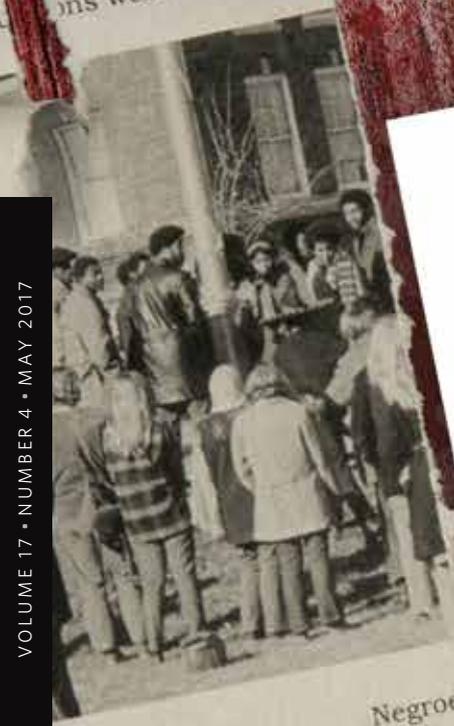


STATE

DAYS OF MAY

Race, war, and the fight
over the ISU flagpole

VOLUME 17 • NUMBER 4 • MAY 2017



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Black, Su State Uni

By Dave Haake
The Pantagraph

Black students and their
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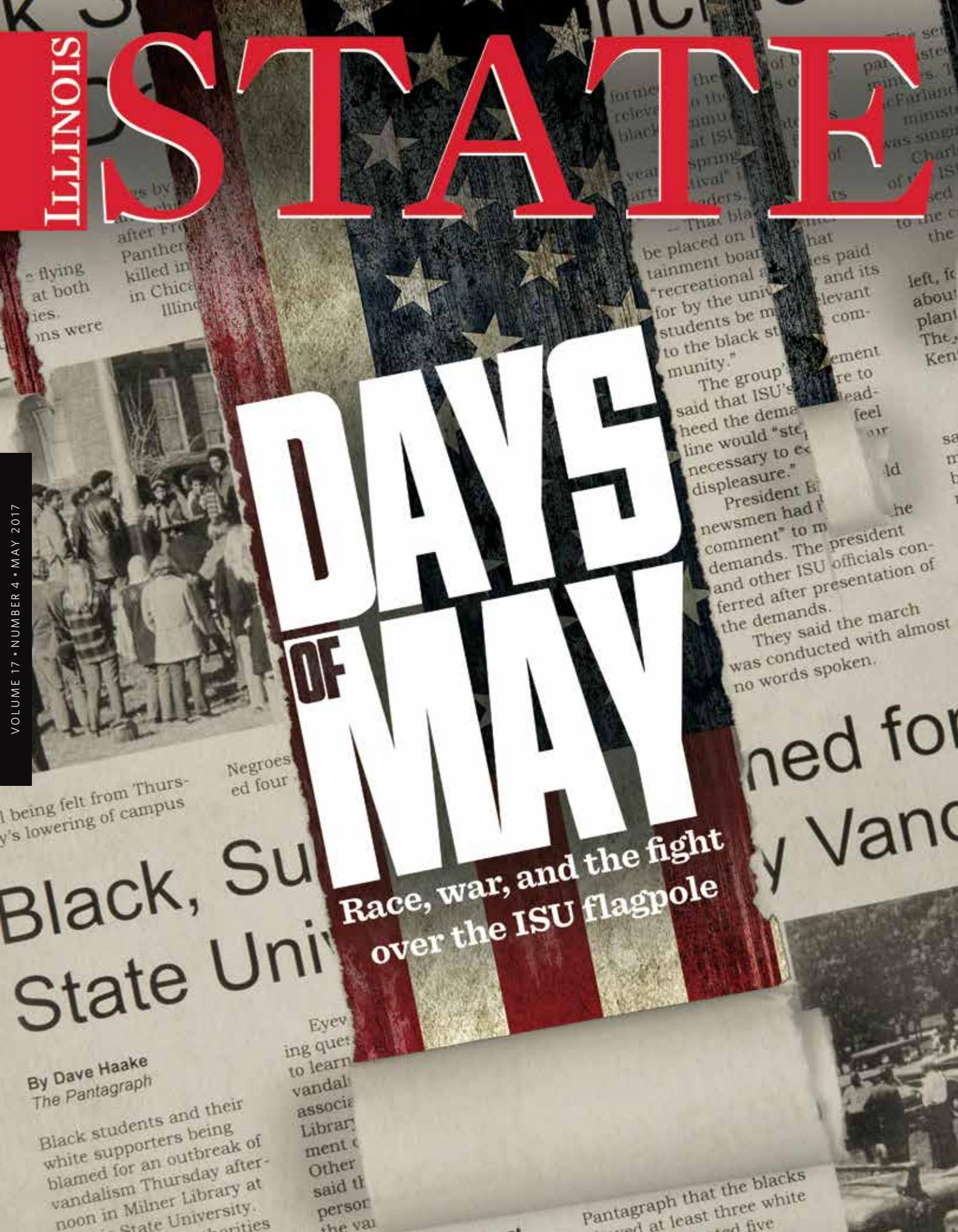
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and other ISU officials con-
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the demands.
They said the march
was conducted with almost
no words spoken.



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ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university

FirstWord

Illinois State University marked its 160th year

during the spring semester. The anniversary date always results in my reflecting on the enormous transition this institution has undergone since its start. Beyond myriad advancements, the University has also endured transformative moments that both tested and strengthened our people and purpose.

One of those was a flagpole incident in 1970. There was debate on when the flag should be lowered, and unrest that stemmed from the decisions. Emotions became so heated that state police circled the Quad flagpole.



This issue of *Illinois State* examines what happened and why. Key players and historians agree that beyond the escalating events of the 1970s in general, there was growing friction at ISU. The campus began a concerted effort to enroll African-American students, who battled discrimination as change agents at ISU and in Normal.

As significant as this moment is in Illinois State's history, I am frankly more focused on what has happened since that afternoon 47 years ago. How has the University changed in welcoming students from all underrepresented groups?

There are obvious answers that show ISU's continual efforts. They range from scholarships offered and academic support programs created to festivals and

guest speakers that put different perspectives under the proverbial microscope. But are we living the value that defines Illinois State as an environment where differences are embraced?

To answer this question, I enlisted the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Race and Equality in Education to assess our campus climate. Survey results and feedback from focus groups gave a candid view of how individuals perceive the campus community.

The report includes recommendations of how we can improve our efforts. Among them is the suggestion to invest in affirming spaces for students of color; require equity training education at all levels, from employees to students; elevate and protect the status of women; and continue to intentionally recruit, select and retain diverse talent.

I have assembled a task force to address the findings and recommendations. The 27 members are from all ISU sectors, including students. I have every confidence they will confirm how Illinois State has advanced since the 1970s, when racial tension was at a boiling point. I also have no doubt there will be areas where we can move forward to make ISU even more welcoming to all.

We have made significant change for the better, an effort that makes me proud. Can we do more? I believe we can. Will we? Absolutely.

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

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FEATURES

8 Valuing diversity

May commencement was the second opportunity to celebrate graduation for students from nontraditional backgrounds. There are three unique pre-commencement events each spring, allowing graduates in underrepresented groups the opportunity to mark their achievements in a cultural ceremony. The programs are one way the campus community demonstrates its commitment to embrace diversity.

12 Recalling a dark day

Campuses dealt with unrest during the 1970s, including Illinois State. One pivotal moment occurred at the flagpole on May 19, 1970. It was then a conflict that stemmed from the issue of when to lower the Quad flag and for what reason climaxed. Students wanted to honor Malcolm X's birthday and convinced President Samuel Braden to agree. Earlier efforts to recognize other African Americans had failed. Construction workers raised the flag. Tensions mounted to the point state police cars and ISU vehicles circled the pole to keep the flag lowered. Those who dealt with or witnessed the event will never forget the frightening confrontation.

22 In pursuit of parenthood

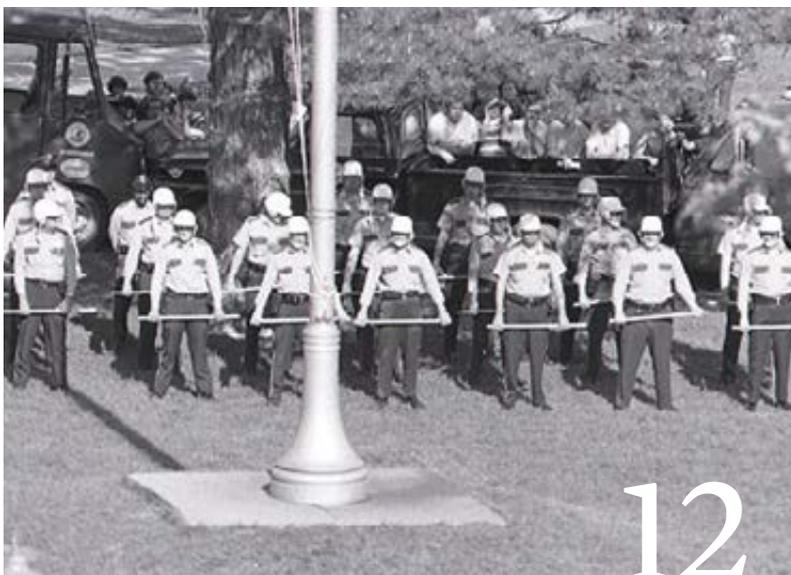
Zara Griswold '93 couldn't have children due to ovarian cancer. She and her husband chose surrogacy as a way to become parents, welcoming twin girls in 2003. The experience motivated her to help others fulfill their dream of having children. She created Family Source Consultants, which now works with couples around the world.

22



DEPARTMENTS

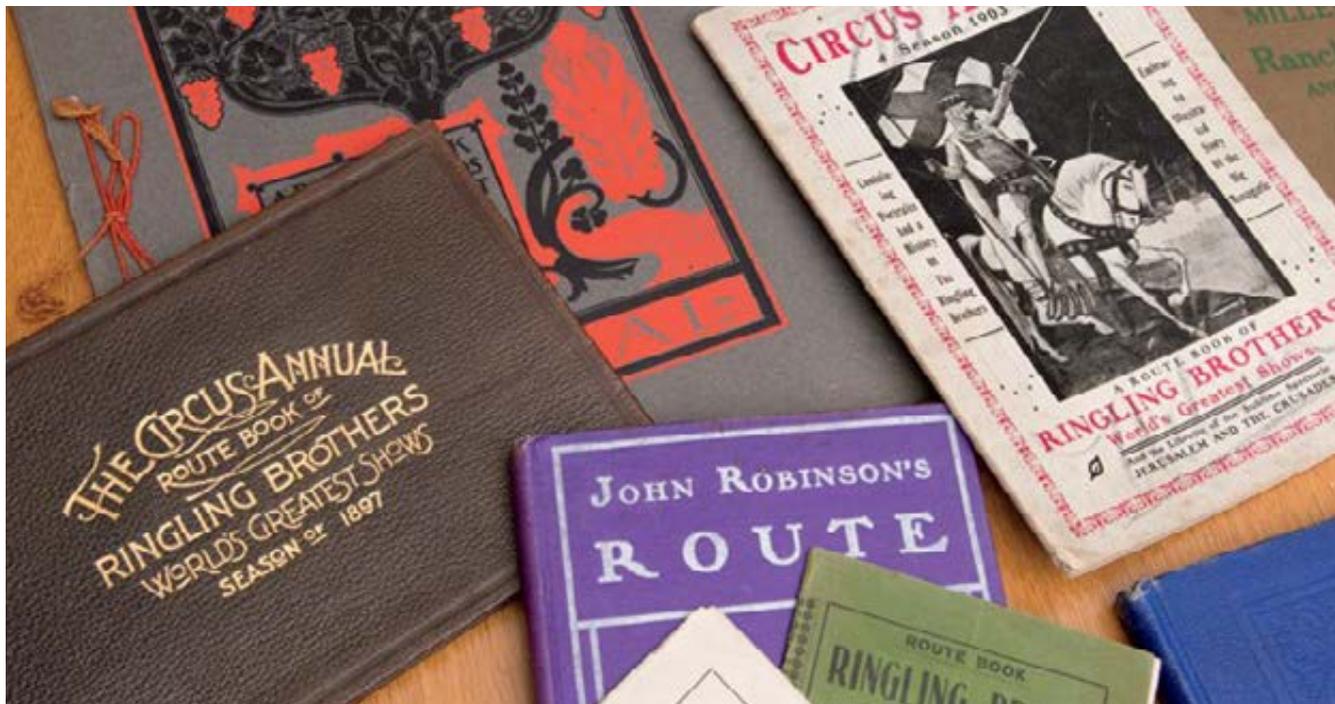
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12

On the cover: On May 19, 1970, a confrontation over lowering the flag in honor of Malcolm X nearly led to a riot on the Quad. *Photo illustration by Mike Mahle.*

University News



Prized possessions

Library partners to digitize rare circus documents

The largest grant in the history of Milner Library will ensure a wealth of circus history is preserved.

The library's Special Collections and two project partners will receive \$268,000 from the Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) to digitize more than 300 circus route books dating from 1842-1969.

Similar to yearbooks, route books contain information about people, positions, events, and the show's season. Only 400 are known to exist.

Through the CLIR's digitizing hidden collections program, 315 circus books will be digitized and accessed through a single portal. Beyond Milner, the materials will come from Circus World in Wisconsin and The John and Mable Ringling Museum of Art in Florida.

Milner alone has one of the largest circus collections in existence. Started in 1955, there are now more than 10,000 items that range from photographs and circus posters to band scores, business records and performance programs.

"I'm thrilled to be working with our knowledgeable librarians at Milner Library and with our colleagues on this multi-institutional, collaborative, digital-humanities project," said Dallas Long, associate dean at Milner and project coordinator.

Circus route books are difficult to access for researchers, and no other publication contains as much unique information. They will be online when the project is completed, providing data useful to scholarly and family historians, researchers, writers and teachers.

Published at the end of the show's season, route books many times includ-

ed photographs and statistics, such as miles traveled, number of cities visited or meals served daily. In some, a diary of weather, ticket sales and unusual events was included.

"The circus can be used as a cultural lens where issues of race, big business, gender, otherness, nationhood, and views of empire can be explored. It was the largest form of entertainment in the late 19th and early 20th century," Long said, with street parades and mammoth performances staged in colossal canvas tents.

"Audiences watched daring performers, heard new musical forms, viewed the world of animals, saw people from foreign lands, as well as electric lights and automobiles for the first time."

All involved in the project are committed to preserving such a unique and magical time in the nation's history.

Normal ranked among best U.S. college towns

Add the surrounding community to the list of what makes Illinois State an institution of choice and excellence.

Bloomington-Normal has been ranked as one of the Top 10 college towns in the nation by the American Institute for Economic Research (AIER). The community rounds out the list publicized in the agency's 2017 College Destinations Index.

The rankings consider quality of life, economic health and demographics. Communities are evaluated based on population size, with Bloomington-Normal considered with towns under 250,000. The list includes Boulder, Colorado; Iowa City, Iowa; Columbia, Missouri; and Manhattan, Kansas. The only other Illinois region named is Champaign-Urbana.

Bloomington-Normal's many arts and entertainment venues are cited as one reason for its high ranking, as is the community's overall low unemployment.

Another plus is the fact ISU is just steps from Uptown Normal, which has become a thriving business district.

There are now two hotels, an art-house movie theater, shops and restaurants. The University Galleries is also located in Uptown Normal, along with a transportation center. Students appreciate easy access to Amtrak and the local bus system.

This is not the first notice of the community by the AIER. Last year it named Bloomington-Normal one of the top destinations in the country for young college graduates to live and work.

Three graduates named to serve on governing board

Julie Jones, John Rauschenberger and Sharon Rossmark have been appointed by Illinois Gov. Bruce Rauner to serve on ISU's Board of Trustees for six years. They fill seats opened by the departure of Jay D. Bergman '70, Anne Davis '64, and Betty Kinser '73, M.S. '75. Their terms had expired.



Jones '90 is principal attorney at the Julie Annette Jones, P.C., firm in Chicago. She is a member of the University's Attorneys Advisory Board, Black Colleagues Association, Alumni Association Board of Directors and Delta Sigma Theta Sorority. She is president of the National Council of Negro Women-Chicago Central Section.

Rauschenberger '72, M.S. '74, owns Rauschenberger Partners, LLC. The national consulting firm assists corporations and nonprofits in navigating through state legislation and policies. He has served as a senior advisor for state-wide campaigns in Illinois and brings more than 35 years of business experience to the board.

Rossmark '78 is CEO of AeroVista Innovations, a Chicago firm providing aerial mapping. She is the former CEO of Zayos Global Ventures and past Allstate assistant vice president. A member of the National Committee on Governance for the American Hospital Association, Rossmark is vice president of the ISU's College of Business Advisory Council.

COB's programs place college among elite globally

The College of Business has once again received accreditation of graduate and undergraduate programs in business and accounting from the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB).

The accreditation, which continues through 2022, is the hallmark of excellence in business education. It has been earned by less than five percent of the world's business schools. There are only 780 business schools in 53 countries and territories that have the endorsement, with just 185 institutions approved for accounting programs.

"We are in the elite 1.85 percent of accredited business and accounting schools worldwide," College of Business Dean Ajay Samant said. "We can proudly say that we have attained and maintained the accreditation gold standard."

Achieving accreditation requires excellence in areas relating to strategic management and innovation; student, faculty, and staff as active participants;

Where are they now?

Marie DiGiammarino always envisioned teaching, but never anticipated making Illinois State her professional home for nearly 30 years.

The path to ISU started in her native state of Pennsylvania, where she earned an undergraduate degree and worked as a music educator. DiGiammarino completed a master's in music therapy at the University of Georgia.

She enjoyed teaching in a laboratory school and state institutions for youth with cognitive impairments. "I could see them responding to the music as a nonverbal form of communication," she said.

The opportunity to oversee college students completing practicums at a center for individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities resulted in her return to the University of Georgia.

"I had always thought I would work with younger children," DiGiammarino said. "I never would have assumed I would go into college teaching."

She joined ISU's College of Fine Arts in 1981 as faculty, but was quickly made director of the music therapy program. "I was doing both teaching and administrative work," she recalled. "I did practicum supervision as well. Over time, I taught every single music therapy class offered, and was academic advisor for music therapy students."

DiGiammarino also worked on curriculum changes, including the start of a graduate program. Meanwhile, she completed a doctorate in the College of Education in 1989. "The best part of everything was the students. They made it worth all the work. I learned as much from them as they did from me."

Although retired in 2009, DiGiammarino still writes an occasional letter of recommendation for former students. Inducted into the college's Hall of Fame, she is delighted ISU remains focused on personal student attention.

DiGiammarino stays active with regular exercise and overseeing the social outreach ministry of her church. She resides in Waynesboro, Pennsylvania, and can be reached on Facebook or at mdigiam@IllinoisState.edu.



Professor Emerita Marie DiGiammarino

learning and teaching; and academic and professional engagement.

"We have a lot to be proud of in the college," Samant said. "Our enrollment is strong, we continue to receive national recognition and accolades, and most important, our student job placement rates are robust."

Campus continues to excel in veterans' care, programs

Illinois State continues to be identified as one of the best places in the country for veterans to pursue a college education. Three different agencies have ranked the University as excellent, including *USA Today* through its College Factual report.

ISU is first among 55 colleges and universities reviewed for veteran friendliness in College Factual's 2017 *Best Colleges for Veterans* rankings. It is praised as the best college in Illinois for veterans, and is among the top five percent of veteran-friendly institutions nationally.

The University also received a Gold Medal-level Military Friendly School rating from Victory Media for its strong commitment to recruiting and retaining student veterans, as well as providing them financial, academic and social services.

Military Advanced Education and Transition also once again named Illinois State as a top school in its 2017 *Guide to Colleges and Universities*. The publication measures best practices in military and veteran education. The guide evaluates institutions on their military culture, financial aid, flexibility, on-campus support and online support services.

Nursing program, students remain in national spotlight

Mennonite College of Nursing's excellence has been reaffirmed by rankings that put it among the best in the nation, as well as an exceptional licensure exam pass rate by graduates.

U.S. News & World Report has recognized the college as having one of the best online nursing programs, as well as one of the best online bachelor's programs. Mennonite offers an online master's degree in nursing systems administration and an online doctoral degree in nursing practice. A bachelor's in nursing is also available online, as well as health information management and medical laboratory science sequences.

"Mennonite College of Nursing has a long history of producing high-quality nurse leaders, and it is great to see that our programs are being recognized at a national level for excellence in nursing education at all levels," Dean Judy Neubrander said.

Proof that students are well prepared is confirmed by the fact graduates achieved a 94 percent pass rate on the 2016 national nursing licensure examination. The national and the state of Illinois pass rates are both 85 percent. The college's graduates have exceeded both for more than 12 years.

To the Editor,

Just received latest issue of *Illinois State*, which we of course appreciate. I found particular interest in "Driven by a passion" (Feb. 2017).

What drew me to read that first is that while I have a relatively similar circumstance, we have an added perspective. Upon graduation, we purchased off the showroom floor a 1963 Chevrolet Corvette. Some 50-plus years later, we still own that same car.

While the '63 was our only daily driver for the first six or so years of our marriage, it has been licensed every year since.

As a second career, not unlike Mr. Magers, I also drive and deliver "high-end" automobiles for an automotive store in Springfield.

What may be of interest to some readers and alumni is the 53-year ownership and use of what has become—in addition to an automotive icon—one of the most collectible and sought after vehicles led us to create a museum: The Original 1963 Corvette "split window" Hall of Fame Museum.

Kenneth '64, M.S. '66, and Evelyn (Bell) Beenenga '63

To the Editor,

I just received my ISU alumni magazine. Kate Arthur's feature on Vickie Lannie was such a beautiful story! ("When every moment matters," Feb. 2017). What a wonderful woman Vickie is. I want to express my thanks to her for all she does to help people.

I have lost both of my parents, and our experience with the wonderful caregivers of our local hospice helped us in more ways than I can express. Thank you to Kate Arthur for writing such a beautiful piece and for sharing Vickie with us. She's a treasure! #proudalum

Jolene (Jordan) Hoover '86

"This is outstanding news to see that out of all state universities in Illinois, Mennonite College of Nursing has the highest pass rate," Neubrandner said. "I am very proud of our students and faculty."

Grant supports study of life after military service

Veterans reintegrating into civilian life are at increased risk for relationship troubles, mental health crises and substance abuse. They have an increased propensity for violence, which can lead to crime and imprisonment.

Phil Mulvey, an assistant professor in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences, is looking for effective interventions. He is researching how daily life experiences impact anti-social or criminal behavior in veterans. The National Institute of Justice has provided nearly \$100,000 to support Mulvey's work in examining life experiences of veterans on probation.



Assistant Professor Phil Mulvey

"I want to get a sense of what an average day is like for veterans who are on probation and living in their home communities," Mulvey said. He asks about military experience and the transition to civilian life.

Beyond face-to-face interviews, he uses surveys to have participants record daily activities and general state of mind. Using pagers, he contacts individuals at random times throughout the

day and week to record their activities and feelings.

Mulvey's ultimate goal is to see his findings help shape and improve policies and practices for dealing with veterans in the criminal justice system.

Two faculty joins ranks of Distinguished Professors

Biology Professor Rachel Bowden and Marketing Professor Steven Taylor have been named a Distinguished Professor, which is the University's highest faculty honor.

Bowden joined ISU's School of Biological Sciences in 2003. She is a Million Dollar Club inductee, with awards from the National Science Foundation and the National Institutes of Health. The funding supports her research of the maternal hormonal effects on offspring sex ratios.

Bowden has received the University Research Initiative and University Teaching Initiative awards. She has been named Outstanding College Researcher and Outstanding University Researcher. Prolific in scholarly publications and committed to including students in her work, Bowden remains active in leadership roles within her field.

Taylor came to ISU in 1992 and has since received national recognition for his research in service marketing, marketing implications for higher education, and digital piracy. His findings have been published extensively. He consults with regional and national organizations in the areas of service research, including customer outcomes and loyalty behaviors.

Beyond international praise for his research, Taylor is an exceptional teacher. He has received the University Teaching Initiative Award, Outstanding Teacher Award, University Research Initiative Award, and the Outstanding Research Award at both the University and college level. He actively engages students in his research and has served since 1995 as the college's mentor for students from underrepresented groups.

Redbird Athletics



Conference champions

Top Valley honors go to men's basketball coach, player

After leading the Redbirds to a regular-season championship for the first time in nearly two decades, head men's basketball coach Dan Muller was named the 2017 Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year. Senior Paris Lee also captured top honors when named the MVC Larry Bird Player of the Year and the Defensive Player of the Year.

Muller '98 led the team to the first share of the MVC season title since he was a senior on the team. The 2017 championship is the sixth in program history. The Redbirds finished the regular season with a 25-5 overall record, which is the most regular-season wins in the program's history. The team's 17-1 league record is the most MVC wins for the men's team.

The season was Muller's fifth leading the team. He is the fourth coach to win the honor, with the most recent being his former head coach and mentor Kevin Stallings. Muller is also only the sixth coach of the men's program to win 100 games or more, and the third to win 57 or more in conference play.

He has led the Redbirds to four victories over Top-25 ranked opponents, tied for the most ever by an ISU head coach. Each year Muller's teams have finished with a better league record and higher conference finish than the previous season.

Lee anchored the Redbird defense, which was ranked No. 4 nationally in opponent field goal percentage and No. 5 nationally in scoring defense. He fin-

ished his Illinois State career as the first Redbird to earn the league's top individual player honor in 16 seasons.

A native of Maywood who majored in recreation management, Lee is now the all-time leader in steals at ISU. He ranked during the season as the nation's active leader with more than 240 steals. In addition to taking the top MVC honors, Lee was also named to the All-Missouri Valley Conference First Team and the MVC All-Defensive Team.

The Redbirds competed post-season as the No. 1 seed in the National Invitation Tournament for a record 28 total victories. They fell to University of Central Florida in the second round by one point with one second remaining.



ISU Olympian inducted into Hall of Fame

Former ISU basketball star and Olympian Charlotte Lewis '78, '01, is a 2017 inductee into the Missouri Valley Conference Hall of Fame. A Redbird student-athlete from 1974 to 1978, she died of a heart attack at the age of 52 in 2007.

Lewis holds ISU records for most rebounds in a single game and in a season, as well as having the highest rebounding average. She was a finalist for the nation's top female athlete in 1977, and represented ISU internationally.

Beyond capturing a silver medal as part of the 1976 Olympic team, Lewis

was on the 1975 Pan-American Games and 1977 World University Games teams. She was also a track and field standout at ISU, finishing fourth in the nation in javelin in 1975.

Lewis played professional basketball for 15 years in Italy, Brazil and the U.S., earning top player in Brazil honors in 1989. She also captained the 1986 All-Star American Team in Spain.

One of only three players in ISU women's basketball to have her jersey retired, she was dedicated in her outreach to youth.

Loyal Redbird couple honored

Sandi (Platta) '67 and Steve Adams received the 2017 Joseph F. Warner Golden Redbird Award. It is the highest honor Athletics gives to those who support the program through service, leadership, and by donating to the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund.

The two have been Redbird fans since the 1950s. They have been donors and season ticket holders since 1976. Steve volunteered as the public address announcer for men's basketball at 574 games played throughout 40 seasons.

He also served as the public announcer for football games until the renovation of Hancock Stadium, tallying 201 games behind the microphone.

Both are ISU retirees, with Sandi having served in the English Department. Steve worked for 35 years in administrative roles, including as vice president of Student Affairs.

They remain active as mentors and a sounding board for various Athletics administrators. Generous and loyal financial supporters, they assist Athletics behind the scenes in ways rarely recognized.

The award is named in honor of Joe Warner, an avid Redbird who perished in a plane crash in 2002.

Five athletes competed at U.S. volleyball tryouts

The strength of ISU's volleyball roster was proven during the spring semester, when five team members were chosen to participate in the U.S. Women's National Team Open Tryouts held in Colorado.

Jaelyn Keene, Ali Line, Courtney Pence, Lexi Varga and Jordan Weatherless were among 244 participants from 81 college programs and 10 high schools vying for a spot on one of three national teams. The competition was held at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. Results can be found at GoRedbird.com.



Freshman runner at NCAA championships

Derrius Rodgers made ISU history as the first 60-meter runner to ever qualify for the NCAA Indoor Championships held during the spring semester. He finished with a time of 6.77 in the preliminary round, missing the finals.

His time earned him Second Team All-American honors and capped an impressive year as a freshman from Lockport studying business management.

"To be a NCAA qualifier is not an easy task, especially indoors where it is only the top 16 in the country that qualify," assistant coach Brenton Emanuel said. "Not very many people can say

they have done that, especially as a true freshman."

During the season Rodgers crushed a 21-year-old school record in the 60-meters with a time at 6.64, which he ran at the Missouri Valley Conference Championships. He received All-MVC accolades in the 60- and 200-meter dash. He also ran a leg on the Valley champion 4x400-meter relay.

Rodgers captured the MVC Male Freshman of the Year Award and entered the national competition ranked 13th in the country.





Season of CELEBRATION

Unique ceremonies enrich graduation by Kate Arthur

As a transfer student, LaCrisha McAllister '14 was struggling. She was the only black student in many of her classes and lived in an apartment building where a Confederate flag hung in a window.

Cinnamon Porter '16 came out as a lesbian before she started college. She and her peers faced extra challenges as they transitioned to the rigors of college life while acknowledging their identities.

Yesenia Garcia, M.S. '16, grew up in a Latino community in Las Vegas and was comfortable with the diversity she found in her graduate program at Illinois State. She still experienced culture shock as she tried to find a grocery store that stocked ingredients she used for cooking.

These three women exemplify ISU students from nontraditional backgrounds. More than one in five Illinois State students come from such underrepresented groups, and it's a growing population.



College of Education Associate Professor Pamela Hoff was part of the Harambe Circle in a past Umoja ceremony.



Jaime Flores '80 helped create Nuestros Logros. He presented an award to Yesenia Garcia, M.S. '16.

Embracing diversity is one of the University's core values. One way it is put into practice is with three unique pre-commencement ceremonies that have become annual spring events. They are Umoja, Lavender Graduation, and Nuestros Logros. The purpose of each is to provide graduates, faculty/staff, families and friends the opportunity to participate in a cultural celebration that is in addition to the full May commencement ceremony.

"You are in a space where you can be yourself and be loved, affirmed and celebrated," said McAllister, former president of the Black Student Union.

"YOU ARE IN A SPACE WHERE YOU CAN BE YOURSELF AND BE LOVED, AFFIRMED AND CELEBRATED."

"That is so important. It's a rich cultural experience. It can be overwhelming when you think about the odds of students of color making it to this point."

McAllister was on the steering committee for Umoja, which begins with a procession of faculty—the Harambe Circle—symbolic of leading the way. This year the Sankoa Circle was added, with alumni supporting the students.

The Umoja experience stayed with McAllister as she began her career after graduating with a degree in criminal justice sciences. "I pulled from that day to get me through tough times," she said. "I leaned on that experience of being in a room full of people who affirmed me." And that bond with ISU is what also brought her back as a grad student, she

said. She's working on her master's in social work, with plans to go to law school.

Umoja began as a conversation between Flourice Richardson and Pamela Hoff. Richardson received her graduate certificate in women's and gender studies in 2015 and is completing a doctorate in English Studies. Hoff is a College of Education Associate Professor who participated in a celebration of black graduates at the University of Cincinnati, where she completed her graduate degrees.

"It connected me beyond academics in a very familiar kind of way," Hoff said. "It was culturally rich. It was a place where I could express myself by the

cultural norms I grew up on, with the excitement and energy that is part of my cultural awareness."

Richardson was president of the Black Graduate Student Association and was looking for a signature event for black students. They were surveyed to gauge their interest, while some on campus felt it would promote separatism.

"We dealt with that opposition as a community and as a family," Hoff said. "We came to a consensus and moved forward."

Anthony T. Williams Jr., M.S. '14, was one of those who had to be convinced. He'd never heard of a black graduation. "I was a little confused. I didn't know how that was inclusive of the accomplishments of everyone

graduating regardless of your race or ethnicity."

After some research and talking with Hoff, he was on board.

"In black culture, everything we do is extremely celebratory. We give honor to those who came before us. You grow to love the idea to celebrate where you came from, and it's not separatism," Williams said. "It's not exclusive. Anyone can celebrate this regardless of background. You're just doing it in a way that celebrates black and African-American culture. It was an amazing ceremony."

Seeing the success of Umoja, the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) community worked with Diversity Advocacy staff to create their own celebration in 2015, which pleased Hoff.

"What we wanted was for other groups to celebrate in very culturally sensitive ways that came natural to them. We were hoping that would happen," Hoff said.

"It's not about separating anyone; it's about celebrating who we are. We all have different struggles. Some of the things I may experience as a heterosexual woman who is black is very different than queer and transgender women, though we share the same space."

Richardson pointed out that the celebrations support Illinois State's vision and strategic plan *Educating Illinois*, affirming and encouraging community and respect for differences by fostering an inclusive environment.

"When I proposed this program, I was also thinking about how this could



Participants of the 2016 Lavender Graduation ceremony gathered for a group photo following their celebration.

be something important for ISU,” she said. “When students feel welcomed, they come here, or they tell other people to come here. This is valuable for recruitment. It’s about celebrating who we are, as a campus and as a community.”

Hurdylyn Woods ’02, M.S. ’04, was part of the initial Umoja discussions and said the biggest misconception was that the ceremonies would replace commencement. As Diversity Advocacy coordinator in the Dean of Students Office, he works with committees planning the events.

“These ceremonies are designed to show students they are valued, and it’s hoped their relationship will continue with ISU as alumni,” he said. “It’s not a graduation, it’s a graduation celebration. Part of the ceremony is acknowledging the ancestors who made it possible for these students to be in this place. It’s very, very powerful.”

The Lavender Graduation is smaller, with about 30 participants, because some LGBTQ students may not have shared their identity. “It is very personal in the sense that each graduate had a mentor, a partner, or a friend who affirmed their identity—not for just being a good student, a good person or an achiever, but for who they are,” said Associate Dean of Students Renee Watson. “The reality is they may never get that kind of affirmation in such a public format again.”

Porter participated and wore the rainbow stole she received to commencement. The event was meaningful

“because with these different identities that we have, we face extra challenges,” she said. “These ceremonies provide a space to let us all collectively feel like we faced certain challenges, and we were able to get through this together. It’s very supportive and acknowledges our identities.”

Jaime Flores ’80, first president of the Illinois State University Latin@

“IT’S NOT A GRADUATION, IT’S A GRADUATION CELEBRATION.”

Alumni Network and former member of Illinois State University’s Board of Trustees, was involved in creating Nuestros Logros. He spoke at the 2016 ceremony.

“Nuestros Logros was a very endearing ceremony, very special,” he said. “For families, going through any graduation event is big, but the majority of minorities are typically first generation. A college degree is a big deal. Any ceremony highlighting that degree is a big deal. These events are more intimate and less ceremonial.”

Garcia was on the steering committee for Umoja and Nuestros Logros. The experiences deepened her connection as an alum.

“It was impactful for me,” she said. “Seeing Jaime Flores, a leader, talking about the networks that are out there for us, knowing people who share our identities and experiences are willing to lend us a hand before we even ask for it, that helps you feel connected in a powerful way.”

UMOJA

This celebration of black graduates started in 2013. It is typically held in the Center for Performing Arts, where a standing-room-only crowd celebrates African-American students and other students of color. Umoja is the Swahili word for unity. The ceremony honors students through a culturally rich program, with drumming and faculty in African dress placing stoles around the shoulders of undergraduates and graduates.



THE LAVENDER GRADUATION

Celebration of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) and Allied graduates started in 2015 and was modeled after Umoja. It creates a safe space for LGBTQ students celebrating their degrees with their families, faculty and staff.



NUESTROS LOGROS

Two years ago, the diversity advocacy staff in the Dean of Students Office decided something should be done for the Latino(a) community at Illinois State as well. Nuestros Logros, which means our achievements, was added as a third unique celebration for underrepresented students.



DAYS OF MAY

Inside the infamous flagpole standoff that put ISU on the brink



On May 19, 1970, the Illinois State University campus reached a boiling point leading to what has become known as the “flagpole incident.”

Tensions escalated on that Tuesday afternoon on the Quad over a seemingly simple decision—when and for whom the flag on the Quad should be lowered to half-mast. A single politicized flagpole ensnared a growing student body activated by national and local political forces and racial inequality, and a neighboring community unsettled by change. University administrators were caught in the middle.

The flagpole moment was the largest of many confrontations at ISU from 1968–1970. Nearly 50 years later, those who were on campus can still vividly recall that event and all those crazy days of May, followed weeks later by the end of Samuel Braden’s presidency.

“There’s nothing quite comparable to this in our history,” said Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus John Freed. “It’s such a confrontational moment.”

A CHANGING CAMPUS

1966–1969

The University's rapid expansion in the 1960s led to problems with the Town of Normal, where some residents and officials resented the campus's encroachment. Tensions on and off campus were exacerbated when the University dramatically expanded its enrollment of African-American students through the High Potential Student (HPS) recruitment program, which brought hundreds of additional black students to a town that still discriminated against them, and to a campus where they were marginalized.

George Pruitt '68, M.S. '70

First Black Student Association president, former High Potential Student Program director

When I transferred to Illinois State in 1967, African-American students were severely underrepresented in the student body and in the faculty and in the administration, and we were concerned about it. There were probably about 150 black students in the whole university. So we began to protest.

Charles Morris

Professor of Mathematics emeritus (1966–1995), first Academic Senate chair (1970–1971), former Administrative Services vice president

The community was typical for the period. We had trouble finding housing. At that time, there were just three of us African-American faculty members.

Opposite page: Illinois State Police guard the flagpole on Illinois State's Quad on May 19, 1970. The state police were ordered to the scene in response to a confrontation between students and construction workers over the former's lowering of the flag in honor of Malcolm X. (Photo courtesy of the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives)

Pruitt: In spring 1968, the University committed itself to a major recruitment drive through the HPS Program. We basically used the students that we had on campus to go back to their home communities and home schools to recruit black students out of Chicago and the St. Louis area.

Morris: We tripled the number of black students in the first year of our recruitment. There were various problems. The African-American students were not provided housing of the same kind that was available to Caucasian students. Some lived in homes in Bloomington, but none of the Normal renters, homeowners, accepted African-American students at that time. The African-American students had to cope with hostility and resistance.

Karen Williams '72

Black Affairs Council student leader
Before move-in my roommate and I contacted each other through letters, to buy matching bedspreads and all that. I got there, to Atkin-Colby, first. I was waiting there anxiously, left the door open for her. The roommate and her family showed up. They looked inside and saw

me, closed the door, and never came back. Eventually, I was given another roommate. She was asked if she minded having a black roommate. I was never asked if I wanted a white roommate.

Pruitt: The HPS Program was not just about recruiting students and having students achieve. Our broader objective was to change the culture of that university, to make it broader, make it more inclusive.

John Freed

Distinguished Professor of History emeritus (1969–2012)

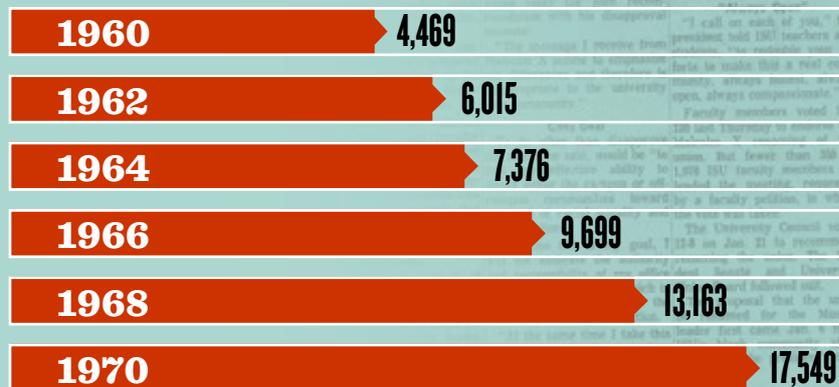
Another factor is this incredible expansion with the baby boomers. ISU went from 4,000 to 14,000 students in a decade. It's this incredible transformation of a rather sleepy teachers college into something else.

Bob Lenz

ISU attorney (1967–1973), advisor to President Samuel Braden

In those days, by and large, some of the old-timers in Normal would've been very happy to have a giant chain-link fence put up around campus.

Total On-Campus Student Enrollment



“The Vietnam War was going on. The civil rights movement was in full bloom. Martin Luther King had just been killed. Bobby Kennedy too. The country was up for grabs.”

Dave Anderson

Town of Normal city manager
(1965–1998)

Some of the people in the University administration—they were good people, but they felt the University could do any damn thing it wanted to do, and to hell with the town. Some of us that worked for the town felt a certain amount of displeasure with that.

Freed: Normal was a very conservative community suddenly confronted by the outside world.

Anderson: There were two camps for Normal residents. One was saying it was a college campus, what the hell do you expect? The second camp just wanted us to go in and bust their heads. There wasn't much in the middle.

NATIONAL FORCES 1967–1969

Many Illinois State students and faculty joined the anti-Vietnam War and civil rights movements. They largely operated in parallel to each other on campus, with white students and faculty mostly participating in the former, and black students and faculty involved in the latter.

Bill Cummings '71, M.S. '78

Vidette photographer

The Vietnam War was going on. The civil rights movement was in full bloom. Martin Luther King had just been killed. Bobby Kennedy too. The country was up for grabs.



Members of the Black Student Association gathered around the flagpole on December 4, 1969, and lowered the flag to half-mast to honor slain Black Panther Party Chairman Fred Hampton and Peoria Panther Leader Mark Clark.

Rose (Osing) Yount '72

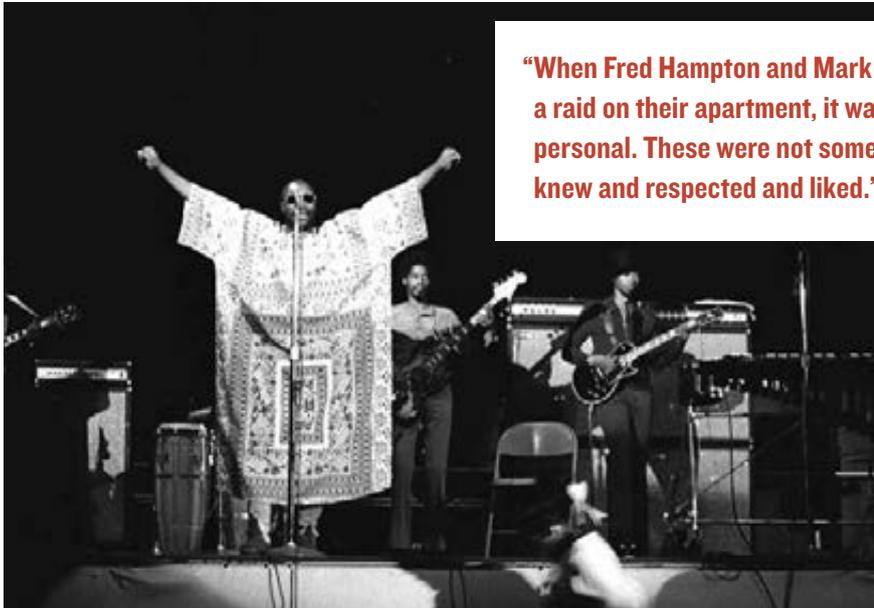
Student body vice president

You saw this uprising of student groups in response to social issues that were blowing up left and right. Rumors were abound. It was a very, very frightening time.

Cummings: Don't forget there was a draft. A lot of us were sucked into that.

Morris: Black students' focus and concerns were strictly on black student issues. The Vietnam protesters were a separate group. These events were bubbling up at the same time, so it was hard to tell which was which or who was protesting what.

Photo courtesy of the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives



“When Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed by police in Chicago during a raid on their apartment, it was a sad day for us at Illinois State and it was personal. These were not some distant figures. These were people that we knew and respected and liked.”

In the late 1960s, the University began hosting more appearances by black activists and performers on campus. *From top left:* Black Panthers speech, 1970; Jesse Jackson speaking at the Association of Women Students Symposium, 1969; students in attendance at Jackson’s speech, 1969; Black Panthers speech, 1970; and Isaac Hayes, 1972. (Photos courtesy of the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives)

George Pruitt: One of the speakers that we invited was Fred Hampton. We got to know Fred. One of Fred’s lieutenants and friends was a guy named Mark Clark. Mark Clark’s sister was a student at Illinois State. When Fred Hampton and Mark Clark were killed by police in Chicago during a raid on their apartment, it was a sad day for us at Illinois State and it was personal. These were not some distant figures. These were people that we knew and respected and liked.

Alonzo Pruitt
Student (1968–1971), Black Student Association leader

I was very angry. That’s what started it for me. I went and put the flag at half-mast.

George Pruitt: The governor’s office called President Samuel Braden and ordered him to raise the flag to full-mast and told him he didn’t have the author-

Williams: I can remember one incident getting out of hand. We were all supposed to go to Milner Library and get one book and displace it. We wanted to disrupt but not destroy. They ended up locking down the library. It got out of hand. Those who wanted to stop the war were trying to get involved and help us, but the war effort would’ve drowned out what we were doing. We were fighting to keep it separate.

Janice Cox '73
Student activist

There were a lot of groups actually at the time. They sometimes worked at cross-purposes, but sometimes worked together too, as people sorted out their philosophic positions and their political positions as they dealt with all the other issues that were coming up. You know, racism and sexism. All of that entered into the mix.

BLACK PANTHER KILLINGS

December 1969

Fred Hampton and Mark Clark, two state leaders in the revolutionary Black Panthers organization, were killed during a police raid in Chicago on December 4, 1969. Their deaths galvanized black leaders at ISU, leading to the first—but not last—confrontation over the flagpole, as well as demands for change.

Williams: ISU did a lot to respond to our needs. We did get a series of speakers the following year. Andrew Young, Jesse Jackson Sr., and Nina Simone came too.

ity to lower the flag, only the governor or the president did. We weren't happy with it, but we also trusted President Braden and we knew it was coming from the governor and not him. We went back to the flagpole and disbanded. And someone raised the flag back up, and that was the end of it.

Virginia Owen '62

Professor of Economics emerita (1962–1993), College of Arts and Sciences dean (1982–1993)

Everybody was up in arms. Somehow it kept growing and mushroomed, and one day President Braden walked into the old cafe that was in the Old Union, which had been taken over by black students. It was a very hostile crowd, but he walked in and said, "What's the problem?" and started talking to them.

George Pruitt: There were just a lot of things happening simultaneously. We petitioned the student union building be named in honor of Malcolm X.

Morris: I was on the Task Force on Inter-Group Relations, which made the recommendation to the University Council that a building be named after Malcolm X. Although I had the preference at the time for someone else, I felt for the goals that the student organiza-

tion was trying to achieve certainly that Malcolm X suited their interests and many of them are closer to him in say lifestyle and attitude than I, but I was willing to support it.

George Pruitt: Malcolm X had more currency and following in the urban north than Martin Luther King did. We loved Dr. King. But in the urban north, Malcolm was much more effective in tapping into the anger.

Alonzo Pruitt: Asking for the renaming of the union for Malcolm X, I think that was one of our big mistakes. They were willing to name a building after Dr. King. But some of the people in our group insisted it was Malcolm X. It was a mistake, because we wound up getting neither.

George Pruitt: President Braden was told in no uncertain terms by his Board of Regents and by others that an action on his part to do that would have long-lasting and significant damage to the University in terms of funding and political support. Braden took that recommendation to the board but chose to personally disagree with that.

Freed: We never renamed that building. It's still the Old Union. It's a strange name.

BRADEN'S LEADERSHIP 1967–1970

Samuel Braden's leadership was severely tested during the three years he was president. He was under pressure from

student activists who regularly disrupted campus in a push for change, and from state and local political leaders who wanted him to clamp down on those students.

Samuel Braden

Illinois State University president (1967–1970); died in 2003

The two weeks before the Christmas vacation constituted the longest nightmare in my experience. (From Braden's letter to the Board of Regents on December 30, 1969.)

Lenz: Sam was calm and effective. He was very thoughtful, but he didn't panic. He had a real strong sense of values about higher education being a marketplace of ideas, being a place where you could have a difference of opinion.

Morris: We were getting resistance from the community for the things that Braden did at the time. Some felt he had capitulated to the demands of black students.

Lenz: There were a certain number of people in the community who were not supportive of ISU and really wanted

"The two weeks before the Christmas vacation constituted the longest nightmare in my experience."



Photo courtesy of the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives

President Braden with students on the Quad in 1969.

the president to fire faculty who made speeches they didn't like, or wanted him to kick students off campus if they demonstrated, and Sam just had better judgment. He didn't let those people push him around.

Ed Pyne '71

Vidette editor

He might've been the reason we didn't have a lot of trouble here.

Alonzo Pruitt: He had a really good heart. To some extent he had some privileged attitudes that came from the times, but I don't think he himself had an evil heart.

Lenz: Sam had the courage to hire the first black basketball coach at the Division 1 level in the country, Will Robinson. He was ahead of his time in a lot of ways.

Alonzo Pruitt: That was a blip on the radar. It didn't address core issues.

DAYS OF MAY

May 1970

News of the U.S. invasion of Cambodia sparked protests and campus unrest across the country. Tensions were further heightened when authorities fatally shot students on May 4 at Kent State University and 11 days later at Jackson State University. Illinois State's campus remained open but experienced its fair share of vandalism, fights over the flag, and protests during these so-called days of May.

John Kirk

Professor of Theatre emeritus (1966–1997)

The whole month of May was full of this tension. Some of us didn't get much sleep.

Janice Cox: The reason that Kent State happened was because of the invasion of Cambodia, and campuses just erupted. Students were killed at Kent State and Jackson State. And campuses erupted even more. The loss of life scared people.

George Pruitt: And this time some other students lowered the flag. These weren't black students. And we had great sympathy, all students did, at what happened at Kent State. But that was a different set of issues. What was going through our minds was black folks got killed and we weren't allowed to raise the flag to half-mast; white folks got killed and somehow it's OK. And we weren't happy with that.

George Pruitt: A bunch of us went back to see President Samuel Braden. He even called the governor's office, and now after Kent State, campuses were on fire all over the country. And the governor's office said it was a matter of local discretion. Basically it was up to Braden. I suggested that we set a date and let's have a martyrs day. Put the flag back up, but in about a week, let's lower the flag to half-mast all day long in honor of mar-



President Braden addresses protesters at a sit-in at Hovey Hall in fall 1968.

Mike Schermer '73, M.S.E. '78 Undergraduate student (1969–1973), Student Affairs staff member (1974–2008)

The University paid for all these speakers to come in and talk about all the issues of Vietnam. Probably, that is one of the significant reasons why we never closed. There were many campuses that just shut down. We took a more educational approach.

tyrs for social justice causes of any kind. And let's have a university teach-in or celebration and discussion about social change and violence, and let's make it something positive.

Carrol Cox

Professor of English emeritus (1961–1997),
former Students for a Democratic Society
faculty advisor, husband of Janice Cox

There were huge numbers of students spending time on the Quad. And classes were semicancelled. None were officially canceled, but a lot of students were obviously not going to class.

...will terms President's plan a 'fantasy'

Blacks reject Braden offer

Lenz: There was some vandalism. Someone lit a small fire in a wastebasket in the union. It was put out in 2 minutes, but the legend of the fire in the union grew exponentially.

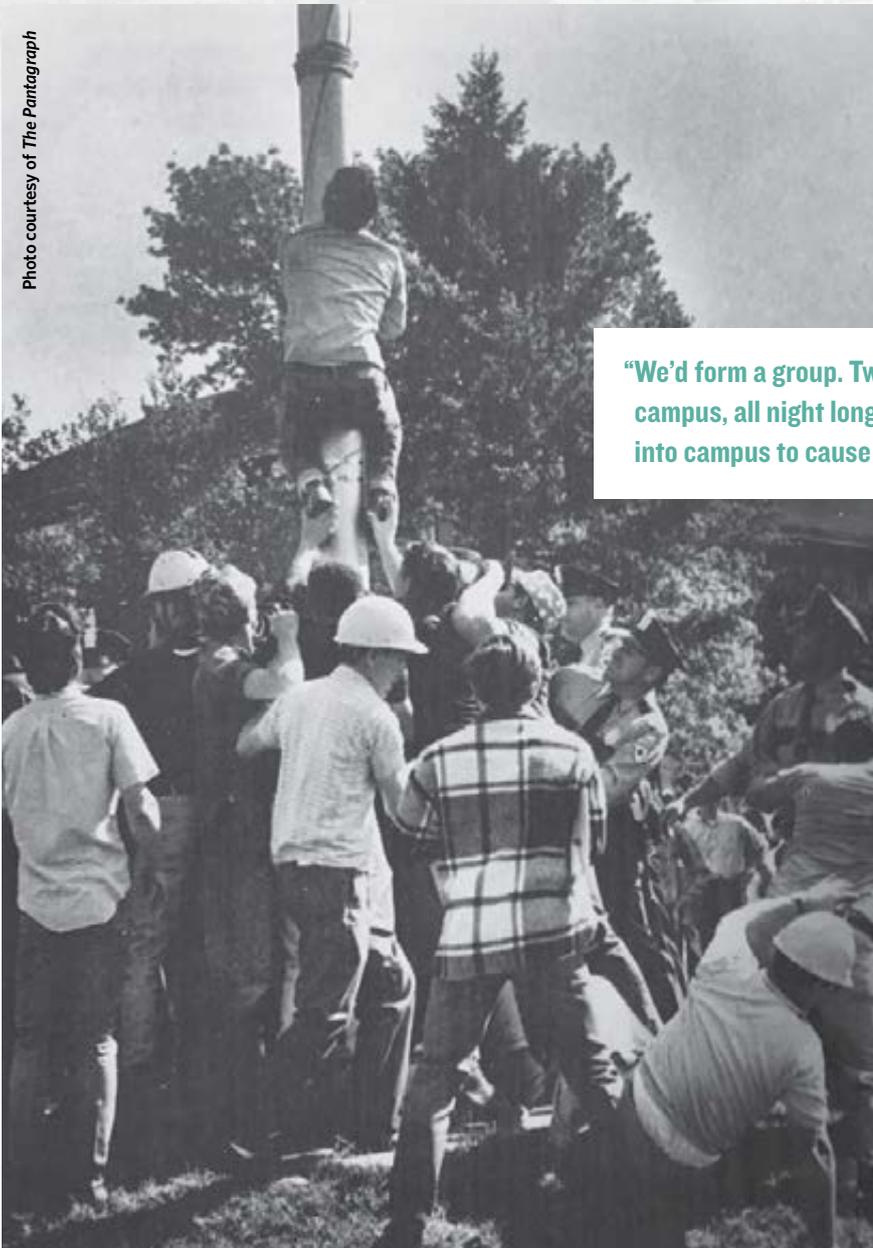
Morris: Braden had put in place a curfew and that was to require students

to stay in the campus area. We had that for maybe two or three nights. After the Normal City Council heard about that, they thought it was a good idea, so they put a curfew down on the whole Normal city to keep the students under control and confined. Students objected quite vehemently to that.

Kirk: We'd form a group. Two pairs of faculty, we'd walk around the campus, all night long. I walked until 3 in the morning, all to discourage people from coming into campus to cause trouble.

Morris: There was confusion about what the perimeter was of the University. Our understanding, and it was agreed to later on, that the boundary was Fell Street but the enforcement guys felt the boundary was School Street. So when the students walked in that direction, police, university and Normal, met them. And that was the worst time that we had. They were chasing, not necessarily to grab and injure, but that happened. There were nightsticks and hands and fists. Assistant Dean of Students George Taylor was hit by a policeman, by a nightstick, I think. That was the most serious event of that type that we had.

Photo courtesy of The Pentagraph



"We'd form a group. Two pairs of faculty, we'd walk around the campus, all night long, all to discourage people from coming into campus to cause trouble."

Lenz: There were riots elsewhere. Of all the public universities in Illinois, ISU had the least amount of trouble.

FLAGPOLE INCIDENT

May 19, 1970

President Braden had agreed to let the flag on the Quad fly at half-mast on May 19, 1970, in honor of Malcolm X's birthday. That morning a group of construction workers raised the flag and threatened to return if anyone attempted to lower it. Fearing a brawl between the workers and students, Illinois State administrators requested the help of Normal Police. Normal's mayor refused

Hard-hat workers at the flagpole on May 19, 1970.

to protect the campus because he was against the lowering of the flag. Instead university employees ringed the flagpole with ISU trucks, and calls were made to the State Police.

Freed: The flagpole incident is the culmination of this whole thing.

Lenz: The president had agreed to lower the flag for Malcolm X's birthday on May 19, 1970, at the request of a lot of students. And a group of hard-hat laborers decided they were going to come to campus and put the flag back up.

George Pruitt: As I was passing the flagpole on the Quad, I saw a bunch of guys who looked like construction workers. The flag was at half-mast, and there was a security guard standing at the base of the flagpole. They pushed him out of the way and roughed him up a little bit, and one guy shimmied up the flagpole and cut the cord. And they were shouting racial epithets and other things, and they left.

Kirk: They didn't think the flag should be at half-mast to honor black militants. The construction workers announced on the radio that they planned to return on their lunch hour and raise the flag for good.

George Pruitt: Then the campus security came. Some maintenance people came and rescued the flag and put it back to half-mast.

Schermer: I'm just watching all of this stuff going on and thinking, "What the hell is going on here?"

Alonzo Pruitt: What I think most annoyed the construction workers that day is that I arranged a protest of people going to the student union to pay for their food with pennies. It interrupted their mealtime. At any rate, I don't think they were just mad about the flag being at half-mast.

George Pruitt: I got death threats both in my office and at my home. And other students were being treated in a way where they felt threatened. So we got all of the black students together because we felt if there was going to be any violence perpetrated against any of us, we were best off if we were together

in one place at one time. Now it's a different issue. Now it's not a social justice, free speech issue. Now it's a security, law enforcement issue.

Anderson: The mayor wanted to call in the National Guard to protect the flag. But cooler heads prevailed.



Photo courtesy of The Pantagraph



Photo courtesy of The Pantagraph

University vehicles formed a barricade around the flagpole on May 19, 1970. The North Street confrontation, May 14, 1970, that Charles Morris mentions in this story.

Morris: The Normal mayor at that time, Charles Baugh, was a typical hardline conservative. And at the time of the flagpole incident, he would not approve the use of Normal policemen to provide protection to the campus. Braden had to make a request to the state.

Anderson: It was a patriotic thing for the mayor.

George Pruitt: State Police came in. We all got together on the other end of the Quad. We decided to play around with softballs because we thought that was a way we could have baseball bats and the police wouldn't bother us. We basically grouped together because we wanted to protect each other.

Yount: It was getting scarier by the second. At that point, some students—to this day I still cry when I think about it—we joined arms and we stood there across the street from the hard hats to not allow the men to come into campus. And they didn't. They didn't cross the street.

Kirk: Right about that time, we heard the sound of a big engine revving. It was this big ISU truck. It came lumbering onto the Quad, circled the flagpole. Behind it came another truck. And another.

George Pruitt: Someone from law enforcement told the administration that they had to put a definable space around the flagpole—since the campus was an

Cummings: Neither side really wanted to challenge the larger numbers of state police troopers who were there.

Freed: It could've easily been trouble if those hard hats came back. Think of the confrontation that would have occurred but didn't. In the end, everybody pulled back.

AFTERMATH

June 1970

Lenz: It stopped almost as suddenly as it started, this whole period of turmoil.

Cummings: Things just kind of calmed down. It sort of peaked around the time of that flagpole incident. I think everybody felt spent.

Freed: The whole country began to settle down.

Kirk: Thank God it was May. The students left.

George Pruitt: The only downside of that whole thing was President Braden's decision that he didn't want to be president. When he came there to be president, it was not to deal with takeovers, and violence, and threatened violence, and marches where people were throwing bottles and rocks at people. He found it distasteful.

Braden: I simply find that I no longer enjoy grappling with the problems which confront a college president today. (From Braden's resignation statement on June 11, 1970.)

Kirk: I felt so sorry for the man. I once saw him speak to a big meeting of students in the old amphitheater. He came offstage in my direction, and I reached out to tell him nice work, and he fell into my arms. He was just shaking all over. I realized what immense pressure this man was facing. He signed on to be a college president, not to handle riots in the street.



Photo courtesy of *The Pantagraph*

Six ISU students were taken in for questioning, but later released after a melee at 12:25 p.m. May 5, 1970, near the flagpole on ISU's quadrangle. The altercation broke out after three students came up with a Viet Cong flag. Other students waded into them. Security police stepped in. One student was treated for injuries at the ISU health center.

Kirk: There were a bunch of black students down by McCormick gym, stirring themselves up. At the other end of the Quad where the overpass is today, you could see across the street the white hats were gathering, ready to make their move onto campus.

open property—to enforce a no-trespassing issue. So there were cars and trucks that created like a circle-the-wagons around the flagpole.

Lenz: And it worked! It was remarkable. It worked.

Kirk: The history of ISU and the Town of Normal might be very different without that idea. Tragically different.

George Pruitt: We were the only public university where there was no violence. That was a testimony to two things. One it was the leadership of President Braden. And there was also a black student community that really wanted to bring substantive change. But you put those two things together and you have a university that was transformed from the inside because both the leadership of the University and the affected students who were driving it were both committed to making things happen so that the institution would change and be better.

Alonzo Pruitt: You did feel heard. You did feel protected. I never felt like they saw us as the enemy. I respect that so much. It all helped me evolve into the type of person I became.

Owen: We came through that period not broken in pieces as many campuses were.

TODAY'S CAMPUS

While town-gown relations today are better than ever, Illinois State's campus climate for students of color remains inconsistent, with each student's experience his or her own. Recent freshman classes have been the most diverse in history, with special programming such as graduation recognition ceremonies becoming annual traditions. Still, racially insensitive episodes spark new conversations. The University's own 2016 Campus Climate Survey uncovered much room for improvement.

Karyn Aguirre '86
Black Colleagues Association president

What I think is the biggest difference today is the University is being proactive in opening the conversation. In the 1970s and the 1980s, that was not necessarily the case.

George Pruitt: I can't tell you how proud I was when President Al Bowman was selected president in 2004.

It was a long time, but the continuum that resulted in his presidency, we started in 1967.

Al Bowman
Illinois State University president
(2004–2013)

In my mind, what's really significant in terms of being the first African-American president was the lack of attention it got on campus. I think that's a positive. My sense was that most people didn't care.

Rick Lewis, M.S. '87
Retired associate dean of students
(1987–2016)

There's probably not a year that goes by that something doesn't happen on campus that motivates students of color to respond or react. But the ironic thing about institutions of higher education is our short institutional memory. It doesn't take long for our students to move forward, or forget, but the students tend to come back the following semester or year, and things have died down. And you just wait for the next flare-up.

Bowman: I went to a segregated grade school from first grade until sixth grade. Then, we were bused to an integrated school five miles away. There were lots of racial incidents. People would throw rocks at the bus. So from 1965 to today, the world is a completely different place. I think if you come back 20 years from now, it will be a lot better. It just takes time.

Editor's note: Some background information for this story came from the Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives; A Place of Education by Roger J. Champagne; and Educating Illinois: Illinois State University, 1857–2007, by John B. Freed.

Braden recommendation
finds title unacceptable



Tough decision

ISU president Al Bowman will submit his disapproval of selection of Malcolm X for the title of the present Union Building today. Braden pointed out that the name seems to emphasize our differences and it will not direct either the campus or the campus community toward racial equality or reconciliation.

Dig deeper

Watch film footage of the 1970 flagpole incident and see more historical documents and photos about this contentious period in ISU history: IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.



BIRTHING



ALUMNA ACHIEVES FAMILY, CAREER SUCCESS THROUGH SURROGACY

Illinois State alumna Zara Griswold is in the business of creating families. The agency Griswold created with Staci Swiderski helps couples who cannot physically reproduce their own child navigate the expensive and legally complicated process of using gestational surrogacy with egg and sperm donation to have a baby.

The company started out of a single office in the Chicago suburb of Oak Brook with two other employees. Now the partners are based out of a skyscraper in the Loop and employ 19 people, including Spanish- and Chinese-speaking coordinators.

In little more than a decade, Griswold and Swiderski's Family Source Consultants has become a world-spanning operation with clients from Asia, Europe, and Latin America. There are offices in Chicago, Miami, and San Antonio.

"I eat and breathe this agency," Griswold said. "Besides my children, this is my life. I call my agency my third baby. I have put my heart and soul in it, Staci too. It's not only about the business; we genuinely care about the people we work with and want them to have a family too."

MAMA'S

BY KEVIN BERSETT





Zara Griswold's cancer experience resulted in surrogacy becoming her passion. She is shown above and with her business partner Staci Swiderski. Together they help couples around the world experience the joy of parenting.

Griswold '93 does not compare her agency to her children lightly, as it was through surrogacy that she now has twins and began the journey that led her to starting her own company.

Shortly after graduating from ISU at age 23, she was diagnosed with ovarian cancer and underwent a total hysterectomy. "I knew I wouldn't be having children on my own."

In the early 2000s, when she and her husband wanted to start a family, they explored adoption. They dropped that idea once they learned they needed to be married for a couple of years before they could become eligible parents.

"By this time, surrogacy is becoming a little bit more common, enough so that a girlfriend told me about surrogacy," Griswold said.

Gestational surrogacy is the process through which a woman becomes impregnated and gives birth to the child of adoptive parents who either provide the egg and sperm themselves or find donors to provide them.

It was, and still is, very expensive, costing couples upward of \$150,000—of which \$30,000 typically goes to the surrogate. It is a cost infrequently covered by insurance.

"I loved the concept of it, and so I told my husband. He was very skeptical at first. He thought it was too expensive, he thought it wasn't going to work out. I had to really convince him."

Griswold found a surrogate, who had twins in June 2003. The sperm was donated by her husband. The egg donor was a friend of Griswold's. It was an especially risky investment at the time they went through the process.

"Up until then, when people did IVF (in vitro fertilization), it was kind of a crapshoot," Griswold said. "There was a 20 percent chance or less of success. So yes, very expensive—tens of thousands of dollars—for very low chance of success."

Things have changed dramatically in the ensuing years. A law enacted in 2005 has made Illinois one of the most surrogacy-friendly states in the country. Medical advancements mean an 80–90 percent chance of success on the first try, Griswold said.

She coordinated her surrogacy arrangements herself, working with a fertility center in her native Chicago. At the time there were few agencies like hers to help people through the process. She found a support community through the Internet, which is how she met Swiderski.

"We went through the process together, and we supported each other through both of our journeys," Griswold said.

They remained active with online support groups after their surrogacies and gave guidance to other would-be mothers. Griswold wrote a book, *Surrogacy Was the Way*, which tells the stories of 20 mothers whose children were born through the process.

“It came to the point where we were helping a lot of people, and it was time-consuming,” Griswold said. “And also simultaneously, once we started to think about opening an agency, we started to research more and more, and just heard terrible stories about people who had gone through agencies that we found completely unacceptable. So we thought to ourselves that we could do a much better job.”

The partners formed Family Source Consultants in 2006. They quickly added Griswold’s surrogate and a Spanish translator to their staff—the latter because many early clients came from Spanish-speaking countries who found the agency on the Web.

Family Source Consultants assists intended parents as they go through the entire surrogacy process. The agency finds a surrogate, and if

Her agency has grown substantially over the years, especially as surrogacy has become more popular among same-sex couples. She began with about 10 surrogate-parent matches the first year and doubled those numbers the following year. The company currently has about 85 intended parents and surrogate matches happening at any one time.

Swiderski and Griswold have used the Internet and word of mouth to grow their business. To garner trust with potential clients from around the world, they have begun using Skype.

“When we first started, it was phone calls with international clients,” Griswold said. “But now Skype allows us to have face-to-face conversations, which is very helpful for them to have that reassurance that we are real people and not a scam. We want them to trust us, and be able to look into our eyes and know we are real people.”

“I NEVER FELT COMPLETE FULFILLMENT IN MY CAREER UNTIL WE OPENED THE AGENCY.”

necessary, sperm and egg donors. There is help completing the legal work that ensures the child is their own. This can be complex considering surrogacy laws vary from state to state and country to country.

Despite its growing popularity, surrogacy is still a controversial practice. Paid surrogacy is a felony in some states and outlawed in many nations. In other places, the laws are so loose that the surrogate could change her mind about giving up the child to the adoptive parents.

“Basically the (Illinois) law outlines the entire process for both the intended parents and the surrogate. Everything is very legal, very defined, very clearly stated that once the baby or babies are conceived, that they are the baby or babies of the intended parent immediately upon conception.”

Griswold does not buy one justification for outlawing surrogacy—the argument that the practice demeans the woman carrying the child.

“I might be biased because this is my passion and business, but I don’t see what the problem is or why anyone would not want to legalize it. It’s a win-win situation. Women who become surrogates—no one is forcing them, this is something they want to do and are excited about. And they’re helping someone to become parents.”

Having studied to be a nutritionist at ISU, Griswold had no formal business training before starting her company. After graduation, she worked outside her major and eventually became a high school teacher. She held that job until her twins were born.

Griswold credits her time at ISU with teaching her life skills—like how to be independent and how to make her own decisions. Both have helped her make her business a success and pursue her passion—just not the one she initially planned to follow.

“I never felt complete fulfillment in my career until we opened the agency. The agency has always been closer to my heart since I had my own children via surrogacy, and I know what it feels like to want a family so desperately and not be able to just have one on your own,” Griswold said.

“When they have success—received the news they are pregnant—we are crying with them, we are happy with them. Everyone has the same goal—for them to have a family.”

Alumni Awards

The Illinois State University Alumni Association honored seven award recipients at Founders Day celebrations on February 16, as well as during a dinner program. For video of this year's awards program, visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Awards.

Distinguished Alumni Award

David Magers '77, MBA '86
Chief Executive Officer, Mecum Auto Auction

Karen (Roop) Magers '79
Director, Bloomington Eye Institute
Bloomington



A certified public accountant, Dave Magers started his career at GROWMARK and Illinois Farm Bureau. He later worked at COUNTRY Financial in positions of increasing responsibility over 35 years, including serving as chief financial officer.

Dave became instrumental on COUNTRY's leadership team, assessing financial risks and directing all aspects of financial planning. Following his 2013 retirement, he became CEO for Mecum Collector Car Auctions. The job fits his passion for classic and exotic cars.

A College of Business (COB) Hall of Fame inductee, Dave has been the keynote speaker during Business Week and chaired the Katie School of Insurance Advisory board. He also serves on the Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) Advisory Board.

Karen (Roop) Magers graduated from MCN and began her nursing career as an eye surgery staff nurse at Gailey Clinic in Bloomington. She has served as director of the Bloomington Eye Institute since 1998.

She played a large role in the development of the Watson Gailey Eye Bank, which provides corneal tissue for implants. Karen has written eye bank manuals used nationally, served as a role model for nursing students, and reinforced both MCN traditions and the importance of the college's ISU affiliation.

The Magers have received numerous accolades for their public service with organizations that include the Heartland Chapter of American Red Cross, the Children's Hospital of Illinois and Eversight Illinois. They also support Illinois State, having created a COB and MCN scholarship.

They each have a passion for ISU that goes beyond endeavors for the two colleges. They follow Redbird Athletics and serve on many advisory boards and planning committees. Their true Redbird spirit shines in all they do for ISU.

Alumni Achievement Award

Ray Brownfield '65
President, Land Pro LLC
Naperville

Agriculture graduate Ray Brownfield began his career as a farm manager with the First National Bank of Peoria. He became vice president there, as well as at Chicago's Continental Illinois National Bank and Northern Trust Bank.

Brownfield built Capital Agricultural Property Services into the second largest national agricultural property management/real estate brokerage company. He formed Land Pro LLC after retiring in 2003, and remains managing broker and owner.

As Conservation Technology Information Center chair, Brownfield worked with the U.S. Department of Agriculture/Natural Resources Conservation Service. He has served as president of the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers, and the National REALTORS Land Institute.

An ISU Department of Agriculture Honorary Hobart Award recipient, he is in the College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame. He received the D. Howard Doane Award for outstanding contributions to agriculture from the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers.

Brownfield enlisted in the Army National Guard in 1966, retiring after 35 years as a Chief Warrant Officer 5. It is the highest rank, achieved by only 11 percent of those in the U.S. Army. He is on ISU's Agricultural Alumni board of directors. With his help, the department raised \$100,000 through its Centennial Celebration in 2011.



Ray Brownfield



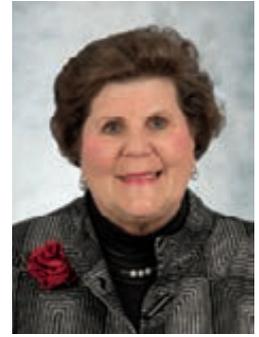
Al Bowman



Linda Bowman



Rebecca Vieyra



Lynda Lane

Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Al Bowman

President Emeritus, Illinois State University

Linda (Althoff) Bowman '81, M.S. '83

Former first lady; Clinical assistant professor emerita, Communication Sciences and Disorders at Illinois State
Bloomington

Al and Linda (Althoff) Bowman have served ISU extraordinarily. During Al's presidency, the University experienced consistent increases in enrollment and academic quality of students, renewed campus vitality, national recognition of many academic programs and increased financial support.

Al served as an associate professor and chair in the Department of Communication Sciences and Disorders. He was interim provost before serving as president from 2003-2013.

During his presidency, Al oversaw renovations in Schroeder, Stevenson and Turner halls; a \$100-million residence hall renovation; as well as construction of Cardinal Court, Hancock Stadium's grandstand and the Student Fitness Center. He completed ISU's first major fundraising campaign, which surpassed an \$88 million goal with \$96 million raised.

Linda began her career as a speech-language pathologist for Speech and Language Rehabilitation Services in Peoria. She also worked as a speech-language pathologist in the Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley School District.

Her ISU career began in 1986 and she retired in 2014. Linda served as clinical

supervisor, instructor, academic advisor, graduate coordinator, clinic coordinator and director of the Eckelmann-Taylor Speech and Hearing Clinic. She taught and supervised clinical work.

The Bowmans remain involved on campus, attending athletic and academic events. They are proud supporters of ISU, which became a top-100 public university under their leadership.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Rebecca (Wenning) Vieyra '07

Program manager, American Association of Physics Teachers
Washington, D.C.

Alumna Rebecca (Wenning) Vieyra studied physics teacher education at ISU as a Bone Scholar. She was selected as the inaugural College of Arts and Sciences Laurine Reiske Award recipient.

Vieyra has earned National Board Teacher Certification. She was among 108 teachers nationwide to receive the Presidential Award of Excellence in Mathematics and Science Teaching in 2013. She served as a 2014 Albert Einstein Distinguished Educator in Washington, D.C.

As program manager for the American Association of Physics Teachers, she has managed a NASA-led consortium of 28 STEM-oriented organizations, while also coordinating physical and virtual workshops across the globe.

She coauthored a physics teaching textbook and helped develop a physics mobile application, Physics Toolbox Suite, used by more than 500,000 students and educators.

She works nationally with staff involved in the Physics Teacher Education Coalition.

Her lengthy list of accomplishments, professional memberships and awards place her in a leadership role as she works to further her career in physics and teacher education.

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Lynda Lane '66

Retired teacher, Olympia School District
Normal

Lynda Lane worked more than three decades as an English teacher in the Olympia School District. After retiring in 2005, she still pursued her passion as a substitute teacher.

Over the course of her career, she took on additional responsibilities. These included serving the Olympia Education Association as president, and working as department chair for English and Foreign Language from 1990-2005. She also became the assistant director of Olympia Theatre and founded the Olympia Madrigal Program.

She was one of the first to volunteer as an Ewing Manor docent and has been an engaging ambassador since 2012. Last year alone, she led more than 46 tour groups through the manor and grounds.

Lane served the University as an active member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors from 1976-2012. During that time she was president, vice president and secretary. She has distinguished herself as an extraordinary leader through volunteer roles that have ranged from chairperson for the Alumni Awards Committee and Homecoming Committee, to commencement speaker, Preview volunteer, Half-Century Club member and Senior Professionals mentor.

#RedbirdProud



Virtual networking

Alumni connect and develop through new book club service

A virtual book club for Redbirds that focuses on professional development and personal growth has been launched. The group is an online community where alumni can engage in conversation about books on professional topics such as business, communications, leadership, productivity and more. Participation is free for all graduates.

More than 600 joined in the debut session. They appreciated the opportunity to tap into the expertise and insights of other professionals. Participants connect through a private LinkedIn Group to discuss the chosen book and to network. A new book is read every two months. There will be times alumni choose to

skip a conversation if the chosen book covers a topic of no interest.

Alumni Relations hopes graduates will be excited to participate in this new service that connects alumni across industries, generations and geography. The opportunity to connect with other alumni regardless of location opens the door for insights from intelligent, driven and interesting graduates.

Beyond strengthening Redbird networks, the club is another way to continue in career advancement. This professional exchange empowers participants to be more effective in areas critical to success, as discussions focus on relevant topics.

Another reason to join is to increase personal reading, which is a powerful

tool. People who read at least seven business books per year earn more than 230 percent than individuals reading just one annually. Reading not only improves a person's intelligence and reasoning ability but has been linked to reducing the chance of Alzheimer's.

Joining the Illinois State virtual book club encourages all to read more and enjoy all the benefits that come with it. The next book will be announced soon. Get involved and ready to learn by signing up at pbc.guru/IllinoisState.

Editor's note: Graduates who have authored a book are encouraged to share their work. Submit a copy for inclusion in the Reggie Reads column, with the book then on display in the Alumni Center. Contact Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.

Alumni News

Plan for Homecoming and nominate royalty

Illinois State is celebrating its many legacies this year at Homecoming 2017. Plans are underway for the fall celebration that is set for October 16-22.

Annual traditions will continue on Saturday the 21st, with the Town and Gown 5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk followed by the parade through Uptown Normal. The football team will take on South Dakota in the afternoon.

The tradition of choosing an alumni king and queen also continues. The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for this year's royalty, including a 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 28.

Children between the ages of 4 and 7 at the time of Homecoming 2017 and whose parents are ISU graduates are eligible for nomination as the prince or princess. Nominees must display Redbird spirit, pride and enthusiasm. Prince and princess nominations are due August 18.

To learn more about events as they are scheduled, visit 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 24 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/Association or call (309) 438-2586 for more information.



From the archives

ISU's domestic science program, which began in 1909, included five cookery courses. Change and growth have marked the program since, including in laboratory settings provided for students. Food preparation courses offered in 1964, *top*, were conducted in a meager kitchen environment. Today's food, nutrition and dietetics majors appreciate a modern culinary lab that opened in Turner Hall in 2015. Jaycee Reeves and Tyler Townsend are two in the program that prepares graduates for such challenges as combatting childhood obesity while overseeing school district cafeterias.



Proudly he served

Alumnus honored with Congressional Gold Medal

Agriculture classes that would prepare him for farming are what drew Ivan Maras '52 to the University seven decades ago. He arrived with a plan to return to his family's farm near the rural Illinois community of Bulpitt. That goal changed when he was drafted during the Korean War.

Grateful for the draft board's decision to let him finish his undergraduate studies, Maras postponed his service in the Army. His hope was that the college degree would keep him stateside at a desk job. That wish didn't come true either for Maras, who was shipped overseas to Korea.

He had no idea of what was ahead. He certainly had no expectations of

receiving an honor for his valiant service during the war—the Congressional Gold Medal. He and other regiment members received last year this highest national award for distinguished achievements and contributions.

Maras was a member of the 65th Infantry Regiment that was created by Congress in 1898 as an all-Puerto Rican segregated unit. Puerto Rico, a commonwealth of the United States, uses Spanish as its common language.

Beyond the challenges of finding himself in a war, Maras consequently had the additional difficulty of communicating. He did not speak any Spanish when he was assigned to the unit that was faltering because Puerto Rican soldiers were not prepared for the challenges.

One of the most difficult was the regiment's key objective to keep Chinese and North Korean forces above the 38th Parallel during the Battle of Chosin Reservoir. Even after that successful assignment, Maras remained on the front lines, working in Headquarters Company until the war ended in July 1953.

Maras became more than a solid soldier during his time in the Army. He also gained experience as a teacher. The military set up tent schools in Korea. Math, reading and writing were subjects Maras taught. The experience prepared him to lead classes back in the U.S. after serving for 16 months. He taught math, physics and chemistry in Illinois schools for nearly 50 years until his retirement in 1988.

1960s

Elaine Hodel '63 is a substitute teacher with Roanoke-Benson District 60. She and her husband, Roger, have a daughter and granddaughter who are also ISU graduates. The couple resides in Roanoke.

Larry Dodds '66, M.S. '71, is retired from 45 years of teaching. The last 17 were spent as school superintendent in two rural Illinois districts. His wife, **Judith (Pieper) '67**, is retired as an elementary teacher. They reside in Colfax.

David Noden, M.S. '67, is a missionary teacher in East Africa. He and his wife, Darlene, have a residence in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

Linda Henderson '68 is a field experience coordinator for Touro University. She and her husband, Gary Vanerstrom, reside in Napa, California.

1970s

James Eckert '70 is the president and trust officer of Anchor State Bank. He and his wife, Sharon Brown, reside in Anchor.

Thomas Taulbee '70, M.S. '71, Ed.D. '73, is a psychology professor at Richland College. He resides in Parker, Texas.

Barbara Doyle '71 is an author, and educator who focuses on individuals with autism, intellectual or developmental disabilities, deafness and deaf blindness. She is the recipient of the 2017 Margaret Bancroft Distinguished Leadership Award by the Winston Knolls School. She resides in Orland Park.

Ferol Hettick '72 is senior vice president and director of compliance at Trustmark National Bank in Jackson, Mississippi. He and his wife, Carol, reside in Brandon, Mississippi.

Jan Kasbeer, M.S. '72, walks with a cane but still swims each day at 5 a.m. She is a substitute teacher in Milwaukee public schools, works in her garden each summer, plays golf and enjoys her five grandchildren. She resides in Racine, Wisconsin.

Patrick Winters '72 is president of S2ET Consulting, which helps with strategic evaluations and executive transitions. He is a graduate of the Institute of Organization Management at Notre Dame. He has taught classes for the program, including at Loyola Marymount University in California. He resides in Maylene, Alabama.

Nancy (Bottles) Bauman '73 completed a master's in education at San Francisco State University. She is the associate director of the Distinguished Careers Institute at Stanford University. She resides in Sunnyvale, California.

Vickie (Erhardt) Bowers '73 retired as a special education teacher in Lovington Community Unit School District 303. She and her husband, David, reside in Lovington.

Dale McCormack '73, M.S. '74, taught for decades and is now managing director of The Institute 4 Traffic Safety. He has authored *Advantageous Driving 4 Seniors: Survival Skills, Strategies and Knowledge*. He resides in Machesney Park.

Vance Rugaard, M.S. '73, was a teacher and administrator for three decades at Pekin Public Schools. He worked for the state of Tennessee, retiring as executive director of the Office of Teacher Licensing. He works with second-career teachers at Middle Tennessee State University. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Nashville, Tennessee.

Susan (Semankovich) Skelley '73 coached tennis 43 years at East Aurora High School, where she taught physical education. She also coached basketball and served as assistant athletic director. Aurora's tennis courts are named in her honor. She and her husband, James, reside in Naperville.

John Hansford '74 is a managing partner of JW Hansford, LLC. He and his wife, Cindy, reside in Geneva.

Steven Kant '74 is co-owner of OK Appliance in Bloomington, where he and his wife, Carol, reside.

Christine (Wolnik) Dewey '75, M.S. '77, retired as chair of the counseling department of Triton College. She

Pause for applause

U.S. for MS



It has been 11 years since **Corey Mackey '95** was diagnosed with multiple sclerosis. The disabling disease compromises the immune system and disrupts information from the brain. The central nervous system, including the spine, is especially attacked. Mackey's physical struggles have not diminished his resolve to tackle the disease that impacts more than 400,000 people in the United States. Mackey consequently worked to raise awareness and funds across the country by creating a national group—Team CorMack—with the goal of a member in an MS walk in every state. As 2016 came to a close, 30 states had been reached.

Beyond stand-up

Dandrell Scott '08 honed his comedic skills while at Illinois State by performing in Theater of Ted, which is an open-mic opportunity. He pursued his passion of combining different entertainment outlets while staying true to his comedy roots following graduation. Now a producer and actor, Scott is known for his animation as well. One of his works, an animated short titled "Dance Dog Fever," was shown nationally on the televised show *African American Short Films* in 2016. With the nickname of D Scott Got Jokes, he continues to live out a favorite quote that begins with "If you have a dream, chase it!"



Top of her game



As a PE student, **Mary Dagraedt '52, M.S. '56**, learned golf in preparation for teaching. Dagraedt had no idea that class would lead to a lifetime of excelling in the sport. She worked 38 years as a golf professional at Spring Creek Golf Course in Spring Valley. She also formed golf teams at Miami Dade North Community College. Dagraedt instructed 80 future professionals and thousands of students. She has been inducted into The Ladies Professional Golf Association Teaching and Club Professionals Hall of Fame. She has been chosen for four other halls of fame, including at ISU, where she competed in five sports.

Ready to lead

Chuck Scott, M.S. '94, has overseen many initiatives on campus during the 32 years he has worked at Illinois State University. He is without question prepared to lead nationally as president of the Association of Physical Plant Administrators (APPA). Scott is at the head of the organization with 12,500 members from 1,650 institutions across North America. He will travel internationally in his role with the professional organization for educational facilities managers. While serving as president of APPA this year, Scott will continue in his ISU role as executive director of Facilities Management, Parking, and Transportation.



How we met

Kelsey Wallace and Alex Nagyivan, both 2009 graduates, completed a management and quantitative methods class together their junior year. But that's not when their romance started.

"I'm a loner in class," Kelsey admitted. "I'm the person who sits in the front row and doesn't talk, just takes notes."

While she was a business administration major and Alex studied finance with an economics minor, it was outside the College of Business that the two connected during their senior year.

Kelsey was a member of Delta Delta Delta, with Alex pledged to Sigma Tau Gamma. They had mutual friends and attended Greek events. It was an unplanned conversation outside a bar during the fall of their last year as undergraduates, however, that started a spark.

"In his words, he swooped in," Kelsey said, adding that he won her heart after their first serious date. They visited Chicago's Museum of Science and Industry, went ice skating and had dinner on that December day.

The two enjoyed one semester together on campus before graduating and returning to their family homes in the Chicago area. Dating continued as Alex joined a finance company and Kelsey worked in corporate hospitality.

The proposal came in June of 2014. Alex planned a bike ride along Lakeshore Drive. They stopped at the planetarium, where Alex produced a ring tucked in a Ziploc bag that was secured with duct tape. "He was super nervous about it falling into the lake and losing the ring," Kelsey recalled.

The engagement was celebrated that evening with family and friends in a surprise party Alex arranged at their condo. An even larger group gathered for the wedding on May 23, 2015. Many who attended were ISU alums, including members of Kelsey's extended family. Her sister, grandparents and aunts are all graduates.

The two reside in Chicago, where Alex works as a senior data analyst for Careerbuilder.com. Kelsey plans to return to industry events after a job in learning and development at McDonald's ended.

Given the romantic connection to campus and strong family ties, Kelsey and Alex remain loyal Redbirds. They visit at Homecoming and have returned for the weddings of friends who also found their soulmates while students.



and her husband, Charles, reside in Glendale Heights.

Vicky (Stancliffe) Hanson '75 is a kitchen and bath designer at Chase Lumber. She and her husband, Jay, reside in Portage, Wisconsin.

William Harn '75 is dean of graduate studies at Lamar University. He resides in Beaumont, Texas.

Brad Albion '76 retired as a principal in the Los Angeles Unified School District after 32 years of service. Under his leadership, Albion's elementary school was named one of eight Schools of Technology in Los Angeles, and a model school of kindness by Dignity Health. He resides in West Lake, California.

Jan (DeAno) Capodagli '76 teaches sixth grade and is chair of the Eng-

lish department in the Lewisville district. She and her husband, Ron, reside in The Colony, Texas.

William Kirkman '76 retired from Caterpillar Inc. as process control engineer in global purchasing. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

Steven Longman '76 is a cost engineer with Jacobs Engineering in the Shell Refinery. He resides in Pleasant Hill, California.

Jim Sim '76 has been a realtor for 27 years. He is owner and managing broker of Oak Leaf Realty in Frankfort. He has served as president of the Three Rivers Association of Realtors. He and his wife, Barb, have three children and two grandchildren. The couple resides in Peotone.

Roger Swanlund '76 is an underwriter with Mt. Carroll Mutual. He and his wife, Debra, reside in Freeport.

Ruth Timmons '76 is self-employed as a licensed clinical social worker. She resides in Cedar Park, Texas.

Andre McKenzie '77, M.S. '79, is vice provost for academic support services and faculty development at St. John's University. She resides in New York, New York.

Carol Dipazo '78 retired as a premium auditor with Travelers Insurance. She resides in East Alton.

Pamela (Nicoll) Hamilton '78 is a teacher's aide at St. Gilbert School. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Grayslake.

Mike Profilet '78 has worked as a cashier and clerk at Kroger's

in Bloomington since 1989. He resides in Normal.

Kevin Pucklewicz '78 is a United States Postal Service letter carrier. He resides in Helotes, Texas.

Keith Storey '78 has authored the book *Case Studies in Applied Behavior Analysis for Students and Adults with Disabilities*. He resides in Berkeley, California.

William Allison '79 is a national managing principal with Deloitte Consulting. He and his wife, Mary, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Janet (Klempin) McGann '79 teaches reading at a middle school in Broward County. She has lived in nine states and enjoys international travel. She has two sons and resides in Davie, Florida.

David Patterson '79 retired from Sanofi-Aventis as a regional sales director. He and his wife, Kimberly, reside in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bill Roach '79 teaches at Warren Township High School. He is completing a master's degree in history at Northeastern Illinois University. He and his wife, Char, reside in McHenry.

1980s

Diane (Dickerson) Cook '80 retired after 27 years at State Farm Insurance Company. She was the compliance coordinator in internal sales support. She resides in Normal.

Jane Lurquin '80, Ed.D. '14, is president and owner of Partners for Life Planning Inc. She resides in Hometown.

Tim Rachke '80 is director of global operations for Cabot Microelectronics Corporation in Illinois. He has been on an ex-pat assignment this spring working at multiple sites across Asia. He and his wife, Jaci, reside in Taiwan and maintain a residence in Arlington Heights.

Craig Culp '81 is an assistant deputy collector with Macon County. He resides in Maroa.

Steven Kagan '81 is a vice president at IBM. He resides in Burr Ridge.

Denise (Moring) Plock '81 retired as a special education teacher in Freeport School District 145. She and her husband, Ronald, reside in German Valley.

Michelle Burris '82 is a compliance inspector with the State of Colorado Health Department. She resides in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Cynthia (Groskreutz) Clapp '82 is a registered nurse working in school-based health centers in the Kankakee school district. She resides in Cabery.

Dianne (Deaver) Hustad '82 is a self-employed financial consultant. She resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bob Koch '82, M.S. '97, is a manager at the Illinois Commerce Commission. He resides in Atlanta.

Martha (Arnold) Lew '82 is a senior information developer with Rocket Software. She and her husband, Tony, reside in Chillicothe.

David Yelaska '82 is a middle school teacher with CCSD93 and has taught science for 22 years. He resides in Naperville.

Jack Alpers '83 is a farmer and works at ISU in grounds. He and his wife, Donna, reside in Ellsworth.

Kelly Leggett '83 is a real estate broker with Keller Williams Realty. He resides in Chicago.

Cathy (McDonald) Shaw '83 is a consumer safety inspector with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. She resides in the Illinois community of Oregon.

Mike Suhaneck '83 is a sales director with ITW ProBrands. He and his wife, Rebecca, are parents of a son and reside near Atlanta, Georgia.

Timothy Anglum '84 is a managing partner of Anglum Group Consulting. He resides in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Valerie Duewer '84 owns Waverly Cabinet Company. She and her husband, **Kevin '84**, are parents of three. Two are ISU graduates and the third is now attending. The couple resides in Waverly.

Sharon Eslick '84 is a special education and mainstream inclusion teacher with Mount Dora High School. She has taught in the same district 31 years and resides in Mount Dora, Florida.

Sharon (Muehlhauser) Jones '84 is a certified nutrition and fitness coach with Sharon Jones Wellness. She resides in St. Peters, Missouri.

Melissa (King) Livingston '84, M.S. '91, is a counselor at Leland High School. She and her husband, James, reside in Somonauk.

Tom Parton '84, M.S. '86, is a speech and language pathologist with Unit 5 School District. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Normal.

James Presley '84 is a lead IT architect at State Farm Insurance Company. He resides in Bloomington.

Donald Banks '85 is a senior solutions architect and storage specialist with Hewlett Packard Enterprise. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Marijo (Murphy) Clemons '85 is a healthcare business analyst with Cognitive Medical Systems in California. She and her husband, Lonny, have twin daughters who are teens. The couple resides in San Diego, California.



Still backing the 'Birds

A group of undergraduate guys met as freshmen living in Manchester Hall. Several worked at Vrooman dining hall, which led to a friendship with a group of ladies living in Hewett Hall. The 16 have met many times over the years. They celebrated 45 years since graduation with a campus visit last fall. Beyond finding all that is new at ISU and in Uptown Normal, they took in the football game against South Dakota State University. Those pictured are, *from back*, Bill Dowdakin of Winnebago; Mark Schneider '71 of Venedy; Mike Guilfoyle '71 of Mendota; and Wayne Lohman '71 of Williamson, Georgia. Dowdakin and Guilfoyle were roommates as freshmen, as were Schneider and Lohman.

David Hall '85 is president of Global Receivables Solutions Inc. He and his wife, Tassie, reside in Pickerington, Ohio.

Gina (Hooper) McDannold '85 is a certified optician with Gaily Eye Clinic. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Bloomington.

Susan (Molk) Olenek '85 is head of the Will County Health Department. She oversees food safety in a

range of locations, from hospitals to restaurants. She and her husband, Larry, reside in New Lenox.

Betsy (Van Heel) Adamowski '86 is director of the Wheaton Public Library. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Geneva, Iowa.

Michael Raucci '86 is lieutenant in the Village of Hoffman Estates Police Department and is commander of the investigations divi-

sion. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Huntley.

Tim White '86 is the head of adult services for the Worth Public Library District. He resides in Palos Heights.

Maryann (Zanni) Lucarz '87 is the administrative assistant with Park Ridge Park District. She and her husband, Bob, reside in Bensenville.

Redbird legacy

Barbara (Dunn) Raycraft finished high school in 1953 and chose teaching over nursing and secretarial work—which were the career options for young women at the time. She was the first to attend college, graduating from what was then Illinois State Normal University in 1957.

She never envisioned she would return six decades later for her grandson's graduation in the spring of 2017, or that her family's legacy at the University would extend across three generations.

Barbara married her husband, John, shortly after completing her degree. Her first job as a Bloomington grade school teacher ended in the spring. She was by then far into her first pregnancy, which meant she had to resign. "As soon as you began to show, you had to quit teaching," recalled Barbara.

The couple had four children, with parenting then her full-time job. She and John later purchased a concrete company in Lincoln, where Barbara was the accountant. She now resides in Sherman and is widowed.

Barbara did not pressure her children to attend Illinois State, yet siblings Margaret and James chose to become Redbirds.

Margaret (Raycraft) Legel '79 completed a degree in chemistry. She has retired after working nearly four decades at the U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory located at Argonne National Laboratory. Her husband, Michael Legel, is also a Redbird. A 1980 accounting graduate, the two met while students. He is an accounting manager with Stone Peak Ceramics. They reside in Downers Grove.

The ISU connection strengthens through James '82, who transferred to complete a degree in accounting. He married Laura (Kattelman) Raycraft Kohler '84, M.S. '85, who majored in speech and language pathology. His second wife, Dawn (Grace) Raycraft, graduated in 1995 with an elementary education degree. She and Jim reside in Sherman. He works as a technical analyst for Hospital Sisters Health Systems in Springfield.

Two sons of James and Laura extend the Redbird ties further. Adam Raycraft '11 is a marketing graduate. He is a brand manager at Bai Brands, a beverage company, and lives in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Lucas completed his mass media degree this spring, and will continue at ISU as a graduate student in sports management.

"I'm really proud of them, as they have all done so well," said Barbara, who enjoyed being back on campus for commencement. "We all thrived at ISU, and I am happy about that."



Members of the Raycraft family who are Redbirds include Lucas and Barbara, seated. Standing, from left, are Laura, Adam, Jim and Dawn.

Garth Nicholas '87 owns Nicholas Consulting and is chief operating officer of New Wave Net Corporation. He resides in Heyworth.

Elise Noble '88 is an ADA accommodation consultant with Sedgwick. She resides in Park Forest.

Kathy (Babica) Pierce '88 owns Monster Pawn. She and her husband, Edwin, reside in Bloomington.

Diane (Randolph) Pilgrim '88 is a finance manager with New Balance Athletics Inc. She and her husband, Ed, reside in Ballwin, Missouri.

Patrick Pollard '88 is general manager for Pepsi-Cola Bottling Company of New York Inc., which covers Queens and Brooklyn. He and

his wife, Julie, reside in Fairfield, Connecticut.

Mike Kileen '89, '00, is a data scientist of the Boeing Company. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Troy, Missouri.

Greg Loehr '89 is an instructional designer for John Hancock Life Insurance. He resides in Amesbury, Massachusetts.

Mike Metzger '89 is a district manager with Ace Hardware Corporation. He and his wife, **Ramona (Sitki) '89**, have one son and he is attending ISU. The couple resides in Springfield.

Craig Ruffolo '89 is a senior wealth advisor at CliftonLarsonAllen

Wealth Advisors LLC. He and his wife, Julie, reside in Peoria.

Michael Scanlon '89 is a regional service manager with Siemens. He and his wife, Michele, reside in South Elgin.

1990s

Jim Kirk '90 is the publisher and editor in chief of the *Chicago Sun-Times*. He and his wife, Michelle, reside in New Lenox.

Joe Kollins '90 is a major with the Illinois State Police. He resides in O'Fallon.

Dara (Cain) Williamson '90 is a technical assistance and training specialist with Ounce of Prevention

Fund. She and her husband, Tod, reside in Hudson.

Michael Kelly '91 is president of Kelly Insurance Services. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Evergreen Park.

Ryan Rempfer '91 is a disability claims analyst with the State of Illinois. He and his wife, Sue, reside in Springfield.

Eric Serrahn '91 is an analytics executive with IBM Worldwide Business Development. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

Christine (Ellenberger) Strong '91, M.S. '07, is a study abroad director at Indiana State University. She and

her husband, Todd, reside in Terra Haute, Indiana.

Michael Doremus '92 is a sales and marketing manager with Super-Max Tools. He resides in Bruce Township, Michigan.

Robin (Frank) Jurkowski '92 is the director of customer care at Collegis Education. She and her husband, Andy, reside in Arlington Heights.

Sandra Knack '92 teaches first grade in Lowpoint Washburn District 21. She resides in Washburn.

Leigh (Schmidt) Hayes '93, M.S.W. '09, is a social worker with the McLean County Health Department. She and her husband, Rick, reside in Downs.

Paul Novak '93 is an associate judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit Court in the State of Illinois. He and his wife are the parents of two children and reside in Lake County.

Beth (Pytlewicz) Cairns '94 is a physical therapist with Nicolette Visser Physical Therapy. She resides in Roselle.

Angela (Henkins) Earles '94 is a clinical research associate with Illinois CancerCare PC. She and her husband, Brad, reside in Henry.

Jason Haddock '94 is the chief financial officer of Array Biopharma. He and his wife, Yvette, reside in Boulder, Colorado.

Kyle Hendren '94 is a global marketing and product manager with Draka Elevator. He resides in Wendell, North Carolina.

Heather (Arnold) Herndon '94 is a drafter and designer with Johnson Engineering. She resides in Mason City.

Laura (Toncray) Kerrins '94, M.S. '99, teaches sixth grade in Pontiac District 429. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Cullom.

Tim Micek, D.A. '94, is an associate professor at Ohio Dominican University, where he directs MATE-SOL. He and his wife reside in Gahanna, Ohio.

Paul Molitor '94 is a train engineer with Metra. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Elburn.

Melissa (Gibbs) Weber '94 is a principal process manager with Capital One. She resides in Wasco.

Kevin Bates '95 is a regional general manager for Mazak Corporation in Illinois. He and his wife, Jennifer, are parents of three children and reside in Plainfield.

Michael Blomberg '95 is an officer with the police department in Elgin, where he resides.

Julee (Haab) Holland '95 is an employee relations manager with State Farm Insurance Company. She resides in Normal.

Jenn (Tiritilli) Kupres '95 is head of global talent acquisition with Getinge Group. She resides in Buffalo Grove.

Nicole (Purdy) Christianson '96 teaches fourth grade in Lexington Unit District 7. She and her husband, Corey, reside in Lexington.

Sean Denoyer '96 is a senior clinical analyst for the Mid-Atlantic market at United HealthCare Clinical Services. He resides in Joliet.

Stephen Peters '96 is chief of the internal affairs division of the Illinois Department of Revenue. He resides in Springfield.

Jeff Bricker '97 is a journalist who last year completed a fact-finding trip to Cuba with a group of volunteers hoping to connect their church with a community to help meet needs there. He documented the experience with interviews and photos. He resides in Jonesboro, Arkansas.

Scott Fineron '97 has worked for 15 years for the Federal Aviation Administration as an air traffic controller. He and his wife, Julie, reside in El Dorado Hills, California.

Angie (Clark) Gora '97, M.S. '00, is the summer program director at Bemidji State University. She resides in Bemidji, Minnesota.

Jason Kuhl '97 is the executive director of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library. He resides in Arlington Heights.

Jerry Myers '97 is a professor of music at St. Louis Community College. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Fenton, Missouri.

Nick Percoco '97 is the chief information officer at Uptake, which is a predictive analytics company that works with Fortune 100 firms. He enjoys working with several ISU graduates at the firm. He resides in Chicago.

Matt Reynolds '97 is a mutual funds director at State Farm Insurance Company. He and his wife, Kelly, reside in McKinney, Texas.

Terrance Deuel '98 is a training specialist with Centerra-Nevada. He resides in North Las Vegas, Nevada.

Trevor Dodge, M.A. '98, is an English instructor at Clackamas Community College. He has authored fictional works, including *The Laws of Average* and *He Always Still Tastes Like Dynamite*. He resides in Happy Valley, Oregon.

Bradley Jesse '98 is senior marketing manager over auto transfusion with Fresenius Kabi USA. He and his wife, Silvia, reside in Bartlett.

Jennifer (Romanic) Thomason '98 is the principal research associate with FORMA Therapeutics Inc.

She resides in Clinton, Massachusetts.

Jennifer Christianson '99 is an elementary teacher at Washington School for the Deaf. She resides in Portland, Oregon.

Cathy Denbesten '99, MBA '10, is the owner and broker of Denbesten Real Estate. She resides in Bloomington.

Joseph Fluder III '99 is chief operating officer of SWCA Environmental Consultants. He has been elected rotating director of the SWCA board of directors. He resides in Homer Glen.

Pete Povalitis '99 is a senior order management specialist with Thomson Reuters. He and his wife, Amanda, reside in Collinsville.

Suzanne (Frank) Schwartz '99 is a special education teacher in Winnetka School District 36. She and her husband, Tom, have two sons and reside in Morton Grove.

John Styrsky, M.S. '99, is an associate professor of animal biology at Lynchburg College. He and his wife, Jennifer, reside in Lynchburg, Virginia.



Still sorority sisters

Ladies who met through Lambda Rho while at Illinois State remain connected despite having homes scattered across the country. They gathered in Naperville last year and enjoyed their time together as much as when they were undergraduates in the 1960s. They are, *seated from left*, Donna Sulzer Joss '69 of Encinitas, California; Sandee Walter Sennstrom '68 of Chicago; and Linda Stauter Kinnikin '68 of Joliet. The others are, *from left*, Laurie Willets '70 of Chicago; Mary Locke '69 of Bethesda, Maryland; Karen Suydam Hainline '70 of Annapolis, Maryland; Lynn Ahlers Monahan '69 of Naperville; and Susie Kaufman Shea '68 of Syracuse, Utah.

Christy (Shults) Wavering '99 is senior tax manager with Sikich LLP. She resides in Springfield.

2000s

Bryan Bauer '00 is vice president and general manager of Kahune ATM Solutions, Cardtronics. He and his wife, Rebecca, reside in Bloomington.

Dannielle (Gayle) Greene '00 is a manager with FedEx. She and her husband, Antonio, reside in Douglasville, Georgia.

Melanie (Sheets) Weller '00 is office manager for Ray Kelly State Farm in Plainfield. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Joliet.

Cory Croissant '01 is a client solutions manager with Worthwhile. He and his wife, Delane, reside in Simpsonville, South Carolina.

Frances Tracy-Dunn, M.S. '01, is the interim dean of students at Eastern Maine Community College. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Hermon, Maine.

Ben DeBruin '02 is a special education teacher in the Life Program for Ridgewood Community High School District 234. He resides in Oak Park.

Eric Barton '03 is a credit analyst and works in quality control at First National Bank of Ottawa. He resides in Streator.

Nelson Gomez-Guzman, MBA '03, is a broker and partner with Blum-Blackfield Insurance. He resides in San Francisco, California.

Jessica Manier, M.S. '03, is a senior operations control analyst with U.S. Cellular. She resides in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Carnella Williams '03 is an assistant principal at an elementary school in Ferguson, Missouri. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sasha Douyon '04 is an inspector with the United States Postal Service. He and his wife, LaQuisha, reside in University Park.

Elizabeth (Vanlerbergh) Ekstrom '04 is the guidance counselor at Indian Trail High School in the Kenosha Unified School District.



Bucket list trek

Two adventurous friends and long-time ISU employees who connected through the Division of Student Affairs took on the challenge of climbing Mount Kilimanjaro last fall. Rick Lewis, left, and Floyd Hoelting climbed the dormant volcano in Tanzania. It is the tallest peak in Africa. Lewis, M.S. '87, worked 30 years on campus. He retired last year as an associate dean in the Dean of Students Office. Hoelting served as the University's director of Housing and Food Services from 1977 until his retirement in 1995. Both men continue to support Illinois State through scholarships established in their honor.

She and her husband, Steve, reside in Antioch.

Shannon (Ross) Michael '04 is a talent acquisition manager with McDonald's Corporation. She and her husband, John, reside in Homer Glen.

Greg Montieth '04 completed a master's in taxation at DePaul University. He is a CPA for a private investment firm in Charleston, South Carolina. He founded Low-country Craft Distribution, LLC, which is a craft beer and wine distributor. He and his wife, Megan, are parents of three children and reside in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina.

Dana (Dasenbrock) Pals '04 teaches fifth grade in District Unit 30. She and her husband, Jake, reside in Teutopolis.

Anthony Panozzo '04 is an IT engineer with COUNTRY Financial. He and his wife, Amber (Tossell) '10, reside in Bloomington.

Deah Partak '04 is a self-employed clinical social worker. She and her husband, James, reside in Portland, Oregon.

Micah Riordan '04, M.S. '06, is STEM director at McHenry Middle School. He and his wife, Summer, reside in Palatine.

Michelle Angileri '05 is the marketing coordinator for Savant Capital Management, a wealth management firm overseeing more than \$4.7 billion in assets. She was named to the 40 Leaders Under Forty class of 2016 by the Rockford Chamber of Commerce. She is president of the board for Access Services of Northern Illinois, a nonprofit serving people with intellectual disabilities. She resides in Rockford.

Ashley (Psinas) Doyle '05 is manager of marketing and chapter relations for the American College of Osteopathic Family Physicians. She resides in Wheaton.

Kristina Krueger '05 completed a master's degree in education at Loyal University-Chicago. She teaches kindergarten in Arlington Heights School District 24. She resides in Niles.

Jeffrey Lehman '05, M.S. '08, is a physician at Southern Illinois Health-

care Medical Group. He and his wife, Kelly, reside in Carbondale.

Megan (Rice) Vonesh '05, M.S. '10, teaches first grade in Dunlap CUSD 323. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Dunlap.

Beth (Swango) Phillips '06 is a general manager of Steak 'n Shake. She and her husband, Sean, reside in Normal.

Rachel Young '06, '08, is an assistant at Northwest Indiana Pathology Consultants. She resides in Highland, Indiana.

Janna Baker '07 is a GIS coordinator for Tazewell County in Illinois. She resides in Peoria.

Matthew Damschroder, M.A. '07, Ph.D. '15, is vice president for student life and dean of students at Juniata College. He resides in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Erin (Bogdanowski) Goldenstein '07 completed a master's in educational psychology at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee and was a member of Teach for America Corps. She is dean of instruction at Hope Christian Schools-Caritas. She and her husband, Jake, are parents of two sons and reside in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Brian Greenewald '07 is an officer with Riverside Police Department. He and his wife, Allyson, reside in Lombard.

Elisabeth (Lindsey) Gross '07 is a business development specialist with NEC Display Solutions of America. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Bloomington.

Christina Horton '07 is an inspector general with the Department of Veteran Affairs. She resides in Aurora.

Rose (Crockett) Matthews '07 is copyright specialist with the Library of Congress U.S. Copyright Office. She and her husband, Gary, reside in Savage, Maryland.

Megan Savage '07 is a police officer with the City of Fort Collins. She and her spouse, Jessica, reside in Windsor, Colorado.

Eric Somodi '07 is the chorus and band director at the junior and senior high schools in St. Elmo.

He and his wife, Laura, reside in Effingham.

Kristina Torbik '07 is a marketing specialist with United Airlines. She resides in Wheaton.

Danielle (Lilienthal) Flaugher '08 is a registered nurse with UnityPoint Health-Methodist. She and her husband, Jeff, reside in Mackinaw.

Adam Freehill '08 is a product support representative for combines and front end equipment at John Deere Harvester Works in East Moline. He resides in Morrison.

Jenna Goldsmith '08, M.A. '10, completed a graduate certificate in Women's and Gender Studies at ISU. She earned a doctorate in English from the University of Kentucky and is a writing instructor at Oregon State University Cascades. She resides in Bend, Oregon.

Sarah (Melton) Jiter, M.S. '08, is the assistant director for the Center of Recruitment and Orientation at the Community College of Aurora. She resides in Thornton, Colorado.

Judd Kiddie '08 is a purchasing manager of EMCO Chemical Distributors. She resides in Lake Villa.

Jayme Kirchner '08, M.A. '10, is an agent with Liberty Travel. She resides in Astoria, New York.

Jamie (Marshall) Messmore '08 is the director of marketing for Heartland Community Health Clinic. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Peoria.

Kevin Trusty '08 is a digital marketing specialist with Shaw Media. He is a baseball historian and member of the Society for American Baseball Research. He resides in Joliet.

Christopher Boyer '09 is a customer service representative with Heart Technologies Inc. He and his wife, Jamie, reside in Farmington.

Megan (Covington) Cocagne '09 teaches first grade in Meridian CUSD 15. She and her husband, Chase, reside in Taylorville.

Jessica Cochran '09 is an analyst with State Farm Insurance Company. She and her husband, Randy, reside in Heyworth.

Carthy Dixon Jr. '09 is a math instructor at Frazier Preparatory

Academy. He and his wife, Margaret, reside in Chicago.

Kathleen O'Brien '09, M.S. '14, teaches science at Centennial High School in Champaign, where she resides.

Brett Priestman '09 is a quality assurance specialist with Sterigenics. He resides in Oak Lawn.

Adam Satorius '09 is the dean's assistant at the high school in Minooka, where he resides.

Melissa Sullivan '09 is an associate in global industrial practice for Korn Ferry International. She resides in Chicago.

Kirsten Whalen-Pedersen '09 is a speech language pathologist for Mountain Range High School. She resides in Broomfield, Colorado.

2010s

Justin Armes '10 is a video editor with Caterpillar Inc. He and his wife, Rosemary, reside in East Peoria.

Nicole (Mahlmann) Brauweiler '10 teaches fifth grade in School District 308. She and her husband, Luke, reside in Naperville.

Lauren Bridges, M.A. '10, is a doctoral student in historical anthropology and a teaching assistant at the College of William and Mary. She resides in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Carli (Siebert) Cade '10 teaches second grade at Jefferson Elementary in Ottawa. She and her husband, Matt, were married in July of 2016. They reside in Seneca.

Joshua Clouse, M.S. '10, is a quality engineer for Flex-N-Gate Michigan. He has relocated to the greater Detroit area in Michigan.

Amy Determan '10 is a community engagement coordinator with the Habitat for Humanity in St. Louis, Missouri, where she resides.

Melissa (Ritter) Leyendecker '10 is a reading team teacher with Burbank School District 111. She and her husband, Ryan, reside in Oak Lawn.

Rainie Themer '10 is a continuations specialist at ISU's Milner Library. She resides in Bloomington.

John Conrad '11 is a support operations manager with iManage, LLC. He and his wife, Emily, reside in Chicago.

Colin Daly '11 is an environmental engineer with Natural Resource Technology Inc. He resides in Chicago.

Sarah (Michel) Irwin '11 is an investment technician with State Farm Insurance Company. She and her husband, Drake, reside in Bloomington.

Derek Lamb '11 is the field claims representative for Farmers Insurance Exchange. He resides in Los Angeles, California.

Christian Loconti '11 teaches English at Tandem Escola d'Idiomes. She resides in Palatine.

Dawn Ma '11 is an office manager and accountant with Lawrence Travis and Company. She and her husband, Lyndon, reside in Normal.

Christopher Mallen, M.S. '11, is a marketing manager with Outfront Media. He resides in Dania Beach, Florida.

Adam McCrary '11 is an assistant director at ISU's Environmental

Health and Safety Office. He and his wife, Angela, reside in Normal.

David Sendelbach '11 is cofounder of DevBright Inc., which is a software development company. It has launched GovPermit, an ePermitting tool that streamlines the licensing and permitting process for business owners. He resides in Pekin.

Melissa (Easton) Anderson '12 is an electrical senior designer with Vactor Manufacturing. She resides in Ottawa.

Jeremy Bachelor, M.A. '12, completed his doctorate in education and applied Spanish linguistics from the Universidad Internacional Iberoamericana in Mexico. He is the coordinator of modern languages at Heartland Community College, where he also teaches Spanish. He will teach a master's in teaching Spanish program this summer in Mexico for Southern Oregon University. He resides in Normal.

Caylyn Burek '12 teaches fifth grade math at Knoxville Middle School. She resides in Galesburg.

Alexandra Campbell '12 teaches seventh grade at Sunset Ridge School.



Teaching across borders

David Rine finished his ISU degree in 1963, grateful for faculty mentors in classes that ranged from math and physical sciences to literature. He completed a doctorate in philosophy and taught engineering at George Mason University. Now retired and living with his wife, Carolynne, in Kansas, Rine remains active. He has been part of building engineering programs in East Africa. He is shown with two South Sudanese students who attend schools Rine helped develop.

She and her husband, Kenneth Sanderman, reside in Palatine.

Lauren Golat '12 teaches preschool in Plainfield District 202. She resides in Schaumburg.

Allison Hall '12 teaches English at New Tech High School at Zion-Benton East. She resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Jordan Hedge '12 teaches kindergarten with Pekin School District 108. He resides in Normal.

Stephen Kwiatek '12, M.S. '17, is a special education teacher with Bloomington Public School District 87. He resides in Bloomington.

Casey Peek '12 is a marketing and patron services associate with the Joffrey Ballet. She resides in Chicago.

Simi Russell '12 is a student at John Marshall Law School. She resides in South Holland.

Audrey Surber '12 is a marketing consultant with Unum and resides in Chicago.

Kelsey Vance '12 is a sales representative for Syngenta, which is a global leader in partnering with growers to maximize their results. She is part of the #RootedInAg campaign to help secure a better future for agriculture. She resides in Tremont.

Kylee Verseman '12 is a registered nurse at Lake Cook Orthopedics. She resides in Oakwood Hills.

Mary (Melia) White '12 is a group registrar specialist with DeVry Education. She and her husband, Richard, reside in Orland Park.

Sarah Wood '12 is a junior designer with Interior Design Associates Inc. She resides in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Christopher Durham '13 is an infrastructure analyst with State Farm Insurance Company. He resides in Bloomington.

Anna (Robinson) Estabrook, M.M. '13, is a self-employed music therapist. She and her husband, Jeremy, reside in Glasford.

Caroline Ferguson '13 is the senior marketing coordinator for OKW Architects. She resides in Chicago.

Kristie Haefner '13 is completing a graduate degree in social work at Aurora University. She resides in Naperville.

William Konovsky '13 is a police officer with the Town of Normal, where he resides.

Valerie Nemeth '13 is a fourth-year medical student at Marian University. She resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Caitlin Perry '13 is a copy editor at *The Pantagraph* in Bloomington. She resides in Normal.

Dan Ratcliff '13 teaches fifth grade at Pleasantdale Middle School. He resides in Westmont.

Tim Ruzicka '13 is a large-group underwriter with BlueCross BlueShield of Illinois. He resides in Carol Stream.

Brooke (Saelens) Schaffner '13 is an audio engineer with Dorsey Pictures, with shows on HGTV and DIY. She worked for nine years at High Noon Entertainment, mixing audio for more than 50 television shows from a variety of networks. Her documentary on Casey Tibbs was released this year. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Westminster, Colorado.

August (Cassens) Schiess '13 is the communications coordinator for the Coordinated Science Laboratory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. She and her husband, Travis, reside in Urbana.

Nicole (Hieronymus) Short '13 is a finance analyst with State Farm Insurance Company. She and her husband, Nathan, reside in Clinton.

Ryne Somers '13 is an account specialist for Aon. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Eric Varyney '13, M.S. '16, is an admissions counselor at Bradley University. He resides in Morton.

Jennilee Benda '14 is a systems command administrator with Wolfram Research. She and her husband, Jason, reside in Champaign.

Brianne Bjorklund '14 is a first grade bilingual teacher with CUSD 428. She resides in Sycamore.

Tyler Fuller '14 is a specialized accountant with COUNTRY Financial. He resides in Normal.

Kristen (Epley) Hardy '14 is a coder with Blessing Hospital in Quincy, where she and her husband, Nicholas, reside.

Jenna Kalkwarf '14 is an event planner with State Farm Insurance Company. She resides in Minonk.

Peter Marquardt '14 is a registered nurse with the University of Chicago Medical Center. He resides in Chicago.

Claire Mason '14 is a sixth grade teacher of math and science at Cooper Middle School in CCSD 21. She resides in Gurnee.

Dave McCallum '14 is a procurement analyst with Sears Holdings. He resides in Geneva.

Cassie Oakeshott '14 is an event coordinator with Sikich. She resides in Naperville.

Bianca (Gerardi) Pietro '14 is the preschool coordinator of early supports and services in the SAU 61 Farmington School District. She and her husband, Kevin, are parents of a daughter. Angelina Catherine was born in May of 2016. The family resides in Dover, New Hampshire.

Kenneth Porter '14, M.S. '16, is the elections coordinator for The Mikva Challenge. His documentary *Blackbirds* is receiving wide acclaim and showing in multiple film festivals across the country. The film was completed as part of his graduate work at ISU. He resides in Chicago.

Shelby Ray '14 is a public relations specialist with Recovery Brands.

She resides in San Diego, California.

Elise Sigg '14 is a CCU nurse at Mayo Clinic Health System. She resides in Bloomer, Wisconsin.

Dave Thompson '14 is the art teacher at Wauconda High School. He resides in McHenry.

Juandah Bruce '15 is an ophthalmic assistant at Gailey Eye Clinic in Bloomington, where she resides.

Megann Coad '15 is a lab technician with ADM. She resides in Monticello.

Brooke Davis '15 is an associate securities compliance specialist at COUNTRY Financial. She resides in Bloomington.

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

Thomas Henricks '15 is a correctional officer with the Logan County Sheriff's Office. He resides in Lincoln.

Donald Pawlik '15 is a human resources associate at General Mills at its world headquarters. He resides in the area of Minneapolis/St. Paul, Minnesota.

Mark Reppen '15 is a one-on-one aide to the deaf, working in a kindergarten through second grade classroom at Nathan Hale School in Crestwood. He resides in Alsip.

Addison Tweedy '15 is an account coordinator with Deluxe Entertainment Services. She resides in Hollywood, California.

Kaitlyn Burke '16 is a registered nurse with Advocate Good Samaritan Hospital. She resides in Carol Stream.

Samantha Henkel '16 works with Olam Americas Inc. in cocoa sales. She resides in Naperville.

Deanne Winterton '16 is a sales representative with Helena Chemical Company. She resides in Paw Paw.

Joshua Larson '17 is a research associate with Intrexon Corporation. He resides in Germantown, Maryland.



REGGIE READS

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

Our troops

Michael Willis '97 serves in the security forces of the Air Force. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in Peru, Indiana.

Kristy DeWall '01, M.S. '03, M.S. '07, serves in the Air Force as an education specialist/advisor at Westover Air Reserve Base. She and her spouse, Kelly, were married in October of 2016. They reside in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Ashley Koenig '14 has been commissioned as an Ensign in the Navy. She is a student naval aviator and is attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Claude A. Bell, Industrial Technology; 1/17

James F. Brubeck, Marketing; 12/16

William F. Davis Jr., Graduate School; 1/17

Madeleine Hoss, Laboratory Schools Librarian; 1/17

David A. Rubin, Biological Sciences; 11/16

Robert R. Whited, Music; 10/16

30s

Ruth T. (Simon) Guynn '37; 1/17

Wallace E. McIntyre '37, '40; 12/16

Grace L. Karl '38; 1/17

Verda (Stahly) Maurer '38; 1/17

Wilma L. (Bolliger) Boyle '39; 11/16

40s

Vernon H. Beggs '41; 9/16

Lyle C. King '41; 12/16

Harriet (Rowland) Knudson '41; 12/16

Benoni S. Green '42; 12/16

Mary F. (Graden) Benning '43; 9/16

Billy Jo (Waddell) Cooper '43; 1/17

Anna N. (Wood) Beck '45; 12/16

Emma M. Chandler Talley '45; 9/16

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Thanks to you!

Margaret Balbach taught horticulture at Illinois State from 1973 until her retirement in 1994 as a full professor of plant and soil science. During her decades of service in the Department of Agriculture, she founded the horticulture-agribusiness program. As a result, horticulture majors completed a minor in business as well.

Margaret's passion to empower horticulture faculty and students continues today, despite her passing in 2015. In keeping with her wishes, her husband Hal has established the Drs. Margaret and Harold Balbach Endowment Fund.

The endowment focuses on supporting the outstanding work being done at the Horticulture Center. Funds will also be used to support expenses incurred by faculty involved in horticulture education and research. As the endowment grows, it may be possible to provide funding scholarships for students in the future.



Margaret believed that the mark of a true educator is the pride felt in observing former students go out into the world to be successful and prosperous by utilizing the information provided in the classroom and beyond. "Many times, Margaret saw examples of this, and she felt the process should be supported," Hal said.

"This is a great contribution to her legacy," said Horticulture Professor David Kopsell '93, who was a student under Margaret. "She started the program here and championed it for 20-plus years."

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Enjoying the new Normal

Significant renovations to what most alumni remember as Downtown Normal have made today's Uptown Normal an inviting place for students. The changes are one reason Normal is ranked as a Top 10 college town (see page 3). A roundabout area added to create green space and filter storm water makes the traffic circle a favorite gathering place not far from the Quad. Lucy Ohno, Victor Osuyak and Aminat Saliu, *from left*, took advantage of the location and spring temperatures.