Alumnus Lou Cella ’85 is an extraordinary sculptor who brings legends to life.
The First Word

May is always a time of celebration on campus, as another class reaches the goal of graduation. Illinois State’s annual spring commencement ceremony is marked by tradition that goes beyond academic pomp and circumstance. It is a time when generations gather to proudly applaud a major accomplishment in the life of a loved one.

Amidst this joy is always a bit of angst and uncertainty, as our students transition from the campus to the workplace. Anxious moments are inevitable at the start of any career. This year’s graduating class, however, has the additional stress of pursuing professional dreams at a time when the nation’s economy is faltering.

And yet I know from conversations with members of the Class of 2009 that our newest alums are going forward with a spirit of optimism and determination despite discouraging headlines. They are ready to face the challenges of a recession, eager to become part of the solution by working and leading in their respective fields.

We have a student body that sets a high standard for academic performance, as demonstrated in the statistic that only one in four applicants is now accepted to the University. Those chosen complete rigorous degrees, as our programs in education, business, science, fine arts, nursing, and applied sciences have earned national distinction and international praise.

Such excellence separates the University from our state and regional counterparts. It means Illinois State faculty and staff go beyond the necessary fundamental curriculum to instill in students confidence and courage needed to not just survive but thrive, no matter how uncertain the future.

Alumni are another reason I am assured our newest graduates will succeed. I applaud and appreciate the myriad graduates who, once established in their professions, are willing to stand as mentors. They provide invaluable internships, networking avenues, and employment opportunities to our students and young alums.

The University helps graduates and prospective employers find each other through the Career Center (www.careercenter.ilstu.edu) and online outreach, such as an Illinois State page on LinkedIn (www.ilstu.edu/linkedin). Take advantage of these resources to find or fill a position.

Confidence in your alma mater is never more apparent than when you hire an Illinois State Graduate. Alumni who are willing and able to extend such a helping hand teach our newest graduates one of their most important collegiate lessons: the Redbird bond reaches far beyond campus, and continues long after commencement.

Al Bowman
President, Illinois State University
Modern day Michelangelo
Sculpting is a thrill for Lou Cella ’85, who brings metal to life. Many of his pieces immortalize sports legends. His images capture an individual’s likeness and personality. Alums will see his talent first-hand, as Cella is creating a campus statue of basketball coach Will Robinson and standout player Doug Collins ’73. Cover: Harry Caray, Ernie Harwell, and Ernie Banks are just some of the detailed sculptures Cella has completed.

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While completing his business degree, Jerry Wirth ’88 didn’t envision the challenges he’d face as an entrepreneur in the Baltic States. ISU empowered him to withstand corruption and build an international business that now thrives. Still connected to the University, Wirth’s campus encounter with Michael Richard ’75 resulted in a project to help Latvian children.

12 PIONEERS PRIOR TO TITLE IX
Decades before legislation mandated athletic opportunities for women in public schools, Illinois State’s Laurie Mabry and Phebe Scott worked to open doors for female athletes. Together they impacted programs on campus and nationally. Their tenacity brought change, and put the University in the national spotlight at a time when women fought just to compete.

21 A SENSE OF SECURITY
Inspired by his past professors, Andrew Velasquez III ’93, M.S. ’94, went from a hospital security guard job to being named the top public safety official in Illinois. As the director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency, Velasquez responds to disasters and terrorism threats, and is responsible for nuclear safety within the state.

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30 CLASS NOTES
The University’s renewable energy center advances research in a growing field.

Illinois State is helping to meet the education and research needs of the nation’s renewable energy industry through the Center for Renewable Energy. Established with a U.S. Department of Energy grant, the center supports the University’s renewable energy major, provides the public with objective research-based information on renewable energy, and facilitates applied research through collaborations with other universities.

“Meeting our current and future energy needs in a clean and sustainable way is one of the biggest challenges we face today,” President Al Bowman said. “Illinois State’s Center for Renewable Energy brings together faculty expertise, industry partners, and cutting-edge technology to support education and research that will help us meet that challenge.”

Economics Associate Professor Dave Loomis is the center’s director. Agricultural Economics Professor Randy Winter and Dave Kennell, an instructional assistant professor of technology, are associate directors.

Corporate partners provide financial support. Founding members include Horizon Wind Energy LLC, State Farm Insurance Companies, and Suzlon Wind Energy Corporation. Representatives from each serve on the center’s governing board.

The center plays a multi-faceted role in supporting the University’s renewable energy major, which includes courses in technology, agriculture, and economics. The center coordinates an advisory board of industry experts, facilitates an internship program, brings energy industry experts to campus, funds scholarships, and provides ongoing financial support for the major.

The center maintains a Turner Hall laboratory funded by a grant from the Illinois Clean Energy Community Foundation. The lab includes technology used for hands-on education and research purposes. Photovoltaic panels are on the Turner Hall roof, and a photovoltaic/wind turbine hybrid system is in place at the campus Horticulture Center. Students analyze system performance using monitoring and data collection equipment.

The lab also contains a mobile Sonic Detection and Ranging wind assessment unit. An 80-meter meteorological tower is at the University Farm. Students will assess wind resources and predict annual energy production.

The center also administers the Illinois Wind Working Group (IWWG) in collaboration with the U.S. Department of Energy’s Wind Powering America program. The IWWG consists of more than 100 key wind energy stakeholders from across Illinois.
**MENNONITE GRADS EXCEED NATIONAL EXAM PASS RATE**

Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) ranks above the state and nationwide averages for the number of graduates who passed the national nursing licensure examination on the first try in 2008.

Ninety-seven percent of Mennonite graduates passed the National Council Licensure Examination for registered nurses (NCLEX-RN) on their first attempt last year. The nationwide pass rate for nursing program graduates was 87 percent, while the State of Illinois pass rate was 90 percent.

“These outstanding pass rates reflect the strong commitment Mennonite faculty have in providing high quality teaching and learning experiences for students,” MCN Dean Sara Campbell said.

Mennonite’s high percentage is due in a large part to a rigorous exam preparation program incorporated into the entire nursing curriculum. Implemented in 2001, the preparation includes mastery exams in various clinical nursing specialties that students must pass in addition to their regular class exams. The mastery exams cover the specific subject matter included on the NCLEX-RN exam.

**SOCIOLOGY AND ANTHROPOLOGY PROFESSOR GAINS TOP RANK**

Sociology and Anthropology Professor Susan Sprecher, who has a joint appointment with the Department of Psychology, has been named a Distinguished Professor by President Al Bowman. The title is the highest honor faculty can obtain.

Sprecher is a nationally and internationally known expert in the interdisciplinary field of personal relationships. She joined Illinois State’s faculty in 1985 and has since published 71 articles in a wide variety of journals, and authored or edited seven books and 26 book chapters.

She has served as editor of one of the top two journals in her field, as an associate editor for two important journals, and is or has been on the editorial boards of seven other highly visible journals.

Sprecher has obtained respect for her research while continuing to be highly involved in teaching and service activities. She has mentored more than 160 senior student research capstone projects. She annually reviews approximately 30 manuscripts, and three to four promotion and tenure evaluations for other universities.

**GRANTS IMPROVE ACCESS TO MILNER’S HOLDINGS**

Grant funding for library service and technology enhancements is helping Milner Library digitize its collection of children’s artwork from around the world, and better share its vast resources with other libraries.

An $85,934 Library Services and Technology Act grant is aiding Milner Library in its ongoing project “Imagine Illinois and Beyond: Celebrating Creativity Through the Eyes of Our Children!”

The project involves creating digital images of the artwork in Milner’s International Collection of Child Art. The collection contains more than 8,600 pieces of artwork from children in more than 50 countries. Digitizing the collection will provide global access for scholars, educators, and students who wish to use the artwork as primary sources in the study of children and their creativity.

Milner Library’s ability to share holdings information with other libraries is being further enhanced with the help of a $15,064 Library Services and Technology Act grant. Library faculty and staff are preparing Milner’s print and electronic serial holdings records for batch processing and uploading to the Online Computer Library Center (OCLC), a library service and research organization that provides worldwide access to library information.

The grant money was awarded by the Illinois State Library, a division of the Office of Secretary of State, using funds provided by the Institute of Museum and Library Services under the federal Library Services and Technology Act.

**DEANS NAMED TO LEAD BUSINESS, ARTS AND SCIENCES COLLEGES**

New leadership at the dean’s level has been announced for two colleges effective July 1. Scott Johnson will lead the University’s College of Business (COB), and James Payne will become interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences (CAS).

Johnson replaces Charles McGuire, who has served as COB’s interim dean. Johnson comes to campus from Minnesota State University, where he also served as dean of the college of business. He earned his M.B.A. from the University of Minnesota, and his doctorate in marketing from Michigan State University. His research and teaching areas include recommendation-based decision making, marketing and business education, electronic retailing, and consumer behavior.

Johnson has a proven track record as an outstanding educator, researcher and leader. Chosen from a national search, he is praised for his unique combination of experience and ideas that have prepared him to move the college forward.

Payne, who will serve as CAS dean for two years, has been chair of the Department of Economics. He replaces Gary Olson, who resigned to serve as provost at Idaho State University.

Payne earned his Ph.D. in economics from Florida State University. Payne has served as a Fulbright research scholar and Fulbright senior specialist at the Institute of Economics in Zagreb, Croatia; along with visiting appointments at the University of Southern Mississippi, the Economics Institute, and the University of Kentucky. He was on the faculty at Oakland University and Eastern Kentucky before joining Illinois State. He has published more than 140 refereed journal articles during his career.

His research productivity has been ranked 116 worldwide based on the number of publications over the period 1990-2000 and drawn from more than 100,000 research economists worldwide in a study compiled at the European
Centre for Advanced Research. He is a research fellow of the Academy of Economics and Finance, serves on the editorial board of nine academic journal boards, and is editor-in-chief for the Journal of Economics and Finance.

As Economics Department chair Payne initiated curriculum changes in undergraduate and graduate programs to enhance the oral, written, and quantitative skill set of students, and established a number of sequences within the respective programs. He established the Economics Advisory Board to elevate the department’s outreach efforts to alumni, which has resulted in the department’s first endowments.

**WZND GENERAL MANAGER CAPTURES NATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP**

Mass Communication junior Mark Long of Wheaton has been awarded the national Abe Voron Radio Scholarship by the Broadcast Education Association (BEA). Long is the general manager of WZND Radio, Illinois State’s student radio station.

BEA awards various broadcasting scholarships to 15 students across the nation annually. The Abe Voron Scholarship is given to two students who show interest in radio and demonstrate high integrity and responsibility. Long received a $5,000 scholarship, which is the largest available.

Applicants were required to submit an essay. Long wrote of his responsibilities at WZND, describing his past work as a part-time DJ and assistant imaging director, as well as his current position of general manager. Long, who is focusing on radio in his degree work, is also a part-time disc jockey at WBNQ Radio in Bloomington.

The scholarship is not the first honor for Long, who received recognition for his commercial writing from the Illinois Broadcasters Association in 2008. A spot he wrote for the Normal Public Library took second place in the Outstanding Radio Commercial category.

**THEATRE STUDENTS ADVANCE TO NATIONAL COMPETITION**

Six students from the School of Theatre have advanced to the national American College Theatre Festival as a result of a regional American College Theatre Festival (ACTF) competition held earlier this year at Saginaw Valley State University in Michigan.

The regional Irene Ryan Acting Competition began with 265 competing pairs, was narrowed to 51 for the semifinals, and reduced to 16 pairs in the final round. Four pairs from Illinois State were in the finals, with two duos advancing to compete at the national ACTF in Washington, D.C.

Junior Ryan Hallahan of Mokena and acting partner senior Matt Kerrigan of Frankfort, along with junior Max Ganet and acting partner senior Matthew Gorkis, both of Naperville, won the Ryan Acting Scholarship Competition. They competed in the national event in April.

Two other students also advanced to the national competition. Bob Quinlan, a graduate student from Urbana, won the directing competition. Neal Ryan Shaw,
a graduate student from Bloomington, won the dramaturg competition.

ALTERNATIVE BREAK PROGRAM REACHES BEYOND U.S. BORDERS

For 12 years Illinois State’s Alternative Break program has given students the opportunity to volunteer at locations throughout the country, helping meet the needs of individual communities. Students have constructed homes for the homeless, fed hungry families, tutored young children, and more.

A desire to do even more resulted in the Dean of Students Office expanding the Alternative Break program by offering for the first time an international outreach opportunity. A group of 24 students and two staff members spent 10 days during the semester break in Cuzco, Peru. The group participated in service projects involving construction and renovation, the teaching of English, and provision of child care.

UNIVERSITY FIRST IN STATE TO GAIN CAMPUS TREE RECOGNITION

The Arbor Day Foundation has honored Illinois State as a Tree Campus USA University for its dedication to campus forestry management and environmental stewardship. Illinois State is the first college or university from Illinois to be named a Tree Campus USA University.

A new national program launched by the Arbor Day Foundation, Tree Campus USA honors colleges and universities as well as campus and community leaders for promoting healthy urban forest management, and engaging the campus community in environmental stewardship. Tree Campus USA is supported by a $750,000 grant from Toyota.

Illinois State met the required five core standards of tree care and community engagement in order to receive Tree Campus USA status. The standards include establishing a campus tree advisory committee, evidence of a campus tree-care plan, verification of dedicated annual expenditures on the campus tree-care plan, involvement in an Arbor Day observance, and the institution of a service-learning project aimed at engaging the student body.

Alumni

STUDENT ALUMNI COUNCIL OFFERS LEGACY SCHOLARSHIPS

The University’s Student Alumni Council offers three $1,000 scholarships to children of Illinois State graduates. The nonrenewable scholarships are made possible by a donation from the family of Marion H. Dean ’27, and continuous contributions from the Student Alumni Council.

Recipients for 2008-2009 are junior Emily Parks of Bloomington, daughter of Sid ’82 and Jeanne Parks; senior Justin Wiegan of Gridley, son of Kathleen (Leman) ’79 and Roger Wiegand; and junior Cassandra Rae Hulett of Carol Stream, daughter of Dennis ’82 and Tracy (Foltz) ’82 Hulett.

The scholarships help ease the strain of college expenses, reward an accomplished student, and recognize legacy families for continuing the Illinois State tradition. Recipients are chosen based on scholastic achievement, leadership ability, service to community, parental influence in the decision to enroll at Illinois State, and demonstrated potential as a future alumni leader.

The scholarship is limited to freshmen admitted for the fall semester of 2009 with a minimum 3.0 GPA and an ACT score of 24-27. To request an application for the 2009-2010 academic year call (309) 438-2386 or (800) 366-4478, or send an e-mail message to Kim Chick at krchick@illinoisstate.edu.

ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING ANNOUNCED

All alumni are invited to campus to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 19. The meeting will be held in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of members to the Alumni Association Board of Directors and board officers.

Alumni with active membership status in the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. To be active alumni must have made a gift to the University through the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding fiscal year. For more information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2386 or (800) 366-4478, or e-mail Executive Director Stephanie Epp, Ed.D. ’07, at saepp@illinoisstate.edu.

STUDENT AFFAIRS HOSTS ANNUAL LEGACY OF LEADERSHIP EVENT

The Division of Student Affairs and the Alumni Association will host the 6th annual Legacy of Leadership event from 6-8 p.m. on June 18 in Chicago at Lake Point Tower’s Skyline Park party area. All alumni who were involved in student government, peer counseling, the Association of Residence Halls, Greek life, the Daily Vidette, Preview, or other areas of Student Affairs are invited. Details are available at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/events or by calling (309) 438-2386. Reservations are required and must be made by June 11.

YOUNG ALUMNI SURVEY UNDERWAY

Members of the graduating classes of 2008 and 2004 received a letter this spring from President Al Bowman inviting them to participate in an annual alumni survey. Personalized instructions for completing the online survey were mailed as well.

Please take a moment to complete this survey, as information received will be used to improve the educational experience at Illinois State. Participants will be eligible to win a Nintendo Wii. Contact the University Assessment Office at (309) 438-2135 for additional information, or send an e-mail to mfbulle@illinoisstate.edu.
ALUMNI ASSOCIATION SEeks AWARDS NOMINATIONS

Do you know of an alumnus who deserves to be recognized? Share their story with the Alumni Association, which annually recognizes the professional and service accomplishments of graduates as they progress in their careers. Nominations can be completed online within minutes and may be submitted by members of the University community, alumni, colleagues, or friends of the University. To be considered for spring 2010, nominations must be received by May 29.

Award details and categories as well as an online nomination form are available at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/about_us/awards. Award recipients will be honored on Founders Day in February of 2010. Questions about the Alumni Awards program may be directed to Alumni Relations Assistant Director Gina Bianchi at gbianc@IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-7380.

REUNION PLANNING HELP AVAILABLE

The Alumni Relations office has compiled a reunion-planning guide to assist alumni who are interested in coordinating a reunion. Whether the intent is to get together with former classmates or club members, this guide will make reunion planning simpler. The document is available online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/reunion, with hard copies available on campus at Alumni Relations. For more information contact alumni@IllinoisState.edu.

Development

SCHOLARSHIP FUND HONORS I-HOUSE LEADER’S LEGACY

Marilyn Boyd served as the coordinator of International House from 1982 until 2006 with a passion that made her a surrogate mother, confidant, and friend to hundreds of students. She not only helped international students adjust to life in the U.S., but had a strong commitment to fighting social injustice at home and abroad.

Lost to cancer in 2007, her memory remains strong with the establishment of the Marilyn Boyd International Student Scholarship Fund. The annual scholarship, awarded for the first time this spring, is designated for an outstanding International House student. Preference is given to students from developing countries or emerging nations of Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

“Marilyn’s passing was a real tragedy, and we miss her energy, passion, and infectious laugh,” Office of International Studies and Programs Associate Director Sarah Jome said. “The scholarship in her name will help to further the education of deserving students, and will help to keep Marilyn’s legacy alive.”

While many I-House alumni and friends have contributed to the scholarship, efforts to endow the fund continue. Contributions may be made online at www.alumni.ilstu.edu/giving. Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8041 or by e-mail at jdhutch@IllinoisState.edu for more information.

ALUMNA REMEMBERED THROUGH NEW JOURNALISM FUND

Doris Dungey ’83 was known and appreciated across the country for her financial savvy. Her accomplishments and talent are remembered on campus through the Doris Dungey Endowed Scholarship.

Dungey completed a dual major in English and philosophy at Illinois State. Her scholarship through the School of Communication will be awarded annually to a student who is majoring in journalism and needs financial assistance.

Most of Dungey’s career was spent working as a mortgage banker. She began to share her extensive loan industry knowledge writing for Calculated Risk under the pseudonym “Tanta” in 2006. The finance and economics blog gets approximately 75,000 readers daily. She was an influential voice on the nation’s mortgage collapse at the time of her death to cancer last fall.

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Athletics

NEW COACH CHOSEN TO LEAD REDBIRD FOOTBALL PROGRAM

Former Purdue defensive coordinator Brock Spack has been named Illinois State’s 20th head football coach. He replaces Denver Johnson, who resigned after the 2008 season finale.

“Coach Spack is well known throughout the nation for being a relentless recruiter, and a tough-minded coach who establishes great relationships with his players,” Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger said. “He is one of the most respected football coaches in the Big Ten, not only for his defensive expertise and recruiting ability, but also for his loyalty to the institutions for which he has worked.”

A native of Rockford, Spack was the defensive coordinator for the Boilermakers from 1997 to 2008. The team was 87-62 overall during his 12-year

Alumni association seeks awards nominations

Do you know of an alumnus who deserves to be recognized? Share their story with the Alumni Association, which annually recognizes the professional and service accomplishments of graduates as they progress in their careers. Nominations can be completed online within minutes and may be submitted by members of the University community, alumni, colleagues, or friends of the University. To be considered for spring 2010, nominations must be received by May 29.

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Scholarship fund honors I-house leader’s legacy

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A native of Rockford, Spack was the defensive coordinator for the Boilermakers from 1997 to 2008. The team was 87-62 overall during his 12-year
tenure, and made 10 bowl appearances. The National Football League drafted 27 of the Purdue players Spack coached. Prior to his Purdue position Spack was a defensive coordinator at Wyoming, an assistant coach at Eastern Illinois, and with Wabash College.

Spack completed a master’s degree in physical education at Eastern Illinois. His bachelor’s degree in social studies is from Purdue, where he played linebacker. He was a three-year starter and currently ranks fifth on the Boilermakers’ career tackles list with 384. He and his wife, Aimee, have two children.

CIRONE’S BASKETBALL TALENT CAPTURES NATIONAL SPOTLIGHT

Senior guard Kristi Cirone is the first Redbird to be placed on the State Farm Wade Trophy Committee. She was one of only 30 players from the nation in the pool of candidates for the award.

Cirone has also been named one of the top 20 candidates for the Women’s John R. Wooden Award, which is given to the best Division I player in the nation. The most prestigious individual honor in college basketball, it is bestowed upon the nation’s best player at an institution of higher education who is progressing toward graduation and maintaining a cumulative 2.0 GPA.

More than 300 individuals comprised of national sports media members and women’s college basketball experts vote for the five-member All-American team and Wooden Award from a ballot of approximately 15 players.

The renowned Wade Watch List is comprised of student-athletes who are members of an NCAA Division I institution. They are selected based on game and season statistics, leadership, character, effect on their team, and overall playing ability. A committee comprised of coaches, administration and media from across the United States selects the winner.

Cirone scored in double-figures in 15 games this season, including 10 games with at least 20 points. She led the Redbirds in scoring, three-pointers, free throw percentage, assists, and steals. This season she became Illinois State’s all-time leader in assists, and moved into second place in scoring and three-pointers. She ranks in the top 50 in the nation in scoring, field goal percentage, three-point field goal percentage, assists per game, and assists-to-turnover ratio.

ACCESS TO REDBIRD ACTION EXPANDED FOR ISU FANS

Whether you are on the road in your car or relaxing at home, Illinois State Athletics and GoRedbirds.com are your sources for all things Redbirds. The Athletics Department has made it easier to follow all the team action by extending its reach to social media sites that are free to alumni.

Illinois State Athletics has been added to Twitter, which lets you keep in touch with the Redbirds via quick messages. The 140-character updates are sent by the Athletics Department. Be the first to receive official and unofficial information on the Redbirds from the Twitter page. It can be found using the Web address of Twitter.com/ISU/Redbirds.

In addition an official Illinois State Athletics YouTube page now exists. Use it to see all of your favorite Illinois State student-athletes and sports in action whenever you want. Log on to www.YouTube.com/GoRedbirds.com to find video interviews, highlight videos of some of your favorite Redbirds, as well as classic retrospective videos of Redbird greats throughout time.

LEGACY OF REDBIRD LEGEND CHARLOTTE LEWIS CELEBRATED

Redbird fans paused during a February basketball game to pay tribute to ISU student-athlete legend Charlotte Lewis ’78, ’01. The first All-American in Illinois State women’s basketball history, Lewis was one of the most prolific rebounders in the team’s history. She ranked in the top 10 in career rebounds and rebounding average at Illinois State.

In her final two seasons Lewis averaged double-digit rebounds, including a school-record 14.3 rebounds per game as a junior. She guided the Redbirds to 63 wins and four AIAW State Championships during her time with the team. Inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1983, Lewis had her jersey retired in 2002. It hangs in Redbird Arena.

Lewis was a member of the 1975 Pan Am Games team and won an Olympic silver medal in 1976. She played professionally around the world prior to her death in 2007. Her career is celebrated in the tribute that can be found online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.

Letters

Letters on issues discussed in Illinois State or relating to university news or policies are welcome. All letters should be limited to 250 words or less and are subject to editing. Send e-mail to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu; fax to (309) 438-8411; or mail to Illinois State, Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790-3420.

Charlotte Lewis’s jersey was retired prior to her death.

Kristi Cirone

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Jerry Wirth ’88 can testify to the power of partnering with another Illinois State alumnus. Because of his ties to the University’s College of Business (COB) and its International Business Institute, Wirth networked with another COB alumnus and launched an effort to help children in Latvia, where Wirth is an entrepreneur. His conversation with Michael Richard ’75 at a 2004 Homecoming event spawned an international medical care project (see sidebar).

Wirth’s Illinois State ties benefit not only Latvian children, but also COB international business students. He worked in a university program that teamed alumni and students. International Business Institute Director Iris Varner said Wirth was an important mentor in that program, and “very willing to respond to students.”
Wirth has made Wirth a case study in her textbook for Illinois State’s beginning international business students. What he teaches students, Varner said, comes from “a world view he could never have developed if he had not taken the plunge.”

Wirth’s journey began after graduating with a degree in finance and international business. Several years into a good job at Caterpillar, he became intrigued by the idea of living in Central or Eastern Europe, where history was being made. He wasn’t being challenged in his job by promotions as quickly as desired, even though he was paid well. “I’ve never been driven by the need to make money,” Wirth said.

After a lot of thought, conversations with mentors—including Illinois State University faculty members—and negotiations with the Peace Corps, Wirth quit his job. He ended up in 1992 on a jet to the Baltic State of Estonia, a country undergoing a move to a private economy after the disintegration of the Soviet Union, of which it had been a part. His assignment as part of the first Peace Corps group to enter the former Soviet Union was to help businesses there obtain financing.

Wirth’s future began taking shape on that flight when he met another Peace Corps business volunteer, David DeRousse, a St. Louis-area Certified Public Accountant who after the Peace Corps would become Wirth’s business partner in Riga, Latvia. Near the end of Wirth’s service stint he would meet another Peace Corps volunteer in Estonia, Denise Salas, who would become his wife. She loved the region so much that she wanted to stay.

The outcome bears out the wisdom of Wirth’s instincts: the opportunities just keep coming. He and DeRousse own and operate RBM (www.rbm.lv), a management company for their wholly owned commercial real estate group that includes a 250-room hotel development, three office buildings, an industrial/logistics park development, and 10 supermarkets. In addition Wirth holds the influential position of president of the 150-member American Chamber of Commerce in Riga.

The vision Wirth had while at his Caterpillar desk has taken him to a level of international business expertise and success he could not have imagined. The instincts were good, but it was how he put them into action that made it all work.

It was because Wirth did so many of the right things to succeed in international business from the time he landed in Estonia that Varner used him as a textbook example. She and her husband, Illinois State Finance and Law Professor Carson Varner, were mentors whom Wirth credits and values, and with whom he has stayed in close contact.

Wirth’s international business curiosity started in his Illinois State classes.

In her book Varner describes the Estonian language—related to Finnish, Hungarian, and inner Asian language groups—as difficult to learn. Though his Peace Corps job did not require it, Wirth painstakingly became fluent in Estonian and later in Latvian. The effort maximized his standing in Estonia and his effectiveness in the business community. In addition to his job of helping local businesses gain financing, he started a weekly radio program, set up the area’s first crisis center for women and children, and opened a repair business employing disabled people.

At the end of his Peace Corps duty Wirth decided to stay on. Denise was still in the Peace Corps, and Wirth found “it was an exciting place to be.” The American firm Pepsico hired him to develop a Latvian subsidiary, and he stayed with the company until 1996.

Jerry Wirth ’88 found himself immersed in a different culture when he moved to Riga, Latvia. His offices are not far from the center of Riga’s old town and the House of Blackheads, opposite page, which was a leading trade guild for foreign merchants dating from the early 1300s.

Wirth and RBM office manager Alona Mashko tour the city’s Citadel Quarter, below. The neighborhood’s rich history dates back to the days of Catherine the Great.
He and partners then started a joint venture with a public Dutch shipping company in Latvia, which DeRousse later joined. They acted as liner agent for the American container company Seal-and in Latvia. Their business handled break bulk and container shipments of bananas and then chicken from Central America and the United States into Latvian ports. They expedited the distribution of the food, supplying a large part of the Russian, Kazakhstani, Uzbekistani, and Azerbajiani markets.

“While I never really had a purposeful plan,” Wirth said, “I’ve come to realize that I enjoy owning my own business.”

Now that he has achieved business success, people tell Wirth that he and DeRousse arrived in the Baltics at just the right time to invest. “The truth is,” Wirth said, “we were here a long time before the right time,” as the years between 1996 and 2002 were tough and unstable. Wirth found himself operating in a legal vacuum in which theft, corruption, and opportunism were standard fare. The guarantees of the Communist state had disappeared, but nothing had taken their place.

And yet, he said, “Our ethical standards would have been inappropriate to apply to that situation.” He credited Iris and Carson Varner’s classes and mentorship with preparing him to weather that storm.

Carson Varner observed Wirth in those tough years “making the rules up as he went along,” relying on personal relationships and trust to fend off corruption in business. Iris Varner added that Wirth understood himself, understood where the people in the Baltics were coming from, and made good decisions about what to adopt and reject in his new home.

Successfully negotiating that lawless period was a major part of Wirth’s education. “I think it would be arrogant to point fingers at this behavior if I understand the context in which it occurred, and I do understand it. But that doesn’t mean adopting it. That becomes the important decision.”

As he and DeRousse tried to expand their business, they did not get involved with any corrupt people or activities, and they suffered the consequences. Their business failed to grow. Eventually their “clean” position became attractive to others, and ultimately a force in growing their business. That was a happy outcome for them and an example, Wirth said, of the way in which Westerners can make a positive contribution to the business environment of a place like Latvia.

During that rough period Wirth and DeRousse went about their shipping business and invested some of their profits into historic buildings in Riga’s center. When international politics intervened, leading to Russia closing its border with Latvia, the shipping business became untenable, and suddenly all they had were two historic buildings.

Patience and optimism carried Wirth through, as he and his partner continued to add enterprises, including a furniture-making business and more real estate. In the late 1990s they could not afford to own cars, and in the lowest years they were earning less than $5,000 annually. They used up their savings, thinking they would have to return to the United States.

At the end of 2002 the turning point came when they closed a real estate sale leaseback purchase of five grocery stores from a major international grocery chain. The business grew from there as the environment in the Baltics stabilized and became even more favorable for enterprise in 2004, with membership in NATO and the European Union.

By late 2008, when the worldwide credit crisis struck, Wirth brought out his optimism once again. “The next two years will be very difficult, but so far our business is just fine,” he said, adding that their bank was safe.

He and Denise, now parents of three young daughters, decided years ago that they would
stay in Latvia as long as it was both fun and profitable. So far it has been. Denise has her own successful career as an administrator for the Baltics branch of the Stockholm School of Economics, developing an e-learning platform for the university. Previously she was chairperson of the English Department there.

Wirth is eager to continue applying the international business knowledge he learned, starting with his classes at Illinois State and continuing with his years of experience in Latvia. The main lesson hinges on the idea of understanding context, which leads to making good decisions about how he and his business fit into a foreign cultural and business model.

It’s a perspective Wirth gained while at Illinois State and a gift he actively returns to his alma mater, as he gladly helps the University prepare the next generation of international business entrepreneurs.

Alumni connection benefits Latvian children

At Homecoming 2004, Jerry Wirth ’88 and Michael Richard ’75 were seated together at a Friday night dinner. Both were at Homecoming to be inducted into the College of Business (COB) Hall of Fame. Wirth and Richard had never previously met, but as a result of their conversation that night and the chain of events it spawned, many Latvian children will receive medical care through a mobile clinic.

Richard, an accounting graduate, has been senior vice president and treasurer of McDonald’s Corporation for nine years. He also volunteers as a board of trustee member and the treasurer of Ronald McDonald House Charities® (RMHC®), a nonprofit organization (www.rmhc.org).

RMHC grew into a global organization from one Ronald McDonald House opened in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1974. Today the charity serves millions of children each year in 52 countries and regions around the world through the operation of three core programs: the Ronald McDonald House,® which provides lodging for families of sick children receiving care at a nearby hospital; the Ronald McDonald Family Room, which offers a place for families to relax and recharge in the hospital just steps from their child’s bedside; and the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile,® a mobile clinic on wheels, which helps bridge the access to health care for children in underserved communities.

Soon a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile will provide much-needed care to children in Latvia.

Wirth and Richard are quick to give each other credit for the Ronald McDonald Care Mobile program that will serve impoverished rural Latvian children, but the idea grew from the recognition that their interests were complementary. Wirth is vigilant in looking for opportunities to help Latvia. Richard represents a global corporation “always looking for places to give back to the communities they serve,” he said. Latvia has six McDonald’s restaurants.

The development of the program has been deliberate to ensure it will meet the most-pressing needs of Latvian children. RMHC sent a team of staff members and a physician on the RMHC Board of Directors to Latvia to conduct a thorough needs assessment.

In a culture where charitable activities are not a tradition, Wirth has leveraged his relationships to mobilize players from the Ministry of Health, to the American Embassy, to the state-operated children’s hospital. Wirth also established the RMHC Latvia chapter with tax-exempt status (www.rmhc-latvia.lv) through which he is raising funds to support this program. RMHC has continued to provide ongoing support, including a grant.

The initiative will capture the attention of Latvian President Valdis Zatlers this spring, when he attends the 2009 U.S.-Baltic Confluence Forum, Exchange and Gala. Wirth will receive the U.S.-Baltic Foundation’s Special Achievement in Business Award at the May event in Washington, D.C.

The award recognizes Wirth’s “outstanding contributions to Latvian and Estonian businesses, social, and cultural ties with the United States.” Beyond the personal honor, Wirth is pleased the event will give President Zatlers an opportunity to visit a Ronald McDonald Care Mobile in Georgetown.

Such publicity and support will advance the project, which both men note was pursued because of their alma mater. “None of this would have happened without Illinois State University having an active alumni program,” Wirth said.

If not for the COB event, Richard said, “We would never have met and never put connections together which ultimately will help thousands of Latvian children.”
Ahead
It has been nearly 37 years since the passage of Title IX. The groundbreaking and often controversial legislation was enacted to ban sex discrimination in publicly funded schools, mandating equal athletic opportunities for women and men.

Title IX was a national endorsement of what had long been recognized and nurtured at Illinois State through the leadership of a courageous cohort. The same year Title IX passed, the University hosted the country’s first merit-based National Intercollegiate Basketball Championship for Women.

Two early Redbird leaders who fought for women in athletics and physical education were Phebe Scott and Laurie Mabry. Backed by significant campus support, they had already made advances in women’s athletics before Title IX was signed into law by Richard Nixon on June 23, 1972.

Mabry and Scott are humble about their historic role in pushing women’s athletics to the next level of intercollegiate competition. Mabry recalls the tournament as “just one event I helped organize more than 30 years ago.”

A living legend who played in the event remembers it a little differently. University of Tennessee Lady Vols Basketball Coach Pat Summitt described it as a true turning point for female athletes. “The fact that we got to participate, I feel like that was the beginning of something that would lead to greatness,” Summitt said.

Summitt is not alone in her praise. Scott and Mabry are respected as pioneers across the country and on campus. They deflect such praise, singling out President Emeritus David Strand (1978-1999) as an integral player who helped change attitudes in the University’s Physical Education Department long before the nation recognized or embraced women as athletes.

“We seemed to get along all right,” Scott remembered. “It was for them a learning experience, and it was for us a learning experience. And so I think faculty...ought to be commended for their willingness to try something new.”

Scott headed the Women’s Health and Physical Education Department from 1966 to 1973, and chaired the men’s and women’s combined department from 1973 to 1976. She became a national leader in the promotion of women’s sports, serving as president of the Division of Girls and Women’s Sports, which is now the National Association for Girls and Women’s Sports.

But first, Scott was a tomboy. She spent a lot of time playing tennis as a girl in Massachusetts. In high school she learned about “this funny game called basketball.”

Scott loved the competition, even if the game was technically different from the boys’ version. The court was split into thirds. Girls were only allowed to move within their section of the court, and they had to pass the ball after a few dribbles. The separate rules and social attitudes that often barred girls from competing in team sports puzzled Scott.

“I can remember thinking as a young woman that if sports were so good for boys...developing leadership qualities and so forth, then why wasn’t it good for girls? So that started me on this whole
Scott was disappointed by the answers she found, most of which had to do with female health. “We had been told for years and years that women were of a delicate nature, and were not made to participate in heavy activity. To do so would be a problem for their health, in particular a problem with reproduction. And we believed all that!”

Scott came to the University in 1966 after serving in academic positions at Bradley, North Dakota, and Ohio State. When Illinois State offered the chance to get involved in sports, she was excited to continue her mission. She helped coordinate “Sports Days.” Female students who wanted to play showed up from several schools, and played for the love of the game.

“We were very successful,” she said. “But then you must remember that when we had a basketball season, we only had about three games played off campus. So it wasn’t hard to have a winning season.”

By the time Scott took over the women’s Physical Education Department, Illinois State boasted several hundred women in the program. Many schools reported only about 100 women working toward a degree in physical education. That gave the Redbirds an advantage once modern intercollegiate competition began.

“Illinois State did a lot to help this whole business of changing philosophy and changing thoughts about the place of women in sports for the rest of the country.”

That day came in part because Illinois State faculty and students were spreading their influence long before Title IX passed. The University was sending teachers into school systems across the country with a progressive attitude about women’s physical health, wellness, and even a healthy dose of competition.

“I think Illinois State did a lot to help this whole business of changing philosophy and changing thoughts about the place of women in sports for the rest of the country. A number of our students became coaches and administrators in various parts of the country,” Scott said. “And I think they did have a lot to do with the rest of the country kind of looking around and saying ‘I guess this isn’t so bad after all!’”

Scott used her passion to influence sports and scholarship programs across the nation. However, she never got her own shot at having an athletic career.

“I’m sorry I didn’t have the opportunity to try. But I enjoyed seeing the kids come up through college and have the opportunity to participate in a high degree of skill. In fact we had some women at Illinois State who went on to the Olympics.”

Scott was inducted into the Illinois State Athletics Hall of Fame in 1979, and was honored with a lifetime achievement award in 2007 by the National Association of Collegiate Women Athletics Administrators. She now lives in Fort Myers, Florida.

Mabry became a national force as well, not to mention a front-row witness to the controversies that followed the passage of Title IX. Illinois State’s first and only director of Women’s Intercollegiate Athletics (1960-1980), Mabry also served the Association for Intercollegiate Athletics for Women (AIAW) as president (1975-1976).

“It was certainly a challenging time for me here at ISU, as well as in the AIAW. But Illinois State was well ahead of Title IX back in those days for the Midwest,” Mabry said.

Before Mabry arrived at Illinois State in 1960 to run the women’s recreation program, she had earned her bachelor’s degree from Northwestern University. She had considered a journalism degree, tried out accounting, and taught high school for a few years. But she couldn’t shake her love for sports.

She had played golf since her uncle taught her in her backyard. And during the summers, her father had sponsored the softball team in her hometown of Vandalia. “My mother was afraid I wouldn’t go to college. She was afraid I’d play softball my whole life,” Mabry said. “But I wanted to go to college my whole life, so that wasn’t a problem.” She completed a master’s at Purdue University, and her doctorate at Iowa University.

As Title IX’s influence began to take hold, Laurie found herself in the middle of a Congressional debate over the fairness of the legislation. Football coaches had organized to challenge the
new requirements, supporting what was known as the Tower Amendment. It was a compromise that would exempt money-making programs, such as football and men’s basketball.

As AIAW’s president Mabry was prepared to fight for the law that had barely begun to change the landscape of athletics. She remained determined even after the AIAW failed in its efforts to get a meeting with then-President Gerald Ford.

“We were concerned that we were going to lose all of Title IX because President Ford had met with the football coaches who were objecting, but he denied our opportunity,” Mabry said, noting she was eventually called to testify before a Congressional committee.

While visiting friends in North Carolina, she received her prepared remarks from the AIAW’s attorney. Convinced the Tower Amendment would pass, the lawyer wanted Mabry to support the football exemption. She balked.

“I said, ‘You might be proven right in the long term, but AIAW is not going to say that,’” Mabry said. “I had to change that presentation while standing in a public phone booth with no shade in 102 degrees of heat.”

The Tower Amendment failed twice in Congress. A later amendment offered wiggle room for large football programs that didn’t have a female equivalent, but it wasn’t a complete exemption. The victory inspired Mabry to push for more equality among the Illinois State faculty.

“I held a review of the coaches’ salaries about that time and tried to equalize that based on their experience. Of course we didn’t match football or basketball because of the money they brought in,” she said, “but it was an improvement and an increase.”

During the 1980s the AIAW began to fold as the powerful National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) fought to take over women’s sports. “They could no longer coexist. They weren’t going to let us take over, or try to keep control of the women’s program,” Mabry said, noting the NCAA wanted oversight once it was clear Title IX wasn’t going away.

There were other growing pains as well, as most schools merged their men’s and women’s programs. The need to do so led to difficult choices regarding what sport programs would remain, including at Illinois State.

Mabry acknowledged that it was impossible to anticipate just how big women’s sports would be today. She credits the NCAA with doing a “good job” of giving young female athletes better opportunities due to the NCAA’s ability to get national sponsors for tournaments.

But Mabry also notes that with the demise of the AIAW, many of the women who worked hard to create and advance the women’s programs have found themselves without a leadership role. Since the NCAA was already a men’s association, the administration was naturally full of men.

“In the gain of participation for the athletes,” Mabry said, “we’ve lost the coaches and administrators as women.”

The legacy, however, has not been forgotten. In 1982 Mabry was the only woman in her induction class for the National Association of Collegiate Directors Hall of Fame. Her legacy lives on today for Illinois State Athletics. Since 1981 the school has honored female athletes with the Laurie Mabry Award. Winners exemplify positive values and attitudes that can be learned through athletics.

Today Mabry lives in her hometown of Vandalia, where she has transferred her competitive skills to a new game—poker.

WEB EXTRA
A reporter with Bloomington radio station WJBC, Beth Whisman spoke with Phebe Scott and Laurie Mabry for a special report that aired during Illinois State’s sesquicentennial. Go to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine to download an audio file of the interviews.

Editor’s note: Illinois State’s influence in opening the playing field for women was further extended by Redbird coaching legends Jill Hutchison, M.S. ’69, and Linda Herman. Read in the August issue of Illinois State how women’s basketball and volleyball became formidable programs in the Midwest under their leadership.
From metal
As soon as Ernie Banks spotted the seven-foot-tall, bronze sculpture of himself, his eyes lit up.

“Oh, wow!” the legendary baseball player told reporters. “I love it!” Then, with a burst of the light-hearted joyfulness that has always been “Mr. Cub’s” trademark: “Long after I’m not here, I’ll still be here!”

It was the morning of March 31st, 2008—Opening Day at Chicago’s Wrigley Field—when baseball officials revealed the sculpture of the great Hall-of-Famer near the stadium’s main gates.

As the veil rippled away from his creation, Lou Cella ’85 found himself swamped beneath a surging wave of emotion. The 46-year-old sculptor, who’d spent the previous four months creating the monumental work of art, was witnessing its powerful impact on baseball players and fans gathered to honor Banks.

“My blood is blue, and I’ve been a Cub fan my entire life,” the Illinois State fine arts and graphic design major would later recall. “So you can imagine how I felt that day, as I watched Ernie Banks react to the sculpture I’d worked so hard to shape.

“I think I was still in the first grade when my dad took me to Wrigley Field for the first time, and Ernie was still playing for the Cubs. I grew up as a fanatical Cubs fan, and I worshipped Ernie Banks. And there he was on that unforgettable day last year, standing with Hank Aaron, Billy Williams, and all these cheering fans gazing up at the big bronze statue I’d made of him.

“I had my dad with me, and I was able to introduce him to Ernie right after the unveiling ceremonies. As an artist who specializes in three-dimensional images of people—and as a baseball fan with a lifelong passion for the Cubs—I can tell you that this was an Opening Day I won’t forget!”

Spend a few hours with Louis Edward Cella III at the Rotblatt Amrany Fine Art Studio in the northern Chicago suburb of Highwood, and you’ll be even more amazed by the company he keeps. Since joining the nationally renowned studio 13 years ago, Cella has sculpted or cosculpted dozens of sports luminaries, including Carlton Fisk, Ty Cobb, famed broadcaster Ernie Harwell, and the well-known football coach Barry Alvarez.

He’s also recreated legendary baseball announcers such as Harry Caray, along with movie stars Clark Gable and Humphrey Bogart. All are cast in gleaming steel, fiberglass, or bronze—caught forever in dramatic postures that vibrate with their uniqueness.

“The key to capturing these famous public figures in sculpture is to keep working until the personality of your subject emerges. It’s not enough to just capture the likeness of a subject like Banks...
or Michael Jordan or Harry Caray. The viewer also has to feel that personality at work in the three-dimensional image you create,” Cella said.

“In the effort to capture that feeling, we work from hundreds of photographs of the subject, and we spend day after day shaping and reshaping the clay model until the temperament of the individual starts to shine through.”

Each new project is a grueling struggle, in which creative playfulness combines with bulldog-like determination to capture the mystery of a human figure in unforgiving metal. Cella brings extraordinary talent and years of preparation to the challenge.

Born and raised in the Chicago area as the son of a mechanical engineer, Cella started “playing with watercolors and doing art” at five. By the time he reached the 10th grade at Hersey High School, he was deeply involved in printmaking, painting, and acting in student theatrical productions. Arriving at Illinois State in 1981, Cella realized a passion that would lead him into the world of monumental sculpture.

“I had a great time studying art at Illinois State,” he said. “It was a very exciting period for me because they had a terrific fine arts program, and a highly regarded theater program, and I was very interested in both. But I was also interested in anything that involved crafting objects and making physical artifacts.

“I remember taking this course in jewelry-making with [Associate Professor] Dennis French, and getting very excited about making these little silver containers. We came up with all sorts of neat designs, and it was an extremely tricky process. You had to learn how to hammer the heated silver into the forms you wanted without breaking it, and I guess that’s where I started to learn about the process of sculpting.”

Another Illinois State highlight occurred when Cella was asked to paint a pro baseball player’s image on a friend’s Manchester Hall bedroom wall. “One of my buddies at the time happened to be Jeff Bergman ’85, who was the younger brother of Detroit Tigers first baseman Dave Bergman. Jeff saw the wall painting I’d done, and he asked me to do one for his brother.

Some of Cella’s favorites

Alums don’t have to wait until this summer’s placement of Lou Cella’s sculpture on campus to see his work. He has many pieces scattered across the Midwest. The following are among Cella’s favorites.

1. Ernie Banks, of Chicago Cubs fame, stands at Wrigley Field in Chicago.
2. Carlton Fisk, who played with the White Sox, stands at U.S. Cellular Field in Chicago.
3. Ernie Harwell, a beloved Detroit Tigers broadcaster, stands at Comerica Park, Detroit.
4. Barry Alvarez, who was a University of Wisconsin football coach, stands at Camp Randall Stadium in Madison, Wisconsin.
5. Fathers Theodore Hesburgh and Edmund Joyce can be found at Notre Dame in South Bend, Indiana. Hesburgh is a past president of the university, and Joyce a former executive vice president.
6. Clark Gable’s tribute is at the Clark Gable Foundation and Museum in Cadiz, Ohio.

WEB EXTRA
Get a better understanding of how Cella’s creations come to life by viewing a series of photos that show the Ernie Banks piece in progress. Go online to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.
“He liked the painting, and he asked how much I wanted for it. I’d never been asked that question before as an artist, so I just blurted: ‘How about $15?’ He agreed, and that $15 became my first-ever commission for a work of art!"

A few weeks after graduating Cella began working as a graphic artist for a Chicago ad agency, which led to a series of advertising jobs. By the late 1980s he discovered that his true love was for “the three-dimensional stuff” he could make as a sculptor. He enrolled for classes at the Rotblatt Amrany Studio, which was on its way to becoming a major national player in monumental sculpture. The studio is owned by Omri Amrany and his wife, Julie Rotblatt Amrany. Their son, Itamar Amrany, is a sophomore art major at Illinois State.

Rotblatt Amrany hired Cella and gave his career as a statue-maker a huge boost, tapping him in 1998 to cosculpt the giant bronze of beloved Chicago Cubs announcer Harry Caray. He went on to create more than a dozen sports superstars in bronze. His current project is a life-sized tableau for the University of legendary Illinois State basketball coach Will Robinson and one of his top players, Doug Collins ’73 (see sidebar, page 20).

When crafting such large bronze pieces, Cella starts with a ball of clay that is affixed to a stand (the “armature”). He studies photos and uses calipers for exact measurements, such as the space between the eyes and the mouth of his subject. He scrapes away with a special sculpting tool until the features of the subject begin to emerge.

“It can be exasperating at times, when you can’t seem to get the details right, but eventually, if you just hang in there, it all starts to come together,” he said, acknowledging that the sculpting process also depends on spontaneous and intuitive impulses that can’t be easily defined.

“You’ve probably heard the old stories about how Michelangelo worked,” Cella said when pressed to explain the magic that lies behind his art. “Legend has it that Michelangelo would look at a block of marble and would discover that Moses [one of his better-known subjects] was already in there. All he had to do was to let him out!”

Cella had a similar sensation while working on the Banks sculpture. “I felt that Ernie Banks was in the clay model I worked on for three months. I kept measuring his features over and over again, and then I’d take photos of the model I was making and compare them to the stacks of Ernie Banks photos I had in the studio,” Cella said.

“It’s a very slow, methodical process, but if you’re fortunate and it works effectively, you can bring the metal ‘alive’ by catching the personality in it. That’s a huge thrill for a sculptor, of course; and it’s what keeps bringing me back to the studio each day for another 10 or 12 hours of trying to get it exactly right!”

After finishing the clay model of Banks, Cella supervised a series of steps that culminated in a ceramic mold of the figure. The mold was then filled with molten brass to create the 300-pound sculpture on permanent display at Wrigley Field.

“I’ve been told many times that Ernie’s remarkably cheerful personality seems to inhabit the figure, which is music to any sculptor’s ears,” said Cella, who called working on the piece “just an extraordinary experience.”

There will undoubtedly be many more such moments for Cella, who is also the enthusiastic father of a five-year old daughter, Ondine.

“It can be exasperating at times, when you can’t seem to get the details right, but eventually, if you just hang in there, it all starts to come together.”
The work of alumnus Lou Cella ’85 will be unveiled on campus this summer with completion of a statue that honors former Redbird head basketball coach Will Robinson and his most famous player, three-time All-American Doug Collins ’73.

Robinson became the nation’s first NCAA Division I African-American men’s basketball coach when he was hired at Illinois State in 1970. He coached five seasons, compiling a record of 78-51 before taking a scouting position with the NBA’s Detroit Pistons. Robinson died in 2008 at the age of 96.

Collins played in the 1972 Olympics, was a four-time NBA All-Star, an NBA coach, and is now an award-winning NBA analyst for TNT. He credits Robinson for imparting wisdom that has carried Collins throughout his career.

“When I went to Illinois State, I had no idea where I was headed. When I met Coach Robinson, from that moment forward, he was the voice I heard. I just knew he would always tell me the truth,” Collins said.

He is humbled by the monument that is made possible through a generous contribution from the family of Donald Franke ’71, a Bloomington resident who is a close friend to Collins.

The statue will replicate an historic photo, where Robinson is on one knee leaning on a basketball and Collins is posed alongside his coach. It will stand on a four-foot granite pedestal at the north entrance of Redbird Arena.

“We have a rich history here at Illinois State, and I can’t think of anything grander that we could do for Will Robinson than to place him forever in front of Redbird Arena alongside his greatest player,” Director of Athletics Sheahon Zenger said.

“It’s hard to find the words to describe the contrast between Coach Robinson and a young Doug Collins—old and young, urban and rural, black and white,” Zenger said. “The real purpose of this statue is that story.”

WEB EXTRA
See Doug Collins ’73 react to the surprise of Lou Cella’s statue by going online to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine. A video tribute to Will Robinson is on the same Web site.
When disaster strikes

Be careful.

Those are the last two words his mother says to him as she follows him out the door after a visit. Sometimes she reminds him not to drive too fast.

But she has a little more than the average mother to worry about. After all, her son, Andrew Velasquez III ’93, M.S. ’94, is the top public safety official in Illinois. His job is to respond to disasters and terrorism threats, along with being responsible for nuclear safety in a state with 11 nuclear reactors.

Velasquez is director of the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security advisor to the governor’s office, which means he climbs into the helicopter with the governor when anything bad happens.

“Any catastrophic event that affects this state, I can assure you that both the governor and myself will be there,” he said.

He sleeps with his Blackberry within arm’s reach.

“You have to constantly be connected. That’s just the nature of this business. In order to be truly successful in this career, you have to be passionate about what you do. Part of the nature of it is sacrifice.”

Graduate’s work keeps crises from crippling Illinois

BY KATE ARTHUR
The criminal justice sciences alum was appointed in March of 2007 to head the Springfield state agency. He is the first Hispanic in that role. Formerly head of Chicago’s Office of Emergency Management and Communications, he was called Chicago’s “go-to guy” in the event of a disaster. If the mayor was out of town during a calamity, Velasquez would have had to make the call on evacuating the city.

When Northern Illinois experienced flash flooding last fall, Velasquez was there. And he was there following the Northern Illinois University shooting tragedy in February of 2008. When a 5.8 earthquake shook residents of Mount Caramel awake last spring, he got a call and immediately activated the state’s emergency operations center. The center coordinates disaster response, providing help to those struggling to recover some sense of normalcy following a flood, tornado, ice storm, or other disaster. The center can be activated for weeks, even months. Being in a position to offer aid is the best part of his job, Velasquez said.

“It’s all consuming. In some ways it’s a crushing workload, but what keeps me motivated is that I’m in a position where I’m empowered to help people in times of crisis. I can go into a community and say, ‘How can I help you? What can I do to help you recover?’ and that’s very fulfilling.”

His sense of public service grew early in life. At a time when teens were likely to be working behind fast food counters, he patrolled the corridors of a hospital as a security guard, and worked retail as a loss prevention specialist. After graduation he served six years in the U.S. Army.

The native Chicagoan then started searching for a college. A friend who graduated from Illinois State’s criminal justice sciences program highly recommended the University, and gave him a tour. After one visit, Velasquez made his decision.

At Illinois State he was elected to student government, serving as director of Community Rights and Responsibilities, as well as president of the American Criminal Justice Association. He believes the University well prepared him for his 10-year career with the Chicago Police Department, where he started out as a policy analyst.

“I can assure you that the well-rounded education I received as a student of the criminal justice program helped me as I rose through the ranks,” Velasquez said.

“I can go into a community and say, ‘How can I help you? What can I do to help you recover?’ and that’s very fulfilling.”
Impressed with his criminal justice professors, he remains in touch with several of them today.

“I remember the majority of my professors because they’ve had such an impact on my life and career,” he said, naming off a half dozen. “They didn’t just lecture. It seemed they had a vested interest in seeing the students succeed. I was also impressed that many of the professors brought real-world experience into their teaching.

“These professors challenged my intellectual curiosity. They helped me think about things I normally wouldn’t. I think about Dr. Lois Guyon. She set the stage for me. It was her criminal justice 101 course that basically locked it up for me.”

His education taught Velasquez how to recognize and diagnose problems, as well as think creatively. Campus life and getting involved in student government helped him develop the leadership skills he uses today.

“Living in the residence halls, serving in student government, all of those experiences taught me how to deal with people and build coalitions, which helped me become a better leader and a better manager,” he said. “It’s the foundation that I continue to draw upon for the career challenges that I have, and that I expect to have in the future. You’ll always have challenges in any career, and my career certainly isn’t over.”

Velasquez is still connected to the University. He speaks to classes, serves on the Criminal Justice Sciences Advisory Board, joins in social events, and advises his fraternity—Sigma Lambda Beta.

“I always look to see how I can help other alums, because I know the quality of an ISU education,” said Velasquez, who has hired criminal justice alums. His own success is an inspiration to students. He shares the humility he felt when recruited to his current post, noting that being the first Hispanic leader added a layer of pride for him personally and his family.

“My parents are very proud. But my mom is such a worry wart,” he added, with a chuckle. “I can’t even begin to tell you how many times I have told her she has to stop worrying. I say ‘Mom, this is the business I’m in. If anyone truly recognizes how important safety and security is, it’s me.’”
Mouse or mail?

Pick your alumni magazine preference

A decade has passed since the University made the commitment to send a full-color magazine to all alumni four times each year. Graduates have always received the Illinois State Alumni Magazine with no fees attached. The publication remains one of the best ways for individuals to keep a strong campus connection, regardless of distance due to time or location.

The outreach began as strictly a print effort, but in recent months the University’s Web team has increasingly played a role. The magazine’s Internet presence has been enhanced significantly. In this issue, for example, readers will find links from two features to additional material available only online. And while in the past only some sections of the magazine were online, all pages of each new issue are now posted.

Illinois State online allows us to provide additional information and images that won’t fit on the printed page format. It allows us to deliver the most recent issue with greater speed, as the online version is available before the publication makes it to mailboxes. Perhaps most importantly, our online efforts result in a choice for you. Readers now have an opportunity to go green, eliminating the printed piece and opting for just the online version.

If you prefer technology to turning the page, please let us know. Contact Alumni Relations Senior Assistant Director Annette States Levitt ’96, M.S. ’02, at aslevitt@IllinoisState.edu to be removed from the magazine’s mailing list. You won’t have to worry about missing any editions, as an electronic notice will be sent when the next issue of Illinois State is available online.

Readers who prefer the printed piece will still receive Illinois State free in their mailbox. When you’re done reading, take a moment to go online and see what Internet extras have been added. An author’s corner, “Reading with Reggie,” will be available soon, giving Redbirds who write a chance to share the news of their publication with fellow alums.

Another new feature that gives graduates updates on some of the most beloved faculty and staff retirees is also planned. This “Where Are They Now” column will reconnect you with mentors who made a difference during your days as a college student. Additional “How We Met” stories will be posted as well.

Regardless of which format you prefer, let us hear from you when you’re done reading. Share your story, report your news, or provide feedback. Tell us what content meets your needs and interests. Go online to www.alumni.ilstu.edu/magazinegift and make a donation to help defray the escalating cost of printing and postage. Help us help you stay connected through Illinois State!
Plan now for Homecoming

Join the fun as Illinois State celebrates its 89th Homecoming this fall. The schedule of activities for this annual return of Redbirds includes a mix of campus traditions, with new events planned as well. Whether you graduated this year or decades ago, you’ll find something to match your interests. For updated information throughout the summer, check online at www.IllinoisState.edu/homecoming.

An alumni perspective

For almost 150 years, the Illinois State University Alumni Association has been providing opportunities for students and alumni to visit campus and reconnect, network, and socialize with current and past Redbirds. Most recently these opportunities for connections have become available via electronic means—just a click away—via online social networks such as LinkedIn, Facebook, and MySpace.

I encourage you to take a look for Reggie Redbird or Illinois State University online. Alumni Relations staff are doing our best to create groups, fan pages, and profiles that share official information from your alma mater with your online friends. In addition we’d love to help you create your own Illinois State online networks. I hope you’ll let us know how we can be of assistance.

I consider myself one of the luckiest persons on campus, in that I get to share my passion for Illinois State by helping to build virtual relationships between our alumni and students. It has been exciting to watch from the sidelines as alumni share career advice with LinkedIn discussions, create reunion groups on Facebook, and share birthday greetings through MySpace comments.

So, if you haven’t already, make sure to check out Illinois State online networks at www.alumni.ilstu.edu.

Annette States Levitt ’96, M.S. ’02
Senior Assistant Director, Alumni Relations
aslevitt@IllinoisState.edu
Here’s a sampling of alumni events on campus and across the country. For the most up-to-date event information or to register online, please visit www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni/events. Detailed information for all university events is available on the University Calendar at www.calendar.ilstu.edu.

May

12 Illinois State Baseball vs. Notre Dame
Contact: Redbird Athletics
Cheer on the men’s baseball team against the University of Notre Dame in Joliet. First pitch is at 6:30 p.m. with a reception prior. Go to GoRedbirds.com for more information or call (309) 438-8000.

14-15 Half Century Club Spring Reunion
Contact: Campus Office
A reunion dinner and induction into the Half Century Club will be held for members of the Class of 1959 from 5-7 p.m. on May 14 in the Alumni Center. Existing members of the Half Century Club will enjoy a social with light refreshments at 6:30 p.m. The Half Century Club Showcase will begin at 8 a.m. on May 15, with a luncheon following the presentations.

June

4 Roselle Winery Tour and Tasting—Chicago West and Northwest
Contact: Campus Office
Enjoy a visit to Lynfred Winery in Roselle. The 6:30-9 p.m. event includes a tour and tasting of wines. Cost is $30 per person. Space is limited. Register by May 28.

6 Alumni Association Board of Directors Meeting
Contact: Campus Office
This quarterly meeting of the board begins at 9 a.m. at the Alumni Center. All alumni are welcome.

18 Legacy of Leadership: Student Leader Event in Chicago
Contact: Campus Office
The Alumni Association and Division of Student Affairs will host student leader alumni and friends in Chicago. See page 5 for details. Cost is $15 per person. Reservations needed by June 11.

July

10 Harvey S. Woods Golf Outing
Contact: Department of Agriculture
Join agriculture alumni and guests at the annual Harvey S. Woods Golf Outing at the Weibring Golf Club. Lunch will be served. Funds raised will support the Harvey Woods Scholarship for agriculture majors. Call (309) 438-5654 or go online to www.agriculture.ilstu.edu.

18 Alumni Night at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival
Contact: Campus Office
Join fellow alumni for dinner on the lawn of Ewing Manor. The evening’s performance will be Scapin. Register by July 3.

August

14 ISU Night with the Peoria Chiefs
Contact: Campus Office
Join Illinois State friends and alumni for a special evening at a Peoria Chiefs game. Pregame event and game tickets are available.

Contact Us
To register by phone or for more information, please call the office indicated for each specific event.

CAMPUS OFFICE
(309) 438-2586 or toll free (800) 366-4478

CHICAGO OFFICE
(312) 251-3500 or toll free (866) 366-4478

REDBIRD ATHLETICS
(309) 438-8000
Scheduled each February to mark the University’s establishment in 1857, Founders Day brings the campus together for reflection and celebration. This year’s events included a bell-ringing ceremony in the Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom, as well as on the Quad at the Old Main bell. Faculty and staff were recognized for years of service at a reception. Awards for stellar performance and alumni accomplishments were presented at the annual convocation, which featured Illinois Governor Pat Quinn as guest speaker. James Koch ’64, received an honorary degree, and Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus John Freed signed the book he authored on Illinois State’s history (see page 29).

WEB EXTRA
Highlights from Founders Day can be found online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine. View a photo album, comments made by Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, and an Educating Illinois video that was shown at the convocation.
Distinguished Alumni Award

J. Michael Adams ’69
President, Fairleigh Dickinson University
Morristown, New Jersey
J. Michael Adams studied industrial technology and mathematics while attending Illinois State. He served in the United States Army before beginning a long career in higher education that included serving as a professor at State University of New York. He served Drexel University as dean of the College of Design Arts, which flourished under his direction. Now president of Fairleigh Dickinson University, which is New Jersey’s largest private university, Adams encourages his students to explore their options through a global education curriculum. He has authored several articles and books, including The Next Generation. He is also the founder of TIES magazine. Adams is president-elect of the International Association of University Presidents. IAUP includes nearly 700 presidents, rectors, and vice chancellors from around the world. Throughout his career Adams has been awarded several national and international honors for his work in higher education. Illinois State has also honored Adams with the Alumni Achievement Award and Department of Technology Distinguished Alumni Award.

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Award

Kimberly A. (Lockwood) Travers ’92, M.S. ’94
Technology Faculty, Heartland Community College
Heyworth
Kimberly Travers is an educator, and a leader of various organizations. She has served on the National Association of Industrial Technology (NAIT) executive board as an officer, and has received several association awards for her contributions. Travers is also a part of the Bloomington-Normal Education Alliance (BNEA), which sponsors an annual Students Involved with Technology (SIT) conference at Heartland Community College. The conference works to interest students in grades 3-12 in technology careers. Travers uses her technology knowledge and more to assist several agencies, including 4H, Big Brothers/Big Sisters, Race for the Cure, Relay For Life, Hands All Around Quilt Guild (HAAQG), Girl Scouts of America, and Project Oz. She assists with fundraising efforts as well.

Alumni Achievement Award

David M. Kranz ’75, M.S. ’76
Biochemistry Professor, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
David Kranz graduated from Illinois State with two biological sciences degrees. He completed a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois and post-doctoral studies at MIT. He is currently at the University of Illinois, where he is the Phillip A. Sharp Professor of Biochemistry, a position endowed by U of I alumnus and Nobel Laureate Phil Sharp. Kranz teaches biological sciences courses, and works with graduate student research projects. His research focus includes immunotherapy of cancer, and molecular basis of immune recognition and autoimmune diseases. Kranz’s work has garnered many grants, led to several patents, and resulted in 120 peer reviewed publications. His myriad accolades include the Searle Scholar Award, the James S. McDonnell Foundation Research Award, and the Life Science Innovator Award.

Sandra Steingraber, M.S. ’82
Environmental Writer, Ithaca College
Trumansburg, New York
Combining her master’s degree in English from Illinois State with a doctoral degree in biology, Steingraber is a scientist and author who advocates for environmental human rights. Her ability to combine data analysis with lyrical storytelling is showcased in several books, including the award-winning Living Downstream, which will soon be released as a documentary film. Steingraber serves as Scholar in Residence in the Division of Interdisciplinary and International Studies at Ithaca College. An enthusiastic public speaker, Steingraber has presented before the United Nations, the European Parliament, U.S. Congress, and the President’s Cancer Panel.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Mac Condill ’99
General Manager, The Great Pumpkin Patch; Owner, The Homestead Bakery
Arthur
Mac Condill returned to his family farm after completing his degree in agribusiness and horticulture. He has traveled and studied horticultural practices in Scotland, Africa, and India. Putting what he has learned globally to work, Condill plants and harvests more than 400 varieties of squash a year at the family’s Great Pumpkin Patch in Central Illinois. It is an attraction that receives national attention, with educational opportunities for visitors. Condill aids in the education of other Illinois State Agriculture Department students as well, donating a vast variety of seeds. The seeds are used in studies and research, and many of them also appear in the Horticulture Center’s autumnal festival.

E-mail Gina Bianchi at glbianc@IllinoisState.edu to make a nomination.
Senator John W. Maitland Jr., Commitment to Education Award

Donald M. Prince, L.L.D. ’81
College of Education Professor Emeritus, Illinois State
Winnetka

Donald M. Prince attended Illinois State through the Navy’s V-12 program during World War II. He completed a doctorate at the University of Illinois and returned to Illinois State as professor and first chair of the Department of Educational Administration, leading in the creation of the University’s first doctoral program. Prince is a past president of the University’s Alumni Association. He was awarded an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree by Illinois State in 1981. A former chair of the Illinois Board of Higher Education, he also worked with the Illinois Student Assistance Commission to develop College Illinois, the state’s pre-paid tuition program. Prince also served as vice president of Rand McNally and Company, and as president/owner of E. A. Hinrichs & Co., Chicago.

Distinguished Alumnus awarded honorary degree

James V. Koch ’64 returned to campus in February to receive an honorary degree from the University as part of the Founders Day celebration. The honor is one of many for Koch, who is a past recipient of the University’s Distinguished Alumni Award and Alumni Achievement Award.

Book documenting university’s history unveiled

Founders Day marked the official release of one of the most comprehensive books ever written about Illinois State’s history. *Educating Illinois: Illinois State University, 1857-2007* covers Illinois’ first public university from its founding through last year’s sesquicentennial celebration.

Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus John Freed authored the book. His research of the University’s early history revealed that Illinois State was, from the very beginning, intended to be much more than a teacher training institution.

“I found that the facts surrounding the University’s original mission were also downplayed or ignored in earlier histories of the institution,” Freed said. “A re-examination of the history will give people a greater appreciation for the educational legacy of Illinois State as the University enters its next 150 years. In addition the account of how repeated fiscal crises have shaped the development of the institution since the late 1960s has particular relevance to us today, as we face the most serious recession since World War II.”

The 480-page, 12-chapter book is fully indexed and details the triumphs and challenges of every administration from Illinois State’s first principal Charles Hovey to its 17th president, Al Bowman, who penned the book’s forward.

“Those familiar with Illinois State University are treated to new information with greater detail and sharper focus,” Bowman wrote. “The uninitiated reader will discover how the seeds of higher learning were planted in the Central Illinois prairie, and blossomed into a distinctive institution.” Bowman praised Freed’s work, noting his words “evoke images and emotions that span 15 decades, revealing periods of tranquility and times of turbulence.”

Freed taught medieval history at Illinois State from 1969 until his retirement in 2005, but continues to teach a course for the History Department every semester. He served as department chair from 1994 until 2005, and was interim dean of the College of Arts and Sciences from 2001-2002. Freed has authored several books and dozens of articles for such journals as the American Historical Review.

*Educating Illinois: Illinois State University, 1857-2007* is available by contacting Jackie Snelling at (309) 438-5677 or by e-mail at jrsnell@IllinoisState.edu. Cost is $30, plus shipping and handling.
Robert O’Connell, M.S. ’79, has a different story than most alumni. Like myriad graduates, he left Illinois State to become a successful entrepreneur. What makes his journey unique is that he built a business while serving as a saving grace for recovering addicts whom he purposefully employees.

After completing his bachelor’s degree at the College of Santa Fe in New Mexico, O’Connell started graduate school at West Chester University in Pennsylvania. After only one semester there he headed to Illinois State.

“I ended up at ISU because my future wife was attending school there, and I thought why not. Four kids later I think I made the right choice,” said O’Connell, who earned a master’s in physical education. His wife, Elizabeth (Rudiger) ’79, majored in recreation administration. They reside in River Forest.

O’Connell traces the start of his business career back to 1992. It was then he bought Radio Group, an out-bound, business-to-business telemarketing company that had no more than 20 employees in one location at that time. Fifteen years later, with O’Connell as president and CEO, Radio Group works with Fortune 500 companies across the nation.

The Oak Park firm now ranks as one of the best business-to-business telemarketing companies in the country. O’Connell created such success despite adopting a hiring philosophy most would deem questionable.

In his first year of business, O’Connell started hiring from halfway houses. He made the decision when a struggling young woman came into his office for a job interview. She was candid about her situation, stating she lived in a halfway house, and would have irregular hours due to house rules and mandatory court dates.

Impressed with her honesty, O’Connell hired her on the spot. A few months later the same employee approached O’Connell about job opportunities for
some of her friends at the halfway house. He hired them all.

“I had the ability to do that because we weren’t corporate heavy, and I could afford to be flexible,” said O’Connell, who has no reason to regret the decision. For while telemarketing is an industry with tremendous turnover, Radio Group has an extremely high percentage of customer loyalty compared to the industry as a whole. Clients want to work with O’Connell and his company because his employees are so dedicated.

“It’s a win-win situation. They can’t find work because of their background, and I give them a second chance,” O’Connell said of his employees. “They are so elated to have a second chance that they do great work, and are extremely loyal to me. I get results that no other company can obtain.”

Radio Group today has a staff that totals approximately 75, with almost 80 percent of those employees hired from area halfway houses. Over the years employees have delivered such stellar job performance that O’Connell has acquired enough new business to expand to 100 workers during his busiest periods.

He works closely with six Chicagoland halfway houses in an effort to provide job opportunities for those in need. “I can’t hire everyone who comes into my office, but if I can’t hire them I’ll pass their name along to other employers I have built relationships with,” O’Connell said.

O’Connell estimates he has had 5,000 people come to him during the past 15 years, with many finding the help they need to change direction. Numerous former employees have been empowered to move out of the halfway homes, going on to obtain higher paying jobs after their time at Radio Group.

He has also had employees leave in the middle of the workday, never to be seen or heard from again. Those moments have not been enough to persuade O’Connell to alter his hiring practices.

“A lot of people hit rock bottom and need to find a way to get back on the horse. This place gives them a chance to earn a paycheck in their time of need,” O’Connell said. “I look like a genius, but really it just worked out.”

The results have put O’Connell in the spotlight. In 2003 the Substance Abuse Mental Health Services Administration, an agency sponsored by the U.S. government, summoned O’Connell to Washington, D.C. He served on a panel of experts as the agency examined the issue of hiring recovering addicts.

In October of 2008 he received the lifetime achievement award from The Business Ledger, the business newspaper for suburban Chicago. While he appreciates such accolades, O’Connell remains focused on building strong relationships. That includes his corporate clientele, but starts with his employees.

“You need to invest in people,” said O’Connell, who has the heart and courage to see past what most cannot overlook to find success in business and life.
George J. Yard ’59 is an associate professor emeritus at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. He coauthored the second edition of Teaching Learners Who Struggle With Mathematics. He and his wife, Carole, reside in Houston, Texas.

Sandy (Rohman) Snyder ’60 retired from Olympia School District after 35 years of teaching at Atlanta Elementary School. She authored and published her first children’s book, titled New Orleans Dogs Allowed. The book is the story of two dogs who find themselves in the middle of Hurricane Katrina, and their ultimate rescue. The project was a lifelong goal completed after a year-long battle with cancer and the death of the oldest son of Snyder and her husband, John Sr. ’58, M.S. ’66. He is a teacher at Central Catholic High School in Bloomingom, where they reside.

Ron Weingartner ’60 has launched an interactive forum for the toy and game community. www.toydreamers.blogspot.com. The blog includes observations and rumors about the toy biz, along with content elaborating on the book the inventor coauthored, Toy and Game Inventors Handbook. He resides in Longmeadow, Massachusetts.


John H. Swart ’62, M.S. ’64, has retired after 40 years at Saint Leo University in Saint Leo, Florida. He is a member of three Athletic Hall of Fame, including at Saint Leo University. He and with his wife, Donna, reside in San Antonio, Texas.

Dan Carter ’69 worked as an actor and director, leading the theater programs at several major universities. He also played left field for the Tallahassee Classics when they won the Roy Hobbs Over-40 Baseball National Championship in 1992. He is a member of the Rock Valley College Alumni Hall of Fame, and was inducted into the College of Fellows of the American Theatre in 2008.

Carolyn J. (Launing) Finzer ’69 was included in the 50th edition of Who’s Who of American Women. An artist and storyteller, she had 15 pieces in an exhibit at Aurora University earlier this year. She remains an active volunteer. One recent project involved spearheading a 132-foot beautification project in front of the Naperville Post Office by installing 500 rocks and donated perennials. She and her husband, Mel, reside in Naperville.

Joseph Kotarba ’69 is a professor of sociology at the University of Houston. He was appointed chair of the department in 2008. An author, his most recent book is Understanding Society through Popular Music. He resides in Bellaire, Texas.

Larry Hodek ’70 has retired from the U.S. Postal Service with 39 years of service. His wife, Jean (Pavlik) ’71, is an ELL teacher in Westmont, where they reside.

Christopher Hunte, M.A. ’71, is a sociology professor. He coauthored “A regional human services authority’s rapid needs assessment of evacuees following natural disasters.” The article was published in the September/October 2008 issue of American Journal of Disaster Medicine. He resides in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

Jim Lineback ’71 is a pulmonary physician in a new medical practice of preventive cardiology and anti-aging medicine. He is an associate clinical professor of medicine at UCLA College of Medicine. He and his wife, Linda, reside in Newport Beach, California.

John McClarey, M.S. ’71, is an award-winning sculptor and historian. He was chosen to create a 7-foot bronze statue of Abraham Lincoln for the Illinois community of Hillsboro. He has created other Lincoln sculptures for the metropolitan Museum of Art in New York City, and the Library of Congress in Washington, D.C. He is the first “visual historian” to receive the Richard Nelson Current Award of Achievement. He resides in Decatur.

Roger Hawk ’72, M.S. ’73, retired as a special education administrator. He supervises student teachers for Monmouth College. He and his wife, Mary, provide daycare for two children in Toulon, where they reside.

John K. Rauschenberger ’72, M.S. ’74, is president and CEO of Marine Insurance Services, LLC. He resides in Chicago.

Martha C. Snejerman ’72, M.S. ’91, Ph.D. ’96, is a biosafety professional at the University of Illinois. She is a registrar of the National Registry of Microbiologists. She earned the credential by becoming certified as a specialist microbiologist in biological safety microbiology. She resides in Bloomington.

Patrick E. Winters ’72 is the president and CEO of 2SET, and executive director of the Society of Maintenance and Reliability Professionals. He has been appointed to the Malcolm Baldridge National Quality Awards board of directors. He resides in Maylene, Alabama.

Jim Jarrett ’73, M.S. ’76, completed 31 years as a baseball coach, ending his career at Lake Land College. He was head coach there for seven years before retiring. He guided the college team to the CCCI conference championship in 2004, and was voted CCCI Coach of the Year. Several of his players have gone on to play baseball professionally. A history professor at Lake Land, Jarrett is actively involved in his community. He cofounded the Effingham Babe Ruth Association. He and his wife, Robin, reside in Effingham. They are parents to two adult children.

Nancy J. Litscher ’75 is senior vice president of human resources with i2 Technologies, Inc., which is a full-service supply chain company. She resides in Dallas, Texas.

Diane Gatsis Havinia ’76 has been promoted to the new position of community television manager at Greenspring’s Channel 6 in Virginia. She produces a live news and information magazine program, and trains and maintains a staff of resident volunteers. She and her husband, Al, reside in Springfield, Virginia.

Lloyd Healy ’76 spent 16 years as personnel director with an energy company headquartered in Texas. Healy joined Karmak as the project manager for the Profit Master Real-time Performance Monitor software product, and is now the director of customer support. He resides in Carlinville.

Sheila Heth ’76 is an art teacher at Bureau Valley High School. She has obtained National Board Certification. She resides in Princeton.

Julius C. Trimble ’76 has been elected bishop over Iowa Methodist Church. He resides with his wife,
Racelder (Grandberry) ’98, in Norwalk, Iowa.

Bruce L. Lanzerotti ’77, M.S. ’79, has been named a member of the Ben Franklin Honor Society of the Printing Industries of America. He is a product development executive in the greater Chicago area, and owner of Twin Willows Consulting Services in Wheaton. He resides there with his wife, Tara.

Laurel Netting ’78 is a registered nurse with the Cleveland Clinic Health Systems. She has more than 30 years of health care experience, including working as an educator. She has been nominated for the 2009 Albert E. Dyckes Healthcare Worker of the Year. She resides in Mentor, Ohio.

George Gibson ’79 completed a master’s degree at the SMU School of Engineering in Dallas, Texas. His wife, Teresa (Spierrer) ’82, is on expat assignment as the director of human resources/Europe for Emerson Process Management located in Gallardon, France. They reside in Rambouillet, France, and enjoy traveling throughout Europe.

80s

Becky Hines ’80, M.B.A. ’94, is president and CEO of theYWCA McLean County. She has been named the executive director of the YWCA Great Lakes Region. She will work with all the YWCAs in Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, Missouri, Ohio, and Wisconsin. She resides in Bloomington.

Paul Koch ’80 is vice president and chief operating officer of Curtis Engine and Equipment in Baltimore, Maryland. He resides there with his wife, Wendy Perrow.

Phillip Nevels ’80, M.A. ’82, is a teacher in Unit 5 Schools in Normal. He coached the seventh grade Parkside Junior High School boys’ basketball team to the state championship. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Normal.

Warren Wilcox ’80 is executive vice president at Visa Inc. He and his family reside in San Francisco and Carmel, California.

Dennis Andrews ’81 is vice president of sales-USA for Artisan Software Tools. The company is the world’s largest independent supplier of industrial-grade, collaborative modeling tools for complex embedded systems and software. He previously managed the North American sales for French software company Verilog, where he increased sales tenfold in five years. He resides in Plano, Texas.

Andrew Kensington, Esq. ’81, who last attended the University in 1975 under the name Clark A. Kerr, has been included in Who’s Who in America 2009. It is the second consecutive year he has been cited in the publication. He resides in Charlotte, Virginia.

Jill (Beard) Muir ’81 works part-time doing video relay interpreting and part-time for the Idaho School for the Deaf as a consulting teacher and mentor. She passed that National Interpreter Certification test at the highest level possible. She and her husband have two children. They reside in Boise, Idaho.

Lyle Staley ’81 is a 39-year railroad veteran. He is manager of environmental program development for BNSF Railway. He was instrumental in leading certification of BNSF’s Responsible Care Management Systems, which was estimated to save $670,000. He was awarded the Association of American Railroads 2008 North American Environmental Employee Excellence Award. He and his wife, JoAnn, reside in Topeka, Kansas.

Jill Vath ’81 is director of sales and business development for HOGGAN Health’s Education Markets. She is responsible for expanding sales of fitness equipment for K-12 schools across the nation. She resides in Sandy, Utah.

Barbara Fatina ’82 is chief financial officer of Dupont Danisco Cellulosic Ethanol. She previously served as vice president and general manager of Exelon Energy Company, a $750 million retail energy marketing company serving commercial and industrial customers. She resides in Plainfield.

W. Guy Schumacher ’82, M.A. ’84, has been named superintendent of Libertyville Elementary District 70. He previously served as principal for the district’s largest elementary school. He has also worked as a bilingual school psychologist. He has completed a doctorate in educational leadership from National-Louis University. He resides in Libertyville.

Janet Simon, M.S. ’82, performed in her own comedy show Two For the Show at the Shawnee Playhouse in Pennsylvania earlier this year. She works as a public address announcer for New York City High School basketball games. She resides in New York, New York.

Pause for applause

Following the Marathon man

After a 490 B.C. battle for democracy, Phidippides announced the victory by running 24 miles from the Greek village of Marathon to Athens. The run is commemorated by the modern marathon, with the Athens Classic Marathon following the original course. Al Medina Jr. ’92 ran the event in 2008, finishing in 4 hours and 37 minutes. “Running into the Panathinaiko Stadium at the end was an emotional high I cannot describe,” said Medina, who resides in Germany. An international business major, Medina plans to enter the race again in 2010, which will be the 2,500th anniversary of Phidippides’ journey.

Training for spring

Nick Frangella ’04 experiences the excitement that builds as baseball fans await another season. He also feels some pressure, as it’s his job to help get players ready to take the field. Frangella is in his fifth season as an athletic trainer with the Chicago Cubs organization. He joined the Cubs’ minor league as the trainer for the Boise Hawks of the Northwest League after earning his physical education degree. After two seasons with the Peoria Chiefs in the Midwest League he was promoted to his current position as athletic trainer for the Tennessee Smokies of the Southern League.

When history makes history

Department of Sociology and Anthropology graduate Amanda (Burke) Wesselmann ’01, M.S. ’04, found her dream job as the associate director of the General Lew Wallace Study & Museum in Crawfordsville, Indiana. The museum was honored last fall with the 2008 National Medal for Museum and Library Service. The medal is the highest honor that a museum or library can receive in the United States, and was presented by former First Lady Laura Bush in a ceremony at the White House. Wesselmann’s museum was one of only five selected for the honor out of 17,500 museums last year.

A book that shelves fear

Anne (Blackmore Wessels) Paris, M.A. ’85, studied counseling psychology while a graduate student at Illinois State. Now an adjunct professor at the Union Institute graduate psychology program, Paris founded the Cincinnati Center for Self Psychology to train mental health professionals. She is a clinical psychologist who specializes in helping artists reach their potential. Paris explores how all individuals can maximize their creativity in her book, Standing at Water’s Edge, which gives practical advice for overcoming fears and mental blocks that limit potential. Her advice helps readers find the courage to “dive into that state of creative immersion.”
An Illinois State legacy

Doris (LaMaster) Mandeville ’33 carried fond memories of Illinois State Normal University throughout her life. She was raised modestly in Keokuk, Iowa, and the Illinois community of Meldon. Doris was able to attend Illinois State with the help of her grandparents, whom she lived with while a student. Her older brother supplemented her income.

Such family support allowed Doris to graduate with a physical education degree, and participate in campus life. She was a member of the Women’s Athletic Association, N Club, varsity hockey team, Index staff, and vice president of the Women’s League. She was especially proud to be named first queen of the Gamma Phi Circus.

Doris taught physical education at Welsh School in Rockford after graduating. She excelled and utilized the knowledge gained at the University to earn the respect of her students and fellow educators. She married Thomas Mandeville and stayed at home to care for their three children. After the family home was tragically lost in a fire, Doris returned to the classroom. She taught fifth grade students at Winnebago Grade School and McIntosh School in Rockford.

Doris’ thirst for knowledge and personal drive was passed to her daughter, Martha “Marty” (Mandeville) Kirsch ’61. Knowing the experiences her mother had at the University influenced Marty, who also chose Illinois State.

Marty engrossed herself in her studies and completed an elementary education degree in less than four years. She was a member of the Big Red Marching Machine, the Class Advisory Board, and served as class treasurer. She also worked in Food Services. Marty went on to teach for 38 years, dedicating 33 years to her sixth grade classes in Downers Grove. She is now retired and resides with her husband, Larry, in Bolingbrook.

Prior to her mother’s death, Marty and Doris stayed connected with the University through reunions and football games, reflecting on their time at Illinois State and the changes to campus. Their careers served as their legacy, which embodies the University motto: Gladly would they learn and teach.

Richard S. Krause ’83 has devoted more than 25 years of work to leading consumer packaged goods manufacturers to new levels of performance. Earlier this year he was named president and CEO of the New England Confectionery Company (NECCO), Inc. The longest running, multi-line candy company in the nation is headquartered in Massachusetts.

Kathryn (Ammermann) Mordini ’83 received her M.B.A. with honors from Lake Forest Graduate School of Management in June of 2008. She and her husband, Thomas, reside in Lake Forest.

Jay Smith ’83 has worked as an Edward Jones financial advisor since 1993. He has been named a principal with the firm’s holding company. He was one of 25 individuals chosen from more than 36,000 associates across the globe to join the firm’s 310 principals. He and his wife, Allison, are the parents of two children. They reside in Winchester, Virginia.

Paula (Dejmek) Woods ’83 is a corporate activities regulator for the United States Department of Treasury. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Frankfort.

Jeffrey Johnson ’84 was named to the ACRE board of directors in 2008. He resides in Peoria.

Tracey A. Reeves ’85 left her position as a reporter and editor at The Washington Post to become director of news and information at Johns Hopkins University. She resides in Columbia, Maryland.

Constance G. Gully ’86 was appointed by Missouri Governor Matt Blunt to the position of vice president for business and financial affairs at Harris-Stowe State University. She resides in Normandy.

Steven Myers ’86 was named the 2008 Professional Farm Manager of the year by the American Society of Farm Managers and Rural Appraisers and AgProfessional magazine. He resides in LeRoy.

Jay Slack ’86, M.S. ’88, has been appointed to serve as director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service’s National Conservation Training Center in Shepherdstown, West Virginia, where he resides. He
had previously served as deputy director of the agency’s eight-state mountain and prairie region in Colorado.

**Julie-Ann Fuchs ’88** is the assistant superintendent for business at Kaneland School District 302. She resides in Kaneville.

**Andre Guichard ’88** and his wife, Frances, are co-owners of Gallery Guichard in Chicago. They traveled to the White House to join other artists at a celebration attended by former First Lady Barbara Bush.

**Mike Kasaba ’88** is the president of CalMotors in Camarillo, California. He resides in Topanga, California.

**Jeff Peters ’88** is the director of sales and marketing with the Sheraton Clayton Plaza Hotel and Marcus Hotels management team. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

**Todd Reeser ’88** is an Edward Jones financial advisor. He has been named a principal with the firm’s holding company. He was one of 25 individuals chosen from more than 36,000 associates across the globe to join the firm’s 310 principals. He and his wife, **Diane (Reiff) ’89**, are the parents of two children. They reside in Kewanne.

**Elizabeth Keating ’89** is manager of communications and special programs for Ronald McDonald House Charities Global, McDonald’s Corporation. She and her husband, Charlie, are the parents of a daughter. They reside in Oak Park.

**Tim Nuding ’89** is the chief of staff for Senate Republicans in Illinois. He resides in Rochester.

**Catherine Paulson ’89** completed the 2008 Ultraman competition in Hawaii in 2008. She resides in Dallas, Texas.

**George J. Powers ’89** is the senior vice president of human resources and administration with Schneider Electric North American Operating Division. He resides in Palatine.

**Erin Webb-Kapusta ’89** is a teacher at Cornerstone Learning Center in Washington. She teaches pre-kindergarten children. The mother of three children, she resides in East Peoria.

**90s**

**Catherine A. (Hannel) Crane ’90** completed a juris doctor degree from New York Law School in May of 2008. She passed the New York and New Jersey bar exams. She is employed as an assistant district attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office. She resides in North Bergen, New Jersey.

**Nicole Mutz ’90** is an attorney in the litigation and business practice group of DeWitt Ross & Stevens Law Firm in Wisconsin. She resides in Pewaukee, Wisconsin.

**Gary Hamerski ’93** is in field sales and general therapeutics with Sanofi-Aventis Pharmaceutical Company in Mount Vernon. He resides there with his wife, Carol.

**Greg Harris ’93** is a public policy officer with Knowledge Works Foundation. He is vice mayor on the Cincinnati City Council. He resides in Cincinnati, Ohio.

**Kevi J. (Badertscher) McClure ’93** received the 2009 Mona Z. Robbins mental health professional of the year award from the Mental Health Association of Illinois Valley in Peoria, where he resides.

**Mark Petryniec ’93** is a sixth grade reading and language arts teacher with Illinois School District 158. He is also a varsity softball coach for Huntley High School. He and his wife reside in Lake in the Hills.

**Sandy Showerman-Gast ’93** is the general manager for North America for Pyrosales, which opened a sales office in the Chicago area.

**Liz Kleinfeld, M.S. ’94, Ph.D. ’06**, was named faculty of the year for 2007 at Red Rocks Community College in Lakewood, Colorado. She has helped hundreds of students hone their writing skills in her 12 years at the college. She resides in Denver, Colorado.

**Jeff Blair ’95** has received the Emerging Leader Award from the International Society of Automation. Blair is an instrumentation and control senior sales representative with Mead O’Brien in St. Louis, Missouri. He resides in Glen Carbon.

**Pete Foster ’95** is the creative director with Sanford. He and his wife, Christine, are the parents three children. Their daughter, Allison Kylie, was born in August of 2008. They reside in Wheaton.

**Suzanna E. Henshen, M.S. ’95**, co-authored **Notes from a Writer** with the Center for Gifted Education at the College of William and Mary. Henshen teaches creative writing and composition at Florida Gulf Coast University. She resides in Naples, Florida.

**Peter Krogulski ’95** has completed his M.B.A. at the University of North Texas. He works as a compensation analyst with Guaranty Bank in Dallas. He resides in Denton, Texas.

**Jim Lublow ’95** is the vice president and director of sales and marketing with Goldman Sachs. He and his wife reside in Frankfort. They are parents to three sons.

**Elena M. Bernal, M.S. ’96**, has been promoted at Grinnell College from special assistant to the president to vice president for diversity and achievement. She also supervises the college’s Office of Institutional Research. She resides in Grinnell, Iowa.

**Jacqueline Nieukirk, M.S. ’96**, is the assistant principal at Roosevelt Magnet School in Peoria. She resides in East Peoria.

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**Support your magazine**

The cost of publishing and mailing **Illinois State**, the alumni magazine, continues to increase. Your tax-deductible gift of $25 helps defray mounting costs during increasingly difficult budget times. Contributions are appreciated and may be sent to Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, Illinois, 61790-3100. You can also make your gift of support to the magazine online at [www.alumni.ilstu.edu/magazinegift](http://www.alumni.ilstu.edu/magazinegift).
Meredith Steffen-Culp ’96 is a project manager with Ernest & Young. She and her husband, David ’96, were married in August of 2008. They reside in Carrollton, Texas. Duane Butler ’97 is a defensive back with the Montreal Alouettes in Canada. He has appeared on the Canmore Fins & Skins Classic Adventures TV show in Canada. He resides in Burlington, Canada.

Erick Clay ’97 is a supervisor of the instrumentation and controls department at Dresden Nuclear Power Plant. He has been selected to participate in the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission License Program. Upon receiving his license from the commission, Clay will be qualified to serve as a senior reactor operator. There are fewer than 300 individuals across the country in the position. He resides in Chicago.

Brian Koenig ’97 is member services administrative director at Growmark. He and his wife reside in Normal. They are parents of three children.

Josh Lowe ’97 works for the Illinois Secretary of State, training driver’s license facility employees statewide on new policies and procedures. He and his wife, Megan, are the parents of a son. Logan was born in July of 2007. They reside in Normal.

Matthew Poskonka ’97 is a claims representative with State Farm Insurance Companies in Downers Grove. He and his wife, Charity, were married in November of 2008. They reside in Naperville.

Matt Eriksen ’98 has been appointed principal of Indian Trail School in North Shore School District 112. He had served as an associate principal at Edgewood Middle School, and taught seventh grade in Libertyville School District 70. He and his wife are the parents of two children. They reside in Grayslake.

Jill (Carlson) Schmidt ’98 and Scott ’98 are the parents of two children. Eric Alan was born in November of 2007. They reside in Wheeling. Whit Chaiyabhat ’99 is the director of emergency management and operational continuity with Georgetown University’s Office of University Safety in Washington, D.C. He is also the assistant softball coach at Georgetown University. His wife, Amanda L. (Rosenberg) ’01, teaches in the Montgomery County Public Schools in Middletown, Maryland, where they reside.

Matt Drase ’99 is the director of bands at Windsor High School in Windsor, Colorado. His band performed in the 2009 inaugural parade in Washington, D.C. He resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Kimberly (Wade) Dupage ’99 is the social service director with Morton Terrace Care Center. She and her husband, Andrew, are parents of two daughters. They reside in Tremont.

Bridget (Liszka) Knaack ’99 has completed a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction. She teaches seventh grade literature, language arts, and social studies at Marquardt School District 15 in Glendale Heights. Her husband, Michael ’00, is a consultant with Northern Trust Company in Chicago. They are the parents of a daughter, Rachel Elaine, who was born in June of 2008. They reside in Carol Stream.

Joel M. McCloskey ’99 has completed a master’s degree in public administration from Roosevelt University. He has obtained certified fraud examiner designation and is a senior analyst with National Insurance Crime Bureau in Des Plaines. He resides in Park Ridge.

Christina Countryman-Oetzel ’00 completed a master’s degree/type 75 in administration at Aurora University. She is working through Grundy County Special Education Cooperative at Minooka High School as a LD/ED instructor. She and her husband, William, were married in June of 2007. They reside in Minooka.

Kelly Harms ’00 and her husband, Troy, are the parents of two daughters. Madyson Joanne was born in September of 2008. They reside in El Paso.

Ann Marie (Zborowski) Hertz ’00 is a system analyst at State Farm Insurance Companies. She and her husband, Greg, are the parents of a daughter. Grace Marie was born in August of 2008. They reside in Bloomington.

Warren L. Siegerdt ’00 is a stay-at-home dad. His wife, Christy England-Siegerdt ’94, ’00, ’05, works for the Washington State Higher Education Coordinating Board. They are the parents of a daughter. Miranda Leanne was born in February of 2009. They reside in Lacey, Washington.

Jessica Powell-Stephens ’00 and Gregory Stephens ’01 are the parents of two children. Julia Lee was born in December of 2007. They reside in Normal.

Keli (Zolondz) Best ’01 and her husband, Brad, are parents of a son. Alec Joseph was born in August of 2008. They reside in Columbia, Missouri.

Lisa (Shiner) Marx ’01 has earned an Illinois real estate broker’s license and is employed as a marketing specialist with Farnsworth Group, Inc. She and her husband, Chris ’02, were married in November of 2008. He is a licensed plumber and owns Redbird Plumbing. They reside in Normal.

Support our troops

Thank you to the individuals listed below for their service in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Names will be published as they are received. Submit information to Susan Blystone at sbjbls@IllinoisState.edu or by mail at Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

Master Sgt. Paul Fusek ’95
Illinois Air National Guard

1st Lt. Matthew Frost ’07
U.S. Army

1st Lt. Adam Malaty-Uhr ’06
Illinois Army National Guard, Afghanistan
How we met—

Illinois State University connections

At a Chicago pool party during the summer of 1966, Kathy Gaudio ’68 and Bill Sneddon ’67, M.S. ’71, were introduced through mutual Illinois State friends—Patricia Cleveland ’67, M.S. ’91; and Jerry Maley ’68, M.S. 71.

Back on campus for the fall semester, Kathy and Bill had their first date in October. One month later they were already discussing marriage. The following summer Bill stopped in at the Mai Kai Co-op, where Kathy was living. While making Bill a sandwich, she found something wrapped in tissue paper in the loaf of bread.

“I remember Bill saying, ‘Oh, I hear they’re giving prizes in bread now,’” Kathy recalled. Upon opening the package, she discovered an engagement ring Bill had strategically placed. Through tears she had to confirm that the ring was real, because Bill was known for pulling practical jokes. Although Kathy was not expecting Bill’s proposal to come when it did, she didn’t doubt that they were meant to be together. “We just knew,” she said.

The two shared many special campus memories, including the now famous Illinois snowstorm in January of 1967 that crippled not only the campus but most of the state. “No one was able to drive because of all the snow,” Kathy said, “so all of the girls left stranded in the house during the semester break cooked meals for the guys.”

Athletics also became a special part of their dating days. Bill was a fullback on the Illinois State football team, and Kathy attended the games to watch him play. She’ll never forget Bill’s decision to forfeit his last year of eligibility on the team to start working.

“It meant a lot to me to see Bill give up something so important to him,” Kathy said. He took 20 credit hours in the spring, along with summer classes, to graduate in August. The two decided to marry after Kathy’s graduation, and spent a year apart as Bill began teaching. The week after receiving her diploma, Kathy signed her marriage license. The wedding was June 15, 1968.

Kathy taught elementary students in Peotone, while Bill spent his career teaching and coaching at Rich Central High School in Olympia Fields. Bill was inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coach’s Hall of Fame in 1998. They retired in 2000, and now reside in Marco Island, Florida.

“We continue to live in paradise,” Kathy said, noting that they have shared more than 40 years of married life. They return to the Chicago area to spend time with their three daughters, sons-in-laws, and five grandchildren.
It was Whitten Hall that brought six women together in the late 1960s. As upperclassmen they stayed together by living in the same apartment building. That move resulted in marriage for one in the group, as she met her future husband just one floor away. The group maintains a close friendship as they all reside in Illinois. They gather annually, including last fall at the campus Alumni Center. From left, Ita Gannon; Susan (Gerrietts) Hill; Kathleen Peterson; Kathleen (Gebhardt) Emery, M.S. ’76; Janet (Gam- bini) Lootens; and Dorothy (Smith) and Ron Curtis. All are 1971 graduates with the exception of Ron, who earned his degree in 1970.

the parents of two children. Their daughter, Natalie, was born in February of 2008. They reside in Heyworth.

Karen (Bergslien) Clinton ’03 teaches seventh grade at Emmons Middle School in Antioch. She and her husband, Mike, were married in June of 2008. They reside in Round Lake.

Matthew Patchak ’03 is the assistant director of sales and media placement with ChicagoPride.com. He resides in Orland Park.

Jenna (Pozniak) Wojciechowski ’03 has completed her M.B.A. with distinction from Keller Graduate School of Management. She is a marketing specialist with the Talent and Organization Consulting group at Hewitt Associates in Lincolnshire. She and her husband, Brian, reside in the Chicago suburbs.

Angela Basehoar ’04 is a 4-H and youth community worker with the University of Illinois Extension. She works with youth in the Henry-Stark Unit. She resides in Atkinson.

Bryan Goodwin ’04, M.S. ’07, works with the Department of Campus Recreation at Loyola University in Chicago. He and his wife, Melissa (Wons) ’05, were married in June of 2008. She teaches third grade at Gombert Elementary School. They reside in Plainfield.

Matt Swanson ’04 completed a master’s degree in math education. He is a school administrator with Chicago’s Whitney Young Magnet High School. He resides in Chicago.

Evan Ragan ’06 is a project manager with Gerstner Electric Inc. in Fenton, Missouri. He resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Stuart M. Allard ’07 is the traffic assistant and receptionist for Salem Communications’ Chicago offices. He resides in Downers Grove.

Dushyanth Dokuru ’07 is a senior associate in Pharmaceuticals & D & D division. His work involves doing physico-chemical characterization of new chemical entities. He is working on a schizophrenia drug molecule. He resides in Thousand Oaks, California.

Ben Marten ’07 received an invitation to join the Screen Actors Guild. In February Marten was on an episode of the A&E show The Beast, starring Patrick Swayze. He has completed a role in the film American Virgin, which is expected to be released later this year. He resides in Freeport.

Chris Myers ’07 is an assistant director of campus recreation at Elon University. He was a presenter at the 2008 NIRSA National Conference. He resides in Burlington, North Carolina.

Keith Schmerer ’07 is a recreation supervisor with Wood Dale Park District. He received the 2008 IPRA Young Professional of the Year Award. He resides in Buffalo Grove.

Courtney Slusarek ’07 works with Tazewell Mason County Special Association. She initiated a satellite program at Midwest Central Prima- ry School. She resides in Pekin.

Davey B. Anthony ’08 is working on the San Francisco State University library. He resides in San Fran- cisco, California.

Jenna Ginder ’08 is an audit associate with McGladrey & Pullen in Champaign. She resides in Savoy.

Curtis F. Haley ’08 joined Ottawa Regional Hospital and Healthcare Center as Choices business super- visor. Choices is the hospital’s behavioral health program. He resides in Ottawa.

Christy (Stelzer) McFarland ’08 was named the 2008 USA Rugby Women’s Player of the Year. She resides in McHenry.

Jon Root ’08 is an officer with the police department in Galesburg, where he resides.

Sarah (Howe) Roth ’07 is a learning coordinator for the Agency Training & Development department for COUNTRY Financial in Bloom-ington. She and her husband, Tyler ’08, were married in October of 2008. He is a cattle associate for Illini FS in Tolono. They reside in Farmer City.

Marjorie Rutsay ’08 is a police offi- cer in Bolingbrook. She resides in Oswego.

Kye Stewart ’08 is a linebacker with the Saskatchewan Roughriders, which is a Canadian Football League team.

Lynn Terrell ’08 is a case manager at the Occupational Development Center, which supports individuals living with disabilities or mental illness and promotes their indepen- dence. She resides in Normal.

Julie Vogelzang ’08 is a research associate with Pioneer Hi-Bred. She resides in Johnston, Iowa.

Patrick M. White ’08 is operations section manager at Caterpillar. He resides in Decatur.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Iva C. (May) Coppenharger, Educa- tional Administration and Foundations; 10/08

Rachel (Schneider) Dearth, Kinesio- logic and Recreation; 2/09

Gertrude L. (Smith) Dixon, Food Services; 11/08

Lola G. Hoi, Food Services; 11/08

Joyce J. (Mansfield) Lundy, Indus- trial Technology; 11/08

Wilma Pforr, Theatre; 11/08

Sherry L. Stephens, Politics and Government; 1/09

Elmyra M. (Kribbs) Thompson, Campus Services; 12/08

Alumni

20s

Dorothy V. (Stuckey) Foster ’26, 2/09

Mildred E. (Johnson) Palmer ’28; 11/08

Eleanor L. Adcock ’29; 8/08

30s

Margaret (Wilson) Endres ’31; 2/09

Lois R. Harris ’31, ’33; 11/08

Grace (Speers) Jones ’31, ’35; 1/09

Doris (LaMaster) Mandeville ’31, ’33; 10/08

Geneva (Gentes) Stein ’32; 1/09
The perfect match

Many employers sponsor matching gift programs and will double, or even triple, the value of your gift to Illinois State. Applying for a matching gift takes a little time, but has a major impact on departments and programs. In 2008 alone public radio station WGLT, a favorite gift designation of many Illinois State donors, received almost $27,000 in matching gifts from one company. That is enough to fund 74 days of programming, roughly two months. To find out if your company has a matching gift policy, visit www.IllinoisState.edu/giving and click on “ways to give,” or call Marianne Oglesby at (309) 438-2594.
Alumni Update

The class notes section of the alumni magazine is one of the best ways to stay connected with collegiate friends. Don’t miss the opportunity to be included! Use this form to let fellow graduates know your personal and professional news.

Name (including maiden)  Graduation year(s)

Major(s)  Degree(s)

Mailing address

City  State  Zip

Home telephone  E-mail address

Professional title or position  Employer

Employer address

City  State  Zip

Work telephone  Work e-mail address

Marital status  Spouse’s/partner’s name (including maiden if Illinois State graduate)

Spouse’s/partner’s graduation year (if Illinois State graduate)

Spouse’s/partner’s professional title or position  Spouse’s/partner’s employer

City  State  Zip

Spouse’s/partner’s work telephone

In addition to above, please list any career changes, awards, honors, marriages, births, or memorial information that you would like reported in Illinois State. Please report only events that have occurred. Announcements will appear as soon as possible.

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Signature (required)

Return to: Illinois State University, Alumni Relations  
Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100  
Facsimile: (309) 438-8057  •  E-mail: alumni@IllinoisState.edu  
Online update form: www.alumni.ilstu.edu/myinfo
Vicki Hall ’90 was elated when she learned that she would be the first person in more than 20 years to receive the Eunice H. Speer Scholarship. Established in 1974 in recognition of Speer’s 30 years of service as a library science instructor, the scholarship was renewed in 2008 through a successful fundraiser.

The scholarship is intended for current or potential students interested in coursework required for the Library Information Specialist (LIS) endorsement. Hall, who is currently a librarian for five elementary schools in Springfield, applied the scholarship toward an online media and technology class.

“My school district doesn’t offer reimbursement for education, so everything I do comes out of my own pocket,” Hall said. “Receiving the scholarship relieved the burden of financing my classes.”

Hall was teaching a first grade class when she discovered that her true passion was sharing children’s books with her students. She followed her heart the following year by becoming a librarian for Little Flower Catholic School in Springfield.

“I love what I do,” she said. “I get to find out what they’re reading, or get them excited about reading.”

Hall returned to Illinois State soon after the College of Education began to offer the LIS coursework. She chose the program because of her undergraduate experience at Illinois State, the program’s affordability, and the University’s use of cutting-edge teaching methods.

“I loved getting an education at ISU,” she said. “When I graduated in 1990, I was very well prepared to set foot into my first classroom.”

Seated alongside other educators and librarians in LIS classes, Hall has broadened her knowledge base of journals, reviews, and literacy skills; tightened her bond to professional organizations; and has yet again found herself prepared to tackle any challenges that may come her way.

“It’s an awesome program,” she said. “I learn just as much from the people in my classes as I do from my instructors.” Part of Hall’s training also includes the use of different instant messenger services, online databases, online journals, and other resources that may exist outside the walls of her classroom.

“I wouldn’t have known about these resources without my instructors steering me in the right direction,” Hall said. “They teach you everything you need to know.”

More than one life can be changed when you provide financial support that enables a student to complete an education and pursue professional dreams. Make a difference today by contributing to a scholarship. Contact Executive Director of Development Joy Hutchcraft at (309) 438-8041 or by e-mail at jdhutch@IllinoisState.edu to find out what you can do. Donations can be made online at www.IllinoisState.edu/giving.
The Last Look

The Bard beckons

William Shakespeare and summer are synonymous at Illinois State University. Audiences drawn from across the country applaud the Illinois Shakespeare Festival cast of professional actors. Performances are under the stars at Ewing Manor. Don’t miss the upcoming season, from June 25 to August 9, featuring *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *Scapin*, and *Richard III*. Go to www.thefestival.org for tickets.