for pediatric cardiology at Comer Children's Hospital at the University of Chicago Medicine. She resides in Chicago.

**Mackenzie (Keith) Gregoire '13** is a peri-operative nurse with St. John's Outpatient Surgery. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Springfield.

**Kellie Gregory '13** is a middle school music and choir teacher with Keeneyville Elementary School District 20. She resides in Wood Dale.

**Teresa Grettano, Ph.D. '13**, is an assistant professor and director of first-year writing at the University of Scranton. She resides in Clarks Summit, Pennsylvania.

**Lizzie Hauser '13** is a special education teacher at Fremont Elementary School. She resides in Gurnee.

**Matthew Hertzog, Ph.D. '13**, is the director of instructional technology at Methodist College. He resides in Washington.

**Morgan Holmes '13** teaches fourth grade in Pekin District 108. She resides in Pekin.

**David Irsay '13** teaches math at York Community High School. He resides in Palatine.

**Andrew Kampwerth '13** is an application consultant with Sikich, LLP. He resides in Aviston.

**Jenna Krause '13** is a mental health specialist II with the Allendale Association. She resides in Lindenhurst.

**Sarah Malkowski '13** is a special education teacher with Batavia Public School District 101. She resides in Batavia.

**Shelby McCawley '13** is an airline attendant with American Airlines. She resides in Lewisville, Texas.

**Lauren (Willis) Murphy '13** is a music therapist with Crescendo Music, LLC. She resides in Powder Springs, Georgia.

**Debra Ogden '13** is a case manager at Community Workshop and Training Center in Peoria. She works with the disabled and individuals with a mental diagnosis. She resides in Bartonville.

**Ted Olson '13** is a crop specialist with Illini FS. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Catlin.

**Angela Patarozzi '13** is an administrative assistant in genetic counseling services with GeneDx. She resides in Montgomery Village, Maryland.

**Kristin Pearson '13** is media manager and chapter consultant for Pi Sigma Epsilon. She resides in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

**Kayla Peterson '13** teaches high school English in Earlville CUSD 9. She resides in Sheridan.

**Sara Phillips '13** is a theatre and English teacher at Plano High School. She resides in Yorkville.

**Patrick Potter '13** is a special education teaching assistant with Maine Township District 207. He resides in Des Plaines.

**Kristyn (Raetz) Richert '13** is a nurse in the neuroscience intermediate care unit at OSF St. Francis Medical Center. She and her husband, Craig, reside in Peoria.

**Alecia (Condie) Ruiz, M.S. '13**, is a school social worker with Ottawa Elementary School District 141. She and her husband, Jonathan, reside in Ottawa.

**Ahmet Safak, M.S. '13**, is senior system administrator with Heartland Community College. He and his wife, Elif, reside in Bloomington.

**Martin Santoyo '13** is a criminal defense investigator with the Will County Public Defender. He resides in Onarga.

**Rebecca Singer '13** teaches special education in the eighth grade at Brentwood Middle School. She resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

**Courtney Smith '13** teaches kindergarten at Eichelberger Elementary School in Plainfield School District. She resides in Naperville.

**Kirsten Stice '13** teaches biology at Carmel Catholic High School. She resides in Beach Park.

**Daniel Thorp-Lancaster '13** is a writer with Mobile Nations, a network of technology news sites. He resides in Springfield.

**Justin Venhaus '13** is a high school social sciences teacher with Patoka Community School District 100. He resides in Albers.

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

**Melissa Wenig, M.S. '13**, is an assistant athletic trainer at Cardinal Stritch University. She resides in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

**Stephanie Zitella '13** is a registered nurse working at Weiss Memorial Hospital. She resides in Chicago.

**Derek Green '14** is studying law at Liberty University. He resides in Lynchburg, Virginia.

**Abby Hoefert '14** is a registered nurse at Barnes Jewish Hospital. She resides in Godfrey.

**Jessica Muller '14** is a nurse working at Northwestern Memorial Hospital. She resides in Chicago.

## Our troops

**U.S. Army Major Scott Preusker '99** has served in Iraq and Afghanistan. He earned the Bronze Star Medal and the Combat Medic Badge. He has completed Command and General Staff College at Fort Leavenworth, Kansas. He resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

**Daniel Scandura '12** is a second lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He resides in Lansing.

**Meredith Beard '13** serves in the U.S. Army with the military police. She resides in Bloomington.

## In memory

### Faculty/Staff

Howard H. Earnest Jr., Sociology and Anthropology; 7/14

Bruce T. Kaiser, Bone Student Center; 8/14

Marian E. Kelly, Faculty; 7/14

Helen A. Borger Kohlmeier, M.S. '69; English; 8/14

Frank Littler, M.S. '73, D.A. '87; English; 9/14

John H. Rich, College of Business; 8/13

James R. "Russ" Steele, '46, M.S. '48; Athletics and Alumni Services; 7/14

C. Louis Steinburg, Art; 7/14

Robert. H. Walsh '61, Sociology and Anthropology; 7/14

### 30s

Reba (Mitchell) Purnell '33; 8/14

Vinta M. Kreider '36; 9/14

Luella F. (Dunn) Miller '37; 10/14

Bob Walsh '37; 10/14

Alice (Blum) Budz '39; 7/14

Marion E. (Caldwell) Craig '39; 8/12

Irene (Lohr) Kerr '39; 8/14

### 40s

Ruby (Bruninga) Garrison '40; 9/14

Eleanor (Kraft) Gleason '40; 8/14

Sarah (Becker) McGary '40; 8/14

August R. Pagel '40; 6/14

Nelda M. (Harms) Rogers '40; 9/14

Bernice B. (Quaka) Hilton '41, '45; 10/14

Eleanor Mae "Ellie" (Koehler) Conger '42; 9/14

Lucille (Heaton) Pendarvis '42; 7/14

Imogene (Henderson) Smith Ridge '44; 8/14

Thelma V. Singley '44; 7/14

Leija V. McReynolds '46; 8/14

Violet Rian '47; 7/14

Grace L. (Glaser) Ringwald '47; 10/14

Mary E. Underkofler '47; 7/14

Janice (Munson) Anderson '48; 9/14

Ruth E. (Watson) Brown '48; 10/14

Muriel (Gresham) Garber '49; 9/14

Corrine A. (Scully) Lonergan '49; 9/14

Vernon E. "Gene" Stratman '49; 7/14

### 50s

Lloyd E. Eickert '50; 7/14

Ann (Fleming) Kammer '50; 8/14

Robert Gustafson '51; 3/14

Jean L. (Fox) Rust '52; 10/14

Evan D. Shull '52, M.S. '58; 8/14

Norman E. Duncan '53; M.S. '56; 8/14

E. Colleen (Robinson) Knapp '53; 8/14

Leta Riordan '53; 5/14

Carol L. (Kelson) Gafney '54; 6/14

Fred J. Krause '54; 8/14

Patricia F. Toland '54, '58; 7/14

Kenly D. Davis '55; 10/14

James D. Reifsteck '55; 10/14

Anita (Kirk) Allen '56; 6/14

Harry K. Cluts '57, M.S. '64; 8/14

Edwin M. Durham '57, M.S. '69; 10/14

Robert E. Karp '57; 7/14

Joan L. (Stoller) Gaston '58; 10/14

David F. Olson '58; 9/14

Chuck Rolinski '58, M.S. '62; 9/14

John A. Carlon '59; 10/14

Betty J. (Kern) Monkman '59; 6/13

Thomas G. Roach '59; 8/14

### 60s

Richard A. Bloxam '60; 7/14

Ruth (Humphries) Cope '61; 10/14

Helen M. (Walka) Gee '61, M.S. '69; 7/14

Alice J. Myers '61; 5/14

# ILLINOIS STATE

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- 1) Go online to [Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ClassNotes](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:alumni@IllinoisState.edu).



# #GIVING TUESDAY

## Giving thanks

Thank you to the many alumni, students and friends who supported Illinois State University's Giving Tuesday on December 2. For one special day, Redbirds from across the country came together to support student scholarships and academic and co-curricular programs. During the 24-hour period, donors shared their Illinois State pride using the official #GivingTuesdayISU hashtag. It was a great day to be a Redbird!

**For more information go to page 28, or visit [IllinoisState.edu/GivingTuesday](http://IllinoisState.edu/GivingTuesday).**

Glen E. Newton, M.S. '62; 9/14  
Marjorie A. (Mifflin) Brownfield '63, M.S. '65; 10/14

Barbara J. Galloway '63; 7/14

Bruce A. Holderbaum '63, M.S. '65; 8/14

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Charles Alexander '64, M.S. '65; 9/14

Barbara E. Rees '64; 8/14

Richard J. Jontry '65; 9/14

Keith J. Thomas '65; 4/14

Barbara S. (Estill) Altman '66, M.S. '74; 7/14

Dennis Dooley '66; 7/14

Mary Ann F. (Watkins) Middleton '66; 5/14

Patricia C. (Melom) Sylvester '66; 2/14

Phillip D. Cothroll '67; 6/14

Nancy K. (Smith) Fryer '67; 8/14

Robert J. Fox '68; 8/14

Kathryn F. (Syniski) Gruber '68; 7/14

Linda (Gooley) McPheron '68, Ph.D. '81; 7/14

Sharon S. (Allison) Boes '69; 7/14

Richard W. Steljes '69, M.S. '74; 8/14

### 70s

Doris R. (Williams) Chaffee, M.S. '70; 7/14

Daniel A. DeFigio, Ph.D. '70; 11/13

William R. Halcott '70; 9/14

Vicki L. (Bourne) Conley '71, M.S. '75; 9/14

Robert J. Richards Jr. '70, M.S. '75; 7/14

Charles E. Jolly Sr. '72; 7/14

Jessie (Beaver) Lynch '72; 7/14

Charles W. "Bill" Winn, M.S. '72; 7/14

Daniel E. Arterberry '73; 1/14

Alice "Babs" B. (Joslin) Christy '73; 8/14

Mark A. Johnson '73; 8/14

Francis Littler, M.A. '73, D.A. '87; 9/14

Donna (Zappa) Broomes '74; 5/14

Barbara E. (Kotte) Fulara '75; 8/14

Jane Havranek '75; 2/14

Kathy A. (Niestrad) Hornbaker '75; 8/14

Barbara L. (Towal) Orwig '75; 8/14

Betty J. (Wollin) Schneider, M.S. '76; 7/14

James Tutwiler '78; 11/10

Karen A. Sandoval Baker '79, M.S. '85; 8/14

Patti F. (Shrier) Brush '79; 9/14

Carroljane "C.J." Grammer '79; 8/14

Stuart M. Johnston, M.S. '79; 9/14

Patrick Lesko '79; 9/14

### 80s

Dianne Delaney-Smith '80; 9/14

Lorenzo D. Morris Jr. '81; 7/14

Cynthia M. (Hartwig) Dipert, M.S. '82; 7/14

Mark R. Trompeter '82; 7/14

Evelyn R. (Herrmann) Campbell '84; 8/14

Kevin L. Grace '84; 7/14

Helen "Liz" Richards McGuire, M.S. '85; 9/14

Jennifer W. Miller '89; 7/14

Lisa M. (Anderson) Pluhm '89; 8/14

### 90s

Stephen S. Minch '90; 7/14

Michelle A. Nordlof '90; 8/14

Nancy Harrod, M.S. '91; 9/14

Rachel Duffield Heiple '96; 7/14

San Kim '96; 8/14

Rebekah A. Imig '97; 7/14

Ronald T. Moir '97; 8/14

Kristen S. Micheletti '99; 7/14

### 00s

Lauren J. (Scott) Chamberlain '05; 7/14

Kathleen M. (Kuester) King '05; 7/14

### 10s

Kevin Kriston '13; 8/14



# Thanks to you!

Jim Riggs '68, MBA '80, didn't plan on college. Two degrees and a 42-year career in financial management later, Riggs is glad he chose Illinois State. He fell in love with learning at the University—and with his wife, Deb (Farrell). His life changed because of the College of Business.

Now the Riggs family is paying it forward by establishing the J.D.J. Riggs Endowed Scholarship Fund for the college. It is named for Jim, Deb and their daughter, Jessica, who attended Metcalf. The first scholarship recipient is Matt Juskie, a freshman finance major from Frankfort.

A seven-figure planned gift from their estate—one of the largest investments in the college's history—will grow the fund. "We wanted to do something for stu-

dents because of what ISU did for me," Jim said. "So we thought, what about sending one kid to college every year—forever?"

Jim's education cost less than \$4,000. He had a successful career with several manufacturing companies before retiring. He and Deb, who now live in Florida, saved so their daughter wasn't burdened by student debt. Now they are helping the College of Business attract and retain future top students who otherwise could not attend because of rising costs.

Will you make a difference by supporting your passion? Make a contribution online at [IllinoisState.edu/Giving](https://IllinoisState.edu/Giving) or call (309) 438-8041.



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## Pounds of pasta

As a lead cook at Watterson Dining Commons, Kevin Beasley has mastered the art of preparing enticing entrees at a fast pace. He is part of a Dining Services team that meets the challenge of serving more than 9,000 meals daily on average at Watterson Towers. With approximately 200 pounds of dry pasta cooked each day, Beasley can count on working the kettles each shift.