Illinois State President Larry Dietz has no doubt the University is moving from better to best.
Students generally settle into their residence hall or campus apartment with great expectations, realizing that the University experience will change their lives. The incoming freshmen and transfer students starting at Illinois State this academic year certainly arrived with energy and enthusiasm in anticipation of writing a new chapter in their lives.

As young adults embarking on a journey of independence and exploration, all college students expect growth will come primarily through the classroom. They are, understandably, focused on earning a degree, which is crucial to opening doors in their chosen profession.

What most do not realize is how significantly they will evolve personally as a result of the all-encompassing Illinois State experience. From my own days of completing three degrees to my many years as a higher education professor and administrator, I know students soar because unexpected moments of opportunity and awareness emerge from campus life events that occur not only within the classroom but beyond.

I am privileged to be part of a university that provides a stimulating, rewarding and life-changing experience for students. As you know from your own years as a Redbird, Illinois State creates those life-changing opportunities.

Within our supportive campus framework, students engage in leadership roles, community service and in activities that instill confidence while they broaden their perspectives.

All of us on campus work diligently to ensure that the University’s many academic units and administrative areas continue to work collaboratively to sustain the ISU experience.

We use our time, talents and resources to advance ISU, realizing the responsibility of continuing the legacy of a caring campus that our alumni have experienced since 1857. The challenge is one that I find invigorating and humbling, as I work with the faculty, staff and other stakeholders to help mold and empower the next generation.

Larry Dietz
President, Illinois State University
FEATURES

8 Paradigm shift
Diversity is hard to find in America’s legal system, be it in law firms or courtrooms. Minority youth are consequently not likely to even consider such a career. Changing this dynamic is the goal of Melinda Benson ’09 and her colleagues at a legal prep school in one of Chicago’s most violent neighborhoods.

12 Pleased to be president
With 40 years in higher education, Larry Dietz is experienced and eager to lead Illinois State. Just months into his role as the University’s 19th president, he has already fulfilled his first promise to the campus community—to work with the same dedicated service and optimistic outlook he provided while vice president of Student Affairs.

18 Golden connection
Finding ways to stay active and contribute can be a struggle for retirees, especially those who enjoy interacting with young adults. ISU provides such an opportunity through Senior Professionals. The program has paired individuals across generations the past 25 years, creating another powerful and personal touch for students preparing to launch.

22 Remembering turbulent times
Illinois State’s image as a quiet campus was shattered 30 years ago when students protested a city ordinance that restricted keg purchases and mass gatherings. It took police force and tear gas to restrain the crowd that damaged Normal property in what has since been known as the “beer riot.”

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What’s trending on STATEside
- Circus alum appears on America’s Got Talent
- Illinois State campus dining photos, then and now
- Triplets graduate from ISU on the same day

Read these stories and more at IllinoisState.edu/STATEside.

On the cover: Larry Dietz shoulders the responsibilities of the presidency with a contagious smile and a positive attitude, both of which energize the campus.
The U.S. Department of State is interested in John Kostelnick’s work. The associate professor of geography and his ISU team are improving map symbols used by humanitarian relief organizations worldwide to communicate critical information during natural disasters and human conflicts.

The project involves a survey to identify mapping challenges relief organizations face. Input has been received from United Nations offices, USAID, and the International Red Cross. The team’s goal is to develop a best practices guide.

“There is so much geographic information available today from satellites, social media, and many other sources,” Kostelnick said. “However, we need better ways to visualize all this information on maps for effective crisis-response activities. It is vital for those who respond to crisis situations to have a clear idea of what they are facing.”

Kostelnick began work on humanitarian mapping projects in graduate school by developing map icons to symbolize landmine clearance activities. He worked with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining.

“Our group supported those who created the maps to remove the landmines,” he said. Doing so required knowing cultural differences. “Not every culture sees red as danger. We had to come up with symbols that would work for everyone.” The team developed symbols that were versatile to be effective in situations that are literally life or death.

Kostelnick also dealt with emergency management mapping in Illinois. Another ISU team developed a Web mapping system to assist the Illinois Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management agencies with disaster response mapping. Such mobile mapping systems are key to humanitarian mapping.

“Getting help to people in times of disaster or crisis is the ultimate goal,” he said, “whether that’s responding to tornadoes in our local communities, or an earthquake on the other side of the world.”

Mapping for humanity
Professor’s work helps protect global relief workers

University News

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National grant advances work on cancer research

A $362,500 grant from the National Institutes of Health will advance research into the link between genetics and cancer. The work, done by Associate Biology Professor Erik Larson and his students, examines certain human genes prone to damage.

“There is a normal process in all of our cells that protects against DNA alterations,” Larson said. “When that pathway is gone or disrupted, people are predisposed to getting certain types of cancer.”

Certain genes encode for signals that tell cells when to divide. When damaged they are called oncogenes, which signal cells to proliferate out of control. Cells continue dividing, resulting in tumors.

Larson is researching how normal repair processes function with genetically unstable oncogenes to identify how cells repair damage in those specific gene regions.

“Understanding the shared characteristics of unstable oncogenes helps us understand why good genes sometimes turn bad,” Larson said. The ultimate goal is to determine how a range of unrelated cancers develop from normal tissue.

Businessweek puts COB in nation’s top programs

The College of Business is ranked 95th nationally in the 2014 Bloomberg Businessweek Best Undergraduate Business Schools rankings. This marks the fifth year in a row that the College of Business has been ranked by the publication.

“One of the guiding principles of the Educating Illinois strategic plan is to prepare students to be informed and engaged global citizens, and an experience studying abroad is instrumental in this preparation,” President Larry Dietz said.

Through its newly adopted International Strategic Plan (2014-2018), Illinois State is enhancing the development and promotion of international education opportunities. More than 400 Illinois State students go abroad to 60 countries annually. Illinois State offers more than 90 programs through the University, with additional study abroad opportunities through several organizations.

Focus on doubling international studies

Illinois State seeks to double the number of undergraduate students who study abroad over the next five years. The University joined the Institute of International Education’s (IIE) Generation Study Abroad initiative, which aims to double the number of American students studying abroad by the end of the decade.

Generation Study Abroad is engaging educators and public and private sector stakeholders to get thousands more U.S. students involved in academic study abroad programs, international internships, and service learning opportunities and noncredit educational experiences around the world. IIE has dedicated $2 million to the initiative over the next five years.

ISU center develops grade school classes

Mathematics and science STEM curriculum materials developed at the University may soon be used in elementary school classrooms in California, Texas, Florida and Georgia.

The Creative Core Curriculum Mathematics K-5 with Literacy and STEM, developed by the Center for Mathematics, Science and Technology (CeMaST) in partnership with TPS Publishing and Alpha Graphics, has been approved for use in school districts in those states.

“This is the first time that our curriculum materials have been approved for use in those states, and that’s a very

Kristen Gianaris, a 2013 sociology graduate, left, completed a study abroad experience as an undergraduate. She posed with friends while in Taiwan, where she completed courses at National Chengchi University.
Where are they now?

Jack Chizmar arrived at ISU in 1971, having completed his doctorate at Boston College. A native of Pennsylvania, he headed to the Midwest because Illinois State was the best of five job offers.

Chizmar joined the Department of Economics, teaching economic history before shifting to quantitative classes. For 10 years he worked with students from undergraduate to the Doctor of Arts level.

“I loved being in front of the classroom. When the light bulb goes off for a student, that is an awesome moment,” shared Chizmar, who was a recipient of the University Teaching Award.

He shifted to the administrative side, taking on College of Arts and Sciences program review work before moving to the Provost’s office to handle program review for the University. He became associate vice president for Business and Finance before serving as an assistant to President Thomas Wallace in charge of planning and resource management.

“I enjoyed meeting so many people from all over campus and working together to achieve university goals,” Chizmar said. After a decade, he was ready to return to his teaching roots. He dedicated another 10 years to teaching statistics and undergraduate econometrics before retiring in 2002.

“My joke on opening day was ‘Welcome to economic sadistics,’” he said, adding that he also told his students “there would be no crying in statistics.”

A scholar in the economics of education, Chizmar’s research garnered national recognition. His Illinois State legacy lives on through the Dr. John Chizmar-Dr. Anthony Ostrosky Endowment, which funds an economics student and a university-wide Scholarship in Teaching and Learning faculty award.

Still living in Normal, Chizmar enjoys golfing, reading, and gardening. He and his wife, Linda, delight in being grandparents.

To reconnect with Chizmar, send an email to jfchizma@ilstu.edu.

Exciting step for us. California, Texas, Florida and Georgia are huge markets,” CeMaST Director Willy Hunter said.

Three years of work went into developing the K-5 mathematics curriculum, tailoring it to Common Core and specific state education standards.

The development of STEM curricula for elementary and secondary schools is an integral part of the CeMaST mission. Through scholarship and education partnerships, the center has built a national reputation for developing and supporting successful projects and activities around STEM education.

National praise for ISU sustainability efforts

Illinois State has been recognized for its environmental responsibility and commitment to sustainability by inclusion in The Princeton Review’s Guide to 332 Green Colleges: 2014 Edition. The publication profiles colleges and universities that demonstrate a notable commitment to sustainability in academic offerings, campus infrastructure, activities and career preparation. Schools were chosen based on a survey conducted in 2013 of administrators at hundreds of four-year colleges across the U.S. and Canada.

The guide highlights Illinois State’s energy conservation and alternative transportation initiatives, recycling program, and wellness and environmental programming. The University’s Center for Renewable Energy and its interdisciplinary renewable energy major are also prominently mentioned.

Admissions director set to meet class targets

Jeff Mavros, M.S. ’06, was named director of Admissions during the spring semester. He will play a key role in leading the University toward its enrollment targets for undergraduate and graduate students, as well as international and transfer student cohorts.

“He will lead the student recruitment and admissions operations, using Illinois State’s strengths to attract and enroll high-achieving, diverse and motivated students,” said Troy Johnson, associate vice president of Enrollment Management.

“We’re in a very competitive recruiting environment with a declining number of high school graduates in the Midwest. There are a lot of choices for these students.”

Mavros completed a master’s in developmental psychology at ISU. He began his admissions career at Illinois Wesleyan University after graduating from there in 1998. He also worked in advancement there, becoming director of that university’s annual fund.
**Nursing grads continue with stellar exam record**

Graduates of Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) achieved a 97 percent pass rate on the national nursing licensure examination (NCLEX-RN) for 2013, even in the face of increasingly stringent standards.

Illinois State continues to exceed both the state and national averages, which dropped from last year. The national passing rate fell from 90 percent to 83, while the state of Illinois rate dropped from 91 to 85 percent.

“Is it a tribute to our dedicated faculty and staff, as well as amazing students, that MCN pass rates remain so strong,” said Interim Provost Janet Krejci. “The number of MCN graduates who pass the licensure exam the first time is due to their tireless work and belief in the ideals of healing others.”

Over the past five years, MCN graduates have exceeded the state and national averages for the NCLEX-RN, as reported by the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation in the governor’s office.

**Two ISU students named Goldwater scholars**

Illinois State University student Samantha Norris is the recipient of a 2014-2015 Barry M. Goldwater Scholarship. A sophomore from East Peoria, she is one of 283 national winners from a field of 1,166.

The physics and mathematics double major received a two-year scholarship up to a maximum of $7,500 per year to cover the cost of tuition, fees, books, and room and board.

A Presidential Scholar in the Honors Program, she is conducting research in the Physics Department with Distinguished Professor Rainer Grobe and University Professor Q. Charles Su.

Senior Tyler Malone of Farmer City was named a Goldwater Scholarship Honorable Mention. A senior who is also a Presidential Scholar in the Honors Program, Malone is majoring in biological sciences and mathematics.

The scholarship program honors Senator Barry Goldwater and is the premier undergraduate award for students pursuing careers in math, natural sciences, and engineering.

To the Editor,

I was pleased to see in the February 2014 issue the article concerning ISU’s support of veterans (“ISU among nation’s best in support of veterans”).

I enlisted in the Army for three years in 1953, mainly to qualify for the GI Bill. I entered ISNU in September 1956, graduated in August 1958, and taught 20 years in Illinois.

My military service, two night classes at another university’s overseas program, some proficiency tests, and two Army schools gave me a number of credit hours. I took a heavy load and attended summer schools.

I do not remember any veteran’s office as such back then, but I do recall the outstanding help the administration gave me in evaluating my various credits.

Retired U.S. Army Col. David Olson ’58

To the Editor,

The article in the alumni magazine on one-room schools is excellent (Feb. 2014). I do have a strong bias in favor of anything having to do with one-room schools. I never attended one, although an increasing number of people would probably say they thought I was old enough to have taught in one.

What makes the article exceptional, I think, is that you were able to interview those former teachers. Who knew anyone was still around who taught in a one-room school? That makes it much more than just a good article. I think it makes it an important article that deserves a wider audience even than the ISU alumni magazine has.

It amazes me that there is a one-room school on campus. I never knew that. Next time I get back to Illinois, I’m going to try to get in and see it.

Thanks for an excellent piece of work.

English Professor Emeritus Gerald Savage
Head football coach Brock Spack has reason to eagerly anticipate the upcoming football season. He and his staff brought to Illinois State the top recruiting class in the nation in the Football Championship Subdivision (FCS).

A total of 24 student-athletes committed to continue their collegiate and athletic careers at the University. The group of signees includes four receivers and linebackers each, three tight ends and defensive ends, two running backs, two safeties, two offensive linemen and one quarterback, a fullback, defensive back and safety. They are from Illinois, Wisconsin, Missouri, Indiana, Texas, Louisiana, and Nebraska.

“We feel this is a very good, deep class with quality players at every position,” Spack said. “This group is used to winning, with several players from state championship winning programs, and it is a very smart class in terms of their performance in the classroom. I am very comfortable with this group and feel we had a great recruiting year.”

Illinois State will open the 2014 campaign Saturday, September 6, when it hosts Southwestern Athletic Conference member Mississippi Valley State at Hancock Stadium. The gridiron matchup will be the first between the Redbirds and the Delta Devils. It is one of seven home games, which pleases Spack.

“That’s big for us because we have a great facility to play in. Our home fans make this a great place to play for us and a tough venue to play in for our opponents. We haven’t had that many games at home since we’ve been here as a staff, and it will be nice for our players to experience that kind of schedule. Last year we only had five home games, partly because of the construction schedule, so it will be nice for our fans to have seven to watch this year at home.”

Be a part of this year’s season. Get tickets online at GoRedbirds.com or by calling (309) 438-8000.
New attitude, same benefits.

Check out our new look where you can still buy tickets, shop, and do all things ISU. Visit the new...

GoRedbirds.com

Soccer standout captures MVC honor

Anna Stinson ’14 was named the female recipient of the Missouri Valley Conference Dr. Charlotte West Award. She is the third female Redbird to earn the honor and the fifth overall.

West was integral for more than 40 years in advancing women’s sports. The honor recognizes academic achievement, athletics excellence, service and leadership. Stinson was selected from a field of league student-athletes.

A driving force for the Redbird soccer team, Stinson was part of the first postseason victory for the program in school history with a 2013 NCAA win over Louisville. She was a four-time All-Missouri Valley performer and recognized nationally as a Senior CLASS Award finalist. The Michigan native was also an MVC All-Tournament Team honoree and a Valley All-Freshman Team selection. Stinson leaves the program ranked fourth all-time with 19 assists.

Academically Stinson was a three-time recipient of the Elite 18 Award, which is given to the individual with the highest grade-point average at a Valley championship. She was also a three-time MVC Scholar-Athlete honoree and a three-time Capital One/CoSIDA Academic All-District choice.

Illinois State will host soccer championship

After winning three consecutive MVC tournament titles, the Redbirds have an opportunity to defend their home field during this season’s Valley championship. For the first time in program history, the Missouri Valley Conference Women’s Soccer Championship will be held at Illinois State. The competition is scheduled for November. Call (309) 438-8000 for more information, or go to GoRedbirds.com.

Valley All-Sports record extended with past season

Illinois State continued its winning streak by finishing in the top three of the Missouri Valley Conference All-Sports standings. The Redbirds placed third behind Wichita State and Indiana State in the final ranking. ISU has finished first, second, or third in 24 of the past 24 years for a total of 12 all-sports crowns.

Athletics extends thanks to local community

A week-long show of appreciation from the Illinois State Athletics Department to Bloomington-Normal citizens was held in June, as several Community Appreciation Week events were hosted by Athletics.

Festivities were planned to give back to members of the community, who give so much support to the Redbirds throughout the year. Reggie, the cheerleading squad, student-athletes and coaches made several appearances at local restaurants and businesses throughout the week, which ended with a free screening of the award-winning animated hit feature Frozen at Redbird Arena. Fans settled in to enjoy free popcorn and drinks during the movie.

Athletes maintain academic excellence

Every year the NCAA releases an Academic Progress Rate (APR) report, which provides a clear picture of academic performance by measuring eligibility and graduation and retention rates for each team. All of Illinois State’s 15 sports equaled or exceeded the national average for public universities in their sport.

“Our coaches, academic advisors, and other administrative staff provide a quality support structure that assists our many student-athletes to achieve their academic goals and to graduate.” Senior Associate Director of Athletics for Compliance and Student Services Cindy Harris said.

Among the Redbird squads, eight earned perfect single-year APR scores for 2012-2013, including men’s and women’s golf, men’s tennis, women’s cross country, women’s indoor and outdoor track and field, softball and volleyball. With perfect multi-year APR scores of 1,000, the golf squads ranked in the top 10 percent of their respective sports and earned NCAA Public Recognition Awards for achievement.
TIPPING THE SCALES
ISU ALUMS GUIDE
INNER-CITY SCHOOL
WITH LEGAL FOCUS

BY RYAN DENHAM
The glaring lack of minority attorneys in the United States is a big, complicated problem—one that critics say has created a justice system that’s not so just for clients of color.

How do we solve it? Melinda Benson’s high school English class is a good place to start.

The 2009 Illinois State alumna teaches at Legal Prep Charter Academy, a unique charter school on Chicago’s west side where the law and legal concepts are infused throughout the curriculum. In addition to special programs that regularly bring Benson’s inner-city students to downtown law firms for field trips, the school’s legal focus reaches into daily coursework, where classes such as Literature and the Law take a new path to old classics.

All this is being done in one of the most troubled and violent neighborhoods in Chicago, West Garfield Park, where Legal Prep opened in fall 2012. It’s a part of the city where children and their families most often intersect with the justice system in criminal court—not through a Tale of Two Cities.

“I see these kids connecting with literature that they’d never come into contact with otherwise,” said Benson, an English teacher education grad who grew up in Algonquin. “They’re talking about it with each other, they’re asking questions, and they just love it. That’s the coolest part.”

Legal Prep is now entering its third year, and Benson has been there from Day 1. Even more important than bolstering diversity at American law firms, Legal Prep’s No. 1 goal is to send 100 percent of its students to college and see them succeed there—no easy task when you consider some of Benson’s sophomore English students arrive in her classroom reading at a fifth-grade level.

The open-enrollment charter school, which now has more than 300 freshmen, sophomores, and juniors, was founded by Sam Finkelstein, a lawyer and teacher. Finkelstein’s school has the support of some of Chicago’s most influential law firms and companies, with a board of directors and advisory board stacked with practicing attorneys.

Their involvement is at the core of Legal Prep’s secondary mission: to increase diversity in the legal profession. In 2012, more than 88 percent of licensed lawyers in the U.S. were white, according to American Bar Association research, far more than the general population.

“For our legal partners, that’s a huge reason why they’re involved,” said Finkel-
of high expectations to a community where quality education options are lacking.

In addition to special classes like Criminal Law and Procedure, the law trickles down even to LaShawn Baclig’s math courses. The 1991 ISU business grad, who later earned her master’s in education, said her students learn to apply reasoning, debate, and negotiating skills as they prove answers and explain how they got there.

Crossover skills like those also come into play during a schoolwide program each year that sends students to law firms all around the city—one year to do mock trial, the next to practice the art of negotiation with real lawyers.

“That allows students to see how they can settle disagreements without harsh words, without harsh criticism, in a more logical, calm manner,” said Baclig, who travels with her students on the field trips.

The students come with a unique set of challenges for Baclig, Benson, and the other 15 teachers and staff members. More than 90 percent are from low-income homes. Many struggle with severe emotional and social issues that keep the school’s full-time social worker and two interns busy.

With so many students from troubled homes, Benson sometimes has to balance a dual role between teacher and parent. If one of her students is sleepy in class one day, and it’s unusual for them, she’ll ask about what’s going on at home before resorting to punitive measures.

“That’s been a challenge, but it’s one of my favorite parts of the job,” said Benson, who is harnessing her ISU teacher training. She is now taking a leadership role at Legal Prep and coaching her newer colleagues. Her lesson plans are “impeccable,” as is her classroom management, said Finkelstein.

“I think she’s extremely talented, but she clearly received some great training,” he said, praising Baclig’s work as well. “If we could clone them several times over, we’d fill our entire staff.”

Current Illinois State students are equally impressed with the work being done at Legal Prep Charter Academy. Senior Muriel Dorsey, who is president of the Law Club and plans to be an attorney, grew up in the Austin neighborhood, right next door to West Garfield Park.

For Dorsey, the school’s concept makes a lot of sense—especially because it’s teaching valuable critical thinking skills, not just vocational skills like her inner-city high school did.

Dorsey, who is black, said many people in her old neighborhood—even her own relatives—are affected by a legal system they don’t fully (or even partially) understand. And even in Bloomington-Normal, where Dorsey completed two internships at the local courthouse, there is a demographic

“More people of color really need to get into the legal field, because you’d start to tip the scales a little bit.”

Legal Prep’s founder and CEO Sam Finkelstein, left, is an attorney himself. His staff includes math teacher LaShawn Baclig, right, a 1991 business alum.
disconnect between those trying to navigate the justice system and those trained to represent them.

“More people of color really need to get into the legal field, because you’d start to tip the scales a little bit,” she said. “This system that we love and think is so equal and fair is really not.”

Dorsey plans to start law school in fall 2015, preferably in Washington, D.C., to pursue public policy. It was daunting, at first, to discover the lack of diversity in her chosen field. She is optimistic that Legal Prep will help create a much-needed “new wave of attorneys” of color, by giving students the critical thinking and other skills needed to score well on the LSAT and stand out among law school applicants.

“It’s just really going to put those kids a step ahead of what I wish I would’ve had,” said Dorsey, a sociology major with minors in women’s and gender studies and African-American studies.

Julie Jones ’90 understands Dorsey’s sentiments. When Jones finished law school in Atlanta, she was the only black female in her graduating class. Two decades later, she reports the needle hasn’t moved much on diversity and the law.

A member of the Illinois State’s Alumni Association board of directors and the Attorneys Advisory Board, Jones now works in private practice doing estate planning, real estate, and some consumer law. Her job sometimes takes her into Cook County probate court, where she finds the overwhelming majority of those using the court are people of color, and most attorneys are white men.

Similarly, Jones’ estate planning clients who are black bring with them some “unique cultural ideas about … how we take care of our seniors,” she said.

“Being an attorney of color, that’s something that doesn’t have to be explained to you,” Jones said. “When clients have attorneys with similar backgrounds, and similar cultural perspectives, it helps the clients to be more relaxed. That helps you provide a better level of service.”

People need to know more about the law, and at an earlier age, so that the legal system isn’t so intimidating for them later in life, she said. Legal Prep can go a long way toward tipping the scales.

“It’s an absolutely fabulous idea,” she said.

More than 300 students now attend Legal Prep, where Benson has taught since opening day.
ROOTED in SERVICE

Presidency caps a career of care and nurture

by Susan Marquardt Blystone
From a childhood spent working on the family farm to his career in public higher education as a professor and administrator, Larry Dietz has made a lifelong commitment to facilitating growth. His new role as Illinois State University’s 19th president positions him to continue a pattern of service, with his focus steadfastly on empowering students to reach their potential.

The transition to the presidency occurred in March and was seamless for Dietz, who was already immersed in the Illinois State community and connected to the student body through his role as vice president of Student Affairs.

Preparation for the position began long before his arrival at ISU in 2011, as he held leadership roles at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU), Iowa State University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dietz is also quick to add his upbringing on a dairy farm to that list as well, noting he learned many valuable life lessons from his boyhood days.

“A farm background teaches you a lot,” Dietz said, “starting with the value of hard work. You work until the job gets done.” That often meant pushing through distaste for a given task or fatigue. Dietz helped care for the cows, chickens and hogs early in the morning before heading off for school. There were additional chores to be done after classes ended.

“I learned responsibility, how to work within a productive unit, and to be an optimist with faith in the future,” Dietz said, reflecting on how little a farmer controls, especially the weather. Given the opportunity to purchase, raise, and sell his own cattle, Dietz had his first taste of money management and business matters as well.

“I had a terrific childhood,” he said, noting he and his older brother still own the 163 acres of land in southern Illinois that has belonged to the family since 1863. With that legacy from his father’s ancestors and his mother’s work as a first grade teacher for 40 years, Dietz weighed the option of farmer or educator and chose the latter path when he finished high school.

He completed a bachelor’s in political science at SIU, barely scraping together enough money to finish the degree. Scholarships helped, yet he didn’t have the dollars needed for law school.

“I kept waiting for my ship to come in, but it never even came close to the dock,” Dietz said, displaying a wit that is appreciated by colleagues and students alike. His draft status of 1A as the Vietnam War raged made it difficult to find work, and a medical issue eliminated his idea of joining the Marines.

The closed doors instilled in him a humility that remains today. “I can relate to folks with roles at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale (SIU), Iowa State University, and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. Dietz is also quick to add his upbringing on a dairy farm to that list as well, noting he learned many valuable life lessons from his boyhood days.

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The closed doors instilled in him a humility that remains today. “I can relate to folks with
modest means and a life not yet figured out,” Dietz said. He counts those early struggles as a blessing, allowing him to discover his passion and purpose in higher education.

“I found out that if I worked at a university, I could go to graduate school for only $10 a quarter,” he said. After securing a financial aid advisor position at SIU, he began his graduate studies in higher education and student personnel.

The opportunity to take on even more responsibility in the financial aid office at Iowa State led Dietz to that campus, where he completed his master’s as well as a doctorate in higher education administration while working full-time at that university. He also began teaching while there, which further cemented his desire to keep in close contact with the student body.

“Students are the largest constituent by far of any institution and the most vibrant. We get an opportunity as faculty and staff, a special chance to help educate and mold generations of people,” he said, noting the added benefit of staying mentally young while keeping pace with students’ questions and discoveries.

“Look at what we do in education. We change lives. Who else gets to do that? That’s the reason we exist. I take that charge very seriously and I am humbled to be in a position where I am able to do that.”

Although not a professional goal when starting out, Dietz realized his desire to seek a presidency after more than a decade in Student Affairs at three universities, including ISU. He continued to teach in Illinois State’s College of Education as vice president, mentored students through his division’s leadership programs, and stood with hurting families as a university representative when students suffered through a crisis.

Expect the same dedication, effort, and commitment to personal contact from him as president.

“It’s all about service. That’s what is most important, not the title,” Dietz said. “I have always wanted to be of service to an organization I can feel good about and others value.”

Illinois State University certainly fits that description.

“People have a high regard for this institution and it is well deserved,” Dietz said. “People care about our values of pursuing learning and scholarship, individualized attention, integrity, diversity, and civic engagement.

“All we do is undergirded by scholarly creativity,” he added. “We know who we are and don’t want to be anything else but the best of who and what we are—a premier undergraduate institution.”

The University’s strategic plan, Educating Illinois, will continue to be the blueprint followed as Illinois State moves forward while standing on the mission and legacy created by the founders in 1857.

“Teaching, learning, service, scholarship and research are at the core of our mission. That mission allows us to attract outstanding faculty and staff, and motivated and engaged students to our campus community,” Dietz said. “This basic mission has been our foundation for 157 years and will endure as we meet the many challenges that come with change.”

Stating his determination and eagerness to lead Illinois State forward, Dietz sees his duty as one he has known since childhood: work hard, stay positive and be willing to grow.

“I’ve been working in higher education for 40 years. As president I’m still the same with my values, my drive, ambitions and willingness to work for others,” Dietz said.

He expects challenges. He knows there will be tough issues and trying moments. Still, he is more than ready and able to serve with a confidence that is energizing and motivational.

“We’ve been providing quality education since 1857 and we are going to continue to do that,” Dietz said. “I have been hired to look to the future, and it’s very bright.”
Graffiti encouraged
Since opening, Braden Auditorium has been part of a tradition taking place in venues around the world. Entertainers who grace the stages of Braden leave their mark in the dressing room by signing their names to the walls, ceiling, and even the clock. Bob Hope, Johnny Cash, Liberace, David Copperfield, Larry the Cable Guy, Pearl Jam, Smashing Pumpkins, and the Red Hot Chili Peppers are among the 700-plus acts who have entertained audiences at ISU.
Appreciating 25 years of Senior Professionals

We live in a society that celebrates youth, creating an unfortunate gulf between generations. Young adults still have much to learn. Those who have reached retirement age are still eager to engage and have a wealth of wisdom gained through a lifetime of experience to share.

Illinois State recognized long ago the desirability of bridging the gap between college students preparing to enter the workplace and individuals on the other end of the spectrum—those who dedicated decades to their chosen field before retirement. The two cohorts have been coming together for 25 years on the ISU campus through mentoring and lifelong learning programs offered by Senior Professionals.

Abby Ildefonso, a senior education major and an Honors student, has benefited directly as a result. She decided as a freshman to participate in the mentoring program. “If there is someone out there who is willing to share with me real-life experiences, why not? Any insight, especially at this age when we don’t know what we will do next, is helpful,” she said.

Ed Heerdt of Bloomington has been her mentor all four years. With a doctorate in chemical engineering and a 30-year career at Shell Oil, Heerdt has enjoyed the opportunity to share his academic and professional experience with Ildefonso. She in turn is grateful for the time he has invested on her behalf.

“He has given me a lot of advice about how to present myself, things I should have prepared, things to put on or leave off my resume, and mistakes made in interviews,” Ildefonso said. “He has been really, really helpful.”

The relationship has proven beneficial as well for Heerdt, who has mentored four students over 14 years. “It’s been delightful. Each has become like extended family,” said Heerdt, who joined Senior Professionals in 2000 because of the opportunity to continue lifelong learning.

“I’m a big believer in education. Formal education gets you started on the rest of your life,” Heerdt said. He soon became involved on committees and as a mentor. His goal is to establish an adult relationship with students while connecting them to the community and...
creating a safety net as they go forward toward graduation.

Those objectives have not changed much since the start of Senior Professionals, which began in 1989 through the efforts of College of Fine Arts Dean Emeritus Charles Bolen, who is deceased.

Under the directive of then President Thomas Wallace, Bolen explored the idea of creating a program for retirees to interact with ISU students. The plan proposed and accepted was founded on two primary goals: start a campus mentoring program for Honors students; and expand lifelong learning opportunities for retirees through classes that explore a range of topics without tests, written assignments, or course credit.

Initially under the College of Continuing Education umbrella with Bolen as the first director, Senior Professionals shifted to Professional Development and today continues as part of Conference Services. Geography-Geology Professor Emeritus James Carter leads the board of directors, partnering with ISU employee and program coordinator Laura Kowalczyk ’91, M.S. ’96.

At first organized so that members were considered adjunct faculty who underwent an extensive interview process, Senior Professionals now welcomes retired and semi-retired individuals from all backgrounds through a simple application and a $125 donation to ISU’s Foundation.

Only 39 of the current 167 members have a professional tie to Illinois State. Others come from diverse businesses and organizations, with those involved tied to fields ranging from social services and trades to volunteerism. Beyond educators there are lawyers, doctors, engineers, business owners, insurance professionals, and bankers in the group whose members range from age 60 to 92. And while most early members were men, women now account for slightly more than 40 percent of the total.

Members receive a discount when attending Mornings with the Professors or the Academy of Seniors. The morning series offers five weekly sessions on five varied topics with five different individuals leading the discussion. Topics explored this year have ranged from pharmaceutical chemistry and the drug market to why Korea does not have spelling bees.

In contrast, the Academy of Seniors has one presenter who covers one topic for four sessions, with each session lasting two hours. Three programs offered in the spring included globalization and the new world economy, the birth of modern America, and communicating in a diverse world. The classes have grown in popularity over the years, becoming yet another example of the strong town-gown relationship ISU has established.

Dan Leifel ’66, M.S. ’71, of Bloomington was introduced to Senior Professionals as a course instructor when asked to teach on the Revolutionary War years ago. “I ended up joining the organization,” said Leifel, who worked as a lawyer with Farm Bureau and COUNTRY Financial before retiring.

Since his membership in 2005, Leifel has been active as a board member, helped with career fairs, conducted mock interviews, and mentored a dozen...
students. He is currently partnered with senior psychology major Brianne Madden and freshman finance student Jacob Henderson.

Like his counterparts, Leifel enjoys the opportunity to learn and socialize, but is most enthusiastic about engaging with students as a mentor, which has been a cornerstone of the program since its start.

Bolen cemented a working partnership with the Honors Program, which is celebrating its 50th year. He chose the group because it was established on campus and students involved were already identified as having leadership potential.

The opportunity still exists for Honors students, who are paired with a Senior Professional based on their academic and career interests to the extent possible. They meet with their mentor throughout each semester for conversation, building a friendship that often lasts well beyond a student’s graduation.

Leifel has had the opportunity to help students find internships, connecting them with judges and other professionals from his days of practicing law. “It makes me feel good to open doors and share advice on their ideas,” he said, noting mentors do not serve as parents and are not tutors. They are instead a resource and friend—albeit one that is much older. “Students may be dealing with someone with white hair for the first time in their life,” he said with a laugh.

His wife, Paula (Esworthy) Leifel ’71, is also involved as a mentor who is happy to keep a connection to Illinois State. Her father, Ray Esworthy, served as ISU’s chief fiscal officer for years and was head of the accounting department as well. Paula has retired from a career as a reading specialist in Bloomington’s District 87 and is working with two students as well: sophomore Amy Hooymans and freshman Dyllyn Hennenfent.

Like others in the program, they enjoy participating in group activities that include an annual pizza party, fall sandwich supper, and a spring social. The spring event is unique in that three students are chosen to receive the Charles W. Bolen Award, which comes with $1,000 and recognizes not only Bolen’s legacy but students whose community service is outstanding. An endowment in Bolen’s name was established last year to help fund additional awards.

The fundraising is just one activity tied to the anniversary year, which will include several events celebrating the growth and success of Senior Professionals. Since the program’s start, members have expanded their influence beyond the mentoring by offering $1,000 grants as Service Learning Awards to Registered Student Organizations. This outreach allows the retirees to partner with ISU’s American Democracy Project, which promotes service learning and civic engagement.

Mock interviews are another avenue for participation. The group was enlisted in 1998 to help with this exercise, which became mandatory for all student-athletes during their junior year. Since then other departments have asked Senior Professionals for a similar service.

Other volunteer work includes joining ISU staff in welcoming students during orientation sessions at the start of the fall semester and operating a “first check booth” at career fairs. Members have been on hand since 2007 to help calm the nerves of students before they interact with recruiters. The retirees listen to students’ introductory pitches and do a wardrobe check that may require use of a Tide pen or lint roller, which are always on hand.

It’s the kind of help students appreciate and mentors are happy to provide. As the Leifels said with a sense of humor, involvement with students gives them something to talk about other than their physical ailments.

“These students could be our grandchildren,” Paula said, noting that she appreciates their help as well in figuring out her cell phone and computer glitches. “It’s just a wonderful way to connect to the current generation and keep from feeling that you have one foot in the grave.”

Editor’s note: Learn more about joining Senior Professionals by contacting Laura Kowalczyk at (309) 438-2818 or lakowa2@IllinoisState.edu. She also has information about events tied to the anniversary year.

Matched for mentoring
Watch video of an Honors student learning from her Senior Professionals’ mentor at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.
It started with an anonymous leaflet circulated around campus, calling for frustrated students to meet on the Quad on Wednesday night, October 3, 1984.

By the next morning, Illinois State University would become national news. Because what started as a small protest over new city laws restricting giant parties and drinking swelled into an angry, destructive mob. Hundreds of students marched from campus to Downtown Normal, throwing rocks, slashing tires, and facing off with a growing police force that used tear gas and riot gear to push back.

That night became known as the “beer riot,” and it’s still one of Illinois State’s most embarrassing episodes. It’s been 30 years since then, but it feels more like 300 given today’s thriving town-gown relationship between the University and its home.

Here’s a look back at what led to the beer riot and how deteriorating town-gown relations finally fractured, and then were healed, in the words of those who were there.

Photos courtesy of the McLean County Museum of History.
Various efforts to improve town-gown relations came up short, including Party Patrol, a unique student-police partnership. Reacting to years of complaints by neighbors, a divided Normal City Council voted in July 1984—while students were on summer break—to enact new ordinances restricting mass gatherings and the sale of beer kegs.

**RICHARD GODFREY ’55, M.S. ’90 | Normal mayor (1976-1985), also then-director of Institutional Advancement at Illinois State**

The seeds of the large off-campus beer parties in 1984 were planted 60 miles away when the state legislature in Springfield increased the legal drinking age for beer from 19 to 21. At the time, I protested the age change to 21 in communications to legislators because of my concern it would lead to drinking in uncontrolled situations. And that is exactly what happened.


There were parties that were out of control, and the town needed to act. There were parties in parking lots with thousands of people. There was no accountability.

**JEFF CHARNOGORSKY ’85 | Student body president (1984-1985)**

One of the problems in Normal was that developers were ... putting these large student housing off-campus apartments next door to single-family houses. A lot of campuses throughout the U.S. have a buffer zone between the residents and the students. In Normal, you didn’t have that.

**SCOTT RANDALL | Normal assistant city manager (1984-1988)**

Keep in mind: Up until the mid-1970s, the town of Normal was dry. You had to go to Bloomington to get a drink. There hadn’t been a lot of history with this in the community.

**RICHARD GODFREY ’55, M.S. ’90 | Normal mayor (1976-1985), also then-director of Institutional Advancement at Illinois State**

Passing those ordinances during the summer when the students were away, that seemed really underhanded to us. So students come back, and their lifestyle, their way of blowing off steam on the weekend, has been altered. A reaction of some kind was coming.


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**GODFREY**

Throughout, there was a town council-university liaison committee with student membership to ensure student input on the issue. Student leaders opposed the keg ordinance before the council. At all times, students were given the opportunity to address the council. Communications were fully open.

**NANCY (SLONNEGER) HANCOCK ’86 | Board of Regents student representative (1984-1985)**

(The keg ordinance) was the last straw. It felt like the town of Normal resented ISU students being here, even though when we were in town, we were the majority of the population.

**DAVE ANDERSON | Normal city manager (retired 1998)**

The timing (of the ordinances) was terrible. We shouldn’t have done it then. We just wanted to be in position for when students came back to campus, to have all this stuff in place.
Charnogorsky

They decided to put together a protest on the Quad. Somebody got the idea to go by the dorms to rally the masses. And that’s what happened. It swelled quickly.

Michael Schermer ‘73, M.S. ’78 | Office of Student Life (retired 2008)

There was discussion about whether the eventual beer riot ever would’ve happened if they hadn’t had the practice round with the Cubs—and knew they could get away with it.

Arney

The Cubs also played a playoff game on October 3, 1984. I think that was a factor because people had been drinking and watching the game. And drinking and political activism just don’t go well together.

Charnogorsky

They then went over to the intersection right by Hancock Stadium, and someone bought a keg of beer, sat down and put together an impromptu party. Normal’s police chief, David Lehr, attempted to diffuse it by sitting down and having a beer with these guys.

Schermer

I was in my Bone Student Center office, and all of a sudden there’s this commotion going on. So I walked outside, and in the center of Main Street and College is this huge mob of people and police cars. And here’s the police chief in the middle of this, drinking beer out of the keg. I saw it myself. That was one of the unwise moves authorities did at this event, thinking that would calm things down. That only got them more excited.

Arney

The main police strategy was to get them out of Downtown Normal. And they did so very successfully by just basically bum-rushing the crowd and stampeding down North Street back onto campus.

Charnogorsky

I was standing behind the skirmish line, and there was no coordination between the local police and the other law enforcement called in to help. Somebody on the roof of City Hall decided to launch some tear gas canisters into the crowd. The students then chucked the tear gas canisters into the skirmish line.

Hancock

I was just as ticked off as they were about the way the City Council went about passing these ordinances. But I personally thought this response was bizarre and stupid and silly.
The riot lasted into the morning. At least five people were arrested in the days after, with more facing university discipline. Five suffered minor injuries. The Vidette would fight (and lose) a legal battle over allowing authorities to review its photos as part of the investigation.

RANDALL
My most vivid memory was waking up the next day, listening to the Chicago radio stations, hearing stories about the riots the night before in Normal, Illinois.

CHARNOGORSKY
I was getting lots of phone calls from news media. It was a pretty wild time. I learned a lot about life in a short amount of time.

KAMIBC
I remember my mom calling me and freaking out because she's up there in Chicago, I'm down here my first semester away, and the news stations are showing this riot about beer.

GODFREY
Damage to the downtown was limited to some broken windows, a destroyed phone booth, and trashed areas. I ordered town crews out at 5 a.m. to clean the downtown so when people arrived for class or work in the morning, there was little evidence of what happened.

ARNEY
These obnoxiously large parties went away. They never were much fun. Parties became smaller, more intimate, and better. And so that's one outcome—the parties got better.

GODFREY
As far as ISU's reputation was concerned, there was no lasting impact. It was basically a one-day story in most media.

SCHERMER
The students quieted down. They just needed to have their opinions expressed.

ARNEY
Afterward, we were all fairly embarrassed. I mean, wrecking up the town over a beer law, for our right to drink illegally, that's not a cause that's gonna get you a lot of national sympathy.
ANDERSON

It wasn’t any one thing. It was a combination of things. People in the town changed. People in the University changed. Relationships developed and grew.

KOOS

I was lucky enough that Al Bowman was president of ISU when I was mayor. As owner of Vitesse Cycle Shop, I sold Al his first bike when he moved to town. I’d known Al since he came here as a brand-new faculty member. We’d already had a good relationship, and we were able to deal with any issues and, frankly, there weren’t many.

SCHERMER

The Dean of Students and University Program Board have done a great job with late-night programming, like late movies on a Friday night, giving students something to do other than wandering around town and getting into trouble. There were little things that happened that took the edge off, like leaving the Bowling and Billiards Center open past 10 p.m. on the weekends.

GODFREY

Normal was founded because of the University, and they have grown and prospered together to form what I consider to be the finest university community in the nation.

HARMON

I’ve always felt ISU is the No. 1 asset to the community.

KOOS

That helps solve the town-gown friction issues that we had, but equally important, it gave students a place close to campus where they didn’t have to get in their car to drive to class.

HARMON

And the University stopped expanding. Enrollment around this time was frozen at around 20,000. The stabilization of the borders of the University, and the stabilization of the borders of where the students were living, those were all things that over time would help the situation by having everybody adjust to a more permanent border around the campus.

Everyone involved realized it was necessary to work even harder in communication and cooperation.


After I became mayor, we created a student liaison committee, with three members from the council and three student leaders. That gave students a direct forum with council members to discuss issues. One of the things I hoped to accomplish while I was mayor was not to have a beer riot. As I recall, we did not.

ANDERSON

I learned a lot after that incident, just trying to open up lines of communication. It was right after that we started preparing and delivering to the Student Senate an agenda for the next City Council meeting.

CHRIS KOOS | Normal council member (2001-2003), Normal mayor (2003-)

Things have been really good in recent years. I’ve been in Normal since the early 1980s, and I’ve seen significant improvements in town-gown relationships, and a reduction in those frictions of the ’80s and ’90s.

HARMON

We changed some of the zoning (in Normal) so that student apartments would not go into some of the residential areas where they could’ve gone before.

MENDING FENCES

Thirty years later, town-gown relations are arguably better than ever. Notable examples include the recent installation of Redbird street signs in and around campus, as well as student volunteer efforts in the community, such as Bring It Back to Normal.

GODFREY

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Were you there?
Share your memories from the 1984 beer riot at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/BeerRiot.
Join us for Illinois State’s biggest event of the year.

5k and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk
Parade
Tailgating/Football game

#RedbirdHomecoming
Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu
Many future educators grow up knowing they want to teach. They practice fake lessons on siblings and daydream about decorating bulletin boards.

Not James Ford ’03. The mass communication major was training to become a journalist, writing for *The Vidette* and starting his own newsletter for black readers. He didn’t decide to teach until years later. It turned out to be a good decision, as he was named North Carolina’s 2014 Teacher of the Year.

Ford is the latest Redbird to be named a state’s top educator. The reigning Teachers of the Year in Iowa (Jane Schmidt ’76), Hawaii (Matthew Lawrence ’00), and Idaho (Jamie Esler ’07) are Illinois State grads, in addition to multiple winners from past years.

“It’s an honor to have an audience of kids looking to you each day for important information that’s relevant to their lives,” said Ford, who teaches freshmen world history at Garinger High School in Charlotte.

After Illinois State, the Rockford native worked for nonprofits, first as a truancy intervention specialist and then as director of an after-school program for at-risk youths. Ford loved building meaningful relationships with young people, but wanted a more stable career.

He went back to school to become a teacher, graduating with his master’s degree. He taught for one year in Rockford and has been pursuing his passion in North Carolina ever since.

While he didn’t graduate from Illinois State’s teacher education program, Ford’s time in Normal shaped his future career. His major and professors showed him how to communicate to all audiences, and his journalism background taught him to write well quickly and efficiently.

“It empowered me to really do just about whatever I wanted to do, and to do it well. The courses, the teachers I had, they opened my eyes to a world I didn’t know existed,” Ford said.

**Share your story**
Were you a Teacher of the Year winner or finalist in your state? Go to Education. IllinoisState.edu/Alumni and click “send a story” to share your information.
Milner Library offers services to graduates

While alumni have no desire to stay up all night in Milner as they did before finals, the chance for access to such a rich resource is often missed. Now graduates are able to connect with Milner Library research databases at no cost through the Alumni Association.

Academic Search Alumni Edition and Business Source Alumni Edition represent valuable tools to assist you with both personal and professional research. Similar to your days as a student, these two databases offer articles from more than 4,000 journals and publications.

“For years alumni have requested access to the full-text articles and journals they used as students. We know staying current and finding good information becomes even more important after graduating. It becomes part of lifelong learning,” Milner Dean Dane Ward said. “We are really pleased to be able to offer databases to our alums as a small contribution to their continual learning.”

To learn more about how you can complete research through Milner Library from your own home, go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Library. The site provides information about how to maximize this opportunity.

Directors chosen for Alumni Association

There is new leadership within the Alumni Association following the annual meeting in June.

Kathryn Bohn ’74, M.S. ’80, Ryan Gilbert ’03, Ashley Mayor ’08, Joe McGuire ’77, and Ron Whitton ’80 were elected to three-year terms on the board of directors.

The board also elected officers. Bob Navarro ’91, M.S. ’93, Ph.D. ’02, is president. Kaci Rollings ’94 is vice president/president-elect. Tim Pantaleone ’07 is secretary, with Jerry Kerber ’74 serving as past president.

From the archives

Illinois State’s Homecoming parade is one of the longest-standing traditions at the University. The first parade occurred in 1916. Seven years later the event’s name changed to become the Hobo Parade, which was the forerunner to the parade now enjoyed during the annual Homecoming celebration. Hopkins Agriculture Club sponsored the Hobo Parade. Many campus groups participated, with prizes awarded to the “dingiest” looking club. The main entry back in the 1920s was the Hobo Band. Today the crowd appreciates the Big Red Marching Machine. This year’s parade is set for 10 a.m. on Saturday, October 4. Come back to campus and be part of ISU’s Homecoming history.
More than 280,000 women in the U.S. are living with HIV. Kat Griffith, M.S.W. ’14, is among them. Infected after an abusive relationship 24 years ago, she is raising national awareness about the connection between HIV and harmful partnerships.

A School of Social Work graduate, Griffith sat with national policy makers, advocates and members of President Barack Obama’s administration this year to discuss the perils HIV-positive women face in abusive relationships.

Research shows that 67 percent of HIV-positive women lived in such relationships—more than four times the national average.

“Women are still dying because they are surrounded by violence. Their HIV might be in control, but their lives are not,” she said.

Griffith’s personal fight with the disease nearly took her life in 2004. For three years her body rejected medication as she battled brain lesions and seizures that placed her in a coma for three days. The intense illness shifted her life.

“Coming through this, I really struggled with the realization that I had a voice that wasn’t being used because of fear of rejection in my profession,” she said, noting that being HIV-positive can carry real danger personally and professionally.

She has overcome such crippling worries and now works tirelessly to combat tendencies that keep conversation about the disease at a whisper. Grateful for the opportunity to educate and be involved in discussions at the national level, Griffith knows much work remains to change attitudes and behaviors.

“In the HIV battle, we are very far ahead scientifically,” she said, “but I think now the general population—especially the white, heterosexual population—thinks this is a disease of the past, a disease of someone else, and it is gone anyway because now there are pills.”
Anne (Kraft) Laundra ’54 has retired from teaching at Bridgeport-Spaulding Community Schools. She resides in Saginaw, Michigan.

Ronald Evesizer ’55 has retired from teaching at the University of Alabama. He and his wife, Patricia, reside in Northport, Alabama.

Guy Cardarelli ’62 taught for 30 years before retiring in 1992. He began a commercial photography business in Chicago and worked as a talent agent. Now primarily retired, he maintains his photo business, Professional Freelance Photography, Inc. He and his wife, Rita, reside in Elwood.

Kay (Edwards) Securo ’62 taught grade school in Illinois and Maryland. Now retired, she established St. Matthew Cooperative Nursery School in Bel Air, Maryland. It remains successful four decades later and she serves as the school board chair. She and her husband, William, reside in Bel Air.

Robert Cardiff ’64 has retired from teaching at Highland Park High School. He has been inducted into the Galva High School Wall of Fame as a member of the 1955 championship football team and of the 1956 championship basketball team. He and his wife, Diana, reside in Galva.

James Hein ’65 and his wife, Diane (Bosh) ’66, are rangers at Rocky Mountain National Park. They reside in Estes Park, Colorado.

Frederick Menz ’65 has retired from teaching at University of Wisconsin-Stout. He and his wife, Ruth, reside in Menomonie, Wisconsin.

William Delpey ’66 is president of Southeastern Gems, Gold and Diamonds, Inc. He and his wife, Gay, reside in Marietta, Georgia.

Ruth Todt ’69, M.S. ’76, Certificate ’87, has retired after serving as principal of Belvidere High School. She and her husband, John, reside in Belvidere.

Mary (Taylor) McGunnigal ’70 is a GED instructor at Carl Sandburg College. She and her husband, Fred, reside in Galesburg.

Kathryn (Ellis) Howell ’71 taught elementary students for nearly 34 years before retiring from Fairfax County in Virginia. She and her husband, Thomas, reside in Wallace, North Carolina.

Pamela (Zurlene) McCracken ’71 has retired from teaching at Amboy Junior High School. Her husband, Michael ’71, has also retired from teaching there and serving as the athletic director at the high school. They reside in Amboy.

Jean (Yurs) Cook ’72 taught for 41 years in preschool, elementary, and middle schools and colleges. She was in the Peace Corps and has retired from Tredyffrin Easttown School District. She and her husband, Frank, reside in Wayne, Pennsylvania.

Shirley (Threweatt) Kufeldt ’72 authored the devotional book Bible Bites. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Conover, Wisconsin.

Marilyn (Stokes) Ruzicka ’72 has retired after teaching and working in the airline industry. She is pursuing painting, fiction writing and travel. She and her husband, David, reside in Ponce Inlet, Florida.

Edward Condon, M.S. ’73, retired as principal in the Catholic Diocese of Joliet. He is an adjunct faculty member at the University of Saint Francis and active member of the Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery Memorial Squad. He and his wife, Jean, enjoy seven children and 19 grandchildren. The couple resides in Ransom.

Donald Long ’73, M.S. ’76, is retired from Decatur Public Schools, where he was director of special programs. He and his wife, Carolyn, reside in Auburn.

Julie (Samek) Palko ’73, M.S. ’92, retired after teaching 37 years in Streator Elementary School District 44. She and her husband, Gregory, reside in Streator.

Susan (McIntee) Schwieger ’73, M.S. ’76, is the director of graduate...
How we met

In July of 1943, Illinois State welcomed the U.S. Navy V-12 program to campus. University High School graduate Harlan Bliss decided to enlist and as a result, met the love of his life.

Mozell Williams was a business major who needed a job despite a scholarship for books and tuition. She worked at Old Main to help the University prepare for the enlistees, then moved to Fell Hall’s food service.

“One day I came around the corner in the food hall and I said, ‘Gosh, I don’t know who that girl is, but she is going to be my wife,’” Harlan remembers. “I finagled a mutual friend to introduce the two of us, and we began dating shortly after.” That friend was Burt Mercier ’50.

Because enlistees had a 10 p.m. curfew, Mozell commented that she would usually walk Harlan home after their dates around campus.

Harlan shipped out for officer training but returned one year later with a proposal for Mozell. Married on January 26, 1945, the two have shared nearly 70 years together. That milestone as well as a 90th birthday for Harlan and Mozell’s 89th were celebrated at Ewing Manor in June.

The Bloomington couple chose the location because of their lifelong connection to the University, which remains strong. Their three adult children, seven grandchildren and 11 great-grandchildren joined in the celebration of a special Redbird connection that has stood the test of time.

student life at the University of Northern Iowa, where she has worked for 25 years. She previously served as the associate director of career services. She is widowed and resides in Waterloo, Iowa.

David Wesse ’73 left his position as vice chancellor for finance and administrative services at Louisiana State University to serve as vice chancellor for financial and administrative affairs at Indiana University-Purdue University. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Indiana.

Ann Edison ’74 serves as an interim pastor with United Church of Christ congregations in the Seattle area. She resides with her family on a horse farm where they rehabilitate and rehome neglected and abused horses in Mount Vernon, Washington.

JoAnn Hayden ’74 retired after teaching math for 34 years in Peotone School District 207. She resides in Manhattan.

Tari (Corray) Maurer ’74 is the administrative assistant with Water Management, Inc. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Franklin.

Virginia (Levers) Mitchell ’74 has retired as superintendent of the Medina County Board in Medina, Ohio. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Deborah (Stanifer) Fike ’75 is a paralegal in Maricopa County attorney’s office. She has published a second children’s book titled Counting Creatures. She resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Robert Greenlee ’75 retired after teaching and coaching for 38 years at Wheaton Warrenville South High School. He and his wife, Lori, reside in Wheaton.

Edward Lasak ’75, M.S. ’76, is a certified public accountant and the past chairman of Inland Action, Inc. He is chief operating officer of Stephens Media, Inc. He and his wife, Marian, reside in Las Vegas, Nevada.

Mark Panno, M.S. ’75, Certificate ’86, has retired as assistant superintendent of Streator Township High School. He resides in Streator.

Ron Vanderpool ’75 is a logistics coordinator with Kenwood Painted Metals. He resides in Schererville, Indiana.

Brian Bown ’76 teaches economics and American history at Window Rock High School on the Navajo Indian Reservation. He resides in Fort Defiance, Arizona.

Linda (Hansen) Brushaber ’76 is the director of Luco Education Partners. She and her husband, Ken, reside in Gurnee.

Michael Kotar, M.S. ’76, Ed.D. ’80, is a professor at California State University in Chico. He and his wife, Nancy, reside in Paradise, California.

Timothy Lesure ’76 retired from the Chicago Public Schools after 32 years of teaching. He resides in Chicago.

Scott Kappmeyer ’77 is COO of Perspectives Charter School in Chicago. He and his wife, Pam (DeGiulio) ’78, reside in Homewood.

Janice (O’Bert) Studer ’77 retired after 32 years of working with the government. She runs, travels and enjoys her grandchildren. She resides in Peru.

Stephen Yarnall ’77, M.S. ’81, retired as superintendent of Deer Creek-Mackinaw CUSD 701. He and his wife, Pamela, reside in Mackinaw.

John Davis ’78 is the director of legislative programs with Fleet Reserve Association. He is the elected co-chair of The Military Coalition, which is a group of 33 military and veterans organizations that advance legislation beneficial to military personnel, veterans, families and survivors. A former Marine, he is a 2nd Lieutenant in the Illinois Army National Guard. He resides in Alexandria, Virginia.

Sandi Tutwiler, M.S. ’78, is a professor at Washburn University. She resides in Lawrence, Kansas.

Linda (Marini) Bergin ’79, M.S. ’84, retired after 34 years of teaching Title I Reading in four Illinois districts. She and her husband, Paul, have two sons and reside in Lisle.

Beverly (Parsons) Blamer ’79 teaches sixth grade in the Fremont Public Schools. She resides in Holton, Michigan.
Nancy (Hany) Brown ‘79 retired from Iowa Public Television after 30 years as a producer, editor, writer and announcer. She captured regional Emmys and Iowa Motion Picture awards. The Iowa Association of Architects honored her for her documentary “A Century of Iowa Architecture.” She and her husband, Chris, reside in Urban-dale, Iowa.

Kathleen (Brannick) Cheshareck ‘79, M.S. ‘80, ’92, is a principal in Minooka CCSD 201. She and her husband, William, reside in Morris.

Nancy (Schlotterer) Gapinski ‘79 is senior risk analyst with Illinois Tool Works, Inc. She and her husband, Chris, reside in Highland Park.

Rita Kennel Lopienski, M.M. ’79, is the director of life enrichment at Plymouth Place Senior Living in LaGrange Park. She received the ICAA 2013 Innovator Award for her IntergenSational program that partners the retirement community with local high schools. She resides in Bartlett.

Joe Scherer ’79 retired from Sigma Aldrich Corporation as global vice president of Continuous Improvement. He is CEO of Scherer and Associates, a management consulting firm. He has two sons and resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Linda Wilkinson ’79 is the head of public services at Roosevelt University Library. She resides in Palatine.

80s

Carol Hiliborn ’80 teaches elementary music and is the assistant band director at Berryhill Public Schools. She was named Teacher of the Year for the Berryhill School District and is competing at the state level for Oklahoma Teacher of the Year. She resides in Bixby, Oklahoma.

Renee (Derrick) Lopata ’80 works in development with Scottsdale Center for the Performing Arts. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Chandler, Arizona.

Eloy Martinez ’80 is the vice president of agency/sales with State Farm Insurance. He and his wife, Kim, reside in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Jane (Dombroskie) Billetter ‘81 has retired from teaching special education in District 150 in Peoria. She resides in Bloomington.

Christine Seminario ’81 is an instructional coach working with Autism Spectrum Disorder students in Schaumburg School District 54. She resides in Schaumburg.

Peggy (Shields) Howard ’82, retired as a primary teacher from Prairie Central District 8. She and her husband, Jon, reside in Fisher.

Catherine (Inserra) Petersen ’82, M.S. ’83, is the director of Faith Formation and Youth Ministry at Trinity United Methodist Church. She resides in Park Ridge.

Nanette (Asay) Ryan ’82 is an elementary special education resource teacher with the Moline School District. She and her husband, Dennis, reside in Moline.

Mary (Slater) Happ ’83 is a teacher at Trinity Catholic Academy. She and her husband, Lawrence, reside in LaSalle.

Meg Healy-Frain, M.S. ’83, is a deaf educator working with the Southwest Cook County Cooperative Association for Special Education. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Homer Glen.

Julie (Schultz) Moore ’83, M.S. ‘80, is a K-3 Title I reading interventionist with District 87. She and her husband, Edmund, reside in Bloomington.

Greg Silas ’83 is self-employed as a freelance sports camera operator. He resides in Vernon Hills.

Michael Kotowski ’84 is the managing director of business development with Innovation Excellence. He and his wife, Maryellen Katz, reside in Summit, New Jersey.

Terry Morgan ’84 is principal at Mt. Pulaski High School. He and his wife, Suellen, reside in Mt. Pulaski.

Tim Harazin ’85 is an elementary science specialist with Fairfax County Public Schools. He resides in Fairfax, Virginia.

Walter Malles Jr. ’85 is a consultant with Aon Hewitt and resides in Littleton, Colorado.

Margaret Massa ’85 is a computer analyst with State Farm Insurance. She resides in Bloomington.

Patricia (Kenyon) Rittenhouse ’86 is a middle school language arts teacher at Tennessee School for the Deaf. She and her husband, Bob, have established the Bob and Patricia Rittenhouse Endowed Scholarship in Sign Language Studies at the University of Arkansas in Little Rock. Bob retired from teaching at ISU. They reside in Knoxville, Tennessee.

Tod Anderson ’87 is a sales manager with River Valley Cooperative. He and his wife, Tammy, reside in Eureka.

Deann (Acker) Collins ’87 is a special educator at Normal Community West High School. She and her husband, Tim, reside in Normal.

Laura (Martisauskis) Kelly ’87 is a marketing manager with DM Direct. She and her husband, Art, reside in Hoffman Estates.

Kim (Koahal) Adams ’88, M.S. ’90, is an instructor at Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis. She and her husband, James, reside in Bargersville, Indiana.

W. Michael Cox ’88 teaches first grade in Richmond Public Schools. He resides in Richmond, Virginia.

Brian Fonte ’88 is an elected alderman for the City of Hickory Hills, where he resides.

Gerald Ohio Headd ‘88 is an IT instructor with Kaplan Career Institute. He and his wife, Denise Headd, reside in Euclid, Ohio.

Ronald McIntire, Ed.D. ’88, is senior pastor at St. Paul United Methodist Church in Springfield, Missouri. He and his wife, Sandra, reside in Bolivar, Missouri.

Michele (Marshall) Pellikan ’88 is a special services teacher at the high school in Perry County School District 32. She and her husband, Larry, reside in Perryville, Missouri.

Peggy (Meyer) Hernandez ’89 has been a teacher for 23 years. The past five years she has been the teacher/director of the Elgin Redbirds connect as colleagues

Kathy (Burns) Strange ’88 is happy to have the opportunity to reminisce about her college days at ISU with her coworkers. She works as a reading interventionist at Lincoln School in Brookfield, along with eight other Illinois State alums who share their Redbird pride with the students and staff. They are, from left, Michelle Scaduto ’10, Kathy, Kristin (Teare) Becker ’03, Elizabeth Pruitt ’80, Sue (Watters) Paloucek ’85, DeEtta Perkins ’71, Kerry (McCrae) Palider ’92, Christine (Admonski) Colucci ’96, and Karl Kalis ’93.
Redbird Legacy

Alan Meyer ’56 has two Illinois State legacies. One is scoring 50 points in a basketball game, creating a record broken by Doug Collins ’73. The other? He is patriarch of three generations with ISU ties.

A physical education major, Alan met his wife as an undergrad. Jane Thompson ’56 also studied education. The two married in 1956. Both taught before owning Kankakee Redwood Inn. Now retired, they remain in Kankakee.

Alan and Jane had two daughters: Lynn ’80 and Tamra ’83. Both attended Illinois State, where they met their spouse. Lynn was studying Spanish teacher education when she went to an ISU football game with her roommate, who was a cousin to the roommate of business major Greg Cornwell ’80. Lynn and Greg were dating within a few months. They married in 1981 and now reside in Naperville. He is retired from sales at Alcatel-Lucent and she is completing her last year teaching Spanish at Downers Grove South High School.

Tamra studied elementary education, yet still connected with business major Joe McNamara ’83. She teaches at Jefferson Junior High and he works for Verizon Wireless. They reside in Naperville.

Four of Alan’s five grandchildren attended ISU. Lynn and Greg are parents to Adam ’10 and Aaron ’14. Ryan ’10 and Tyler ’14 are sons to Tamra and Joe. Each set of cousins were roommates while at ISU.

Adam works for Molex and lives in Michigan. Ryan is a teacher living in Aurora. Aaron and Tyler graduated in May with degrees in marketing and accounting, respectively.

Family members are grateful for many shared moments and memories that surround ISU. “It’s a place where we each felt comfortable and yet challenged,” Greg said. “It’s always been a perfect fit.”

School District planetarium. She and her husband, John, have two children and reside in West Dundee.

Steve Shabat ’89 is a general manager at Superior Health Linens. He resides in Plainfield.

Jill (Schmitz) Snyder ’89 is a behavior interventionist with Clark County School District. She and her husband, William, reside in Hender- don, Nevada.

Dan Wagner ’89, M.S. ’94, is vice president of government relations for the Inland Real Estate Group. He is chair of the 2014 Greater Oak Brook Chamber of Commerce. He and his wife, Lisa, reside in Wheaton.

Keith Hogan ’90 is executive vice president of Crystal Lake Bank and Trust. He and his wife, Janine, reside in Spring Grove.

William McKinley ’90 graduated from Fuller Theological Seminary and is ordained as a Lutheran pastor. He is associate pastor for youth and young adults at Christ the King Church in Charlotte, North Carolina.

Paul Bolda ’91 completed a master’s of reading at Northeastern Illinois University. He has taught special education for 22 years and has been at Eli Whitney School in Chicago the past 20 years. He resides with his wife and son in North Riverside.

Karen Fennell ’91, M.S. ’93, is an athletic trainer and physician extender at the Orthopedic Center of St. Louis. She is secretary of the Missouri Athletic Trainers’ Association and received an outstanding service award from the group in 2013. She received a national athletic trainer service award in 2014. She resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Robert Herrin, M.S. ’91, retired from teaching in Tremont District 702. He and his wife, Beverly, reside in Tremont.

Nancy (Paskvan) Jasek ’91 is a project manager with State Farm Insurance. She resides in Bloomington.

Randy Steen ’91 is an assistant principal in Mount Prospect School District 57. He resides in Park Ridge.

Steven Kodidek ’92 is a regional services manager with Graphic Packaging International. He and his wife, Sherry, reside in Fountain- ville, Pennsylvania.

Carol (Zibert) Senica ’92, M.S. ’93, M.S. ’05, is the assistant director of Grundy County Special Education Cooperative. She and her husband, Frank, reside in La Salle.

David VanHook ’92 is a juvenile probation officer/supervisor with Tarrant County Juvenile Services. He resides in Grapevine, Texas.

Mario Cardenas ’93 is a senior executive casino host with Caesars Entertainment. He and his wife, Dana, reside in Chandler, Arizona.

Jane Chamberlain ’93 is district office director for Illinois Rep. Dan Brady. She and her spouse, Nigel Keen, reside in Downs.

Robert Betts, M.S. ’94, completed a doctorate in rhetoric at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He is a professor and chair of the speech department at Rock Valley College. He and his wife, Danae, reside in Rockton.
Never been STATEside? Here’s what you’re missing:

- CHEERLEADER POPS THE QUESTION DURING HANCOCK HALFTIME
- YOUNG ALUMS PITCH ISU STARTUP ON TV’S SHARK TANK
- THEATRE MAJOR GETS BIG BREAK ON TV’S CHICAGO PD
- FUTURE TEACHER SHINES AS GAMMA PHI CIRCUS STAR
- REDBIRD TRIPLETS GRADUATE ON THE SAME DAY
Roommates reunited

It’s been more than four decades since four young women formed a friendship as roommates and residents of 10th floor Colby Hall. The ladies, all 1968 graduates, reconnected and enjoyed reminiscing during an extended visit in Naples, Florida. They are, from left: Barbara (Richmond) Martin, M.S. ’70, of Frankfort; Kathy (Gaudio) Sneddon of Naples; Linda (Sturm) Jenner of Cincinnati, Ohio; and Cheryl (Tillery) Beamer, M.S. ’69, of The Villages, Florida.
Radio. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Lakewood, Colorado.

Pamela (Brady) Hummel '00, M.S. '04, teaches science at Roanoke-Beno-son Jr. High. Her husband, Vince '02, M.S. '06, is a business analyst at State Farm Insurance. They are the parents of two daughters and reside in Roanoke.

Kathy (McFeeters) Schierer '00 is a claims communication staff assistant at State Farm Insurance. She and her husband, Jason, are the parents of a daughter. Katelyn Elise was born in January 2014. They reside in Bloomington.

Melanie (Sheets) Weller '00 is a State Farm Insurance agent officer manager. She and her husband, Jason, were married in March of 2014. They reside in Joliet.

Kwynn Campbell '01 is a data integrity specialist with ATS. He and his wife, Whitney, reside in Mark.

Mark Clemmons '01 is a physical education teacher in the Kiowa School District. He and his wife, Sarah, reside in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Kristy DeWall '01, MS. '03, M.S. '07, is a case manager and clinician at Gandara Center in Holyoke. She and her partner, Kelly, reside in Chicopee, Massachusetts.

Eric Nylen '01 is a senior event manager with Hilton Worldwide, working at the Drake in Chicago. He resides in Chicago.

Nicole (Joutras) Brown '02 completed her doctorate of chiropractic from Palmer College. She and her husband, Brad, reside in Oak Forest.

Josh Palmer '02 is a field service representative II for Advanced Technology Services. His wife, Erin (Salm) '02 is the music director at Messiah Lutheran Church in Mauldin, South Carolina. They are the parents of an adopted daugh-

Together again

Graduates from across class years appreciated the opportunity to share collegiate memories and meet with President Larry Dietz. The spring gathering occurred in Washington, D.C. Among the guests was Donald McHenry '57, a distinguished diplomat who served for years as U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. The top envoy to the UN during the Iranian hostage crisis, McHenry has pledged his personal papers chronicling his career to Mil-

ner Library. His gift to the University created a visiting professor of diplomacy and international affairs position. McHenry is seated front row, center, with President Dietz and his wife, Marlene.
ning camps throughout the year. He has created registration software and launched an event registration website. He and his wife, Liz (Parker) ’09, reside in Aurora.

Beth (Layne) Blackmer ’07 teaches special education. She and her husband, Andy, are the parents of a son and reside in Cherry Valley.

Lindsey Cramer ’07 is public relations manager at the law offices of Salvi, Schostok & Pritchard, P.C., in Chicago. She resides in Beecher.

Jackie (Rybczyk) Hanik ’07 teaches English and reading at Reavis High School. She earned National Board certification. She and her husband, Michael ’06, are the parents of a son. They reside in Oak Forest.

Shirley McCauley ’07 is the office manager for administration at ISU’s Bone Student Center. She and her husband, David, reside in Normal.

Jaclyn (Burger) Rogowski ’07, M.S. ’09, is a pediatric speech-language pathologist at Phoenix Children’s Hospital. She and her husband, Kyle, reside in Mesa, Arizona.

Rebecca Weinshenker ’07 is an associate actuary who was named the 2013 Volunteer of the Year by Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois. She has logged more than 450 volunteer hours, working regularly at Chicago’s Inspiration Café, which provides free meals of restaurant quality to the homeless. She resides in Chicago.

Drew Hove ’08 has worked for five years as an account manager for Marketing Werks PlayStation business. He is now senior account manager for the company based in Chicago.

Larissa (Wages) McIlvain ’08 is the central region development and volunteer associate with Children’s Home and Aid. She and her husband, Nathan, reside in Bloomington.

Megan Munro ’08 completed a master’s in social work at the University of Illinois. She is working at Presence Covenant Medical Center in Urbana and resides in Champaign.

Stephen Schellflow ’08 is a graduate student and assistant at Western Carolina University. He resides in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Shannon (Delaney) Zabaneh ’08 is a financial assistant with Zabaneh Franchises, LLC. Her husband, Marco ’08, is operations manager of the company. They were married in July of 2013 and reside in Quincy.

Heidi (Leininger) Begy ’09 is an officer with the Woodridge Police Department. She and her husband, James, reside in Downers Grove.

Roberta Codemo ’09 is a freelance writer who started her own company, Codemo Writing Services, which targets small business owners. She is completing her first book. She resides in Springfield.

Brandon Gobble ’09 is an area manager with Fitness Management Group. He resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Rebecca (Springborn) Good ’09 is the therapeutic recreation supervisor with Freeport Park District. She and her husband, Todd, were married in October of 2013. They reside in Sandwich.

Kevin Martin ’09 teaches math in Hazelwood School District. He resides in Florissant, Missouri.

Kathryn (Valle) Pedersen ’09 teaches math at Woodstock North High School. She and her husband, Nathan, r

10s

Marissa Caltagerone ’10 is the founder and owner of Alexis Kay Designs, Inc., Bridal and Formal Wear boutique in DeKalb. She manages her own bridal design line and resides in Sycamore.

Deanna (Gillett) Schnaufer ’10 is a financial analyst with Westinghouse Electric Company. She and her husband, Kyle, were married in February of 2014. They reside in Lexington, South Carolina.

Anna Wright ’10, M.S. ’13, is the director of communication education at Illinois State. She received the National Communication Association’s Outstanding Master’s Thesis honor. She resides in Bloomington.

Michael Condupa ’11 is an HR generalist with Thermo Fisher Scientific. He and his wife, Tiffany, were married in October 2013. They reside in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Jennifer Kraakevik ’11 is a bilingual specialist with Community Consolidated School District 21. She resides in Chicago.

Amanda Lorenz ’11 is a high school social studies teacher. She resides in Rock Island.

Katherine Gavin ’12 is a certified athletic trainer with Kewanee Physical Therapy and Rehab Specialists. She does outreach for Galva High School and Black Hawk Community College. She resides in Kewanee.

Melinda Moore ’12 teaches third grade in Middletown.

Michael Muller ’12 is a senior casualty claims specialist with Liberty Mutual. He handles cases in all 50 states. He also opened a motorcycle repair and powder coating business called Powder Monkees. He resides in Naperville.

Sara O’Toole ’12 teaches physics and coaches the girls’ varsity soccer team at Hampshire High School. She resides in Lake in the Hills.

Marc Redinger ’12 is an insurance adjuster at USAA headquarters. He resides in San Antonio, Texas.

Robert Roth ’12 is a financial analyst with Mecum Auctions, the world’s...
largest collector car auction. He resides in Lake Geneva, Wisconsin.

*Keri Soukup* ’12 is a student services advisor with Colorado Technical University. She resides in Downers Grove.

*Aaron Stough* ’12 is a sanitary with the McLean County Health Department. He resides in Bloomington.

*Christopher Durham* ’13 is a special education inclusion teacher at Madero Middle School in Chicago. She resides in Lemont.

*Ryan Moskal* ’13 is an accountant at GoHealth Insurance, where he resides.

*Shea Parker* ’13 is an assistant media planner on the MillerCoors account at Initiative. She resides in Chicago.

*Jonny Staffa* ’13 is an industrial hygiene technician at Fermi National Accelerator Laboratory. He resides in Schaumburg.

### In memory

#### Faculty/Staff

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<td>Edna M. (Zimmerman) Williams</td>
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#### 50s

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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Graduation Year</th>
<th>Major</th>
<th>Maiden Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>Norma J. (Waters) Gilmore</td>
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<td>Marzetta M. Neeley</td>
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<td>James W. Gallagher</td>
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<td>Margaret Wykes</td>
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<td>JoAnne M. (Stoltz) Patton</td>
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<td>James W. Alstrin</td>
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<td>Harold M. Lathrop</td>
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<td>Richard J. Ryszewski</td>
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<td>Willa O. Ward</td>
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<td>Marjorie H. Gaddo</td>
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<td>Herbert P. Heiss</td>
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<td>Ambrose J. Virgo</td>
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<td>Barbara J. Thomas</td>
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#### 60s

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<td>Ronald R. Bonfiglio</td>
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<td>Gene Megli</td>
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<td>Elizabeth N. (Oberg) Priellip</td>
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<td>Joseph M. Gatton</td>
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<td>Ruth E. (Wrage) Quisenberry</td>
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<td>Dwight F. Wood</td>
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<td>Richard J. Laitly</td>
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<td>Cheryl J. Beyer</td>
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<td>Kathryn “Kay” E. Hagerman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bonnie J. (Graham) Harmon</td>
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#### Our troops

*David Goode* ’92 is an Assistant S4 with the U.S. Army 11th Air Defense Artillery Brigade in Fort Bliss, Texas. He joined the Army in 2000 and is still on active duty after completing three deployments. He completed a master’s in management at Webster University and is pursuing a doctorate in criminal justice from Capella University. He and his wife, Ulonda, reside in El Paso, Texas.

*Patrick Ragen* ’71 is a U.S. Army Explosive Ordnance Specialist. He resides at Fort Bragg, North Carolina.

Retired U.S. Navy Capt. *Gary Schnurrpusch* ’69 is a naval surface warfare analysis group leader with Systems Planning and Analysis, Inc. He and his wife, Diane, reside in Burke, Virginia.
Carolyn (Shick) Bailey ’69; 1/14
Larry E. Clore ’69, M.S. ’70; 1/14
Phil Ringenberg ’69; 9/13

70s
Carol (Montgomery) Eiten, M.A. ’70; 2/14
Allan R. Thornburgh ’70; 10/13
Randal L. Becker ’71, M.S. ’74, Ed.D. ’96; 10/13
William O. Bledsoe II ’71; 5/11
Michael J. Cuprys ’71; 1/14
Terry K. McReynolds ’71; 10/11
Larry D. Sarlo ’71; 2/14
Bernard L. Waren, Ed.D. ’71; 12/13
Donald “Smoky” Stachowiak, M.S. ’72; 1/14
Robert L. Albright ’73; 1/14
John A. “Doc” Colteaux ’73; 12/13
Timothy J. Grant ’73; 1/14
Douglas C. Stueber ’73; 2/14
Stephen M. Anderson ’74; 1/14
Helen M. Metzger ’74, M.S. ’75; 2/14
Cordel R. Musch ’74; 12/13
Mary C. Noble ’74; 2/14
Gail (Ciesla) West ’74; 2/14
James B. Dye ’75; 8/13
Edward T. Hayes ’75, M.S. ’78; 2/14
Terry James ’75; 2/14
John C. Morris ’75; 2/14
David L. Taylor, M.S. ’75; 12/13
David D. Burlison, M.S. ’76; 12/13
Jack M. Davis ’76, M.S. ’85; 9/13
Terry Adkins, M.S. ’77; 2/14
Susan M. (Kraus) Greske ’77; 10/12
Donal L. (Cooper) Meyer, M.S. ’77; 12/13
Diane (Lind) Nyman ’77; 10/13
Andrew M. Allen ’79; 12/13
Janet G. (Bush) Russell ’79; 12/13

80s
Kathy P. Anderson ’80; 3/14
Linda J. (Hasenmyer) Kennedy ’80; 12/13
Jeanbrown Schooley ’80; 2/14
Joseph J. Kowsky, M.S. ’81; 2/14
Philip W. Shaw ’81, M.F.A. ’86; 2/14
Mitzi L. (Trovillion) Benard ’82; 12/13
Ken E. Kolany ’83; 1/14
Lana J. (Dietiker) Odorizzi ’83; 1/14
Cynthia S. Turgeon ’83; 1/14
Kathleen F. Jones, M.S. ’84; 2/14
Brenda K. (Wells) Kuntz ’84; 2/14
David L. Rhodes ’84, M.S. ’89; 3/14
Linda (Allen) Bristow Frahm ’85; 12/11
Mary K. Morgan ’86; 2/14
Anthony G. Argeros ’87; 2/14
Michael J. Gagliano ’87; 3/14
Andrea E. (Brown) Hergenrother ’87; 1/14
Steven R. Hook ’87; 8/12
William G. Kline Jr. ’87; 12/13
Patricia (Quam) Lueck, M.S. ’88; 2/14
Terri S. Jones, M.S. ’89; 3/14
Susan S. (Schroeder) Stuckey, M.S. ’89; 1/14

90s
Britt Asquith ’92; 3/14
Rebecca Martin ’94; 2/14
Michael J. Williams ’94; 3/07
Melinda “Mindy” (Ginestra) Trotter ’95; 1/14

00s
Kimberli A. (Crosby) Adams ’01; 2/14
Jeffrey A. Legner ’02; 3/14
Brian G. Hughes ’03, M.S. ’12; 1/14
Judith K. (Walton) Gedraitis ’06, M.S. ’11; 12/13
Sherry D. Kerber ’06; 3/14
Michael T. Reed ’06; 3/14
Dana (Fogarty) Mitchell ’07; 9/13
Matthew “Mac” A. Carlson ’08; 12/13
Michelle Gipson ’08; 1/14
Adam K. Riegle, M.S. ’08; 4/14

10s
Shandell F. Knittel ’10; 3/14
Kelly Morrow ’10; 10/13

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Including Illinois State in your estate plans is a simple way to leave a legacy and give the gift of opportunity to future generations of Redbirds. Contact Pat Vickerman, senior associate vice president for University Advancement, to discuss including Illinois State in your will or trust.

pvickerman@IllinoisState.edu | (309) 438-8901 | IllinoisState.edu/Legacy
Before crossing the commencement stage and becoming Illinois State’s newest alumni, graduating seniors take part in one final tradition—Senior Campaign. Students leave their legacy by making a gift to any area on campus that impacted their time as a Redbird.

Among those who have participated is College of Education graduate Aaron Von Qualen ’12, M.S. ’14.

“So many people have helped me get to where I am at today. I want to be that helpful person to others,” Aaron said. He is especially interested in supporting scholarships, noting they continue to lift students well into the future.

Aaron is pleased to see that the number of students stepping up to support the University is on the rise. This past year more than 450 graduating seniors supported their passion. Their gifts totaled more than $9,000.

Senior Campaign encourages the newest of Illinois State’s graduates to pay it forward to future generations of students. To learn more about how students show their support for their university, visit IllinoisState.edu/Seniors.

Will you make a difference as well by supporting your passion? Make a contribution online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving or call (309) 438-8041.
Resting Redbirds

Every graduate knows there is nothing more relaxing than just soaking in the sun out on the Quad. Senior Mike DeGradi, left, and sophomore Andy Granato have taken relaxation to a new level as members of Hammin’ Out. The Registered Student Organization encourages students to stretch out a hammock and literally hang with friends.