
INTERVIEW WITH STAN SHINGLES, CLASS OF 1982 AND 1988

Emily Deppermann 0:03

This is Emily Deppermann, Illinois State University graduate student, speaking with Illinois State alum Stan Shingles, Class of 1982, on May 19, - it's June 1 - 2022 for the ISU oral history project. So my first question for you, Stan, is why did you choose to go to college?

Stan Shingles 0:23

Well, it actually starts with my family and my oldest brother, Darryl, who came to Illinois State in 1974 as a freshman. He was the first in our family to go to college and elected to go to Illinois State, and of course I would come and visit him and those kinds of things. He's four years older than I am. And then my middle brother Jeffrey, who's a year older than I am, he elected to come as well. But prior to that, my sophomore year, I was enrolled - I'm a native Chicagoan, grew up on the west side of Chicago - and I actually went to the Upward Bound program, which is a TRIO program with an emphasis on first generation, minority and multicultural students with a goal of helping those students to imagine college. So I went to that program, started in my sophomore year, I went my sophomore, my junior year, and so that, you know, obviously became a bit of my destiny of why I would go to college and the importance of going to college, but I think it really started with my oldest brother and seeing the experiences that he was going to have in college and that he did have at Illinois State and so I elected to follow him.

Emily Deppermann 1:53

Sure, and what was your major at ISU?

Stan Shingles 1:57

Well, I started, I'm one of those, I did a bit of a journey as I like to call it, which, you know, I think that's important. When I went to ISU originally I thought I wanted to be a business major and so I decided that I was going to major in business. And I remember my first class, 10 o'clock in [the morning] if I remember correctly, was it Hayden Auditorium? Yeah, Hayden, I believe is the name of the [space] - that's where they used to have the movies that only played on Sunday nights. And I think it's Hayden. And I walked into a class and there were five or six hundred freshmen students in an Econ 100 class. Had never been in a situation like that and thought, "Boy, if this is what college is like, I'm probably not going to be successful."

(02:48) And so as I got through the first year of college I realized this is probably not what I'm destined to do. You know, of course, I took math classes, I took econ classes, and others, and I just realized this is probably not going to be a good place for me. So I started to explore a little bit. One of the things I always loved was sports and I've always had a bit of the gift of gab, I guess, if you will, was an active communicator and I like words and love sports, was very captivated by the sports broadcasters from Chicago, like, you know, Jack Brickhouse and Lloyd Pettit and all of these individuals who would call the various professional sports teams' games in Chicago. So I thought, "Okay, I'm gonna

major in mass communication." And so I changed my major and my sophomore year, I was taking mass communication classes, I really enjoyed it, was having success.

(03:45) But I, at that time, you know, this is now, you know, 1978, '79, and the advent of Monday Night Football, and you started to see a trend where ex-athletes were starting to take the seat, if you will, of sports broadcasters that had been trained to be sports broadcasters. And so as I - you know, you're 18, 19 years old, you're forecasting a little bit, and I'm like, "Well, how am I gonna get a job? I'm not a professional athlete." And I remember being in Linkins Center in Tri-Towers having lunch, or, I'm sorry, having dinner, with my best friend Kevin Kennedy. We went to high school together and to Illinois State together, and one of his friends that was in a class with him came and sat with us and she was talking about if she was a swimmer, okay, she was on the swimming team, and she was talking a little bit about, you know, what she was doing with swimming, and I didn't know her and so I was just asking questions like, "What are you majoring in?" She said, "I'm majoring in recreation and parks administration," and I was like "What's that?" And so she started explaining that and she said she wanted to go back to the park district in her community to be an aquatic director. And so, you know, we talked a little bit and I said "Boy, that sounds interesting."

(05:02) So I went over to McCormick Hall and I walked in and I asked the office professional, the secretary, I said, "Is there anybody that I can talk to about the recreation and parks administration major?" And as I was asking the question a gentleman walked out, was headed to his office, heard me say that and said "Hi!" He walked up to me and said, "My name is Dr. Larry Belknap and would love to talk with you about it." And I walked in his office and, academically, that was my seminal moment at Illinois State. When I walked into Dr. Belknap's office, he told me about the major, the type of classes I would be taking, what I could do professionally, I said, "This is the job and this is the profession that I've been looking for my entire life," not realizing I had been doing many of those things most of my life. So that was that transformational moment where I just really realized, "Wow, this is going to be, this is real." So off I went into the RPA program and did very well academically there and enjoyed my time.

(06:07) So that's kind of the, you know, why did I go to college, and then kind of what happened when I got there, in terms of how those things pieced together. But I, really, first of all, I had a mother who - my mother was a teacher's aide in the Chicago Park, I'm sorry, the Chicago Public Schools, so education was very important in our family. And so when my brother Darryl went to college and my brother Jeffrey, then I was next, then it's - and we all were different majors and different interests, but I'm gonna tell you, that program at Malcolm X, that Upward Bound program, and those, you know - Upward Bound is still alive and well today, and very, very successful in helping young people, especially those that are coming from urban areas, to imagine college as an opportunity. So I really count the Upward Bound program as being a catalyst for me getting into college.

Emily Deppermann 07:02

Sure, that's awesome. So, now that you've told me about your major and how you ended up with college, what did the typical day look like for you as a student at ISU?

Stan Shingles 07:13

Wow, well, as I mentioned, I roomed with my best friend, Kevin Kennedy. We lived in 1167 Wright Hall, on the top of the, well, the top residential floor - the 12th floor is the top floor - and like most freshmen, you're trying to find your way for the first time, you have no parental controls, you're trying to figure out what you should do and what you shouldn't do. And it's really interesting, Kevin and I decided, the first semester at Illinois State, we took all of our

classes together so that motivated us to make sure each other got to class. So a typical day was getting up and going to class. Being a business major, a lot of my classes were in Stevenson, so that was literally walking from one side, you know, from the west side of campus and Tri-Towers all the way over to Stevenson. I also had classes in Schroeder but it was, you know, it was walking across campus. And of course, that was easier in September, October, November than it was in November, December, January, February, March, but, you know, I made it to class and, and it, literally, as soon as classes were over, the first thing that we did, and it was usually after we finished dinner at Linkins Center, we headed out for something activity related.

(08:38) We'd go over to Horton Field House and play pick-up basketball. What's now the women's softball field, soccer field, that used to be called Tri-Towers Field, it was just an open field. So all the guys on my floor were very activity, sports related, so we had intramural teams and we played a bunch of softball together and played a lot of basketball, flag football. And so every day was about activity. And so you did that for a couple of hours, and you came back and you studied some, probably not nearly as much as I should have. And then at that time it was also about finding social experience. Because as a university administrator today I understand that you're trying to find community. You know, at that time, we were just trying to find fun. We didn't call it community but that's what it was, trying to find community. And so that typical day was class, recreational activities, obviously we had our dining facility that we ate in, and then hanging out in our, you know, this the late 70s, so we're playing a lot of music, playing a lot of albums.

(09:49) The very first album that Kevin and I bought together, I remember going down to - I think it was called Mother Murphy's downtown and we went and we bought albums and we bought *Heatwave*, *Too Hot to Handle* and the classic song on there is "Always and Forever," which is, you know, a classic wedding song. I remember we went in, the guy was like, "Yeah, this is the hottest album," so we bought it. But we also bought Lionel Richie and we also bought Parliament and Funkadelic and so music was a major - we had a stereo in our room.

(10:31) What was really interesting during that time living on the 11th floor of Wright, there were only five Black students on that floor. My best friend Kevin and I, and our good friend Leodis Brewer, who was still in Bloomington-Normal today, just retired from the City of Bloomington, and then two guys that we really never got to know. Dave and Jim, they lived next door to us. So it was really interesting because that was a first, especially growing up in a Black neighborhood, going to a predominantly Black high school, and most of my experiences were centered around that. So that was now building relationships with somebody who's very different. A lot of the individuals that lived on our floor came from farms in and around - I remember a young man who was - he played on the softball team with us, he was our center on the flag football team, and he was from Mason City, Illinois. And I didn't even know there was a Mason City, Illinois, and he told us about farming and he told us about his experiences. And of course, we told him about our experiences growing up, you know, in Chicago. And so there was a lot of that, a lot of learning from each other and our RA - we didn't have an RA on the 11th floor, [we were the RAs] on the 11th floor and [the 10th floor's RA], his name was Pete Egofske. His dad was a big-time [wrestling] coach and athletic director and if I remember correctly, it was Rich East High School, I believe it was, was the school that he was at. And Pete was on the wrestling team, so he was, you know, a guy that everybody respected and kept order on the floor.

(12:14) And so, you know, to answer your question, sure, there was a lot of routine. There was a lot of routine, there was - on the weekends, we were finding social events, that would be part of our experience, we were right across the street from the Field House, Horton Field House and Hancock Stadium. So we went to everything. We went to gymnastics meets, we went to track meets, we went to, of course, football, basketball, the baseball field was where Redbird Arena is now. So, we were, so everything was right in that footprint, a two-to-

three-minute walk for us, for anything. So we took full advantage of all of those activities that were available to us.

Emily Deppermann 13:01

That's awesome. I know you mentioned you took part in a lot of intramurals and things like that. Were you a part of any other student organizations when you were a student?

Stan Shingles 13:12

Yeah, one of the groups that I got involved in right away was the Black Student Union. The Black Student Union at that time had a house and, you know, it had services, it was a place you could go to. It was a place you could go to, they just had books, they had notes for class, but it was also about Black students and community. You could go there and there was music, there was food, there was the opposite sex, there was all of those things that are in community. And so that was a part of it. And then the residence hall, the dorm version of that, was called BAAC, the Black Action and Awareness Committee, and that was out of our residence hall and it was basically advocacy for Black students on campus. As you would know, in the 70s there was not a large number - although when I got to Illinois State, they had the largest number of Black students that they had during the 70s, 80s, and even the 90s, for that matter, and so BAAC was very much an important time of my life. And so my oldest brother was part of a group that founded an organization called Brothers on Campus Incorporated. And that group was about social interaction for Black males on campus and so became a - networked with that group and built relationships with the individuals who were juniors and seniors and that group who became, I didn't know at that time, they were mentors. I just saw them as guys that we played ball with, guys that we say, "Hey, what class should I take next semester?" or whatever those things were. And we just became really connected to the Illinois State community.

Emily Deppermann 15:01

Would you say that your involvement in that organization impacted - I know you're very involved in our Black Colleagues Association now, would you say that has an impact?

Stan Shingles 15:09

Absolutely. Absolutely. I think when you want the relationships now - one of my dear friends who I went to Dunbar with in Chicago and then Illinois State, he lives in Birmingham, Alabama, he was just visiting us this weekend. And actually, he's at Illinois State today because our Brothers on Campus group, we have our annual golf outing. We endowed a scholarship three years ago, and we have an annual golf outing now. And he's the chair of the golf outing, but he came up to visit me first, just to kind of check on me and help, you know, around some of the things that needed to get done. And we were talking about, our relationship is 49 years old because we went to high school together and we went to college. We are celebrating our 45-year high school reunion this summer, or next month, or this month, because today is June first.

(16:06) So his name is Arthur Williams, by the way, and Art and I were talking and we were just talking about how those experiences at Illinois State, being involved in the various things, one, helped you to build the skills that you need and gave you a network and a support system. My oldest brother was very popular on campus, he was like MacGyver, he could get anything. If you needed a book, he could get it. If you needed notes for a class he could get it, and if you needed a backpack he could get it. He was that guy. He was well, well, well connected. So yes, those organizations, one, helped you to understand something bigger than yourself. So here we are, years later, still connected to Illinois State. And obviously, I was on the Black Colleagues' Board of Directors, and now I'm actually on

the National Alumni Board. And so I'm a firm believer in, you know, to whom much is given, much is expected. So giving back has always been a major part of my life and I've always dedicated myself to service and that type of thing.

(17:12) But it all started at, it actually started in my community - let me reframe that, because I have to remember that village because that village set me up for Illinois State, the community that I grew up in - Lawndale, West Garfield, which is not the best place in the world to live, but the things that we learned through our school systems, through our coaches and our teachers and, you know, the thing that connected me was, I was always involved in our youth centers. And that's one of the reasons I chose to go into the major recreation and parks administration. And I was like, "That's what Mr. Monegian does. That's what, you know, Bea Avery does, that's what..." and then you realize quickly that there's a profession out there. And so those things, you know, help you to formulate who you are going to be personally and professionally.

Emily Deppermann 18:02

So going back a bit to when you were a student, did you have a job on campus or off campus at all when you were student?

Stan Shingles 18:09

Yeah, interesting story. I remember leaving home and my mother said I got college work-study. And so my brothers had to explain to me what that was. And so I said to my mother, "Yeah, I'm gonna get a job." And then she said, "No, your first year, I don't want you to have a job. You need to just focus on your studies." And so I remember Kevin came back to the room and said, "Hey, I just got a job in Linkins Center dish room." And I said, "Okay," and he said, "Yeah, I just went down and talked to the people in the office, and I have college work-study, and they hired me." And I was like, "Oh, boy, be good to have my own money." So I went down and Kevin and I started working in the dish room.

(18:55) And I told the story when I got inducted into the Student Affairs Hall of Fame two years ago, I told the story of Russell. Russell was our supervisor of the dish room. Russell was this retired Army veteran, had the big anchor tattoo on his arm, just mean, meaner than a hornet and didn't like anybody. I don't even know if Russell liked Russell. But one of the things I learned was - because he was into, you got to do it a certain way, if you're not on time, you're not going to be [here] - you know, he was that guy. And, you know, those are the same values that I [learned] from my parents, Russell just communicated differently.

(19:33) And so yes, that job was, I started that probably in September. And then I was talking to my oldest brother, who was wired with everybody on campus, and one of his friends that he went to Amundsen High School with in Chicago was the supervisor in the what's now Braden Auditorium, which was just University Union Auditorium at that time, now Braden Auditorium, and so he was the one that hired all of the ushers and the supervisors and all of those things that managed the concerts and the symphony and every event that came through, commencement, everything that came through the Student Union. And so my brother Darryl said - his name was Dave [Hart], and he said, "Well, go talk to Dave, tell him I sent you." So Kevin and I went over there and Dave hired us to be ushers. So we didn't realize what we were getting into, but we started working and all of a sudden, you know, here comes Bill Cosby, here comes Parliament and the Funkadelics, here comes Lionel Richie, here comes the Charlie Daniels Band. And here we are getting paid to work these concerts in Braden Auditorium. And then our sophomore year, Prince came - a young Prince, nobody really knew who Prince was. And I looked back on that, and that gave me [experience], you know - the dish room was a job, the working in the Student Union, in the Auditorium was an experience.

(21:16) I just remember this voice to this day, always kind of in the back office, just a booming voice always, who was one of the supervisors, I think it was Dave's supervisor. And, you know, he ended up being the dean of students and assistant vice president and was somebody that I've known now for 40 years, but at the time I was scared to death of him. As I've said, before, Mike [Schmermer] is his name. And so, you know, I think back on experiences like that and understand - because those are the only two jobs, I shouldn't say the only two jobs I ended up working - I only worked in the dish room for a year, then I started working for Dave Hart and I worked that job the whole time I was at ISU because I became a supervisor. And so now I've got, you know, lots of responsibilities, and I'm training people and never knew that I was probably training for a career in higher education. But you took it serious, what you did was good.

(22:28) And the individual that I was talking about, that booming voice, was Mike Schmermer, and Mike is retired now and was a student affairs administrator for years and you don't realize you're watching people and you're going to somewhere down the line emulate the things that you see from them. And I certainly learned a lot from Mike and the other people that were a part of that experience.

Emily Deppermann 22:53

Absolutely. So thinking back again to your time as a student, what are some big events that happen on campus while you were here?

Stan Shingles 23:01

Wow, well, the year before I got to Illinois State was the last year of the big Rites of Spring. So Rites of Spring ended in the spring of '76 - I'm sorry, '77. I came in the fall of '77. So, of course the students were in an uproar about that and wanted to try to have - "We're having Rites of Spring anyway!" which didn't go over real well with the police and the administration. So I always recall that, but when I think about the experience and what was going on, one, we're talking about the 70s. So we're only, we're less than 10 years removed from Martin Luther King being killed, the Civil Rights Movement. Jimmy Carter is now the president of the United States. And so you saw a social consciousness change on campus. There was a lot of activism, which there always has been that at Illinois State, but I think it was really heightened during that time.

(24:11) The explosion of student organizations, student organizations became a big deal. You always had your fraternities and sororities and then you also had, like, Black Student Union, but then people started customizing their student organizations for what their interests and needs were. So that was really cool to see that happen. We were, at that time, we were not in the Missouri Valley. We were an independent in basketball. Our basketball program was exceptional. Gene Smithson was the basketball coach, and you couldn't get into Horton Fieldhouse because - of course, the games weren't on television and cable had just started, but at WGN we could get the Cubs now in Bloomington-Normal because we could get it through cable. And so basketball was a big deal. Football was not very good. In my four years at Illinois State, I think we won 16 football games in four years. We were not very good. I think the peak was four wins, if I recall correctly, so it wasn't very good. But basketball was big. And again, that was a community builder. And also Illinois State started their building boom during that time, upgrading facilities and really starting to pay attention to those kinds of things. And so those are some of the things that I remember that were significant in my experience during the late 70s, early 80s.

Emily Deppermann 25:50

Sure. Kind of going off campus a bit, were you ever involved or do you have any memory of the Bloomington-Normal community at that time, kind of outside of ISU?

Stan Shingles 26:02

Yeah I do because I did my senior internship with the Normal Parks and Rec Department. So with doing my internship there, I started learning a lot about the community. Also, we would, there were different parties and events that the fraternities and sororities that would have that were in downtown Bloomington. It might be at a nightclub down there, there were a lot of nightclubs at that time, not only in downtown Normal - of course, Uptown Normal today - but also in Bloomington. And so I started to learn a little bit more when I moved off campus, because I think when you're on campus, you're kind of you're living that community. But when you go off campus, you don't have the built-in community of the residence halls.

(26:49) But, by then, by my junior year, I had relationships and I moved to an apartment complex called Redbird Apartments, which is on Adelaide, right across from the parking lot of Duffy Bass Baseball Stadium. So I was in Tri-Towers every day because I would walk and I would cut through Tri-Towers. So all my friends that were there, I would visit with them and I was dating the young lady who lived in Haynie at that time. And so I did not know until some of the younger students from Bloomington started coming to ISU that there was a Black community in Bloomington. I had no idea. I had no idea because I lived in this bubble on campus and there was really no need at that time to connect. And as part of my academic program in RPA I had to do my field study stuff and so I was doing it in Bloomington and in Normal, so that got me - but that was primarily in recreation, it wasn't - but then, now I know who the recreation professionals are in Normal Parks and Rec and Bloomington Parks and Rec, McLean County Parks and Rec. So you're starting to learn a little bit more. And I started officiating high school basketball, so that got me into - when I first started I was doing junior high, grade school, high school, parks and rec. And so now you're learning a little bit about the community. So that was my engagement at that time with the community.

Emily Deppermann 28:28

So comparing how the university was when you were a student to now, how do you feel ISU has changed since then?

Stan Shingles 28:38

Well, I think ISU has stuck to its core values. I really do. When I go on campus, everything is bigger, everything is better. We didn't have a rec center. We had Horton Fieldhouse. We did have the Braden Auditorium and Bone Student Center [which] was built when my brother first got to Illinois State, so by the time I got there it was still considered new. People would say "the new Student Union," you know, that's what they would say. It was about three or four years old by the time I got there. And so the building boom today - athletic facilities and Redbird Arena was built when I was in graduate school.

(29:18) And so to see that being built, I think when I look at academic programs, profile of the university, in terms of recruiting students throughout the state of Illinois, but also from the Chicago area, which is the prime [recruiting area] just like at Central Michigan, our largest number of students come from the metro Detroit area. At that time, I never will forget, we had international students and they all lived in the International House. Now, today we probably wouldn't do that because that's not the right thing to do. Like, one, you know, that community could be targeted, and more importantly, who said they all wanted to live together, especially when they're coming from countries that may not have any similarities? But most state schools had International Houses at that time. So that

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was an interesting dynamic. And then, as a Black student, especially as a Black male and you're starting to see others coming to Illinois State - that growth, obviously now has peaked to record numbers, in terms of diversity across the university, and I think that is very significant.

(30:35) But the academic program, the student-teacher ratio, professor-student ratio, those things haven't changed. They've remained, which I think is what's helped ISU manage through economic crisis in the state, no budget for almost four years, and obviously the civil unrest and the pandemic. Illinois State is still feet on the ground, solid, able to cope with it, where a lot of universities are failing right now. I think it's that Illinois State did not try to become something that wasn't. The core programs - and of course, by the time I got to ISU, it wasn't a normal school anymore. But education was the core of the programs and people went to the state [normal school] to become teachers. And if you looked across, you know, the state of Illinois, the principals and the teachers and coaches and athletic directors, they're Illinois State grads. But as a normal school, that was the mission of the university to educate educators. And so to see that still be a part of Illinois State today, although meeting other needs, whether it's the College of Business, Illinois State always had a tremendous broadcasting program, you look at the experiential learning that takes place with *CM Life*, or, excuse me, *The Vidette* - *CM Life* is Central Michigan's newspaper - and WGLT and all of those things, those things are still there. 45 years later, in my experience, 45 years later, they're still there.

(32:11) The quad is still there. Never compromised that by saying, "Well, you know, we're going to build academic buildings in the middle of the quad," which you could do, there's no charter that says you can't build - now, you're cutting down hundred-year-old trees to do it, and more importantly, there would be an uprising if that happened because that is sacred ground in the student experience at Illinois State. I just marveled at the renovation of Schroeder because I always thought they should tear Schroeder down. I just thought it was a bum building when I was there and then you walk in it and now you're like, "Oh, my goodness." And then, you know, obviously tearing down Dunn-Barton and Walker to build the Rec Center. And now, obviously, tearing down Atkin-Colby and Ham-Wit [Hamilton-Whitten] and it's going to be new housing. That's preparing for the future.

(33:04) I'm a little disappointed that Avanti's is closing because that's an institution. Avanti's on Main Street is closing. I was down there a few weeks ago for our Alumni Board meeting and it was closed. And that breaks my heart because you know, that was one of the - my brother lived in Hamilton and his dorm room faced and looked right into Avanti's so when I'd be visiting him, you could smell the bread, but that's progress and so those are the things that have to happen. And I remember the Black Student Union was where the Student Services Building is. That's where Athletics has their tutoring, it's right across from the Bone Student Center. There was an ROTC building, there was a Black Student Union, and I forget the third of those three buildings that were kind of affinity buildings. And so to see the progress, and to see it improved - because Illinois State bought another house and opened a Multicultural Center house when I was in grad school, they opened a new one on School Street and that was there for a number of years. And of course, now with the property that was just reimagined that used to be IGA Grocery Store when I was there. And of course, walking from Tri-Towers, we walked right through that parking lot. It was a shortcut to get to McCormick and now to see that as a facility that supports the various affinity identities within our Illinois State community, it's just extraordinary.

Emily Deppermann 34:46

Looking back at your time as a student here at ISU, is there anything that you would change?

Stan Shingles 34:54

Absolutely nothing, because one of the things I learned, and this is something I share with students and it's a little bit of my mantra that I've created, I believe we're all the product of the sum total of our experiences. And I'm a big - one of my all-time favorite movies is *It's a Wonderful Life*. And George wants all these things in his life to change because he wants it the way he wants it, only to realize that means everything has to change. That as soon as you change one thing, everything subsequently has to change. So when I when I think about, and this is the way I've summed it up in terms of my experiences, Emily, I talk about going into that Econ 100 class and taking accounting, I think it was 101 or 100, or whatever it was, and sitting in those classes and saying, "This is not what I want to do," and taking business law saying, "Uh, this is not what I [want to do] -," and then going into broadcasting, or to mass communication I'll just call it, and then after one year, getting out of that, and you just think, "Man, I was wasting my time." You know what, year one and year two, and then year three, year four - and I was there for four and a half years because I had to do my internship - I realized that all of those experiences are things that make me who I am today as an aspiring business major, because I wasn't a business major yet. I manage multimillion dollar budgets today. I have to understand accounting principles, have to understanding business law, I have to understand risk management, I have to understand economics so that I can forecast. So I didn't waste my time in those classes when I became a broadcast major.

(36:44) When I was in Bloomington - I stayed in Bloomington-Normal after I graduated and I used to do public address announcing for the youth baseball program and all of these things throughout Bloomington-Normal and then did the same thing when I went to Northern Illinois, did the same thing when I came to Central Michigan. And I always - I'm not sure if you know Steve Adams, Steve and Sandi Adams. Steve was the vice president, he was VP of student affairs, and I remember hearing Steve - my freshman year when I went to my first football game, and he's doing the PA announcement, and I heard his voice and I was like, "Man, that would be really cool. How can I do that?" And I would go back to 1167 Wright and I would practice and all of a sudden we'd go inside for basketball and he's doing the same thing. So when I got my opportunities at Northern Illinois and Central Michigan to do PA, who did I imitate? Steve Adams. I took all of his introductions and all of his calls and when I was inducted into the Hall of Fame, I did his script. And he and his wife just were like, "Wow!", because I wanted to sound like him, because I had been practicing being Steve Adams for a whole lot of years.

(37:53) And I started in PA and I spent almost 20 years broadcasting our football and basketball games at CMU. So I didn't waste my time in those - because those things that I learned in those classes I took into professional life. And of course my RPA degree set me up for my career in collegiate [recreation] - well, I started in community recreation and then into a university setting, now in student affairs. So yeah, I have zero regrets. I have zero regrets, because everything that was a part - and there was some low points, don't get me wrong. But you know, that's where you learn resilience. That's where you learn how to persevere. And because I believe that those low points are just microcosms of life in so many different ways. And you learn - it's painful at the time, don't get me wrong, it's painful, but you learn from it. And so I have zero regrets about anything.

(38:59) And I was very fortunate in my time at Illinois State, I didn't have friends that lost a life. And I had a lot of friends that didn't make it through Illinois State and oftentimes - now, today, I understand, because as a higher education administrator, I understand that many of those individuals did not have any of the privilege that I had. I had the privilege of two parents. I had the privilege of the discipline that went with this. I had the privilege of two brothers that went to college. I had the privilege of going to an Upward Bound program, and the privilege of going to one of the top high schools in Chicago. Everybody's experiences are unique. So those individuals that didn't make it, they didn't [not] make it because they were dumb. They [didn't] make it because oftentimes they just couldn't

manage the financial aspect. So, as a university administrator, I've taken those things from my experiences at Illinois State and been able to apply them at Northern Illinois when I worked there and now for 30 plus years.

Emily Deppermann 39:56

I think that is a wonderful perspective to have. And so you kind of touched on it a bit there, but would you mind telling me a bit more about the steps you took after graduation?

Stan Shingles 40:09

Yeah. Well, after graduation, my son was born in Bloomington-Normal my senior year. He just turned 40. I keep saying last month because I still have in my head we're in April. He was born my senior year. Well, my senior year at Illinois State, I was hired - I was actually hired the week before my 21st birthday, they thought I was 21 - to work for an organization called Kaleidoscope and Kaleidoscope was a childcare agency. Kaleidoscope's counterpart was The Baby Fold, which is still there today. But Kaleidoscope was a residential treatment center for emotionally disturbed adolescents. So they had come from, you know, physical abuse, they had been in the child welfare system as foster kids or whatever and they were placed in group homes in Bloomington-Normal. And I was hired as a night staff, so I worked from 10 at night to 8 o'clock in the morning. I was there with the kids by myself and I had to manage them, making sure that they cleaned house, made the bed, making sure I got them up for school the next day and all the things that went with that.

(41:25) So that was my first job. So I worked that for a year. And then when I finished school they hired me as what's called a child care worker, which is the person that's there during the day. So you're taking care of all the needs of these kids. But the reason they hired me was because we had a very robust recreation and sports program and that's what I did. So in our group - I work with our rec coordinator in the central office and we had teams and we traveled to Peoria, Champaign, Springfield, Decatur, playing other youth agencies in this version of - it wasn't Special Olympics, because these are not intellectually challenged, these are kids who come from rough backgrounds. And we had state track meets, we had a state basketball tournament. And so that was my first job in recreation, was working with these - and I did that for three years, I worked for the agency for four years.

(43:10) And then on the west side of Bloomington they had Western Avenue Community Center, it's still there today. It burned down in 1984 and they rebuilt it and it opened in 1985 and I got hired as a recreation program director there and I did that until 1988. When I met my wife in 1986 she was a grad student at Illinois State in the sports medicine athletic training program. And so we were trying to figure out what our careers were going to be and so Dr. Belknap, who I referenced earlier, who I account for so much of my success because he got me in the right place academically. I would come in and lecture in his class, he kept saying, "You need to come and get your masters, you need to -," "No, Dr. B, I'm good. I got a great job. I'm good," "No, no, no, there's maybe -." I think he thought I was going to be a college professor, which, I've been fortunate that I've had the opportunity to teach as well - and so finally I relented, and I enrolled. And so in 1987 I left my full-time job and I went back to Illinois State for one year full-time and finished my master's degree in '88 and then got hired at Northern Illinois as the coordinator of intramural sports in the Department of Campus Recreation. And I was there one year, because actually - when I went back to Illinois State, I became a graduate assistant in the campus recreation program at ISU. So I did that for a year and then went to Northern Illinois and then the director of recreation at Central Michigan recruited me. New program, new staff, new facilities, new programs, and he found me and brought me here and I said I'll come for three years and go back to civilization and [August] 4 I'll be ending my 33rd year here at here at Central Michigan University. Yeah.

Emily Deppermann 43:08

Congratulations on that.

Stan Shingles 44:39

Thank you.

Emily Deppermann 44:39

No problem. So that is all the questions I have for you. But is there anything else that you would like to touch on that I didn't ask about?

Stan Shingles 44:51

I think as you sum it up, Emily, I think it starts with the people at Illinois State I've had the opportunity obviously to interact with, presidents and provosts and - very dear friends with Levester Johnson, Levester and I are fraternity brothers and I knew him prior to him coming to Illinois State, and having top notch individuals like Dr. Dietz too I know well, I'm getting to know President Kinsey now, especially being on the Alumni Board. But Illinois State has always been about the people and I think if Illinois State continues that effort there will be more Stan Shingles and everybody else that came through at Illinois State who had a quality experience, who can now go out into personal and professional life and make a difference in the communities in which we live. And I think that's what Illinois State prepared me for. I would not trade my experience for anything in the world.

(45:55) Because I was broadcasting our games here I didn't get back to ISU very often. I remember 1999 we played ISU in basketball and I came down to broadcast the game. That was one of my proudest moments, was sitting courtside, you know, and I'm talking to Dick Luedke. And he's like, "You're supposed to be out here calling the games for Illinois State, not for Central Michigan." And I just - the fondness of Illinois State. And then once I stopped broadcasting our games it gave me the opportunity to start going back to homecoming, that's when I got on the Black Alumni Board, because before my schedule was just so consumed with travel, with football in the fall and then basketball in the winter, that it just left no room to get down to ISU very often. So the overall experience, again, I am a product of the sum total of my experiences. And there are some things that I did at Illinois State that I wish I didn't do. I won't reveal what those were, none of them were ever illegal, I'll just put it like that. But things that my parents would not have been proud of, for sure. You know, you learn, live and learn, that's called life, and you ultimately come out on the other end. And in my experiences, I think it turned out pretty good. I think it turned out - it's others' responsibility. I mean, we get to measure that ourselves, but others get to evaluate that as well. So yeah.

Emily Deppermann 47:23

Absolutely. Well, thank you so much for your time, Stan, and for sharing your memories with us. And I hope your shoulder recovery goes well.

Stan Shingles 47:32

Thank you. I appreciate that, Emily, and thanks for thinking about me. And if there's anything else that you need, please feel free to reach out and I'll get that form sent to you.

Emily Deppermann 47:40

Yes, I will get that sent to you again. Thank you so much. It was great to meet you.

Stan Shingles 47:45

Okay, great to meet you as well. You take good care. And Go Redbirds!

Emily Deppermann 47:48

Yes, Go Redbirds! Thank you.

Stan Shingles 47:50

Take care now, buh-bye.