Equipped for the fight

Sustainability experts are gearing up to protect Antarctica.
FirstWord

Each August as I walk through the Quad,
I sense the energy and enthusiasm of our students who are excited to be reunited with friends and faculty. There is an air of expectation, especially from those beginning their first year at the University. I understand and share these emotions that inevitably surface as students return for the fall semester.

There are two additional sentiments I have encountered this year in my role as president that I want to discuss: A growing sense of apprehension within higher education in general, and enormous appreciation that Illinois State is weathering a storm that is brewing elsewhere. Let me explain.

While we continue to meet our admissions targets at ISU, myriad institutions in the state and across the country are struggling to enroll students. One explanation for the shortfall of incoming undergraduates is the simple fact our nation’s high school demographic is shrinking. National studies conducted over the past few years have warned that high school graduating classes will be in a decline until at least 2014.

This reality, coupled with the nation’s economic issues, has escalated the already intense competition among colleges and universities. Within the now smaller pool of high school graduates, the percentage of students who opt to postpone or forgo a four-year degree because of financial uncertainties is growing.

And yet, Illinois State enters this academic year with an incoming class of nearly 3,400 students—which is the number targeted to keep overall enrollment right at 20,000. The freshmen and transfer students starting this fall were chosen from a pool of 12,400 applications. Not only does interest remain high, but the quality of our student body has not waivered. The average ACT score of this year’s incoming freshman class is 24.2.

Clearly we remain a first-choice institution for high-achieving students, and for this I am grateful. ISU has been and still is a premiere undergraduate university because members of the Admissions team work year-round to recruit and shepherd prospective students. The administrative team does an exceptional job budgeting and planning so that the academic programs exceed expectations. Faculty and staff mentor and advocate for students, who consequently realize they are a valued member of the Redbird family.

There is angst and apprehension on campuses where programs are jeopardized as class sizes shrink. I am grateful that negative atmosphere does not exist at this university. The Illinois State campus community is coming back to life with optimism and confidence that this academic year will be a continuation of the excellence and opportunity that remain strongly intact at your thriving alma mater.

Al Bowman
President, Illinois State University
FEATURES

8 Progress through partnership
A new Housing chapter begins this fall with the opening of Cardinal Court apartments. The old units were razed and construction completed through a unique initiative that allowed a public entity to build on the University’s land. The end result is a $45.1 million complex.

14 Icy escapade
There’s a reason Darren McGann ’94 has journeyed twice to Antarctica. A global leader of sustainability, McGann deems the land populated by icecaps the perfect place to train international leaders in the business of preservation. Although protected now, the continent’s future is in jeopardy.

20 Reason to smile
Dental care is one of the largest unmet needs in the U.S., especially among children. Susan Albee ’95 is providing a solution through educational programs and a dental clinic that serves low-income families. Mennonite College of Nursing students help deliver care that guarantees kids keep their precious grin.

24 First in the family
A relative’s experience as a Redbird often motivates students to attend ISU. They come to campus excited to continue a legacy. Others arrive as first-generation students, hoping to start their family’s college tradition. Their journey often has added expectations and anxiety, as Gina Panozzo ’12 can attest.

DEPARTMENTS

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On the cover: Concern that the Southern continent will be exploited has motivated Darren McGann ’94 to join teaching expeditions. Photo courtesy of John Luck.
Illinois State was founded in 1857 on the tradition of providing an excellent teacher’s education. The scope of degrees has expanded exponentially, yet the University’s commitment to preparing educators is unchanged.

Evidence that ISU remains stellar in the field of education is abundant, with more affirmation received in recent months.

In January the University was ranked among the top 20 institutions in the nation for education graduates who received National Board Certification. The certification is an advanced teaching credential that is obtained through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards. ISU ranked 12th in the nation for 2011, with 58 teachers earning the certification that is considered the gold standard for teaching excellence.

In March the University sealed a state contract to train approximately 9,000 teacher and principal evaluators. The Center for the Study of Education Policy is partnering with the Consortium for Education Change to prepare staff for changes in the evaluation process within Illinois.

A standards-based evaluation system for principals must be implemented by 2014 in Illinois, with new revised teacher evaluation systems in place by 2016. Illinois State will have a key role in guaranteeing evaluators complete required training and assessments before the new system is implemented.

The College of Education received additional accolades in the spring, when U.S. News & World Report ranked it among the best graduate schools in the nation. The college was listed at 84 in the magazine’s 2013 Best Graduate Schools publication. That compares to a ranking of 104 last year.

“This ranking is a tangible affirmation that the quality of an Illinois State University graduate degree is highly respected across the nation, and that our alumni are regarded among the best,” former College of Education Dean Deborah Curtis said. “We believe we have the best educator preparation programs in the nation.”
National funding advances campus laser research

The National Science Foundation (NSF) continues to support laser research conducted within the University’s Department of Physics by Distinguished Professor Rainer Grobe and University Professor Q. Charles Su.

The two received a $300,000 grant for their work in the Intense Laser Physics Theory Unit (ILP), which has captured numerous awards and international attention. Grobe and Su focus on the interaction of laser light with matter. There are only a few centers around the world that conduct similar research.

“It is a tremendous honor for ILP to be recognized six times in a row by the prestigious NSF funding agency,” said Su, who codirects the unit with Grobe. They have now captured from NSF the largest research grants at undergraduate institutions in the field. This funding level to ILP ranks in the top five of atomic and optical theory grants given to all institutions in the US.

Enrollment program addresses competition

An Enrollment Competitiveness Program begins this fall to address Illinois State’s ability to attract incoming freshmen.

There is a gradual decline in the number of Illinois high school graduates due to changing demographics. Competition for Midwest students is so intense that financial incentives are crucial. The Board of Trustees consequently approved removing the out-of-state tuition differential for selected students.

The reduced tuition program may include high-achieving students who are eligible for specific scholarship programs, artistically talented students recruited by faculty for specific majors, and students recruited by Admissions. While the program is anticipated to impact only a small number of students from outside of Illinois, it will build regional diversity on campus.

University Galleries receive Warhol grant

A $75,000 grant from the Andy Warhol Foundation for the Visual Arts is the largest award received in the history of the University Galleries. Three new exhibitions will be held this fall and next spring as a result of the support.

The highly competitive grants are given to museums and cultural organizations that support artists and their work. The foundation funds work challenging and experimental in nature, and encourages new scholarship in contemporary art.

“The gallery’s recognition by one of the most prestigious arts funding organizations in the United States opens the door to many exciting possibilities,” said Barry Blinderman, director of University Galleries.

“This funding will enhance our community outreach efforts, and help provide a great introduction to contemporary art for people in the community. We strive to organize exhibitions of a scale and quality that you normally can’t see without traveling to urban museums and galleries,” he said.

The projects funded by this grant include a one-person exhibition of Melanie Schiff’s photographs; a site-specific installation by Kendell Carter; and a group exhibition entitled The House of the Seven Gables, inspired by Nathaniel Hawthorne’s novel. All three are organized by Kendra Paitz, curator of exhibitions.

More information is available at http://finearts.illinoisstate.edu/galleries.

Review, revision of Educating Illinois continues

The campus strategic plan, Educating Illinois 2008-2014: Priorities for Illinois’ First Public University, is under revision. The document links actions to the University’s mission, vision, values, and goals.

Faculty, staff, students, alumni, and local community members took part in a wide-spread consultation process during a spring semester review. Input was sought on the University’s future outlook, current strengths, opportunities, and challenges. Feedback assisted in the development of a new Educating Illinois draft.

The revised document will be reviewed by the campus community. Go to http://educatingillinois.illinoisstate.edu for further information on involvement in the revision process, and to share your thoughts about the document by completing an online survey.
Military women needed for registry project

Stories about women in the military are being sought by the staff at Miller Library for a special project called Illinois Women’s Military and Civilian Memorial.

Information collected will be used to establish a registry of Illinois women who served from the Civil War to the present. Illinois historical records about these women are nonexistent.

Women who are serving or have served in the military are encouraged to share their stories. Those who had a family member who served or know of women who have served are also needed. Contact Pamela Lovell at (309) 451-4896.

Campus partnership improves carpooling

As an example of the commitment to create a greener campus, the University started a partnership with Zimride during the spring semester. Zimride is the largest online social rideshare community in North America, and allows users to arrange shared rides via Facebook and Twitter.

“A primary initiative of Parking and Transportation is to reduce the number of single occupant vehicles coming to and from the campus,” Director of Parking and Transportation Julie North said.

More than 350,000 users take part in Zimride across 80 college and university campuses. North hopes the site will reduce ISU campus traffic by offering easy access to carpools.

“Our recent transit survey results confirmed that many people are interested in carpooling or creating vanpools. We are excited to offer a program that will allow our community to easily find and share rides,” North said.

ISU’s fitness center reaps national acclaim

Less than two years after it opened, the University’s Student Fitness Center and McCormick Hall project has been recognized as a stellar facility.

The National Intramural-Recreational Sports Association (NIRSA) awarded one of its nine 2012 Outstanding Sports Facilities honors to the building.

“We felt the new Student Fitness Center met every standard of excellence from the day the doors opened, but the NIRSA award secures Illinois State’s place on the map for facility excellence,” said Student Fitness Center Executive Director Dawn Sanner, M.S. ’87.

The building, which has seen more than 500,000 visits, was honored a second time with an Innovative Architecture & Design Award in the May 2012 issue of Rec Management Magazine.

“This building is the definition of innovation with sustainable components, technology enhancements and unique design features at each turn,” Sanner said. “Combining new construction with a renovation of historic McCormick Hall to serve both recreational and academic uses has created a facility that sets a standard for multi-use space.”
College of Education welcomes new dean

Alumnus Perry Schoon '89, Ph.D. 97, has joined Illinois State as dean of the College of Education. He replaces Deborah Curtis, now provost at the University of Central Missouri.

Schoon came to ISU from Western Carolina University, where he was dean of the College of Education and Allied Professions. Under his guidance, the college’s academic programs and funding grew. He collaborated with several Western Carolina colleges to develop dual degrees in undergraduate secondary teacher education programs.

A senior associate dean and an associate dean for assessment and technology in the College of Education at the University of Texas at Arlington, Schoon also held posts in Florida Atlantic University’s College of Education.

Schoon has helped develop software for assessment and data management, and has been honored at his former universities for teaching and research.

Campus mourns former Illinois State president

Lloyd Watkins, who served as ISU president from 1977 to 1988, lost his battle against cancer on March 1. He was 83 and a resident of Bloomington.

The University’s academic standards for admission were strengthened under his leadership. Watkins also established the Presidential Scholars Program, which encouraged the enrollment of promising minority students.

International study opportunities for ISU students expanded, and funding for the renovation of Cook Hall for the School of Music was achieved under his watch. The planning, funding, and construction of Redbird Arena was another major accomplishment.

Watkins was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Caudle. He married Kay Bloomquist, who survives, as do his three sons and their spouses, three stepchildren, six grandchildren, and one step-grandchild.

His devotion to Illinois State will be remembered through the Lloyd and Mary Watkins Scholarship Fund, which provides financial support for students to study abroad. Memorials may be made to the fund by going online to IllinoisState.edu/giving or by calling (309) 438-8184.

Student ag chapter takes national honor

ISU’s chapter of the National Agri-Marketing Association (NAMA) was recognized as the Outstanding Student NAMA Chapter during the spring semester. Students competed against 35 chapters in the U.S. and Canada for the honor.

NAMA is the nation’s largest association for professionals in marketing and agribusiness. The award is based on chapter activities over the academic year. ISU’s chapter conducted an agriculture career fair, hosted a panel of human resource experts, organized a bowling tournament that brought in nearly 300 pounds of canned goods for a local food pantry, and raised funds to support a local horse rescue stable.

ISU’s chapter has more than 60 student members and is advised by Department of Agriculture Professors Aslihan Spaulding and Rick Whitacre.

Mail

To the Editor:

What magnificent pictures accompanying the outstanding article on Alfred Runte (February 2012)! Runte is on target about protecting our national parks.

Runte’s words are spoken in the hearts of all environmentalists, conservationists, and citizens who value the beauty of this planet. The need to see the value of soil, plant life, aquatic life, and wildlife is essential to sustaining life.

The legacy we are leaving to future generations should be one of respect and worth for farmland, water sources, aquatic life, and wildlife; and to make this planet a better place for all humans.

Thank you for bringing this topic to our attention. Let’s hope all who read and discuss it will hear the message of protecting the national parks. These are areas set aside for our enjoyment and restorative energy.

Brenda Varnold Dilts ‘61

I am appalled by the May issue. Two stories are at best left-wing propaganda.

The Occupy story says nothing about the true intent of the movement. The goal of the founders of Occupy is to take out capitalism. They are pro-socialist, Marxist, and communist. You glorified a movement to take down America.

The following story on the economy blamed greedy people for the crash of the economy. It makes no mention of the real blame, which is the Community Reinvestment Act from 1977 that forced banks to loan money to people unable to ever pay it back. Housing prices rose, people took out equity, they got in way over their heads—then the crash. Prices rose because of increased demand caused by more people able to qualify for loans. Congress failed the country by trying to socially engineer prosperity.

What happened to my alma mater? I’m deeply disappointed in both stories being printed as factual.

Diane (Sroka) Benjamin ‘84
The last time the men's basketball team participated in the NCAA Tournament, Dan Muller was the leader on the floor. He hopes to repeat that accomplishment, this time as coach.

“I’m honored to be the head coach at Illinois State, and it is great to be back home,” said Muller, a 1998 cum laude College of Business graduate. He replaces Tim Jankovich, who accepted a coaching position at Southern Methodist.

A Redbird from 1994 to 1998, Muller guided the team to two regular season and Missouri Valley Conference Tournament championships and four postseason appearances, including trips to the NCAA Tournament.

Muller ranks 10th in career scoring with 1,445 points, while leading the Redbirds to a 91-37 overall record. He owns the school record with 128-consecutive starts—every game of his career. Muller was also a two-time MVC Defensive Player of the Year and was named the MVP of the Valley Tournament as a senior.

Muller was a two-time GTE Academic All-American and a recipient of the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship. He was also named a Bone Scholar, the highest academic honor at ISU, and remains the only men's basketball student-athlete to earn the award.

Muller was a two-time GTE Academic All-American and a recipient of the NCAA's Post-Graduate Scholarship. He was also named a Bone Scholar, the highest academic honor at ISU, and remains the only men's basketball student-athlete to earn the award.

Muller, who is married and has a stepson, spent the past 12 years at Vanderbilt under his former Illinois State head coach Kevin Stallings.

During Muller’s tenure, Vanderbilt accomplished seven 20-win seasons. The team appeared in six NCAA Tournaments and posted two Sweet 16 appearances. The Commodores were the Southeastern Conference Tournament Champions in 2012.

Muller spearheaded the recruiting efforts since 2006, which were the highest-rated recruiting classes in the program’s history. He directed the student-athlete’s academic progress. During that time, Vanderbilt collected a 100 percent senior graduation rate.
Glance captures MVC Coach of Year honors

The Missouri Valley Conference Coach of the Year honors for the 2011-2012 season went to Stephanie Glance, who led the women’s basketball team to a second place finish last season. The Redbirds had been selected to finish sixth in a preseason poll.

It was the sixth-straight season the Redbirds have finished in the top-two of the Valley regular season standings. Under Glance’s leadership, the team had four players who finished the regular season averaging double-digit scoring efforts. Junior transfer Jamie Russell was named MVC Newcomer of the Year.

“It’s very humbling to receive the Coach of the Year award,” Glance said. “The coaches in the Missouri Valley Conference are such quality coaches and people. I am grateful to be recognized among them, but ultimately this honor goes to my staff and team. I am so blessed to have such a wonderful staff and such a special group of players to coach. Thank you most of all to them for their commitment to excellence and their willingness to give their very best.”

Renovation work set to begin at Hancock Stadium

Football fans will notice changes this season and again next fall, as Hancock Stadium undergoes its first major renovation since the facility opened in 1963. The facility’s east side will not be open this fall, and the stadium’s capacity will be reduced to 6,500 as the $25 million renovation begins.

The Redbird faithful will appreciate a new look in 2013. The renovation will provide a wealth of amenities, including bleacher-back seating on the entire east-side grandstand. With a wide and spacious concourse that features new concession and restroom facilities, Hancock Stadium will be the place for a fun-filled day of college football.

The renovation will also include premium seating options, with a 5,500-square-foot indoor club accessible to club seat holders and ticketed guests from seven premium suites. Club seat holders will have access to 500-plus chair-back club seats centrally located on the east side. Above the indoor club will be a state-of-the-art press box facility to better accommodate the promotion and coverage of Illinois State football.

The fan experience will also be enhanced with the new ticket office just off Main Street, along with a Redbird Team Store where fans can purchase Spread the Red merchandise.

Go online to GoRedbirds.com/HancockRenovation for a virtual tour. Be part of this new era of Illinois State football! Contact the Illinois State Athletics Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000.

Bring a group to the game

With 20 or more at an Athletics event, you receive special ticket pricing and in-game recognition. Call (309) 438-7429 and schedule your group today.

Make game day easier by printing tickets at home

The lines to the Illinois State Athletics ticket office are now as short as the walk to your personal printer, thanks to the technology of being able to print your Redbird single-game tickets at home.

ISU fans now have the ability to purchase tickets at home by receiving electronic tickets. Two emails are sent after an online purchase. The first is the print-at-home email with tickets attached, while the second is the order confirmation. Each electronic ticket contains a unique barcode that is scanned at the event.

Say goodbye to waiting at events and eliminate the fear of having tickets lost in the mail by printing at home via GoRedbirds.com!

Don’t miss the teams in action

Visit GoRedbirds.com for a complete schedule of all upcoming competition.
Unique housing venture opens new chapter in Residential Life

From the days of placing students in the homes of citizens during the late 1800s, through the construction boom of residence halls during the 1960s, to renovations in recent years—housing has always been a priority at Illinois State.
While the commitment to provide students with a safe and rewarding residential experience inevitably leads to seasons of change on campus, history shows that the impetus for housing projects is often tied to enrollment shifts. Cardinal Court was initially constructed for that reason.

President Raymond Fairchild predicted in 1946 that the University would need additional housing after World War II. A temporary trailer park was constructed at the south end of what was then the University Farm. A total of 246 men, women, and children lived in the complex known as Cardinal Court by the spring of 1947.

Plans for more permanent housing were made within a decade and by 1959, a new Cardinal Court was completed on 14.5 acres northwest of campus. A total of 72 one-bedroom apartments were available, along with 24 two-bedroom units. The rent was $53.40 and $63 per month, respectively, excluding utilities. The temporary trailers were bulldozed in 1962.

The Cardinal Court apartments served the needs of married students for decades. In recent years, however, more than 80 percent of the occupants were single, as most families opt for the University’s Shelbourne complex.

The Cardinal Court units needed extensive repair and renovation. Meanwhile, changes in Illinois fire codes mandated substantial investments be made to bring Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten up to standards by 2013. The University’s administrators opted to invest in a new complex to better meet the needs of students, which resulted in the closure of the four South Campus residence halls this month.

To help offset the subsequent loss of approximately 1,500 beds and to address the University’s aging apartment problem, plans to once again revitalize Cardinal Court were explored. What emerged was one of the most exciting initiatives in Illinois State history: construction of a $45.1 million apartment-style student housing complex made possible through a unique partnership between public and private entities.

The work has been completed, students have unpacked, and a new housing era has begun on the ISU campus.
There has been a lot of change on campus since Maureen Blair joined Student Affairs nearly 25 years ago. Fell Hall was converted from student housing to classroom and office space. Dunn-Barton and Walker halls were replaced by the Student Fitness Center and McCormick Hall.

No longer used by Housing, Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten is now available for office space during upcoming projects, including construction of a new College of Fine Arts complex. The University’s Master Plan calls for the South Campus residence halls to come down, making way for a new Mennonite College of Nursing facility.

Blair knows that such transitions aren’t always easy on graduates. As the director of University Housing the past 13 years, she hears from alums who are saddened by the loss of their special place on campus.

“People lived their lives in these buildings. They met their future spouse, they were served their military papers,” Blair said. For the residents of Cardinal Court, there were happy moments spent watching children grow. Others associate their first years in the United States with those old apartments, as they once housed international students. The first months of married life were enjoyed there by many as well.

“We are responsible and respectful of those memories,” said Blair, who was pleased that a student advisory group voted to retain Cardinal Court as the name for the complex. “They wanted to pay homage to tradition.”

The decision was one of many guided by student input. Continuing ISU’s commitment to shared governance, students were given the chance to provide feedback on everything from color choices for the apartment interior and where the bus stop should be placed to what the buildings should be named.

“They came up with the concept of naming them after trees found on campus,” Blair said. The decision is fitting, given the campus is home to the Fell Arboretum and has been named a Tree Campus USA every year since 2008. The buildings are named Birch, Cypress, Dogwood, Evergreen, and Fir halls.

The fact such finishing details were on the agenda just months after the construction work began is a testimony to the benefit of the public-private partnership that made the project possible. State projects, by comparison, typically remain in the planning stages for much longer than the 15 months needed to construct the new Cardinal Court.

The unique and exciting initiative resulted in attractive, modern, and cost-effective living spaces for students, who have only just begun to create the next chapter of Cardinal Court memories.

Larry Dietz remembers high-rise dormitories. That’s what housing was called back in the 1960s, when students were content with a place to eat and sleep. Today students settle into residence halls and apartment complexes designed to continue the learning long after daily lectures have ended.

Themed floors are tied to majors, computer equipment is conveniently placed in each building, and programming helps floor mates form friendships. The result is a dynamic living and learning environment crucial to student success.

The radical shift in the name and function of housing reflects the increased expectations students bring to campus with their belongings. As ISU’s vice president for Student Affairs, Dietz knows the challenge of fulfilling the wish list.
Two bound volumes that stand a foot tall when stacked sit in Dan Layzell’s office. The pages consist of legal documents required to complete financing for the Cardinal Court project.

Layzell, who is ISU’s vice president for Finance and Planning; Comptroller Greg Alt ’81, M.B.A. ’94; and General Counsel Lisa Huson spent months finalizing the details between all the parties and attorneys.

Arriving on campus in 2009, Layzell was quickly included in discussions about South Campus residence halls and Cardinal Court. One possibility explored was a public-private venture allowing a company to build on ISU’s land. The Board of Trustees approved the idea in 2010.

“The board by law has the ability to lease ground we own for development,” Layzell said. A legislative resolution sponsored by Rep. Dan Brady and then Sen. Dan Rutherford ’78 was required.

Collegiate Housing Foundation (CHF) was chosen to construct the apartments in partnership with American Campus Communities. ISU entered a 40-year ground lease agreement with CHF. When the lease expires, the University assumes ownership. There is an opportunity to buy the complex prior to the end of the lease period, which is the University’s intent.

ISU maintains managerial control throughout the leasing period. The detail is one of many negotiated by Layzell and his staff, who orchestrated the necessary bond sales.

“Timing is crucial to make sure you can pay back the bonds while accounting for rent levels, occupancy, and various managerial costs,” Layzell said. After studying area apartments, rent was set between $575 and $800 a month, with most beds at $625. Cardinal Court apartments are rented for a full calendar year.

Other variables were harder to gauge. The time leading up to the bond sale saw interest rates rising, which was just one factor complicating the business side of the project.

“We were very hands-on, and we needed to be to get the best product for our students and the best financial terms,” said Layzell, whose work involved discussions with the Town of Normal leadership team and coordination with campus facility planners.

The project quickly became the most complicated venture Layzell has negotiated in his career, and also the most exciting. “It was fun,” he said, “and we all learned something new.”

“Why do students choose an institution? At the core of the decision is strong faculty and the academic program. But where you live and how you meet other students, the social networking—housing plays a key role,” Dietz said. “If you don’t have alternate housing like an apartment complex, you may lose students. This is what students and families expect.”

Cardinal Court had been approved before Dietz came to ISU last fall. He was pleased with the plan to create a new dimension of housing on campus. There are five floor plans in the four-story apartment buildings, including separate bedrooms and bathrooms for two or four individuals. Other options are four private bedrooms and two shared bathrooms, two shared bedrooms and two shared bathrooms, or two private bedrooms and one shared with two shared bathrooms.

All apartments have a full kitchen area and are furnished.

A community center provides fitness equipment, meeting rooms, a café, recreational space, and a theatre. Resident assistants serve as a resource for students, who are primarily sophomores.

“We remain committed to having students spend two years on campus, as this requirement enhances their retention and success,” Dietz said. Freshmen will remain in the more concentrated area of campus, where it is easier to connect academically and socially.

“Cardinal Court is again a point of pride,” Dietz noted. “Many thanks to all who worked diligently and collaboratively to produce an excellent facility that will serve students well.”
As an undergraduate living in Wilkins and Manchester, Russ Pande ’96 didn’t even know Cardinal Court existed on the northern edge of campus. Now that the new apartments are standing, Pande can only lament that such housing wasn’t available through ISU when he was obtaining his degree in construction management.

“I’m jealous. Today’s college students have it 100 times better than we did. I wish they’d had this when I was here,” Pande said, adding that he is “glad to see the old way is changing.” He is particularly pleased to be part of such a huge transition at his alma mater.

Pande is an employee of Weis Builders, Inc., a Chicago firm chosen as general contractor for the Cardinal Court project. He was named operations manager for the job that started with demolition in March of 2011.

“It needed to be torn down,” Pande said. The ISU administration agreed, as President Al Bowman noted in his comments at the groundbreaking ceremony in January of 2011. While acknowledging that the old facility “served its purpose well,” Bowman was candid: “I must honestly say I was never so glad to see a wrecking ball swing in my life.”

The crumbled brick, concrete, and asphalt were crushed and used as the base for the parking lot. Despite a wet spring, work progressed quickly on the 228-unit complex that consists of five buildings and a community center. Completion was ahead of schedule, with approximately 140 workers on site daily. Of that number, 75 percent were from Central Illinois and 95 percent from the state.

“That was major to the University. They wanted to use as much local and state labor as possible,” Pande said. It was also a priority to include students in the project. Beyond inviting College of Applied Science and Technology classes to the site throughout construction, Pande had paid interns work beside him from start to finish.

“Each intern had a piece of the project to get done,” Pande said. He knows the experience will be beneficial, as his own career was launched as a result of two internships completed while at Illinois State. He has since overseen several multimillion-dollar projects, but none are as significant to Pande as Cardinal Court.

“When I was at ISU, I never dreamed I would be back in some capacity like this,” Pande said. “I care a lot about this project and put my heart and soul into it because I am proud to be an alum.”
A
ter weeks of contemplation, Ashlyn Gathman and her three future roommates decided. They were heading to Cardinal Court for their sophomore year. Gathman took on the responsibility of calling in their reservation when sign-up began at 8:30 in the morning on February 6.

She had the task completed by 8:33 a.m., making her the first student assigned to the first on-campus apartments in the history of the University. Her roommates are biology major Bridget Strejc; middle level teacher education major Kari Pitstick; and Nicki Ott, who is studying psychology.

“I had all the information laid out and wanted to be sure we could get it,” said Gathman, who is an early childhood education major. “We have a four bedroom with two baths.”

Gathman lived in Hamilton as a freshman. Ready for a change from the residence hall experience, she was excited to have the apartment option.

“We like that we can have our own bedrooms. We can be together as roommates but when we want our alone time to study or relax, we can go and shut our door.”

Initially a bit concerned about the distance from campus, Gathman plans to ride the bus and use her bike. “I’ll just have to give myself a little more time in the mornings.”

The amenities easily offset that sacrifice. Each apartment is furnished with a couch and chair in the living room; and beds, nightstands, and dressers in each bedroom. Carpeting is throughout except for the kitchen and bathrooms, which have a vinyl plank that looks like wood.

There are common laundry rooms that are convenient for those students who don’t have a washer and dryer in their apartment. Each building is secure, with entrances locked 24 hours a day.

Just the thought of a full kitchen with a laminate counter, stove, refrigerator, and microwave was appealing to Gathman, especially with take-and-make options available at a café located in the complex’s community center.

The center also has a multi-purpose room, a work-out area, a quiet area with couches, game tables, and a small theatre with four levels of seating. An outside seating area faces a courtyard in the middle of the buildings. There is also an outside volleyball court and basketball court, as well as a grassy area.

To be among the first on campus to enjoy all of that has left Gathman with an enthusiasm that she conveys with a smile and simple exclamation repeated often by Cardinal Court residents: “It’s awesome!”
Antarctica becomes platform for sustainability leadership

by Steven Barcus

Freezing temperatures and enormous glaciers characterize Antarctica for most people. Given it is 99 percent permanent icecap, has no permanent human residents, and is the coldest place on Earth—with the record low of -128 degrees Fahrenheit—the assessment may be accurate.

Darren McGann ’94, however, sees the desolate tundra as land worth preserving.
“Antarctica is the only place on Earth owned by no country, rather it has been set aside for science and peaceful purposes—however many countries would like to own parts of it,” said McGann, who is a biological sciences alumnus. Although not endangered at the moment, in 2041 the Protocol on Environmental Protection to the Antarctic Treaty expires, potentially allowing nations to exploit the continent for drilling of minerals and extracting oil and gas.

This future threat makes Antarctica an idyllic location for imparting lessons in leadership and sustainability, which is exactly what McGann does as a national manager of sustainability at KPMG.

A world leader in audit, tax, and advisory services, KPMG also offers industry insight to its international clients to ensure their growth and prosperity well into the future. It is consequently beneficial for the company to have McGann, who is a global leader on sustainability.

“Though journeying to the end of the Earth may sound romantic, it is far from a pleasure cruise. The expedition began with participants gathering in Ushuaia, Argentina, which is the southernmost city in the world. After a couple of days of orientation, the group set sail on the two-day journey to Antarctica.

The ship traveled through the turbulent Drake Passage, some of the world’s most dangerous waters. Most on board were seasick for the entire crossing—even those not normally prone. McGann was knocked out of his bed multiple times, with bruises and scrapes to show for it.

But the passengers did not have time to dwell on the hardships. Lectures on leadership principles and business sustainability took place throughout the voyage, with the sharing of knowledge encouraged.

“We are all focused on global challenges and how we can drive sustainability without sacrificing economic growth,” McGann said.

Upon arriving in Antarctica, the daily group lectures continued, with many taking place on the ice.

“The perspective I have is not textbook knowledge,” McGann said. “It is knowledge based in business, sustainability, and scientific understanding.”

His expertise has taken him to Antarctica twice for the Leadership on the Edge program, first as a participant and then as a speaker. The 16-day program brings international citizens together to test and grow their leadership abilities, while also providing the perfect backdrop for discussions on worldwide climate change and the preservation of Antarctica. The expeditions are led by Robert Swan, the first person to walk to both the North and South Poles.

“It is such a phenomenal opportunity. The real challenge is doing something with that once-in-a-lifetime experience,” said McGann, who worked with corporate heads from around the world. “Most left that trip as different people from when they started.”

McGann said, “We also get to know other cultures and help each other to understand the environmental impact of our industry and the risks.”

Upon arriving in Antarctica, the daily group lectures continued, with many taking place on the ice.

“There is no weather forecast in Antarctica beyond cold, chance of wind and snow,” McGann said. “Every morning the captain and expedition leader would make a decision of the day’s activities based on weather. The head guide might announce to us that we are going out on the Zodiac boats in 30 minutes, so everyone would run up to their cabins and quickly put on layers to stay warm.”

Expeditions lasted between three and four hours and took place on a glacier, beach, highland, or anything else that makes up Antarctica’s diverse topography. Other activities included a hike to the rim of a volcano, a visit to Swan’s E-Base, and a polar plunge in the Southern Ocean. Along the way McGann and the
other participants were awed by the animals of the region, from Minke whales to Leopard seals.

“One colony of Gentoo penguins that we encountered had several thousand preparing to take to the ocean in search of food,” McGann said. “Every moment was unique. We were fortunate one day to be in a zodiac surrounded by Humpback whales. One Humpback surfaced next to our zodiac, blew some air, then swam underneath us.”

Strict rules were in place about interaction with the environment and animals. Guides frequently scouted ahead and placed flags along routes the group was to stay on. When the group had to cross a penguin highway—paths frequented by penguin colonies—the birds were given the right of way.

“If a penguin comes up to you and wants to have an encounter, that’s okay,” McGann said. “But you can’t just run down a penguin and start touching it. It is an amazing moment when a penguin walks over and looks up at you.”

The same “leave-no-trace” approach was also enforced during the group’s overnight camping trip. Meals were taken aboard the ship before it departed for the night, leaving participants to sleep under the stars in bivvy sacks. Even the traditional campfire was replaced with a glow stick. A portable latrine was carried along ensuring that absolutely no changes were made to the environment—a mandate that speaks to the larger purpose of the expedition.

The journey helps focus attention on the fact that the 2041 change is looming, which is why McGann is committed to educating young leaders on the value of preserving the continent. He does his part to make sure not only Antarctica remains untouched wilderness, but that businesses realize sustainability is important to their own models regardless of location. For that reason, he welcomed the challenges of his second trip to Antarctica in an instructor’s role.

“With foresight and planning, leaders can turn risks into new opportunities and take actions to prepare for an uncertain future,” McGann said. “One of the themes I taught about was the 10 global sustainability megaforces, which will impact every business over the next two decades.”

The list includes climate change, energy and fuel, material resource scarcity, water scarcity, population growth, food security, ecosystem decline, and deforestation. Each can have a major affect on a company’s bottom line, yet may not be factored into long-term planning.

It is important for leaders to understand the system of forces, assess the implications for their organizations, and develop strategies for risk and opportunities,” McGann said.

To share this message with an even greater audience, he arranged for the first TEDx broadcast from Antarctica.

“We did the TEDx event on 100 percent solar power,” McGann said. “That included camera equipment, the iPads in the audience, and the P.A. system. If we can do it in Antarctica, it can be done in the real world.”

Though happy to return to civilization and especially his wife, Susanne Tyler McGann ’94, McGann is eager to visit Antarctica a third time. Until then he is sharing the lessons from his journey with anyone he can, even arranging a Skype lecture with Illinois State students on sustainability from a business perspective.

“I am glad I went to Illinois State because I had teachers who were really passionate about what they were teaching and inspired me. Professors Charles Thompson, Angelo Capparella, and Saad El-Zanati were major influences on my professional development and a large part of my going to Antarctica,” McGann said.

Listen to the lessons
View the first TEDx broadcast from Antarctica and photos at IllinoisState.edu/magazine. Learn more about the expedition at 2041.com.
Much has changed at TV-10 since the first broadcast in March 1974. Images are no longer shown on black and white film, the studio and newsroom have found a single home in Fell Hall, and technology has revolutionized program production to offer segments on the Web. What hasn’t changed in 38 years is TV-10’s commitment to offering a hands-on experience for students, while also providing information on campus and community. TV-10 broadcasts midday Monday–Friday. TV-10 News, as well as special segments, Sports Zone, and Ten on 10, have received awards from the Illinois Broadcast Association and the Illinois News Broadcasters Association. TV-10 employs reporters, anchors, producers, photographers, writers, and videographers—all students learning from seasoned faculty and staff.

1. TV-10
If students change their TVs to channel 10, they won’t find TV-10. In fact, they’ll have to go to channel 20. After a channel realignment, TV-10 opted to keep the tradition and history of the channel by retaining the name.

2. Teleprompters
Teleprompters are a mainstay of the modern newsroom, and TV-10 is no different. Not only do they let the student anchors know what to say, they also provide cues on which camera they are supposed to look at. For additional guidance, a floor director will walk around to the different cameras so the anchors know where they need to be looking.

3. Alyssa Plac ’12
A broadcast journalism major, Plac was with TV-10 for three years. Her roles included sports anchoring and producing a weekly segment, Your Weekend, as well as a music segment, Your Playlist.

4. Beau Ebenezer ’12
A broadcast journalism major, Ebenezer was with TV-10 for three years. He produced and anchored the Tuesday and Thursday newscast. His day began at 7:30 a.m. to produce the noon programs.

5. Cameras
While the basics of camera operation are taught in the classroom, the real skills are learned through hands-on experience in the studio. Tapes have been thrown to the wayside in favor of digital memory cards that can be easily edited and made ready for a broadcast.
6. Tony Galske
A mass media and promotion and sales major, Glaske has been with TV-10 for one year. He has found that a lot of camera work is learned on the fly, and relishes the practical experience. His trick for framing the perfect shot: Capture the sparkle in a person’s eyes and then frame the shot.

7. Dillon Smith
A TV production major, Smith has been with TV-10 for a year. Students get used to the camera and the newsroom floor as 100-level students. At the 200-level, students learn the control room and reporting in the field. At the 300-level, students take on leadership roles directing and producing.

8. Jeremy Murphy
A broadcast journalism major, Murphy is in his first year at TV-10 and switches off with nine other students to do the weather.

9. Green screen
A must-have for any newsroom. This isn’t actually a screen—they painted the entire wall! The green screen is primarily used for weather segments. Why green? It’s the color farthest from the color of human flesh.

10. What’s going on?
Monitors positioned around the room help the anchors and weathercasters see what is being shown on screen while they are reporting. This makes outlining current events, sports highlights, and storm fronts a breeze.

11. Lights
The newsroom has an impressive array of lights that illuminate the TV-10 stars. But don’t look up for boom mics amongst the array. Students switched to small clip-on microphones long ago.

12. Together at last
Originally the studio was in Metcalf Elementary School, while the newsroom was in Old Union. That meant students would have to literally run across campus to produce broadcasts. It wasn’t until 1992 that the two were brought under one roof in Fell Hall. The students are happy to save their energy for the news.

Check out TV-10 broadcasts at tv10.IllinoisState.edu.
grade-schooler who was given a toothbrush at a school health fair asked for another one when she visited the dental clinic—not because she lost hers or wanted a different color, but because her father took hers. Having heard that story many times, Susan Albee ’95 is painfully aware of the problem revealed by the scenario: Dental care is one of the largest unmet health needs in the United States, especially in children.

Tooth decay is the leading cause of chronic illness in children and often leads to missed school days or trouble concentrating. More than half of children ages 5 to 9 already have cavities, according to the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services.

Albee is working to rectify the problem as an advocate for dental health in Central Illinois. A Mennonite College of Nursing graduate, she supervises...
the McLean County Health Department's dental clinic. The facility opened in 1998 with donations, including dental chairs from an abandoned Air Force base.

“We’re the dental home for people on public aid, and we’re seeing less than half of them,” she said. The clinic is the sole option for dental care for nearly 23,000 low-income residents, including 13,000 children. Their need is great, as more than 40 percent of McLean County third-graders alone have experienced the pain of a cavity.

Although there are nearly 100 dentists in Albee’s Bloomington-Normal community, not one routinely accepts Medicaid because of the low reimbursement. Dentists tell Albee that they can’t even sterilize their instruments for what they receive in payment.

Struggling families consequently turn to the clinic, which provides children with preventative care that includes cleanings, fluoride treatments and dental sealants, extractions, and fillings.

The problems created when dental health is ignored can become so severe that the clinic is not always able to provide treatment. An 8-year-old boy with cavities in 14 of his 20 teeth had to be referred to a Chicago hospital, where a drill was relentlessly poked through the cavities while he was sedated in an operating room.

“We couldn’t ask for the child to keep coming back for one or two fillings at a time because he would never have wanted to go to a dentist again,” said Albee, who is convinced parent education is the primary cure to this health issue.

Albee has seen infants with a mouth full of cavities that develop because parents may shrug off the importance of caring for baby teeth. They do not realize those tiny teeth can crumble with decay.

“We see parents coming into the clinic with bottles and sippy cups filled with Mountain Dew,” she said. “For some children, their breakfast was a bag of Doritos.”

She consequently emphasizes education, from making sure newborn hospital packets have fingertip toothbrushes to sending Mennonite College of Nursing students into grade schools, where they may teach fifth-graders how to floss for the first time.

Albee calls the work her true passion, even though she didn’t start out wanting to be a public health nurse. At 18 she was accepted into Mennonite, but made a last-minute decision to become an X-ray technician. After watching her mother die of lung cancer at 50, she felt the nursing call again and enrolled at Mennonite to do hospice work.

“I always felt like nursing school was something I should have done,” she said. “Looking back, Mennonite came into my life at a time when I needed something and someone.”

By the time she went back to school in her 30s, Albee had three school-aged children, was in a troubled relationship, and had no idea how she was going to pay tuition. Bromenn Regional Medical Center offered her a full scholarship in exchange for a two-year commitment.

She accepted it and spent the next seven years earning her degree, while
“We’re the dental home for people on public aid, and we’re seeing less than half of them.”

keeping her promise to her two basketball-playing boys that she’d never miss a game. She was rarely seen without her backpack and pulled out her books at half-time.

The family was living with her father and her checking account was depleted when she graduated. Without her knowledge, a friend talked to a Mennonite administrator about Albee’s situation.

“Without me even walking into the office, they brought me a check for $1,500, a loan to get me by,” she said. “I could still cry thinking about it.”

Not only did she repay the money, but Albee gave back in other ways. She served as president of the Mennonite Nurses Alumni Association in 1999 when the college was considering partnering with a university. “There were several colleges that wanted Mennonite, and we were looking for the best fit,” she said. “It was a pretty awesome decision to go with ISU.”

Today she provides clinical supervision for Illinois State nursing students in their community health rotation. “I’m not able to give back financially as much as I would like, but I’ve been able to give back in service to the college,” she said. “And I love having students here. They are the future of public health. As long as I have breath in me, we will always be a clinical site for student nurses.”

Albee’s also found ways to give back to the community. She helped secure $150,000 in grants to expand the dental clinic, allowing the facility to serve an additional 400 children last year. But more needs to be done.

The clinic lacks the money for preventative care for adults, who are only treated for pain control. Albee intends to change that. She is also advocating for a freestanding dental clinic that she hopes is functional within five years.

“Everywhere I go I talk about it, figuring if you plant the right seeds, somebody may just step up and say, ‘Let’s start a dental clinic,’” Albee said, sharing her vision to bring community partners together to fill the growing need for affordable dental care.

Mennonite students keep youngsters smiling

More than 700 toothbrushes and tubes of toothpaste were dropped into cardboard boxes at Mennonite College of Nursing last semester. The supplies were handed out by nursing students when they did their pediatric clinical rotations in school districts for the first time.

Placing nursing students in schools makes perfect sense to Mennonite College of Nursing Advocate BroMenn Endowed Professor Shelly Malin. “I’ve always been an advocate for clinical experiences outside of a hospital because the reality is most kids are never in a hospital.”

Malin leads the America’s Promise School Project, which enlists nursing faculty and students to provide education on dental health, healthy eating, and exercise. Students focus on two issues identified in a needs assessment of schools—obesity and oral health.

“There’s a high correlation between the two,” said former president of the Student Nurses Association Cristina Smith ’12, who completed a 16-week rotation working with grade-schoolers. “Most people don’t look at oral health as something that’s important to your overall health and it really is. A lot of them didn’t even know what flossing was.”

In addition to classroom teaching, Mennonite students provide education during health fairs and parent-teacher conferences, handing out forms for children to receive free dental exams and sealants.

“They’re making a difference and they’re learning and that’s our goal,” Malin said. “The schools have been wonderful partners. Our students are getting excellent learning experiences, and we’re working to meet the needs identified by the schools and the community.”
The saga of a firs-
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Another academic year has begun, with the majority of students attending Illinois State once again categorized as ‘traditional.’ The word, which refers to those students who complete their degree while between the ages of 18 and 22, can create a false impression of the 21,000 enrolled at Illinois State.

The campus welcomes each fall a diverse student body that includes all ages, races, and myriad nationalities. Some are transfer students, while others arrive as true freshmen. Some attending are already parents. Many are full-time employees well beyond their teen years.

Always there is a cohort of individuals who are the first in their families to pursue a college education. Their challenges and experiences are unique, as Gina Panozzo ’12 reveals in a reflection following the spring commencement—at which time she claimed the honor of becoming the first in her family to graduate in the U.S. with a college degree.

I am a minority, being half Mexican and half Italian. I was born and raised in the United States as part of a family that believes the American dream is still alive today. We also know that nothing is attained without hard work, dedication, and tenacity.

I learned this lesson all too well as a first-generation university student. Since childhood, an educational ethic has been instilled in me. The importance of maintaining good grades alongside extracurricular activities was mandatory. Memories of my father preaching in his familiar Chicago accent bring a smile to my face as I clearly recall his words: “Preparation, preparation, preparation equals success.”

My father, Peter, taught me that education is important and that if I didn’t go to college, I wouldn’t go anywhere in life. He wanted to give me the college education he never had. But my dream went beyond getting the undergraduate degree. I had a goal of going overseas.

As a young girl, the culture of Japan fascinated me. The student teacher in my high school senior economics class, Daniel Virgo, heard about my fascination and asked if I had considered living there. He recommended the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program, praising what an honor it is to be selected.
Requirements to be a proud JET include having a college degree and Teaching English as a Foreign Language (TEFL) specialization. As of that moment, Japan was my goal and nothing would stop me from achieving it.

I attended the College of DuPage after high school. During my freshman year I visited a friend at Illinois State for the 2008 Homecoming football game. I fell in love with the campus and decided I would transfer to ISU.

Applying was the easy part, with many questions still left unanswered. How would I finance my education? I had been turned down for four scholarships and as a transfer student, I had no idea how the University worked.

My father's intentions of sending me away to school were sincere, but when it came to helping me, he wasn't there. While he had acquired some college experience, higher education has changed dramatically since the 1960s when he was briefly enrolled.

My mother, Patricia, holds a tourism degree from Mexico. Unfortunately, it is worthless in the United States. She couldn't be much help in guiding me because university affairs vary from country to country. While she was my biggest supporter emotionally and mentally, I alone had to make the arrangements. I was like a freshman starting from scratch. I didn't know about internships, volunteer opportunities, or even how to apply to the English major.

Deciding that the financial and advising issues were small obstacles to overcome, I continued pushing through. At the end of this not-so-yellow-brick road and through the burning hula hoop would be a college degree.

The excitement of moving to campus swirled through me. I would attain freedoms I never experienced and finally be able to call my own shots. Roses and daisies didn't last long, however, because living away from home was not all it was hyped up to be.

College life was a different culture, and I was an alien on a foreign campus. With junior status, I found most students had already established their group of friends. Unsuccessful attempts at making friends and homesickness caused me to seriously consider dropping out after my first semester to return to Plainfield's familiarity.

Why didn't I go home? I refused to give up my dream of living, experiencing, and immersing myself in Japan. How would I make it in an actual foreign land when I couldn't make it at college 100 miles away? Who would set the example for my sisters? Deciding no one was going to hold my hand and guide me, I advocated for myself and began to seek out student organizations as a way to meet new people and learn from their life experiences.

Badminton was my passion in high school. When I learned an intramural club gathered on
Updates from overseas

Gina Panozzo is blogging about her adventures in Japan. Follow her at GinaBearsBlog.blogspot.com.
Every year alumni returning for Homecoming have must-do activities on their weekend planner, with Saturday the most action-packed day of the weeklong celebration.

Alums join people from the community in the annual Town & Gown 5K Run, which is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. There are 12 divisions in the event, including wheelchair participants.

The parade is another tradition everyone enjoys. Redbird pride soars as the Big Red Marching Machine takes to the streets and starts up the ISU fight song! This year the fun starts at 9:30 a.m.

The football game is definitely a high point. This year’s game against Southern Illinois University will require earlier planning, as Hancock Stadium is under construction and seating will be limited. See page 7 for more information on how to get your tickets now.

Beyond these popular activities, alumni are encouraged to maximize their time at ISU by exploring all that is new on campus and Uptown Normal. Start by visiting the Alumni Relations hospitality tent in the tailgating area. Drop off your business card or fill out an update form to receive your 2012 commemorative Homecoming pin. Come early, as supplies are limited.

You’ll find campus and Normal maps, as well as information about the changes in recent months. These include the opening of the Student Fitness Center and McCormick Hall, which is enriching the lives of students. Take a tour to find out what’s so amazing about this facility. Don’t miss the chance to also see the recently completed apartment complex at Cardinal Court. This unique project has significantly changed housing options for ISU students.

When you finish strolling the campus, head to Uptown Normal and marvel at the renovations. From the newly opened transportation center to the complete upgrade of businesses, the area is not what most graduates will remember, although favorite student hangouts remain.
Reunion planned for housing, dining alums

Current and past full-time or graduate student staff members in University Housing Services or Campus Dining Services are invited to a reunion during Homecoming, October 5 through 7. The units were formerly known as the Office of Residential Life.

“This is an exciting time to hold a reunion,” said University Housing Services Director Maureen Blair. “The new Cardinal Court apartments and The Café at Cardinal Court will be open, and all of the dining centers and residence hall renovations will be complete.”

Guests will see the renovated facilities, take part in Homecoming activities, and spend time with each other. Family members of those attending are welcome as well. Details are available online at Housing.IllinoisState.edu or Dining.IllinoisState.edu. Register for the reunion at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/hdreunion.

Homecoming includes Redbird Recipe contest

Think you have a recipe that can win the stomachs of students at Illinois State?

Alumni and current students, faculty, and staff are invited to submit their favorite dish to Campus Dining’s 4th Annual Redbird Recipe Contest. This year parents of current Redbirds are also invited to participate.

Submit recipes at Dining.IllinoisState.edu from August 20 through September 7. Campus Dining’s culinary team will select finalists in two categories: main/side dish and sweet/desserts. The finalists’ recipes will be featured in dining centers during Homecoming.

Finalists will be selected based on uniqueness of the dish, its appeal to the campus community, and its ability to be produced in large quantities. Dining center guests will vote for their favorite in each category, and winners will receive a personalized token commemorating their win. Last year’s winners were Lynn Zipfel Venhaus ’76 and Kathy Brown ’89.

Call (309) 438-8351 with questions, or email CampusDining@IllinoisState.edu.

Students benefit from alumni scholarships

Several students have been helped with financial assistance through scholarships linked to alumni. Among them are Alumni Association Scholarship recipients Jade Kestian and Kelsey Hansen. A junior from Normal, Kestian is studying psychology. Hansen is an incoming freshman from Gurnee and plans to major in medical sciences. Each will receive $1,000 per semester, with the award renewable.

The Legacy Scholarship was awarded to Evan Stalter from Bloomington, who is a sophomore studying information systems. Annie Sturtewagen also received the $500 per semester scholarship, which is renewable. An incoming freshman from Annawan, she plans to major in music therapy.

Two students received Nonresident Legacy Tuition Waivers, including Courtney Owsley from Racine, Wisconsin. She is an incoming freshman majoring in elementary education. Amanda Cox is also a freshman this fall. She will double major in interior design and music education. Her home is in Appleton, Wisconsin.

Alumni Association annual meeting set

All alumni are invited to campus to attend the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9 a.m. on Saturday, September 15. The meeting will be held in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of members to the Alumni Association Board of Directors and board officers.

Alumni with active membership status in the Alumni Association are eligible to vote at the annual meeting. To be active alumni must have made a gift to the University through the Illinois State University Foundation in the current or preceding fiscal year.

For more information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2589 or (800) 366-4478, or email Alumni@IllinoisState.edu.

Share your Southside memories

Did you live in Atkin-Colby and Hamilton-Whitten, or work in the dining center? Tell us a story from your years there! Visit IllinoisState.edu/Memory.
Are you ready to “Get Your Groove On” and participate in this year’s Homecoming celebration at Illinois State?

Plan now for your visit back to campus this fall by going online to IllinoisStateHomecoming.com, where you will find the latest information on activities planned for all ages.

Saturday highlights include:

7:30 a.m.  Town and Gown 5K Run
9:30 a.m.  Homecoming Parade
10 a.m.   Tailgating
1 p.m.    Illinois State football vs. Southern Illinois University
Steve Kwiatkowski ’07 didn’t don a helmet or run on the field during the Super Bowl game, yet he was an important part of the team responsible for making football’s grand finale a success the past two years.

A geography alumnus, Kwiatkowski is a geospatial analyst who helped map out the logistics for the 2011 Super Bowl in Arlington, Texas, as well as the 2012 game in Indianapolis.

Kwiatkowski works for Esri, which is the country’s premier provider of geographic information systems (GIS). Headquartered in California, Esri works globally to protect the environment and assist with disaster response by analyzing and managing geographic information.

Kwiatkowski has been involved in GIS assessments of catastrophes. He worked with the U.S. response to the Japan earthquake and tsunami in 2011, as well as Hurricane Irene that same year.

His work for the Super Bowl games was done to avert a different type of crisis, as the host cities needed significant help with crowd control, traffic flow, and security issues for the entire community. As Kwiatkowski told a class of geography students during a spring semester campus visit, the effort involved creating nearly 200 maps that required constant updating.

The work began months in advance of the game with a determination of what kind of maps were needed. The location and scope of the event dictate what data must be considered. For the Super Bowl, Kwiatkowski looked far beyond the venue itself to a radius of 60 miles around the stadium. This broad view was needed to examine HAZMAT routes, pipelines, emergency services, and law enforcement locations. Including such a range meant working with multiple jurisdictions, which resulted in the need to share and compare information.

Kwiatkowski’s current work is in the hands of even more top-level officials, as he has moved from mapping the Super Bowl to handling national security issues for Esri. He now prepares maps for the Department of Homeland Security and the U.S. Marine Corps.
40s

Joe French ’49, M.S. ’50, is a psychologist who has been reappointed by the governor to the board regulating the practice of psychology in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania following confirmation by the Senate. He has been reappointed by both Republican and Democrat governors since the mid-1980s. He resides in State College, Pennsylvania.

50s

Mary Ann (Anich) Friberg ’51 retired in 1991 from a special education teaching position at Glenbard West High School. She has two children and resides in Elmhurst.

Richard T. Godfrey ’55, M.S. ’90, is the former mayor of Normal; retired director of national public relations for the Eureka Floor Care Company; director emeritus of relations for the Eureka Floor Care Company; director emeritus of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and former public relations of Great Lakes Division and retired staff officer for public relations of the U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary. Godfrey is a founding member of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security and former public relations consultant for the U.S. National Park Service and Foundation. He has been elected to a two-year term for the 2012-2013 board of directors of the condominium association for the 60-story twin towers of Marina City in downtown Chicago, where he and his wife, MaryJean, reside. They have four daughters, all of whom are ISU alumni.

Joyce M. (Armstrong) Zeiters ’56 taught in Bloomington District 87. After a total of 38 years in the classroom, including 12 years as a substitute teacher, she has retired. Her husband, John, is deceased. They parented two daughters. She continues to enjoy her six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren. She resides in Bloomington.

60s

Charles Dunn ’62 is past president of ISU’s Student Senate and chaired the committee to change the University’s name from Illinois State Normal University. He is a past recipient of the Distinguished Alumni Award. He has authored more than a dozen books, including The Presidency in the Twenty-first Century. He resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

D. Leigh Henson ’64, M.S. ’69, D.A. ’82, has been awarded a certificate of excellence from the Illinois State Historical Society for his book, The Town Lincoln Warned. He is an English professor emeritus at Southwest Missouri State University and resides in Springfield, Missouri.

Alice Wells ’64 owns her own company and is a consultant for teacher training in schools across the country. She has been elected to serve as president of Soroptimist International. The 90,000-member international women’s organization works to improve the lives of women and girls around the world. She and her husband, Dave, are the parents of three sons and serve as foster parents. They reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

Norma Kifner Anderson ’67 completed a master’s degree at Eastern Illinois University. She retired from Oakwood High School after 41 years of teaching biology and Spanish. She has been inducted into the Illinois High School Scholastic Bowl Coaches Hall of Fame. She and her husband, Paul, reside in St. Joseph.

Carolyn (Lauing) Finzer ’69 is an artist and storyteller. She has been an active Girl Scout for 46 years and still works as a program facilitator. She and her husband, Melvern, reside in Naperville.

Carole (Loman) Peto ’69 is a distinguished educator and administrator. She was named Woman of the Year-2012 by the Altrusa International women’s organization.

Pause for applause

Answering Obama’s call

As an advocate for social justice, Christie Gilson ’88 was thrilled to be nominated earlier this year by President Barack Obama to serve three years on the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board. A recipient of a Fulbright Fellowship herself, she studied higher education for students with disabilities in Hong Kong during 2006. Gilson, who is blind, is an assistant professor of education at Moravian College in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania. She teaches English to blind adults in China using Voice over IP (VoIP), and has mentored youth with disabilities not only across the U.S. but in Germany, Hong Kong, Spain, Singapore, and Taiwan.

Tasty trivia

Michael Bullington ’83, M.S. ’89, is a dual history graduate who has put his training to unique use as the archives senior manager of McDonald’s Corporation. He shared in a Chicago Tribune article that his job involves maintaining “approximately 1,400 boxes of old documents, financial information, character costumes, and photos” that are stored in a temperature-controlled room. He supplies items for corporate milestones, finds photos and footage for commercials, and answers internal inquiries. Bullington is also in charge of choosing what will be preserved in the archives, “keeping only 10 percent of the material that comes in,” he told the Tribune.

Healing hearts

While serving in the Army as a paralegal, Christine (Carr) Leahy, M.S. ’02, took the stage many times as a performer at military events that included the nation’s top brass. Now she takes the microphone with a message to women who are hurting, abused, depressed, and broken-hearted. As the founder and CEO of Women Stand Up! International, Leahy is preaching the message of “I am enough” to women around the world. Her faith-based nonprofit organization is driven by the goal of restoring and repurposing the hearts and minds of women. Its mantra is simple but powerful: “We are women helping women in crisis.”

Revolutionary headlines

When not working as vice president of marketing and public relations for one of the nation’s top contractors—Leopardo—Todd Andrlik ’00 partners with the Library of Congress to preserve primary source documents. He owns one of the most significant private collections of American Revolution-era newspapers. The earliest printed reports of practically every major event and battle are covered in the newspapers, which Andrlik shares in Reporting the Revolution. Due out this fall, the book includes historian commentaries. An accompanying multimedia package empowers teachers and engages all who share Andrlik’s enthusiasm for examining how the press fueled the fight for freedom.

Reggie Reads

Check out a column dedicated to book reviews of work by alums at IllinoisState.edu/magazine. Click on Reggie Reads.
International Club of Elgin, where she resides with her husband, Warren.

70s

Betty Perez '70 has retired after teaching Spanish and English as a Second Language at Oak Forest High School for the past 20 years. She led a bilingual class. Her memories of her students sparked her to create a website dedicated to them and their successes in life.

Deb (Starbuck) Albrandt '71 is managing broker/owner in a Colorado real estate partnership, Starbuck Realty Group. The company specializes in residential, investment, and relocation in the Denver metro area. She resides in Arvada, Colorado.

Richard E. Wackrow '71 is self-employed and the author of Who's Winning the War on Terror. He resides in Polebridge, Montana.

Darlene A. Kluka '72, M.S. '76, is the dean of the School of Human Performance and Leisure Sciences at Barry University in Miami Shores, Florida. She is the recipient of the International Council of Sport Science and Physical Education Philip Noel Baker Research Award, which is the highest honor in her field. She resides in Davie, Florida.

Sister Margaret Mary Majewski, M.S. '72, Ed.D. '78, retired after teaching for 54 years. She remains active as a member of several city boards of directors. She resides in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

Steven Yount '72 pursued a career in broadcast journalism. He joined The Wall Street Journal Radio Network in 2000 and was elected in 2005 as president of the union that represents Journal employees. He has authored two Western novels, including Death at the Switchback. He resides in Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Sally John '73 is an author who has written 17 books, including her latest novel titled Heart Echoes. She is a three-time finalist for the Christian Bookseller Association's Christy Award. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Southern California.

Richard Krumholz '73 has retired after working for 33 years for the state of California. For the past six years he has served as the director of Caltrans for District 5 on the Central Coast of the state. During his tenure, ongoing construction projects on the Central Coast doubled and now stand at nearly $450 million. He resides in San Luis Obispo, California.

Jan Waggoner '73 is an associate professor and director of the teacher education program in the College of Education and Human Services at Southern Illinois University. She received the Women of Distinction Award from the school this year. She resides in Carbondale.

John Greuling '74 is president and CEO of the Will County Center for Economic Development. He has overseen major improvement of the economic climate of Will County through transportation by promoting the development of an inland port, two intermodal yards, and bringing more than $2.5 billion of private investment to the area, resulting in the development of 25,000 jobs. Greuling was honored by Lewis University this year as a
recipient of the De La Salle Award, which notes extraordinary community service and leadership. He resides in New Lenox.

Dr. William L. Harris ’74 is a dentist practicing with Pana Family Dental. He and his wife, Kimberly, are the parents of six children and six grandchildren. The couple resides in Mapleton.

Larry Kroll ’74, M.S. ’81, is the vice president of development for The Print and Graphics Scholarship Foundation. He previously served as CEO of Original Smith Printing, vice president of the Print Media Academy, and a managing partner of Market Reason. He resides in Marietta, Georgia.

Patricia Sizemore ’74 has been named vice president of regulatory services for Chicago Board Options Exchange (CBOE) Holdings, Inc., where she has worked for 34 years. She resides in Crete.

Tom Chestnut ’75 has more than 25 years of food safety experience, including as NSF International’s vice president of supply chain food safety. The company has named him vice president of its Global Food Safety and Quality Division. NSF is an independent organization that writes public health standards, as well as tests and certifies products for the food, water, and consumer goods industries. He resides in Saline, Michigan.

Cynthia D. Fischer ’75, M.S. ’78, Ed.D. ’93, retired after serving 34 years with Peoria Public Schools District 150. She worked as a teacher, principal, and director of career and technology. Her last two years were spent in the role as associate superintendent for the district. She resides in Peoria.

Sue Cosenza Larson ’75 completed her doctorate in leadership and curriculum and instruction from Aurora University. Her dissertation focused on adolescent literacy and motivation, and her study received recognition by the International Reading Association for outstanding research. She is teaching in the master’s and doctoral programs in literacy at Judson University and resides in Carpentersville.

David M. Van De Voort ’75 has been named Chicago compensation principal and practice leader by Buck Consultants. The company is a global human resource and benefits consulting firm. He will lead Buck’s compensation consulting line of business. He resides in Naperville.

Linda M. Kovacs, M.S. ’76, retired after 25 years as the executive director of the Center for Human Services in Modesto, California. She then created Springboard Consultants, which is a private firm that specializes in nonprofit management development strategic planning and program evaluation. She and her husband, Gerald, reside in Modesto, California.

Harold W. Truitt ’76 is completing a master’s in theatre at Eastern Illinois University. He is the director, a designer, and an actor at Quad City Music Guild, a local musical theatre organization. He is also a furniture salesman with JC Penney in Davenport, Iowa. He resides in Silvis.

Mark Cappel ’79 has worked as a teacher, coach, assistant principal, and principal during 28 years with the Alton School District, where he is now the director of human resources. He also served as superintendent at Wood River-Hartford School District. He and his wife, Susan, are parents of an adult child and reside in Alton.

Walt Smith ’79 has retired as executive director of the Boys and Girls Club of Decatur. A former Redbird football player, he worked at the Bloomington Parks and Recreation Department before taking the Decatur position. He remains actively involved in his community of Decatur, where he resides with his wife, Ingrid. They have four grown children and 12 grandchildren.

Douglas Kinnett, Ed.D. ’80, is a nationally recognized artist. His work has been exhibited since the 1970s and includes paintings, prints, jewelry, furniture, ceramics, and collage. He has served as the coordinator of the art education major at Shepherd University and has taught art at all levels from kindergarten to graduate school. He resides in Shepherdstown, West Virginia.

Jeff Fricke ’81 has more than 25 years of parish experience, and has been named senior pastor at Our Savior’s Lutheran Church in Rockford.

Luke P. Robins, M.S. ’81, completed a doctorate in educational administration at University of Texas at Austin. He has held several community college leadership positions, including as chancellor of Louisiana Delta Community College in Louisiana. He has been named president of Peninsula College in Port Angeles, Washington.

Ed Kotowski ’82 has been promoted to lieutenant of the Prospect Heights Fire Protection District, where he has served for 15 years. He resides in Wadsworth.

Mitchell O. Hamann ’83 has been named principal of Coal City High School, where he has worked for the past 26 years. He most recently served as assistant principal. He and his wife, Annette, reside in Coal City.

Carolyn Mungo ’83 is a nationally recognized journalist with a career of nearly 20 years in large market television newsrooms. She has captured 18 regional Emmys, three regional Edward R. Murrow Awards, and five Reporter of the Year designations from the Houston Press Club, Dallas Press Club, and the Arizona and Texas Associated Press. She is now the executive news director at WFJA in Dallas. The mother of two children, she resides in Houston, Texas.

James N. Branman ’84 is the vice president of U.S. sales for Ultrasonix, which develops and manufactures diagnostic ultrasound systems. He resides in Danville, California.
Redbird legacy

At 17, she was a homeless runaway. Years later Sheryl Fitzjarrald ‘94 completed an ISU degree that put her on track for law school and blazed a trail one child followed.

Sheryl was an honors student before she dropped out of high school, married, had two daughters, and divorced. “I decided the only way out of dire straits was through education,” she said.

She transferred to Illinois State with an associate’s degree and majored in criminal justice sciences. Occasionally she’d have her pre-teen daughters in classes with her.

There was no doubt law school would follow graduation.

One daughter, Sami ’00, chose the same major at ISU with plans to enter law enforcement. An internship with an attorney changed her mind and she went on to complete a law degree as well, but not without her own personal struggle.

Sami met Garrett Anderson ’10 while both were ISU students.

Garrett was a nontraditional student and member of the U.S. Army. He wanted to be a police officer too, but that plan changed with deployment to Iraq in 2005. Garrett was hurt, suffering extensive facial injuries and loss of an arm. He endured an eight-month recovery at Walter Reed Army Medical Center.

When released, the couple returned to Champaign. Sami dove to Michigan weekly to finish her law degree while working nearly full-time in a law office. Garrett commuted to Illinois State, becoming the third family member to graduate in criminal justice sciences.

Garrett volunteers for the Wounded Warriors Project, encouraging other veterans to earn degrees. He also helps care for the couple’s two daughters: Skyler, 5, and Alex, 2. Sami continues work she started at Walter Reed—Wills for Soldiers—which provides pro bono services to soldiers deploying to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Sami assists veterans and their families with disability related issues, all while still pursuing with her mother a passion that was sparked while at Illinois State. The two have their own law firm, practicing together at Anderson & Fitzjarrald in Champaign.
J. Thomas Shaw ’88 is an author who released the book The RX Factor earlier this year. He and his wife are the parents of two children and reside in Alpine, California.

James Ambrose ’89 has been named senior account executive for strategic sourcing for Trillium Solutions Group. He resides in Huntley.

Cynthia L. Taylor, Ed.D. ’89 has retired from her position as a professor of therapeutically oriented art education at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina. She is now doing book illustrations, works with autistic children and adults with early onset blindness, and writes a column for parents of children with reading and learning needs. She resides in Vilas, North Carolina.

90s

Scott Chriske ’91 began his career in the financial services industry in 1993. He has joined Virtus Investment Partners as a member of the sales team, serving as the regional director of the Southeast. He resides in Jupiter, Florida.

Bob Navarro ’91, M.S. ’93, Ph.D. ’02, is president and CEO of the Heritage Corridor Convention and Visitors Bureau. He served as the volunteer chair of the 25th annual Illinois Governor’s Conference on Tourism held earlier this year. He is a member of Illinois State’s Alumni Advisory Council. He resides in Plainfield.

Christina Isabelli ’92 has been promoted to the rank of professor at Illinois Wesleyan University, where she teaches Hispanic studies. She completed a doctorate in Ibero-romance philology and linguistics at the University of Texas-Austin. She resides in Bloomington.

Joel Martin ’92 earned his master’s at Governors State University and is completing a doctorate in education at Lewis University. He has been named the assistant superintendent for human resources with Park Ridge-Niles School District 64. He previously served as a principal and middle school social studies teacher. He resides in Mount Prospect.

Networking in nation’s capital

Kevan Carpenter ’12 was among the first students to complete ISU’s Washington, D.C. Internship Program. While completing his senior year in construction management, Carpenter interned with the American Road & Transportation Builders Association. His work included researching bridge preservation techniques and observing Congressional hearings. Carpenter, center, posed with fellow Redbirds, Darren Beck ’11, left, and Matthew Tomlin ’12.

Julie (Musselman) Oost ’93, M.S. ’97, is an economist for Kelley Drye & Warren LLP. She previously worked as a senior policy analyst at the Illinois Commerce Commission. She and her husband, Kevin, are the parents of triplets. Liam, Noah, and Izaac were born in January of 2012. They reside in Mokena.

Linda Berg ’94 teaches fifth grade at Scott Teays Elementary School in Scott Depot, West Virginia. A National Board Certified teacher, she has been named a Scott Teays Teacher of the Year and has been featured on the cover of The Reading Professor, a journal published by the International Reading Association. She resides in Fraziers Bottom, West Virginia.

Kristen McQuerey ’95 completed a master’s degree at the University of Illinois-Springfield. She spent 13 years as a political columnist for the Sun Times, Southtown Star, and most recently covered state government jointly for the Chicago News Cooperative and Chicago Public Media WBEZ-FM. She has been named to the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune. She resides in Chicago.

Lisa Ramsby ’95 has been named the executive director of Rock River Chapter of the American Red Cross in Rockford. She previously worked at the YMCA for 11 years, including as the executive director of the Big Brothers/Big Sisters program. She resides in Winnebago.

Brent Roberts ’95 is senior manager of communications at Appraisal Institute. He and his wife, Sara (Silverton) ’95, are the parents of two children and reside in Mundelein.

Ana Lalley ’96 completed a master’s degree from Loyola University. She has been with the Elgin Police Department since 1996 and has been promoted to lieutenant. She serves on the patrol division. She resides in Elgin.

Candice Swift, M.S. ’96, Ed.D. ’04, has been named principal of Clinton High School. She previously served as principal of Canton High School. She resides in Canton.

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00s

Dani Maxwell ’00 is a broadcast journalist who won a Silver Dome Award from the Illinois Broadcasters Association and was a finalist for an Emmy for reporting on the McHenry County College. His work includes both functional and sculptural ceramics. He resides in Crystal Lake.

Tom Vician, M.F.A. ’02, is a ceramic artist who is on the faculty of McHenry County College. His work includes both functional and sculptural ceramics. He resides in Roscoe.

Dave Witzig, M.S. ’00, teaches social studies and is the boys basketball coach at Normal Community High School. He was named the Illinois State Coach of the Year in Boys Basketball by the National Federation of State High Schools for 2010-2011. He resides in Normal.

Michael Knight ’01 is an assistant state’s attorney in the juvenile Justice Bureau within the Cook County State’s Attorney’s office. He and his wife, Christie, reside in Aurora.

Hayoung Lim, M.M. ’01, is an assistant professor and coordinator of the graduate program in music therapy at Sam Houston State University in Huntsville, Texas.

Lisa Patterson ’01 is a marketing manager for Wintrust Wealth Management, which is headquartered in Chicago.

Rob Rose ’01 has been named assistant principal for athletics and activities at Bolingbrook High School. He previously served as assistant director of the unit at the high school. He has been a member of the driver education department and coached football during his tenure at the high school. He will serve as athletic director for 23 interscholastic athletic programs in his new position. He resides in Naperville.

Jacob Hubert ’02 completed a master’s in educational administration from Eastern Illinois University. A veteran of service in the Illinois Army National Guard, he has been named principal at North Boone High School. He has taught math and coaches high school football, baseball, and girls basketball. He resides in Roscoe.

Tom Holbrook ’03 earned a master’s in performing arts administration from New York University. He worked for the producer and general manager of the Broadway productions of The Phantom of the Opera and Les Misérables. He is the production accountant for the Lyric Opera of Chicago, where he resides.

Matthew Dougherty ’04 completed his juris doctorate at Washington and Lee University. He worked as an attorney in Springfield before being named assistant chief counsel at the Illinois Department of Transportation earlier this year. He resides in Chatham.

Jason Mackinson ’04 is an industrial arts teacher at Gibson City-Melvin-Sibley High School. He and his wife, Kimberly, were married in March of 2012. They reside in Gibson City.

Dirk Monk ’04 is employed at Irrigation Services Plus. He and his wife, Lisa, were married in December of 2011. They reside in Hurley, South Dakota.

Fred M. Anthony ’05 is completing a master’s degree program in inner city studies at Northeastern University. He is a substitute teacher and resides in Chicago.

Jaymie (Willbarger) Gelino ’05 is a senior financial analyst at Jones Lang LaSalle. She and her husband, Brian, were married in November of 2011. They reside in Schaumburg.

Kevin Olesen ’05 completed a master’s degree in educational leadership at Western Illinois University. He teaches graphic design, digital photography, and art at Ottawa Township High School. He is the art club sponsor and helps coach the boys tennis team. He resides in Ottawa.

Ashley M. (Archibee) Douglas ’06 is a financial advisor for Edward Jones. She and her husband, Michael, were married in July of 2011. They reside in Carlinville.

Kris Lutt, M.B.A. ’06, has been named president of Golden Peanut Company, which is held by ADM. He resides in Decatur.

Jill (Pierard) Olson ’06 completed a master’s in education from Southern Illinois University. She has been named coordinator of Student Life at Carl Sandburg College in Galesburg.

Kathryn Sokolowski ’06 completed a LSBSI endorsement from Roosevelt University. She is a special education teacher at Joliet Central High School, where she teaches U.S. history and world affairs. She received the Joliet Area Great Teachers Award from the Joliet Region Chamber of Commerce and Industry this year. She resides in Chicago.

Lauren Strnad ’06 is completing a doctorate in the School of Medicine at Washington University. She is an occupational therapist and resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Emily (Stahl) Cuddy ’08 is employed by Rock Run Family Dentistry. She and her husband, Robert ’06, were married in August of 2011. He is employed by First Midwest Bank. They reside in Plainfield.


Kimberly Reynolds ’08 is a teacher and advisor of Girls Involved in Real Life Situations (G.I.R.L.S.) at Elks Grove High School. The program targets first-generation, college-bound female students. She resides in Schaumburg.

Nicole (Shelby) Melander ’09, M.S. ’10, is an assurance associate with CliftonLarsonAllen LLP in Champaign. She has obtained her CPA license. She resides in Savoy.

Meredith (Skaggs) Phillips ’09 works at Skyward. She and her husband, Michael, were married in September of 2011. They reside in Normal.

10s

Corey Ansfield, M.S. ’11, is the assistant athletics director for annual giving at Utah State University. He previously worked in ticket operations at Illinois State and as a development assistant at the University of Nevada at Las Vegas.

Sara (Schmitt) Robson ’11 is an on-site house supervisor with Marceil. First. She was married in October of 2011. She and her husband reside in Bloomington.

Cassandra (Rice) Torrez ’11 is an associate software engineer at Accenture. She and her husband, Joshua, were married in January of 2012. They reside in Chicago.

Our troops

Jason W. Hitch ’01 is a 2nd Lieutenant with the National Guard. He has graduated from basic combat training at Fort Benning in Columbus, Georgia. He has also graduated from Officer Candidate School at Fort McClellan in Anniston, Alabama. He is assigned to the Forward Support Company, 766th Engineer Battalion, in Decatur.

Brad Lauer, M.S. ’05, served in the Marines for 22 years. He has completed an M.B.A. at Northern Illinois University and is an area vice president of Securitas Security Services USA. He resides in Naperville.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Scott E. Blankenship, College of Education; 3/12
Eileen M. Brand, Registrars Office; 3/12
John A. Capasso, Milner Library; 12/11
Three easy ways to submit your information

1) Go online to www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/news and click on “class notes.” Information submitted using this method will also be posted online.

2) Email your news to sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.

3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100.

Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by email at alumni@IllinoisState.edu.
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Update your information online at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/myinfo

Name (including maiden)          Graduation year(s)

Major(s)                          Degree(s)

Mailing address

City                              State                Zip

Home phone                        Cell phone            Email address

Professional title or position    Employer

City                              State                Zip

Work phone                        Work email address

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

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

Signature (required)

Return to: Illinois State University, Donor and Information Services
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Join the network

Alumni seeking work appreciate opportunities to meet with employers at career fairs offered by the Career Center in communities and on campus. Go online to learn of upcoming events and to see postings through the center's E-Recruiting site.

CareerCenter.IllinoisState.edu  |  (309) 438-2200
Facebook: CareerCenter.IllinoisState.edu/facebook
Thanks to you

Financial assistance for veterans was one reason James Sprague became an Army Reservist. He enrolled in sports management at Illinois State confident he could cover expenses because of his military service.

But as Sprague discovered while a freshman, GI Bill funding did not eliminate all financial worries. He realized at the start of the semester that he did not have the cash needed to buy textbooks.

“I ran into a situation where my money didn’t come in on time,” he said. “The GI bill gives me a monthly stipend. I needed three or four books right off the bat, and I was going to be four to five weeks short before that stipend came in.”

Staff at ISU’s Veterans Services referred Sprague to the Financial Aid Office, where he was helped through the Student Assistance Fund. Established by an alumnus who remains anonymous, the emergency account helps students meet an unexpected expense—from traveling home for a family funeral to covering Sprague’s textbook bill.

The Student Assistance Fund is just one example of what makes Illinois State a special place for Sprague. The fact ISU is very supportive of veterans has reinforced that he made the right decision.

Sprague appreciates the staff at Veterans Services and is grateful for the support of a donor whose investment in an emergency fund removed a major obstacle from his collegiate path.

You can make a difference by providing financial support to students. Make a contribution online at IllinoisState.edu/giving, call (309) 438-8041, or send an email to jdhutch@IllinoisState.edu.
A sign of the season

As another academic year begins, the campus community anticipates fall traditions that include football games and performances by the Big Red Marching Machine. Both will be a highlight of this year’s Homecoming weekend. Turn to page 30 for details of the annual October events.