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ILLINOIS STATE

From war to warrior

Colonel takes on the fight
to help fellow veterans heal
invisible wounds to their
soul and spirit.

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RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu

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First Word

The holiday season is once again fast approaching, resulting in a time of reflection as the calendar year comes to a close. As Illinois State University's president, my thoughts inevitably turn to all that has been achieved within the campus community.

There is the fact that ISU's enrollment is strong and stable at a time when many public institutions are struggling. Our student body this fall totals 20,635 giving credence to the claim that Illinois State remains a top-choice institution.

Financial support for the University is gratifying and humbling, as donors have contributed more than \$124 million toward the \$150 million Redbirds Rising campaign goal. There is no doubt the objectives of strengthening scholarship, leadership, and innovation will be achieved through the fundraising effort that ends in 2020.



My gratitude list is long. It includes academic programs across colleges that continue to gain national and global attention, while faculty raise millions for research endeavors that advance their disciplines.

All are reason to smile, and yet I find enormous satisfaction from an ISU attribute that is not typically included as a measure to evaluate success: The University is a great place to work. Those of us fortunate to be employed on campus know this to be true. Having this

fact recognized by the *Chronicle of Higher Education* for the fourth consecutive year is reason to celebrate.

The headline creates an opportunity for me to thank each individual for the work they do that in some way contributes to the University's overall excellence and every student's Redbird experience. Among those on that list are the staff and the faculty. Both typically come to mind as key players in our educational enterprise.

This season, however, I want to send a special word of appreciation to those whose work is done behind the scenes. I'm thinking of the grounds workers who are up before dawn clearing the campus after a snowstorm so that classes can be held, our building service workers who keep each classroom clean, chefs who prepare meals that satisfy the needs of every student regardless of dietary restrictions, our University Police who patrol 24/7 to keep us safe, academic advisors who ensure students stay on track to reach their graduation goals, staff who guide Redbird fans to parking places at each home game, the technology support team that keeps the computer system working, and the list goes on. Each ISU employee contributes to the University's accomplishments and positive image.

Thanks to all of you for making Illinois State a uniquely caring campus that prepares students for their profession. There is no doubt about it—you make the University a great place to gladly learn and teach...and to work.

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



ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY
Illinois' first public university



24



12



8



18

ILLINOIS STATE

Volume 19, Number 3, November 2018

FEATURES

8 Invisible wounds

Col. David Rabb '83 served decades in the military and survived deployments, including to Iraq. He endured physical and mental pain. It's the latter that concerns him while working with military men and women who struggle once home. He has convinced the Department of Defense to recognize invisible mental and emotional wounds as a disability.

12 Unlocking the past

Ewing Manor, a majestic property owned by ISU's Foundation, is increasingly a Midwest tourist destination. For relatives of Hazle and Davis Ewing, the 90-year-old structure styled after European homes is a place that holds precious memories. They were shared as family gathered for an anniversary celebration that included opening a time capsule.

18 Far from Redbird country

While a large percentage of alums call the Chicago area home, a growing number forgo putting down roots in Illinois—or anywhere in America. More than 1,300 graduates have opted to live and work in a foreign country. Their stories of unique obstacles and opportunities spark awe and, for some, perhaps envy.

24 An immigrant's voice

Chicago Sun-Times opinion writer Marlen Garcia '93 pays close attention to the national immigration debate. She knows the struggle of coming to America, having grown up in an immigrant family. Her columns shine a light on the families behind the headlines and show her commitment to speak on their behalf.

DEPARTMENTS

2 University News

6 Redbird Athletics

28 #Redbird Proud

30 Class Notes

Let us hear from you! Your feedback is appreciated. Send comments or suggestions, Class Notes, Letters to the Editor, How We Met and Legacy stories, as well as Where Are They Now and Reggie Reads submissions to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu, or mail to Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

On the cover: An Army soldier and Marine, Col. David Rabb is determined to help veterans heal emotional wounds that he describes as "an injury to the soul." He's experienced them himself from active combat duty.



Celebrating legacies

Scholarships expanded for incoming students of alumni

All Redbirds share the common bond of enjoying their collegiate years on the University campus. For some, the tie is made stronger by a family connection between a current student and relatives who graduated years earlier.

Legacy Families are celebrated at Illinois State in many ways, including with a new financial benefit announced this fall and set to begin in 2019.

Students joining Illinois State for the fall 2019 semester, and whose parent or grandparent graduated from the University, will receive a \$2,000 scholarship over four years; \$500 awarded each year.

President Larry Dietz revealed the new Alumni Legacy Scholarship during his State of the University address in September, *shown above*.

“Our alumni proudly invest in Illinois State University,” Dietz said. “We want to do even more to re-invest in their loved ones and help keep an ISU education affordable.”

The financial assistance is just one more way the University honors families with an Illinois State connection that spans generations. Alumni Engagement celebrates this loyalty with an annual brunch for legacy families held each Family Weekend. Participants meet the University’s leadership, with a pinning ceremony included as part of the event.

In addition, the Alumni Association offers its own financial support to legacy families. Several renewable affinity and legacy scholarships are available. They are explained at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Scholarships. The deadline to apply for these scholarships is November 15.

The fact more support for legacy students will be provided through the University pleases Alumni Engagement Executive Director Kris (Meseth) Harding, M.S. ’94.

“Illinois State prides itself on its many traditions, one being Redbird legacies. To be able to instill that pride and continue a tradition for a Redbird family is wonderful,” Harding said. “We hope to see many more alumni encouraging their students to pursue Illinois State and many more legacies built.”

Legacy families are featured in each issue of *Illinois State*. Past stories can be found by going to IllinoisState.edu/Magazine. For more information on the Alumni Legacy Scholarship visit IllinoisState.edu/Devoted.

WZND station earns top national honors

WZND Fuzed Radio, Illinois State's student-run radio station, has been named the Broadcast Education Association's 2018 National Signature Station.

The association is an international academic media organization that accepts hundreds of submissions from around the country for the Signature Station Award competition.

Stations operated by students under faculty advisors are judged on community involvement, programming arrangement, branding/logo development, student management, volunteer recruitment, and broadcast equipment. Winners are chosen based on superior protocol and practices.

Steve Suess in the School of Communication is the managing director of WZND, at 103.3 FM. The station provides practical experience and training for students interested in radio broadcasting and related industries.



WZND is a learning laboratory for students headed into a broadcasting career. The station began in 1965 as WILN.

Music faculty chosen for Guggenheim Fellowship

Associate Professor of Music Carl Schimmel has been chosen as a 2018 Guggenheim Fellow, an honor received through the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation. A composer, Schimmel was one of 173 scholars, artists and scientists chosen from approximately 3,000 applicants.

A doctoral graduate of Duke University, Schimmel completed a master's degree at the Yale School of Music. His work has been performed across North America, Europe, Australia and Asia.

Schimmel, who teaches music theory and composition at ISU, will spend the year composing. His focus during his fellowship will be on exploring methods of expressing narrative in music. His projects take on multiple forms including a string quartet, a bass clarinet and marimba duo, a set of piano etudes, and an electric guitar and saxophone duo.

Student meal concerns met through new center

In response to students' dietary needs, ISU's Department of Event Management, Dining, and Hospitality (EMDH) is creating the Culinary Support Center in the Watterson Dining Commons.

External building improvements for the project, including new signage, were made during the summer. Internal construction is expected to be complete by spring of 2019, with the center fully operational by fall of 2019.

Students will then have a full-service bakery and benefit from a cook-chill production system. This will result in the increased preparation of fresh foods, as well as expansion of current menu offerings at Watterson.

"It allows us to make scratch recipes, control ingredients, reduce sodium, and eliminate allergens to make food more accessible to all students," EMDH Executive Chef Matthew Horton said of the cook-chill system.

A test kitchen will be created, allowing students to sample recipes. The center will also improve accommodations for students who are vegetarians, vegans, or eliminating gluten from their diets. As EMDH Director Bill Legett explained, "student expectations continually change. The Culinary Support Center focuses on listening to students and understanding what's important to them."

Nursing grant key to care for underserved

Mennonite College of Nursing is incorporating more primary care and preventative practice into the curriculum, in part by launching the Change Agents to the Underserved: Service Education (CAUSE) project. The program is feasible because of a \$2.8 million Health Resources and Service Administration (HRSA) grant awarded to 42 universities nationally.

Where are they now?

Since my 2013 retirement, after 37 years at Illinois State University, every day is a Saturday. And I love it!

I took my first ISU position in 1976, the year I graduated from Illinois State. I was head teacher of preschool children at ISU's Child Care Center under the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS).

With completion of my ISU master's degree in 1980, I became the center's director. My work involved administration and college teaching, which was the best of both worlds: The joy and wonder of children, and the enthusiasm and challenge of college students.

I was supported to excel in my teaching and professional writing, applying research and collaborating with nonprofit child and family programs. Significant was my participation in World Forum for Early Care and Education conferences. Global contact led to exciting opportunities. FCS human development undergraduate students completed internships with Childspace Early Childhood Institute in Wellington, New Zealand.

What do I miss? The constructive hum of children exploring together, the logic of children making sense of the world, and the joy of their spontaneous laughter and hugs. I miss college students' probing questions.

I miss colleagues, especially the Child Care Center's team teachers. We had the same team for 20 years and achieved long-term goals. We created a splendid naturalistic play yard, including a tree house.

I reside in McLean County and enjoy a slower pace now, but am still professionally engaged. In October 2017, I was inducted into the College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame. I keep my textbook current, *Child Care Today*, and am occasionally called for consultations or presentations.

Yearly I play "Mrs. Claus" for the Town of Normal, with donations benefitting the Child Care Center. I read more novels, indulge in nature photography, birding, gardening, and keeping raccoons from eating koi in our pond. And some day, my family will explore the Cook Islands.

So where am I now? I'm following my bliss, but a piece of my heart will always remain with the ISU Child Care Center.

Karen Stephens can be reached at kstephen@ilstu.edu.



Karen Stephens at ISU Child Care Center

The goal for CAUSE is to increase the number of nurses working in primary care at the full scope of their license; improve the health and well-being of patients outside the hospital; prevent hospital readmission; and ultimately coordinate care and management of chronic illness, mental health, and substance use issues.

The college has partnered with three area organizations: McLean County Health Department (MCHD), Community Health Care Clinic (CHCC), and Chestnut Family Health Center. RNs will be embedded at each location to meet the needs of patients with complex illnesses and health management needs. Embedded RNs will also serve as preceptors to nursing student participants, allowing them new experiences in diverse clinical settings.

Federal funding helps immune system study

Two professors partnering to determine if turtles can provide insights to keep the human gut healthy have received federal funds for their research.

The National Institutes of Health awarded more than \$430,000 to Distinguished Professor of Ecological Physiology Rachel Bowden and Immunology Professor Laura Vogel for their study of immune systems in reptiles. Because of the funding, Bowden and Vogel will be able to add an undergraduate and graduate student to the project.

Bowden and Vogel are investigating how the reptile immune system is different from that of humans, focusing on the function and distribution of B cells in the intestine.

"The immune system is critical for protection from infection, yet its

function declines in elderly individuals," said Vogel, who has dedicated her career to studying B cells, a type of white blood cell that contributes to the immune system.

Bowden's lab studies red-eared slider turtles, and the connection between reptile systems and humans. Animals such as reptiles are able to maintain their immune function in old age.

Global acclaim for ISU's COB insurance program

The Katie School of Insurance has been awarded the Global Center of Insurance Excellence designation by the International Insurance Society. The College of Business program is among nearly 1,000 to receive the designation internationally.

The certification recognizes exceptional risk management and insurance

To the Editor,

This letter refers to “Battle diabetes with diet” (August 2018). As a registered dietitian, I want to address a few items in the article.

The types of fats individuals with diabetes eat can impact their cardiovascular health. Unsaturated fats—common in seafood, oils, and nuts—benefit cardiovascular health. Saturated fats—common in solid fats like butter and meats—can raise blood cholesterol.

The article mentions the food guide pyramid. It was replaced by MyPlate in 2011. It also mentions removing grains, potatoes, and sugar as part of treatment. Grains and potatoes contain a variety of vitamins and minerals needed for body processes. Eliminating whole-grains and potatoes eliminates the nutrition they can provide.

Foods with naturally occurring sugars such as milk and fruit may be included in the diet for individuals with diabetes, since they also contain vitamins and minerals. Foods with added sugars such as sodas and desserts do not typically have many vitamins and minerals. They raise blood sugar without providing much nutrition.

Caitlin Mellendorf '10

To the Editor,

Thank you for the poignant story of Tristen Sharp in the *Illinois State* (“From bleak to blessed,” August 2018).

What a story of courage!

We underestimate the determination of someone so young wanting to press on to get a higher education when it appeared all was against her. Her faith and our great God stood out in your article.

Sharon Walters,
retired Athletics staff member

curriculum. It acknowledges universities instrumental in improving insurance knowledge that meet criteria regarding available courses, industry employment ratings, and professional involvement.

“For two decades, the Katie School has worked to increase its global recognition,” Katie School of Insurance Director James Jones said. “We are thrilled that this recognition now transcends our own borders and is recognized by the industry globally.”

The University’s undergraduate program was ranked 11th in the nation by *U.S. News & World Report* for 2017, and is the fourth largest insurance program in the country. The Katie School enrolls approximately 200 students.

Galleries’ director retires

Barry Blinderman, who served as the director of University Galleries within the College of Fine Arts, left Illinois State during the summer to begin retirement. Kendra Paitz, MBA ’06, M.A. ’11, has taken the role of director and chief curator.



Blinderman led the University Galleries beginning in 1987. Under his guidance, the exhibit space gained national recognition for organizing the first U.S. museum survey for artists such as David Wojnarowicz.

Exhibits created during his tenure traveled to prestigious museums and galleries, including the Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago, the Queens Museum, and Deitch Projects in New York City.

Blinderman, who also taught art history in the college for years, viewed the galleries as a cultural bridge between the University and the community. He was instrumental in the planning and construction of the University Galleries’ new facility that opened in Uptown Normal in 2014.

Fulbright advances work of history professor

The U.S. Department of State and J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board have named History Professor Andrew Hartman a Fulbright Scholar. He was one of more than 800 U.S. citizens chosen for the 2018-2019 Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program.

Hartman will conduct research at the Eccles Centre for American Studies at the British Library in London as part of a project to examine the role of Karl Marx’s work on American political thought.

Researching in England gives Hartman an opportunity to continue working on his third book, *Karl Marx in America*. He also authored *Education and the Cold War: The Battle for the American School* and *A War for the Soul of America: A History of the Culture Wars*.

Hartman’s work has been cited in a number of prestigious publications including the *Washington Post*, the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, and *The New York Times*.

This is the second time Hartman has been honored as a Fulbright. He served as the Fulbright Distinguished Chair in American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Redbird Athletics



Honoring excellence

Basketball standout alumna chosen for Valley Hall of Fame

Former Illinois State All-American women's basketball player and all-time leading scorer Kristi Cirone '09, *above*, has been selected for induction into the Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Hall of Fame.

Athletics Director Larry Lyons praises Cirone as "one of the best women's basketball players in Valley history, who rewrote the record books at Illinois State." She is one of only three women's basketball student-athletes to have her number hanging from Redbird Arena's rafters.

While at ISU, Cirone led the team to two MVC regular-season championships and three post-season appearances. A member of the MVC All-Centennial and

25th Anniversary Teams, Cirone was a three-time MVC Jackie Stiles Player of the Year, a four-time All-MVC selection, and a three-time MVC All-Defensive Team selection.

Cirone was a John Wooden nominee as one the nation's best players; and was also in contention for the Nancy Lieberman Award, which honors the nation's top collegiate point guard. A standout in the classroom, Cirone was a two-time MVC Scholar-Athlete First-Team selection and was a Second-Team selection as a sophomore in 2007.

She is Illinois State's all-time leader in points (2,139), three-point field goals made (229), free throws made (512), assists (681), and assists per game (5.3). Other honors include 2006 MVC Fresh-

man of the Year, and the 2008 and 2009 Jill Hutchison ISU Female Athlete of the Year awards. She was inducted into ISU's Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 2015.

Cirone played professionally in Greece and Poland following graduation, and in the WNBA with the Connecticut Sun and Chicago Sky. She was head women's basketball coach at Judson University, and is now head girls' basketball coach at Ridgewood High School.

Other Redbirds in the MVC Hall of Fame include Kenneth "Buzz" Shaw '61; Doug Collins '73; Cathy Boswell '83; Will Robinson; Jill Hutchison, M.S. '69; John Coughlan; Linda Herman, M.S. '72, Ed.D. '83; D.A. Weibring '75; Dave Bergman '78; Sue Daggett Miller '97; Charlotte Lewis '78, '01; and Christian Goy '03, MBA '06.

Baseball, women's golf welcome coaches

Steve Holm and Breanne Hall were named over the summer to lead Illinois State's baseball and women's golf programs, respectively.

Holm joins ISU after serving as pitching coach at Purdue University for two years. The California native has built an impressive career, which includes having played 12 seasons of professional baseball. An All-American shortstop while at Oral Roberts University, he was drafted by the Giants in 2001 and also played for the Twins. He is married and has two daughters.

Hall comes to campus from the University of North Carolina, where she served the past three years as the first coach of the women's Division I golf program. Hall competed at Northern Kentucky and Toledo, where she graduated. While there, she was a three-time Mid-American Conference all-conference performer. She also took the Michigan Women's Open Championship in 2003. Prior to coaching, Hall was a country club golf professional who became a PGA Class A member in 2012.



Duffy Bass Field

Valley chooses ISU for baseball tourney site

Illinois State has been chosen to host the 2019 Missouri Valley Conference baseball championship in the spring. Scheduled for May 21-25, the competition will take place at Duffy Bass Field. The winning team automatically advances to the NCAA Tournament.

"We are pleased to host the MVC Baseball Championship next May," Athletics Director Larry Lyons said. "We have one of the best on-campus baseball facilities, and have continued to upgrade the facility since our last opportunity to host in 2013. Our staff is anxious to support the league's baseball student-athletes and give them a first-class championship experience here in Normal."

ISU takes conference program of the year

The Redbird track and field and cross-country team was named the 2017-2018 Missouri Valley Conference Program of the Year based on the performance of student-athletes in cross-country, indoor track and field, outdoor track, and outdoor field.

Scoring was based on the finish of both men and women teams at their Valley championship. They combined to sweep the 2018 Valley Indoor Track and Field Championships, with the men winning by 70 points and the women by 35. It was the first time since 1997 for both teams to take the championship event.

Be a part of Illinois State's home court advantage.

Men's and women's basketball tickets are on sale now.
Visit GoRedbirds.com/Tickets or call (309) 438-8000.

ISU fans offered more through mobile app

A mobile app designed to enhance the game-day experience of Redbird fans is now available for download at no cost in both the iPhone App Store and Google Play Store by searching "Illinois State Redbirds."

Fans who acquire the app will have access to team schedules, real-time scores and news alerts, live stats, and interactive venue maps. Other features include student-athlete and coach profiles, and promotional content delivered directly to devices.

The app also offers free live-game audio for fans of select sports, as well as

social feeds and links to live game video streams.

"We are excited to launch the Illinois State Athletics mobile app and give our fans an even greater opportunity to engage with the Redbirds anywhere they might be," said Athletics Marketing Director Zach Schroeder, M.S. '14.

"The app will provide a one-stop shop for fans, whether you follow just one Redbird team or want to receive updates on all things Redbird Athletics," Schroeder said, adding that ISU students using it will have an opportunity to earn rewards throughout the year.



WAR WOUNDS

BY JOHN MOODY

MILITARY ALUM'S MISSION BRINGS SALVE TO SOLDIERS' SOULS



Col. David Rabb '83 is an expert in the hell that is war.

He has spent his life in service to the nation, first as a United States Marine and later as a soldier in the U.S. Army. He served in a number of positions in his distinguished 41-year military career that began when he enlisted at age 17.

His personal sacrifices have been great as a result of deployments to both Iraq and Afghanistan, where he served as commander of the 113th Medical Detachment, Combat Stress Control. He suffers from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and traumatic brain injury, due to close proximity to numerous bomb blasts.

Rabb, 60, endures residual pain from injuries to his back, shoulders, and knees as a result of carrying loads of equipment over the years in war zones. He also continues working to overcome a stroke he suffered stateside in 2015 after his tours ended, which resulted in partial blindness in one eye.

And yet, Rabb's focus is not on his struggles. He instead lives to help others overcome their own scars—physical and emotional—that are an inevitable part of military combat duty.

From 2009 to 2011, he coordinated the mental health care for 40,000 reserve soldiers across seven states as director of Psychological Health for the 63rd Regional Support Command in Mountain View, California.

With the help of his wife, Kim, he worked to convince the Veterans Administration (VA) and the Department of Defense to formally recognize the invisible wounds caused by war and have “moral injury” designated as a disability. This set precedence for all veterans who suffer from moral injury to have it included in their medical records.

The VA's National Center for PTSD describes moral injury as similar to psychological trauma with a key component “an act of transgression, which shatters moral and ethical expectations that are rooted in religious or spiritual beliefs.”

In the context of war, the VA now describes moral injury as direct participation in acts of combat that kill or harm, witnessing death and dying, or failing to prevent immoral acts, all of which can be perceived by the individual as “gross moral violations.”

Rabb describes moral injury as “an injury to the soul.” He sees his own pain as preparing him to help his military brothers and sisters heal. “The best therapists—in my belief system—are those who’ve been wounded, who have been touched by trauma,” he said.

He prepared for his calling as counselor by enrolling at Illinois State University after six years of service, majoring in criminal justice sciences. While at ISU, Rabb was elected president of the Black Student Union and served on the Academic Senate. He was also an on-air personality at WZND.

A native of Illinois, Rabb went on to finish a

Rabb knows because he was there. Recalling it as the pivotal moment of his career, he knows it changed him forever.

“My company of 85 soldiers covered the entire Iraq Theater,” he said. “We thought the war was over, but it wasn’t.” The mission shifted quickly, and he had to figure out how to cover such a large territory.

“For some reason, of all the people in the world, God had me in that mix,” he said. “It was a critical event, a lot of death and destruction. As a leader, as a senior officer, and also as a healer, it was very traumatic. But I had a mission to provide



Medallions earned throughout Rabb’s military career reflect the scope and depth of his work in serving the country and fellow veterans.

master’s degree in social work at the University of Chicago before returning to the military as an officer in the U.S. Army Reserves. He concurrently served 34 years with the VA as a social worker. His specialty was looking after the mental health of combat soldiers and Marines.

They readily embrace Rabb, appreciating how his own military experience empowers him to know how returning from war is one of the great challenges for anyone serving in combat zones.

“When I came back from Iraq, things disintegrated, mostly my fault. I was a wounded warrior walking around. I was disoriented,” Rabb said. He blames his post-war struggles for the end of his first marriage. “It lasted 20 years, and then I went to war.”

Rabb directs anyone seeking to understand veterans to the 2017 mini-series titled *The Long Road Home*. Produced by *National Geographic*, it’s based on journalist Martha Raddatz’s best-selling book of the same name. The book and film tell the story of a platoon being ambushed in Sadr City in Baghdad on April 4, 2004. The date became known as “Black Sunday.”

Rabb describes it as “the first major insurgency in this war on terror.” In a 24-hour period, eight soldiers were killed, and about 70 were wounded.

neuro-psychiatric triage, behavioral health, grief and loss counseling, stress management, and bereavement counseling.”

Rabb remembers taking care of soldiers in Baghdad who were, as he described them, “catatonic, high anxiety.” His was a high-stakes job on a daily basis, regardless of where he was stationed. He counts as his greatest accomplishment the fact that no one from his unit died. “I’m very proud to be part of that, and to have lived through it.”

During Rabb’s command of the 113th Medical Detachment, the unit made more than 72,000 behavioral health contacts. In addition, he advocated successfully for the 113th to get the first Army Reserve therapy dog, Zeke. A black Labrador Retriever, Zeke has assisted in more than 7,000 contacts with service members.

For about a year now, Rabb has had his own therapy dog, a yellow lab he calls Gunny Quail. He hopes to use his dog for outreach to others. “He knows about 80 commands. He notices when I’m stressed and calms me down,” Rabb said of his K9 partner, the first warrior dog in Minnesota. Rabb lives in St. Paul with Kim and their two daughters—Leietta, 17, and Alyse, 16. He also has four adult children.

Rabb was honored to be one of artist Matt Mitchell's *100 Faces of War* project, for which each subject's portrait was painted. The 100 were chosen to be representative of the 2.5 million people deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan between 2001 and 2014. They represent a cross section of those who served in terms of gender, race, branch of service or rank—from officers to the enlisted and civilians. The fallen are also represented.

Along with his portrait are Rabb's own words: "As a leader and mental health clinician in Iraq, I quickly learned that Soldiers and Marines healed quicker and better in communities. In well-led units, there is a strong sense of bonding, cohesion, and esprit de corps—a sense of community. Isolation is unhealthy. Isolation, like complacency, kills."

Rabb knows this to be true from what he has witnessed away from the combat zone as well. In 2009, he was a subject matter expert following the Fort Hood shooting that left 13 dead. He has been called on to share his clinical expertise by leading seminars and training clinicians, chaplains, and more than 200 civilians and federal employees on how to help combat survivors cope with the aftermath of traumatic events.

He was the U.S. Army Western Region Medical Command Care and Transition Coordinator, and worked at the VA's Palo Alto Health Care System/Polytrauma Center. Now retired, his career culminated with his position as the VA's national director of diversity and inclusion in Washington, D.C.

Rabb is quick to point out that he's "not out of the game" despite opting for retirement.

Even as he works at his own healing, he ponders new ways he can lead. He's thinking about creating a nonprofit focused on education, training, and consultation.

Such objectives fit with Rabb's life philosophy, which is the need to always plan ahead and prepare for what's next. It helps him with a daily routine of speech therapy, rehab appointments and relearning some of life's basics, such as how to drive. All are necessary following the stroke.

"You gotta have goals," Rabb said. He focuses on an acronym—GROW—which stands for "Goals, without them you're going nowhere. Reach, reach for it; put forth the effort. Opportunities, billions of them around you. Work. You can't get out of this by wishing upon a star; you can't get out of this without work. Appreciate the work."

It's apparent that Rabb follows his own advice. He is a positive, upbeat person whose conversation is thoughtful, confident, and punctuated with

words that sound both like a military man and a minister.

"As you were," he is likely to say when he has misspoken and is correcting himself.

"God is good," is another frequent phrase injected as he tells his life story.

A creative person, Rabb wrote a children's book, *From A to Z: What a Veteran Means to Me*. He found inspiration for the project after speaking to a classroom where the children struggled to define the meaning tied to the word veteran.

Poetry inspires Rabb, who is fond of lines written by Octavia Butler in her book *Parable of the Sower*: "All that you touch you change. All that



you change, changes you. The only lasting truth is change. God is change."

He sees parallels to his own life in those words.

"I was able to take all that creativity that God has given me and use it to change other people's lives," said Rabb, who remains a collector of quotes, a reader, a thinker, and a writer of poetry.

A line from one of his poems shows the complexities of his experiences: "Off centered and confused in the direction I should take, I sometimes wonder if my faith will keep me afloat ... out of the ashes, I come. Moved by the loving kindness that surrounds me, hoping it will soothe the hurt and anger within me ... out of the ashes, I come."

Editor's note: Illinois State is ranked in the top 100 universities in College Factual's 2018 Best Schools for Veterans in the U.S. ISU provides student veterans with academic, advisement and financial support through the Veterans and Military Services Office. It assists with Veterans Administration education benefits, helps student veterans transition into life on campus, and provides referrals to other veteran services within the community. Call (309) 438-2207 or email Veterans@IllinoisState.edu.

Col. Rabb was deployed on military missions that took him to Iraq and Afghanistan. He and members of his unit paused for a group shot before heading to Afghanistan in 2011.

Yesterday Remembered

EWING MANOR REMAINS
HISTORICAL TREASURE

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

EVERY FAMILY HAS A LEGACY, BUT FEW HAVE THE UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY TO CELEBRATE GENERATIONS OF HISTORY IN THE WAY RELATIVES OF DAVIS AND HAZLE BUCK EWING DID IN SEPTEMBER. IT WAS THEN EXTENDED FAMILY MEMBERS OF THE PRESTIGIOUS COUPLE MET AT EWING MANOR IN BLOOMINGTON TO MARK THE ESTATE'S 90TH ANNIVERSARY.

More than 20 from the family attended, spanning ages and gathering from six states. Among them were some who had never visited the manor that was completed in 1929 on what was known as Sunset Hill. Beyond touring the home and reminiscing, the family witnessed the opening of a time capsule that was placed in the home's cornerstone during construction.

Still one of the most romantic locations in the Midwest, Ewing Manor was bequeathed to the Illinois State University Foundation upon Hazle's death in 1969. The Foundation Board maintains the property, which has been restored to the look of yesteryear through the efforts of Toni Tucker. As Ewing's director, Tucker has worked with family members to bring some of Hazle's possessions back to the manor that was built on 66 acres at a cost of \$178,000.

It took 18 months to complete the 8,517-square-foot home that includes 44 rooms. There are three stories to the manor, which was designed based on homes Hazle and Davis visited in England and France. A stable, carriage house and garage are connected to the main residence through interior passageways.

Sunset Hill quickly became known as the gathering place for noteworthy guests of Hazle and Davis, who were an elite couple married in 1907. They met in Chicago at a Christian Scientists gathering. Each brought impressive credentials to the relationship.

Davis was the son of James Stevenson Ewing, an attorney and U.S. minister to Belgium for President Grover Cleveland. An engineer, Davis started a cement business that created the first sidewalks and streets in Bloomington.

Hazle's father, Orlando Buck, owned the Zeno Chewing Gum Company that impacted the industry through creation of the juicy fruit flavor. Orlando, who patented the foil wrapping placed around individual sticks of gum, merged the company with Wrigley.

Highly cultured, Hazle devoted her time and fortune to charity. She was also active in politics, marching in Washington, D.C., for women's right to vote. A long line of powerful politicians came through Davis's paternal grandmother, Maria McLelland Stevenson Ewing. Maria's sibling, John Stevenson, was the father of Adlai Ewing Stevenson. He served as vice president of the United States under Grover Cleveland. Adlai II was an Illinois governor, United Nations ambassador, and presidential candidate. His son, Adlai III, served as an Illinois senator.

The Stevensons were among the many visitors to the manor, which was left to Hazle soon after its construction. She and Davis divorced in 1931. By that time, their adopted son Ralph was an adult on his own. Another boy, Nelson, who was raised as a son, remained with Hazle at Sunset Hill.

Julia Hodges, a dear friend of Hazle's, moved into the home and helped manage the manor. She was so beloved by the family that the children referred to her as their cousin, as did the grandchildren born to Ralph and Nelson.

Ralph married Kate Lee. The couple had a daughter in 1941 named Lucinda "Cindy" Buck Ewing. Her home is in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Nelson and his wife, June, added four children to their family. Davis and Philip, both born in 1948, are deceased. Ted is the oldest living child. Born in 1942, he resides in Bettendorf, Iowa. The only daughter, Sandra Hazle (Ewing) Warner, arrived in 1945 and lives in Tucson, Arizona.

Ted, Sandra, and Cindy were the closest relatives of Hazle and Davis to return in September for the anniversary celebration of the property that now encompasses six acres and is called Ewing Cultural Center. Guests are welcomed for tours and events, including the Illinois Shakespeare Festival each summer.

The Genevieve Green Gardens is a reprieve appreciated by all visitors to the property that is used by ISU faculty to engage students in everything from historical architecture to art projects and as a living lab for horticulture majors.

The three grandchildren were delighted to see the family keepsakes they had returned to the manor displayed. Special memories from the time each spent with their grandmother at Ewing Manor were brought to mind—cherished moments they enjoy sharing and that reflect the grandeur of a bygone era.



Cindy's reflections



EXTRAORDINARY GUEST LIST

I did not fully grasp the social and political clout of my grandmother until my young adult years. Both became quickly apparent when Adlai Ewing Stevenson II passed away in July of 1965. He had served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations under President John F. Kennedy, and was a distant relative through my grandfather's paternal side of the family.

I was living in Chicago when my father called, asking me to drive to grandmother's home and attend services that were scheduled at the Unitarian Church in Bloomington. With the church across the street from Ewing Manor, family was gathering at the home.

President Lyndon B. Johnson was also a guest at the estate.

I will never forget arriving at dusk to find my father waiting on the corner of Towanda Avenue and Emerson Street. He identified my car so that officers would let me pass onto the property.

Sunset Hill was surrounded by police and FBI agents, with sharpshooters on the roof of grandmother's house. The lawn was roped off and patrolled by men in dark suits who watched for the media and local citizens trying to get a glimpse of President Johnson.

The Ewing and Stevenson families met at the home before arriving at the

church, where we all sat together at the front during the funeral. I recall sitting next to Adlai Ewing Stevenson III, who went on to become a U.S. senator from Illinois. It was emotional being next to him during his father's funeral. What I remember most about the day, however, is seeing President Johnson's tears.

It was during that season of sorrow that I began to comprehend the scope of my grandmother's influence. There is no question she was a woman respected by leaders of the community, the state and the nation.

I look back now and realize how many distinguished people I met as a child during my Bloomington visits. To me, they were just my grandmother's friends. If only I had paid more attention to the extraordinary individuals who came through the doors of Sunset Hill!

A LIFELONG INFLUENCE

Grandmother was a role model for me—from my love of horses and riding to community building, caring for the environment, and a fascination with international relations. She truly shaped my thinking through her belief that if all people could experience another culture, the world could be at peace. This mindset has guided me throughout my life.

The various kinds of work that I've done, including teaching, were inspired by my grandmother. The same is true of my passion for philanthropy and travel. Just as my grandfather did so many decades ago during his own international adventures, I practice photographing each country I visit. My goal is to make foreign cultures accessible to others who have not had the privilege to explore the world.

When I visit Sunset Hill today, I can still see grandmother sitting in her chair in the living room reading the newspaper. She did so each morning, with a blanket placed across her dress and gloves on her hands to avoid ink stains. As she read Bloomington's paper, *The Daily Pantagraph*, she would highlight news stories with a red or blue grease pen. This was her reminder to share the article with a specific someone. She often cut them out and mailed them to a family member or a friend, along with some personal notations.

I have no doubt each recipient was grateful for the correspondence, even if the news was dated or of little interest. What mattered was the reminder of the relationship with my grandmother. Gifted in bringing individuals together, she was determined to keep both friends and family close.





Sandra's reflections

CHRISTMAS AT SUNSET HILL

I have so many memories of life at Sunset Hill, but I think some of the most cherished are from Christmas time.

Walking in the front door, I would take in the special Sunset Hill Christmas fragrance. Among the most beautiful things to me were fresh garland wrapping the staircase all the way to the top floor of the tower; candy cane striped candles in the candleholders; and tinsel wreaths with a warm electric candlelight in every window downstairs, as well as in the hall windows upstairs.

In the loggia—commonly called a four-seasons room—was the Christmas tree with crystal icicles; shiny, colorful decorations; candy canes, and colorful lights. One Christmas Eve, my brothers Davis, Philip, and Ted joined with our cousin Cindy and me to sing Christmas carols from the top balcony in the tower. Grandmother, our parents, and cousin Julia were gathered below. Cousin Julia lived in the home and helped grandmother manage the manor.

Christmas morning found a wood drying rack to the left of the steps into the living room. There were stockings for each of us filled with simple things like pencils, oranges, walnuts and pecans to crack open later. Cousin Julia put those special treats together every year. I think my favorite gift from grandmother was when she introduced me to horse

books by Marguerite Henry—*Misty of Chincoteague*, *Justin Morgan Had a Horse*, and so many more.

Herman Edwards, the butler and chauffeur, would ring the gong for Christmas dinner at noon. I remember Ruby, Herman's wife and the family cook, always having a beautiful meal finished off with the family favorite of Woodford Pudding and golden sauce.

We had quiet time after dinner till 3, when we would all gather in the living room again. There was time for reading, playing with toys, and family time. Christmas evening was grandmother's birthday dinner, finished with a birthday cake and "Happy Birthday" sung around the table.

Sunset Hill was the best of the holiday, with a Christmas as grand as that depicted by Courier and Ives, along with Norman Rockwell paintings.

CAPTIVATED BY CANASTA

When visiting grandmother, our days were organized and fun. My older brother Ted and I were fortunate to spend some of our vacation time at Sunset Hill on a number of occasions. On those weeks, it was breakfast at 8, the Christian Science lesson for the day, horseback riding, mail opening, and *The Daily Pantagraph*.

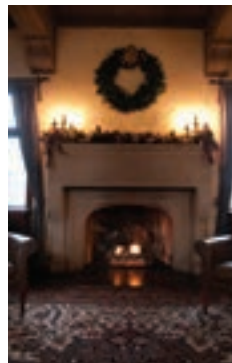
Grandmother often shared stories with us that she thought we should

know about. This was followed with lunch at noon, always announced by a gong Herman rung. Quiet time was from 1-3 p.m., which meant reading in your room or napping, and then an activity before dinner.

During my visits grandmother's good friends, Florence Bohrer and Buffy Stevenson Ives, would arrive for an afternoon of cards. Florence was the first female senator in the Illinois General Assembly and served from 1924 to 1932. To me, she was simply grandmother's friend. Buffy was a sister to Adlai Stevenson.

Of course, I would be properly attired in a dress, socks and Mary Jane shoes—black patent leather flats with straps. I recall feeling quite mature joining the ladies for Canasta in the living room. A card table would be set in the middle of the room, with chairs pulled around. On the table was a card shuffler, which I was allowed to run, with two decks of cards that usually had pictures of horses. A double card holder was in the middle of the table. Cousin Julia always kept the score tablet.

Those games were fun, filled with laughter and talk of the game or perhaps friends' travels or events at the country club. I don't remember how old I was when I was first taught Canasta, or if I ever won, but I have such happy memories of playing such a grown-up game with the amazing ladies who were so special to me.





EWING TIME CAPSULE TREASURES REVEALED

For the relatives of the Buck, Ewing, and Stevenson families who gathered at Ewing Manor in September, the opening of a cornerstone placed by Davis and Hazle Buck Ewing was a highlight of a joyful day.

They all gathered to watch the removal and opening of a time capsule from a concrete block engraved with Ewing Manor 1928. Ewing Director Toni Tucker and Julie Neville of Illinois State's Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives, *bottom left above*, partnered in revealing the items that were in remarkably good condition given the decades that have passed.

One item deemed most fascinating by the family members was a document presumably written by either Davis or Hazle that chronicled their relationship, beginning with their marriage in 1907. The typed page gave details of the planning for Ewing Manor. Family was equaled intrigued by a faded photo taken as the cornerstone was placed.

A copy of the *The Daily Pantagraph*, Bloomington's newspaper, was removed. Dated June 11, 1928, the edition had news

about President Herbert Hoover's administration as the front page headline.

The rusted copper box held a second newspaper, *The Christian Science Monitor*, dated June 11, 1928. Proceedings of a Bloomington city counsel meeting from May of 1928 were placed along with coins, including a 1918 half-dollar and an 1890 dollar.

By the day's end, relatives had filled the time capsule that was returned to the cornerstone and sealed back into its original location. Ted Ewing gave a necklace made by his father Nelson. His sister, Sandra (Ewing) Warner, contributed a sealed letter and set of 2018 coins. The third grandchild, Cindy Buck Ewing, placed a camera to represent her love for photography, which was also a passion of Davis.

Great-granddaughter Monica Gaza selected an iPod with music from 1940 through 2018; Nelson Ewing II added a painting by his daughter Kathryn; and Rose Ewing placed a purple heart earned by her husband and Ewing grandson, Phillip Ewing, from his service in the Vietnam War.

Learn more about Ewing Cultural Center at EwingManor.IllinoisState.edu. To inquire about tours or options for hosting an event, including weddings, call (309) 829-6333 or email Ewing@IllinoisState.edu.



REDBIRDS RISING

THE CAMPAIGN FOR
ILLINOIS STATE

\$150M

Fundraising goal

\$124M

Progress into
November 2018

AREAS OF INVESTMENT



STUDENT
SUPPORT
\$53.5M



FACULTY
SUPPORT
\$9.1M



FACILITY
SUPPORT
\$14.5M



PROGRAM
SUPPORT
\$47.2M

Your investment in Redbirds Rising elevates scholarship and academic excellence, educates tomorrow's leaders, and sparks continuous creativity and innovation. Gifts of all sizes will help us reach our goal. The future of Illinois State—all that we stand for and will yet accomplish—depends on what we do today. Rise to the challenge! Support Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State.

A man with a beard and a red headband is ziplining over a vast, green forest. He is wearing a black t-shirt and blue shorts. The background shows rolling green hills and mountains under a clear sky. The zipline cables are visible, and the man is smiling as he glides through the air.

Wander

RED

ering

REDBIRDS

LIVING LIFE BEYOND THE BORDER

by Kate Arthur

For more than 1,300 graduates, the thought of settling into a cubicle in a corner after crossing the commencement stage was just not satisfying. They instead chose to move thousands of miles from home, finding work and building a life in a foreign land that soon felt like home.

Redbirds can be found from Africa to Asia, in South America and across Europe. They teach, coach, and help build communities. Not all left right after graduation, as some opted for encore careers after retirement. Lawrence Whittet '78, for example, joined a team working in Dubai to build the world's largest solar plant after a 40-year career in power construction in the U.S.

Other Redbirds are translating law in Spain, performing with the circus in Chile, teaching English in Venezuela and Mongolia, and building a school in Uganda. The international path they have chosen empowers them to learn as much about themselves as their adopted culture and its people.

They know what it means to get beyond their comfort zone as they are ready and willing to say yes when invited to try duck intestines, do the Flamenco, or visit the demilitarized zone in South Korea.

While such adventures are unique to each person's story, there is a consistent message from each individual who has chosen an international life experience: There is nothing like it to build bravery and teach self-reliance.

Crossing a continent

The perfect time is never.

That's what Dylan Brown '12 and his spouse, Kelli, thought when they quit their well-paying jobs with 401(k)s and company cars to go backpacking in South America for a year. They left for Cartagena, Columbia, in February.

Since then they've climbed 1,700 steps to Machu Picchu, hiked 30 miles to see a 1,200-year-old ancient city, and volunteered with homeless families. A couple of times they questioned their choices—like when “canyoning” in Ecuador, which included rappelling through steep canyons and jumping off waterfalls and cliffs.

They chose South America because they hadn't been there, wanted to learn Spanish, and it was both backpacker friendly and easier on the budget. They repaid student loans and saved \$30,000 to trek the fourth-largest continent. They're detailing their adventures online at revivemyreality.com.

They anticipate no regrets in foregoing the traditional routine of a regular existence, instead marveling in what Kelli describes as “that feeling of awestruck amazement of God's creation. Those are the moments that take your breath away and make it difficult to hold back tears.”

The greatest adjustment has been constantly moving. “As soon as you feel you're getting settled in, you have to pack it all and move to the next place,” Dylan said. “It pushes you to be adaptable and organized.”



Dylan and Kelli Brown left their jobs last February for a year-long backpacking trip in South America. They climbed the 1,700 steps to Machu Picchu, biked along a sea wall in the Galapagos Islands and drove on the Salt Flats in Bolivia. He is shown swinging on previous spread.

They started researching a year before departing. They made a detailed to-do list that included making a will and checking credit card expiration dates. Their 35-pound bags were packed with travel pillows, spices, and an anti-theft purse.

South America has an efficient bus system, which is how they usually travel. It can take 10 to 30 hours to reach their next location. By traveling overnight, they save a night's lodging. Sometimes they fly, as they did between Colombia and Ecuador, to avoid long delays at the border with Venezuelan refugees.

They do humanitarian work along the way, which reduces lodging costs. They also created an online business, revivemyresume.com. One of their goals is to inspire others on the road and when they return to the Midwest, yet they have no solid plans for life back in America.

"We're going to see what's out there and where life takes us," Dylan said.

Living like nomads

Gamma Phi Circus alums Emille '08 and Sarah (Smith) Morales '07 were Las Vegas Cirque du Soleil performers working opposite schedules with little time to spend together with their son, Kian.



Gamma Phi Circus alums Emille and Sarah Morales are on tour and have lived in Brazil, Argentina and Chile this year, relocating every six to eight weeks with their 3-year-old son, Kian.

They decided to join the international touring show *Amaluna*, and spent 2017 moving around Europe. This year, they've lived in Brazil, Argentina and Chile, relocating every six to eight weeks. Their lives are packed in 12 suitcases.

"When you travel full-time with a circus, not much really seems unusual," Emille said. "I have come to accept the feeling of not knowing where I am going, and I have trained myself to love it."

Each time they move, they're picked up at the airport and dropped off in a foreign city. They tackle the transportation system, currency and exchange rates, grocery shopping and communication obstacles. When in countries where English isn't spoken, they play charades.

Three-year-old Kian travels like a seasoned pro. He is absorbing cultures and languages. Able to say 'thank you' in seven languages, he "thinks it's perfectly normal that one of his friends speaks Russian and another prefers French," Sarah said.

Home is usually a hotel, sometimes a small furnished apartment. Because their travels take them to all types of climates, the family packs everything from flip flops to winter coats.

They have relaxed on private beaches in Brazil, in Italian villas overlooking Mt. Vesuvius and the Mediterranean Sea, and hiked through the Amazon jungle.

The biggest surprise has been the speed of life in America versus other

"I have come to accept the feeling of not knowing where I am going, and I have trained myself to love it." —Emille Morales

countries. “The rest of the world seems to work on a slower, more simple pace,” Emille said, noting that businesses close on Sundays and shut down for hours during mid-day siestas. “It has forced me to plan ahead for things I may need, but also taught me to slow down and enjoy my day.”

50 countries in 50 years

Over the past 21 years, Carrie Ward '93 has taught in Egypt, Ethiopia, Tanzania, Hong Kong, Bangladesh and Jordan. She's in her third year teaching second grade at a private international school in Barcelona, Venezuela.

For the first decade, her mother told her what she was doing was nice, but asked when she was moving home. “She doesn't ask anymore,” Ward said, laughing. Now her parents ask where their next vacation will be.

Of all the places she's lived, Venezuela is the most challenging—especially since she's not proficient in Spanish.



Carrie Ward has taught all over the world the past 21 years but her current assignment, in Venezuela, is the toughest, even though she lives on the ocean.

“I literally live right on the ocean. It looks like paradise, but it's still the hardest place I've lived because of what Venezuela is going through with the government,” Ward said. “Inflation is over 13,000 percent. Every other place I've lived, people spoke more English.”

Separated from home by thousands of miles can be difficult when you need to be with family, she added. Ward was in Bangladesh when her grandfather died, and it was impossible to attend his funeral. She was in Curacao when she

got the call that her mother was diagnosed with breast cancer.

While visiting with her parents in the Chicago suburbs over the summer, she realized how much her definition of home has broadened.

“When I'm in Venezuela, home is where my family is. When I'm not with my family, home is Venezuela,” Ward said. “Home is wherever you are, and wherever you're not.”



READY TO TAKE FLIGHT?

Before planning your own adventure overseas, consider the advice of alums who have already experienced an international lifestyle.

- Be patient with yourself during the adjustment period. It's normal to feel overwhelmed.
- Leave your expectations at home, and avoid comparisons to life in the U.S.
- Be patient with the world and the people in it. There is a lot of kindness everywhere.
- The rest of the world moves at a slower pace. Adjust.
- Be open-minded and flexible. Never consider anything weird or strange, because that implies only your experience is normal.
- You can always go home if it's not for you.
- Respect the culture and immerse yourself in it. Try the food.
- Get involved early. If you stay home and watch Netflix, you'll miss what you came to experience.
- Navigating a new language is a challenge. Translation apps help, but pointing works too.
- Have a stash of your favorite snacks. Little things help you feel connected to home.
- Don't drink water out of the faucet.
- Do your research. Read travel blogs and the country's recent news.
- For an easier transition, try Europe. If you want adventure on a budget, check out Asia.
- One-stop shopping isn't the norm. You will miss Target, but go with the flow.
- Get a passport with extra pages because you'll rack up travel stamps quickly.
- Expect challenges, like the paperwork of visas and bureaucracy.
- Don't let the lack of money be an obstacle. Check out volunteer service organizations and teaching exchange programs.
- Take lots of pictures, and don't forget to brag to your friends.
- You'll surprise yourself with how brave and resilient you are.
- Almost everyone misses their new country once they've left.



Janae Stork spent three years teaching in Haiti, and learned how to handle cold showers, spotty electricity and tarantulas. She also learned how family extends beyond blood relatives.

She has a goal of visiting 50 countries by the time she turns 50 in 2020. Since she already has 47, she believes she'll make it. Of all the places she's been, Tanzania has a hold on her heart.

"I had what my mom called the trifecta there. I loved the people, I loved my job, and I loved the country. I did safaris, and I could fly off to the beaches. It had everything I wanted."

Happy in Haiti

Janae Stork '09 went to Haiti on a week-long work trip in 2015. After falling in love with the culture and the people, she planned a three-year adventure in the Third World country. For most of that time, she taught English through Reciprocal Ministries International.

"The most difficult thing with my move was leaving friends and relatives, but I found family extends beyond bloodlines and borders," said Stork, who had many initial struggles. One was learning to live without transportation.

"I didn't know enough of the language to get around on my own my first year, but wanted the freedom to leave the small compound community. I wrote directions on where I wanted to go in Creole, and practiced saying them while walking to find a motorcycle taxi."

Other hardships that never crossed Stork's mind became the toughest adjustments. "I didn't know how I'd ever get used to cold showers or not having electricity 24/7. Both eventually became a normal part of life," said Stork, who also struggled with the country's creatures.

"I got used to frogs and lizards that resided in my bathroom," she said. "When I first arrived, even the rumor of a tarantula nearby had me running the opposite direction. Within the past two years, I held baby tarantulas and even handled finding a larger stowaway in my school bag."

It was frightening to be in the country when Hurricane Matthew hit. Stork went days before learning her 13 students had survived. They were among many who helped her embrace cultural expectations, from bartering with vendors to picking appropriate funeral attire.

"My 'little brother' Jephthe became my cultural guide, translator, driver, and dear friend," Stork said. She also developed a close relationship with Mavia, a local lady Stork employed.

"Mavia did market shopping on Tuesdays, made lunch two days a week, and cleaned. She became one of my biggest comforts, although we didn't understand each other's language well," said Stork, despite her use of a Creole/English dictionary.

Home again since June, Stork is planning a wedding with a New Jersey missionary worker she met in Haiti.

"I transition back to the states grateful for all my students, roommate, and Haitian friends who taught me about life in the struggling country," she said. Those relationships and her life experiences guarantee Stork will forever consider Haiti her second home.

Expanding her horizons

Wisconsin was the only border Kristen Gianaris '13 crossed until after her freshman year. She noticed a flyer for Volunteers for Peace in the Bone Student



Kristen Gianaris had never been further than Wisconsin when she flew to Switzerland to volunteer after her freshman year at ISU. Since then she's lived in Taiwan, Egypt and China.



Center, and signed up to work on a Switzerland farm that summer.

“Not only was this my first time on a plane, it was my first time to use public transportation, my first time to read a map and see the ocean,” Gianaris said.

With little money and a bit naïve, she stayed in a housing co-op a few days, leaving with a list of people who could potentially host her a few nights. She carried that paper as she moved throughout Switzerland, making random calls and hoping for a couch to sleep on.

“The kindness of strangers, the sense of community, and the adventure that I found inspired me,” said Gianaris, who was eager to travel more. At home just a couple weeks, she moved to Taiwan for her sophomore year to study Chinese and anthropology. Since then she’s lived in Egypt and China, and earned her master’s in Switzerland.

Gianaris has worked as an experiential education instructor for Where There Be Dragons, a Colorado organization that offers gap year and study abroad programs in 19 countries. Students navigate without use of a cell phone.

“It gives us a chance to share with them what it’s like to disconnect, to get lost, and to be challenged to talk to strangers,” Gianaris said. That has gotten easier for her as she learned Chinese, Mandarin, and conversational Arabic on the streets.

“I love learning languages, so I work really hard at it,” said Gianaris, who came home this year to regroup. She is working with World Relief in Chicago on refugee resettlement programs, and sharing her experiences through photo exhibitions on [Instagram.com/kristengianaris](https://www.instagram.com/kristengianaris).

“Living in so many places around the world has left me with the responsibility to find creative ways to share the kindness of strangers, the beauty of the earth, and the experiences that have humbled me again and again with others

who may be having trouble seeing the beautiful, ugly, and wonder of the world around us.”

China’s challenges

After studying in Austria her junior year, Beth Hollander ’15 told her family she’d be staying in the states.

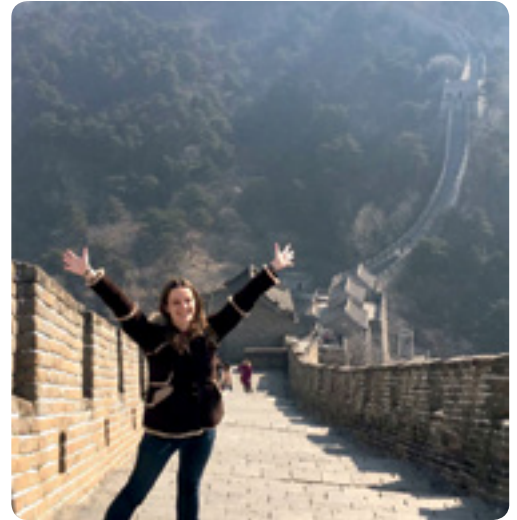
That plan changed her senior year when she came across Search Associates, and applied with the international teacher recruiting agency. Eight job offers later, she accepted a one-year internship in Hong Kong. Now she’s teaching music at Peking University Experimental School in Jiaxing, China, where she faced significant obstacles.

“Not only is there a bigger language barrier, but there are differences in the way the people treat each other, drive, run businesses, and deliver healthcare,” Hollander said. She’s learned, for example, that the remedy for minor illnesses is usually “drink hot water.”

While Hollander respects the differences and has learned to tolerate a Chinese fascination with photographing Caucasians, there were times she questioned her decision. A year later, she feels differently, in part because she found the love of her life in China. A teacher from the United Kingdom, she met him riding the same bus to work.

“We’ve made it through almost a year of culture shock issues, two broken legs—one for each of us—several exciting travel excursions, and language barriers that have strengthened our relationship,” Hollander said.

She’s immersed herself in the culture, trying pig skin and duck intestines. She traveled to five continents and 14 countries, including South Korea where she stood in a demilitarized zone. She rode a camel in Morocco, bathed elephants in Thailand, and fed kangaroos and koalas in Australia.



Beth Hollander teaches music in China, and has traveled to five continents and 14 countries. She’s visited the Great Wall of China and bathed elephants in Thailand.

“I’ve learned that I can make a home for myself anywhere in the world,” Hollander said. “I’ve also learned that being an introvert will not keep me from having these great experiences. I have a rare opportunity to have discussions with people from all over the world, which is pretty cool.”


Editor’s note: Learn about the adventures of 13 additional alums living abroad, including Lawrence Whittet, by going to [IllinoisState.edu/Magazine](https://www.illinoisstate.edu/Magazine).

“It gives us a chance to share with them what it’s like to disconnect, to get lost, and to be challenged to talk to strangers.” —Kristen Gianaris



IMMIGRANT * TALE

by Kevin Bersett



SPORTSWRITER TURNED COLUMNIST BECOMES VOICE OF UNDERDOG

The tears came abruptly. We had been discussing the University of Illinois men’s basketball team—whose run to the 2005 national title game she covered for the *Chicago Tribune*—when the woman across the table from me apologized. Then, she began to cry.

“You asked before about immigration ... I think my family did experience the ugly side of that. What people don’t realize, it is not always people calling you names. In our case, we were a family of nine. We couldn’t find anyone to rent us a home. And it was brutal,” said Marlen (MARE-a-lin) Garcia ’93.

We were having lunch with the business crowd in June on a second-floor restaurant in a Loop hotel, a couple of miles east from where Garcia works as an opinion writer for the *Chicago Sun-Times*. Garcia had been buoyant up to that point in our interview. Dressed in a light blue sweater and a spring dress, she smiled often as she talked about her newspaper career and life as the child in a Mexican immigrant family.

She even joked about her Spanish, which she grew up speaking at home. She mentioned that former Cubs slugger and Dominican Republic native Sammy Sosa once made fun of her for speaking Mexican Spanish with an English accent.



Marlen Garcia has become a voice for immigrants and underdogs since joining the *Chicago Sun-Times* newsroom.

For years, the turmoil of Garcia's past never rose to the surface. She waited more than a decade into their relationship before telling her husband that her family was homeless for a time while she was a teenager. Things had changed, however, and in her view decisively, since President Donald Trump's electoral victory.

In the days before our interview, public furor peaked over the Trump administration's policy to separate immigrant children from their families at the Mexican border. Moreover, she surely remembered what Trump said in his campaign announcement speech in June 2015: "When Mexico sends its people, they're not sending their best. They're not sending you. They're not sending you. They're sending people that have lots of problems, and they're bringing those problems with us. They're bringing drugs. They're bringing crime. They're rapists. And some, I assume, are good people."

Trump's rhetoric revived something dormant in the American psyche, Garcia thought, recalling an incident in 2016. Her mother, Elena, accidentally spilled a woman's coffee at a Chicago bus stop. The woman responded by saying she hoped Trump would be elected so he would deport Elena.

"THERE ARE TOPICS I WANT TO TAKE ON BECAUSE I KNOW HOW PEOPLE ARE BEING AFFECTED."

"It's not just rhetoric. It's very dangerous because it gives people license to mistreat people in ways that good-natured Americans would know that is wrong, instinctively and intuitively," Garcia said.

"When I started writing about immigration six years ago, I didn't think anti-immigrant sentiment would be whipped up as it is now. I thought some of (President Barack) Obama's immigration policies were incredibly rough, but not only does Trump take them 10 steps further, he does it with such hostility that it starts to look like a discriminatory policy—racism."

Given this national dynamic, journalism and Garcia's background growing up in an immigrant family have tied back together. The two threads were separate for most of her adult life.

Garcia spent the first 15-plus years of her newspaper career writing about sports. She started at the *Chicago Tribune* as an editing assistant and rose to reporter before becoming the lead college basketball writer at the *USA Today* for five years. She took a buyout in 2012 and decided to try something radically different just as the immigration debate was

heating up over Obama's new policy to grant relief from deportation for children brought to the country illegally.

Jim Kirk '90, a former *Tribune* colleague and fellow Illinois State alum, recruited Garcia to be a columnist at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where he was then the editor-in-chief. Three years later, she joined the *Sun-Times'* editorial board.

"Writing about sports for a long time—it was rewarding and it was interesting work," Garcia said. "But in the background, I have these other interests. I'm following the immigration debate. I didn't have a platform to do anything about it. That's what I got at the *Sun-Times*: The opportunity to write an op-ed column and to take on issues. Our editorial page editor tells me, 'You're in the right place if you want to speak up on all of this.' He's right."

Instead of tracking box scores and the latest sports news, Garcia has been keeping tabs on politicians and has emerged as a voice for the city's working class.

Rick Jones, one of her former School of Communication professors, was not surprised Garcia was able to make the transition from sports to news. "I think she really has found her passion, really upped her game at the *Sun-Times*," Jones said. "She is a powerful advocate

for people who don't have much of that in the media."

Garcia's columns include a heavy dose of reporting with a focus on the stories of the immigrants and blue-collar workers whose lives are shaped by laws enacted far from their neighborhoods. For example, she wrote in support of a city ordinance that would require all companies to offer sick days—a benefit her mother was deprived of for almost the entire 40 years she worked at her factory job.

In another column, Garcia advocated for the Illinois Monetary Award Program, whose grants enabled her to afford college. She told the story of a senior at the Illinois Institute of Technology who was forced to work two jobs and launch a GoFundMe drive due to a lack of assistance.

"The columns are not about me. They are about people in Chicago," Garcia said. "Sometimes it becomes personal, and you write it that way. But there are topics I want to take on because I know how people are being affected."

Garcia writes about her late father, Pedro. He was born a U.S. citizen in southern Texas. His parents brought him as a young boy to northern Mexico during the Great Depression. With not enough documentation to prove his citizenship, he spent the 1950s crossing the border illegally to work as a migrant farmer in the United States, harvesting tomatoes in Ohio, potatoes in Idaho, and cotton in Texas.

She used his life story to write about migrant labor rights. One farmer told Pedro and his fellow migrants he could not afford to pay them, so he gave them "rare" coins. Marlen later discovered they were worthless.

After a long process, Pedro finally persuaded U.S. immigration officials that he was a citizen. In 1967 he immigrated, legally, to Chicago with his Mexican wife and Marlen's older siblings. Marlen was born in the United States and grew up in minority neighborhoods in Chicago's suburbs, moving frequently as her family

struggled to gain a foothold in the United States.

Her dad eventually was hired as a unionized janitor at O'Hare Airport. Her mother found that factory job where she would work until she was forced to quit at the age of 79.

"My passion about immigration has a lot to do with my upbringing, and what I've learned since," Garcia said.

Garcia's family bounced from one rented place to the next. She and her siblings had to lie about how many children actually lived at home so they wouldn't get evicted. Her family lost their home when Garcia was 13, forcing her and her siblings to split up for the summer and live with friends and relatives. Her parents took shelter at a ramshackle motel.

"There is a lot of shame associated with that," Garcia said. "I was ashamed for a long time, but not anymore."

Garcia wrote for the student newspaper at Maine West High School, and covered high school sports as a stringer for the now defunct *Des Plaines Times*. She wasn't sure what she would study once she arrived at Illinois State as a Robert Bone Scholar and a walk-on for the Redbird cross-country team.

During her sophomore year, she received an internship through the University's Minority Professional Opportunities Program under then sports information director Tom Lamonica, M.S. '88. She credits Lamonica for reigniting her interest in journalism.

"You could tell that Marlen was very intelligent, very mature, and very passionate," Lamonica said. "She had very strong values. She stood for something, and she wasn't afraid to let you know."

As a student, Garcia worked at TV-10 and WZND, was a correspondent for *The Vidette*, and wrote features for



Marlen Garcia, with her mother on graduation day in 1993, above, credits her experiences at Illinois State with helping her launch a successful journalism career. Stories about Garcia's parents, Pedro and Elena, add poignancy to her columns about current issues.

Athletics game-day programs. She also interned at the Telemundo affiliate in Chicago.

"You know what was wonderful about ISU was all the opportunities," Garcia said. "And I had the best time doing it all. I see college as an equalizer. If you want to gain equal footing, that's where you do it."

In her frequent trips back to Illinois State, Garcia advises School of Communication students that regardless of the topic they are covering, journalism is all about people: "It always comes down to who is being affected? And who are these people who are bringing about change for us?"

Garcia's life has come full circle now. She is writing about and for the people with whom she grew up, those immigrant families who are fighting to escape poverty and find the American dream—just like her family.

#RedbirdProud



A royal return

Proud Redbird couple chosen Homecoming king, queen

Ask 2018 Homecoming alumni king and queen Margaret (Menne) and John Swalec to sum up the University's impact on their lives, and this is their answer. "The fondest memory we have is going to Illinois State. The friends, the experiences, the education, and our Redbird romance is because of ISU."

The two met when John '56, M.S. '58, Ph.D. '75, stopped by Gamma Phi Circus practices on his way to McCormick Hall. Margaret '58 performed as a trick roller-skater. They started dating her junior year as he began graduate school, and married in 1957.

Both were active students. Margaret was a member of the advisory board for her class and the special education club.

She worked at Milner Library. John lettered three years in wrestling and one year in track. He served as University High School's first wrestling coach.

Margaret studied special education, while John majored in physical education. She launched Calumet Park's first special education program, teaching in several districts before retiring from Libertyville as a supervisor.

John coached wrestling at high schools in northern Illinois and won a national championship at Joliet Junior College in 1964. He held administrative roles at four community colleges and the Illinois Community College Board before taking the presidency at Waubesa Community College.

John led the college for 20 years up to his retirement. He was appointed to the Department of Registration and Education blue ribbon committee and the Illinois Century Network.

Margaret and John are football fans and members of the President's Circle. John was inducted into the Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame in 1983 and the College of Education's Hall of Fame in 1997. He received the Alumni Association's Achievement Award in 1987.

Still Illinois residents, they travel, golf, and spend time with children and grandchildren—one of whom is attending ISU. They are pleased their Redbird ties are strengthened through another generation.

Alumni News

Class celebration planned for April

Graduates from the Class of 1969 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on April 26 and 27 during the annual Half Century Club event. A variety of activities will take place across campus, including dinner, lunch, tours, and interactive experiences.

The Class of 1969 will be inducted into the Half Century Club on Saturday evening.

Members of the classes of 1964, 1959, 1954, 1949 and 1944 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, and 75th reunions will be honored that evening as well and receive a recognition gift.

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

For additional information, contact Alumni Engagement at (309) 438-2586 or email saduque@IllinoisState.edu.

Gamma Phi Circus celebrates 90 years

Since its establishment by Clifford "Pop" Horton in 1929, Gamma Phi Circus has showcased the talents of a unique performance troupe. Now the oldest collegiate circus in North America, Gamma Phi has trained many in acrobatic and circus arts across a variety of majors at Illinois State.

To celebrate nine decades of performances and accomplishments, Gamma Phi Circus will hold a special reunion on Saturday, April 13, at the Hancock Stadium Club. The event will be prior to an evening performance. More details will be available closer to the event at GammaPhiCircus.IllinoisState.edu.



From the archives

TV-10 was established in 1974 to provide students with hands-on training in broadcast journalism and production. It has flourished as a learning laboratory that combines theory with practice. Students fill every station role as reporters, producers, anchors, writers, photographers, and graphic designers. Alumni are invited back to celebrate the station's 45 years of success the weekend of April 6. A reunion dinner will take place at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Uptown Normal, where the TV-10 Hall of Fame inaugural class will be inducted.

ClassNotes



Refer a Redbird

Alert Admissions to prospective students

So often students credit their decision to attend the University to family members or friends, a teacher, or graduates who recommended ISU.

They see the student's potential, and they know the benefit of the Redbird experience. All that's missing is connecting the prospective student with campus. That step is now much easier to accomplish, thanks to a new "Refer a Redbird" form on the Office of Admissions website.

The page, found at IllinoisState.edu/Admissions/refer, allows individuals to add the name of a prospective student to the Admissions Office's mailing list. Students will then begin receiving com-

munication from Admissions while making their higher education plans.

Director of Admissions Jeff Mavros, M.S. '06, sees this reference page helping the University's recruitment efforts. ISU is a top choice for students, and the University has set record-breaking freshman enrollments in recent years. The 2018 freshman class totals 3,689.

Looking ahead, however, recruitment challenges will escalate because the pool of eligible incoming freshmen will be shrinking. Alumni recommending students can help combat the problem of outmigration. Nearly half of all Illinois high school graduates leave the state to pursue their degree.

The key to changing this pattern is to capture the attention of high school graduates as they are being pursued by schools across the country. One of the best ways to do that is by rallying alumni to share their Redbird story and gain their help in connecting high school or transfer students to the University.

"We have to get on the radar of prospective students. That is the biggest issue, finding a way for students to at least give Illinois State consideration," Mavros said. He is confident students will be impressed by what they learn about life as a Redbird, which will expand the pool of those who apply.

40s

Phyllis (Rust) Perry '49 is enjoying retirement after teaching health and physical education for 25 years; resides with her husband, Mario, in Herkimer, New York.

60s

Donald Metz '60 is retired; worked nearly 35 years with Kmart; resides with his wife, Sharon, in Northville, Michigan.

Ronald Williams '60 is retiring from his pediatric practice; resides with his wife, Margaret, in Wickensburg, Arizona.

Susan (Olson) Wakefield '62 is retired from teaching elementary school in Illinois; has joined an independent living community in Iowa City, Iowa.

Karen (Hordesky) Malone '65 is retired after more than 20 years of teaching at Lincoln-Way High School District 210; resides in New Lenox.

Thomas Grites '66, M.S. '67, is an assistant provost at Stockton University; resides in Absecon, New Jersey.

Robert Walling '67, M.S. '70, has been inducted into the Sun City Grand Music Club Hall of Fame; resides with his wife, Susan, in Surprise, Arizona.

Judy (Korshak) Samuels '69, retired from teaching; resides with her husband, Richard, in Evanston.

Mary (Kearney) Weakley '69 retired from the University of Michigan, where she was an assistant to the chair in the Department of Internal Medicine; resides with her husband, William, in Ann Arbor, Michigan.

70s

Joseph Kerke '72 is retired from teaching high school chemistry in the Chicago Public Schools; he and his wife, Hattie, are licensed foster parents; completed a Franciscan Pilgrimage to the Holy Land and Jordan, renewing their marriage vows in Galilee; reside in Mokena.

Jim Antos '73, M.S. '76, has retired as principal of Brother Rice High School after nearly 21 years; spent 39 years total at the school after teaching at Queen of Peace High School; resides with his wife, **Mary (Hawrisch) '74**, in Oak Lawn.

Mary Carole-Halicki '73 is the director of marketing and promotions with Great River Entertainment; resides in Burlington, Iowa.

Kathy (Reed) Cazin '73 enjoyed a career in accounting, working on a naval base, with a city library system, and establishing her own accounting firm; resides with her husband, Robert, in San Diego, California.

William "Jay" Grove '73 retired after 25 years as senior field service tech for Spray Dynamics; resides in O'Fallon, Missouri.

John Hoover '73 was inducted into ISU's College of Education Hall of Fame this year; is an associate research professor at the University of Colorado in Boulder, where he resides.

Jan (Janulis) Look '73 retired from high school teaching; teaches English at Joliet Junior College; supervises ISU student teachers; Frankfort library trustee; mom to three children, two are ISU alums; resides with her husband, Jim, in Frankfort.

Nancy Anderson '75, M.S. '76, retired from Advocate BroMenn as a speech pathologist who worked nearly 37 years; resides with her husband, Martin, in Normal.

Betty Baznik '75 retired from Princeton Elementary Schools as a special education teacher; continues substitute teaching; resides in Peru.

Pam (Albertson) Cass '75 is a psychotherapist with Shorehaven Behavioral Health; resides in Burlington, Wisconsin.

Pam (Sutter) Collman '75 is a field interviewer and coach with LHK Partners and the American Institute of Consumer Studies; resides with her husband, William, in Bethalto.

Alfreda (Keith) Keller '75 retired after 30 years as a Cook County

Pause for applause



Music maker

Kankakee native and violist **Andrew Francois '11** has been studying music since he was 10. Francois' hard work over the years paid off when he was chosen as a violist for the LA Philharmonic Resident Fellows program. At Illinois State, Francois was a private instructor and teaching assistant for the String Project in the School of Music. He went on to play with

the New World Symphony as a Viola Fellow. Francois' recent fellowship with the LA Philharmonic gives him the opportunity to join the world's best musicians.



From farm to fame

William Graff '81 has had two presidential appointments as the USDA/FSA Illinois Executive Director. The first was in 2001 with President George W. Bush. As of 2017, he held the position for President Donald Trump's administration. Graff resides on his Illinois grain and livestock farm in Middletown. He uses his appointment to represent the impor-

tance of American agriculture, while working to meet consumer needs for safe and healthy foods. Having served on multiple boards—the Illinois Beef Association, Illinois Pork Producers, Illinois Corn Growers, and more—Graff has the knowledge needed to fulfill his executive duties.



Breaking barriers

Throughout her career as an athletic trainer and professor, **Rene (Revis) Shingles, M.S. '86**, has become a national expert on diversity and inclusion in the profession. It is fitting that she made history by becoming the first African American woman inducted into the National Athletic Trainers' Association Hall of Fame. She joined her mentor from ISU in

receiving the honor, as retired head athletic trainer Kathy Schniedwind is also a member. Shingles is the program director and internship coordinator for Central Michigan University's rehabilitation and medical sciences program. More than 650 students have graduated under her guidance.



A demonic win

Justin LaReau '00 built on his economics degree by completing a master's in producing film and television. Now in Los Angeles, he emerged on the film scene with release of *A Demon Within*, a horror movie he codirected. The movie was such a success that it was acquired by Blue Fox Entertainment and Level

33 Entertainment. LaReau created the film through Zoe and Pebbles Productions. He fills the roles of producer, director, and writer.

How we met

Pam Franco '68 was a freshman when her roommate, Linda Ohmart '68, worked at convincing her to go to yet another Friday night campus mixer at the student union. "I wasn't all that excited," Pam recalled of the offer that came in November of 1964.

And yet, Pam eventually agreed to tag along. The main purpose was for Pam to meet Linda's boyfriend at the time, Mike Moore '68. Mike just happened to bring along his own roommate, a shy fellow named Jerry McGreal '68.

"He asked me to dance, and we've been together ever since," Pam said, remembering the serendipitous meeting between the two. They became an instant couple, going on to build a solid relationship during four years of dating while at Illinois State.

Pam majored in physical education and dance, with Jerry studying business education. Both remember their Redbird years as an exciting time for reasons beyond their romance. Jerry was part of the outstanding basketball program that helped bring national attention to ISU Athletics. Pam found her passion in the impressive Orchestral Dance Troupe, and as part of the nationally recognized physical education program.

Not many days after graduation, the couple married on June 1, 1968. They celebrated the 50th anniversary of their wedding earlier this year. As newlyweds, the two launched into their professions quickly following commencement. Pam began a teaching career that spanned nearly 25 years. Jerry obtained a law degree at the University of Miami, and has practiced as a lawyer in Florida since 1980.

The couple have two adult children, Amy and David, as well as five grandchildren. Pam and Jerry have chosen Melbourne, Florida, as their home, but their hearts remain true to Illinois State University.

"We have lived in Florida since 1980, but when anyone asks where we are from, the answer is always Illinois," said Pam, adding that they are quick to promote the University. "We have always considered our days at Illinois State many of the happiest days of our lives."



juvenile probation officer; worked as substitute teacher for 11 years; works security for Bloom Township; a certified Illinois conceal carry instructor; regional coordinator of Guns Save Life organization; human relations commissioner and afterschool coordinator; resides in Park Forest.

Maureen (Beningo) Roach '75, M.S. '04, has worked 35 years at ISU's Career Center, where she is the senior assistant director for programming and events; resides with her husband, Neal, in Downs.

Howard Rubin '75 is retired after a career of teaching high school social studies and coaching gymnastics; inducted into the Illinois High School Gymnastics Coaches Association Hall of Fame; continues to coach as a volunteer; resides with his wife, Cheri, in Arlington Heights.

Henry Fagen, Ed.D. '76, is retired as adjunct professor of art at the University of South Carolina Upstate; resides in Spartanburg, South Carolina.

David Henschel '76 is a senior level casualty claims adjuster with Crawford and Company; resides in Crown Point, Indiana.

Nancy Trattner '76 is retired from teaching deaf and hard-of-hearing children for 35 years; resides in Sandpoint, Idaho.

Donetta (Poulliard) Braner '77 is a placement clearance specialist with the Illinois Department of Child and Family Services; resides in Springfield.

Richard Enkoji '77 retired as an office mathematician with the U.S. Naval Oceanographic Office; resides in Picayune, Mississippi.

Sue (Hanson) Tobolski '77 is an instructor with Cloud County Community College; resides in Manhattan, Kansas.

Phyllis Chapman '78 is a criminal records analyst with Career Building Employment Screening; completed a master's degree at National-Louis University; resides in Carol Stream.

Nancy Koets '78, M.S. '93, is a psychologist at Wright Patterson Air Force Base Medical Center; resides in Kettering, Ohio.

Merry Stover, M.S. '78, is the executive director of The Soup Kitchen Inc.; resides in Saint Joseph, Michigan.

Booker Suggs '78 retired in 2017 after more than 30 years as a student affairs administrator in higher education; worked at Eastern Illinois University and University of Illinois-Chicago; resides with his wife, Verne, in Chicago.

Christie (Hobbs) Davis '79 is retired from teaching music in public schools after 31 years; teaches piano and clarinet lessons; active accompanist; resides with her husband, Drew, in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Clema (Williams) Lewis '79 is the executive director of the Women's Coalition of St. Croix; has worked for more than 30 years with crime victims in the U.S. Virgin Islands, where she resides.

Julie (Hammer) Rhoades '79 retired from COUNTRY Financial after 39 years; resides with her husband, Dan, in Normal.

80s

Jan (Hutchinson) Lundeberg '80 is retired from teaching junior high language arts in Schaumburg, where she resides.

Laura (Krass) O'Shea '80 is a guest services ambassador for the Chicago Cubs; resides with her husband, Joseph, in Morton Grove.

Dan Valkema '80 is retired after 36 years as a band director in Illinois; resides with his wife, Janine, in Plainfield.

Linda (Capper) Yingst '80 is administrator of The Antiquarian Society of the Art Institute of Chicago; resides with her husband, James, in Elburn.

Royal DeLegge '81 is the environmental health director of Salt Lake County; is an adjunct professor at

Westminster College; resides with his wife, Susan, in Murray, Utah.

Steven Haywood '82 retired as fire chief from the Ottawa Fire Department after 31 years of service; resides with his wife, Jessica, in Ottawa.

Michael Lowery '82, M.S. '84, is a senior manager over chemistry for Johnson & Johnson Surgical Vision; resides with his wife, Kristin, in Irvine, California.

Mark Garrett '83 retired after a 35-year career in accounting with State Farm Insurance Company; resides with his wife, Cindi, in Fort Myers, Florida.

Gayle McRoberts '83 is retired after serving 18 years as Pana High School principal; taught physical education and coached multiple high school sports; played slow-pitch softball until 53; named NSA World MVP; resides in Taylorville.

Jeff Ricketts '83 retired after working 35 years in information technology and senior leadership positions; resides with his wife, Julie, in St. Charles.

Julie Travers '83 is president of Julie Travers Marketing Services; resides with her husband, Chris, in Elmhurst.

Troy Paraday '84 retired after 32 years in education; served last 13 years as superintendent at Calumet City School District 155; resides with his wife, Sarah, in New Lenox.

Jan Scott, M.M. '84, retired as a music educator in Unit 5 School District; resides in Normal.

Joyce (Kien) Sweeney '84 is an early intervention teacher with Rockdale County Public Schools; widowed and resides in Covington, Georgia.

Mark Thorndyke '84 is a wealth management advisor with Merrill Lynch; named a 2018 Best-in-State Wealth Advisor by Forbes and a Top 1,200 Financial Advisor by Barron's; resides in Barrington.

Erica Brumleve '85 is a specialty account director for GlaxoSmith-Kline Inc.; resides in Austin, Texas.

Scott Hatzler '85 is a commodity trader with True Value Corporation; resides with his wife, Kelly, in Joliet.

Nancy (McMullen) Knapp '85 owns Circa Vintage Gallery in St. Charles; resides with her husband, David, in Carol Stream.

Timothy Loest '85 is a middle school band director for Itasca School District 10; received the 2017 Cloyd Myers Memorial Award for Excellence in Music Education; composer and arranger with The FJH Music Company; his symphonic composition "Cloud Gate" was performed at Millennium Park; resides with his wife, Cindy, in Wheaton.

Maurice Scott '85 is a truancy officer at East St. Louis Senior High School; assistant basketball coach and contributing writer to the *St. Louis American Newspaper*; resides in Belleville.

James Skelton '85 is a risk control consultant vice president with BB&T Insurance Services; resides in Brookhaven, Georgia.

Julianne (Malone) Buck '86 is CEO of the Grundy County Community Foundation; resides with her husband, Ken, in Morris.

Michael Marcheschi '86 is the environmental vice president of Engineered Demolition Inc.; widower residing in Aurora, Colorado.

Samuel Mungo '86 is managing artistic director of opera at Peabody Conservatory of Music at Johns Hopkins University; resides with his wife, Brigitte, in Timonium, Maryland.

Karen (Lumb) Weiss '86, M.S. '89, is the vice president of academic affairs at Southeastern Illinois College; resides with her husband, Scott, in Enfield.

Eva (Heren) Newnam '87 is the assistant director of housing and residence life for business services at Ball State University; resides with her husband, Steve, in Muncie, Indiana.

Debra (Stoll) Smith '87 is the director of financial reporting with Citizens Inc.; resides with her husband, Tim, in Austin, Texas.

Johanna (Parrish) Hoult '88 is a senior clinical research coordinator at Mayo Clinic; resides with her husband, Patrick, in Rochester, Minnesota.

Jeff Peters '88 is the owner of Gateway LED Solutions; resides with his wife, Kristin, in Kirkwood, Missouri.

Jeff Greenwald '89 is retired as superintendent of recreation for the St. Charles Park District; resides in Rogers, Arkansas.

Mick Hall '89 is vice president and general counsel at Bard Optical;

with his wife, Kathy, in Orland Park.

Tom Stoltz '90 lived in Alaska for 20 years; teaches kindergarten at Singapore International School of Bangkok; resides with his wife, Sarinya, and two step-daughters in Thailand.

Michelle (Hermes) August '91 is a professor and department chair at Moraine Valley Community College; resides with her husband, Chris, in Frankfort.

Robert Eckert, M.S. '91, is a neuropsychologist working as an inde-



Unique Redbird victory

Decades after attending ISU, three graduates found each other through the love of tennis. Mary Lou (Kamykowski) Dressel '70 of Lamont; Rhonda (Rohrsen) Wasinger '74 of St. Charles; and Lois (Harris) Harris '69 of Plano are all members of the Oak Lawn Park District tennis program. They joined with seven other women to win the United States Tennis Association's 2017 national championship for age 65 and over. Dressel, the team captain, is shown fifth from left. Wasinger and Harris are seventh and eighth from left, respectively.

former ISU adjunct and mock trial coach; resides in Dunlap.

Keith Kimball '89 has been with the Bettendorf Police Department for more than 28 years; has held ranks of sergeant, lieutenant and captain; is now police chief; resides with his wife in Bettendorf, Iowa.

90s

Joe Cavalier '90 is a cook county intensive probation officer; resides

pendent consultant; resides in East Taunton, Massachusetts.

Regina (Mee) Nottke '91 completed a doctorate in educational leadership and superintendency from University of St. Francis in 2017; assistant superintendent of student services for Park Forest-Chicago Heights School District 163; resides with her husband, William, in Flossmoor.

Jennifer Rydwelski '91 is the chief human resources officer and partner in RMB Capital, a Chicago-

Redbird legacy

A photo taken during the Christmas season of 1962 has special meaning to Mary (Asplund) Orton. She is pictured in it at age 9 with her parents, two sisters, and older brother Roy. The female siblings are wearing Illinois State sweatshirts that were gifts from Roy, who at the time was a freshman.

Beyond the nostalgia of a childhood holiday memory, the photo represents the start of a Redbird legacy. Each sibling followed in her brother's footsteps, graduating in three years or less. The four have a combined career total of 138 years in education. Beyond that impressive legacy, another 10 family members are also Illinois State graduates, bringing the total degrees earned to 19.

Roy '65, M.S. '68, was the first to attend. He completed an English degree and a master's in supervision. He married graduate Carol (Clark) '66, M.S. '69, who studied business education. Roy is a retired school superintendent and resides in Woodstock. His daughter, Kathleen (Asplund) Hanke '90, studied middle level teacher education at ISU and is an innovation specialist in Janesville, Wisconsin.

Roy's oldest sister, Lone (Asplund) Hesch '69, majored in business education and is retired from the Rockridge School District. Her husband, Larry '70, chose the same degree and went on to become an elementary school principal. He too is retired. They reside in Taylor Ridge.

Their children are Wendy (Hesch) Custable '98 and Amy (Hesch) Schelker '98, SSP '02. Wendy studied industrial technology education and is the director of applied arts at Adlai Stephenson High School, Lincolnshire. Amy majored in psychology and is the principal of the Center for Math and Science in Rock Island.

Roy's sister Mary '74, M.S. '78, completed both degrees in English and taught at Geneseo High School before retiring. Her husband, Jeffery '76, M.S. '80, with degrees in social science education and history, also retired from the Geneseo School District. Their daughter, Rachel Orton '13 who graduated with a degree in social work, is in the health care field in Eagle, Colorado.

The youngest of Roy's siblings, Joy (Asplund) Dwyer '76, earned an elementary education degree and taught third grade in Geneseo prior to retirement. She and her husband have two sons who are Redbirds. Ross '04 and Todd '09 both graduated with agribusiness degrees. Ross, who farms and owns an excavating company, married Dana (Robinson) '04. Dana is an elementary education major who now teaches in Moline. Todd works for Deere and Company. Geneseo is home to all of the Dwyers.

"Who could have ever guessed the power of three sweatshirts," jests Mary. She, Roy, Lone, and Joy remain loyal Redbirds who still proudly wear ISU attire.



Asplund Redbird family members are, from left to right, Joy (Asplund) Dwyer '76; Mary (Asplund) Orton '74, M.S.'78; lone (Asplund) Hesch '69; and Roy Asplund '65, M.S.'68.

based independent investment and advisory firm; resides in Chicago.

Laura (Patton) Sorenson '91 is chief of network operations for the Illinois Department of Innovation and Technology; resides with her husband, Scott, in Sherman.

Craig Berry '92 recruits for Governors State University; resides in Frankfort.

Todd Fessler '92 is an equity partner with Milliman; chief marketing officer, leading healthcare analytics business for the firm; resides in Medina, Washington.

Brent Hildebrand '92 is vice president of Alpine Waste and Recycling; resides with his wife, Kim, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Tina Johnson '92, M.S. '98, is the corporate social responsibility

manager for Amdocs; resides with her husband, Gordon, in Cham-paign.

Armesha Bell '93 is an assistant vice president of Investment Property Exchange Services; resides in Chicago.

Christopher Bentley '93 completed seminary and a social service administration degree; is associate minister at St. Paul Missionary Baptist Church in Englewood; helps prisoners transition after release through the Salvation Army Pathway Forward Center; resides with his wife, Michelle, in Chicago.

Deana Corbin '93 is the executive director of the Animal Protective League; resides with her husband, Todd, in Petersburg.

Lora (Rawlins) Dour '93 is the deputy chief benefits officer with the Teachers' Retirement System; resides with her husband, Brian, in Virginia.

Susie (Rippel) Palmer '93 is a sales account manager with Sony Pictures Entertainment; is completing an MBA at the W.P. Carey School of Business; resides with her husband, Doug, in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Bob Trujillo '93 is a trust fund administrator with UTU-MTA Trust Fund; resides in North Riverside.

Celestia (Mann) Kenerley '94 is community health coordinator at Summerville Family YMCA; resides in Summerville, South Carolina.

Amy Kunz '94 is completing a doctorate in educational leadership at Western Illinois University; initiated into the collegiate honor society Phi Kappa Phi; works with the Illinois Education Association as a UniServ director; resides in Island Lake.

Radena Lemmon '94 is a junior high school principal with Wood River-Hartford School District 15; resides with her husband, Mitch, in Edwardsville.

Leeann (Parker) Fischer '95 is a library aide with Arlington Heights School District 25; resides with her husband, Brian, in Arlington Heights.

Shyla (Domaracki) Jannusch '95 is the social media manager for In Chicago Sedan and Limousine; resides in Algonquin.

Nathan Kinzinger '95 is a wealth management advisor in the Chicago Loop; resides with his wife, Gina, and four children in Inverness.

Todd Macumber '95 is president and CEO of Risk Services Division for HUB International, an insurance brokerage firm; president of Specialty Practices; resides with his wife, Amy, in Arlington Heights.

Jennifer (Fissel) Rexroat '95 is a scholarship coordinator in ISU's Financial Aid Office; she and her husband, Dennis, married in 2017 and reside in Normal.

Susan (Holbach) Sweeney '95 is an IT application analyst at Northwest Community Hospital; resides with her husband, Gregg, in Lake Zurich.

Laurie Anderson-Stepanek '96 is a partner at Katsivalis and Anderson law firm; practices immigration law, serving clients internationally; resides with her husband, James, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Robert Barnett '96 is a systems analyst with Caterpillar Inc.;

resides with his wife, Melissa, in East Peoria.

Brian Farber '96, M.S. '98, is the executive assistant to the associate vice chancellor at the University of Illinois-Champaign; resides with his wife, Charity, in Saint Joseph.

Joe Lewis Jr. '96 is a supervisor of recreation with the Chicago Park District; resides in Chicago.

Heather (Powell) Savory '96 is a senior interior designer with Architextures LLC; resides in St. Charles, Missouri.

Kathy (Kautz) Dahlgren '97 teaches English language arts at Lincoln Middle School in Mount Prospect School District 57; resides with her husband, Clifton, in Arlington Heights.

Jason Kuhl '97 is director and CEO of the Saint Charles City-County Library; resides with his wife, Laura, in Saint Charles.

Diane (Turgeon) Regalbuto, M.S. '97, is a background investigator for SCIS, supporting the Office of Personnel Management in the metro region of Washington, D.C.; resides with her husband, Anthony, in Chantilly, Virginia.

Daniel Richter '97, M.S. '99, is a principal scientist with Pfizer Inc.; resides in San Diego, California.

Kathy Johnson '98 is Youth Workforce Program supervisor for Maricopa County; helps youth with educational and career goals; more than 10 years of experience in human services; resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Dawn Schroeder '98 is a senior director of product engineering for Ruffalo Noel Levitz Sr.; resides in Bartlett.

Erica Smolinski '98 is principal of Culver Elementary School in Niles; resides in Naperville.

Broderick Williamson '98 is a human resource specialist with the University of Illinois; resides with his wife, Georgia, in Champaign.

John Carter '99 is president and CEO of Jack Lewis Fine Jewelry; named president-elect of the American Gem Society in 2017; past president of Alpha Tau Omega; resides in Bloomington.

Genevieve Kaplan '99 is the director of education at the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum; resides in Springfield.

Daniel Plante, M.S. '99, is the audiology supervisor of the VA Medical Center; resides in Andover, Massachusetts.

Lynne (Zimmerman) Toevs '99 has been teaching special education for 25 years; works in East Peoria District 86; resides with her husband, Tom, in Mackinaw.

resides with her husband, Craig, in Davis Junction.

Nichole (Fisher) Pugh '00 is in her 17th year of teaching music at Richey Elementary School; she and her husband, Doug, were married in July of 2017; resides in Port Richey, Florida.

Bradley Anderson '01 is a general manager of the Sandwich Fair Association Inc.; resides with his wife, Claire, in Leland.

Courtney (Russell) DeJesso '01 is a neonatologist physician with King's Daughters Medical Center; resides with her husband, Michael, in Flatwoods, Kentucky.

Michelle (Jessen) Lysy '01 is a senior analyst with CVS Health; resides in Palatine.

Steven Peter '01 is head of the physical education department at the Science and Arts Academy; founded Accafellaz at ISU; resides with his wife, Ashley, in Schaumburg.

Jason Schlenz '01 is a senior project scheduler with Big-D Construction; resides with his wife, Angie, in South Jordan, Utah.

Amy Schrage '01 is a senior director of communications at Aurora University; resides in Antioch.

Brian Weidner '01 completed a doctorate in music education at Northwestern University; assistant professor of music education at Butler University; resides with his wife, Rebecca, in Brownsburg, Indiana.

Stephen Perion '02 is a math teacher and coach at Joliet Central High School; resides with his wife, Amanda, in New Lenox.

Katherine (Walters) Rader '02 is a customer advocate for Software Solutions Integrated LLC; resides with her husband, Trent, in Danvers.

Jessica (Manier) Avila, M.S. '03, is a senior operations control analyst with U.S. Cellular; resides with her husband, Juan, in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Amanda (Penning) Hidden '03 is an admissions representative with Illinois Central College; resides



Collegiate camaraderie

There is a strong Redbird presence at Madison Elementary School in Lombard. Alumni proudly shared their ISU connection with students before the academic year ended in the spring. The teachers and staff include, *front row, from left*, Joanne (Raucci) Oberg '01, M.S. '03; Ryan Kuehne '07; Tony Melton '93; and Allison (Ellena) Quirke '02. *Back row, from left*, are Kim Lally '91, Diana DeAnda '14, Christy (Kral) Grossmann '10, Michelle (LeDuc) Miksanek '88, Michelle (Materazzo) Frankenbach '07, Michelle (Wernert) Mattson '06, and Christina Carreno '15.

00s

Heather Colombatto '00 is an art teacher and fine arts department chair at Bolingbrook High School; resides in Naperville.

Gina (Pehlke) Fleming '00, '02, teaches music, band, and art at St. Mary Nativity Catholic School and Holy Family Catholic School; resides with her husband, J.J., in Minooka.

Beth (Nafziger) Kleinschmidt '00 has taught high school math for 16 years; is the K-8 instructional math coach for Meridian CUSD 223;

with her husband, Donnie, in Pekin.

Jennifer (Dreyer) Jones '03, M.S. '05, is the associate registrar at Columbia College Chicago; resides with her husband, James, in Oak Park.

Choong Kim '03 is an accounting manager with DB Insurance Company's U.S. branch; resides in Irvine, California.

William Winters '03 is the fine arts coordinator and band director for Blackhawk Middle School; resides with his wife, Heather, in Darien.

Carolyn (May) Anderson '04 is the annual giving and alumni relations manager at Joliet Junior College; resides with her husband, Brian, in Shorewood.

Danielle (Corgliano) Heyrman '04 completed a master's degree at Northern Illinois University; works as a biochemist at Adello Biologics; resides in Chicago.

Natalie Kussart, M.A. '04, is an attorney and shareholder with Sandbert Phoenix; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jennifer Parker '04 has completed a residency in radiation oncology at Northwestern Memorial Hospital; resides in Boston, Massachusetts.

Dorothy Such '04 is a vendor contracts specialist with Medline; resides in Vernon Hills.

Erin (Molck) Zimmerman '04 is a library technical assistant at Heartland Community College; resides with her husband, Travis, in Normal.

Stephen Arbogast '05 is a project specialist with Caterpillar Inc.; resides in Washington.

Robert Bade '05 completed a master's degree in dairy science management at the University of Wisconsin-Madison; owns and operates a dairy farm; he and his wife, **Elizabeth (Woolsey) '07**, are parents of twin daughters; reside in Monroe, Wisconsin.

Anne (Larmon) Ringrose '05 and her husband, Thomas, are parents to a son and daughter; Samantha



Connected and caring

It's been three decades since four ladies found each other as Illinois State students. Their friendship has endured the test of time, with an "ISU Girls' Night" scheduled monthly since they graduated in the 1980s. All live in the Chicago suburbs. They connect for Cubs' games, concerts, and conversation about their adult children, jobs and future retirement plans. This summer they worked at a Feed My Starving Children event, helping to prepare more than 10,000 packaged meals for shipment around the world. They are, *from left*, Pam (Schell) Boland '86, Laura (Shehee) Hester '85, Ellen (Santiago) Williams '85, and Dawn (Bacino) Pope '85.

was born in January 2018; reside in Aurora.

Daniel Scheirer '05 is a senior client executive with Verizon; resides with his wife, Alexis, in Woodridge.

Naushad Shakir '05 is a senior quality control analyst with Group 1 Automotive; resides in Richmond, Texas.

Danielle Tomevi '05 is an obstetrician/gynecologist practicing in Southern Illinois; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Carbondale.

Leslie Banas '06 is a physical education teacher with Komarek School District 94; resides in Des Plaines.

Molly Nixon '06 is the choir director and tech assistant at Epiphany School in Normal, where she resides.

Michael Slefinger '06 is a writers' assistant at Warner Brothers; resides in Los Angeles, California.

Elizabeth (Rauter) Witt '06 teaches fourth grade at the Immaculate Conception Grade School; resides with her husband, Robert, in Lisle.

Rachel Young '06, '08, is a pathology physician assistant at Northwest Indiana Pathology Consultants; resides in Highland, Indiana.

Katherine (Floeter) Bush '07 teaches music at Woodland Elementary West; resides with her husband, Kyle, in Mundelein.

Joseph Izral '07 is a financial analyst at Applied Systems Inc.; resides with his wife, Emily, in Annawan.

William Merchantz '07, M.S. '10, is a manufacturing and welding teacher at Homewood-Flossmoor High School; resides in Lockport.

Ashley (Nelson) Charabowski '08 is a histotechnician at Vanderbilt University Medical Center; resides in Mount Juliet, Tennessee.

Kathryn Decker '08 is the confidential intermediary program coordinator with Midwest Adoption Center; resides in Chicago.

Daniel Finn, M.S. '08, is a lecturer in the sociology department of the University of Massachusetts; resides with his wife, Heather, in Acton, Massachusetts.

Rosanna Fugate '08 is a leadership development program associate with Tesla; resides in Oakland, California.

Mike Graszler '08 is an operations manager for Walmart Inc.; resides in Chicago.

Elyse Heinrich '08 is a specialist in deaf/blind services working for the Center for Deaf/Blind Persons; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Sherilyn (Miller) Imhoff '08 is a special education teacher with Lowpoint-Washburn High School; resides with her husband, Christopher, in Metamora.

Steven Negrete '08, '10, is head of the high school social sciences department at the International School of Panama; resides with his wife in Panama.

Matthew Norton '08, M.S. '11, is a physics laboratory technician at Purdue University Northwest; resides with his wife, Angela, in Merrillville, Indiana.

Fania Bourn '09 is pursuing an acting career; resides in Chicago.

Melissa (Kelley) Bradley '09 is a senior finance assistant at State Farm Insurance Company; resides with her husband, David, in Normal.

Megan (Towner) Crowhurst, M.S. '09, is a literacy specialist at Richland Community College; resides in Monticello.

Stephanie (Sherman) McNeese '09 is a regulatory compliance paralegal with Walgreen Company; resides with her husband, Nathan, in Westville.

Jessica (Brenner) Rizza '09 is a development coordinator for McHenry County College; resides with her husband, John, in Woodstock.

Christen Spiewak '09 is a TEFL volunteer with Peace Corps in Nicaragua.

Emily Watson '09 is the director of marketing and public relations with the Greater Peoria Mass Transit District; resides in Lacon.

10s

Tim Baldwin '10 is a counselor at Grand Canyon University; resides in Peoria, Arizona.

Jenna Gagliano '10 is the front of the house manager at Paramount Theatre; she and her husband, John, are parents of a son and reside in Montgomery.

Rebecca (Gilbert) Gonzalez '10 teaches middle school in Hillside School District; she and her husband, Alexander, are parents to a daughter; Addison Faye was born in October; family resides in Hillside.

Laure Beth "LB" (Nagle) Lyons, M.S. '10, is the director of alumni relations at Grand View University; resides with her husband, **Matt, M.S. '10**, in West Des Moines, Iowa.

Christine (Schneider) Moore '10 is a music specialist with Aurora East District 131; resides with her husband, David, in Montgomery.

Tricia Thompson '10 is a trainer with the Federal Government U.S. Navy/Child Development Center; resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Robert Baker, M.P.A. '11, is the lead internal auditor for the city and county of Denver; resides in Lakewood, Colorado.

Hannah Boehm '11 is the recreation center director for the City of San Diego in California, where she resides.

Jenna (Carlson) Dietmeier, M.A. '11, is a review and compliance archaeologist with South Dakota State Historic Preservation Office; resides with her husband, Joe, in Pierre, South Dakota.

Emily (Sehlke) Kasper '11 is a music teacher in Homewood School District 153; resides with her husband, John, in Bolingbrook.

Ryan Lindberg '11 teaches high school chemistry at Niles North High School; coaches football and wrestling there; is completing a master's in curriculum and instruction; his wife, **Melissa (Herman) '12** is a commodity manager at Allstate Insurance; couple resides in Gurnee.

Melissa (Easton) Anderson '12 is an electrical design engineer with Vactor Manufacturing; resides in Ottawa.

Kyle Brooks '12 is a bio-analyst doing pharma and toxicological studies at CMIC; resides in Rolling Meadows.

Jeremy Butler, M.S. '12, is an officer with ISU's police department; resides with his wife, Nelicia, in Bloomington.

Rich Eckert, M.S. '12, is a vice president at Beardstown Savings Bank; resides with his wife, **Ashley (Kuhlmann) '06** in Beardstown.

Kelsi Grubisich '12 is the civic engagement and leadership coordinator at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse, where she resides.

Lauren Kneip '12 is the director of laboratory animal care and a lab instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University; resides in Pontiac.

Jeremy Lane '12 is a freelance production electrician in New York; works long-running Broadway shows and new productions; resides in New York, New York.

Jessie McKinley '12 is a registered nurse with OSF St. Luke Medical Center; resides with her husband, Matthew, in Geneseo.

Taylor Rapps '12 is a flight attendant with American Airlines; resides in Springfield.

Shane Turpen '12, M.A. '17, is the assistant principal for Rocky Mountain Preparatory Schools in Denver, where he resides.

Rachael (Jones) Welker '12 farms with her family; works as a substitute teacher; county fair office administrator; resides with her husband, Joshua, in Lincoln.

Kelsey Arnold '13 is the assistant operations merchandising manager for American Girl; resides in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Brie Bolander '13 is a speech language pathologist with HealthReach Rehabilitation Services Inc.; resides in Greenfield, Wisconsin.

Courtney Boyd, M.S. '13, is a speech language pathologist in McLean

County Unit 5; resides with her husband, Zack, in Bloomington.

Diana (Logisz) Cummings '13 is an operating nurse at Northwestern Memorial Hospital; resides with her husband, Patrick, in Chicago.

Casey Hoag '13 is the deputy clerk of the 4th Judicial District Appellate Court in the State of Illinois; resides with his wife, Meghan, in Elkhart.

Jacob Lambert '13 is a business analyst with Walgreens; resides with his wife, Jenelle, in Beach Park.

Rhiannon (Steffen) Law, M.S. '13, is completing a doctorate in psychology at Indiana University; resides with her husband, Adam, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Julia Luchtenburg '13 is a law enforcement park ranger with the National Park Service at Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the San Francisco Bay area; resides in Sausalito, California.

Derek Mason '13 is a state trooper with the Missouri State Highway Patrol; resides with his wife, Michelle, in Old Monroe, Missouri.

Kylie Merth '13 is an associate accountant with Jones Lang LaSalle Inc.; resides in Fox River Grove.

Katie (Stuercke) Pisello '13 is a special education teacher of grades K-3 at Pennoyer School; working to complete National Board Certification; resides with her husband, Peter, in Elmwood Park.

Trevor Snyders '13 works in new business development with the Chicago White Sox; resides in Chicago.

Kelsey Thornton '13 is a registered dietitian with Volunteers of America; resides in Westminster, Colorado.

Shannon Weick '13 is a veterinary research specialist with the University of Illinois; works in the veterinary diagnostic laboratory; resides in Savoy.

Matthew Barabasz '14 is completing a master's degree in the Illinois Principal Preparation Program at Concordia University; resides in Park Ridge.

Jenna Bossle '14 is a physical therapist with STAR Physical Therapy; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Jenna Kalkwarf '14 works in alumni relations at Washington University; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Juliann Kelly '14 is the communications director with the American Heart Association-American Stroke Association; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Michelle Maslanka '14 is an award-winning video producer at the production company Motion Source; resides in Chicago.

Lisa Papeck '14 teaches fifth grade with CUSD 300; resides in West Dundee.

Andrew Seketa '14 is a special education teacher in Community High School 117; resides in Greendale, Wisconsin.

Ashley Brehmer '15 worked in emergency management and business-to-business sales; models with BMG Models; resides in Chicago.

Paul Bristow '15 is a sales manager with Hyatt Regency Milwaukee/Interstate Hotels and Resorts; resides in Shorewood, Wisconsin.

Karl Cardenas '15, MBA '17, is a software developer with State Farm Insurance Company; resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Kaitlyn Elsen '15 is an events administrative assistant at the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Abrecia Haillasselise-Mankelklote '15 is an admissions coordinator at Pacific College of Oriental Medicine; resides with her husband, Shimles, in Chicago.

Jennifer Jones '15 is a music teacher in Oglesby Public School District; resides in Plano.

John Kennedy '15 is a licensed securities representative; resides with his wife, Erika, in Mahomet.

Kaylee Krapfl '15 is a child care aware coach and specialist; works for Washington Educational Service District 112; resides in Vancouver, Washington.

Meg Marlin '15 is a master's student in middle-level education at Lewis University; resides in Joliet.

Alex O'Brien '15 is completing a doctor of nursing practice degree in psychiatric mental health; is a registered nurse at Carle Foundation Hospital, working on the neurology-neurosurgery unit; resides in Normal.

Katie Ruben '15, M.S. '17, is a business intelligence analyst with Derick Dermatology; resides in Woodstock.

Aubrie (Schatz) Schramer '15 works in office management at Kenneth Allen Company; resides with her husband, Michael, in Elburn.

Courtney Schuchmann '15 is a registered dietitian at University of Chicago Medicine; resides in Roselle.

Jessica Smith '15 is an editorial assistant with Sourcebooks; resides in Lisle.

Preeti Tripathi, M.S. '15, is a software engineer with Sunwest Mortgage Company; resides in Artesia, California.

Brittney (Henson) Vietti, M.S. '15, and her husband, Kyle, are parents of Wrigley Jo, born December 2017; family resides in Bloomington.

Sarah Wilhelms '15 is an elementary school reading interventionist; resides in Freeport.

Laura Ball '16 is a senior associate with Discover Financial Services; resides in Palatine.

Amanda Burdick '16 completed a master's in speech-language pathology at Purdue University; is an elementary school speech-language pathologist with Franklin Park School District 84; resides in Chicago.

Ecaterina Dancenco, M.S. '16, is a commercial trainee with Philip Morris in Germany.

Abigail Dreher '16 is studying at the University of Colorado in Boulder; performed and presented at the AVS Festival in Los Angeles and attended Aspen Music Festival; resides in Boulder, Colorado.

Nate Hoerger '16 is a project manager with AEI Consultants; resides in Oak Forest.

Kara Jeffers '16 is an assistant director at Little Jewels Learning Center; resides in Farmer City.

Brigitte Klein '16 is a medical staff coordinator with Katherine Shaw Bethea Hospital; resides in Earlville.

Hardika Muni, M.S. '16, is an assistant director-research data analyst with Moody's Analytics; resides in Omaha, Nebraska.

Collin Snyder '16 is a data onboarding supervisor with Wilber and Associates; resides in Normal.

Bridget Tamme '16 is a sales representative with MillerCoors; resides in Costa Mesa, California.

Molly Tesdall '16 is a human resource business partner at Amazon; resides in Bloomington.

Danielle Williams '16 is the coordinator of alumni and scholarships at Carl Sandburg College; resides in Kewanee.

Brigid Ackerman '17 works at Princeton University Press as a digital production assistant; resides in Princeton, New Jersey.

Breana Brown '17 is an admissions counselor at Lincoln College; resides in Bloomington.

Andrea Casali '17 is a communications specialist with Illinois Farm Bureau; resides in Normal.

Kathryn Ferdon, M.S. '17, is a mental health consultant with Heartland Head Start; resides in Normal.



Unbroken bond

As former student-athletes, the Redbird flag was a part of every competition for three ladies who came to be known on campus as the "G-Girls." The name came from the fact they lived together at 709 Dale, Apartment G. They displayed the flag again during a reunion earlier this year. Cindy Harris '84, left, was on the volleyball team and works as an ISU senior associate athletic director. Ellen McWilliams-Wood '84, center, played softball and is an associate superintendent of schools in Kent, Ohio. Lisa Lindesmith '83, right, was on the soccer team and hosted the reunion. A veterinarian, she owns All Paws Animal Clinic in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Haley Garrison '17 is a special education teacher with the Decatur Public Schools; resides in Decatur.

Jasmine Gaston '17 is a residential youth counselor with Cunningham Children's Home; resides in Savoy.

Samantha Ginzburg '17 is a registered nurse at Advocate BroMenn; resides in Bloomington.

Liam Hooper '17 is the season ticket services representative for the Chicago Fire Soccer Club; resides in St. Charles.

Luke Kassmeyer, M.S. '17, is a development officer in annual giving for the Louisiana State University Tigers Athletic Foundation; resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Gina Maioriello '17 is an applications laboratory technician with Synergy Flavors; resides in Wauconda.

Jack McPartlin '17 is government specialist account executive for Konica Minolta Business Solutions; resides in Orland Park.

William O'Brien '17 handles game and event setup for the Chicago Cubs following an internship

there while at ISU; resides in East Moline.

Victor Osuyak '17 founded and is CEO of the web design company Unproto; resides in Temple Terrace, Florida.

Adam Reborá '17 is a project manager with LAZ Parking; joined with four ISU alums to create the improv group Part Dog; resides in Chicago.

Sheryl Solomon '17 is a legal assistant with Daniel P. Costello and Associates LLC; resides in Naperville.

John Stanko '17 is a pay-per-click marketing specialist at JumpFly Inc.; resides in Bartlett.

Jonathan Buettner '18 is an assistant grower with Midwest Groundcovers; resides in Naperville.

Kathy Creed '18 is a family and consumer sciences teacher at Centennial High School; resides in Valparaiso, Indiana.

Brianna Durkin '18 is completing a master's degree in museum studies at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis; resides in Naperville.



REGGIE READS

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

Marissa Gryska '18 is a credit analyst with Heartland Bank and Trust Company; resides in Carol Stream.

Lauren Huff '18 is a teacher therapist with The Baby Fold; resides in Bloomington.

Daniel Jackson '18 teaches at Dixon Elementary, which is part of the Chicago Public Schools; resides in Chicago.

Taylor Knowles '18 is a music teacher at Marquette School of Excellence; resides in Rantoul.

Amanda Lambie, Ph.D. '18, is a director of ambulatory clinical education with OSF Healthcare; resides with her husband, Scott, in Bartonville.

Abigail Lowman '18 is a certified athletic trainer; resides in Pekin.

Devin Ringel '18 is a business solutions analyst with Archer Daniels Midland; resides in Decatur.

Sarah Wortman '18 is a registered nurse working in medical-surgical at Memorial Medical Center; resides in Effingham.

Troops

Sherry (Sikkema) Beckhart '67 is a retired naval officer; resides with her husband, Richard, in Bonita, California.

Bill Farrell '81, M.S. '82, is an analyst with the United States Air Force; resides with his wife, Rhonda, in Swansea.

Lt. Patrick Hill '04 is director of the U.S. Navy Band for the Great Lakes region in North Chicago; resides with his wife, Jeana, in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Janice E. (Frese) Brown '72, M.S. '80; Metcalf Elementary School; 6/18

Audrey J. Grupe '51, Psychology; 5/18

Richard L. Newby, English; 4/18

Jack Razor, College of Applied Science and Technology; 5/18

Naomi W. Towner, Art; 5/18

40s

Fayette (Samuel) Isaac '41; 5/18

Kathleen M. (Schmoll) Kelly '42; 6/18

Betty (Banker) Stephens '42; 5/18

Robert P. Campbell '43; 5/18

Mildred M. (Kirkpatrick) Berry '48; 5/18

Jean (Farrar) Munn '49, '82; 3/18

50s

Norma A. (Headley) Showers '50; 7/17

Dorothy J. (Hauschild) Weaks '50; 5/18

Grace E. (Larson) Blotch '51; 5/18

John W. Henderson '51, M.S. '54; 6/18

Maureen M. (Engel) Kennedy '52; 4/18

Elizabeth M. (Dye) Leshner-Boardman '52; 6/18

Alfred J. Price, M.S. '52; 5/18

Glenn O. Fuller '53; 4/18

Bebe C. (Bukant) Anderson '54; 4/18

Doris D. (Frampton) Kelley '54; 5/18

Sallie M. (Hathaway) Westfall '54; 5/18

Larry Davis '55, M.S. '64; 5/18

Jerome E. Kaufmann '55, M.S. '58; 5/18

Elizabeth J. (Phillips) Halsey '56; 4/18

Mary L. (Glover) Harris '56; 8/17

Roger C. King '56, M.S. '61; 6/18

Edward F. Rittenhouse, '56, M.S. '59; 4/16

Kay (Lindenbaum) Crane '57; 6/18

Georgia A. Stehl '57; 4/18

Karen L. (Suesse) Rittenhouse '58; 9/17

Lora L. (Pearson) Bingham '59; 4/18

Faye E. (Brown) Cozad '59; 11/17

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Thanks to you!

When Professor Emeritus Charles “Charlie” Thompson joined the Department of Biological Sciences in 1978, he wanted to have a lasting impact. Considering Thompson’s 40-year commitment to his work—combined with a generous gift commitment through Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State—he and his wife, Karen, have indeed left an indelible mark on the University.

Throughout his tenure and following his retirement in 2007, Thompson has worked diligently to support students’ research in the field of avian ecology. He established the Avian Ecology Laboratory, which uses the house wren as a model study system to investigate bird behavior, eco-immunology, and evolutionary endocrinology.

Thompson knows firsthand the impact philanthropy has on the ability to develop and sustain research.

“Research in biology does not come cheap. Philanthropy can help keep a research program going,” said Thompson, who has made plans to support what is now the School of Biological Sciences.

He and Karen determined when writing their wills to continue funding research at Illinois State for years to come. The couple included a generous bequest to the Edward L. Mockford and Charles F. Thompson Summer Fellowship Endowment, which provides a stipend

to support M.S. and Ph.D. biology students pursuing their research during the summer months.

“We wanted to set up a research program that would be here long term,” Charlie said. “Karen and I would like to do what we can to help future graduate students pursue their goals after we are no longer here.” The Thompsons are providing opportunities for students to participate in innovative research through their donation to Redbirds Rising. Their bequest places them in Illinois State’s Heritage Society, which recognizes donors who have designated ISU as a beneficiary through a planned or deferred gift commitment. With more than \$85 million in commitments, Heritage Society donors ensure a bright future for Illinois State University.

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