Redbird spirit is soaring as the Athletics program reaches new heights with a plan that prepares for tomorrow by building on yesterday.
It’s the most wonderful time of the year on campus as the students have returned, ready for the challenges and opportunities of the new semester.

I genuinely enjoy interacting with our students, and make it a priority to converse with members of our student body on a regular basis. One question I always ask is what convinced them to choose Illinois State.

For years I’ve heard the expected answer of excellence in a specific academic major, especially our reputation as the place to prepare for a teaching career. Our personal touch remains a strong and unique draw, and our central location is still appreciated by many.

But there is another reason students come to Illinois State, and it’s one most alumni may not realize is an increasingly significant factor in the college selection process: sustainability. Prospective students want a campus dedicated to going green.

Illinois State’s commitment to sustainability efforts is exemplary. Earlier this year the University was cited in The Princeton Review’s Guide to 286 Green Colleges. Inclusion is based on whether students have a campus quality of life that is healthy and sustainable, how environmentally responsible a school’s policies are, and how well a school prepares students for employment in the green economy.

We score well in all areas due to the efforts of our sustainability coordinator, Enid Cardinal, and Green Team sustainability committee members. Through their leadership Illinois State has an extensive campus-wide recycling program, energy efficiency measures are in place, and our graduates now don biodegradable commencement regalia.

The campus also provides transportation alternatives, including a shuttle bus and car and bike share programs. A Center for Renewable Energy has been established, and an interdisciplinary renewable energy major engages students in relevant projects that bring textbook learning to life.

One example is the work of an undergraduate team that converts nearly 6,000 gallons of waste fryer oil from our dining centers into fuel used in campus fleet vehicles. Students researched the technology, purchased equipment, and perform all production operations. The biodiesel produced is economical and cuts diesel fuel greenhouse emissions nearly in half.

Experiences such as this guarantee Illinois State graduates leave campus with a distinct advantage, and solidly demonstrate that the University continues to meet student expectations. Take pride in the fact your alma mater is evolving to remain responsive to the issues of the day.

Al Bowman
President, Illinois State University
Spreading the red

Academics are the priority at Illinois State, but Athletics is integral to the campus experience. Nobody understands the impact and potential better than Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger. A former football coach, Zenger is now the man behind the bench applauded for creating a game plan that empowers student-athletes, improves facilities, and builds Redbird pride. Cover: Brett Kay, right, and Tyler McNeely had reason to celebrate this past season, as the baseball team was one of many to soar above the competition. The team captured the conference championship and first NCAA win since 1976.

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Alums returning for Homecoming are in for a surprise when they wander from the Quad. What used to be Downtown is now Uptown Normal, with many former student hangouts renovated or replaced. A circle drive, new restaurants and shops, and a 228-room Marriott Hotel give a whole new look and feel to the campus community.

16 CENTURY CELEBRATION

With the campus built around rich farm land, the Department of Agriculture is a vital ISU program. Much has changed since the first courses were offered a century ago, and yet an ag degree has never been more valuable. Today students are prepared for high-tech jobs that are waiting before graduation day arrives.

21 FROM SACRIFICE TO SUCCESS

Some take college for granted, while others walk a rough road to get their degree. Charity Mendoza falls into the latter category as a high school dropout and mother of six. She’ll reach her hard-fought goal of graduating this semester, with plans to inspire others on the ISU campus that made her dream possible.

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An unexpected $3.5 million gift may be the most significant endowment for teacher education in the nation.

by Kate Arthur

Even at 92 Elisabeth Greenebaum remained independent, pushing her two-wheeled cart through the snow of a Chicago winter, politely declining offers of help from those at the condominium where she lived.

A favorite of everyone who knew her, Greenebaum was also private. She didn’t want anyone to know until after her death that she was giving Illinois State $3.5 million to help students become teachers.

“She did understand that when she was gone, it would certainly be known what she did (for Illinois State) and that was fine with her,” said Greenebaum’s attorney, Don Padgitt.

He called the ISU Foundation about the gift that established The Greenebaum Memorial Fund in Memory of Elisabeth C. Greenebaum, Helen and Jacob Greenebaum, and Henry E. Greenebaum.

The donation may be the most significant endowment for teacher education scholarships in the country, according to University Advancement Vice President Emerita Dianne Ashby.

Greenebaum had no ties to the University and never talked to anyone on campus about leaving a legacy. But she did watch Illinois State from afar, subscribing to the local paper for years.

Her childhood home was in nearby Pontiac, and her dream was to get her master’s in childhood education at the University. She instead graduated from the University of Chicago in 1937 and moved back to Pontiac to assist her parents, Jacob and Helen, with maintaining the family owned Illinois State Savings Bank. She had one brother, Henry, who passed away prior to her death on July 11, 2009.

Soon after, Ashby became aware of Greenebaum’s significant donation.

“For this gift to be designated solely for teacher education scholarships is what makes it so very special. It’s a huge tribute to not only the number of teachers we prepare, but our national reputation and our reputation for the quality of the teachers we have working in schools,” Ashby said.

The first scholarship will be awarded this fall. Students from any of the teacher education programs may apply. The amount of the scholarships will vary. They may be renewed if the recipient meets the academic eligibility criteria. Candidates must also demonstrate financial need.

College of Education Dean Deborah Curtis knows lives will be changed by Greenebaum’s generosity.

“I just keep going back to how selfless this was. This is a hugely significant gift for us. It is so hard to express in regular words what this means to so many students. This gift will provide resources for teacher candidates indefinitely,” Curtis said. “What better use of a family fortune than to make a difference for many, many years beyond any of the survivors.”
NEW UNIVERSITY ADVANCEMENT VICE PRESIDENT WELcomed

Erin Minné became vice president for University Advancement in June. She replaces Dianne Ashby, who retired in the spring.

Minné has served as vice president for Development for The University of Iowa Foundation since 2007. There she led a team of 32 development officers and associates in fundraising efforts for Health Sciences Development, including four colleges and the university’s hospitals and clinics. She managed a $500 million campaign for the academic medical center.

She has also held foundation and development positions at Michigan Technological University, Boysville of Michigan, the American Cancer Society, and Orchards Children’s Services.

At Illinois State Minné serves as the executive director of the Foundation, as well as oversees Alumni Relations, Annual Giving, Development, Donor and Information Services, University Marketing and Communications, and Foundation properties in Normal, Bloomington, and Chicago.

SCIENCE STUDENTS EXCEL, CAPTURE NATIONAL HONORS

Three Illinois State students have been recognized with national honors for their exceptional abilities.

Matthew Ware, a junior majoring in physics, has been chosen as a 2010-2011 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship recipient. He is one of only 278 national winners from a field of more than 1,100.

A Presidential Scholar in the Honors Program, Ware is conducting research in the Physics Department. He wrote a research essay on “Conversion of Energy into Matter” for the scholarship competition.

Stephon Hon, a senior biochemistry/molecular biology major, received an Honorable Mention for 2010-2011. He is an Honors Program student and is also conducting research as an undergraduate. His competition essay was titled “Synthesis of Toluidine Blue—Tiopronin-gold nanoparticles and the photosensitization of Leishmania tarentolae.”

Goldwater Scholars have impressive academic qualifications that gain the attention of prestigious post-graduate fellowship programs. The Scholarship Program honoring Senator Barry M. Goldwater fosters and encourages outstanding students to pursue careers in mathematics, the natural sciences, and engineering.

Sarah Pfluger received the Barbara Lotze Scholarship for Future Teachers, which is awarded through the American Association of Physics Teachers. The award is the highest national honor given undergraduate students studying to become high school physics teachers. The scholarship recognizes Pfluger as one of the top two physics teacher education candidates in the country.

Pfluger is a senior completing a physics and mathematics education degree. She is secretary of the Physics Club and Honors Student Organization, as well as the service chair for the Presidential Scholars Club.

CAMPUS ADMINISTRATOR CHOSEN AS ACE FELLOW

Darrell Kruger, the associate dean for Research, Graduate and International Studies in the College of Education, has been named an American Council on Education (ACE) Fellow for the 2010-2011 academic year. Kruger is one of only 46 ACE Fellows chosen nationwide this year for the prestigious program.

The ACE Fellows Program identifies and prepares promising senior faculty and administrators for responsible positions in higher education administration. ACE Fellows focus on an issue of concern for their home institution, while spending an academic year working with administrators at another college or university.

Kruger will study his host institution’s campus-wide approach to international education. He will focus on how departments work together to make international education an integral part of an institution’s curriculum and mission.

ACE Fellows also attend retreats on higher education issues, read extensively in the field, and engage in other activities to enhance their knowledge about the challenges and opportunities confronting higher education.

NURSING COLLEGE EXPANSION GETS BOARD APPROVAL

The Board of Trustees showed its support for Mennonite College of Nursing by voting for a $2.1 million plan to expand the program’s space. The college will lease a modular nursing laboratory building north of the Bone Student Center.

The building will accommodate assessment labs, classrooms, patient simulation areas, and offices. Simulation is becoming a larger, necessary component of clinical nursing education.

The college, which is located in Edwards Hall, is in need of additional space due to enrollment growth. Since merging with Illinois State in 1999, Mennonite College has seen increased student interest, with 377 enrolled last fall.

NATIONAL FOUNDATION FUNDING WILL HELP ITK STUDENTS

Nearly $600,000 through the National Science Foundation’s Scholarships in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (S-STEM) grant will make it easier for students from underrepresented groups to study in Illinois State’s School of Information Technology.

The funding provides scholarships for academically talented students from underrepresented groups who need financial assistance. Four-year scholarships up to $20,000 will be available for incoming freshmen majoring in computer science, information systems, or
The S-STEM grant supports recruitment, retention, and placement of scholarship recipients in the workforce. Recruitment efforts will include an outreach program targeting Chicago Public School high school students. On-campus retention efforts will include faculty and peer mentoring, and active participation in a student cohort within the School of Information Technology. The school’s advisory boards will provide support for career placement efforts.

“The National Science Foundation S-STEM grant funding greatly enhances our efforts to attract bright, promising students into the School of Information Technology,” Mahatanankoon said. “It is our hope to alleviate some of the financial burden for these talented students as they pursue much needed STEM-related careers.”

**ISU’S SOLAR CAR TEAM PART OF NATIONAL RACE**

Illinois State students drove a car 1,100 miles from Tulsa, Oklahoma, to Chicago using only sunlight for fuel. The solar-powered vehicle was part of the 2010 American Solar Challenge race held in June.

University teams from the U.S., Canada, Taiwan, and Germany raced vehicles powered by photovoltaic cells that convert sunlight into electricity. Illinois State has entered a team in solar-powered vehicle competition every year since 2005. Physics Department professors Daniel Holland, George Rutherford, David Marx, and staff member Jim Dunham are faculty advisors.

Mercury III, this year’s car, was built by a multidisciplinary team of students interested in science, engineering, technology, and alternative energy. They built the car, which has more than 500 photovoltaic cells. The 700-pound vehicle has an average cruising speed of 45 mph and a maximum speed of around 65 mph.

Support for the project comes from Illinois State and corporate and private sponsors who donate money, equipment, materials, and in-kind gifts. Donations can be made online at www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support. More information on Team Mercury is available at www.solarcar.ilstu.edu.

**GRANT SUPPORTS RESEARCH IN DRUG DEVELOPMENT**

School of Biological Sciences Distinguished Professor Brian Wilkinson is advancing the development of new drugs to treat staph infections, thanks to a $215,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Wilkinson’s research aims to expand upon the development of new antibiotics to treat methicillin-resistant staphylococcus aureus (MRSA) and vancomycin-intermediate staphylococcus aureus (VISA) bacteria.

“Everyone is worried about untreatable infections,” Wilkinson said. “The outlook is grim if new drugs aren’t developed. Academic labs can only go so far in the drug discovery process, and then you have to get ‘big pharma’ involved.”

The three-year grant will allow Wilkinson to continue working with a post-doctoral candidate and a graduate student. Wilkinson has already made significant contributions to the field. A 2008 article he published in *Antimicrobial Agents and Chemotherapy* has been cited in 26 other articles. Biological Sciences Distinguished Professor Radheshyam Jayaswal served as coauthor.
UNIVERSITY HISTORY PROFESSOR HONORED FOR ISU TEXT

Distinguished History Professor Emeritus John Freed authored one of the most comprehensive books ever written about the University’s history. *Educating Illinois: Illinois State University, 1857-2007* was such an accomplishment that Freed received the Excellence in Scholarly Publishing Award for his work.

The Illinois State Historical Society announced the award in the spring for the book that was published as part of the University’s sesquicentennial celebration. Freed traced Illinois State’s history from its founding in 1857 through the institution’s 150th year. The 12-chapter book details the challenges and triumphs of every administration from the first principal, Charles Hovey, to current president, Al Bowman.

“Those familiar with Illinois State University are treated to new information with greater detail and sharper focus,” Bowman wrote in the book’s forward.

“The uninitiated reader will discover how the seeds of higher learning were planted in the Central Illinois prairie and blossomed into a distinctive institution.”

Freed taught medieval history at Illinois State from 1969 until his retirement in 2005. He served as chair of the department from 1994 until 2005 and was interim College of Arts Sciences dean for one year. He has authored several books and journal articles.

Copies of *Educating Illinois* are available for purchase through Milner Library. Cost is $40, including shipping. Contact Assistant to the Dean Toni Tucker at ttucker@IllinoisState.edu or by calling (309) 438-3481.

FIND CAREER NETWORK CONTACTS ON LINKEDIN

The Alumni Association hosts a group on the career networking site, LinkedIn.com. Alumni are invited to join the Alumni Association Group affiliated with the Reggie Redbird profile. More than 33,000 Illinois State alumni have created profiles using this online community.

LinkedIn offers users the chance to post online resumes and job openings, as well as to create an online career network. The online network facilitates professional career connections that provide opportunities for participants to further their career and help others advance.

Alums use LinkedIn to find potential clients, service providers, subject experts, and partners who come recommended; post positions and search for jobs; and discover inside connections that lead to jobs and business opportunities. The online community makes finding high-quality candidates easy, and helps alumni get acquainted with other professionals through individuals already known.

Get connected by going online to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/linkedin.

ANNUAL ALUMNI ASSOCIATION MEETING ANNOUNCED

All alumni are invited to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9 a.m. on September 25 at the Illinois State University Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of members to the association’s board of directors and board officers.

Alumni with active membership status in the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. This status requires that a gift to the University has been made through the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding fiscal year.

For more information contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478 or e-mail Alumni Relations Executive Director Stephanie Epp at saepp@IllinoisState.edu.

WGLT EXCEEDS GOAL IN HISTORIC FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN

With audience response that eclipsed expectations and broke all fundraising records, WGLT concluded its spring 2010 fund drive early. During the campaign, 1,278 listeners contributed $140,325 in response to a dramatic effort to restore funds lost to State of Illinois budget cuts, the weak economy, and costly equipment damage.

WGLT’s original campaign goal was to raise $125,000 in listener support. The station anticipated having to cut programs and lay off staff if the goal wasn’t reached. Instead station staff and
more than 100 volunteers were kept busy with a record volume of listener calls and online pledges—an average of more than $12,000 a day.

WGLT has been grappling with a serious cash flow problem. The portion of GLT’s budget that comes from the University has remained constant. But state funding for public radio is down substantially for the third year in a row and local business support for GLT softened with the economy. Equipment damage last fall limited the station’s audience, which resulted in a serious shortfall in listener contributions in 2009.

The National Public Radio affiliate broadcasts from the Old Union Building. Tune in on 89.1 and 103.5 FM or online at www.wglt.org. Donations can be made using a link on the station’s website.

**Athletics**

**GLANCE NAMED HEAD WOMEN’S BASKETBALL COACH**

Stephanie Glance, who has 22 years of collegiate coaching experience, was named the sixth head women’s basketball coach in Illinois State history during the spring. She replaces Robin Pingeton, who headed to the University of Missouri after seven seasons with the Redbirds.

Glance is the only coach to work with Hall of Fame women’s basketball mentors Pat Summitt and the late Kay Yow. She was with Summitt at Tennessee last season as an assistant coach and recruiting coordinator.

Glance served 15 years as the associate head coach and recruiting coordina-

tor at North Car-
olina State. She helped guide the Wolfpack to 11 NCAA Tournament appearances, reaching the Sweet 16 four times and the 1998 Final Four. She served as interim head coach during parts of two seasons as Yow battled breast cancer, overseeing all aspects of the Wolfpack program.

“The hiring of coach Glance once again shows that Illinois State University is able to attract the best and the brightest in the coaching profession,” Athletics Director Sheahon Zenger said. “Her coaching pedigree and coaching experience are second to none.”

**Five chosen to join 2010 Athletics Hall of Fame**

A ceremony will be held during Homecoming to welcome five individuals into the University’s Athletics Hall of Fame. The 2010 inductees include former student-athletes Ryan Duncheon ’01; Christian Goy ’03, M.B.A. ’06; Boomer Grigsby ’07, Heather Stella ’00, M.S. ’04; and Evan Strawn ’53. Wayne Meece ’60, ’94, will receive the Campbell “Stretch” Miller Award.

Duncheon competed on the baseball team. He was the single-season and career home run champion, and the only three-time, first-team All-Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) selection. Goy was a cross country/track and field athlete who captured an NCAA championship. He was a three-time All-American and an eight-time MVC champion.

Grigsby dominated the football field as a Redbird before turning pro. He was a consensus All-American, a three-time conference defensive player of the year, and a three-time national finalistic for defensive player of the year. Stella was Illinois State’s first, two-time All-American softball athlete. She was named the 1999 Valley Player of the Year, and was a three-time All-MVC selection.

Strawn took to the tennis courts. He became a four-time Illinois Intercollegiate Athletic Conference singles champion and two-time doubles champion. Meece is a former Redbird quarterback, and a long-time officials observer. His award honors former Redbird athlete Campbell Miller. The award celebrates individuals who have contributed to the success of Illinois States Athletics.

The honorees will be introduced during an 8 a.m. event on October 16 in the Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom. Reservations are $25 per person and can be purchased by calling (309) 438-3639.
EVENTS PLANNED AROUND FALL FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

The Redbird football team will have six home dates in 2010, a first since 2005. Several events have been planned as part of the action at Hancock Stadium.

ISU opens the season September 2 against Central Missouri. The 6:30 p.m. game will include halftime fireworks. CommUniversity will be held September 25, as the Redbirds take on Missouri State at 6 p.m.

Following the October 2 game against Southern Illinois, the Redbirds will host North Dakota State at 2 p.m. on October 16 for Homecoming. See pages 26–27 for a schedule of Homecoming activities. Annual Family Day is set for the November 6 game against Youngstown State, while the regular-season finale against Eastern Illinois on November 13 is Faculty and Staff Day and Kids’ Day.

For more information about any of these events, or to order tickets, call the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000, or print from home by visiting GoRedbirds.com.

ATHLETICS INTRODUCES THE REGGIE’S KIDS CLUB FAMILY PACK

Three seasons ago Illinois State Athletics unveiled a Reggie’s Kids Club to cater to younger fans. For several years Redbird Athletics has assisted families by offering a “Family Pack” at many of its Athletics events. By combining two great opportunities, families who are fans of Redbird volleyball and women’s basketball now have one tremendous opportunity—The Reggie’s Kids Club Family Pack.

For only $140 a family of four will receive two adult season tickets to both volleyball and women’s basketball. They will also get two Reggie’s Kids Club memberships, which are good for free admission into all Redbird volleyball and women’s basketball contests, as well as other select ISU Athletics events.

For more information about the Reggie’s Kids Club Pack, or to place an order, please call the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000 or visit GoRedbirds.com.

Letters

Editor’s Note: 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.

To the Editor,

We remember Illinois State University warmly as a very welcoming place in which to learn, grow, and connect with others. Faculty, fellow students, and the Normal community helped us feel at home, comfortable, and accepted. Our years there hold a very special spot in our memories, and we are still very grateful that we chose to attend Illinois State.

We are so pleased to learn that the welcoming tradition is continuing and growing with the new LGBT/Queer Studies and Services Institute (Winter 2009-2010). Its multi-focused approach will help to promote a more welcoming campus and a more welcoming world for everyone. Warmest congratulations to Illinois State on this progressive step. We hope that as a result even more people will feel, as we did, at home, comfortable, and accepted.

Carol Fitzgerald, M.A. ’76 and Douglas Becknell ’71

To the Editor,

I enjoyed your feature on Rites of Spring (Spring 2010). I was at ISU from 1971 to 1975 and I clearly remember the first two Rites—1972 and 1973. I lived in Walker Hall my first two years, so it was a short walk to the Quad. The Guild was one of the bands that played in the early Rites. They were a popular cover group, from St. Louis I believe.

I lived off campus my third year and in a fraternity house my fourth, so I don’t remember attending the 1974 and 1975 Rites. I didn’t realize the event got so out of hand the last couple of years.

The photos and descriptions of the event brought back a lot of great memories of ISU—a really interesting and nostalgic retrospective on the early to mid-1970s on the campus. Thanks much for the article.

Dave Baxter ’75

Editor’s note: Many alumni have shared their Rites of Spring memories and photos on the Rites of Spring at Illinois State Facebook page at www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/rites. Log on today and let us hear from you!
Season of strength

Sheahon Zenger’s game plan bolstered the ’Birds

BY ROGER CUSHMAN

The Intercollegiate Athletics program, sometimes described as the “front porch” enticing the public into the University’s rich academic and cultural home, has been revitalized at Illinois State during Sheahon Zenger’s five years as Athletics director.

Illinois State was a frequent Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) All-Sports champion entering the new millennium. By the time Zenger arrived in 2005, the metaphorical front porch needed refurbishing to restore success, enthusiasm, fundraising, and community support. Zenger went for a splash of color too by introducing the “Spread the Red” campaign, which became a textbook example of a model sports marketing effort.

“The irony is I don’t fashion myself as a marketing expert,” Zenger said. “My first love is higher education. I’ve been a football coach, researcher, fundraiser, and administrator. But there are certain things within sports marketing that to me are just no-brainers.”

“Spread the Red” initially targeted local merchants and restaurant owners. Soon the campaign, well, spread to T-shirts, soda cans, dry cleaner hangers, pizza box tops, and eventually Interstate 55 billboards that let travelers know they are entering Redbird Country.

“I see it as speaking for the institution as a whole,” Zenger said. “One of the things I take the greatest pride in is that I think we’ve done something for the institution, which is what athletics is all about.”

The marketing campaign is just one tangible example of progress since Zenger arrived from an associate athletics director for development position at Kansas State. He brought with him the belief that success and visibility in sports are important to the campus culture.

Zenger built up both by focusing on three goals: establish harmony within the department; improve external outreach by mending fences with donors and other Redbird sports fans; and restore competitive excellence on the field of play, while recognizing the importance of classroom achievement and community service. Five years later, those missions have been accomplished.

Fundraising is on the rise with a 65 percent growth since 2005. Redbird Club funds are vital because unlike other Illinois public universities, ISU does not receive state dollars for Athletics. Private donations help cover scholarship costs, which totaled $2.7 million during the past academic year.

Academic achievement is another important measure of success. Illinois
State’s 400 student-athletes combined to post a 3.13 grade point average during the fall 2009 semester, tying a department record, with 63 earning a 4.0. Redbird athletes combined for a 3-point or above GPA in six of the past seven semesters.

Community service remains strong as well. Athletes regularly contribute 2,000 hours or more annually working with youth groups, charitable organizations, and public agencies. During the 2009-2010 academic year the volunteer hours reached 3,500.

On the field of play, Illinois State planted its flag on the MVC pinnacle this year by capturing the All-Sports Trophy for the second time in three seasons. Redbird teams have finished in the top five of the league’s All-Sports race for 28 straight years, and have won the All-Sports Trophy 12 times.

“I’m extremely proud of our student-athletes and our coaches for bringing the Valley’s All-Sports Trophy back to the Illinois State campus,” Zenger said. “This award symbolizes all the hard work that is put in daily by members of the entire Athletics Department and the campus leadership, as well as the support from the Redbird community.”

Fans cheered as Illinois State sent a dozen teams to post-season tournaments in the past year, won conference titles in three women’s sports (basketball, golf, and soccer), two men’s sports (tennis and baseball) and was a strong contender in others. Record crowds saw the football team achieve a winning season under first-year coach Brock Spack.

The men’s and women’s basketball teams, coached last season by Tim Jankovich and Robin Pingeton respectively, secured post-season berths in the National Invitation Tournament. It took the eventual NIT champions to eliminate both squads. Redbird athletes looked good on the journey. Under Zenger the department secured a five-year contract with Nike, which resulted in significant savings.

Zenger’s most ambitious task for elevating Illinois State’s competitive position is the creation of a $39 million facilities improvement plan called Redbird Renaissance. Seven major projects were identified with a number already completed, including new tennis courts and the $3.2 million baseball stadium at Duffy Bass Field.

“Probably the thing I’m most proud of is the new baseball stadium,” Zenger said. “Illinois State had been waiting for a hundred years to have a real baseball stadium.”

Other projects were scheduled within Redbird Arena, including new basketball and volleyball locker rooms, and an attractive entertainment area called the Legends Room.

The most challenging part of Redbird Renaissance is the renovation of Hancock Stadium, which opened in 1965 and presents visitors with an uninspiring view of aging bleachers. The Board of Trustees has authorized architects to plan a redesigned stadium.

“I think it’s important for the institution’s image,” Zenger said. “For me it has less to do with the football team’s performance than it does with what we represent to the rest of the community when you drive down Main Street. We need to have something that bespeaks excellence, just like the rest of the campus.”

The project will feature new seating on the east and south sides, with first-class concession areas, restrooms, a concourse, a press box, and donor suites. Seating capacity would be about 14,000 in the first phase, with the possibility of adding another 10,000 seats in a horseshoe configuration.

The downturn in the economy has made starting a campaign to fund the stadium project difficult, “This institution has lots of needs,” Zenger explained. “While the football stadium is probably our greatest need in the Athletics Department, there are other needs on campus that have to come first. The tail will not wag the dog here. We’re very mindful of what the institution’s needs are and what comes first.”

Meanwhile football excitement is surging. Fans throng into parking lots with sizzling grills to tailgate on football Saturdays. Overflow crowds force some to sit or stand on grassy areas.
Football fans have been eager for the 2010 campaign ever since the Redbirds knocked off ninth-ranked Northern Iowa 22-20 with a touchdown pass in the last second of the 2009 finale.

Zenger believes that a football game day is a celebration of a university’s community spirit, pride, and culture. “College football is where you get to fly your flags and have your marching band, your Homecoming activities, and really celebrate the institution’s culture. That’s what football brings to an institution,” he said.

“I’m pleased that our college game day has become one which alumni, community members, and businesses can all get together and feel good about what we have as an institution and community.”

A former football coach himself, Zenger has worked to improve the experience. Upgrades at Hancock Stadium include a new playing surface, and a video scoreboard to keep fans informed and entertained.

Zenger also played a lead role in advocating that the Missouri Valley Conference include football under the MVC banner. Until two years ago the Valley’s football schools competed in the affiliated, but less familiar, Gateway Conference. “From the day I got here, that was one of my goals,” Zenger said.

History and traditions are important to a university’s culture, and both have received increasing recognition in the Zenger era. The most visible symbol is the statue of basketball All-America Doug Collins ’73 and coaching pioneer Will Robinson at Redbird Arena’s north entrance. The sculpture, which was done by Lou Cella ’85, was donated by Don Franke ’71 and dedicated in 2009.

Illinois State basketball legends are shown in action on the Arena’s big video scoreboard before home games. Introductions are given to a player of the past, called the Redbird Ambassador, and a Faculty Star of the Game. Special recognition has been given in the form of endowed scholarships, facilities naming, and ceremonies to honor such notables as coaches Duffy Bass and Jill Hutchison, M.S. ’69; basketball Olympians Collins, Cathy Boswell ’83, and Charlotte Lewis ’78, ’01; and golf pro D.A. Weibring ’75.

“I think it’s important we look all the way back and acknowledge who helped us get where we are,” he said. “You stand on the shoulders of those who went before you. In my time here I want to do my best to make sure we acknowledge who those shoulders belonged to.”

In other words, those Redbird sports giants always have a seat on Illinois State’s front porch.

WEB EXTRA
View recaps and interviews with Redbird coaches and athletes at www.YouTube.com/GoRedbirds.

Private dollars critical to Redbird Athletics’ budget

Illinois State does not receive state dollars to operate its Intercollegiate Department of Athletics, unlike other Illinois public universities. Aside from student fees and a small allocation from the University’s income fund, Athletics operates solely from revenue generated through ticket sales, corporate sponsorships, and private donations.

The Redbird Club (TRC) is the fundraising arm of Illinois State Athletics, and the lifeblood of scholarship dollars for 400-plus athletes. TRC donations are used for room and board, books, and other fees covered by scholarships.

Scholarship costs for the 2010-2011 academic school year have been budgeted at $2.7 million. Private dollars also provide a foundation for future athletic success via facilities upgrades.

Every gift helps secure the financial stability of Redbird Athletics for years to come, as endowments allow for student-athlete scholarships to be funded indefinitely. For more information about the TRC or the Endowed Scholarship Program call (309) 438-3803 or visit GoRedbirds.com.
hen Brian Simpson was a graduate student at Illinois State in the early 1980s, he had a daily routine that revolved around Downtown Normal, starting with breakfast at the Welcome Inn on North Street.

“Jane and Stella were the best waitresses,” he said. “They knew my regular order—two eggs over easy with toast. If I was feeling flush, I’d have hash browns.”

For lunch Simpson would get a $1 bowl of chili at Big Rudy’s Too on West Beaufort Street. Supper was at The Galery—later changed to the Gallery—a couple doors away.

“Spike would have pizza for $1 if it was fresh, 75 cents if it wasn’t,” Simpson said of The Galery. “If it was days’ old, it was 50 cents. I ate 50 cent slices of pizza a lot.”

Like many art majors, he also hit The Galery for its nighttime entertainment and camaraderie. “I was alone and didn’t know anybody,” he said. “I’d go in The Galery and have a beer. I made friends that way.”

There were two other popular Downtown bars: Rocky’s attracted the disco crowd, while Shanigans was more of a sports bar.

When he was in the mood for a movie, Simpson often went to the Normal Theater. He remembers seeing the first run of A Christmas Story there. It was a wet day and after the movie, he went to Garcia’s Pizza at Watterson Place to dry his feet by the fireplace.

Downtown Normal had virtually everything including two pharmacies, Randall’s variety store, the Sock Store, Watkin’s Jewelry, The Garlic Press, Pines Smartwear, McReynolds menswear, Greta’s Fabrics, Camera Craft, and the Velvet Freeze ice cream shop.

“Downtown is full of memories,” Simpson said. “I grew up in Central Illinois and felt at home the moment I came here.”
Simpson still calls the Twin Cities home, and his life continues to revolve around the newly renovated “Uptown” Normal. He owns Babbitt’s Books on East Beaufort Street, and serves as president of the Uptown Normal Business Association.

The Normal City Council officially renamed Downtown Normal to Uptown Normal in March of 2007, saying it better reflected the revitalized central business district created from a redevelopment plan adopted by the City Council in 2001.

While the Welcome Inn and Jane and Stella are gone, college students, professors, and townies now go to the Garlic Press Café, which opened at the former Welcome Inn space in 2005. The Gallery and Big Rudy’s Too are also only memories. The building that housed both was razed and a new one built by Twin City developer Harry Fuller. Firehouse Pizza & Pub opened on the first floor.

Fuller renovated the Shanigans building next door. It is now home to offices on the second floor, with Emack & Bolio’s ice cream shop on the first floor. Fuller also renovated the former Odd Fellows Lodge across the street at 126 E. Beaufort Street, and attracted a popular Irish pub called Maggie Miley’s.

Twin City developer Jeff Tinervin razed the building at Beaufort and Linden streets, creating there a new building that offers luxury apartments on the top floors and Cosi’s restaurant on the first floor. Another Illinois State graduate, Ryan Fiala ’04, M.B.A. ’06, renovated 123 E. Beaufort and opened a new restaurant called D.P. Dough.

Rocky’s was torn down also, making way for the Children’s Discovery Museum, which opened in 2004 and now attracts thousands of visitors annually. Simpson moved Babbitt’s Books from 104 W. North Street to 119 E. Beaufort Street—home of Appletree Records in the 1980s—as part of the Uptown redevelopment plan.

The town bought the North Street building and several others with plans to attract a developer to create a mixed-use building along the new Constitution Boulevard, which goes from a new traffic circle in the center of Uptown north to College Avenue. The mixed-use building is not yet a reality.

The traffic circle also uses land that used to be home to Abe’s Carmelcorn, where Simpson would buy Gummy Bears. There’s a community gathering place in the center of the traffic circle. It has a circulating water feature and grassy sitting area.

Up North Street toward campus, Other Ports is gone and in its place is Medici restaurant. The skyline of Uptown Normal, opposite page, reflects the changes that have occurred near campus. A $75 million Marriott Hotel and Conference Center is just one piece of the plan to rejuvenate the blocks east of the Quad. Watterson Towers stands behind the new complex, while the appeal of an older building’s facade has been maintained in the forefront.

Brian Simpson, above, remembers the appeal of Downtown Normal from his days as a graduate student. Now president of the Uptown Normal Business Association and owner of Babbitt’s Books, Simpson is pleased with redevelopment efforts that lure students to shops, restaurants, and the Normal Theater.

“Even alumni who left Illinois State recently will be amazed by the transition in Uptown Normal.”
North Street. Subconscious, which Simpson said "had the best view of the Normal Theater," closed years ago. It was home to a variety of businesses until it was torn down last spring so that construction could start on a new commercial/apartment building by JSM Development of Champaign.

The project also occupies the land of the former nearly 100-year-old University Christian Church. The church held its last service in March of 2008. The building was not accessible and would have required a costly renovation that the aging church membership decided it couldn’t undertake.

The JSM project will once again bring a pharmacy to Uptown Normal. CVS plans to open in August and occupy much of the first floor of the five-story building. Illinois State is leasing out the second floor. The other three floors will have apartments.

Across North Street is a new $75 million, 228-room Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, which opened in the fall of 2009. It occupies all the land that used to be Watterson Place and the former Citizens Bank. The bank relocated to Broadway and College Avenue.

The hotel includes Jesse’s Grille and Caffènia’s Café. The conference center took advantage of its proximity to the Normal Theater and created an indoor entrance from the center to the theater.

The Marriott is attached by skywalk to one of two new Uptown parking decks. The other deck is adjacent to Heartland Bank and Trust Co., which
sits at the top of the hill on College Avenue, next to the Ecology Action Center.

Back on North Street, the Paintin’ Place, which was next to the Normal Theater, closed in 2005 and was remodeled for a Jimmy John’s Gourmet Sandwiches restaurant. Jimmy John’s moved from the building Tinervin razed at Beaufort and Linden streets. The old Velvet Freeze site is now The Coffee Hound, which opened in 2006.

The changes have been applauded and appreciated by the ISU community, and leave graduates who return for a campus visit in awe.

“Even alumni who left Illinois State recently will be amazed by the transition in Uptown Normal,” Illinois State University President Al Bowman said. “The addition of the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, new restaurants, and revitalized businesses have made Uptown Normal a destination for students, faculty, staff members, and alumni.”

The change has impressed even those who were once dubious, including Simpson. He admits he had some reservations with the town’s redevelopment plan at first, but now knows his fear came from the “uncertainty” of the future. “Once it was certain, it was just a matter of patience,” he said. “It turned out better than I ever, ever thought it would.

“The way Downtown was going, several people would have moved anyway or gone out of business. It was going downhill, there were problems,” he said. “Downtown was ruined.”

Now he sees Uptown Normal going the direction business owners only hoped it could when they met in the late 1980s.

“We talked about what we’d like to see Downtown: sit-down restaurants, a pharmacy, a grocery store, and a place to drink, but not big saloons. We wanted coffeehouses and we have several. Things we looked for in the late 1980s we have, including more office space and more residences,” Simpson said. “There’s a variety, not just little boutiques. You can bring your family and divide up and go do what you want to do. It’s like a mall, but more individual. We’ve returned to where a vibrant Downtown area should be.”

And there’s more on the way.

The town recently received a $22 million federal grant to build a new transportation center west of the Children’s Discovery Museum on Beaufort Street. It will serve Amtrak, as well as city and intrastate buses and taxies.

The transition has been exciting and satisfying for Normal officials, including City Manager Mark Peterson, who noted that development of a vibrant Uptown was the City Council’s ultimate goal.

“The vision was to create an exciting and dynamic retail/business district that would be a place people wanted to come and spend time,” Peterson said. “The presence of Illinois State was a critical piece to the puzzle. People like the campus environment. There’s a certain excitement that comes with being close proximity to a campus. It offers a unique flavor you don’t get in another business district.”

**Explore Uptown Normal and Downtown Bloomington during Homecoming**

Homecoming creates the perfect opportunity to discover all the changes that have occurred, not only in what used to be known as Downtown Normal, but in Downtown Bloomington as well. A Redbird Walk card offers alums discounts and specials at a variety of Uptown Normal and Downtown Bloomington businesses. Go to page 26 and clip your card, or download it online at IllinoisStateHomecoming.com.
When Myron Erdman studied agriculture in the 1940s, he learned how to caponize chickens, castrating young birds with the swift move of a sharp scalpel.

“I wanted to take courses I thought would help me out. I doubt they teach that anymore,” he said, chuckling as he sat at the kitchen table in his rural Chenoa home.

Now in his 80s, Erdman is a former Illinois State football player who left the University after a couple of years because his mom needed him back on the farm. His father had died when Myron was only 5 years old.

He remains on the family farm, an 800-acre property that’s grown to include nearly 500 cows and 9,500 hogs. His son, Mark ’80, works with his dad to ship out 32,000 pounds of milk daily. That’s enough for 3,720 gallons. Milk is tested when it’s picked up at the farm and tested again when it arrives at the plant, making it “the safest drink people can get,” Mark said.

That’s just one of the many governmental regulations that didn’t exist generations ago. Now tails are shortened in order to keep the animals cleaner, and sand is used for bedding because it’s bacteria resistant. The herd is routinely vaccinated and if a cow is treated with antibiotics, the milk is tossed.

When Myron grew up, he milked cows by hand twice a day. Now machines milk 20 cows at once. It’s still a long day. Mark’s up by 5:30 a.m. and doesn’t head to bed until about 10 p.m., after a glass of milk.

The father-son team epitomizes the strength of Illinois State’s Agriculture Department, which over the past century has evolved to prepare professionals for a field that’s expanded and become Deeply Rooted

Ag Department growing strong 100 years later

BY KATE ARTHUR

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The father-son team epitomizes the strength of Illinois State’s Agriculture Department, which over the past century has evolved to prepare professionals for a field that’s expanded and become
more complex since the days of pulling a plow.

Today the department offers a revitalized curriculum that includes two new sequences: pre-veterinary medicine and agriculture communications and leadership. Department Chair Rob Rhykerd knows that’s a draw for students, few of whom come from family farms anymore—although if you walk the hallway and ask where they’re from, most students are only one or two generations removed from farming.

There are now about 300 students, which is a 50 percent increase over the past five years. In the past year alone Rhykerd has watched enrollment jump by 15 percent.

Two-thirds are transfers from a community college, and nearly one-third are women. That’s a big change from the early years as well, when only one or two women took an animal science class.

The steady rise in enrollment is attributed to aggressive recruitment by faculty, modernization of facilities, outstanding research opportunities at the University Farm, the revamped curriculum, and the department’s rich reputation.

“Students who are interested in production agriculture, either crops or livestock, know they’re going to get what they need here. It’s not just driving tractors anymore,” Rhykerd said.

Senior Jacob Zosky heard his parents talk about growing up on a farm, which influenced his decision to study agribusiness. He was also attracted by the job opportunities.

“I did my homework before joining the program,” he said. “It’s one of those industries where no matter what the economy’s doing, it continues to grow. With the green movement, the Agriculture Department is more important than ever.”

Kristin Apple ’10 went from being an English education major to completing a double major in ag business and ag industry management. She is pursuing a sales career. “The great thing about agriculture is it’s so diverse. There’s something for everybody,” she said. “Agriculture touches everyone’s life every day.”

College of Applied Science and Technology Dean Jeff Wood couldn’t agree more. He’s convinced future graduates will be moving a world away from rural communities where everybody waves.

“Our students in the next two decades certainly won’t be going back to a farm. They’ll have to have an understanding of foreign cultures, and will be as likely to work in Shanghai as Chicago, in Buenos Aires as St. Louis,” Wood said.

The shift represents another chapter in the department’s history, which has undergone significant change since its start in 1911. Woods joined in 1985 and can attest to marked progress in just that short time.

He remembers cows flicking their tails and stirring up dust on the dirt floor of the indoor livestock arena in the Ropp Agriculture Building. As a junior faculty member he was asked to create a microcomputer applications course, but there was no computer lab. Twice a week he’d make the rounds, borrowing faculty computers.

There have been other challenges over time, including two attempts to end the program. President David Berlo threatened to abolish it in 1971 with the simple explanation, “I have no support for agriculture.” After receiving a flood of angry letters, he dropped the proposal.

In 1991 the department was again threatened with elimination, this time...
Agriculture has been included in the University’s academic offerings since not many decades after Illinois State was founded in 1857. The department will celebrate its centennial throughout 2011. Below is a brief overview of the program’s rich history. Information was compiled from *Educating Illinois—Illinois State University, 1857-2007*, authored by Department of History Distinguished Professor Emeritus John Freed.

**Department has endured changes and challenges**

**1911**
The University’s agriculture program began. Irwin Arthur Madden was appointed professor of agriculture, and Clyde Hudelson headed the department.

**1912**
Land Edward Bakewell donated in 1867 became the site of the first University Farm, which was later moved. The Ropp Agricultural Building, Redbird Arena, Tri-Towers, and Hancock Stadium are now on what was the Bakewell property.

**1960s**
The Agriculture Department saw a 400 percent enrollment increase.

**1962**
Early farm buildings became obsolete. New buildings were constructed on Gregory Street, which became the University Farm’s new location.

**1971**
President Thomas Wallace supported the department, along with industry partners, alumni, and colleagues at other universities. Together they fiercely opposed the plan, testifying to the importance of agriculture and the role Illinois State played in it.

“It was a rough time, and those of us who were here are glad to have it behind us,” Wood said. Today there is no question as to the need for the program, which is meeting a growing need.

Every Monday job opportunities are announced and posted to a bulletin board, but students aren’t crowded around it. That’s because there are more jobs for agriculture majors than there are grads.

by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. “It was hard to understand and hard to deal with,” Wood said. “Here we are situated in the heart of the heartland. We’re surrounded by all things agriculture and have the most productive farms in the world in a state with a rich tradition of agriculture.”
Aquaculture was introduced at the University Farm. The program ran for more than a decade. A master’s of science degree for agribusiness was approved. Enrollment neared 300, marking a 50 percent increase in five years. Nearly one-third of the students are women. The Illinois Board of Higher Education called for elimination of the Agriculture Department. President Thomas Wallace partnered with industry groups, alums, and community and state leaders to save the program. The University sold 132 acres of the farm and purchased the former FS Research Farm at Lexington, which includes 160 acres of land for animal research. An adjacent 200 acres were purchased as well. The Illinois State University Farm at Lexington was officially dedicated in June of 2002.

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2009
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1976
The department added an agribusiness major.

1991
The Illinois Board of Higher Education called for elimination of the Agriculture Department. President Thomas Wallace partnered with industry groups, alums, and community and state leaders to save the program.

2011
The Agriculture Department’s 100th year will be recognized with special events and a fundraising effort.

There’s much to learn beyond the classroom in the Agriculture Department. Sophomore Kara Watson, opposite page, appreciates the opportunity to work with livestock at the University Farm.

Ag Day on the Quad, left, is just one of many special events planned by the department throughout the year. Activities give students the chance to meet with vendors and alums. Students also appreciate immediately applying what they are learning. Senior Kelly Schneider, above, is pursuing her passion for ag education and environmental science by learning about organic farming.

The demand is not going to disappear, as food production will need to double in the next 50 years. Eating habits will change as poor nations move from primarily vegetarian diets to including meat. “All of this will place increased demands on ag production and doing it all in a sustainable fashion,” Rhykerd said. “It’s an enviable time for our graduates.”

External forces will also shape the department’s curriculum. Wood predicts the next generation will need to be prepared to tackle the renewal of natural resources, including water, soil, and atmosphere, as well as the demand for fuel.

“Those are very important topics that people are thinking about not only statewide but globally,” Wood said. People will become increasingly concerned with where their food comes from, and will continue to support local foods and organic farming, he believes. One example of that is the fact that there are 4,000 farmers’ markets throughout the country.

Whatever the future brings, graduates such as the Erdmans have no doubt ag students will get from Illinois State University is much to learn beyond the classroom in the Agriculture Department.
Alumni invited to join department’s celebration

Preparations for the Agriculture Department’s 100th anniversary in 2011 have already begun. The year will be marked by special events, as well as an effort to raise $400,000 through the “100 x 100 Centennial Celebration.”

The goal is to obtain $100,000 in support for each of four areas alumni and faculty have identified as critical in moving the department into the next century. These include the Horticulture Center, student scholarships, the Illinois State University Farm at Lexington, and special projects such as a computer laboratory and student travel.

“I have great hope we’ll be successful. I have a lot of faith in ag alums,” College of Applied Science and Technology Dean Jeff Wood said. He noted there are more than 5,000 in the Agriculture Alumni Association, which formed in 1979 as the first departmental alumni association on campus.

“My vision is for alumni to be passionate about their alma mater,” Wood said. “We need their support, not just financial but in terms of providing opportunities for students, helping to open doors to internships, networking, serving as guest speakers, and on the advisory board. It’s a very important relationship.”

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Charity Mendoza is the daughter of a high school and junior high school dropout. She and four siblings were raised by their mother. Her life spent in poverty, Mendoza never received a high school diploma, and is now a single mother of six. Come December, she will describe herself in yet another way: Illinois State University alumna.

Convinced that she would never have the means to cross a commencement stage, Mendoza speaks with deep appreciation as she recounts how Illinois State gave her the support and opportunity to achieve a lifelong dream. An undergraduate degree always seemed out of reach to Mendoza, who walked a difficult path to obtain her educational goals.

As a child, Mendoza’s family could barely afford basic necessities. Hungry nights where dinner consisted of a tuna salad sandwich served by candlelight because electricity had been turned off were common. Mendoza always enjoyed school and wanted to go to college, but it seemed unrealistic as the money was not available.

Education was further pushed aside when she gave birth as a high school freshman to her first child, Shaquanna, and stopped going to school. A
Family is important to Charity Mendoza, who put her own educational dreams on hold to meet the needs of her six children. Academics are a priority in their home. Charity studies with her son Brock, previous page, while daughter Shaquanna works in the background.

home tutor picked up assignments and administered tests. Mendoza passed her finals, managing to temporarily balance motherhood and classes.

She married and at the age of 16 gave birth to her second child, Devynn. Soon after she left the classroom to care for her children. “It broke my heart to drop out of high school, but I placed my family as a priority above my education,” Mendoza said. She became a full-time homemaker, during which time Adrien and Amber were born.

To relieve boredom she started checking out library textbooks. This was not enough to satisfy her thirst for knowledge, so she enrolled for her high school equivalency diploma. While working toward that goal she reconnected with her eighth grade teacher, Charlotte Cooney, who persuaded Mendoza to go to college after earning her GED in 1996. The encouragement served as inspiration.

“It opened a door for me,” Mendoza said. “Even the possibility is something that had not been communicated to me.”

Before she could pursue the college dream, Mendoza faced more life changes. She married her second husband in 1999, and their family grew to include Brock and Santana. Mendoza worked in a factory, fast food restaurants, and as an office manager to pay the bills. Unfulfilled, she began taking community college classes in 2001.

Academically things were going great, as she received straight As and came to life in the classroom. Financially things were not as good. Mendoza dropped out at midterms, no longer able to afford childcare.

“That really upset me,” she said. “It seemed like the door had shut in my face.”

She turned to the Army, knowing she would receive benefits and the opportunity to finish a degree. She completed all the steps to enlist, but needed a waiver because of her six dependents.

Mendoza worked on an assembly line at TI Automotive during the waiting period, which had not yet ended when terrorists attacked on 9/11. She consequently abandoned the idea of a military career.

Determined to be home for her children, Mendoza quit her second-shift job. Because she voluntarily left, there was no unemployment support and she was soon having trouble paying the bills.

She painted apartments for her landlord to pay rent and sold paintings to neighbors. The work led to a job as a faux finisher. Three months later she was unable to find a customer’s home and was fired.

“This was a tough time, but in the end it helped me in my journey,” Mendoza said. “I believe sometimes God will take your negative experience and provide a really big blessing for you.”

She counts Illinois State among those blessings, even though it was still years before she attended. Mendoza first went back to the community college. That door reopened while she was applying for unemployment. She learned of a program that helped pay for childcare and school expenses. Mendoza received assistance with both, and was able to complete her studies in microcomputer applications in 2003. She was the first in her extended family to complete an associate’s degree.

Mendoza secured a job at State Farm Insurance Companies. She realized she would not advance without furthering her education, which led her to Illinois State. She enrolled in 2007, and remembers vividly starting at the University as a nontraditional minority student. Her life experiences set her apart from most of her classmates, and yet she did not feel alienated. She thrived in the classroom, working closely with supportive faculty.

Staff members were equally ready and eager to help her find a way to juggle her multiple responsibilities as a mom, employee, and student. She felt encouragement across campus, which only instilled more determination to complete a degree in communication studies.

Now in her final semester, Mendoza reflects on her years at Illinois State with pride in herself and the institution. “My time at ISU has been very challenging, and I do love a challenge,” she said. “The challenge adds to my sense of accomplishment.”

Beyond the degree, Mendoza has learned about other cultures and the world around her while at Illinois State. She has developed relationships that have enriched her life. And she has a

“Your life can be what you want it to be. If you have the desire to go to college, the resources are available... State your passion and pursue it.”
renewed optimism for tomorrow, as she eagerly plans to apply what she has learned to a field she loves. Her goal after graduation is to be a voice that can help change the world.

She is particularly eager to share her story with fellow Hispanics, who she noted often face obstacles similar to what she has overcome in completing her undergraduate degree. “I’m not the only one that’s had this experience,” Mendoza said, lamenting how many Hispanic teens struggle to complete high school. “Those kinds of statistics are appalling to me,” Mendoza said. She knows from personal experience that the students have a desire for an education and the ability to achieve. What they lack is the confidence that educational opportunities exist for them.

“I missed that when I was younger. I probably would have attended college a lot sooner if I had someone tell me it was possible,” Mendoza said. She plans to instill that hope in others, beginning with her own children, who now range in age from 19 to 10.

She keeps them involved with her homework, talks to them about what she is learning, and has had them join her in Illinois State classrooms. She does these things to let them experience the life of a college student.

Mendoza is also figuring out ways she can inspire others in the larger community. After graduation she anticipates working in the University’s Financial Aid or Admissions offices in a position that allows her to help underrepresented students find their way to Illinois State. She currently works in the Scholarship Resource Office.

She’s also active in the Bloomington-Normal community, mentoring underprivileged teens at a club that provides a place for them to do homework and access computers, which many do not have at home.

Mendoza openly shares her story and explains how they too can get to college, even helping students complete the application process. Her goal is to provide for others the positive influence she missed when younger, making certain today’s youth realize they are not stuck in a frustrating cycle of unfulfilled dreams. Her words are inspiring, and her accomplishments prove her message to be true.

“It’s not a fantasy. Your life can be what you want it to be,” Mendoza said. “If you have the desire to go to college, the resources are available. There is no excuse for not attending. State your passion and pursue it.”
College of Fine Arts celebrates decades of excellence

Every college at Illinois State is built on a legacy of excellence, but none has a more natural ability to showcase student work than the College of Fine Arts. The Schools of Art, Music, and Theatre (including the program area of dance), and the Arts Technology Program consistently create opportunities for artists in training to awe audiences.

Over the past four decades the college has built a national reputation for academic excellence—including in teacher education—and in the process has become an integral part of the University’s daily life. The scope of the college’s student, faculty, and alumni talent will be showcased in the months ahead as the college marks its 40th anniversary.

More than 400 performances are planned throughout the celebration year, which began this summer and will continue through the spring of 2011. Alumni are invited to participate and will have an active role in many of the events, including an art show exhibiting the work of graduates for one month beginning in September.

An alumni commissioned-works concert is slated for October, with an alumni film festival planned during the week of Homecoming. The first College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame induction ceremony will be held Homecoming weekend, as well as a gala that focuses on the college. The School of Music is also planning commissions of alumni work and a band auction. Several performances and productions will be offered, including the 55th Annual Madrigal Dinners.

Alumni of the college will be featured throughout the year. Jon Pounds ’70, M.F.A. ’71, will be the keynote speaker at the Homecoming luncheon event. Judith Ivey ’73, L.L.D. ’00, will visit campus during the spring semester. Theatre of Ted, a Registered Student Organization, will bring back a variety of alums and work to raise scholarship funds.

Beyond celebrating the past and present, the anniversary year also creates a unique opportunity to look to the future. The plan for new facilities will be shared widely, as excitement grows over the $54.3 million project that will allow the college to consolidate from nine locations to one.

The project calls for demolition of Centennial West and Center for the Visual Arts to make way for a new building and significant remodeling of Centennial East. Multiple donor opportunities exist with the project.

To learn more about the college’s anniversary year and how you can get involved as a participant or donor, go to the College of Fine Arts website. Find out what you can do to guarantee continued excellence in the arts at Illinois State!
An alumni perspective

A few years ago while attending an Alumni Shakespeare event on a beautiful summer evening at the Ewing Manor grounds, I crossed paths with Lynda Lane. I remembered Lynda as a fellow Illinois State coed on campus in the 1960s. Recalling that Lynda was a member of the Alumni Association Board of Directors, I casually mentioned that if she ever needed an extra hand with alumni events, I would love to get involved.

That is all it took! Lynda invited me to be on the University’s Homecoming committee. Later I became a member of the Distinguished Alumni Award selection committee. Presently I remain on these committees, and am also the volunteer liaison for the Alumni Relations staff.

What a proud and life-altering experience it has been these past few years to have the opportunity to serve and represent our amazing, nationally recognized university as a volunteer. Volunteering is the perfect avenue to give back to the University, which prepares graduates with a broad and diverse education. I certainly attribute my long and successful teaching career to the dedicated professors in the Physical Education Department.

The Alumni Association relies on volunteers to help reach out to students, alums, and community populations at various events. Volunteers interact with students at Preview activities, Passages, job fairs, career days, and commencement. We have booths in Bloomington-Normal at the annual Sugar Creek Arts Festival, Farmer’s Markets, and the Sweet Corn Festival each summer.

Volunteers also assist with events at the Alumni Center, the Slam Dunk family event offered by Athletics, Homecoming, the annual Shakespeare alumni night, and many other activities. We definitely “Spread the Red” all year long.

Whether interacting with students, community members, or fellow alums, volunteers find that representing Illinois State University is extremely rewarding. It’s also a great way to meet new friends, or reconnect with old ones. There’s a spot waiting for you. Just simply say “I would love to get involved.” That’s all it takes!

Anita L. Gibb ’69
Alumni Relations Volunteer Liaison

Find out how you can get involved by contacting Alumni Relations Assistant Director Stephanie Duquenne at (309) 438-2586 or by e-mail at saduque@IllinoisState.edu.

Where are they now?

Editor’s note: Are there former mentors you would like to connect with again? Illinois State staff will find them and share their updates in a future issue, including contact information. Send the names to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu, call (309) 438-2667, or mail to 1101 N. Main Street, Normal, IL 61790.

Warren Harden helped change the campus landscape

With an expertise in economic theory, money and banking, and international economics, Warren Harden joined the faculty in 1954 and worked to develop the Department of Economics curriculum. He also chaired the faculty committee that led a drive in the 1960s to change the school’s name from Illinois State Normal University.

Harden was the initial person to accept and shape several administrative jobs. He became vice president of Business and Finance in 1984. Under his leadership the University moved forward with major facility construction, including Redbird Arena. He also worked to secure funding for the Science Laboratory Building and parking decks.

Harden retired in 1991. He has since done consultant work, and was an adjunct faculty member at Heartland Community College. He enjoys golf and traveling with his wife, Jan, who worked 27 years at Illinois State. She retired from the Office of International Studies and Programs in 2001.

They participate in many cultural events in Central Illinois and Chicago. They also remain connected to campus. Warren has been inducted into the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame, and the Department of Economics has established the Dr. Warren Harden Endowment for Seminars and Research in Economics. Donations may be made to the fund online at www.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support or by calling (309) 438-8041.

Contact the Hardens:
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Shirley, IL 61772
wjharden@mtco.com

WEB EXTRA

Read more of Warren Harden’s career at Illinois State online at www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.
The campus community will celebrate 90 years of Homecoming during the week of October 11-17. Join the celebration as we “Roll Out the Red” with a variety of activities and programs on campus and online. For additional information and access to online registration, visit IllinoisStateHomecoming.com

SCHEDULE HIGHLIGHTS

Friday, October 15

Homecoming Hospitality
8 a.m.–1 p.m., Bone Student Center
8:30 a.m.–7 p.m., Alumni Center

Alumni Day Luncheon
Noon–2 p.m., Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom
Homecoming royalty will be crowned, Alumni Day guests recognized, and Jon Pounds ’70, M.F.A. ’71, will speak. Tickets are $15 per person, with preregistration required.

Live Glass Sculpture Creation by Mack Glass
1–7 p.m., North Quad near Schroeder Hall
Bring recyclable glass donations and watch as art is created.

College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame Unveiling
3–4 p.m., Center for Performing Arts Lobby
Celebrate 40 years of fine arts with the inaugural members of the college’s Hall of Fame.

Hoopfest
7 p.m., Horton Field House
See student royalty crowned and Redbird basketball players in exhibition. Free admission.

25th Annual Putnam County Spelling Bee
7:30 p.m., Center for Performing Arts
Tickets for this one-act musical comedy are available by calling (309) 438-2535 or online at www.ticketmaster.com.

Saturday, October 16

Homecoming Hospitality
7:30–11:30 a.m., Bone Student Center
7:30 a.m.–5 p.m., Alumni Center

Town and Gown 5K Run
7 a.m., Southeast Corner of College Avenue and University Street
Be part of the 10th anniversary for this run through campus and Uptown Normal. Registration is required.

Live Glass Sculpture Creation by Mack Glass
8:30 a.m.–2 p.m., North Quad near Schroeder Hall
Bring recyclable glass donations and watch as art is created.

Parade Step Off
9:30 a.m., College Avenue and University Street
Have your mobile device ready to send a text and “Vote the Float” for your favorite entry.

Tailgating
11 a.m., Designated tailgating locations
Go online for host groups, guidelines, a map of locations, and additional details.

Homecoming Academy
1:30–4 p.m., Alumni Center
Join Politics and Government Professor Bob Bradley and Illinois State expert Terri Ryburn for educational sessions. No reservation required.

Illinois State vs. North Dakota State
2 p.m., Hancock Stadium
Reserved seats available for alumni rate of $15 per ticket from August 2 to 5 p.m. on October 1. Order online at GoRedbirds.com. Select “promotions” from the toolbar and enter the promotional code “ALUM10.” Tickets will be mailed or picked up at Hancock Stadium. For special requests or seating accommodations call (309) 438-8000.

Roll Out the Red Gala
6 p.m., Marriott Hotel and Conference Center
College of Fine Arts students, alumni, and faculty will perform as the college’s 40th anniversary is celebrated. Enjoy dinner and cocktails during an interactive showcase. Tickets are $75 per person for this black-tie optional event. Reservations needed by September 24. Call (309) 432-2586 or go online.

Sunday, October 17

Homecoming Hospitality
9 a.m.–1 p.m., Alumni Center

Twin City Tours
10:30 a.m., Alumni Center
Take a bus tour of Bloomington-Normal and the campus area. Preregistration is required. Call (309) 438-2586.

Great Urban Race
11 a.m., TBD
Compete in this wacky race driven by clues that take you through Bloomington-Normal. Cost is $40 per person before September 20. Register online.

Redbird Volleyball vs. Bradley University
2:05 p.m., Redbird Arena
Call (309) 438-8000 for tickets.
“Roll Out the Red” ...from home!

Not able to make it to campus for the Homecoming celebration? You can “Roll Out the Red” by going online to the Homecoming website or GoRedbirds.com to:

- Sign up for mobile Homecoming updates and news;
- See videos and photos posted as events happen;
- Connect with fellow Redbirds through the Homecoming Facebook fan page;
- Follow football and volleyball action through the All-Access service on GoRedbirds.com;
- Download specialized desktop wallpaper for your computer and mobile device; and
- Reconnect with your friends by sending personalized Homecoming e-cards.

Alumni networks and reunions

Plan to attend reunion and special activities hosted by the following groups. More information is available online.

Agriculture
Alumni Band
Athletics
Black Colleagues Association
College of Business
College of Education
Mennonite Nurses Alumni Organization
School of Communication
And more.....

Find a Friend

Reconnect with old friends using the Find a Friend locator service at www.Alumniilstu.edu/friend.

Need a room?

A listing of local hotels offering room blocks is available on the Homecoming website.

Map, Parking and Tailgating

Parking available at the Alumni Center, with shuttle service available beginning at 8 a.m. on Saturday Oct. 16. See website for details. A limited number of parking spaces in tailgating lots will be available for a fee.

New this year—overnight RV parking is available at the Alumni Center. Contact Kimber Phillipe at (309) 438-4329 by October 11 to reserve your RV space.

Redbird Walk

Use the Redbird Walk card for promotions and discounts at Bloomington-Normal businesses during Homecoming. Cards are available on campus, on the Homecoming website, or by cutting out the adjacent card. Participating locations are posted online.

Order apparel online or visit the Barnes & Noble college bookstore on campus.

For more details and event updates visit

IllinoisStateHomecoming.com

Cut out this card for special promotions and discounts
Anson Yeganegi ’09 described it as something out of a cheesy movie. The scene: a cold night last October. The time: a little past midnight. After getting off his job at Enterprise Rent-A-Car, Yeganegi decided to take a different route home, one that would take him past Lake Elliot in Wheaton.

While passing the lake, he was looking at the white lights of buildings reflecting off the water. Among the sea of white lights, he saw something eerie: a single pair of red lights.

At first Yeganegi continued to drive home, but he could not get his mind off that pair of red lights. Half a mile later he turned around.

When Yeganegi got back, the red lights had materialized into a Bentley convertible, submerged in the lake. Luckily the top was down and the driver had crawled to the top. Yeganegi called 911. Just then, the car started to sink.

The motorist rolled off. Yeganegi yelled out for the man to swim, but quickly realized he could not. After that, instinct took over. Despite the 911 operator telling him not to, Yeganegi, work suit and all, jumped in.

“At that point there was no option,” Yeganegi said. “I don’t think I ever could not go in.”

By the time Yeganegi got back to shore, the ambulance had arrived and was ready to take the man to the hospital. It is then Yeganegi was brought back into reality.

“It wasn’t until I got out of the water and the paramedics had him that I realized how epically cold it was,” Yeganegi said.

Months later the night remains an odd occurrence clouded in mystery for Yeganegi, who has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal of Heroism in the United States because of his brave act.

He never found out the name of the man he saved that night. He cannot recall why he took the unusual route home. Despite this Yeganegi believes something wanted him there that night.

“Everything happens for a reason,” Yeganegi said. “There’s a reason I didn’t go home the same way, there’s a reason I turned around, and there’s a reason I was there that night.”

Yeganegi now works in Glen Ellyn and drives by Lake Elliot far more often. No matter how many times he passes the lake, he is always reminded of that cold October night.

“It’s weird. Every time I get on the road I reenact the scene in my head,” he said. “I don’t think I could ever go down that road and not think about it.”
Richard C. Tuttle ’35 taught in a one-room schoolhouse in the 1930s before working as a civilian training administrator with the U.S. Army Air Corps. He founded Tuttle’s Trading Post in 1945 and sold the store in 1978. He has held many city and county positions, including 30 years as the director of the Salida Senior Citizens Center. He and his wife, Ruth (Wilson) ’34, ’35, have been married for 75 years. They reside in Salida, Colorado.

Frances M. Whitacre Anderson ’40, ’43, taught in a one-room country schoolhouse from 1940 to 1943. She is retired and widowed. She has three children and resides in Flanagan.

Otis H. Knudson ’41 served in the China-Burma-India Theater as a pilot from 1943-1944. Four times he received both the Distinguished Flying Cross and the Air Medal, as well as numerous other awards. He was a meteorologist for the Army Air Force and the U.S. Air Force until retirement in 1965. He and his wife, Martha, reside in Aurora, Colorado. They have two sons, one daughter, a granddaughter, and a great-grandson.

Mary J. Bartelt ’47 taught at a catholic college in San Francisco, California, and worked as a consultant in the San Juan Unified School District for 25 years before retiring. She received many honors for her teaching, leadership, and outstanding contributions. She resides in Citrus Heights, California.

John Dal Santo ’50, M.S. ’51, Ed.D. ’68, worked as a guidance counselor, principal, and superintendent. He also worked overseas with the U.S. Federal Government Department of Defense. He is a member of the U.S. Air Force Retired Officers Association, principal, and superintendent.

Ollan E. Coyle ’58, M.S. ’61, retired as vice president for slain Affirmative Action teachers for East Coast school districts, he tired of travel for work. After working part-time raising funds for a charity in Phoenix, Arizona, he is now a cruise lecturer in his lifelong avocation of music. In 2009 he and his wife sailed from Dover to St. Petersburg and from Athens to Istanbul. He has developed nine lectures from opera to cabaret. He and his wife, Ruth, reside in Tucson, Arizona.

Ronald W. Stadt ’57 was a professor at Southern Illinois University for three decades. He received several awards for his work, including recognition for outstanding contribution to the U.S. Secretary of Education’s Initiative Program for the identification of quality vocational programs. His wife, Loraine (Reed) ’57, taught elementary school for 26 years. They reside in Carbondale.

Ollan E. Coyle ’58, M.S. ’61, retired as the assistant director at the Edwardsville Rotary Club. His wife, Harriet L. ’59, was a history teacher at Central Catholic High School. She and her husband, Nelson, reside in Fairfax, California. They have three children and six grandchildren.

Mildred (Mirring) McCormick ’60 taught math in Belleville and Ann Arbor, Michigan. She went on to teach math in the Seattle Public Schools and the University Pre Parity Academy. She and her husband, John Ford ’62, has been assistant principal and athletic director at Edwardsville High School. In February of 2010 he was presented the Paul Harris Fellow Award for outstanding community service by the Edwardsville Rotary Club. He was recognized for his vision, design, and building of the 40-acre sports complex for the Edwardsville School District. His wife, Harriet L. (Martin) ’63, retired as elementary teacher at Edwardsville School District 7. They reside in Edwardsville.

Mary Meyer Fetzer ’64 has been appointed interim associate university librarian for research and instructional services at Rutgers. She resides in Randolph, New Jersey.

Janet Parks, M.S. ’65, completed a doctorate at Middle Tennessee State University. She taught at Bowing Green State University in the Human Movement, Sport
and Leisure Department. She has authored several physical education books and articles, and helped produce a documentary on Title IX titled Women in Sport. She is a founding member of the North American Society for Sport Management. She resides in Bowling Green, Ohio.

James L. Crawford '68 has retired and finished building a new home. He and his wife, Carol, reside in New Braunfels, Texas.

Marla S. (Armantrout) Haas ’69 taught third and fourth grades for seven years. She then joined the United States Postal Service and worked for 30 years before retiring in 2009. She resides in Hoopeston.

Dottie Solomon ’69 has retired from teaching music in the Batavia Public Schools District 101. She resides in Batavia.

Josiah Tlou, M.A. ’69, is professor emeritus and director of the Center for Research and Development in International Education at the Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. He has been recognized by Cambridge Who’s Who for dedication, leadership, and excellence in higher education. He specializes in curriculum development and international education, spending more than 10 years in Africa. He is a member of the National Council for the Social Studies, the American Educational Research Association, the African Studies Association, and Phi Delta Kappa. He resides in Blacksburg, Virginia.

70s

John K. Miller ’70 has completed a doctorate in physical therapy at Pacific University in Oregon. He is the rehabilitation director at Columbus Basin Hospital in Ephrata, Washington. He and his wife, Linda, met at Illinois State. They reside in Moses Lake, Washington.

Karen (Gray) Neuman ’70 is a staff nurse in IVT/Horizon Nurse Consulting Services. She resides in Puyallup, Washington.

Brian G. Tesar ’70 worked for 27 years as a GED instructor and correctional lieutenant at Pontiac Correctional Center. He also worked at Illinois River Correctional Center before retiring. He and his wife, Roxanne, have been married 30 years. They reside in Marion.

Martha (Wheatley) Oertle, ’71, M.S. ’77, completed 39 years of teaching elementary school. She taught six years in Mansfield and 33 years in Tremont before retiring in 2010.

Three Illinois State graduates have dedicated a combined total of 108 years to the field of education. They all finished their careers together, retiring from Tremont schools at the end of the recent academic year. They are, from left, Mike Lynn, M.S. ’83, of Tremont; Ellen (Connelly) Frankino ’75, M.S. ’76, of Pekin; and Martha (Wheatley) Oertle ’71, M.S. ’77, of Tremont.

He and her husband, Larry, reside in Tremont.

Steve Walters ’71 has retired as an engineer from Commonwealth Edison in Chicago. He is in the zoning office of Livingston County working on wind farm projects, landfills, and other zoning issues.

She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Urbana, Nebraska. They love to cheer the Redbirds on when they travel to the Omaha Qwest Center.

Linda Fay ’73, M.S. ’74, was in CSQA for 20 years and then returned to special education teaching and counseling.

Bruce E. Scher ’74, M.S. ’77, is the academic dean and director of college counseling at Chicagoland Jewish High School. He has more than 30 years of experience as an educator and college consultant in the public schools. A national speaker, he has served as a supervising and cooperating teacher with Illinois State. He and his wife, Barbara (Oman) ’74, reside in Buffalo Grove.

Linda Rosenstiel Vandere ’74 retired as a math teacher at Urbana High School in 2009. She teaches math part-time at the Next Generation Middle School, Champaign. She resides in Mahomet.

Susan L. (Gilbert) Baylor ’75 is an assistant professor at Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford. She has been named a 2010 Illinois Nurse Educator Fellow by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. One of 18 fellows selected in Illinois, she was recognized for her outstanding qualifications, accomplishments, and history of significant contributions to Saint Anthony College of Nursing. She resides in South Beloit.

Ellen (Connelly) Frankino ’75, M.S. ’76, worked as a speech/language pathologist in Westville for 12 years, serving students in the early childhood program through high school. She has worked in Tremont schools since 1988, retiring this year. She and her husband, Emile, reside in Pekin.

Kathleen A. (Lawson) Kane ’76 is an early childhood special education teacher and consultant with Pocatello School District 25. She was named Teacher of the Year for the district in 2009, and was one of five finalists for the State of Idaho Teacher of the Year. Her husband, Gregory P. ’72, is a program supervisor for Drug Court, Road to Recovery. They reside in Pocatello.

Melissa O’Rourke ’75 is an attorney and master gardener who teaches gardening classes at Northwest Iowa Community College. She and her husband, Joe, raise dairy goats. They show goats nationally, finishing 21 permanent champion goats and capturing many best of breed, best in show, and premier exhibitor awards. The couple resides in Rock Valley, Iowa.

Kim Slava ’75 owns Doctor Sax Woodwinds and is a band instrument repairman. He resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Linda M. Kovacs, M.S. ’76, has retired as executive director at the Center for Human Services, a nonprofit youth and family services
An Illinois State legacy

by Sean Kelly

Accompanied by sons Grant ’01 and Blake ’06, LaVerne (Berry) ’70 and Woody Iles ’71 watched their youngest son Craig ’09 graduate from Illinois State University last December. It was official: the Iles were a family of all Illinois State alumni. Grant realized how special this was during the ceremony when all alumni were asked to stand.

“It really kind of sunk in when our entire row stood up,” Grant said. “It really made me feel proud. You could see on everyone’s face that they were proud to be graduates.”

LaVerne and Woody dated in high school. A year older than Woody, LaVerne stayed with her high school sweetheart while the two attended different schools. The two reunited in 1967 when Woody arrived at the University. They married in 1970 and lived in Cardinal Court. Woody finished his degree while LaVerne taught at Stevenson Elementary in Bloomington.

“Those were four very happy years in my life. If I had to do it all over again, I don’t think there is anything I would change,” Woody said.

After graduation they moved to their hometown Champaign, and later to nearby Mahomet. LaVerne worked at Prairie Elementary School in Urbana, where she taught students with learning disabilities for 33 years. She substitutes in special education settings. Woody taught at Urbana High School before moving into business and promotional advertising.

Grant graduated with a physical education degree. He teaches driver’s education and coaches track at Moline High School. Every year on the way to the state track finals he makes time to show his athletes ISU’s campus.

Blake graduated with a business administration degree. He is a worker’s compensation specialist with Farmers Insurance Group in Aurora. He catches up with his Pi Kappa Alpha fraternity brothers through various golf outings around Illinois.

Craig holds a degree in university studies. Seeing his two brothers attend Illinois State left a lasting impression when Craig chose a school.

“He experienced that, he got a feeling for that, and he decided that’s something he wanted to do,” Woody said.

Woody and LaVerne make regular trips to Normal for a meal or golf with college friends. Woody was a R.A. in Manchester Hall during the 1969-1970 school year. Recently he had a reunion with his residents at Biaggi’s in Normal, where 75 percent of the floor attended.

During their campus visits, the Iles have kept up on the growth and changes at ISU. LaVerne finds the same warm friendly feel every time she comes back to campus, despite a much larger enrollment. The changes leave Woody confident the University’s future is bright.

“I’m not melancholy or sentimental about the past; I’m encouraged for their future. I’d like to see my grandchildren go there,” Woody said.
agency in California. After retirement she established a consultant firm, Springboard Consultants, which offers strategic planning, program review and development, and other services to nonprofits. She resides in Modesto, California. Linda Thar Walver ’76 is an elementary education teacher with District 186 in Springfield. Her husband, Michael ’76, is a computer specialist at ILETA in Springfield. They reside in Chatham.

Diana Doyle ’77, M.S. ’79, received her doctorate in public administration with a higher education emphasis from the University of Colorado. She has been named president of the Arapahoe Community College in Littleton. She previously worked as executive vice president of learning and student affairs with the Community College of Denver.

Lyndell Leatherman, M.M. ’77, is the sole proprietor of Leatherman Music Services. He is a freelance composer, arranger, music editor, and engraver. His latest music collection, Best-Loved Hymns I, was published in January of 2010 by the FJH Music Company. The book is an anthology that includes the historical background of the 75 most common songs in hymnals published since the 1970s. He and his wife, Barbara, reside in Kansas City, Missouri.

Susan (Hovey) Walters ’77, M.S. ’84, and her husband, Ben ’76, were married in July of 2009. They reside in Bloomington.

Cindy Adami ’79 received her master’s degree from National-Louis University. She has taught for 30 years, and is now a second grade teacher at Brookview Elementary School in Rockford. She received the 2010 Golden Apple Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Rockford.

Steven E. Dolan ’79 works with BP Pipelines of North America and resides in Hinsdale.

Arles Hendershot ’79 is the resource development director with Milestone Inc. in Rockford. She and her husband, Joe, received the Golden Star Award for years of service to Lifescape, which is the largest agency serving the needs of older adults in Northwestern Illinois. The couple resides in Rockford.

Bill Kuehn ’79 is an Eastern Iowa sales manager with Orbitcom. He and his wife, Norma, reside in Clinton, Iowa.

Luanne Schwaniger O’Shea ’79 is regional director of development at Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri, where she resides.

80s

Leslie (Chapman) Bell ’80 has begun the M.B.A. program in sustainable business at Maryhurst University in Oregon. She resides in Signal Mountain, Tennessee.

Dan Cotter ’80, M.S. ’81, is a 30-year newspaper veteran with nationwide experience in advertising, circulation, strategic planning, and consulting to the newspaper industry. He has been named the executive director of the New England Newspaper & Press Association, which is the trade group comprised of 460 daily and weekly newspapers across six states. He is also teaching organizational communication at Bridgewater State College in Massachusetts. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Sharon, Massachusetts. They are the parents of four children.

Leslie (Lintern) Eaton ’80 has retired from NASA Johnson Space Center after a career that included the submission of several patents and a Space Act Award for designing a new emergency egress lighting system for the International Space Station. She also designed the safety lighting system that is in the Teague Auditorium at Johnson Space Center. She is now working with Gary Glass ’90 at Iwata-Media Inc. She has developed the Real Deal Weath- ering Kit for artists and modelers, and teaches airbrushing clinics nationally. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Houston, Texas.

Robert Nelson ’80 taught high school agriculture for nine years and another 20 years in the fifth grade at Forrestville Valley School District in German Valley. He and his wife, Terri, reside in Leaf River.

Tara G. DeRamus ’81 is an engineer and operator for the Chicago Transit Authority, and a line instructor who teaches new employees about the daily operation. During his career he was part of a team that received the Public Safety Award and a Superior Operation certification four times. He resides in Chicago.

Daniel Glenn ’81 is employed with T-L Irrigation Company. He received the company’s 2009 Top Performer District Sales Award. He recruits, manages, and supports T-L dealers in the Midwest Corn Belt and Ontario, California. He resides in Danvers.

Julie Schmidt ’81 received a master’s degree in reading education and school counseling from Roosevelt University. She has taught special education students and as a reading specialist, and served as a guidance counselor. She has been named superintendent of Kildeer Countryside Elementary School District 96. She resides in Lemont.

Brent Scholl ’81 is a fifth-generation pork producer. He has been named president of the Illinois Pork Producers Association Board. He serves on the Polo School Board, is a member of the Ogle County 4-H Foundation Board, an active member of the Lee County Pork Producers Board, a member of the Illinois Farm Bureau, the Illinois Corn Growers Association, and the Illinois Beef Association. He co- owns First Class Insurance Agency. He and his wife, Kathy, reside in Polo. They have two children.

J. Fred Schouten ’81 retired from full-time public school education in 2008. He has served as interim principal of Oak Lawn Community High School, a graduate school adjunct professor at Olivet Nazarene University in Bourbonnais, and a field consultant in school improvement for the Illinois Office of Advanced/ North Central Association. He and his wife, Debra, reside in Bourbonnais. They have two sons and four grandchildren.

Lawrence J. Maushard ’82 is a journalist and author whose recent work includes articles on controversial street renaming for Cesar Chavez, Japanese-American memories of WWII interments, immigrant day laborers, expert analysis on U.S. torture, a local Iranian community, and reaction of U.S. Tibetans to tensions in their homeland. He and his wife, Fay, reside in Portland, Oregon.

John Phillips ’82 is senior vice president and CIO for Briggs in Waukegan. He is chair of the Society for Information Management, Chicago Chapter. He and his wife, Kay, reside in Mundelein.

Mckay Smith ’82 was a 2010 inductee into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame. A graduate of Southeast High School, she is the school’s former all-time leading scorer. She resides in Dallas, Texas.

Susan Smith ’82 completed a master’s degree at Northern Illinois University. She has been named principal for Nature Ridge Elementary School in Bartlett. She resides in Elgin.

Sandra Steingraber, M.S. ’82, earned a doctorate in biology at the University of Michigan. She is a scholar in residence at Ithaca and was featured in the PBS documentary Kids and Chemicals: Are We Poisoning Our Children? She authored Living Downstream, a book about her private battle with cancer and the issue of cancer prevention. She
Lisa M. (Muzzarelli) Gonzalez ’83 is a retired social worker and substitute teacher for various school districts in the LaSalle County area. She and her husband, Primitivo, reside in Oglesby. They are the parents of a son and two daughters.

Mike Lynn, M.S. ’83, taught in Melbourne, Australia. He retired this year from his position as a middle school science teacher and high school cross country coach at Tremont. He coached the state championship cross country team in 1990, and earned ITCCA Cross Country Coach of the Year in Illinois that same year. He and his wife reside in Tremont.

David Shaw ’83 completed an M.B.A. at Emory University. He has more than 25 years of experience in consulting and managing IT businesses for large insurance organizations. He has joined NIIT Technologies as senior vice president and practice leader for North American Insurance Vertical. He resides in Kennesaw, Georgia.

Richard West ’83, M.S. ’84, received his doctorate at Ohio University. He is chair of the Department of Communication Studies at Emerson College in Boston, and a member of the school’s advisory board. He has coauthored four books, dozens of scholarly articles, and has presented more than 100 conference papers. He sits on seven editorial boards of communication journals. He is vice president of the National Communication Association and will assume the presidency in 2012. He resides in Boston, Massachusetts.

Fred Hoyt, M.B.A. ’84, is an associate professor of business administration at Illinois Wesleyan University. He has authored more than 50 articles and serves as the faculty advisor to chapters of the American Marketing Association Club and the marketing honorary society Alpha Mu Alpha. He has been named the 2010 Fellow of the Marketing Management Association. He resides in Bloomington.

Andy LaFrence ’84 has retired after more than 25 years at KPMG LLP. He served medical, biotech, pharma, and clean tech companies. He resides in Plymouth, Minnesota.

Jodi Schock ’84 obtained her master’s degree at National-Louis University. She is an adapted physical education teacher with Barrington School District, where she also serves as girls’ golf coach. She has taught for 25 years and been head coach for 23. She was named the 2009 National Girls’ Golf Coach of the Year by the National Federation of High School Associations. She has been inducted into the Illinois Coaches Association Hall of Fame. She resides in Lake in the Hills.

Marianne Meeder ’85 taught special education for 17 years. She is now a certified business coach and has created a website to help individuals start businesses, improve their sales, or through the job search process. She also coaches adults with learning disabilities in time management and organization. She resides in Savoy.

Julie O’Keefe ’85 earned her juris doctorate from Saint Louis University School of Law. She is featured in the 2010 edition of Chambers USA: America’s Leading Lawyers for Business. She is with Armstrong Teasdale LLP in St. Louis, Missouri.

Richard Schultz ’85 is a tenured associate professor in the Department of Geography and Geosciences at Elmhurst College. He received the Distinguished Geography Teaching Award for Colleges/Universities from the National Council for Geographic Education in 2008, and the Distinguished Service Award from the Illinois GIS Association in 2009. He and his wife, Leigh, are the parents of two daughters. They reside in Arlington Heights.

Deborah A. (Wilhelm) Suppert ’85 is a middle school guidance counselor for the Kenosha Unified School District in Wisconsin. She and her husband, Bob, were married in July of 2009. They reside in Gurnee.

Derek Sieg, M.S. ’85, has been named K-8 principal in the Flanagan School District. He and his wife, Kathy, are parents to two daughters. They reside in Normal.

Julie Craft ’87 has more than 20 years of high-tech business development experience. She is the senior director of business development for MerchantCircle, which is the largest social network of local business owners. She resides in Belmont.

Karen Mink, M.S. ’87, has been named principal of Bartlett Elementary School. She has served as principal in DeKalb and Aurora school districts. She has also held responsibilities as principal in DeKalb and Aurora school districts. She has also held

changing roles

After winning fans as Jack McFarland on the Will & Grace sitcom, Sean Hayes is now impressing audiences with his lead performance in the musical Promises, Promises. Hayes plays Chuck Baxter in his first Broadway appearance. He was nominated for a 2010 Tony Award, and hosted the awards show in June. An ISU undergraduate music major, Hayes captured an Emmy, four Screen Actors Guild Awards and had seven Golden Globe Award nominations for his work on Will & Grace. He reprises his role as Mr. Tinkles in the forthcoming movie Cats & Dogs 2.

Business breakthrough

At a time when then is increasing concern about jobs going overseas, chemistry graduate and first generation immigrant Poonam Gupta-Krishnan, M.S. ’94, is bringing more work to the U.S. through Iyka Enterprises Inc. The founder and president of Iyka, Gupta-Krishnan’s company provides network management, monitoring, data cleansing, and data analysis internationally. Iyka has been recognized as one of the Top Ten Asian-American Business in the Midwest by the U.S. Pan Asian-American Chamber of Commerce. With Anju Gupta-Krishnan holding only three percent of computer scientist jobs in 2008, Gupta-Krishnan’s ability to grow a technology business that reaches around the globe is remarkable.

In the swing

Samantha Richdale ’06 didn’t put down the golf clubs after graduating from the University with a chemistry degree and three Missouri Valley Conference Championship titles to her name. Illinois State’s 2005 Athlete of the Year is completing her rookie year on the Ladies Professional Golf Association. She joined the LPGA Tour after finishing fourth-place on the Duramed Futures Tour’s 2009 money list. The tour is the LPGA’s developmental circuit. Richdale is pursuing a passion that reaches back to her childhood days, as she has played golf since she was a young girl in her hometown of Kelowna, British Columbia.

Coupons for cash

Josh Stevens ’06 beat out 20,000 applicants in the Live Off Groupon contest this year. The accounting graduate will capture $100,000 if he can survive using only Groupon coupons for an entire year. The challenge began in May, when he left his Chicago home with no cash or personal possessions. He is blogging about the adventure (http://liveoffgroupon. com), which allows for only limited contact with family or friends as he travels the country. Stevens found a way to make clothing from the coupons, which are sold at a discounted rate online but are only valid if a certain number of people buy the deal.

WEB EXTRA

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums.

Go online to www.IllinoisState.edu/alumni-magazine.
How we met—
Illinois State University connections

Sergio Mercado ’03, M.A. ’05, and Holly Engstrom ’01 seemed destined to cross paths. Both are from the Quad Cities, and both came to Illinois State in the fall of 1997. Their roommates, Gloria and Lance, dated that school year and Sergio had been in Holly’s dorm room a couple of times. Yet they didn’t meet until 2001, when they both held temporary jobs at John Deere in Moline.

Sergio was going back to Illinois State that fall, but was not looking for a serious relationship. That changed when he met Holly on June 25. He asked her out the next day.

“My plans didn’t include getting involved, but I still had to get to know her,” Sergio said.

When Sergio went to Holly’s apartment, he recognized the comforter on her bed. He asked about it and realized that it was the same one he had seen in college at his roommate’s girlfriend’s dorm.

Sergio said if they had met during their freshman year their relationship would not have been as strong. Sergio found he wasn’t prepared for his plan of study, and therefore questioned his commitment to remaining another year at ISU. Holly was more focused, and knew exactly what she needed to do to finish her coursework, graduate, and begin teaching.

“We were completely different people” in college, said Sergio, who initially felt lukewarm about the collegiate experience. He left Illinois State after the spring semester of 1998 and finished an associate’s degree before returning to ISU in the fall 2001 semester with a new dedication to his studies.

“By the time I had matured some, we were both in the same mindset,” Sergio said. “I came back as an older student just as Holly was graduating. I really enjoyed working with the faculty in the Political Science Department, and am still in communication with a few people who are still teaching in Normal.”

Just as he was entering, Holly was leaving to teach in Frankfurt. The two maintained a long distance relationship, even as Sergio completed an internship in Peru and a graduate degree in political science.

Sergio knew Holly always wanted to take a horse carriage ride through Chicago. On Valentine’s Day of 2004 he surprised her with one she would never forget. As the carriage was heading toward Navy Pier on Lake Shore Drive, Sergio reached into his pocket to grab his “cell phone.” To Holly’s surprise, he pulled out an engagement ring. They married at Holly’s parents’ church in Coal Valley on July 2, 2005.

The couple now resides in La Grange. Holly teaches fifth grade in Western Springs, while Sergio is a marketing analyst with a small children’s nonfiction press, Heinemann-Raintree. Both remain in touch with friends made during their days at Illinois State, which still holds special place in their lives.

“Our individual ISU experiences really shaped us as the people we are now, both professionally and personally,” Sergio said.
an adjunct professor position at the University of St. Francis in Joliet. She resides in Montgomery. Clarissa Moholick '87 completed a master’s degree in health services administration at the University of St. Francis. She is regional manager of cancer data at Adventist Midwest Health. She serves as regional manager for the hospital’s research review board and research support. She received the organization’s pillar award in 2010. She serves on the steering committee of the Chicago Breast Cancer Consortium, and is a guest lecturer on health information management at Moraine Valley Community College. She resides in Joliet.

Donald Mulder ’87 has started and is president of his own company, Heritage Disposal LLC, which provides waste hauling services in Chicago and the Western suburbs. He resides in Naperville.

Matthew Deal ’88 is a mental health administrator with Turney Center Industrial Complex, which is a Tennessee state prison. He and his wife, Glenna, reside in Columbia, Tennessee.

Michael Coker ’88 is a mental health administrator with Turney Center Industrial Complex, which is a Tennessee state prison. He and his wife, Glenna, reside in Columbia, Tennessee.

Megan Wells, M.F.A. ’88, has been named the Village Players Theater’s first artistic associate. She has experience in traditional theater, as a corporate communications consultant, and as an award winning storyteller. She received the Ed Press Distinguished Achievement Award for Fire in Boomtown, the story of the Chicago fire. She has also written and performed adaptations of mythical stories and literary classics. She worked with Village Players Theater directing William Gibson’s The Miracle Worker. She resides in La Grange Park.

Jennifer Barker ’89 received her master’s degree from Governors State University. She has been an educator for 20 years and teaches third grade at Eisenhower Academy in Joliet. She was named one of Joliet Area Great Teachers in 2010. She and her husband, Ken, have two children. They reside in New Lenox.

Cheryl (Kissel) Bradley ’89 is an antiques instructor at Illinois Central College in Peoria and Heartland Community College in Normal. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Normal.

Peter K. Kwiek ’89 is a professional geologist for Monterey County Water Resources Agency. He and his wife, Robin, reside in Salinas, California.

Barry Reilly ’89, M.S. ’95, Ed.D. ’07, is the superintendent of Bloomington School District 87. He has served in the district as the assistant superintendent for human resources, a physical education teacher, and assistant principal and principal of Bloomington High School. He is active with the Heartland Coalition for Youth and Families, United Way of McLean County, and the McLean County Urban League. He and his wife, Lisa, have three children. They reside in Bloomington.

Michael J. Ripsch ’89 completed a master’s degree in criminal justice at the University of Cincinnati. Retired from the Bloomington Police Department, he is an adjunct professor in criminal justice and forensic science at Illinois College. He coaches the college’s defending national champion Crime Scene Investigation Team. He will present at the 2010 International Law Enforcement Educators and Trainers Association Conference in Chicago. He resides in Bloomington.

Amy Tackett-Hoelmer ’89, M.S. ’91, is the director of special education at Crosby Independent School District in Texas. Her husband, Michael ’90, is vice president of Dixie Chemical Company in Pasadena, Texas. They are the parents of two sons and reside in Crosby, Texas.

90s

James T. McCormick ’90 served for 18 years as a superintendent in Virginia and North Carolina, and was twice named regional superintendent of the year. He served on the North Carolina State Board of Education’s Blue Ribbon Committee to review and recommend changes to the state testing policies and procedures. He is the president and superintendent of Healthy Start Academy in Durham, North Carolina. He resides in Sanford, North Carolina.

Amie Scheidegger ’90 completed a doctorate in criminology from Florida State University. She teaches criminology and criminal justice courses at Brevard College. She developed and implemented the college’s criminal justice program. She is a member of the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences and the Southern Criminal Justice Association.

David L. Stauffer ’90 is the president of Safety Compliance Solutions LLC. He has been recognized by Cambridge’s Who’s Who for demonstrating dedication, leadership, and excellence in business management. He resides in Carmel, Indiana.

Lisa (Lowder) Moberly ’91 is a life underwriting supervisor for State Farm Insurance Companies. She and her husband, Chad, reside in Clinton.

James C. Beeson ’92 is a mail handler with the United State Postal Service. He resides in West Chester, Ohio.

Todd Fessler ’92 is the sales and marketing vice president for Milliman’s MedInsight’s division. He is responsible for managing sales, marketing, and account management to the company’s healthcare clients. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Oakwood Township, Michigan.

Joel Martin ’92 is completing a doctorate of education at National Lewis University. He has been named principal of Lincoln Middle School within the Park Ridge-Niles School District 64. He has served as a principal, middle school social studies teacher, and reading teacher in the past. He resides in Chicago.

Dewey Matthews ’92 is a forensic interviewer for Madison County Child Advocacy Center in Wood River. He and his wife, Tracey, have two sons. They reside in Edwardsville.

Kimberly (Doyle) Smith ’92 is a sales and website manager for Twister Display. She and her husband, Jay, are the parents of a son. Malkin Armstrong was born in December of 2009. They reside in East Liverpool, Ohio.

Brian Valek ’92, M.S. ’04, is the assistant principal at Madison

Support our troops

U.S. Navy Reserve Lt. Jon Burrow ’95 has completed two overseas deployments. He spent nine months in Bogota on counter-narco terrorism missions training the Columbian military. He was also deployed to Iraq, where he worked for a year developing strategies to help the nation sustain security. He participated in the Humanitarian Missions of Goodwill initiative, delivering supplies in Baghdad, above, to struggling families. Now back in the states and residing in Bartlett, Burrow is a regional sales manager with Illinois Tool Works’ Military Products Division.

Illinois State acknowledges alumni serving in support of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. Names will be published as they are received. Submit information to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu or by mail at Illinois State University, Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.

FN3 Michael R. Keene ’93, M.S. ’98
U.S. Navy
Operation Earnest Will, Persian Gulf
Junior High in Naperville. He has been named principal of Kennedy Junior High in Lisle for the upcoming school year. He resides in Aurora.

Grenchen Wingerter ‘92 earned a master’s degree in directing from the University of Idaho. She is a part-time instructor of theatre and guest director at Lycoming College in Pennsylvania. She is one of six selected for a National Teaching Artist Grant from the Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival. The award honors her outstanding achievement as a theatre artist and educator. She resides in Williamsport, Pennsylvania.

Paige Beckner-Cook ‘93 is with the Florida Department of Health, investigating allegations against licensed health practitioners. She and her husband, Jeremy, have a son. They reside in Gainesville, Florida.

LuAnn (Aiello) Cadden ‘93 has published her first book, Driving Across Missouri: A Guide to I-70, with the University Press of Kansas. She and her husband, Mike, D.A. ‘96, have two daughters. They reside in St. Joseph, Missouri.

Amy Conkin ‘93, ‘96, completed a master’s degree in curriculum and instruction, studying at the University of Colorado and Northern Illinois University. She teaches second grade at Windsor Elementary School in Loves Park. She was honored with the 2010 Golden Apple Foundation Award for Excellence in Teaching. She and her husband, Mark, reside in Rockford. They are the parents of two children.

Kirsten (Kirby) LaMere, M.S. ‘93, earned her level II medical professional certified golf fitness instructor credentials through Titleist Performance Institute. She is a certified athletic trainer for Gundersen Lutheran in Onalaska, Wisconsin. Her husband, Joseph ‘93, is the lead athletic trainer for Gundersen Lutheran. They reside in Holmen, Wisconsin.

Daniel C. Lyons ‘93 is vice president of operations for Menshen USA of Waldeck, New Jersey. He resides in Inverness.

Kelly Magrady Vachlin ‘93 is a project controls specialist for AT&T in Hoffman Estates. She and her husband, Carl, reside in Roselle.

Sharon L. Yarbrough ‘93 is employed by the City of Austin Parks and Recreation Department. She is Grant Professional Certified, which means she is nationally recognized in the grants field. The credentialrecognizes her tenure in the profession, education, demonstrated achievement, and a commitment to public and private philanthropy. She resides in Austin, Texas.

Vincent Hundley ‘94 received his master’s degree in industrial hygiene from San Diego State University and is president and CEO of SMART Safety Group. He is the safety director of Associated General Contractors (AGC) of San Diego. He works on safety regulatory matters at the local and national levels. He resides in San Diego, California.

Chris Przemieniecki, M.S. ‘94, is an assistant professor with Montgomery County Community College in Blue Bell, Pennsylvania. He resides in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Eric Schmidt ‘94 is an assistant manager for Bed, Bath & Beyond. He resides in Maricopa, Arizona.

Jason Telford ‘94 attended Wsham College of Mortuary Science and is a licensed funeral director/embalmer in the state of Illinois. He and his wife, Dolly (Stone) ‘95, own and operate Solon-Telford Funeral Home. They are the parents of two sons and reside in Streator.

Robert L. Carroll ‘95 has been promoted to divisional vice president of the Eastern division of John Hancock Retirement Plan Services. He has served as John Hancock Retirement Plan Services’ Midwest Regional sales manager, regional vice president of Chicago, and Midwest regional sales manager. He resides in Geneva.

Selina Finck ‘95 is the Maroa-Forsyth girls basketball coach. The 8th grade 2009-2010 team won a regional title and she was named the Decatur Herald & Review Macon County Coach of the Year. She resides in Maroa.

Katherine (Worrell) Forninaro ‘95 left education in 1999 to stay home with her children. She returned to school in 2006 and graduated as a registered nurse in 2008. Her husband, Robert ‘96, is a product manager in value added sales with PTC Alliance. They are the parents of two children and reside in Clarksville, Tennessee.

Kelly Hamill ‘95 completed a master’s degree in public administration at Northern Illinois University. He has worked for more than a decade as an engineer with the Village of Northbrook. He is now the public work director. He resides in Spring Grove.

Wardell Benford ‘96 is a mortgage underwriter for Bank America in Rolling Meadows. He resides in Forest Park.

Janet (Lundquist) Hosey ‘96 is a reporter for the Herald-News of Joliet. She and her husband, Joseph, were married in October 2009. They reside in Joliet.

Kevin Lucas ‘96 and the Kevin Lucas Orchestra received the New Music Award in the AC/Hot Group/Duo category from New Music Weekly. The group was on the 2010 Grammy ballot in five categories, was named College Radio Breakthrough Artist of the Year at the New Music Awards in 2008, and captured Best Pop Artist for an unsigned band at the People’s Music Awards in London in 2009. He resides in Carbondale.

Jennifer Lamont Roos ‘96 is a home-maker. She and her husband, Tom, reside in Lockport.

Jason J. Evans ‘97 is a certified public accountant working with Sikich LLP, which is a leading professional services firm. He is the partner-in-charge of Sikich’s construction services team. He is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants and Illinois CPA Society. He was appointed to the Aurora Regional Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He resides in Plainfield.

Christopher Maher ‘97 has served as artistic director at East Window Theatre Company and Open Eye Productions. He is now the artistic director of Infamous Commonwealth Theatre in Chicago, directing Arthur Miller’s The Crucible there earlier this year. He resides in Chicago.

Craig Ramza Jr. ‘97 is a certified insurance counselor who is licensed in five states. He is vice president of Ramza Insurance Group Inc., which was named Best Independent Insurance Agency to Work For in the United States by Insuance Journal in 2009. He resides in Ottawa.

Jeff Vance ‘97 is a loan officer and assistant trust officer in Illinois. He has been named a business specialist for Homer by Wells Fargo. He resides in Farmer City.

Jennifer A. Bishop-Jenkins, M.S. ‘98, is the Democratic candidate for the Cook County Board of Commissioners, 14th District, in this fall’s election. She and her husband, Bill, reside in Northfield.

Jill Huse ‘98 has been named a board member at large for the Legal Marketing Association’s Southeastern Chapter. She is the marketing director for Moore & Van Allen in Charlotte, North Carolina, where she resides.

Lisa Karr-Lilienthal ‘98 completed a master’s degree and doctorate at the University of Illinois. She is an assistant professor in the Department of Animal Science at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. She has established a companion animal teaching and extension program. She also provided an organization for students interested in companion animals. She received the 2010 Holling Family Award for Teaching Excellence in Agriculture and Natural Resources. She resides in Seward, Nebraska.

Jason Keller ‘98 is a managing examiner at the Federal Reserve...
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Bank in Chicago. He and his wife, Tara, were married in January of 2010. They reside in Chicago. Ryan J. Kramer ’98 and wife, Jen, are the parents of two children. Their daughter, Kinsley Mae, was born in March of 2010. They reside in Kansas City, Missouri. Benjamin J. Tregoning ’99 is a member of the leading online Chicago real estate brokerage, Dream Town Realty. He is the residential consultant, representing home buyers, property sellers, and real estate investors in both city and suburban markets. He is also an accomplished improv comedian who has performed on many of Chicago’s most famous comedy stages, including the Second City and IO, formerly known as Improv Olympic. He resides in Chicago.

Traci (Raymond) Andracke ’00 is assistant general manager at the U.S. Cellular Coliseum, overseeing all marketing and the booking of live events. Her husband, Eric ’02, M.S. ’06, M.S. ’10, is a technology education teacher at Mahomet-Seymour High School. He coaches the boys’ golf and basketball teams. They reside in Bloomington.

Gina (Pehlke) Fleming ’00, ’02, and her husband, John, are the parents of a daughter. Elizabeth was born in September of 2009. They reside in Minooka.

Brian J. Hayes ’00 completed a master’s at Indiana Wesleyan University. He teaches seventh grade English at Wes Haney Middle School in Indianapolis, Indiana, where he resides.

Shannon Lynn ’00 is a third grade teacher at Sabin Magnet School in Chicago. She was a finalist in the 2010 Kohl McCormick Early Childhood Teaching Awards. She resides in Wicker Park.

Amy Hall Olson, M.S. ’00, and her husband, Michael ’95, M.S. ’04, are the parents of three children. Their daughter, Payton Irene, was born in February of 2009. They reside in Granville.

Amber Williams Patterson ’00 is program director for Illinois State University Conference Services. Her husband, Jason ’06, is the senior data communications analyst at COUNTRY Financial. They are the parents of a son, Drake William, born in February of 2010. They reside in Normal.

Emily (Daoust) Beal ’01 is a special education teacher for Joliet Township District 204. She and her husband reside in Joliet.

Jennifer (Pohlman) Doty ’01 is a claims assistant team leader for Charteris Insurance. She was named Employee of the Year in 2008. She and her husband, Don, are the parents of a daughter. Hannah Reese was born in July of 2009. They reside in Crystal Lake.

James Fielder ’01 is vice president of information systems at Farm Credit Services of Illinois. He served as a U.S. Marine for 12 years. He has been named to the Everything Channel’s Midsize Enterprise Summit Advisory Board. He and his wife, Tanya, reside in Champaign.

Eric V. Guerra ’01 is a cardiovascular perfusionist at Memorial Hospital of South Bend, Indiana, where he resides.

Kristin Browning Hoeft ’01 completed a master’s degree in secondary education at Aurora University. After teaching and working as a case manager, she is a stay-at-home mom. She and her husband, Brian, have three sons. Jude was born in September of 2009. They reside in Champaign.

Lisa Patterson ’01 is a marketing coordinator with Wayne Hummer Wealth Management in Chicago. She resides in Crystal Lake.

Melissa (McCowan) Caref ’02 teaches third grade at Nathan Davis Elementary school in the Chicago Public School system. She earned her National Board Teacher Certification in 2009 in the area of early childhood generalist. She and her husband, Brian, are the parents of four children. Their son, Lenin Patrick, was born in November of 2009. They reside in Norridge.

Jim Charnholm, M.M. ’02, is the orchestra director at McKay High School in Oregon. He has been a member of the Peoria Symphony, performed as a soloist for the Oregon Symphony, and spent a summer playing the opera in Germany. He also works part-time for his family’s apartment maintenance business. He and his wife, Ann Marie, have two daughters. They reside in Salem, Oregon.

Kurt L. Coffey ’02 is Case New Holland’s North America marketing manager for agriculture parts. He and his wife, Kristin (Noonan) ’03, are the parents of a daughter. Kennedy was born in March of 2009. They reside in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Susan K. (Long) Jones ’02 and her husband, Cameron, were married in June of 2009. They reside in Downs.

Lou Matthews, Ph.D. ’02, is a Bermudian educator involved in leadership and education in the U.S. and Bermuda for 18 years. He has been named the director of standards and accountability for the Ministry of Education in Bermuda. He will supervise the island’s senior schools.

Brianne Rucks Van Hempt ’02, M.S. ’04, has been promoted to senior technical recruiter for TEKsystems. She and her husband, Jason, were married in June of 2009. They reside in Bloomington.
Campus choir marks forty years of making ‘joyful noise’

by Kira Shelton ’10

Illinois State offers a multitude of Registered Student Organizations. One option for those seeking a religious outlet is the Interdenominational Youth Choir (IYC), which celebrates anthems, spirituals, contemporary, and gospel music every week during rehearsals and performances.

Founded in 1970, the IYC grew from a weekly Sunday morning spiritual gathering of Illinois State students to become an organization centered on fellowship and music. Since then the choir has evolved to include between 50 and 100 members annually. Students from many different denominations and religious affiliations participate, as IYC accepts members regardless of race, color, or religion.

Auditions are open to all Illinois State students the first two weeks of each semester. The choir stays busy with weekly practices and performances at campus events, local churches, and other universities across the state. In addition the choir holds two large, yearly events of their own.

The IYC hosts a large music workshop each October. University choirs from across the state are invited to Normal to learn new techniques at this all-day event. Several gospel legends have come to this workshop as guest clinicians. Following a day of rehearsal, the 300- to 350-member mass choir gives a performance for the public.

Each April the IYC celebrates its founding. This year’s 40th anniversary marked a milestone for the choir and was celebrated as such. The two-day event held in the spring culminated in a concert at Mt. Pisgah Baptist Church in Bloomington—a church that was instrumental in IYC’s founding. Not only did the current choir members perform, but approximately 150 IYC alumni returned to add their voices to the joyous occasion.

The executive board of the IYC is always working to build on the choir’s connections and relationships with Illinois State and the local community in hopes of spreading the word about the group. Anniversary celebrations are especially significant, as they provide current choir members the opportunity to learn from IYC alumni. Performances and interaction with the alumni and the community allow the choir to grow musically and in membership.

“The choir’s powerful impact has remained over the years,” Assistant Director for Campus and Community Relations Donald Reed said. “IYC is love. For its members, it offers fellowship and a religious outlet. Whenever and wherever the choir sings, it lives up to its theme, which is ‘Make a Joyful Noise.’

Abigail (Weber) Clifford ’03 received a master’s degree from Roosevelt University and is an elementary teacher with the Chicago Public School District. She and her husband, Sean ’00, were married in October of 2009. He is employed as a large market sales representative for Ceridian in Rosemont. They reside in Chicago.

Craig Lennon ’03 completed a doctorate at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He is pursuing a position as a full-time physicist at the United States Army Night Vision and Electronic Sensors Directorate in Fort Belvoir, Virginia.

Rhett Luedtke, M.F.A. ’03, is a theatre professor at George Fox University, where he teaches acting and directing courses. He also oversees the University Players and directs many of the school’s productions. He received the Faculty Achievement Award for undergraduate teaching for the 2009-2010 academic year. He resides in Newberg, Oregon.

Kenzo Shibata ’03 is a Chicago Public School teacher and a founding member of CORE (Caucus of Rank-and-File Educators), which is a progressive reform group within the Chicago Teachers Union. He resides in Chicago.

Kelli Zaragoza Bacon ’04 is completing a teacher certification program at Northern Illinois University. She has been hired as a family and consumer sciences teacher at Henry-Senachwine High School. She and her husband, Steve, have one son. They reside in Streator.

Sarah Costin ’04 is a senior specialist with CCC Information Services. She is the main liaison for companies such as Geico, Farmers, and Allstate. She resides in Naperville.

Gary Echemeyer ’04 worked as lighting designer on the New Lincoln Theatre production of Sex Marks the Spot, which ran in Chicago in 2010. He has design credits for numerous productions at several theatres. He resides in Schaumburg.

Jessica S. (Kolk) Leder ’04, M.S. ’06, is a community corrections officer with Washington State Department of Corrections. She and her husband, Jeremy ’04, were married in September of 2009. He is a United States Postal inspector. They reside in Kent, Washington.

Sarah Riopell ’04 is a graphic designer with Omni Communications Group in Springfield, where she resides.
I

They reside in Springfield. Stephanie Steinman ’04 is completing a doctorate. She is an Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse counselor with the University of Wisconsin Health-Gateway Recovery Clinic in Madison, Wisconsin. She is a 2010 recipient of the Addiction Professional Outstanding Clinician Award. She and her husband, Luke, are the parents of a son. They reside in Madison, Wisconsin.

Alan Thorson ’04 teaches physical education at Morris High School District 101. He has been named head football coach after leading the sophomore football team for five years. He has also coached the track team. He resides in Morris.

Katie (Abete) Coopman ’05 is employed as a special education teacher at Hadley Middle School and is attending Concordia University. She and her husband, Chris, were married in July of 2009. They reside in Lockport.

Lindsay Hufford ’05 completed a master’s degree in English and a certificate to teach writing intensive courses at Roosevelt University. She is pursuing a community college teaching job. She resides in Carpentersville.

Brian Ida ’05 graduated from Michigan State College of Osteopathic Medicine. He is an anesthesia resident at Large Medical Center in Florida.

Holly Hotze Lynch ’05 has completed a law degree at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Michigan. She is a member of the Illinois State Bar and an associate attorney with Resch Siemer Law Office L.L.C. Her husband, Blake ’05, is a business analyst with AFNI Inc. They reside in Effingham.

Erica Moll ’05 is a graphic designer with Boyd Gaming at Par-A-Dice Hotel Casino in East Peoria. She resides in Germantown Hills.

Andrew O’Brien ’05 is vice president and financial advisor for Chase Investment Services Corp. His wife, Amanda (Fiedler) ’05, is a resident physician at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. They are the parents of three children, including identical twin boys born in January of 2010. They reside in Springfield.

Tim Lorenz ’06 has completed a master’s degree in divinity from Concordia Theological Seminary in Fort Wayne, Indiana. He and his wife, Kristin, reside in Greenleaf, Kansas.

James Sutter ’06 and his wife, Kristen, were married in November of 2009. They reside in Westwood, New Jersey.

Katherine (Pefley) Anderson ’07 is regional promotions manager for K-LOVE and AIR1 Radio. She and her husband, John, were married in October of 2009. They reside in Schaumburg.

Molly J. Arbozast ’07 completed a master’s degree in social work with a focus on leadership and development in social services and a certificate of advanced study in philanthropy and nonprofit management from Loyola University in Chicago, where she resides.

Ryan Balfanz ’07 is a data analyst with Mint.com. He resides in Mountain View, California.

Samuel L. Dietrich ’07 is a teacher at Trit Elementary. He and his wife, Laura, reside in Atlanta, Georgia.

Benjamin Harroun ’07 is vice president and co-founder of Angel Wind Energy Inc., which is one of the top renewable energy companies in Illinois. It was named Green America’s Business of the Month in March of 2010, and was featured in Box Office Magazine in 2009. He resides in Onarga.

Zach Hoey ’07 left a position at 101.5 WBNQ in Bloomington to become part of the morning show Mason and Remy for 97.3 KSD-The Bull in St. Louis, Missouri.

Dane Lewandowski ’07 is active in Chicago theatre, working as a producer, set designer, and actor. He produces a sketch comedy group called Lady Parts, which performs a variety of shows in Chicago theatre, working as a producer, set designer, and actor. He produces a sketch comedy group called Lady Parts, which performs a variety of shows.

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Howard W. Leigh ’40; 2/10
Marilyn (Wells) Canonic ’41; 1/10
Merle D. Sharick Sr. ’41; 4/10
Helen L. (Bayless) Baird ’42; 1/10
Evelyn Fanlund ’42; 1/10
Myrna M. (Morgan) Harris ’42; 3/10
Pearl E. (Karnatz) Hawkins ’42; 2/10
Laura E. (Bramblett) Vehlow ’42; 4/10
Ruth J. (Frame) Christian ’43; 2/10
Mary J. Griffith ’43; 4/10
Virginia (Harvin) Meachum ’43; 2/10
Allegra H. (Tyler) Williams ’43; 3/10
David Vannmeter ’44; 9/09
Laura K. (Kaario) Bergeron ’45; 1/04
Glen D. Gilbertson ’46, M.S. ’52; 1/04
August P. Lorenzini ’46; 3/10
Edith E. (Vaughn) McCown ’46; 1/10
Helene H. (Wroblewski) Prindes ’46; 3/10
Dane F. Walker ’47, M.S. ’51; 1/04
Mary L. Jacobs ’49, M.S. ’66; 3/10
Zella M. Walton ’48; 3/10
Joyce E. (Freed) Osborn ’48; 3/10
Walter Laitas ’48; 3/10
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Robert A. Meng ’94; 3/10
Keith A. Bertolo ’91, M.B.A. ’94; 2/10
Jeffrey P. Lindeen ’99; 2/10
Kimberly A. Cioni, M. S. ’98; 9/09
James J. Ross ’91; 2/10
Joan M. Hecht ’92; 2/09
Gregory S. Upp ’93; 10/06
Julie M. (Gault) Warnick ’93; 1/10
Grace Humphrey, M.S. ’85; 2/10
Karen M. Reddy ’88; 1/10
Lynn M. Mule ’88, M.S. ’89; 2/10
Robert W. Hart ’95; 9/09
Thomas D. Ayers ’95; 2/10
Robert W. Hart ’95; 2/10
Thomas D. Ayers ’95; 2/10
Jeffrey P. Lindeen ’99; 2/10
Mary A. (Leman) Stoller, M.S. ’75; 2/10
Anthony J. Beharelle ’76; 8/06
Blair C. (Anthony) Krapf ’76; 2/10
Linda L. Blumenshine ’77; 8/99
Kevin A. Eichler ’77; 2/10
Barbara J. Braden, M.S. ’78; 12/01
Mary Schafer Cichowski ’78; 4/10
Kevin B. Keegan ’78; 2/10
Christin Laughlin ’78; 4/10
Steven K. Samuelson, M.S. ’78; 2/10
Martin J. Shields ’78; 3/10
Arthur G. Strawser ’78; 4/10
Eartha J. Shelby-Nicholson ’79; 3/10
Mary E. (Anderson) Linn, M.S. ’80; 3/10
Roseann Piekarzi ’81; 9/08
Patrick J. Burns ’82; 1/10
Edith H. Camp ’82; 4/08
Carol E. (Slein) Schramm ’82; 7/03
Paula J. Smith, M.S. ’82; 7/06
Richard H. Young Jr. ’82; 9/09
Mary E. Horan ’83; 12/09
Norma (Meiners) Sutter ’83; 1/10
Mark S. Melzer ’84; 12/01
Grace Humphrey, M.S. ’85; 2/10
Karen M. Reddy ’88; 1/10
Lynn M. Mule ’88, M.S. ’89; 2/10
Gayle L. (Reckamp) Photokarmbumrungrat ’90; 1/10
Keith A. Bertolo ’91, M.B.A. ’94; 2/10
James J. Ross ’91; 2/10
Joan M. Hecht ’92; 2/09
Gregory S. Upp ’93; 10/06
Julie M. (Gault) Warnick ’93; 1/10
Robert A. Meng ’94; 3/10
Thomas D. Ayers ’95; 2/10
Robert W. Hart ’95; 9/09
John R. Bachman ’97; 11/09
James Ross, M.S. ’97; 2/10
Kimberly A. Cioni, M. S. ’98; 9/09
Dale J. Gredler, M.A. ’99; 1/10
Jeffrey P. Lindeen ’99; 2/10
Christopher A. Rodenberg ’07; 12/07
Mark A. Baumgartner ’09; 2/10
Darrel Sutter ‘60, M.S. ’68, believes the teacher makes the difference in the classroom. During his more than 30 years of teaching, he thrived on challenging himself to challenge others to learn. He continues to create special classroom moments through the establishment of the Darrel A. Sutter Scholarship, which helps future teachers preparing at Illinois State. The need-based scholarship is designated for history-social sciences education majors within the Department of History.

Emma Wilson ’09 of Danville is the first recipient of the scholarship, which was a huge help. She relied on employment while still a student to help defray the college bills. “Work was just one more thing to juggle,” she said.

Sutter knows that challenge all too well, as he worked his way through college also and noted it was not easy to go to class prepared. There were many times when a little extra money was very helpful. Wilson is grateful for his support, as the scholarship made it easier for her to minimize loan debt. “Every little bit helps,” she said.

Wilson came to Illinois State after completing an associate’s degree at Danville Area Community College. She chose the University because of the size. “I really liked how it was kind of a big school, but still had that small school feel,” she said. “And it wasn’t too far from home.”

She enrolled eager to pursue her teaching degree. “I just really have a passion for learning and I want to share that with kids. Teaching just seemed the right way to do that,” she said.

Wilson gravitated to Illinois State’s social studies sequence, where she found the right mix of inspiration and challenges. “I grew to love my program a lot,” she said. “I loved my classes, and my professors made it easy for me to succeed.”

While her student teaching experience was at the high school level, she is now working as a tutor at South View Middle School in Danville. The opportunity to mentor junior high students has energized Wilson, who is eager to continue the legacy of Sutter and so many other Illinois State education majors who make a difference through teaching.

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 creating a scholarship, or contributing to the Darrel A. Sutter 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.Advancement.ilstu.edu/support.
Meet and eat

The Redbird Tent Zone is the perfect place to connect with old college friends during Homecoming weekend this fall. Make plans now to tailgate before the Redbird football game on Saturday, October 16. Go to IllinoisStateHomecoming.com for details, including a map of locations. Football tickets are available online at GoRedbirds.com. Reserve your spot today!