

ILLINOIS

STATE

VOLUME 16 • NUMBER 4 • MAY 2016



Kernels of success

Brian Hanc's mastery of seasonal sales
has turned his world upside down.

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

Magazine editorial offices are located at 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, Illinois 61790-3100; telephone (309) 438-2586; facsimile (309) 438-8057; email Alumni@IllinoisState.edu; Website IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. Postmaster: Send address changes to Illinois State, Illinois State University, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

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FirstWord

Precious memories of graduation day

always stir emotion. From a child's first grade-school promotion to the long-awaited march across a collegiate commencement stage, the ceremony is momentous because it denotes a significant step forward in learning and life.

Earlier this month I joined thousands of family members and friends who gathered with faculty and staff to applaud Illinois State's Class of 2016. More than 3,000 Redbirds were added to our alumni ranks. With ISU now as their alma mater, the graduates are ready to look ahead and take on their next challenge. Some will seek additional educational opportunities. Others will enter their chosen field. All will remember the semesters spent at Illinois State as life changing.



Regardless of their motivation for attending Illinois State or their chosen major, students who begin their education at the University end it with far more than an academic credential. The classes and conversations students engage in with their peers and mentors within the ranks of faculty and staff afford the exciting opportunity to gather knowledge, expand horizons and forge long-lasting friendships. These encounters create a forum for each student to evaluate goals, articulate convictions, and gain leadership skills while becoming increasingly involved as an active citizen.

These are the foundation of an education at Illinois State, where individualized attention remains a given even as the institution's curriculum has changed to meet the demands of a world that has both expanded and collapsed through technology. The result is a legacy of graduates who are competent, confident and committed to becoming the leaders our neighborhoods and nation need.

Our success in meeting the challenge to prepare graduates of such caliber is evidenced by the excellence of our alumni from across generations. Their stories are as vast and varied as each of our graduates, who now total more than 200,000.

I hope you will take a moment to share with me how you benefited from your years at Illinois State. I would love to hear what you found most valuable from your educational experiences.

It may be awhile before our most recent graduates can answer that question. As they move forward to accomplish even more personal and professional goals, they can be assured that they have our support, our appreciation and our interest, as we anticipate learning the rest of their story.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which reads "Larry H. Dietz". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "L" and "D".

Larry H. Dietz, Ph. D.
President, Illinois State University



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
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ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 16, Number 4, May 2016

FEATURES

8 Beyond a bedtime story
ISU's English Department excels in the world of children's and adolescent literature. From an early faculty member's national efforts in the field to today's international acclaim for ongoing research, professors prepare teachers and future scholars. All are learning that the most treasured childhood titles also have powerful messages worthy of serious study.

13 Gladly we listen
It's been 50 years since the campus National Public Radio station took to the airwaves. WGLT—which ties to the campus motto—has been broadcasting from the Quad since 1966. The format has changed, the budget has been strained, but the station maintains a loyal following on campus and throughout Central Illinois.

18 Counting on kernels
Brian Hanc '01 admits a company focused on holiday popcorn tins doesn't seem a sure bet. He has proven otherwise, partnering to generate millions in sales in the seasonal food gift market. Hanc appreciates ISU for preparing him with the wisdom and confidence to take such a wise risk.

22 Purpose amid poverty
Children have always captured the heart of Jamie Schumacher '92. She loves working as a middle school English teacher, and yet her goal is to build a school for special-needs orphans in Haiti. Her time, money and future dreams are increasingly invested in empowering youngsters shunned in the impoverished island nation.



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On the cover: Hanc used his time, talent and tenacity to gain partnerships with more than 50 national retailers, including Walmart.

What's trending on STATE side



Why is instructor Bill Shields such a rock star?



When celebrities visit Illinois State, then and now



Inside our new state-of-the-art Foods Lab

Read those stories and more at IllinoisState.edu/STATEside



End of an era

South campus residence halls demolished

The University's landscape changed markedly during the spring semester with the ongoing removal of Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten residence halls, as well as the attached Feeney Dining Center.

Demolition of the south campus complex began last fall with removal of asbestos. Feeney was removed by the end of February. The remainder of the work is expected to be completed by the end of June.

The buildings were envisioned in the 1950s as a means to accommodate ISU's increasing student enrollment. Hamilton-Whitten opened in 1960, with Atkin-Colby completed in 1962. The

project cost \$8.1 million and honored respected Illinois State teachers.

Alma Mary Hamilton earned ISU's first bachelor's degree and taught at University High School. Jennie Whitten was an instructor of foreign language and became chair of that department.

Edith Irene Atkins was an instructor and chair of mathematics. June Rose Colby joined the faculty in 1878 and taught classical literature.

The food center was named after Mae Warren Feeney, who was the assistant dean of women and residence hall director in 1936 before joining U-High staff.

The complex closed in 2012 when the building no longer met revised state

fire sprinkler codes. Renovation costs were prohibitive given the age of the buildings, which have sat vacant.

A large wrecking ball was used to take down the 10-story buildings that once housed about 1,500 students. Landscaping will be added in the space that is expected to be the eventual home of a Mennonite College of Nursing building. The Town of Normal plans to construct a fire station just south of the site.

No timeline has been set for construction of the nursing facility, which has been on the University's capital improvements request list for several years as a way to consolidate the nursing program. Classes are now offered in Edwards Hall, with a separate simulation laboratory located north of Bone Student Center.

Two professors pass million-dollar mark

The University has received nearly \$223.25 million in external grant funding during the past decade. Associate Professor of Biology Bill Perry and Associate Professor of Geography-Geology Catherine O'Reilly are two who have secured at least \$1 million in grants for research and other projects, making them new members of ISU's Million Dollar Club.

Perry is committee chair for the development of the Center for Environmental Analysis. His work has been published in the *Journal of Great Lakes Research* and *Environment Earth Sciences*. Two major projects focus on ecology and biogeochemistry of agricultural streams and invasive species ecology.

His work has garnered funding and support from agencies such as the National Science Foundation, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, and The Nature Conservancy.

O'Reilly is hydrogeology graduate program coordinator for the Department of Geography-Geology. She has received several National Science Foundation awards, as well as more than \$1 million from both the Danish International Development Agency and NASA for research that focuses on climate change.

A member of the International Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), she wrote the section on the climate impacts on freshwater in the 2007 IPCC Report. The IPCC, along with Al Gore, won the Nobel Peace Prize based on the work.

Analytics classes give data-driven advantage

It is estimated that by 2018, the U.S. will face a shortage of 1.5 million managers capable of using data to shape business decisions.

The College of Business is addressing the need by offering a new analytics minor and sequence to teach students how to make data-driven decisions.

"We're training students to not only ask the right questions, but also to be



Professor Jeri Beggs from the Department of Marketing talked to students at a Social Media Bootcamp held in the Social Media Analytics Command Center.

able to work with the data to generate answers and useful insights for decision making," Associate Marketing Professor Horace Melton said.

Melton teaches an introduction to marketing analytics course that was first offered last year. Illinois State is one of only a few universities providing analytics education at the undergraduate level.

The need for such training exists beyond business in health care and environmental health. Learning opportunities at ISU cut across disciplines, with marketing faculty teaming with the School of Communication to provide a Social Media Bootcamp that helps local businesses.

"These are skill sets that employers are expecting," said Matt Nelson, an associate professor in Accounting and Business Information Systems. "We teach them how to solve business problems. That's the heart of it."

STEM teacher effort is helped by national funds

A grant of \$1.4 million from the National Science Foundation will be used by the University to increase the number of students from underrepresented groups seeking a science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) degree and secondary teaching credential.

The award from the Robert Noyce Scholarship Program was secured by Rebekka Darnier Gougis of biological sciences and extends through 2021. The funds will support 40 scholars, allowing them to complete research and teaching internships.

ISU is partnering with Joliet Junior College and Valley View School District to recruit undergraduate STEM majors and prepare them to teach high school science or math.

"Underrepresentation of women and some minority groups is a persistent problem across STEM disciplines,"

Where are they now?

Harold Boyd didn't pursue art until college, as he attended a technical high school in his home state of Iowa. His first fine arts training came as a freshman at the University of Kansas, where he completed a bachelor's and later an MFA in art. The opportunity to teach as a graduate student sealed his path as artist and educator.

In fall of 1965 Boyd arrived at ISU's art department, which did not have a terminal graduate program in the fine art's disciplines. He participated in creating courses and curriculum across the platforms of all fine art media in the early 1970s. Gaining state approval for the MFA degree was one highlight of his ISU career.

Boyd opened his own studio shortly after joining ISU, pursuing his interest in drawing and printmaking while teaching. Some of his best known work is a series of Adlai Stevenson images, including one of the former statesman speaking with Eleanor Roosevelt. One piece is displayed in the Capitol Building office of Senator and Assistant Minority Leader Dick Durbin in Washington, D.C.

Along with other media, Boyd does sculpture. Three bronze figures of children hanging on swings from the Central Illinois Regional Airport roof in Bloomington were installed in 2003. The project helped Boyd transition beyond teaching and administrative work following his retirement in 2000. He had served as associate director of the School of Art and the interim director, which gave him the opportunity to participate in selection of the next generation of faculty.

Still owning and working in his own studio, Boyd's work is frequently exhibited in various regional institutions and galleries in Illinois and other venues across the country. He enjoys travel with his daughter and spending time with his granddaughter. He also maintains strong ties to the University and College of Fine Arts—his home for 35 years.

Boyd can be reached at 700 North Evans Street, Bloomington, IL 61701.



Art Professor Emeritus Harold Boyd

Gougis said, which is a problem because “science relies on diverse perspectives to innovate and solve societal problems.”

New deans ready to lead business, nursing programs

Ajay Samant and Judy Neubrandner will join Illinois State on July 1 as dean of the College of Business and Mennonite College of Nursing, respectively.

Samant replaces Gerry McKean upon his retirement. Samant is a former dean in the Coggin College of Business at the University of North Florida, where he taught finance. While there he led efforts to raise \$13 million for scholarships and program development.

Samant secured \$5.6 million in grants and contracts for the college, while implementing several new degree programs. He also established at Florida a Center for Sustainable Business Practices, an MBA Board Fellows program, and a business administration program with KEDGE Business School in Paris.

A published scholar, he has presented internationally.

Neubrandner, who replaces interim dean H. Catherine Miller, served as director of the nursing school at Western Carolina University. She led implementation of a doctorate in nursing practice program, created the School of Nursing Development Council, and helped develop a building for the nursing program. She also secured more than \$3 million in funding.

Neubrandner holds a doctorate and has published in numerous journals. Her interests include end-of-life care and gerontology. An active nurse throughout her career, she has a passion to help the needy. She has provided nursing services in Haiti and Ecuador.

Federal grant tied to crime-scene technology

A nearly \$300,000 grant from the National Institutes of Justice will allow an interdisciplinary faculty research

team to explore the viability and legal uses of new crime-scene technology.

Christopher Mulligan of chemistry, Jamie Wieland from technology, and Michael Gizzi in criminal justice are exploring uses of a new mass spectrometer used in forensic analysis.

Mulligan developed a smaller version of the equipment for the purpose of field use, allowing for quick analysis of materials in investigations such as illegal drugs.

“This device can be a game changer as far as giving real-time information to investigators on site, but it also brings up new questions about privacy for suspects,” Wieland said.

Beyond the study of uses for the device, the grant will make it possible to explore ethical, legal and financial issues that may surface. It is unique funding in that it looks beyond the science of developing next-generation chemical instruments by exploring ramifications as well.

An expanded article about the project can be found at IllinoisState.edu/RedbirdScholar.

To the Editor,

Why not change the opening of Lincoln's Gettysburg Address for ISU students too, since these days no one knows what a "score" is? (ISU's motto, November 2015). Why not dump ALL the Latin mottos throughout U.S. academe, since American students don't read Latin anymore?

The new motto is a "dumbing down," plain and simple, that doesn't encourage students to ask about it, think about it critically, discover more about it and its history, but rather gives them what students can comprehend these days—the required number of characters that can fit on a Twitter post. Disgusting!

Online comment

Anne Hubbard Norton '74

To the Editor,

I was excited to read the article on the motto. In 1960 I was involved in the "real" first campus radio station connected to faculty, staff, students and local residents through a radio signal coupled to power lines.

The station was located and broadcast from the tower in Cook Hall. There was a contest to name our station. The winning entry proposed the call letters WGLT. The entrant submitted that as a teaching institution, our motto should be reflected in the station call sign. The call letters submitted stood for We Gladly Learn and Teach.

This was the first unofficial change to incorporate both genders and a slight modification to the motto. Even though the official change did not occur until 1992, as an announcer and DJ since the first semester of the 1960-1961 school year, the new motto was mentioned often during station identification breaks.

Dale Finrock '73

To the Editor,

Change the motto back to what it was pre-1992. What you have now sounds like something a third grader might compose. It's generic. Some things just don't need to be changed.

Mildred Williams '81

Advancement announces hire in fundraising role

Mark Wunder joined Illinois State in the spring semester as an assistant vice president for development in University Advancement. He will provide leadership for an upcoming comprehensive campaign and help elevate private gift support.

Wunder served as assistant dean for development at Indiana University's Robert H. McKinney School of Law before joining ISU. He has held development leadership positions at Iowa State University, the University of Iowa and Diocese of Kansas City, Missouri. He holds a juris doctorate and was a practicing attorney in Kansas City.

Professor set for year as Fulbright in Brazil

Professor of Technology Anu Gokhale has been named a Fulbright Distinguished Chair to the University of Pernambuco in Brazil. She will spend a year



Professor Anu Gokhale

developing tools and methods to increase enrollment and improve the teaching of science, technology, engineering, mathematics and computing (STEM+C) for the region.

The Fulbright allows Gokhale to continue her work to increase diversity in the STEM+C fields, which has been her focus at ISU. She helped create the Teacher Education in Computer Science initiative with National Science Founda-

tion funds. The program, in place in Chicago Public Schools and across Central Illinois, provides teachers the credentials to teach computer science.

Gokhale was a Fulbright Scholar to India in 2002. While in Brazil, she will teach, investigate student attitudes toward STEM+C, and conduct faculty seminars on guiding online learning communities.

Nurses excel on exam

Mennonite College of Nursing graduates achieved a 96 percent pass rate on the 2015 national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX-RN), despite progressively stringent standards. Up two percent from last year, the pass rate exceeds the state average of 86 percent and a national average of 85 percent. Graduates have exceeded both averages for more than a decade.

Global study reveals alarming lake warming

Associate Professor of Geology Catherine O'Reilly is lead author of a global study that finds climate change is rapidly warming lakes around the world, threatening freshwater supplies and ecosystems.

More than 60 global scientists participated in the study that will be published in the journal *Geophysical Research Letters*. Funded in part by NASA and the National Science Foundation, the work included 235 lakes and was the largest study of its kind.

"We found that many lakes all around the world are warming much faster than the air or the oceans," O'Reilly said. "That can have profound effects on drinking water and the habitat of fish and other animals."

Results show that at the current rate, algal blooms are projected to increase 20 percent in lakes over the next century. The blooms can rob water of oxygen. Emissions of methane—a greenhouse gas 25 times more powerful than carbon dioxide—will increase four percent over the next decade.

Redbird Athletics



Redbird greats

Two graduates join Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame

Former Illinois State baseball star Dave Bergman '78 and cross country and track standout Sue Daggett Miller '97 are two of six inductees in the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame 2016 class. Bergman is the first Redbird baseball player and Miller the third women's track and field honoree chosen. Their inclusion brings ISU's inductees to 10.

A member of the baseball team from 1972-1974, Bergman registered a career batting average of .366 with 63 RBI. As the team MVP in 1973 and 1974, he was named an All-American outfielder in 1974 by *The Sporting News* after leading ISU in hits, home runs, runs scored and stolen bases.

Bergman was drafted by the New York Yankees in 1974. He was the starting first baseman for the 1984 Detroit Tigers team that won the World Series. In 1989 he enjoyed MLB career highs with 127 games, 385 at bats, 103 hits, and 44 walks. He matched a career high with seven home runs. Bergman passed away in 2015 from cancer but was made aware of the honor. He is survived by his wife and three children.

Miller is one of the most decorated female student-athletes in ISU and MVC history. She claimed a league-record 17 individual conference championships as a Redbird. A three-time All-American selection, she was the 1995 NCAA District V cross country champion.

She was a four-time indoor and outdoor all-conference honoree. A three-time MVC Female Track Athlete of the Meet, Miller earned the award at the Indoor Championship in 1996 as well and at both the Indoor and Outdoor meets in 1997. She led Illinois State to back-to-back MVC Indoor Championship titles. She and her husband reside in West Bend, Wisconsin.

Director of Athletics Larry Lyons said both are very deserving of the honor.

"Dave was a gifted baseball player as a Redbird and in the professional ranks, but he was also an incredible person and father," Lyons said. "Sue was as talented of a student-athlete as there has been at Illinois State."



Valerija Gercar

Redbird earns spot on international ranking

Women's tennis player Valerija Gercar was ranked during the spring semester by the International Tennis Association, which placed her at No. 114.

Gercar won a Missouri Valley Conference individual title last fall, earning a singles championship in two of ISU's three fall tournaments. She is a sophomore studying international business.

The ranking places Gercar in an elite group of ranked women's tennis players throughout Illinois State's history, including 2015 Athletics Percy Hall of Fame inductee Liina Suurvarik '04, MBA '06.

Women's basketball excels in classroom

Members of Illinois State's women's basketball team posted an impressive academic performance during the fall semester. Three players maintained a perfect 4.0 grade point average. Eight others earned AFNI Academic Honor Roll status, which recognizes student-athletes earning a 3.0 GPA or better during a given semester.

Katrina Beck, Kalyn Gebhardt and Morgan Radtke completed the semester with an A in each of their classes. Each achieved the AFNI designation, along with teammates Viria Livingston, Collene Smith, Millie Stevens, Taylor Stewart and Lexie Taylor.

Football team gains 17

With back-to-back conference titles and playoff appearances, ISU's football team is capturing players across the country. Head coach Brock Spack gained 17 players in the spring.

The signees include three offensive linemen, three defensive backs, three linebackers, two quarterbacks, two running backs, a pair of tight ends and one defensive lineman. Spack signed multiple players at certain positions to improve the team's overall depth. The new Redbirds include natives of Texas, Indiana, Kansas and Ohio.

Redbirds earn shocking upset

The Illinois State men's basketball team sealed a 58-53 upset victory over No. 21 Wichita State in front of 8,284 fans on Doug Collins Court at Redbird Arena in February. ISU snapped Wichita's 12-game winning streak and handed the Shockers their first Missouri Valley Conference loss of the season.

Junior point guard Paris Lee scored a career-high 19 points on 5-for-11 shooting from the field and a 7-for-8 effort at the free throw line to lead Illinois State. The win marked ISU's second straight against the Shockers, with Illinois State also defeating then-No. 8 Wichita State in the 2015 MVC Tournament semifinal game.

With the most recent win against Wichita State, the Redbirds have now defeated a Top-25 team in each of the past five seasons—marking the first time in program history that ISU has accomplished such a feat. Fourth-year head coach Dan Muller is the first-ever Redbird head coach to defeat a Top-25 team in each of his first four seasons, and is tied with Bob Donewald for most Top-25 victories by an ISU head coach. Including the February win over Wichita State, the Redbirds have recorded 12 wins over Top-25 programs. Muller's teams have accounted for one-third of those victories.



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Tough schedule announced for football

The upcoming football season will challenge the Redbirds and thrill the fans, as the schedule includes a total of 11 tough games. Six will be played at home in Hancock Stadium, including the first contest of the season on September 3 against FCS foe Valparaiso from the Pioneer Football League.

The game most anticipated will no doubt be a match-up against five-time defending national champion North Dakota State. The game, scheduled for October 1 at the FargoDome, will mark the first time the two teams have met in the regular season since 2013. The Redbirds last played the Bison during the 2015 FCS national championship game.

ISU lost that game by just two points, with a final score of 29-27.

Other highlights of the season include a Homecoming matchup against Youngstown State, and taking on Football Bowl Subdivision foe Northwestern in Evanston. The September 10 game against the Wildcats will be the second matchup against a Big Ten Conference opponent in as many seasons.

Fans eager to cheer on the defending Missouri Valley Football Conference champion Redbirds should explore ticket options now, as season ticket renewals and purchases are underway. Call the ISU Athletics tickets office at (309) 438-8000 for information.



Exceptional English niche

ISU is trailblazer in
children's literature

By Susan Marquardt Blystone





The reading list looks deceptively simplistic for courses taught by Roberta Trites and Jan Susina in the Department of English. There are classics such as *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*, *The Adventures of Tom Sawyer*, and of course *Little Women*.

Depending on the specific class, works such as *Grimm's Fairy Tales*, *Where The Wild Things Are* or *Charlotte's Web* are on the syllabus. Some semesters the assignments range from *The Outsiders* to *Harry Potter* and *The Hunger Games* series.

Only the unknowing student, however, enrolls expecting a semester of nostalgic reading and an easy A. The classes are designed for advanced undergraduate or graduate students ready to be challenged by the department's nationally recognized children's and adolescent literature program.

Distinguished Professor Trites and Professor Susina are the most senior of four faculty teaching courses that range from the history of adolescent and children's literature to contemporary lit for young people. Other classes focus on the cultural influence of the genre, with seminars using children's literature as a lens for tackling critical theory or political issues.

Professor Karen Coats and Associate Professor Mary Moran complete the team that is advancing a niche of teaching and scholarly excellence many Redbirds don't know exists on campus.

The program is no secret in academia or within national organizations for the profession, including the Children's Literature Association. The founder of Illinois State's program, the late Professor Taimi Ranta, helped launch the association in the 1970s. Among its past presidents are faculty members and doctoral graduates of the program that draws interest around the world.

Students from Japan, Cypress, France, Jordan and Thailand have enrolled. Fulbright Scholars and visiting faculty have traveled to campus from Belgium, Tanzania, Indonesia and Denmark.

International awareness is tied directly to the scholarly reputation of faculty, whose journal articles and books have received myriad national and global awards. The research has been translated into numerous languages ranging from Chinese and Korean to Russian and Danish.

Books include *Looking Glasses* and *Neverlands: Lacan, Desire, and Subjectivity in Children's Literature* by Coats and *Waking Sleeping Beauty: Feminist Voices in Children's Novels* by Trites. Susina authored *The Place of Lewis Carroll in Children's Literature*, and Moran is completing a book on fantasy and feminist ethics.

The opportunity for such research in the field and specifically at ISU goes back to the strong foundation Ranta laid after joining the English faculty in 1959.

Children's literature courses have been a part of teacher training since early in ISU's history. A shift occurred in 1931, when the stories became the subject matter versus content for methods courses. While Ranta's writings point to that change as the start of ISU's children's literature program, she is the one praised for maximizing the moment of transition.

"She was an early pioneer of the program," said Trites, who joined the department in 1991 because of its reputation in children's





lit. Ranta developed several courses and worked to elevate the study of the genre nationally.

A Fulbright Scholar knighted in Finland, Ranta focused on keeping students reading. The memory of her reading lists that cut across social issues and diverse authors remains legendary in the department.

She willed thousands of titles to Milner Library upon her death—in addition to her lecture notes, syllabi and research documents. She is remembered on campus for the Taimi Ranta Children's Literature Scholarship that was established upon her death in 1996 at age 79.

"She endowed one of the only children's literature scholarships in the country," Trites said, noting the department continues to name Ranta Scholars. The fund is just one of the firsts credited to ISU's program. Another is the Lois Lenski Children's Literature Lecture Series.

Started by Susina in 1994 to honor the prolific children's author from the 1950s, the program was the first children's literature speaker series hosted in an English department. The event ties to Lenski's work held in Milner Library's Special Collections and continues today with Milner's support.

Susina came to ISU in 1992. He joined Ranta, Trites, Robin Carr and Anita Tarr '76, M.A. '81, D.A. '92, as one of the department members specializing in children's literature. The five fueled growth that was possible in part because several states—including Illinois—started requiring in the 1990s training in children's literature for teacher licensure.

Hard lessons emerge from easy language

Sit through an ISU children's literature class and it is quickly apparent that tough topics are tackled through the simplest of text.

English professors Jan Susina and Roberta Trites will in fact argue that a storyline written at an adolescent reading level or below is the perfect vehicle for driving home social and political concepts too often lost in the complicated language of a tome.

"If you aren't struggling with the reading, you are more open to theoretical issues," Trites explained. "We are teaching critical thinking skills and using children's books to do it."

The approach is much different from how readers interacted with children's literature when it became popular during the Puritanical era. Books then delivered overt moral lessons adults deemed crucial for salvation of youth, who were expected to obey instead of question.

"Before *Alice in Wonderland*, children's books were for teaching and preaching," Susina said. He

credits Lewis Carroll's writing with moving the genre "from instruction to delight," as his novel introduced the concept of children's literature as entertainment.

There are still, however, many lessons to be learned from Carroll's text and those that followed for the youngest of readers. For example, Susina notes that *Alice in Wonderland* is a window on social and cultural norms 150 years ago. Trites agrees, adding that the book presents the ideology of Victorian culture with particular emphasis on how girls were to behave.

It is but one example of subtle messages in children's literature. As students learn to unearth this subtext, they see that children's literature is a persuasive and manipulative genre ideal for opening discussions about constant and controversial issues.

"Good children's literature helps us think seriously about the world and how to see it. Some of it is intense and deeply troubling," Susina said. "Once you start reading, you find the literature is diverse and

The fact English teacher education classes had shifted to the College of Arts and Sciences with its creation in the 1970s meant the burden to meet the new standards fell to the Department of English.

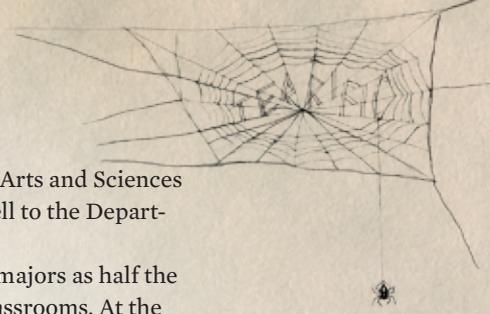
Even today the children's literature program has elementary education majors as half the enrollment. They are primarily undergraduates equipped to teach in K-12 classrooms. At the graduate level, the program is preparing the next generation of faculty.

Doctoral graduates teach on campuses across the country and around the world. From Tribhuvan University in Nepal to San Diego State, the impact of ISU's program remains so strong that alums as faculty are sending their own students to Illinois State for graduate work.

Among alumni are Mike Cadden, D.A. '96, and Michelle Martin, Ph.D. '97. Cadden is director of Childhood Studies in the Department of English and Modern Languages at Missouri Western State University. Martin is the Augusta Baker Chair in Childhood Literacy at the University of South Carolina.

"I arrived at ISU in 1992 and it was already an established program," Cadden said. "I think it was the only program that advertised itself as offering coursework specifically in children's literature. That was unique, and it still is."

The extensive national networking established with Ranta—who Cadden recalls as his instructor—was another draw. "I felt I had an advantage in that I had already made contact



complicated. Even fairy tales are not happily ever after and as in life, the good guys don't always win."

One consistent theme found in the genre is the effort of children to navigate their world by making fun of adults. Classics such as *The Outsiders* force young readers to face difficult ethical situations. Other popular titles, such as *The Chocolate Wars*, deal directly with dark psychological issues. Regardless of the author or storyline, the professors agree that the books have a message far more complicated than the language used would suggest.

The simple storytelling is why the field of children's and adolescent literature failed to gain the respect due until J.K. Rowling invented Harry Potter. An adolescent novel atop the *New York Times* bestseller's list for months made it much easier for ISU's faculty to explain the genre's value and program's purpose.

It is not to teach children how to read, but rather to focus on the meaning and message of the literature. It is an opportunity to realize how times have changed while dissecting persistent issues such as the racial divide, gender equality, social injustice, empowerment and the role of government.

The Hunger Games is a recent example of how these issues are inherent in adolescent literature yet today. Trites describes the series as a statement of mistrust in government and asks the question of why the heroine, Katniss Everdeen, fails in every female relationship. Susina finds the storyline equally intriguing for other reasons.

"*The Hunger Games* fascinates and deeply troubles me," he said. "Teens are pitted to battle to the death, which suggests this generation of youth sees their future in a very negative way."

Susina also notes that every teen reader no doubt envisions being the victor, which relates back to the fundamental value of children reading. They engage their imagination, improve their vocabulary, grasp an understanding of the wider world and gain fundamental knowledge needed to question.

"People undersell children's literature. It is the first of what we read and has such an important influence," Susina said. "The best of good children's literature is that not simply read by a child, but enjoyed by adults as well."

with people through the program into the larger children's literature community."

Martin had an equally rewarding experience. She chose Illinois State's program because it was one of the longest standing at the time she enrolled in 1993.

"The fact Illinois State had 10 children's literature courses was huge," Martin said. "Most universities had one, if that."

She appreciated becoming grounded in the history of children's literature and gained a renewed teaching confidence. "Because Illinois State started out as a Normal school, you cannot get out of there without being able to teach well. Teaching is highly valued, and the mentoring I received has contributed to the success I've had in my career."

There is no better endorsement. "We see our graduates leading in the field," Susina said, "and it shows the success of our program."

Indeed, Cadden and Martin are just two graduates teaching and publishing in children's literature—which they note has only in recent years moved from being overlooked, misunderstood or dismissed as inferior by scholars.

That fact alone makes Ranta's vision decades ago and the department's steadfast stance that books for children constitute literature worthy of serious study a significant point of pride, not just for the English Department but all of Illinois State.



The End

Did you know...

Dorothy Gale, the protagonist of L. Frank Baum's *The Wonderful Wizard of Oz* (1900) was named after Baum's young niece, Dorothy Gage. She is buried in Bloomington's Evergreen Cemetery.

Eric Rohmann, the author and illustrator of the 2003 Caldecott-winning picture book *My Friend Rabbit*, is a 1985 graduate of ISU's College of the Fine Arts.

Before Suzanne Collins authored the popular dystopian *The Hunger Games* series, she wrote scripts for Nickelodeon children television programs including *Little Bear* and *Clifford's Puppy Days*.

A.A. Milne's *Winnie-the-Pooh* (1926) was inspired by the author observing his young son, Christopher Robin Milne, playing with his stuffed animals. The original Pooh, Piglet and Eeyore are displayed at the Stephen Schwarzman building of the New York City Library.

According to Jon Lindseth's *Alice in World of Wonderlands*, Lewis Carroll's *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (1865) has been translated into 174 different languages, making it one of the most frequently translated books in the world. Ironically Carroll wrote his publisher, "Friends here seem to think that the book is untranslatable."

Maurice Sendak's *Where the Wild Things Are* (1963) was originally titled *Where the Wild Horses Are*, until the illustrator realized he had trouble drawing horses.

Shel Silverstein, author of the poetry collections *Where the Sidewalk Ends* (1974) and *The Light in the Attic* (1981), was also a cartoonist for *Playboy* and a songwriter. He wrote Johnny Cash's hit song "A Boy Named Sue."

S.E. Hinton began writing *The Outsiders* (1967) when she was 15 and in high school. The novel was published when she was 17 and a first-year college student at the University of Tulsa.

There are big doings at WGLT this year. Illinois State's National Public Radio-affiliated station at 89.1 and 103.5 FM bid adieu to longtime general manager Bruce Bergethon in December and marked its 50th anniversary in February.

Bergethon provided stability in the station's top post for 25 years. He was a link between the station's founding—GLT's first professional general manager, Ben Paxton, hired Bergethon—and its emergence as an award-winning news and music operation that generates about \$700,000 in annual community support.

"It's a good time for some new ideas to come in," Bergethon said. "I didn't intend to stay this long."

Bergethon led the station through two format changes, two potentially devastating funding rows, and into the digital age where people worldwide can listen to the station over the Internet.

Aesthetically and in substance, the erudite, music-loving Bergethon has epitomized public radio in the Twin Cities. He hosted two shows from the station's Old Union studios: the folk music-centric *Acousticity*, which has continued since his retirement, and *Poetry Radio*, which has not.

"Probably better than anybody else, Bruce understands the educational role a station that's located on a university campus can play," Don Munson said. A GLT jazz show host, Munson spent 35 years at Bloomington-Normal radio station WJBC.

"You can't but listen to GLT for a reasonable period of time and learn something, whether it's from NPR or *Sound Ideas*—the locally produced news and ideas show—or whether it's the music," Munson said. "There is a constant learning experience, and people who enjoy that gravitate to GLT."

The station has established itself over the past six decades as a valued member of Illinois State and Central Illinois through its unique and noncommercial blend of 24/7 news, cultural programming, and eclectic music offerings.

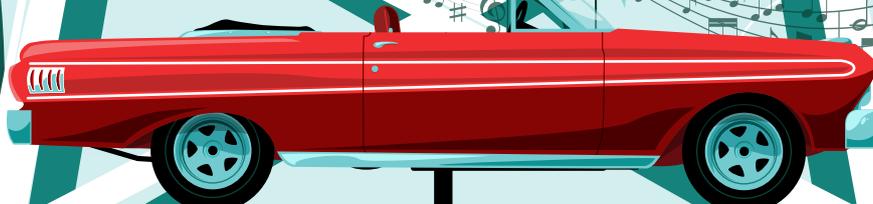
The University has been involved with radio since the 1930s, when WJBC gave ISU a half hour per weekday for educational programming. By the 1950s, that had been cut to 15 minutes on Sunday mornings and featured interviews with professors and campus speakers.

"I sensed the 15 minutes was even a grudging gift on the part of WJBC," said

GLT at 50

*ISU's radio station survives
and thrives at 50*

By Kevin Berset



Mahe



Bruce Bergethon retired in December after 25 years as GLT's general manager. He continues to host the long-running show *Acousticity* each Sunday night.

President Robert Bone, below, signed on to a live broadcast in 1966 with then general manager Ben Paxton.

A 1956 broadcast, opposite page, captures the educational programming done from the 1930s into the 1950s. WJBC offered airtime to the ISU station.

Professor Emeritus Ralph Smith. He was hired into the Speech Department in 1959 to set up a TV educational system and went on to play a major role in establishing ISU's radio station.

When the University dropped the WJBC program, Smith worked with an ISU technician to install closed-circuit radio in the dormitories. Starting in 1962, students could tune in from their rooms to 540 AM in the evenings for educational programming and popular music shows with names like "Music From the Bottom of the Barrel," according to a *Vidette* article from the time.

The new station held a contest to come up with its call letters. The entry chosen was submitted by freshman Bob Birge '65, M.S. '69. His suggestion of WGLT was an abbreviation of "We gladly learn and teach," which reflected the University's motto.

"I thought that student was pretty clever," Smith said. "I think they are very good call letters."

Smith and Paxton worked to expand the station's reach by bringing a low-power FM station to GLT's studio in Cook Hall in the mid-60s. The station's first broadcast over a 10-watt transmitter was on February 6, 1966. The University had hired Paxton in 1965 to oversee the FM station, allowing Smith to focus on TV.

For the next couple of years, the closed-circuit station and the FM station



broadcast the same content. They gradually diverged, with student programming for the former and public programming for the latter.

In the 1970s, GLT upgraded to a 2,500-watt transmitter and joined the nascent National Public Radio network. The new transmitter expanded GLT's coverage area from Bloomington-Normal to most of McLean County. The affiliation with NPR opened up federal funding. This led the station to expand its hours of operation and hire a professional staff that now totals 16 with about a dozen students.

GLT maintained a mix of content—call-in talk shows, news, Illinois State Athletics, popular and jazz music—but increasingly played classical music. "It was pretty much what public radio was about at that time," Paxton said.

University of Illinois and Bradley University stations were already playing classical music. A public station in Springfield eventually joined the market. By the 1980s, GLT was still honing its brand by trying to be a less elitist version of its neighbors.

"The idea was that WGLT would be the friendly classical station, which is a great idea," Bergethon said. "But I was hosting classical music the first couple of years I was here and honestly, I think every week I had the experience of someone calling me to ask what piece we were playing and they were listening to a different station because all three of the stations were clustered one after another pretty close on the dial."

Bergethon arrived in 1988 from New Mexico State University's station. He was hired as program director with the idea he would succeed Paxton, whose tenure was marked by funding fights as he attempted to establish GLT amid drastic state cuts.

"My 25 years were a constant battle to maintain the University's support," Paxton said. "I felt that the station had become one of the better voices of contact with the community for the University. And it was a good public service that the University was offering. By the time Bruce came, we were pretty solidly situated at ISU. But he had to pick it up with the funding that became more and more difficult."

Named general manager in 1990, Bergethon ushered in two major changes to grow the station's listenership. GLT upgraded to a 25,000-watt transmitter, which expanded the station's reach to a large swath of Central Illinois, and the format changed from classical music to

“news, blues, and all that jazz.”

Bergethon also had to fight for the station’s survival.

“For the first eight years, we had two, full-scale ‘We are going out of business’ type crises,” he said.

The first was related to GLT’s status as part of the College of Continuing Education. The college was shut down during President Thomas Wallace’s tenure, with GLT the only unit to survive. A few years later under the University Advancement unit, the station failed to become a cash cow as some administrators hoped, Bergethon recalled. An internal budget battle jeopardized GLT’s future until public outcry saved the station, which moved to the School of Communication.

GLT has steadied itself in the school. The station has retained some financial support from the University and about 20,000 weekly listeners from an audience base that is between the ages of 35 and 64, which is older than commercial radio’s target demographic. Bergethon’s aggressive fundraising strategy for support through events and on-air drives has pushed annual fundraising from under \$10,000 when he arrived to well past \$500,000.

“From a survival point of view, it has worked out really well for us,” Bergethon said. “We have to do program reviews, which is the self-study process that every academic or quasi-academic unit does on campus. But we haven’t had to justify our existence or compete for our funding since we came into the School of Communication.”

In the last 20 years, GLT has become a strong news source as WJBC and *The Pantagraph* have cut their news staffs and local ownership of commercial media has evaporated in Bloomington-Normal. Much of the station’s music programming moved online in 2013 and was replaced with more “news and ideas” segments. These included nation-

al shows such as the *TED Radio Hour*, *Here & Now*, and *On Point With Tom Ashbrook*. The station also hired another reporter and debuted GLT’s *Sound Ideas*, a twice daily, hourlong news magazine focused on local topics.

Bergethon said it hasn’t been difficult for the station to maintain its journalistic integrity despite operating as a part of Illinois State: “We have done a good job of walking that middle ground of being perceived as a legitimate news organization but also, in an appropriate way, of being a booster of the good



things that are going on at ISU, which are legion really. I would also say that ISU administrators—and (Chief of Staff) Jay Groves has a lot to do with this—have been really understanding of the importance of us being an independent news source.”

The format shift has paid off for the news department. The station won two national Edward R. Murrow awards for journalistic excellence in 2015, the first time in the station’s history it has received the prestigious award twice in the same year. The change has been accompanied by a downturn in GLT’s bottom line, however, due to the added expenses related to local and national news programming and a dip in corporate support.

“It feels like we are back on track to eliminate that deficit,” Bergethon said.

The station’s website (WGLT.org) has brought in listeners from around the world. When the live streams went down one weekend this past January, the first call the station received was from a blues listener in Australia. Like almost all media entities, GLT is trying to figure how to pay for the free products it provides online.

“Are they listening to us on the air? No. Can that affect our ratings? It could,” Program Director Mike McCurdy said. “They are still using us. As long as they feel loyal to the station using any of our technology platforms, we are likely to get an individual contribution through that listener. That’s part of the equation of how we are funded here.”

Former WJBC program director R.C. McBride ’99 has taken over as interim general manager. An assistant director of ISU’s Marketing and Communications, he has the job of steering the public radio station as it continues to acquaint listeners to the “news & ideas” format change, increase community backing to supplement the University’s support, and offset eroding federal and state funding for public broadcasting.

Such struggles raise the question of what the future holds for WGLT. The answer lies as much with the listener as those who remain committed to keeping the tradition of a campus station on the air.

“We’ve really come to a fork in the road, and GLT hopes to take it,” Munson said. “The public station, the locally owned station, the station that is owned by the people who listen to it, has the ability to give the community whatever quality or quantity of news programming that people want, providing they are willing to pay for it.”

Editor’s note: This article was completed prior to the death of Ben Paxton on March 5.



Inside Look

Numerous campus units function behind the scenes to support the University's daily operation. Printing Services is one. Many at ISU—and certainly most alumni—are unaware a printing operation exists in the basement of the Nelson Smith Building located near Tri Towers.

In operation since the 1930s, Printing Services was established to serve primarily faculty. Today 97 percent of the nearly 3,500 jobs completed annually are still done as campus projects. The remainder come from other universities and external nonprofit agencies. The work generates an average of \$1.9 million in revenue for Printing Services, which functions as a self-standing business. No state dollars support the operation that offers products ranging from business cards to building banners.

1. At the helm

It's been nearly six years since Eric Anderson left commercial printing to run ISU's operation. As director, he oversees 11 full-time employees and three students who handle production, delivery and a front office. The team has a customer satisfaction rate of 99.9 percent.

2. Age of automation

Much has changed in Printing Services since its start nearly nine decades ago. One of the most significant shifts is the equipment now available to move projects through to completion. This machine staples and folds flat sheets.

3. Go big!

This Student Affairs banner is an example of a large-format display. Equipment for such projects was added this past

year. External signage up to 54 inches wide and hundreds of feet in length is now feasible.

4. Watch your mailbox

Clients generating the most jobs include Admissions, Housing and Athletics. The majority of their pieces are snail mail, which explains the dozens of U.S. Postal Service bins stacked in the production area. Finished projects go directly to ISU's Mail Services, conveniently located one floor up.

5. Plenty of paper

One entire section of the basement holds reams of paper purchased by the semi load. Trucks unload at an adjoining dock 840 cases per order, which is needed because Printing Services supplies copier paper used across campus. There's an additional 300 cartons of specialty paper



stored for use on the presses. A strong network with vendors makes it possible for paper that is desired by a client but not on hand to arrive the following day. It's just another way the team meets customer needs.

6. Smooth running machines

Standing at an automated cutter, John Getz is a master at running the equipment and especially ISU's three presses. The most amazing is the Indigo 5600, which runs in a separate room and was purchased this past year to replace an earlier model that had completed 50 million impressions. This press handles variable data. Each piece can be individualized with a person's name and specific information. Photos can be swapped out as well without stopping the press.

The presses can run up to 4,000 sheets an hour, which means many jobs have a quick turnaround from order to

delivery. Equally impressive is the high-quality and full-color printing. That's important given all the jobs that require ISU red—Pantone 186 to be specific.

7. Stitch with a staple

Printing Services handles the bindery for 98 percent of the jobs ordered. Clients have three options: coil, perfect (think romance novel spine), or staples. Julie Gravitt is a pro at working a machine that pulls coiled wire from spools to create staples for a job that is fed by hand. Yet another machine in the shop can fold, score, and perforate jobs.

8. Lots of leftovers

Thousands of paper scraps are diverted from garbage bins because recycling is standard operating procedure in Printing Services. Equal care goes into selecting press solvents. Only those that are environmentally friendly are used.

9. On display

Odds are good that the poster you spot on your next ISU visit came through Printing Services. Examples of finished work are scattered across campus and include employee nametags, official letterhead, departmental newsletters, event invitations—even the booklets distributed at commencement this month.

10. Sealing solution

There is no way staff could seal all the envelopes that are sent out the door each week. And there is no need. This machine pulls individual letters, inserts each into an envelope, then pushes the job through a folding and sealing mechanism.



TIN MAN

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

Alum masters the art of seasonal sales

BRIAN HANC lives in a business world few can imagine. There are days even he finds it hard to fathom how he went from a hard-working information technology undergraduate at Illinois State to an entrepreneur with a presence in the nation's largest stores.

At just 37, Hanc partners to sell approximately 3.5 million popcorn tins and another 500,000 gift tins to more than 50 retailers. The list includes Walmart, Menards, Dollar Tree, Kroger, Aldi, and Bed, Bath and Beyond. The product is in every state, with some showing up in Walmart's Canadian stores the past two years.

"I'll walk into Walmart and see our popcorn tins right there in the center aisle—action alley—and I will think 'It was worth all the hard work and perseverance.' This is crazy," said Hanc, who completed his graphic design and printing degree in 2001.

The feat has been accomplished through his business run out of his home office in Saint Charles—Hanc

Design Group—and his partnership with a product development company. Together the two have created an alliance that has them capturing nearly half of the popcorn tin and seasonal food gift market annually for sales that have totaled in the millions.

The success is sweet for Hanc, who borrowed from five family members and friends to start the venture that required initial and yearly investments totaling nearly \$1.5 million. They joined the effort based on a faith in Hanc that existed because of his track record as a hard worker with a creative spirit evident from his childhood through his years at ISU.

"Even before high school, I was always doing things to generate money. I took an outside-the-box approach," Hanc said. "I've always had that entrepreneur mentality."

One example: Hanc found a way to make more than \$100 an hour as an undergraduate by working at the Varsity Club. The Normal bar that has since

closed needed a DJ. He put in three hours one night a week and easily surpassed the income of his peers working part-time at minimum wage.

He also negotiated a contract with a local landlord to paint vacated campus apartments. The work was flexible, steady and paid well. Each experience further cemented his desire to start his own business after graduation.

That dream was far from immediately fulfilled, as Hanc entered the job market around the time of 9/11. He worked at a grocery store to get benefits while doing freelance work and continuing a job hunt that resulted in a temporary position with Seasonal Food Gift Company in Chicago. Offered an assistant graphic coordinator position months later, Hanc stayed with the firm and gained invaluable experience that positioned him for his current endeavors.

Eager to learn more about the whole product development process, he sought and gained a project management role at the company. Acting as the



center hub of a product, Hanc's responsibilities included working closely with all internal departments to ultimately supply a product and cost to the sales team.

"As a project manager, I had to figure out all aspects of the finished product including the cost of every component, freight, structural integrity and pack out down to the penny," Hanc said. "I then had to provide the final cost and product to the sales team, as well as communicate the assembly of the item to our overseas suppliers."

For three years Hanc mastered working with multiple vendors to select quality products that packaged well and came together on a rigid schedule and even tighter budget.

"I managed about 100 products a year, which gave me experience creating timelines, costing out thousands of components, then working through to the design and execution of the item," Hanc said.

"It was the single most important job I ever had."

Hanc next worked at Hershey for several years. By 2008, he had formed his design group. About two years later he left Hershey to fully focus on his business and eventually team up with a product development company. Their

first endeavor was a make-your-own hot sauce kit, followed by a product that gave consumers the ability to craft their own wine.

It took a solid year to work with

suppliers for the components, create a design that would sell and fit on a pallet, figure out shelving needs, and most importantly find a buyer. All came together when Bed, Bath and Beyond said yes, which was no easy accomplishment.

"First you have to get an appointment and then find a way to get that retailer interested. It's extremely difficult getting them to respond to you," Hanc said. "To get in and close a sale takes a real strategic approach. You have to have a great-looking product that offers the consumer a good value at a really good price, and it has to make sense."

Hanc's confidence in such situations continues to soar as he now works with multiple companies on all aspects of product development. His effort tied to the design work involved now accounts for a mere 20 percent of his 16-hour days.

His time is instead largely spent developing new products such as ready-to-eat snacks, traveling overseas to work with suppliers, and solving problems that involve everything from pallets being delivered to wrong retailers and tins damaged in shipping.

The tins arrive packaged in nearly 100+ containers at a U.S. distribution center. Everything is assembled in that one building with an eye to food safety and product quality, with special attention to a product's shelf life.

The product development timeline inevitably creates some hectic moments leading up to and including the distribution process. Hanc recalls, for example, 500 semi-trucks were filled in just a few months last year.

"To put that in perspective, I did the math and realized if we put all those tins in rows next to each other with just one layer, we would fill up an entire football field 15 times."

While the volume is impressive, Hanc is most proud of an ability to maintain quality while finding custom solutions for retailers. He is equally pleased with the speed he can now develop a product.

"We are very aggressive at four to six months to completion," Hanc said.



Puppies, snowmen and Santa images are traditionally the best-selling tins.

“The average for others is a couple of years.” One reason for such an impressive pace is that Hanc continues to think ahead and beyond the norm.

“We have figured out strategic ways to give us an advantage over any of our competition,” he said. His latest success is a win with a major movie licensing company. He signed a deal last fall that allows for the use of imagery from classic blockbuster holiday movie hits.

“I’ve always had that entrepreneur mentality.”

“We have some really neat concepts put together from some great classic holiday movies that some of our retail partners are already excited about,” said Hanc, who started on the designs for this year’s sales months ago. He expects the new product line will compete well with the traditional bestsellers, which are snowmen, puppies and Santa.

The upcoming product line keeps Hanc on track to fulfill his goals, which are to continue developing retail partners and providing holiday gifts and tins that are a great value and price. With a huge upside for growth, he hopes to build partnerships large enough for an eventual sale of the business within

the next decade, freeing him to pursue another venture.

Regardless of what that new challenge entails, Hanc will continue to include Illinois State in the telling of his story. From lifelong friendships to crazy memories of practicing with his club ice hockey team at a Peoria rink after midnight and still making his 8 a.m. classes, Hanc remains grateful for his time at the University. It was also at ISU

that he met his wife, Kelly (Eversman) ’01. Married in 2005, they have a son and daughter.

Hanc especially appreciates the strong foundation he received from faculty to build a future that was completely unexpected when he chose his major. He graduated anticipating a role in business and dreaming of being his own boss, but never envisioned an endeavor so complicated and successful.

“I remember the whole college experience because it’s a big part of how I got to where I am today,” Hanc said. “ISU is a tremendous part of the foundation that has made up so much of my success.”

AFTER THE *tasty treat*



One of Hanc’s goals is to create designs that resonate so well with consumers and are so engaging that the tin is kept long after the popcorn has been devoured. There are many suggested uses for the tins, including the following. Beyond the option of having a colorful waste basket, consider storage of:

Ornaments

Packaged candy

Fireplace utensils

Golf balls

Baking utensils

Gardening tools

Paint brushes

Cords, cables

Office supplies

Small toys, including blocks and Legos

Ink cartridges

Nails, screws

A HEART FOR HAITI



EDUCATOR PASSI

BY JOHN MOODY

JAMIE SCHUMACHER HAS MADE A CONNECTION TO A PLACE AND ITS PEOPLE THAT RUNS DEEP LIKE AN ELECTRIC CURRENT, WHICH IS NO SMALL FEAT IN AN ISLAND NATION WHERE ELECTRICITY CAN BE PRETTY UNRELIABLE. LIGHT FROM HER EYES SHINES BACK A LITTLE BRIGHTER WHEN SHE TALKS ABOUT THE SPOT IN THE CARIBBEAN WHERE SHE FEELS MOST AT HOME—HAITI.



Children in Haiti, as shown above, have great needs. Jamie Schumacher, left, focuses her efforts on helping children from Divine Family Orphanage in Port-au-Prince.



CONATE ABOUT HELPING ‘THE LEAST OF THESE’

A 1992 English education major, Schumacher has spent her professional life focused on children. A Wisconsin native, she lives in North Aurora and teaches eighth-graders English at Sam Rotolo Middle School.

But her heart is increasingly in Haiti, where she envisions a future working full time with special-needs children at Notre Maison, an orphanage in Port-au-Prince. She is investing her time and money to make that dream a reality within the next two years.

Schumacher is president of the advisory council for Notre Maison, which means “our home” in French. Gertrude Bien-Aime Azor, who served for five years as a Sister of Charity nun, started the home in 1993. She runs it

on an annual budget of about \$80,000. The money comes from donations and income from a guesthouse.

Schumacher has raised \$15,000 herself with the goal of constructing a school for the orphans. That plan has yet to materialize. In the interim, she and Gertrude have started a school within the orphanage where Schumacher works with the special-needs children for months each year, devoting her summer teaching breaks to the Haitian children who are considered outcasts.

“Culturally and within the medical system in Haiti, there is a stigma attached to special-needs kids,” Schumacher said. Many of these children have families, but their parents can’t care for them.

“Special-needs kids are seen as a

curse from the devil. They are often dropped off at the Room of Abandonment at the main hospital in Port-au-Prince, or they are abandoned by the side of the road. Gertrude comes and takes as many as she can.”

There are 44 children at the orphanage and for some, the medical needs are great. One 6-year-old male born with cataracts is unable to see. Another child has a clubfoot and is unable to walk. Both are maladies that would be fixed at birth in the U.S. That fact makes the suffering much more difficult for Schumacher, who sees hope for these children and is committed to helping them find a full life.

Her ultimate goal is to make Haiti her home and return to the U.S. two or



Schumacher enjoyed a day at Wahoo Bay with orphanage children, who work hard to overcome disabilities. Jude, who needs physical therapy to develop his leg strength, had cataract surgery but is still only able to see bright lights. Nathalie, right, worked with Schumacher last year to use rollers and paint pads designed for special-needs kids.

three times a year to raise funds. She's looked into teaching at an American school there to generate an income and keep her weekends open to spend at the orphanage. She specifically wants to develop the home's physical therapy room further and start an internship program.

If she was there full-time to supervise and push for consistent therapy, she be-

and two older brothers when her father was transferred to a manufacturing job in Port-au-Prince, with a population near 1 million. They stayed from 1971-1973, with Schumacher back home in Wisconsin by age 3.

She doesn't recall much about living in Haiti other than being served pineapple soaked in rum, a fond 40-year-

fall. Unable to find a group going during Thanksgiving of 2010, she returned to Haiti on her own and visited the orphanage she had discovered the year before.

Although Haiti is considered the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, Schumacher sees beauty in the people and land. Situated between Cuba, Jamaica, and the Dominican Republic,

“IT’S VERY MUCH A HAITI CALLING, NOT JUST THE ORPHANAGE. I LOVE THE CULTURE. I LOVE THE LANGUAGE. I LOVE THE PEOPLE.”

lieves the children would be much farther along. “They could dress themselves. They could feed themselves, and they would have speech therapy to learn to talk. They just need some one-on-one attention.”

Her passion to meet that need started quite simply as a desire to return to the land where she lived as a young child. She moved there with her parents

old culinary memory. “I remember I loved it,” she said. “Funny, I stay at the orphanage, and I eat it the same way in the kitchen there.”

Her journey to the orphanage started in 2009 when she Googled “Haiti mission trips.” She made contact with The Haiti Mission Project in Minnesota and traveled to the country that

Haiti's struggles escalated when the country was crippled by a devastating 7.0 earthquake in 2010 that killed an estimated 300,000 people and left 1.5 million without homes.

The earthquake was the worst in the region in 200 years, leaving Haiti in need of volunteers like Schumacher. She sees her involvement as an act of faith

instead of courage. Having grown up in the Lutheran church, she wanted to be a minister as far back as the sixth grade. Hers was always a family that attended church, and faith was important. She describes her connection to Haiti as spiritual, a ministry of sorts.

“It’s very much a Haiti calling, not

that they may not eat on any given day.”

Schumacher appreciates and admires the very faith-based culture.

“Every Haitian I know goes to church,” she said. “They ask, ‘How is your mother? How is your family? Do you know Jesus?’ They don’t ask about your father because they think he’s off working.”

said. She spent three days at Miami’s Jackson Memorial Hospital, then headed home to North Aurora for more recovery. Two weeks later she had medical clearance to return to Haiti for four more weeks.

Schumacher has made several treks to Haiti the past seven years without

“YOU GO WHERE YOUR HEART IS CALLED...I FEEL AT HOME THERE IN HAITI.”

just the orphanage,” Schumacher said. “I love the culture. I love the language. I love the people.”

A French minor at ISU helped prepare her to learn the language, and she plans to take a language immersion class in Creole when she returns this summer. “I want to become fluent, so that in a year or two—God willing—I can leave teaching and make my life in Haiti.”

The challenges she will face in reaching that goal are minor compared to the obstacles Haitian people encounter daily with a perseverance and attitude that touches Schumacher.

“They find joy where they can,” she said of her Haitian friends. “The money they make today is for food today. They don’t know about tomorrow. We live more by the month here in the U.S.—even our poor people. Haitians know

Schumacher has had her own faith tested in Haiti, from seeing the orphanage struggle to make ends meet primarily through donations and child sponsorships to watching Haitians survive natural disasters. Children die there from treatable illnesses such as dehydration. She endured her own medical emergency with a serious MRSA staph infection, ringworm and salmonella last summer.

She made it to a hospital in Miami after two days of suffering, during which time she stopped at a local Haitian clinic. On that day, an American medical team was preparing to leave for home within hours. Schumacher recognized one of the group, an American woman she’d met the day before at the orphanage.

“I had the American privilege of being able to get out of the country, and I had insurance coverage,” Schumacher

qualms. She tries to fill breaks in her teaching schedule with return trips, and even took a leave of absence from school for five months from January to June 2013.

Driven by a desire to do more, she is working to start internship opportunities for Illinois State students preparing to teach in special education. “I’ve had three interns from elsewhere, but my goal is to get interns from ISU.”

Creating opportunities for others to get involved is just another way Schumacher shares her passion, commitment, and work, which she said is fun and not totally altruistic.

“You go where your heart is called,” she said. “We can’t all go out to the same place. Some people are called to serve locally in food pantries for neighbors or in soup kitchens. I feel at home there in Haiti.”



An area of stores and shops in downtown Port-au-Prince suffered such damage in the massive 2010 earthquake that rubble remained in the streets years later. Schumacher took this photo in 2013.



Haiti’s beauty is captured in this photo of the small coastal village of Damassin. Schumacher took the photo while working there as a Foundation for Peace volunteer.

Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored five award recipients during Founders Day celebrations on February 18. Video of this year's recipients talking about how Illinois State changed their lives is at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards.

Distinguished Alumni Award

Teresa "Teri" Thompson '78, M.S. '87
Senior Vice President of University Relations and Chief Marketing Officer, University of Arizona
Tucson, Arizona

Teri Lucie Thompson is a senior marketing/communications executive credited with leading the transformation of branding and marketing in higher education. An ISU undergraduate English major, she completed a graduate degree in education and served as chair of University High School's English department for eight years.

She moved to State Farm Insurance Companies in 1994, where she rose from a public relations specialist to director of customer segment marketing. Thompson spearheaded efforts in marketing to women, multicultural segments and young adults. She then served as vice president of marketing for Safeco Insurance, where she brought a customer focus to a distributor-driven model.

Thompson transitioned to higher education in 2008 as chief marketing officer and vice president of marketing and media at Purdue University. Through her leadership, the public relations department was transformed into a marketing and media operation. Her success gained national attention, as she was named Higher Education Marketer of the Year in 2012 by the American Marketing Association. She also received the American Advertising Federation Lifetime Achievement Award in 2011 and the 2010 Stevie Award as marketing executive of the year.

In her current role since 2013, Thompson handles all communications, media, marketing, public relations, alumni relations, as well as the institution's public TV and radio operation.

An author and public speaker, Thompson maintains strong ISU ties. A member of the College of Education Hall of Fame, she has served on the English Department's advisory board. She is a member of the 1857 Society, Legacy Society and President's Circle in fiscal years 2014 and 2015. She founded the Lucie Critical Thinking Award to provide scholarship assistance to a University High School student who demonstrates a spirit of inquiry. It is a trait that defines her personally and professionally.



Alumni Achievement Award

Dan Kelley '70
Farmer and Vice Chairman, CoBank
Normal

Dan Kelley's work as a nationally recognized leader in agriculture began with his preparation as an undergraduate in ISU's Department of Agriculture. While a student, he received the Holbert Award based on academic excellence and leadership. It is the highest honor given by the department to students.

It was the first of many accolades for Kelley, who operates a grain farm near Normal in partnership with his son and two brothers. He received the Director of the Year Award from the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives in 2015, and has been elected to the national Cooperative Hall of Fame. Both honors acknowledge his excellence in agriculture as a member of several boards and an executive.

Kelley served as president and chairman of the board for GROWMARK, Inc., overseeing some of the company's most successful years. Sales increased nearly \$10 billion annually under his leadership. He also served as a former director of Evergreen FS, Inc. He currently serves as chairman and director of the Illinois Agricultural Leadership Foundation, and is a member of the board of Nationwide.

Kelley's contributions to ISU are significant, including his efforts to help organize the ISU Agriculture Alumni Association. He served as a director and president of the ISU Alumni Association and a member of the College of Applied Science and Technology (CAST) advisory board. Inducted into the CAST Hall of Fame, he established the Kelley Family Endowed Scholarship. A member of the 1857 Society and President's Circle for fiscal years 2014 and 2015, Kelley serves on ISU's Foundation Board.



Dan Kelley



Rose Sprinkle



Yvonne Williams



Susan Nelson-Brown

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Rose Sprinkle '02, M.S. '04
Deputy Director of Human Resources,
Chicago Police Department
Chicago

Rose Sprinkle completed a major in public relations followed by a master's degree in communication. She joined Barack Obama's campaign staff immediately following graduation as a press assistant and media monitor within Illinois during his run for U.S. Senate. Once elected, she joined Obama's Chicago office as a press assistant, enjoying the challenge of creating strategic media plans for local and state coverage.

Sprinkle's next challenge was with the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation in Chicago. She started as an assistant to the president and became deputy chief of staff within two years. The foundation was issuing grants totaling \$230 million and drawing on a corpus in excess of \$6 billion.

Offices were scattered overseas, with employees tackling problems of maternal mortality to a lack of low-income housing. Sprinkle worked to make a difference in the lives of individuals across the globe.

Now with the Chicago Police Department, Sprinkle is actively involved in the metro community and is a proud Redbird. She enjoys being with her nieces and nephews.

Her connections to ISU are strong, as Sprinkle served as the first president of School of Communication alumni group. She has been on the school's advisory board and worked to improve networking with fellow graduates in the Chicago area.

Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Yvonne Williams '69
Director of Special Education and Pupil Personnel Services,
Matteson Illinois School District 162
Richton Park

Yvonne Williams completed a dual major in elementary and special education, which was preparation for her first job as a Chicago Public Schools (CPS) teacher working with the blind and partially sighted. She completed a graduate degree from National College of Education, and courses at Harvard and Loyola.

She stayed with CPS up to retirement in 2004, going from classroom teacher to administrative duties. When she departed, Williams was the special education officer overseeing programs for 58,000 students. In her current role in the Matteson school district, she has helped develop the special education program.

Passionately committed to educational services for students with special needs, Williams has participated in implementation of state and federal policies governing instruction. She is an expert consultant who partners with schools and presents at national conferences. Williams is also an adjunct at the University of Illinois in Chicago and DePaul.

Williams is a supporter of the Urban League, NAACP, and United Negro College Fund. She worked with the Lincoln Park Zoo to improve universal accessibility. A tremendous role model for young professional women, Williams maintains strong connections to Illinois State students as an active member of the University's Black Colleagues Association.

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Susan Nelson-Brown '78
Owner, Brown and Associates
Dallas, Texas

Accounting graduate Susan Nelson-Brown has spent her life pursuing a career in her field of state and local taxation while being a volunteer. She has progressed from a tax auditor with the Illinois Department of Revenue to owning and managing Brown Taxes, LLC. A member of several professional organizations, she travels the country speaking on tax issues.

She has filled numerous volunteer roles, from involvement in the opening and closing ceremonies team for the 1996 Summer Olympics to fundraising for medical charities through her role in Silpada. She has chaired the membership committee for the Institute for Professionals in Taxation, helped with cancer awareness initiatives, assisted with raising funds for local schools and animal charities, and is a co-leader on her neighborhood website.

Nelson-Brown's skill at organizing and hosting has benefited Illinois State. She started the Atlanta area alumni organization before moving to Dallas. She is the backbone of the ISU alumni network in the Dallas region, hosting as many as 15 events annually. A dedicated Redbird ambassador, she was instrumental in coordinating events surrounding the football team's 2015 national championship run in Frisco, Texas.

In addition to engaging alumni across the country, Nelson-Brown also invests her resources in the University. Already a donor, she is developing a scholarship program that will benefit female ISU business students.

#RedbirdProud



Experience Illinois State in Chicago

University traditions celebrated through interactive event at Navy Pier

More than 60,000 Redbirds call the Chicago area home. That's why the ISU Alumni Association is bringing the Illinois State campus experience and Redbird traditions to the Windy City this summer through an event called A Normal Tradition in Chicago.

With the help of the University's arts technology program and the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives, Navy Pier's Crystal Gardens will be transformed into a night of Illinois State traditions on June 22.

Guests will witness the evolution of Reggie Redbird, learn of the University and its leaders in times of war, virtually walk onto the Quad of the past and present, and find out just why Illinois State pride is soaring among graduates.

"The evening will be very unique in that it will take guests on an interactive, virtual journey to explore well-known traditions at Illinois State throughout the years," said Doris Groves, executive director of Alumni Engagement.

What: *A Normal Tradition in Chicago*

When: *6:30-9 p.m., Wednesday, June 22*

Where: *The Crystal Gardens at Chicago's Navy Pier*

Cost: *\$25 per person*

"Also special about A Normal Tradition in Chicago is that several of the interactive exhibits have been designed by current students at Illinois State," Groves said.

"These students have been given the opportunity to showcase their talents for Chicago-area alumni to experience and remember why it is so meaningful to be a Redbird."

Along with a night full of Illinois State experiences, alums will enjoy heavy hors d'oeuvres, meet President Larry Dietz, and have the opportunity to reminisce about their time at the University. The night will conclude with the perfect spot to view the always spectacular Navy Pier fireworks.

Those interested in more information or planning to attend can visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Chicago or contact the Alumni Relations office by calling (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478. Moments from A Normal Tradition in Chicago will be shared with #Chicago-Redbirds.

Alumni News

Plan for Homecoming

To continue the theme from the summer event in Chicago, this year's Homecoming will be A Normal Tradition. Plans are underway for this year's celebration October 3-9.

Annual traditions will continue on Saturday the 8th, with the Town and Gown 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk followed by the parade through Uptown Normal. The football team will battle Youngstown State.

The tradition of crowning royalty will continue as well. The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for alumni king and queen, as well as the prince and princess. Applications are available at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu/Royalty.

To be eligible for alumni king and queen, graduates must have celebrated their 50th class reunion, have a strong connection to the University, and be able to attend Homecoming events throughout the weekend. King and queen nominations are due July 1.

Children between the ages of 4 and 7 at the time of Homecoming activities in October and whose parents are ISU graduates are eligible for nomination as the prince and princess. Nominees must display Redbird spirit, pride and enthusiasm. Prince and princess nominations are due August 19.

To learn more about events as they are scheduled, go online to Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu or call Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478.

Alumni meeting set

Alumni are invited to the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. on June 18 in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of Alumni Association Board of Directors members and officers.

Alumni who have made a gift through the University Foundation in the current or preceding year are eligible to vote at the meeting. Go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2586 for more information.



1968



2015

From the archives

Regardless of what changes through construction, the University's Quad remains a campus gem. The view from atop Watterson Towers shows how the open space has flourished over time. The top image from 1968 captured a time of few flower beds, little artwork, and before the Old Main marker was added. The beauty enjoyed today is a testament to the vision of ISU's founder, Jesse Fell, who commissioned landscape gardener William Saunders to design the University's grounds that are now designated The Fell Arboretum.

ClassNotes



Working with the White House

Business graduates partner in national effort to encourage education

First Lady Michelle Obama is committed to inspiring students to take charge of their future by completing education past high school. Her Reach Higher initiative motivates young people to pursue a professional training or college program.

College of Business graduates Katie Gottesman '01, *above left*, and Adina Salah '04 are helping in the effort tied to the president's goal of seeing America have the highest proportion of college graduates in the world by 2020.

Gottesman and Salah, shown at the White House last fall, are tied to the #BetterMakeRoom campaign that targets students between the ages of 14 and

19. The two are involved through their CommuterAds business.

"The #BetterMakeRoom campaign is an important bipartisan initiative to help ensure the U.S. workforce is well-trained and ready to excel in a competitive, global economy over the next 50 years," said Gottesman, CommuterAds founder. "CommuterAds is proud to partner with the Obama administration."

Salah, CommuterAds COO, describes #BetterMakeRoom as "a space where young people can focus on what's next in their lives." It offers support toward pursuing post-secondary degrees.

Media partners will deliver targeted messages that show the positive impact of continued education. CommuterAds

was the only new media firm operating outside of the social media industry invited to the White House launch.

CommuterAds operates 13 contracts in 11 U.S. cities to deliver targeted, location-based messages inside buses and trains. The company's ability to engage students across the country is unparalleled due to the captive nature of geo-targeted messages that reach transit riders.

"It is an honor and privilege to work with The White House team and help spread the #BetterMakeRoom message to students in all our communities," Salah said. "Seeing CommuterAds on this national stage reinforces the relevance of our hyper-targeted transit messages to both current and up-and-coming generations."

40s

Joe French '49, M.S. '50, retired after serving on the faculty at Penn State, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Nebraska, and Illinois State. He served 24 years on the board regulating licensed Pennsylvania psychologists. He and his wife, **Peg (Gallagher) '51**, have four children, six grandchildren and eight great grandchildren. The couple resides in State College, Pennsylvania.

50s

Martha (Ellis) Norcross '50, M.A. '66, retired from Canton Union School District 66. She resides in Macomb.

60s

Ron Bluemer '67, M.S. '72, taught high school social studies and earth science for 34 years. He was an adjunct history instructor and director of the early college entry program at Illinois Valley Community College for 15 years. He is now executive director of the LaSalle County Historical Museum Campus. He and his wife, Peggy, reside in Granville.

Joy (Schroeder) Jacobs '67 has retired as a specialist instructor and undergraduate academic advisor in the Department of Human Development and Family Studies at Michigan State University. She taught family relationship courses to more than 10,000 students at the university. She and her husband, Lee, reside in Perry, Michigan.

Robert Walling '67, M.S. '70, enjoys retirement and serving as president of the Sun City West Valley Chorale in Arizona. He is the producer/director of Popera Concerts in Surprise, Arizona, where he resides with his wife, Susan.

Carolyn Finzer '69 is contributing to a Naperville book of historical images. The book will be released through Arcadia Publishing as part of its new Modern America series. A beloved storyteller, Finzer is a fifth-generation resident of the community, where she still resides with her husband, Melvern.

Phillip Huntman '69, M.S. '70, retired as a teacher and administrator from District 87 in Bloomington. He and his wife, Louise, reside in Tavares, Florida.

70s

Blaine Sampson '70 is CEO of Blue Ocean. He and his wife, Peggy, reside in Georgetown, Texas.

Rich Clemmons '72 retired after more than 36 years with Illinois Farm Bureau. He has since started GovPlus Capitol Consulting, a government relations consulting business. He served on ISU's alumni board for 15 years. He and his wife, Gretchen, reside in Bloomington.

Steve Hughes '73 is president of Hughes and Hughes Financial Advisers, Inc. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in New Lenox.

Nancy (Johnson) Morris '73 provides graphic support for B-O-F Corporation. She resides in West Chicago.

Mary (Smith) Fisher-Miller, M.S. '74, is director of the Chatsworth Township Library. She and her husband, Terry, reside in Normal.

Mary Pronoitis '74 is self-employed as a behavior specialist. She resides in Tinley Park.

Randy Howard '76 retired after 36 years with Caterpillar, Inc. He held accounting and marketing positions, retiring as business support manager. He and his wife, Kris, reside in Washington.

Steven Longman '76 is a senior cost engineer with Jacobs Engineer-

Pause for applause

Exemplary educator



Gloria (Carbajal) Trejo '96, M.S. '00, is the only Illinois educator and one of only two principals to be included in a national group formed by the Association of Latino Administrators and Superintendents. She will complete a program to equip aspiring Latino superintendents with knowledge and skills to lead a district where at least 20 percent of the students are Latino. Trejo is the principal at Pioneer Elementary School in West Chicago. Each of the 14 participants were chosen based on their commitment to raising student achievement and their dedication to serving the needs of families in their district.

BuzzFeed superstar

Keith Habersberger '08 hasn't headlined any blockbuster movies, TV shows or Broadway productions yet, but he still gets recognized almost everywhere he goes. He is one of the stars of BuzzFeed Motion Pictures, an online video production house that reaches a billion viewers each month. He also writes, produces, directs and edits up to 10 videos on average weekly. Habersberger prepared for the work while an acting major at ISU. During his time on campus he hosted Theatre of Ted and met lifelong friends through Improv Mafia. Together they started an improv troupe called Octavarius, which performs in Los Angeles.



Soaring under the hood



Hands-on automotive education at the high school level teaches unique skills that are recognized in a national, annual Quaker State competition. A team of students learning under the direction of **Bob Spagnoli '87, center**, made it to the final five of the contest

in 2015. His New Trier High School team was the only one chosen to represent the Midwest. Students were challenged to restore, tune and customize a pre-owned car at least a decade old. They tackled a specific task each of the six weeks in the Best in Class Challenge that included NASCAR driver Paul Menard as a judge.

Raised on radio

Zach "Remy" Hoesly '07 has a passion for radio dating back to childhood. While studying mass media, he worked at WZND and then as an intern and board operator for Radio Bloomington. An opportunity to sub as a host for Bloomington's WBNQ led to an afternoon show, which turned into a spot on 93.7 The Bull in St. Louis in 2010. Last year he and on-air partner Mason were added to a new Chicago country station, Big 95.5 FM. A morning slot allows them to keep their afternoon St. Louis show as well, meaning Hoesly is on air nine hours in a day.



REGGIE READS

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

How we met

Despite a 12-year gap between the two sisters, Kathleen Rose followed in the footsteps of her older sibling Joanne (Rose) Ford '99. The only girls among seven children, the two were so close that Kathleen knew she too wanted to be a Redbird and applied only to Illinois State.

She came to campus to study special education, never expecting to meet her future husband. Her chance encounter with Andrew Sampson '13 occurred during the spring semester of 2009. A mutual friend introduced him to Kathleen '11 during a Frisbee game on the Quad. She was in her sophomore year at the time, while he was a freshman majoring in information systems. The two connected easily and often after that moment, as both lived in Colby Hall.

"We joke that we never had a real first date," Kathleen said, recalling hours the two spent together in the Bone Student Center. "I was a member of the University Program Board, so we would go to UPB events," Kathleen said. Among their favorites were Double Feature Fridays and Midnight Munchies. They made frequent stops for ice cream in the Bone, and also had a routine of getting off campus together.

The two especially enjoyed taking walks, running and biking on Constitution Trail. "My fondest memories are sitting together on a trail bridge and letting our feet dangle," Kathleen said. The spot became even more memorable during Homecoming 2012, as Andrew chose it as the place to propose.

Fifty Redbirds attended the wedding on July 11, 2015. Andrew's grandmothers were the oldest alums from the 1950s, with Kathleen's brothers the most recent as 2014 graduates. With such strong family ties to campus, the two have no doubt they will stay connected to Illinois State despite now living in Downers Grove. Kathleen is a special education teacher at Downers Grove South High School, and Andrew is a programmer for the American Academy of Sleep Medicine.

The two plan on making many trips back to Normal for visits with Andrew's grandparents and to attend ISU basketball games. They also anticipate finding the time to jog their many Illinois State memories with yet another walk on Constitution Trail.



Kathleen (Rose) and Andrew Sampson shared their wedding with 50 Redbirds.

ing Group at ExxonMobil in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, where he resides.

James Stodd, M.S. '76, owns JT Stodd and Associates management consulting firm. He is an adjunct faculty member at Louisiana State University. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Bill Foltz '77 is the mentoring program coordinator at Youth Conservation Corps in Waukegan, which is part of the nationwide Youth-Build program. He and his wife, Janet, reside in Lake Villa.

Marie Garnett '77 retired after 37 years in education, all spent in Bloom Township District 206. She was a para-professional, special education teacher and dean of students. She resides in Country Club Hills.

Annette Weathington '77 is a clinical therapist. She resides in San Marcos, California.

Lawrence Whittet '78 is a senior project manager with Moss and Associates. He resides in Granbury, Texas.

Janie Wilson-Cook '79 completed a master's in art history at Northern Illinois University. She is manager of the School of Art and Design Visual Resource Center at NIU. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Rockford.

80s

Kevin Connor '80, M.S. '87, is chief of staff at the Illinois Department of Revenue. He and his wife, Barb, reside in Springfield.

Pamela Elliott '80, M.S. '86, owns Elliott Counseling Services, which is an out-patient mental health group. She and her husband, Douglas, have five children and four grandchildren. The couple resides in Bloomington.

Marilyn Miller, M.S. '80, retired after working as a certified athletic trainer and teaching kinesiology/biomechanics for 34 years. She taught at University of Wisconsin-LaCrosse and Bloomsburg University. She published several articles and presented internationally. She

and her spouse reside in Millsboro, Delaware.

Steve Misewicz '80 is self-employed and has celebrated 27 years as president of Stevens Design. He resides in Streamwood.

Kevin Ostendrof '80 is senior credit analyst for Central Federal Savings and Loan in Cicero. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Crest Hill.

Stephen Simms '81 is senior director of IT for DHL Supply Chain. He resides in Westerville, Ohio.

Vicki (Trager) Mucci, M.S. '83, is a speech language pathologist in Ottawa Elementary School District 141. She resides in Ottawa.

Janice (Brewer) Tamplin '83, M.S. '85, is an assistant director in student development at the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, where she resides.

Glynis (Bryan) Gibson '84, M.S. '85, is president of Gibson Communications. The PR/communications firm marked 20 years in 2015. She is an adjunct professor at DePaul

University. She and her husband, Bryan, reside in Chicago.

Raymond Hoyt '84 is president of Visit Tulsa and Tulsa Sports Commission. He resides in Tulsa, Oklahoma.

John Mohler '84 is a sports producer of "This Week in Cardinals Nation" for station KSDK-TV. He resides in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Theresa Kaminski, M.S. '85, is an author of three books. Her most recent is *Angels of the Underground*, which tells stories of American women who resisted the Japanese occupation of the Philippines in WWII. She resides in Stevens Point, Wisconsin.

Catherine O'Hara '85 is a program director at the University of Cincinnati in Ohio, where she resides.

Kathy (Pokorny) Dunne '86 is the senior vice president of internal operations of Big Red Rooster Flow. She and her husband, Jamie, reside in Winnetka.

James Lorenz '86 retired after 25 years in corporate accounting and

finance. His daughter, Amanda **Lorenz '11**, is also a Redbird. He resides in Mesa, Arizona.

Joseph McNeely '86 is the CEO of FreightCar America. He and his wife, Christine, reside in Frankfort.

Tim O'Brien '86 owns the O'Brien News Service. He resides in Sycamore.

Elizabeth (Walden) Beasley '87 completed a doctorate at Walden University. She is supervisor of human resources for St. Mary's County Public Schools in Maryland. She is adjunct faculty with Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University Worldwide. She resides in Solomons, Maryland.

Kim Stewart '87 is district bookkeeper for the LeRoy School District. An author, she has written *Political Suicide*, *Scared to Hope*, and *The Chosen One*. She resides in LeRoy.

Sherri Cohen '88 is business marketing manager for Elekta. She resides in Atlanta, Georgia.

Steve Kastorff '88 teaches and is an author. His first book is titled *Leafing Through History Stories from Geneseo*. He resides in Geneseo.

90s

Margaret (Kidwell) Ethridge '90 is an author completing a series called Full Court Press. The three books will bring her count of novels and novellas to 35. She writes under her name and Maggie Wells. She and her husband, Bill, reside in Little Rock, Arkansas.

Dan Gruber, M.S. '90, is the director of marketing for Zelle Hofmann Voelbel and Mason LLP. He resides in Le Sueur, Minnesota.

Jon Ponder '90 co-owns Lucky Monument Company. He and his wife, Toni, reside in Galesburg.

Ann Rosenquist Fee '91, M.A. '95, is executive director of the Art Center in Mankato, Minnesota. She is part of a singing duo called The Frye, which performs *The Best of Hank and Rita: A Barroom Operetta*. They are working to secure funds for a film about the fictional couple as they travel Route 66 from Illinois to California. She and

her husband, **Scott Fee '91, M.S. '97**, reside in Mankato.

Chanay (Myrick) Mackey '91 is director of risk management for the Village of Downers Grove. She resides in Flossmoor.

Robin Tomaszewski '91 is a senior project manager with Alcatel-Lucent. She resides in Denver, Colorado.

John Beachey '92 is an operations manager with TJ Stearns, Inc. He and his wife, Andrea, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Christopher Dolan '92, M.S. '94, completed a law degree at George Washington University Law School. He is an attorney with more than 16 years of trademark litigation experience. He has joined Barnes & Thornburg LLP as a partner in the firm's intellectual property department. He resides in Lake Forest.

Teri Range '92 is a high school math teacher who received an Emerson Excellence in Teaching Award in 2015. She resides in O'Fallon, Missouri.

Willard "Buddy" Harper '93 ran for state representative for the Illinois 75th District. He resides in Morris.

Heather Neaveill-Kramer '93 is an administrative law judge at the Department of Administrative Hearings for the City of Chicago. She is an adjunct professor of law at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago. She resides in Chicago.

Toby Capion '94 is producer of EWTN News Nightly in Washington, D.C. He and his wife, Jeanne, reside in Silver Spring, Maryland.

Peter Tomaras, MBA '94, is a longtime hotelier who received the Tourism Impact Award from Visit Champaign County. He has authored a second novel, *Innkeeper*, which is an international love story. He resides in Champaign.

Michelle Wilson '96 was a live liver donor in 2015. She resides in Sunnyvale, California.

Suzanne (Martin) Woodward '96 is the director of development for University Libraries at Western Illinois University. She and her

husband, J. Scott, reside in Mt. Sterling.

Stephen Woolery, M.S. '96, is a special agent in charge with the FBI through the U.S. Department of Justice. He resides in Los Angeles, California.

Sarah (Caudle) Beam '97 is a nurse practitioner with Illinois Neurological Institute. She resides in Peoria.

Robert Kass '97 is the vice president of Digital Audio at Nielsen in New York City, where he resides.

Kristine Klein '97 is a lead financial analyst with Christus Health. She resides in Dallas, Texas.



Redbirds represent in Greece

Three alums finished 2015 by accomplishing what few Redbirds have attempted. They ran the Athens Marathon in Greece in November. All former members of the Illinois State Run Club and Triathlon Club, the friends reunited to tour and explore the country for one week prior to the marathon. They are, *from left*, Kelly Kester '12, Ryan Hollister '11, and Alex Beruscha '13.

Aaron Watson '97 is a business operations manager within University College at Illinois State University. He resides in Bloomington.

Sofia Howden '98 owns Sofia's House of Style Sewing Studio and is a professional classical singer. She founded Celebrating the Beauty Within, which uses fashion events to educate and empower people on the effects of sexual abuse and domestic violence. She resides in Normal.

Jack Limes '98 is a clinical laboratory scientist with OSF-St. Joseph Medical Center. He resides in Normal.

Mark Krogulski '99 is a financial consultant with Charles Schwab and Company. He and his wife, Nicole, reside in Los Angeles, California.

00s

Tom Cicero '00 is assistant director of the Engineering Career Center at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He resides in Chicago.

Bryan Scholtes, M.S. '00, completed an MBA at the University of Minnesota. He is a consumer

insights associate with General Mills, where he practices market research. He resides in New Brighton, Minnesota.

Joe Alread '01 is a producer who leads the live services team for Electronic Arts, which creates video games for Madden Mobile, and NFL Madden and NBA Live for the console. He and his wife, Erika, reside in Winter Springs, Florida.

Lisa (Patterson) Niemeyer '01 is a marketing manager for Wintrust

Redbird legacy

Redbird pride runs deep in the Lanier family. A legacy that started with three brothers now extends to the second generation of their five children, all of whom were enrolled this past academic year.

Jeff Lanier '89 was the first to attend Illinois State. The oldest brother, he paid for his own education and chose Illinois State in part to save by living at home in Bloomington while completing an economics degree. He enjoyed campus life as an ATO fraternity member and married a fellow Redbird.

Jeff met Rexie (Westerbeck) '90, M.S. '02, at a family wedding after both had graduated. They count their campus connection as another plus to their relationship. An education major, Rexie is a middle school language arts teacher and Jeff works at State Farm Insurance Company. Bloomington residents, they maintain a strong campus connection through Redbird basketball and the fact their twin daughters are enrolled.

Alyse and Alexis just completed their freshman year in Tri Towers. Alyse chose to study graphic design, while Alexis is a business major. They enjoy having the opportunity to attend the same university as their three male cousins.

Braxton, Logan and Gannon are the sons of Jeff's middle brother, Doug '90. Also an ATO member, Doug studied criminal justice. He is now employed by UPS and lives in Plainfield with his wife, Lauren (Navratil) '01. She is an employee benefits consultant at Arthur J. Gallagher and Company.

Doug's youngest son, Gannon, just finished his freshman year in Watterson Towers and is a business major. His middle brother, Logan, is a business major as well who will return in the fall as a senior. The oldest, Braxton, graduated this spring with a degree in education.

The family connection is made complete with Jeff's youngest brother, John '96, who majored in criminal justice. He works at State Farm as well and also resides in Bloomington.

"It's just neat that we all share ISU," Rexie said of the family connection. "There is always someone in the family wearing ISU gear." All loyal and grateful Redbirds, they wouldn't want it any other way.



The Lanier family includes, front row, from left, Gannon, Alexis, Logan, Alyse and Braxton. Back row, from left, Jeff and Rexie, John, Doug and Lauren.

(Photo credit: Annetta Blair Photography)

Wealth Management in Chicago. She and her husband, Joseph, were married in October 2015. They reside in Tinley Park.

Jared Owen '01 is the state hazard mitigation planner for the Illinois Emergency Management Agency. He and his wife, Tara, are parents of two daughters and reside in Springfield.

Corey Parker '02 is the network director of graduate and undergraduate medical education at HonorHealth. He and his wife, Naomi, reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

Heather (Ordner) VanRonzelen '02 studied to be a registered nurse. She is a nurse educator with Quintiles. She and her husband, Mark, reside in St. Louis, Missouri.

Michael Volkman '02 is a finance manager with US Foods. He and his wife, Ashley, reside in Streator.

Rebecca Brtva '03, '07, is manager of the chemistry and special chemistry departments at Mid American Clinical Laboratories Regional Lab. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

LeAnn (Rocha) Bylo '03 is manager of global accounts for HelmsBriscoe. She and her husband, Ronald, reside in Knob Noster, Missouri.

Thomas Heil '03 is a clinical informatics specialist at Luthern Medical Center-CSL Health. He and his wife, Kristin, reside in Golden, Colorado.

Eric Mill '03 is a supervisor of business performance in the fleet services department at Ameren Missouri. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in St. Charles, Missouri.

Mandy (Wagner) Cawby '04 is director of customer relations for WaterOne, the largest water utility in Kansas. She is a proud stepmom

to two sons. She and her husband, Don, reside in Osawatomie, Kansas.

Elizabeth (Erwin) Alvares '05 is the assistive technology facilitator with Schaumburg School District 54. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Morton.

Justin Galton, M.S. '05, is a global client executive with Lenovo. He and his wife, Jamia, reside in Snoqualmie, Washington.

Amy (Vander Meer) Jonaitis '05 completed a law degree at DePaul University. She is a partner in the law firm of Beermann Pritikin Mirabelli Swerdlove LLP in Chicago. She resides in Aurora.

Amit Phatak, M.S. '05, is a senior application architect with First-Data Corporation. He resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Jason Safranek '05 is a teacher in the United Arab Emirates and works with the Abu Dhabi Education Council. He and his wife, Haley, reside in Abu Dhabi.

Colleen (Ryan) Clark '06 is a design and digital media specialist with Heyl Royster. She resides in Peoria.

Scott Martin '06 is the director of technology for Prairie Grove CSD 46. His wife, **Lauren (Wing) '09**, is a graphic designer with United Advisors Group. They are the parents of a son and daughter. Mila was born in November 2015. They reside in Crystal Lake.

Jacy Sapp '06 is a senior research associate at DuPont Pioneer. He and his wife, Carissa, reside in Fishers, Indiana.

Giovanni Testolin '06 is a Common Ground Grocery associate. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Bloomington.

Jennifer Van Dillen, M.A. '06, is a religious sister with the Sister Servants of the Eternal Word. She resides in Birmingham, Alabama.

Kimberly (Clementi) Antequino '07 is a READ 180 middle school teacher in Evanston School District 65. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Schaumburg.

David Meagher '07 was married to his wife, Rena, in October 2015. They reside in Geneva.

Amanda Riccio '07 is a special education teacher at Chicago Autism Academy. She resides in La Grange Park.

Kyle Schneider '07 teaches choir to middle school and high school students, and guitar to high school students in the Kenai Peninsula Borough School District. He is president of the Alaska Choral Directors Association. He and his wife, Elizabeth, were married in June 2015. They reside in Homer, Alaska.

Jennifer (Harris) Slivka '07 is an early childhood teacher with Valley View CUSD 365. She and her husband, Andy, reside in Chicago Heights.

Nathaniel Haywood '08 is an English teacher at Downers Grove South High School. He and his wife, Kristy, reside in Westmont.

Zach Just '08 is a regional sales manager for National Pasteurized Eggs, Inc. He and his wife, Jessica, reside in Chicago.

Jessica (Wollenberg) Kalas '08 is a staff nurse at Northwestern Medicine Cancer Center. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Carol Stream.

Jacob Long '08 is a team manager with Towers Watson. He and his wife, Stephanie, reside in Chicago.

Shanna (Casey) McDaniels '08 is an office manager with Health Promotion and Wellness at ISU. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Lexington.

Emily Perkins '08 is an attorney with Heyl Royster Voelker and Allen. She resides in Peoria.

Elizabeth Wickes '08 is a data curation specialist at the University of Illinois-Champaign library. She and her husband, Michael Feltes, are the parents of a son. Leo Wickes-Feltes was born in September 2015. They reside in Urbana.

John Wierzbicki '08 is the owner and head trainer of One Goal Training, Inc. He and his wife, Erin, were married in June 2015. They reside in Chicago.

Jessica (Young) Doudera '09, MBA '10, is the supervisor of financial reporting with Tempoe Financial. She and her husband, James, reside in Clinton.

Caeli (Dowdall) Duerson '09 is a speech-language pathologist with the Aurora Public Schools. She and her husband, Dustin, reside in Denver, Colorado.

Rachael (Gibson) Fitz '09 is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Daniel, reside in Eureka.

Ross Hancock '09 is a senior division manager with RJ Reynolds Tobacco Company. He resides in Fishers.

Sarah (Perkins) Myers '09 is a speech pathologist with Homebound Healthcare. She and her husband, Nathan, reside in Peoria, Indiana.

Sarah Rysell '09 is a development officer at Blackburn College. She resides in Carlinville.

Laura (Morrical) Simonton '09, '11, is a teacher's aid and substitute with Olympia School District. She and her husband, Tony, reside in Atlanta.

Sarah (Lance) Skriba '09 completed a master's in literacy education at Northern Illinois University. She teaches first grade in Glen Ellyn CCSD 89. She and her husband, Bryce, were married in December 2015. They reside in Lombard.

Jenifer (Hard) White '09 is marketing manager for international and U.S. accounting with Becker Professional Education. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Hinckley.

Andrew Cross '10 is a vice president and partner at Walker Sands, a public relations and marketing firm in Chicago. He and his wife, Christy, met in the Presidential Scholars Program at ISU. They reside in Clarendon Hills.

Laura (Swingle) Hatcher '10 is senior clinical research associate with Alliance for Clinical Trials in Oncology. She and her husband, Clifton, were married in July 2015. They reside in Boston, Massachusetts.

Michael Kearney '10 is pastor of St. Paul Lutheran Church of Alden-Buckeye. He and his wife, Erica, reside in Alden, Iowa.

Blair (Kelly) Larson '10 and her husband, Andrew '12, are parents to Arden, who was born in March 2015. They reside in Hudson.

Phylicia Manley '10 is a Peace Corps Fellow and graduate assistant with the Illinois Institute for Rural Affairs at Western Illinois University. She resides in Quincy.

Rebecca (Kopczynski) Ortega '10 is a teacher at Morris County High School. She and her husband, Jairo, reside in New Lenox.

Britt (Knutson) Platt '10 received the North Central Business Education Association Emerging Professional Award for her teaching of business and computer science at Oakwood High School. She and her husband, Andy, are parents of a son born in August 2015. They reside in Centerville, Ohio.

Deanna (Gillett) Schnauffer '10 is a senior financial analyst with Gartner. She resides in Fort Myers, Florida.

Leslie (Bixby) Welke '10 is a stay-at-home mom and a District 87 substitute teacher. She and her husband, Charlie, reside in Normal.

Albert "Joe" Ballard '11 is a publicity manager at Muddy Paw Public Relations. He resides in Peoria.

Kelsey (Coker) Daniels '11 is a college access English instructor with Australian National University. She and her husband, Don, reside in Hackett, Australia.

Katie Kolokithas '11 is an associate and architectural historian with



From campus to corporate

Two coworkers at a Fortune 10 company were thrilled to realize they also share Redbird pride as ISU kinesiology and recreation graduates. Sarah (Dietz) Lee '02, left, completed her degree in exercise science/athletic training. She is employed as the fitness coordinator for Phillips 66 at the firm's wellness center in Bartlesville, Oklahoma. Jessica Domann, M.S. '07, earned her ISU graduate degree in psychology of sport and physical activity. She works as fitness lead at the company's headquarters in Houston, Texas. Together they partner to facilitate local, national and global programs and initiatives.

10s

Erin (King) Arnett '10 is the national sales desk director for Jackson National Life Distributors. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Brentwood, Tennessee.

Larry Bratton II, MBA '10, is a senior underwriter with Auto-Owners Insurance. He resides in Peoria.

ASTI Environmental in Brighton, Michigan.

Brittany Meredith '11 is an intermediate accountant with Community Health Systems, Inc. She resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Amber O'Brien '11 is a communications coordinator with CH2M. She resides in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Amelia (Miller) Palmer '11, MBA '14, M.S. '15, is an associate director of alumni relations at Bradley University. She and her husband, Jarek, reside in East Peoria.

Nena Woo '11 is an account team assistant at Brella Productions. She resides in Evanston.

Alison (Kessinger) Berland, M.S. '12, is a service associate at the University of Cincinnati. She and her husband, David, were married in October 2015. They reside in Dayton, Ohio.

Courtney Bruns '12 is a client tech analyst with CDK Global. She resides in Granbury, Texas.

Dana Garber '12 is a senior financial accountant at Nuveen Investments. She resides in Chicago.

Brianna Kuhn '12 is an assistant director of new student programs at Radford University. She resides in Radford, Virginia.

Dana McCarty '12 is an interior designer and project manager with Lawrence Group. She has obtained the National Council for Interior Design Qualification. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jennifer Murley '12, M.S. '14, teaches third grade in Lincoln Elementary School District 23. She resides in Normal.

Gerald Price '12 is a regional casting director for film and television. He works with FOX, ABC, USA and F/X. He is the former director of new faces for John Casablanca's and Model Talent Management. He resides in Los Angeles, California.

Robert Siron '12 is an event producer with Josh Woods Productions. He resides in Brooklyn, New York.

Jared Trullinger, Ph.D. '12, is the academic and career advisor in the



Blending fitness and friendship

A group of six ISU alums have been competing the past 18 years in the Wolfman Triathlon in Langlade, Wisconsin. The off-road triathlon includes whitewater kayaking on the Wolf River, a single-track mountain bike route, and a river run. A few in the group started the tradition while working at Bloomington Cycle and Fitness as Illinois State students. Now all residents of the Northwest Chicago suburbs, they make the annual weekend event a time to recharge their friendship as they challenge themselves physically. They are, *from left*, Russ Micklinghoff '00, Eric Wickenkamp '01, Kevin Keoppen '99, Nick Low '04, Mike Mrachek '02, and Brian Stannis '00. Low consistently captures a top finishing time. The photo from 2015 was taken at Bear Paw Lodge in Wisconsin, which was leveled by a tornado years ago. Damaged kayaks remain in a tree stripped during the storm.

Department of Psychology at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. He resides in Speedway, Indiana.

Josh Weaver '12 is an underwriter with Bitco Insurance Companies. He resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Lauren Bradley '13 is a registered nurse at Gottlieb Memorial Hospital. She resides in Maywood.

Pagean (Sanders) DiSalvio, M.M. '13, is a graduate teaching assistant at Louisiana State University. She and her husband, Nicholas, reside in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Christopher Durham '13 is an infrastructure analyst specializing in enterprise mobility at State Farm

Insurance Companies. He resides in Bloomington.

Kara Hughes '13 is a nutrition program associate with the University of Missouri Extension. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Bethany (Vandercar) Kazmierowski '13 is a math teacher at Larkin High School. She and her husband, Kevin, reside in Schaumburg.

David Naert '13 completed an MBA and has begun a career in higher education as a graduate student recruitment coordinator at Arizona State University. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Alexis Oduyale '13 is a registered nurse with Hartgrove Behavioral

Health System. She resides in Chicago.

Kailey (Perez) Pazderski '13 is completing a master's in psychology. She is an operations consultant with Allstate. She and her husband, Sebastian, reside in Crystal Lake.

Paris Porter '13 works in fraud forensics litigation services for Horne LLP. She resides in Lansing.

Kristyn (Raetz) Richert '13 is a cardiovascular intensive care registered nurse for Scripps Health System in San Diego, California, where she resides with her husband, Craig.

Michael Tristano '13, M.S. '15, is a graduate teaching associate at Arizona State University. He resides in Tempe, Arizona.

Heather Welch '13 is with the U.S. Forest Service as a wildland firefighter for Flathead National Forest in the Bob Marshall Wilderness. She fights fires in the summer and skis during the winter. She resides in Kalispell, Montana.

Stephanie Zitella '13 is a registered nurse working in the intensive care units at Rush University Medical Center. She resides in Chicago.

Bailey Arnold '14 is manager of clean air environmental programs with the American Lung Association of the Upper Midwest. He resides in Mason City.

Jessica Arroyo '14 teaches kindergarten in the Chicago Public Schools. She and her husband, Ferdinand, reside in Chicago.

Russell Brooks '14 is a personal trainer at 24 Hour Fitness. He resides in Lakewood, Colorado.

Ashley Campbell '14 is a digital business analyst with State Farm Insurance Companies. She resides in Bloomington.

Amy Davelis '14 teaches business at Farmington High School. She also is a studio manager at Northfield Dance Academy. She resides in Northfield, Minnesota.

Jessica Donatello '14 is a human resources specialist with Skill Sprout LLC. She resides in Peoria.

Hope (Fink) Duffey '14 is corporate facilities coordinator at Afni, Inc. She and her husband, Brandon, reside in Emden.

Nicholas Gallardo '14 is a sports performance coach with the Peoria Area House of Speed. He resides in Peoria.

Angelica Grew '14 is an athletic trainer and clinical assistant with OAK Orthopedics. She resides in Bradley.

Elizabeth Hayes, Ed.D. '14, completed a master's in school counseling at Chicago State University, receiving departmental honors for superior academic performance. She is a learning behavior specialist with the Chicago Public Schools and resides in Chicago.

Victoria Hornbostel '14 is a professional sales consultant with Extreme Nissan. She and her spouse, Laura Elstrom, reside in Bloomington.

Michelle Janisz, Ph.D. '14, is the director of the office of student activities at Western Illinois University. She resides in Macomb.

Leah Kartsimas '14 is an eighth grade social studies teacher at Marlowe Middle School, District 158. She resides in Buffalo Grove.

Sasha Keske '14 teaches second grade in Libertyville District 70. She resides in Mundelein.

Kathleen Kissane '14 is a quality associate with Baxter Healthcare. She resides in North Barrington.

Stephanie Lopez '14 is a solutions specialist with Verizon Wireless. She resides in Burbank, California.

Sharon Marquard, Ph.D. '14, is an adjunct instructor at Trinity College of Health Sciences. She and her husband, Henry, reside in Muscatine, Iowa.

Emily Maue '14 is an audit associate at KPMG. She resides in Chicago.

Maggie McLinden '14 is the communications coordinator for School District U-46 in Elgin. She resides in Schaumburg.



Uncaged Redbirds

That's the name chosen by a group of alumni who have maintained a friendship by meeting annually since graduating 50 years ago. Their most recent visit last year was in Springfield, where they enjoyed the Lincoln sites and Frank Lloyd Wright home. They are, *front row from left*, Judi (Brosi) Buckman '66, M.S. '97, of Naperville; Shirley Sailors '66 of St. Paul, Minnesota; Linda (Johnson) Kabisch '66 of Springfield; and Sharon (McCollum) Tolliver '66 of Flora. *Back row from left*, Connie (Seifert) McDowell '66 of Quincy; Evy Titus '66 of Grayslake; and Georgia Cutsinger '68 of Springfield. Another member not pictured is Sharon (Anderson) Shoemaker '67 of Aledo.

Jackie Murphy '14 is a talent payment coordinator at Extreme Reach. She resides in Chicago.

Ethan Nelson '14 is a registered client associate with The Fernandes and Adams Wealth Management Group of Wells Fargo Advisors. He resides in Bloomington.

Lela Nelson-Parola '14 is an intensive care registered nurse at Illinois Valley Community Hospital. She and her spouse, Irene Nelson-Parola, reside in LaSalle.

Christin Nordman '14 teaches middle school math at Casa Granda Elementary School. She resides in Maricopa, Arizona.

Chaze Patrick '14 is a community employment associate with the Indiana Department of Workforce Development. He resides in Evansville, Indiana.

Bianca (Gerardi) Pietro '14 is a special education case manager and life skills teacher in Farmington School District. She and her husband, Kevin '10, M.S. '12, were married in April 2015. They reside in Dover, New Hampshire.

Nicole (Zurawski) Ramel '14 is a qualified mental health specialist working through Wexford Health Services with the Illinois Department of Corrections. She and her husband, Mike, reside in Oak Forest.

Taylor (Barkley) Rivera '14 is completing training as a pharmacist. She and her husband, John '13, met at south campus residence halls in 2010 and married in July 2015. He is a police officer. They reside in Wheeling.

Kaylyn (Roloff) Rogers '14 is a finance management specialist with University of Illinois-Urbana. She and her husband, Matthew, reside in Mahomet.

John Russell, M.S. '14, is a nurse practitioner in cardiothoracic surgery at the Swedish American Hospital. He and his wife, Elissa, reside in Rockford.

Brian Stenzel '14 is a catastrophe property field adjuster with Allstate Insurance. He resides in Amboy.

Marissa (Webb) Tonkovic, M.F.A. '14, is a recruitment coordinator

with ISU's School of Art. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Bloomington.

Carrie (Lund) Webster '14 is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Limestone Community High School. She and her husband, Mitch, reside in East Peoria.

Edward Benitez '15 is a financial professional associate with Prudential. He resides in Normal.

Morgan Benz '15 is a marketing communications coordinator at CEFCU. She resides in Morton.

Madhuri Choudhary, M.S. '15, is a business systems analyst with SDLC Partners and resides in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania.

Katie Daley '15 is an associate property broker with Aon. She resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Wendy Dover '15 completed an internship with the Brooklyn Health Disparities Center at SUNY Downstate Medical Center in New York. She is working on an obstructive sleep apnea research project there. She resides in Bloomington.

Kaitlyn Elsen '15 is a manager trainee with Peridot Promotions, Inc. She resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Nicole Fagan '15 teaches third grade in Roselle School District 12. She resides in Glen Ellyn.

Andrea Harrell, M.S. '15, is a speech-language pathologist with Carle Foundation Hospital. She resides in Champaign.

Lauren Hous '15 teaches English and drama at Salt Fork High School in Catlin, where she resides.

Kelsey (Newell) Jones '15 is fulfilling her dream of being a special education teacher at Armstrong Ellis Grade School. She resides in Gifford.

Aston Karner '15 is a graduate community director in residence life at the University of Arizona. He resides in Tucson, Arizona.

Travis Kessinger '15 is an associate programmer at Discover Financial. He resides in Palatine.

Enoch Kindseth '15 is a technology manager at the Normal Public Library. He resides in Normal.

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Andrew Manalo '15 is a sales consultant with Colorado Superior Roofing and Construction. He resides in Greenwood, Colorado.

Johnpaul McGreal '15 is a production assistant with Jones Country Gardens. He and his wife, Amy, reside in Peoria.

Jessica Smith '15 is a copy editor at *The Pantagraph*. She resides in Bloomington.

Robin Trost '15 is an ANCC board certified family nurse practitioner. She works as an advanced registered nurse practitioner at SageView Family Care at Quincy Valley Medical Center in Quincy, Washington, where she resides.

Kort Williams '15 is a safety engineer with FCL Builders LLC. He resides in Glendale Heights.

Troops

Turner Rouse '80 retired from the U.S. Army Reserve. He has passed the Florida bar exam and real

estate sales licensure exam. He is now selling commercial and residential real estate in Northwest Florida and Panama City. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Lynn Haven, Florida.

Troy Luster '07 served as a member of the Illinois Army National Guard. He is an attorney with the State of Florida. He and his wife, Sara, reside in Estero, Florida.

Michael Richeson '09 is a U.S. Navy Petty Officer Second Class. He is stationed in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Matthew J. Kaufman '14 is a Marine Reserves Lance Corporal Motor Transport Operator. He is also a full-time police officer with the Decatur Police Department and reside in Decatur.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Linda L. (Hart) Cole '84, Health Services; 11/15

James A. Hallam '53, M.S. '55, Accounting; 11/15

Alfred L. Kaisershot, College of Business; 12/15

Thomas E. Malone, Art; 11/15

Paul R. Nelson, Health Services; 1/16

Beverly S. Rich '71, M.S. '79, Mathematics; 10/15

Timothy Ruddy, Political Science; 10/15

Thomas R. Schori, Marketing; 9/15

Robert B. Townsend, Milner Library; 10/15

Richard C. Youngs, Curriculum and Instruction; 10/15

30s

Mary M. (Watters) Humphrey '31; 12/15

Margaret S. (Falconer) Trutter '39; 10/15

40s

Elsie R. (Lucas) Judd '41; 2/16

Harriet A. (Hodgson) Badger '42; 11/15

Beryl E. (Wachter) Mudgett '42; 2/16

Marie (Babbitt) Smith '42; 11/15

Blossom "Sophie" Bacopulos '43; 3/14

Betty A. (Tinsley) Brown '43, M.A. '71; 1/16

Virginia (Edelman) Kreeger '43; 1/16

Joybelle (Dickey) Craig '44; 12/15

Mildred Wunderlich '44; 5/15

Mary K. (Twist) Freese '48; 2/16

Roberta (Montross) Karbowski '48; 11/15

Richard S. Brumitt '49; 6/15

Robert H. Hamilton '49; 12/15

50s

Edward G. Brattrud '50, M.S. '55; 12/15

Lillian M. Goll '50, M.S. '56; 11/15

Herbert C. Price Jr. '50; 10/15

John D. Santo '50, M.S. '51, Ed.D. '68; 10/15

Thomas F. Edwards '51; 11/15
 Katherine L. (Hudak) Kushner '51; 5/15
 Gerald "Tom" Lonergan '51; 11/15
 Jacque E. Osborn '51; 10/15
 Delbert G. Huelskoetter '52; 11/15
 Harold E. Limper '53, M.S. '54; 11/15
 Delmar L. Swearingen '53, M.S. '56; 11/15
 Genevieve (Miller) Roberts '54; 11/15
 Donald "Bill" W. Griffin '55, M.S. '56; 11/15
 Doyle Olson '55; 11/15
 Carol A. Somers '55; 11/15
 Valeria A. Wilmette '56; 11/15
 Arlene M. (Viviani) Woodin '56; 10/15
 Janice Laux '57; 10/15
 Charles A. Hildreth, M.S. '58; 10/15
 Richard H. Shult '58; 11/15
 Norma J. (Leben) Andersen '59, M.S. '63; 10/15
 Richard Irvin, M.S. '59; 10/15

60s

Barbara (Manchester) Benjamin '60; 10/15
 Pauline F. (Bixler) Binegar '60; 7/15
 J. Bruce Bradley '60; 12/15
 Richard "Butch" Dobbs '62, M.S. '62; 11/15
 Sondra (Dugan) Decker '64; 2/16
 Barbara A. (Polick) Ankney '65; 1/16
 Jack E. L. Cowgill '65, M.S. '73; 1/16
 Marjorie C. (Warfield) Nagle '66; 11/15
 Beverly A. (Sleyko) Senters '66; 11/15
 Robert Taylor '66, M.S. '71; 12/15
 Wayne F. Zimmer '66; 12/15
 Harry L. Harsha '67; 11/15
 Joyce F. (Davies) Linne '67; 12/15
 Lawrence L. Rowe '67; 11/15
 Beverly A. (Barke) Hart '68, M.A. '73; 12/15
 Jack A. Sprouls '68; 12/15
 Gerald L. Freadhoff '69, M.S. '72; 11/15
 Edward W. Rochnowski Jr. '69, M.S. '70; 10/15



Redbirds care and share

Texas alumni united in January to work with Rebuilding Together Greater Dallas, which relies completely on volunteers to build and modify homes for veterans and seniors in the region. Redbirds in the Dallas network used their muscle to meet the need of Vietnam veteran Curtis Callahan, *standing in front*, who lost his home to a fire. Beyond manual labor, they donated furniture and house essentials, and made sure his new pantry was full.

70s

Marsha L. (Swan) Atkinson '70; 12/15
 Regina J. Barlass '70; 12/15
 David L. Curry '70; 2/16
 Dennis W. Henrichs '70; 1/16
 James R. Warfield '70; 1/16
 Carla (Williams) Buchanan '71; 10/15
 John A. Morris '71; 12/15
 Janet Nawoj '71; 11/15
 Barbara S. Sibigroth '71; 11/15
 Dennis J. Petrowsky '72, M.S. '73; 10/15
 Cynthia A. (McNamara) Claggett '73; 10/15
 Patricia J. (Moehle) Crady '74, M.S. '80; 12/15
 Denise K. Nash '74; 10/15
 Mary C. (Karpus) Foster '75, '77; 11/15
 Charles E. Taskerud, M.S. '75; 10/15
 Michael D. McDonald, M.S. '76; 11/15
 Cliff L. Kaminsky '77; 12/15
 Ewa Z. Lang '77; 1/16
 Janaree (Ediger) Nore '77; 1/16
 Larry L. Wenger '77; 12/15
 Lisa A. Davis '78; 2/16
 Patrick R. Kissane '78; 5/14

Melody A. (Bycroft) Tharp '78; 11/15
 Patricia J. Klopfenstein '79; 12/15
 David L. Phelps '79; 12/14
 Matthew J. Volz '79; 10/15

80s

Rosemary M. (Ford) Baer '80; 9/15
 Margaret A. O'Leary-Joost '82, M.S. '84; 2/16
 David A. Joost '83; 2/16
 Keith G. Griddell Sr. '84; 11/15
 Wayne W. Abbott '85; 12/15
 Stephen P. Barry '86; 10/15
 Sue A. (Murray) Cooper '88; 10/15
 Robert A. Grabbe '89; 11/15
 Stephen P. Schmidt '89; 10/15

90s

Bonita "Bonnie" Brzeski '91; 11/15
 David W. McDowell '91; 10/15
 Michael S. Scheier '91; 12/15
 Tyler W. Greathouse '92; 10/15
 Kimberly S. (Vaughn) Power '94; 12/15
 Brian P. Costello '96; 10/15
 Amy Beth (Govert) Thomas '97, M.S. '03; 11/15

00s

Jason P. Settlemoir '00; 1/15
 Dawn Thorson '01; 10/15
 Anna L. Sheahan, M.A. '02; 11/15

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

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

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Professional title or position		Employer	
City ()	State	Zip	
Work phone	Work email address		
Marital status	Spouse's/partner's name (including maiden if Illinois State graduate)		

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Thanks to you!

Rick Lewis arrived on campus in the 1980s as a graduate student, never expecting to make Illinois State his professional home. A graduate assistantship in the Office of Residential Life as he completed a master's in art sparked a career in Student Affairs that ended with his retirement earlier this year.

Lewis rose from a hall director to become part of the administrative team that formed the Dean of Students Office, where he served until departing as an associate dean. One of his most notable accomplishments was creating the Mobile Dean on Duty as one way to make students more aware of available services.

The hallmark that will define his 30-year Redbird legacy, however, is his commitment to students. Generations of graduates stay in touch with Lewis, who advised student organizations, traveled on Alternative Breaks, and tirelessly advocated for underrepresented groups across campus.

Lewis will continue to influence and encourage students through the Rick Lewis Inspiration Award, which is a part of the Student Success and Excellence Fund. The fund provides first-generation, low-income or underrepresented students the opportunity to receive funding to participate in activities beyond the classroom, including Alternative Breaks and study abroad.

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Beyond April showers

The campus is in full bloom and will remain picturesque throughout the summer, with 7,000 annuals offering an array of color. While most students are away, there will be hundreds of visitors to enjoy the beauty. The University remains busy from May to August with Preview, Illinois Special Olympics, and youth events ranging from classes to camps.