Patriotism rose across campus when the U.S. entered WWI in 1917. A roster of all from ISU who served is part of a collection that documents the Redbird response to the Great War.
The public launch of Redbirds Rising:

The Campaign for Illinois State was celebrated in September. Much of this Illinois State issue is devoted to sharing the excitement and opportunity surrounding the historic $150 million fundraising initiative that will continue through June 2020. The goal is $65 million greater than the last successful campaign completed in 2005.

You have no doubt noticed during the previous decade that Illinois State is on the rise. Some successes include a consistent ranking as one of the nation’s best public universities, a graduation rate that is among the top 10 percent in the U.S., and recognition for providing the best education for the money.

These are but a few examples of excellence that provide evidence the University is resilient as it continues to fulfill the mission of educating high-achieving motivated students who seek an individualized experience. The work is accomplished through the support of loyal Redbird alumni and friends, whose gifts are instrumental to the University’s programs and people.

Because Illinois State is strong and stable, now is the time to advance the University to a higher level. To do so provides an even stronger foundation that ensures ISU’s people and programs thrive in the years ahead.

How can this be accomplished? This question has been asked of ISU’s leadership, from the vice presidential level to each college dean. The resounding answer is to advance three objectives: scholarship, leadership and innovation. Each is consequently a pillar for Redbirds Rising.

Scholarship includes financial support for faculty and students. Leadership focuses on programming and experiential learning. Innovation reflects the ongoing need for creative workspaces and technology that prepares graduates for the rapidly changing workforce.

With the public launch of Redbirds Rising this fall, the campus emerges from the campaign’s quiet phase, during which more than $106 million has been achieved. An additional $44 million will complete the $150 million initiative.

I am asking for Redbirds across the state, nation, and world to join in support of Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. I urge you to tell your Illinois State story to others, sharing how your life has been changed by your Redbird experience. Share the news of the campaign with alumni and friends in your network. Inspire others to give through your own philanthropy.

Redbirds, it is our time to rise to the challenge. You will be hearing more about the campaign and receive frequent updates in the months ahead. Please visit the campaign website at RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu to learn more and get involved in this historic initiative.

Larry H. Dietz, Ph. D.
President, Illinois State University
Soaring higher
History is being made as the University undertakes the largest fundraising initiative to date. Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State has a goal of $150 million to elevate scholarship, leadership and innovation. A total of $106 million was raised during the quiet phase of the campaign, which ends in 2020.

Proudly they served
The University’s response to World War I was documented by librarian Ange. V. Milner. She gathered information on who served from campus, including the 14 who died. The conflict sparked U.S. patriotism, as revealed in Milner’s collection. Among the items she preserved are posters urging Americans to support the military effort.

Dwindling demographic
Maintaining enrollment is increasingly difficult as the number of high school graduates drops. Add to that the fact nearly half of all Illinois students go out of state for a degree, and it’s no wonder Director of Admissions Jeff Mavros, M.S. ’06, is asking alumni to help encourage students to consider ISU.

Undeterred
Jean Deeds ’64 left her job to hike the Appalachian Trail’s 2,200 miles at age 51. With 300 miles to go, she broke a leg and headed home. A year later, she reached the trail’s end. The experience sparked her mission to empower women by guiding them on hikes around the world.

Let us hear from you! Your feedback is appreciated. Send comments or suggestions, Class Notes, Letters to the Editor, How We Met and Legacy stories, as well as Where Are They Now and Reggie Reads submissions to Susan Blystone at sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu, or mail to Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.
Since its construction in 1973, the Bone Student Center has been the campus gathering place.

Work to rejuvenate the center began with a groundbreaking ceremony in September, which marked the start of the $33 million project. Financing will come primarily from reserve funds, according to Bill Legett, director of Event Management, Dining and Hospitality.

“We’re proud that no tax money will be used for the project and students will not see an increase in fees to fund it,” Legett said. The building will remain open during construction. Completion is expected by 2020.

“The revitalization will transform the Bone Student Center into an enticing doorway to campus,” Legett said. “New entrances will provide a more welcoming environment. An exciting interior design will add more natural light and open seating.” Services will also be improved for the 5,000 who visit the center daily. The building hosts more than 4,000 events annually.

Facelifts are planned for the north and west entrances during the first phase. Portable walls will be added to the Brown Ballroom. An addition with a two-story atrium will be constructed to house the Barnes and Noble Bookstore.

A welcome center with a presentation room and Quad view will be on the third floor. Admissions will use the space when meeting with students and families interested in the University.

Phase two will include relocating the catering kitchen and renovating the space to accommodate the Dean of Students offices; the Student Involvement Center; and Event Management, Dining and Hospitality administrative offices. The last phase will involve creating a food court.

There will be six dining venues in the center, including a Starbucks. A full-scale convenience store offering fresh food daily will also be added to the building.
$1 million campaign gift helps struggling students

Give Something Back is partnering with the University to help students facing significant challenges that go beyond financial need. The nonprofit organization has contributed $1 million to the Redbirds Rising campaign, with the money designated for scholarships.

As many as 50 students annually who have struggled with a parent in prison or come through the foster care system will receive the scholarship. It covers tuition, as well as room and board, for an academic year.

The gift bolsters ISU's First Star Academy, which provides programs that prepare foster care children for college. The academy's director, Deneca Avant, said the funding will help Illinois State “better serve and support students from this unique underrepresented population who are less likely to have access to family support.”

Give Something Back was established by Robert Carr to help students eligible for the Pell Grant attend college. His daughter, Corrie Nichols '92, presented the gift at the Redbirds Rising kickoff event in September. “I loved my time at Illinois State,” Carr said, adding that she is pleased to know “others will receive a great education from my alma mater.”

ISU stays at the top of three national rankings

The University has received high marks in three annual external reviews that conclude ISU is a great place to be employed, is one of the best schools in the U.S. and provides the best value for the cost.

Washington Monthly college rankings puts Illinois State among the Best Bang for the Buck schools in the Midwest. The judgment is based on charging a fair price, helping students graduate, and providing a marketable degree.

“Illinois State University continues to provide an excellent education at an affordable cost. At least one-third of our students graduate debt free because of the University's investment in scholarship and grant programs, and the generosity of our alumni and other donors,” President Larry Dietz said.

He added that ISU is “in the top 10 percent of graduate rates in the nation, and on average our students earn $10,000 more per year than other college graduates within 10 years of enrolling.”

U.S. News & World Report declared ISU remains within the top 100 of the best public universities in the country with a ranking of 83. The University gained praise for enrollment of fewer than 20 students in 32 percent of classes and a graduation rate that passes national averages.

The Chronicle of Higher Education named Illinois State as a Great College to Work For for the third consecutive year. Dietz said the designation shows that the University is a “welcoming, caring and supportive community.”

Service program center bolsters civic outreach

Civic engagement is a key part of the Redbird experience, and a core value in the University’s mission statement. To make involvement easier for all on campus, President Larry Dietz called for a plan to centralize outreach opportunities.

As a result, the Center for Community Engagement and Service Learning was established during the summer. Several programs offered under Student Affairs have been transferred to the center.

“The center's purpose is to develop in the members of the campus community—primarily students—an appreciation, understanding, and application of the principles of civic engagement as defined by the University,” said Interim Director Jan Paterson.

Programs offered include Alternative Breaks and days of organized local volunteering. The center’s objective is to connect departments, students and
Where are they now?

Professor Emeritus James Kirchner spent more than 30 years helping establish Illinois State’s geology program.

Kirchner began his career as an exploration geologist for an oil company, working in Libya and Nigeria. He returned to the classroom in the mid-1960s to pursue his doctorate. “I wanted more autonomy in my science, so I decided to go back to school.”

ISU hired Kirchner in 1969 to help start the University’s new geology major. He was instrumental in developing several courses and the graduate program in geohydrology. He also created the program’s first field camp in 1974. This summer capstone experience still offers students the opportunity to apply their knowledge and skills by investigating geologic areas.

“Field geology was my forte. I just loved doing that,” Kirchner said. “The camp is a tremendously clarifying course. You just tie everything together.”

In later years, he worked as curator for the ISU Museum’s geology collection and set up the program’s mineral display in the Felmley Hall of Science. His research focused on igneous rocks in the Black Hills of South Dakota.

“I feel good about being on the ground floor of the geology program,” Kirchner said. “The thing I’m most proud of is working with the students. I think I had a good effect on their professional abilities and sometimes on their personal lives.”

Kirchner retired from Illinois State in 2002. He and his wife, Kathleen (Bake) ’76, split their time between Tawas City, Michigan—a small town on the shore of Lake Huron—and their winter home in Florida.

In retirement Kirchner has pursued his passions for sailing and outdoor photography. He has also served on the Alabaster Township Planning Commission and Iosco County Habitat for Humanity’s board of directors. He is a member of a local United Fund drive board and volunteers with a Coat for Kids program.

Kirchner can be reached at jnkirch@charter.net.

State board approves ISU as site for biomath center

Biology, math and computer science are merging at the University with creation of the Center for Collaborative Studies in Mathematical Biology: Intercollegiate Biomathematics Alliance (IBA).

The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the center that advances biomathematics, which is an emerging scientific field that helps scientists make biological predictions based on computations.

“The establishment of the center at Illinois State is a testament to the University’s position as a powerhouse in the biomathematics field, especially in the U.S.,” said IBA Executive Director Olcay Akman.

He describes the field as a revolutionary way to approach science. It has been used to predict the spread of disease, help farmers make efficient use of pesticides, and understand how pathogens travel.

Physics faculty duo’s work leads to top U.S. ranking

The Research Corporation for Science Advancement named ISU’s Rainer Grobe and Q. Charles Su two of the nation’s top physics scholars by awarding them the Singular Exceptional Endeavor of Discovery (SEED) grant.

Both distinguished professors of physics, Grobe and Su created the Intense Laser Physics (ILP) Theory Unit. Their work explores how a focused laser reveals the moment when energy transforms into mass. The $50,000 SEED grant will advance their research. Only five projects from a pool of nearly 400 national scholars received the funding.

The goal of work in the ILP is to distinguish how the subatomic particles of electrons and positrons emerge in a vacuum. Grobe and Su are developing a better means of visualizing the process, which in the past has required labs as large as stadiums.

They are hopeful their research into understanding energy conversion and creating light with more spectacular properties will have technological implications in other fields, such as advances in imaging.

New director leads BRMM

Polly Middleton has been named director of the Big Red Marching Machine. She is completing her first season leading the band of more than 200 students who exemplify Redbird pride and spirit.
Middleton is from Normal, and her four grandparents are Illinois State graduates. She previously worked with bands at Virginia Tech and Arkansas State. She and Director of Bands Anthony Marinello have strong goals to move the marching band forward, while maintaining the program's powerful community created over the decades.

**Professor plans STEM study as Fulbright in Cambodia**

College of Education Associate Professor Do-Yong Park has been awarded a Fulbright to strengthen science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) education practices in Cambodia.

Park will collaborate with faculty and doctoral students at the Royal University of Phnom Penh in the spring. He will teach methods courses and complete STEM education research.

Diverse nursing pool goal of federal grant

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has awarded Mennonite College of Nursing $2 million to support developing diversity in the nursing workforce. Only 25 grants were awarded nationally.

The college will receive $500,000 annually for four years. The funds will be used to recruit and retain students from underrepresented groups to the nursing profession, including racial and ethnic minorities. Students will receive leadership development as part of their ISU experience.

“This grant will support students with the training and development needed to become outstanding nursing leaders,” Dean Judy Neubrander said. “In these challenging economic times, this grant will help the college continue its mission of developing exceptionally well-prepared nurses.”

Neubrander added that the fact the grant was highly competitive with so few awarded “recognizes Mennonite’s ongoing excellence.”

**Dietz contract extended**

The University’s Board of Trustees has approved a contract to reappoint Larry Dietz as Illinois State’s president. He will remain in the office until June 30, 2020. This is the second three-year contract for Dietz, who became president in March 2014.
The talent Paul DeJong ’15 displayed on ISU’s baseball field was discovered by sports fans nationally during this year’s Major League Baseball season. DeJong joined the St. Louis Cardinals in May as an infielder, hitting a home run in his first at-bat in the big leagues.

Key to preparing for that moment was DeJong’s decision to join the Redbirds in 2011. A recruited walk-on, he was instrumental in the team’s 2013 MVC championship. One of the best hitters in the Midwest, DeJong was drafted as a junior in 2014, but chose to stay at ISU and complete a biochemistry degree. Before his baseball career took off, his plan was to complete a medical degree. He was in ISU’s Honors Program and graduated cum laude.

The Cardinals drafted DeJong in 2015 and assigned him to the minor leagues. He maximized the opportunity when given a chance in the big league. He played 107 games at shortstop and second base, ending the season with 25 home runs and 65 runs batted in.

DeJong was named National League Rookie of the Month for July on his 24th birthday. His rookie season is compared to former Cardinal’s great Albert Pujol’s first season.

DeJong credits his MLB success to his days at Illinois State under head coach Bo Durkac. His words of wisdom still anchor DeJong.

“Coach Durkac always said to get a good pitch to hit. That’s the number one rule of hitting,” DeJong said. “That stuck with me, and it’s still what I think about when I’m in the box or before I go up to the plate.”

Durkac credits DeJong’s success to the time he put in working in the weight room, hitting in the batting cages and taking the field to practice.

“He was someone who might not have had the most impressive physical tools when compared to others,” Durkac said, “but he was able to shape himself into a big league level baseball player through hard work.”
New coach leads volleyball team forward

Leah Johnson took the reigns of Illinois State’s volleyball team during the summer, becoming the seventh head coach in the program’s history. She replaced Melissa Myers, who resigned after nine years in the position.

“It is an honor to call myself a Redbird,” Johnson said. “It is undoubtedly the rich traditions and history of success that attracted me to Illinois State.”

Johnson played volleyball at Missouri State University, and was part of a conference championship squad in 2003. She ranks as the school’s leader in all-time and single-season digs. She earned a bachelor’s and master’s degree at the university.

Her coaching career began in 2007 and includes work at Texas Pan American, Missouri State and Notre Dame. She comes to ISU from Southern Illinois University-Edwardsville, where she served as head coach the past six seasons. Johnson led the Cougars to 22 victories last fall, which is the most in the program’s history since joining Division I play. She was named the 2016 Ohio Valley Conference Coach of the Year.

ISU Hall of Fame 2017 inductees honored

Five alums were inducted into the ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame and the inaugural Institutional Great Award presented at Homecoming.

The 2017 inductees include Kara (Nelson) Wiesemeyer, ’10, MBA ’12, a softball All-American twice named Missouri Valley Conference (MVC) Player of the Year.

All-American Aisha (Praught) Leer ’12 broke records on the cross country and track and field. Now a professional runner, she competed in the 2016 Olympics for her father’s native country of Jamaica.

Professional golfer Samantha Richdale ’06 recorded 10 collegiate wins while on the golf team. She won the MVC individual championship three times and was an All-American.

Darrell Smith ’03 was a four-year letter winner at No. 1 for singles/doubles competition in tennis and top-five in career singles wins. A member of the U.S. Professional Tennis Association, he is now a coach.

Kim (Sucher) Becker ’78, M.S. ’01, played volleyball, softball and basketball. Now teaching, the three-sport standout helped ISU capture state and regional championships.

Steve Fisher ’67, M.S. ’68, was honored for his collegiate career accomplishments with the Institutional Great Award. A former ISU basketball player, he excelled as head men’s basketball coach at the University of Michigan and San Diego State.

Former football standout nominee for hall of fame

One of the most celebrated players in Football Championship Subdivision (FCS) history while at ISU, Boomer Grigsby ’07 is now among 173 past collegiate players nominated for the 2018 College Football Hall of Fame.

The nomination places Grigsby in a prestigious group of the greatest to have ever played college football nationally. Inductees will be announced January 8. He already has numerous honors, including induction into Athletics’s Percy Family Hall of Fame and Missouri Valley Football Conference (MFVC) All-Select NFL Team.

As a Redbird, Grigsby led the league in total and solo tackles. He was a three-time First-Team All-American, and was named MFVC Defensive Player of the Year three seasons.

Grigsby played with the Kansas City Chiefs for three years and then the Miami Dolphins before ending his NFL career with an injury while with the Houston Texans in 2009.

Doug Collins back with Bulls

Legendary Redbird basketball player Doug Collins ’73 is actively involved in the NBA again with his new position as senior advisor of basketball operations for the Chicago Bulls. He coached the team for three seasons in the 1980s.

Collins played eight seasons in the NBA with the Philadelphia 76ers before an injury ended his career. In addition to coaching the Bulls, he led the Detroit Pistons, Washington Wizards and the 76ers. He also enjoyed a successful broadcast career as a basketball analyst. He remains one of the most respected figures in all of basketball.

Be a part of Illinois State’s home court advantage

Men’s and women’s basketball tickets are on sale now.
Visit GoRedbirds.com/Tickets or call (309) 438-8000.
Illinois State began with a vision. A few people dreamed of what could be. Just as Illinois State’s founders did 160 years ago, today’s Redbirds are pursuing a new vision.

ISU has launched Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. The campaign—which began in July 2013 and will continue through June 2020—has a $150 million goal. This is the University’s most ambitious campaign in its history.

The success of Redbirds Rising will help elevate ISU to even greater heights, as noted by President Larry Dietz.

“This $150 million campaign is the most ambitious in the University’s history. It will provide the resources to ensure that today’s Redbirds—and those who will enroll in the future—will benefit from a unique and exceptional educational experience,” Dietz said.

There are many statistics that provide evidence of Illinois State’s excellence as it impacts the state, nation and
REDBIRDS RISING
THE CAMPAIGN FOR ILLINOIS STATE

$150M | $106M
Fundraising initiative began July 2013 | Progress into November 2017

AREAS OF INVESTMENT

STUDENT SUPPORT
FACULTY SUPPORT
FACILITY SUPPORT
PROGRAM SUPPORT

REDBIRDS RISING TIMELINE AND PROGRESS

July 2013
Campaign Begins

Quiet Phase

September 2017
Campaign Kickoff

Public Phase

June 2020
Campaign Ends

We Are Here
($106M progress into November 2017)

Campaign Goal
($150M)
world. Among them is the *U.S. News & World Report* ranking that places ISU in the top 100 public universities in the nation. In addition, Illinois State remains in the top 10 percent nationally for freshman retention and maintains a graduation rate that exceeds the average of U.S. colleges and universities.

“Our rich history has positioned us well to continue a path to excellence despite unprecedented funding challenges. Illinois State has become a top choice of today’s students as demonstrated by three consecutive years of record-setting enrollment,” Dietz said. While many institutions faced declining enrollment this fall, ISU welcomed 20,784 students.

“Our focus on learning and scholarship through a personalized, student-centered approach steeped in experiential learning opportunities has proven successful,” Dietz said. It is because of the University’s strength and stability that this time was chosen to advance Illinois State to an even greater level through Redbirds Rising.

“While we have much to celebrate, there is more that we can do—and should. We have high standards and aspirations for what we can yet achieve at Illinois State,” Dietz said. “To accomplish our vision, we need the philanthropic partnership of alumni and friends.”

Private support will bolster the ISU experience for students in significant ways. Funds raised through Redbirds Rising will impact the entire campus, from each academic area to Athletics and WGLT to the Division of Student Affairs and Milner Library.

The primary campaign objectives are to help raise the level of scholarship, leadership and innovation at ISU.

ISU prepares tomorrow’s leaders by providing students with high-quality programming that offers opportunities for them to learn and practice their skills from the day they arrive on campus. To enhance leadership development, Redbirds Rising is pursuing funding for career development, study abroad, experiential learning opportunities, and other programs that foster leadership skills.

In today’s highly competitive world, it is imperative to make sure Illinois State has a campus environment that is centered on innovation. Whether that is through the technology used in learning spaces, academic programs offered, or in the application of theory into real-world practice, the University must acquire resources to foster an innovative mindset and entrepreneurial spirit throughout campus.

By investing substantially in scholarship, leadership and innovation, Illinois State will build on its past while acting for the future. Redbirds Rising is about calling individuals to be change agents to participate in a campaign that will turn aspirations and blueprints into accomplishments.

“Only with the philanthropic partnership of our alumni and friends can Illinois State continue to thrive,” Dietz said. “Together the community of benefactors will make certain that the University soars to even greater heights through Redbirds Rising.”
Mennonite College of Nursing appeals to students like Hannah Murdock because of its innovative Simulation Laboratory that mirrors hospital settings. “I chose nursing because I am inspired to help people. I chose Illinois State because its nursing program is prestigious,” she said. “Now I am taking care of critically ill premature infants.”

Hannah Murdock ’17
Registered Nurse, Carle Foundation Hospital

Ivan Korkes is the first in his family to pursue a degree. “ISU was a big decision because my family could not cover the costs,” he said. “Receiving scholarship assistance allows me to study abroad, which is a requirement of my major. Without it, I could not pursue the career path I love. I’m forever thankful.”

Ivan Korkes, Senior
International Business and Human Resources

Students seeking leadership and civic engagement opportunities find what they are looking for at Illinois State. “I was really interested in service before I came to the University, and furthering my leadership skills. That’s why I joined ISULeads,” Christine Gesell said. “It has impacted my life. I’ve grown so much as a person and as a professional.”

Christine Gesell, Junior
Graphic Communications and Business

Mennonite College of Nursing appeals to students like Hannah Murdock because of its innovative Simulation Laboratory that mirrors hospital settings. “I chose nursing because I am inspired to help people. I chose Illinois State because its nursing program is prestigious,” she said. “Now I am taking care of critically ill premature infants.”

Hannah Murdock ’17
Registered Nurse, Carle Foundation Hospital
CAMPAIGN CHAIRS

Ken ‘73 and Deborah (Hypke) Glover ’73
Jim ’74 and Carole (Czerniak) Mounier ’75
Dan ’70 and Pam Kelley

CAMPAIGN VOLUNTEERS

Brent Alsman
Bob Augustine
Kathy Augustine
Thomas Barger
Jim Bennett
Leslie Bertagnolli
Hank Campbell
Frank Chiodo
Clyde Coombs
Jacalyn Ferree
John Freese
Marilyn Freese
Gary Gemberling
Al Goldfarb
Beverly Grimes
Sandra Groves
Paul Harmon
Sandra Harmon
Mark Hauptman
Ed Hines
Judy Hines
Matt Johanson
Sue Johanson
Wonsook Kim
Thomas Clement
Emily Kimmey
Betty Kinser
Donna Koch
Jim Koch
Vickie Lannie
John Lawrence
Tamara Lemke
Rick Lewis
Joanne Maitland
Edward Manley
Dave Martin
Frances Owen
Kevin Petschow
Keith Powell
Joseph Rives
Cinda Roth
Michael Schermer
Stan Shingles
Connie Fako Shoemake
Kelley Smith
Steve Smith
Sharon Tarvin
Thomas Tegtmeyer
Heidi Voorhees
Robert Walling
Susan Lee Walling
Jeanne Wroan
John Wroan
Illinois State launched Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State at the September kickoff in Redbird Arena. Students performed and shared their Redbird experiences. Alumni Jane Lynch ’82, L.H.D. ’17, and Sean Hayes L.H.D. ’13, participated via holograms. The finale was the announcement of a $1 million gift toward the campaign goal (see page 3).
REDBIRDS RISING is an initiative for Illinois State to elevate the level of scholarship, leadership and innovation across campus. The fundraising goal of $150 million was derived based on the specific needs and priorities within the University’s six colleges—as well as Athletics, the Division of Student Affairs, Milner Library, and WGLT.

Given the University’s commitment to students, it is not surprising that an emphasis on raising scholarship dollars is a key objective within each area. Increased funding to recruit and retain faculty is another goal all of the colleges have established.

COLLEGE OF APPLIED SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

A campaign goal of $14 million propels forward a teaching model that emphasizes hands-on learning in the college, which offers majors that include agriculture, computer science, engineering technology, construction management and athletic training. Students will have the technology to tackle growing societal issues, such as cybersecurity and sustainable energy sources with campaign funds.

“Within the college, dynamic programs and people focus on translating classroom learning into real-world situations,” Dean Todd McLoda said. “Instruction with an emphasis on application allows college graduates to transfer theoretical and practical knowledge from the classroom to their profession.”

To support the College of Arts and Sciences, contact Katelyn Jacobs at (309) 438-3134 or email kmjaco3@illinoisState.edu.
CO N N E C T


“AN ARTS AND SCIENCES EDUCATION ENCOURAGES STUDENTS TO THINK ABOUT THE POSSIBILITIES, BUILDING A FOUNDATION THAT THEY NEED TO CHANGE LIVES, STARTING WITH THEIR OWN,” DEAN GREG SIMPSON SAID. “FACULTY SEEK NEW WAYS TO CHALLENGE, INSPIRE AND GUIDE STUDENTS, PREPARING THEM TO LEAVE AS INFORMED, WELL-EDUCATED, ENGAGED CITIZENS.”

TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES, CONTACT STEPHANIE SELLERS AT (309) 438-7725 OR EMAIL SESELLE@ILLINOISSTATE.EDU.

A TOTAL OF $28 MILLION IS THE GOAL FOR THE COLLEGE, WHERE STUDENTS ARE PREPARED TO PROVIDE ETHICAL LEADERSHIP IN BUSINESS. THEY ARE CHALLENGED TO DEVELOP AN INNOVATIVE MINDSET, ENTREPRENEURIAL APPROACH, AND ETHICAL AND CREATIVE SOLUTIONS TO COMPLEX PROBLEMS WHILE LEVERAGE TECHNOLOGY FOR ORGANIZATIONAL SUCCESS.

“NURTURING A FUNDAMENTAL TRAIT OF ETHICAL LEADERSHIP DRIVES THE TEACHING AND LEARNING WITHIN THE COLLEGE, WHERE STUDENTS ARE OUR MOST TREASURED ASSET,” DEAN AJAY SAMANT SAID. “IN TODAY’S FAST-PACED WORLD OF BUSINESS, WE WANT TO DO MORE TO ENSURE OUR STUDENTS’ PROFESSIONAL SUCCESS.”

TO SUPPORT THE COLLEGE OF BUSINESS, CONTACT LIZ ADAMS AT (309) 438-2903 OR EMAIL EADAMS2@ILLINOISSTATE.EDU.

RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu  /ISUGiving

November 2017  Illinois State  17
The college is working to raise $14.25 million to continue the mission of training teachers as both educators and agents of change. The college is recognized nationally for preparing teachers and administrators in all aspects of learning and teaching.

“The college’s mission is to mold educators who are globally-minded, socially and culturally competent, capable of integrating technology to enhance learning, and proficient in outcome-driven instruction,” Dean Perry Schoon said.

To support the College of Education, contact Lauren Dodge at (309) 438-2297 or email ldodge@IllinoisState.edu.

The college’s campaign goal is $12.5 million, which will strengthen the cultivation of innovation and expression. Both are hallmarks of the college, whose graduates impact the culture and quality of life.

“Students expand and share their inherent abilities with a liberal arts education emphasizing critical thinking and practice. Awareness sparks action as students apply their talent in opportunities that reach people at every life stage,” Dean Jean Miller said. “The arts empower students to problem-solve, enrich communities, and engage as active citizens.”

To support the College of Fine Arts, contact Mark Wunder at (309) 438-5725 or email mvwunde@IllinoisState.edu.

MCN’s goal of $7.5 million is essential in providing innovative teaching—which is key to having greater impact in the field—and addressing the national shortage of nursing professionals.

“The important work of the college is contingent on adequate funding to keep pace with the changing health care climate,” Dean Judy Neubrander said. “Through the campaign, the college will be able to offset the cost of preparing nurses to meet society’s health care needs with care and compassion, while increasing leadership in the health care field.”

To support Mennonite College of Nursing, contact Jennifer Sedbrook at (309) 438-7178 or email jsedbro@IllinoisState.edu.

Intercollegiate Athletics has a $34 million goal. Athletics connects students, alumni, donors and friends as a proud Redbird community. The University’s 19 teams have a legacy of excellence with winning records, stellar
classroom performance and continual community service.

“It takes more than the raw talent of individual student-athletes to achieve such a record of accomplishment,” Athletics Director Larry Lyons said. “Top-notch training facilities and academic support are among the ingredients essential to peak performance.”

To support Athletics, contact Matt Lyons at (309) 438-3264 or email mlyons@IllinoisState.edu.

DIVISION OF STUDENT AFFAIRS

The campaign goal for Student Affairs is $2 million. Donor support will advance the division’s work of enriching the Redbird experience.

“Student Affairs promises to create an engaging, inclusive and active campus environment that prepares a pipeline of leaders—one student at a time—to improve communities, industry and the world,” Vice President Levester Johnson said. “In a complex society where the future is unknown yet limitless, communities and industry are looking for college graduates who can ethically navigate uncertainty and multifaceted issues.”

To support the Division of Student Affairs, contact Erin Thomas at (309) 438-2170 or email eethoma@IllinoisState.edu.

MILNER LIBRARY

A goal of $500,000 has been set for Milner Library, ISU’s resource center with a rich heritage and bright future. The library is at the heart and soul of academic endeavors. Milner is working hard to meet the challenges of changing teaching and learning styles in the 21st century.

“Technologies have dramatically changed how students

learn and how they use the library,” Interim Dean Shari Zeck said. “Maintaining Milner’s vitality—and its service to the entire university community—requires significant upgrades and investments in staff expertise and 21st century tools.”

To support Milner Library, contact Lora Wey at (309) 438-2592 or email lwey@IllinoisState.edu.

WGLT PUBLIC RADIO

The University’s public radio station, WGLT, is also participating in the campaign. A service of Illinois State, WGLT provides national news from NPR and unbiased, in-depth local news from a team of award-winning journalists.

“Independent journalism has never been more important. News outlets in Illinois and across the nation are struggling in the face of dwindling budgets and shrinking staff,” General Manager R.C. McBride ’99 said. “WGLT’s aging equipment and an inadequate facility hinder the mission to provide a deeper understanding of diverse issues, people and cultures.”

More details can be found at WGLT.org. To support WGLT, contact Melissa Libert ’00 at (309) 438-2257 or email mmboehn@IllinoisState.edu.

The $150 million also includes $14.5 million designated to bolster programs and scholarships that benefit the entire campus community. Because of such a broad reach, these funds are not tied to a college or unit.
The mood at Illinois State this fall as students complete the academic routine of another semester is far more serene than what the University community experienced a century ago. In 1917, the nation had been drawn into World War I. For many students and faculty, that meant an interruption in learning and teaching as duty called.

Just as the campus rallied during the Civil War with creation of the Schoolmaster’s Regiment, patriotism rose at the University and across Illinois when the United States joined forces with the Allied countries to defeat the European Central Powers.

The Office of the Adjutant General shows that 351,153 men from the state joined the armed forces. Of that number, 5,000 lost their lives fighting for international freedom. Fourteen of those men were affiliated with the University. They are forever honored on a bronze tablet placed near Fell Hall that includes each man’s name and the phrase “For our tomorrow, they gave their today.”

The impact on campus was significant, as revealed through the efforts of Ange V. Milner, for whom Illinois State’s Milner Library is named. She had a prescient sense of the historical importance of World War I. As the University’s first librarian, she felt a duty to preserve for posterity the involvement of the campus in the global conflict.

Others at the University partnered with her in the effort. President David Felmley appointed faculty to a War Service Committee. Members documented active duty service men, who were students, staff, faculty, or alumni of either the University or its Laboratory School—University High School.

Milner built the roster using a broad definition of service. She included not only those with a military role but also individuals who contributed as nurses and volunteers with relief agencies such as the Red Cross, YMCA or Salvation Army.

She asked individuals to complete a survey that detailed their experiences, including branch of service, where they had served and dates of time spent at each location. Milner verified each respondent’s connection to Illinois State and documented from their completed form if they were drafted or enlisted, if they had been wounded, and any medals received for their service.
The roster, which contains biographical details of each person, grew to include records of 806 individuals. There are 685 remaining today. It has been deemed by the Illinois State Historical Library as one of the most complete in the state.

“She was saving this for the future,” Angela Bonnell said of ISU’s WWI collection. Bonnell is the University’s government documents librarian. “She wanted the University to have this.”

Milner’s commitment to preserving WWI materials tied to ISU and the nation as a whole resulted in a historical treasure trove that expanded far beyond a list of individuals. She maintained correspondence with many of the people she contacted, writing approximately 600 personal letters during the war years to those serving.

The connections to home and Illinois State came through clearly in the letters she received in return, with frequent mentions of friends, faculty, and even *The Vidette*. The letters also gave an intimate sense of what the men were experiencing.

John Feek enlisted in the Army in January of 1918. In November of that year, he wrote Milner from “somewhere on the Atlantic.” He confessed feeling “quite unnerved as we left the U.S., for to me it was the embarking of a great adventure.”
“All are anxious for the voyage to be over and the destination reached. No one knows just where it is to be, but why wonder. All will be new and strange and enveloped by a cover of uncertainty,” Feek shared. “I wish I could write more of the events, before and after leaving, but it would be most unwise to do so. However, I shall have many, many tales to tell when it is all over.”

Milner’s records show that Feek served in France through 1919. He died from tuberculosis in 1923 at the age of 32. There are newspaper clippings about Feek in ISU’s collection, as Milner gathered articles from papers at the local and national level.

She also preserved 108 posters accumulated from the federal government, the Red Cross and other agencies. The posters indicate to Bonnell that Milner recognized the value in collecting a breadth of WWI information.
“Milner was ahead of her game with visual culture, as we would call it,” Bonnell said, referring to the posters. “She was trying to teach with images. Plus, think about the publications of the day—there were no photos.”

Beyond gathering data and preserving war memorabilia, Milner engaged others in supporting the troops. She spearheaded a campaign to collect magazines and books to be sent to soldiers overseas. She asked for magazines but insisted they be recent. Regarding books, she requested “good love stories, stories of adventure, detective stories.” Milner included one last caveat in her plea: “And don’t forget I need them right away!”

Individuals also donated their time. University faculty and students joined local youth in Old Main to make more than 15,000 scarves and bandages for use in the war. The campus community knitted socks, conserved fuel and food, and tended gardens. These acts of patriotism were requested of all Americans by President Woodrow Wilson, and Milner worked to help the University respond.

“She wanted to inspire on the home front,” Bonnell said. “She wanted people here to plant Victory Gardens, to conserve coal, and to give money to the war effort.” Milner’s probate records after her death in 1928 showed that she practiced what she preached. She had purchased a $50 Victory Liberty Loan, also called a Liberty war bond. By today’s adjusted value, it would be akin to putting $850 to the cause.

Milner’s duty to her profession in recording the war, her sense of patriotism, and a desire to teach others has come to fruition during this WWI centennial year. Bonnell has displayed the level of ISU’s involvement by drawing on Milner’s collection.

Bonnell created an exhibit titled Answering the Call: ISNU’s Librarian and the Great War to
mark on campus the war's 100th anniversary. The exhibition featured 20 vintage war posters that were put on display for the first time in almost a century. The iconic U.S. posters were designed to inspire citizens to get involved in helping the allies win the war. They would have been on display in the library and across campus during the war years.

A second exhibit, Propaganda on all Fronts: United States and International Posters, 1917–1945, featured more than 40 posters and related materials from World War I, the 1936 Berlin Olympics, and World War II. The items revealed how governments around the world tried to influence public opinion.

ISU’s collection continues to grow with donations in more recent years. The University has obtained two WWI uniforms housed in the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences’ Lois Jett Historic Costume Collection. One is a jacket and pants in an equestrian style.

The other is an Army uniform worn by Lindsay Newton Connally, who served in Europe in 1917. He was the grandfather of Alan Lacy, an ISU professor now serving as an associate vice president in the Provost Office. The uniform includes a jacket, pants, cardigan, cap, and belt with a brass buckle.

These artifacts are especially appreciated by ISU Registrar Jess Ray ’91, M.S. ’95, and Jeanne Hamacher ’82. Both serve on the Illinois World War One Centennial Committee. In planning events for the anniversary year, they have found many campus connections.

Like Milner before them, Ray and Hamacher are proud to commemorate the bravery and sacrifice of all who answered the call in defending global freedom. The fact there is evidence to show hundreds of Redbirds rallied for the cause is yet another point of pride for Illinois State University.

*Editor’s note*

The Answering the Call exhibition can be accessed online at library.illinoisstate.edu/unique-collections or in person at Milner Library. Contact Angela Bonnell at abonne@IllinoisState.edu. ISU’s Dr. JoAnn Rayfield Archives is always looking to expand the University’s historical collections. If you are a graduate and would like to discuss donating war memorabilia to the archives, email archives@IllinoisState.edu.
Recruiting the next incoming class is a never-ending job for the staff in Admissions. Jeff Mavros, M.S. ’06, can attest to the workload, as well as the apprehension each fall semester until enrollment figures are announced on the 10th day of classes.

As the Director of Admissions, Mavros knows that student tuition and fees are a significant portion of ISU’s overall budget. The total enrolled has an impact across campus, from the number of faculty and class sessions needed to meeting housing and dining needs.
Numbers for this academic year remain strong, with an enrollment of 20,784 students. Nearly one-fourth are from traditionally underrepresented groups, with 3,352 incoming freshmen. Mavros is grateful for the campus-wide teamwork he credits for this healthy enrollment, especially given universities and colleges across the state are seeing enrollments drop.

He is also, however, growing concerned as to how Illinois State will overcome increasing challenges to attract students in the near future. Even the fact ISU remains a top choice for students and has set consecutive record-breaking freshman enrollments in recent years does not lessen the reason for worry about the obstacles ahead.

“We are looking at a confluence of issues,” Mavros said, including a “demographic trough” as the pool of eligible incoming freshmen shrinks. He cited research done by Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education, which predicts stagnation in the number of school graduates between 2014 and 2023.

Overall growth is not expected until 2024, with the outlook for the Midwest equally concerning. The commission projects a regional drop from about 762,000 graduates in 2013 to approximately 669,000 by 2030. The pool shrinks further for ISU given the fact that nearly half of Illinois high school graduates leave the state for college, according to the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

“There is a crisis in confidence in Illinois, a crisis of faith,” Mavros said. “Illinois is at the top of the list nationally for the number of high school graduates who exit the state to pursue a higher education degree.”

Ongoing financial struggles within Illinois are not a help in trying to reverse that trend.

The state has repeatedly made national headlines for its financial woes, including lawmakers’ inability to approve a state budget the past two fiscal years.

Mavros understands families are consequently leery about their student beginning a degree program at a university reliant on some state funding. He acknowledges that the cost to study at Illinois State is a serious investment, “and even our in-state tuition rate can be relatively expensive for students from other parts of the country.”

One option to attract more students is to lower academic standards, which is not under consideration at ISU. This year’s incoming freshman students had an overall 3.4 on a 4.0 GPA scale and an average ACT score near 24.

The best way to offset these negatives is to leverage Illinois State’s best assets, including its commitment to individualized attention—something that is tough to find at any other university of comparable size.

Mavros knows that prospective students who consider ISU are impressed with the opportunities to blend academic growth with civic engagement. Those who make the effort to visit campus are more likely to attend.

The key is to capture the attention of a high school graduate who is being pursued by schools across the country. For Mavros, one of the best ways to do that is by rallying alumni to share their Redbird story.

“We have to get on the radar of prospective students. That is the biggest issue, finding a way for students to at least give Illinois State consideration. Word of mouth is huge,” Mavros said, asking alumni to share about their Redbird experience. He has no doubt that doing so will bring students to ISU, and keep the University strong.
Not a single thing about the Appalachian Trail appealed to her. Jean (Lindner) Deeds ‘64 had never hiked or camped. She spent 20 years in an Indianapolis suburb as a stay-at-home mom, moving into a career at the end of her marriage. She volunteered, played bridge and had wine nights with friends.

But every day in her Indianapolis community became too much like the day before. Deeds knew she didn’t want to live the rest of her life that way. She knew what was next after reading about a woman who hiked the Appalachian Trail’s nearly 2,200 miles through 14 states.

“It all sounded horrible to me,” she said, recalling her reaction in 1993. “Why would anyone want to sleep on the ground, carry 40 pounds, be out there in the rain and sometimes the snow and the heat and the bugs, and walk 2,000 miles in the mountains?”

A week later, she was committed to it. Hiking the trail just felt like something she was meant to do, even though she’d have to endure 100-degree heat, drenching rains and high winds to make it to the vertical rock slabs at the end. Her two sons didn’t think it sounded at all like their mother. She was 51 at the time, 115 pounds and stood 5 feet 5 inches. Deeds’ mother refused to talk about it for months.

BY KATE ARTHUR
One triumphant moment for Jean Deeds while on the Appalachian Trail was hiking to the top of McAfee Knob in Virginia.
But Deeds was not deterred. She read library books, joined the YMCA to train, and met with thru-hikers. The term refers to those who have hiked the entire trail. She trekked through her neighborhood at night, her backpack filled with encyclopedias. She walked football stadium bleachers, practiced lighting a camping stove in her garage, and camped one night on a state wilderness trail. It scared her to death.

She resigned from her job at the Indianapolis Children’s Museum, rented her house, and packed supplies for friends to mail along the way. The night before she left, she asked herself again if she’d lost her mind.

Flooding from tornadoes made it unsafe to drive to the trailhead at the top of Springer Mountain in Georgia, so she hiked up the seven muddy miles to reach the start. Panic soon set in. The backpack was much heavier than at home. She was cold and wet, with no idea where she’d sleep for the next six months. She reminded herself of her expectations. “I knew it would be difficult, and maybe the worst experience of my life. When it was, that was OK.”

Every two weeks, she took a day off. The ascents and descents were hard on her back and legs. She popped Ibuprofen around the clock, and she cried a lot. Sleeping on hard ground in 30-degree temps with mice scurrying over her, filtering drinking water, hanging food from trees to avoid bear attacks, and hiking 10-hour days was draining. But she stayed on the trail “because at 51, I knew the pain wouldn’t last.”

Deeds also knew she could always say she didn’t want to go any further or learn more. “On the trail, that’s when you go home,” she said. “I think in life, that’s when you die.”

After two months, her body adapted and she started enjoying the hike. She left the trail for supplies in small towns, sometimes staying in hostel rooms shared with several hikers. The food was better than the Pop-Tarts she carried for breakfast and boiled pasta eaten at night to consume the needed 4,000 to 6,000 calories a day.

What really sustained her were letters received along the way from more than 400 friends and strangers. She also felt the unexpected presence of her father, who died when she was 5. “It would never have occurred to me that the hike would have had anything to do with him,” she said. “But I felt his constant presence, and I have never felt that before or since. He was with me every step of the way. That became a very spiritual part of the journey.”

Jean Deeds hiked the 2,200-mile Appalachian Trail alone. She wrote a book about it and started leading women on hiking adventures all over the world.

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Three months into the hike, her Indiana bridge club friends drove out to celebrate the half-way mark with her. At five months, she was 1,800 miles along and one of her sons, Greg, hiked with her a few days.

They were above the tree line in Maine when she slipped on a wet rock, heard a pop, and knew she was in trouble. Twenty-six hours later, she was in an emergency room with a broken leg.

With 300 miles of trail left, Deeds was headed home. While healing, she wrote a book titled There Are Mountains to Climb, made speeches, and decided she was going to finish the trail.

“The broken leg opened up so many doors,” she can say 23 years later. “I don’t believe in coincidences anymore.”

A year after the fall, she was back on the trail. This time, everything was different. Peace replaced fear. A film crew joined her. They had to ask her to slow down as she began running to the trail’s end, the summit of Mt. Katahdin, in September 1995.
Deeds returned home, but not to her old life. She started leading women on six-day hikes on the Appalachian Trail, and then found herself guiding them on adventures all over the world, from Europe to Africa. She summited Mt. Kilimanjaro twice—at age 55 and 60—and led a group to 15,000 feet on Mt. Everest.

Those experiences made her realize why she was called to leave suburbia for the trail. She was supposed to inspire women through their journeys, teaching them to trust their instincts, know their strength and heal. Some of the women became thru-hikers. Others earned degrees, asked for a raise, or ran marathons.

Among the women touched by Deeds is Janet Gorrell of Franklin, Indiana. She describes Deeds as the perfect guide who was soft-spoken and peaceful, yet displayed a wicked sense of humor. Gorrell appreciates that she learned from Deeds how to dance in the rain, sleep with mice, cut a mango and twirl an umbrella.

“I knew it would be difficult, and maybe the worst experience of my life. When it was, that was OK.”

Now 75, Deeds is still introduced as the woman who hiked the trail. It’s a legacy she did not envision, but readily embraces.

“I never sought being in a role where I would be inspiring to other people. It’s being the messenger,” she said. “I feel so strongly that when you’re ready to hear it, the message appears. I just happened to be at a place at a time when I was an inspiration to someone else, and I’m so very grateful for that.”

Deeds recognizes how her adventures empowered her as well, especially as she has battled cancer in recent years to live beyond her prognosis.

“Cancer has broadened my life in another way. You don’t look five years down the road. You say, ‘Today I’m going to do this. I feel badly today; I’m going to feel better tomorrow.’”

Every morning starts with a workout. Twice a week she helps incarcerated men study for their GED. And she hikes her neighborhood. Last year she led a group of women on a hike in England, which she said was her last.

But in the next breath she said there’s one more possibility, The Greater Patagonian Trail. Stretching from Chile to Argentina, the trek offers views of glaciers and granite towers. It’s a destination often referred to as the end of the earth.

“I may go to Patagonia,” Deeds said, with such a mix of confidence and adventure that the listener has no doubt she will.

TRAIL TRIVIA

The Appalachian Trail is a footpath that stretches about 2,200 miles across 14 states, from Springer Mountain in Georgia to Mt. Katahdin in Maine. Benton MacKaye had the idea for the trail in 1921, seeing it as a utopian refuge from urban life. It was completed in 1937.

Approximately 2,500 attempt the entire trail annually, but only about one in four complete the journey. It takes five to six months and an estimated 5 million steps to cover the distance. More than 2 million do at least one-day hikes each year.

The tallest peak is in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park and stands 6,643 feet. Because of the constant ascents and descents, hikers who complete the miles finish with a total elevation gain equal to reaching Mount Everest’s peak 16 times.

The first person to travel the entire trail was World War II veteran Earl Shaffer. He decided in 1948 that the hike would be a good way to walk the Army out of his system.

Emma Gatewood is the first woman to attempt the trail alone. At age 67 and with 11 children, she set out in 1955. She became the first person to hike the trail three times, with her last adventure at age 75. Her journey is chronicled in the New York Times bestseller Grandma Gatewood’s Walk.
I SU is the largest preparer of teachers in Illinois. More than one in seven public school teachers in the state is a graduate. Redbirds are reaching thousands of students each year, from kindergarten through high school.

Students gain an excellent education from teachers trained at Illinois State. They learned during their collegiate years to embrace diversity, work with integrity, and teach with technology now common in classrooms.

“Teachers make a difference like few others,” said Director of Admissions Jeff Mavros, M.S. ’06, who knows the influence they have in opening for students the world of learning. Teachers also become mentors, empowering students to advance in the classroom as they gain skills for life.

Because of the close connection ISU’s education graduates have with students and families across the state, they are in a unique position to share their Redbird experience. Mavros is confident that by doing so, alumni educators can help Illinois State recruit.

ISU will face increasing enrollment challenges due to a shrinking demographic of high school students, the state’s financial issues, and the fact nearly half of Illinois high school graduates choose to study in other states.

Mavros realizes teachers have the opportunity to make students aware of what Illinois State can offer, which plants a seed of interest. Getting prospective students to consider the University is the first step toward enrollment.

Teachers who want to show their Redbird pride can receive a classroom pack from the University. It includes, as shown above, an ISU banner, pencils and a temporary Reggie Redbird tattoo for each student.

“We’re also asking teachers to wear ISU attire on Fridays, which is the day the campus community wears red to show Redbird pride,” said Mavros, who is offering an Illinois State T-shirt to the first 500 teachers who ask for the kit.

Go to https://forms.IllinoisState.edu/forms/classroom. Requests will be fulfilled starting in January.
Proud Redbird couple
Homecoming royalty

Mike and Nancy (Johnson) Monken, this year’s Homecoming alumni king and queen, met at ISU.

Nancy ’62 studied English. An honor’s resident, she was heavily involved with the class advisory board and the women's club. She taught English for many years, retiring as a college counselor in Illinois District 210.

Mike ’61, M.S. ’66, studied physical education as an undergraduate. He earned a master’s in health, physical education and recreation. On the ISU football team four years, he was captain as a senior. He taught shop, physical education, health, and driver’s education for more than 30 years. He excelled in coaching high school football, and has been inducted into the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Both are very involved on ISU’s Half Century Club committee and stay busy with family activities. They have three children and many grandchildren they visit often.

Class celebrations planned for April

Graduates from the Class of 1968 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on April 27 and 28 during the annual Half Century Club event. A variety of activities will take place across campus, including luncheons, tours and information sessions. The Class of 1968 will be inducted into the Half Century Club on Friday evening.

Members of the classes of 1963, 1958, 1953, 1948 and 1943 who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th and 75th reunions will be honored as well. Any alumnus or friend of the University is invited to attend the weekend activities. For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586.

From the archives

ISU’s football program has changed markedly over time. Efforts to start a team began in 1902, however, the hope was dashed when there were not enough talented players to build a squad. The first team, above, formed during the 1903-1904 academic year. Today’s players total 93 and are led by Brock Spack, now in his ninth year as head coach. Redbird fans are faithful to fill Hancock Stadium and cheer the team on through another winning season.
A love for the game of basketball combined with a graduate degree in exercise physiology resulted in an amazing career opportunity for Kelsey Reynolds, M.S. ’16.

She was one of eight chosen from an applicant pool of more than 500 to train as a National Basketball Association referee. Reynolds has spent the months since graduation in the NBA’s Referee Development Program.

Participants commit to three years of training that prepares them to officiate in the NBA’s minor league basketball organization before moving up to the NBA and WNBA.

They learn all aspects of officiating, from proper mechanics and positioning to making accurate calls. Knowledge about the NBA operation is gained with a rotation through corporate departments, including the analytics area where games are reviewed for call accuracy.

The bulk of Reynolds’ time has been spent officiating games for men’s and women’s leagues. She refereed a women’s collegiate Division III basketball conference in the New York/New Jersey region, where she currently lives.

She also officiated at Basketball Without Borders camps during the NBA All-Star weekend in February. The camp drew the top 67 high school male and female players from 32 countries and territories.

Reynolds is also becoming more comfortable using technology, which increasingly impacts a referee’s job. NBA games are filmed from nine different angles. Coverage is connected to the NBA Replay Center in Secaucus, New Jersey.

“Whenever referees are looking at a monitor during a game, they are talking to the folks in New Jersey to make a final ruling on the play,” Reynolds said.

She welcomes the added tool as a way to get the calls right. “All players want is accuracy,” Reynolds said. She has the same desire as she prepares for her dream job by learning to call plays correctly.
1950s
James Wiltz ’56 taught at Dixon High School from 1960 to 1993. His dedication in teaching and directing musicals 33 years has been recognized with the school’s naming of the James A. Wiltz Auditorium. He also wrote the school’s fight song. Two of the four Wiltz children are graduates, Anne ’85 and Michael ’87. Wiltz and his wife, Sharon, reside in Dixon.

Daniel Aquino ’57 is retired from the University of Hawaii, where he was director of Hoomana School. He and his wife, Charlene, reside in Eagle Point, Oregon.

John “Jack” Murphy ’57, M.S. ’66, taught and coached varsity basketball teams for boys and girls in Central Illinois schools for 60 years. He has been inducted into the Illinois Basketball Hall of Fame, Bloomington-Normal Officials Association Hall of Fame and halls at Taylorville and Pontiac high schools. He is a past Pontiac Citizen of the Year recipient. He and his wife, JoEllen, reside in Bloomington.

Doris (Garvie) Schertz ’59 is retired from teaching English and serving as resource development advancement project manager at College of DuPage. She has completed 10 marathons, winning her age group in each. She and her husband, David ’59, have six children and 15 grandchildren. The couple resides in Lombard.

David Rine ’63 is professor emeritus in engineering at George Mason University. He became involved in East African missions, where he helped develop schools. He met his wife, Carolynne (Kennedy) ’67, at ISU. They reside in Olathe, Kansas.

D. Leigh Henson ’64, M.S. ’69, D.A. ’82, is retired from the English faculty at Southwest Missouri State University. A prolific author on Abraham Lincoln, he published Inventin Lincoln: Approaches to His Rhetoric. He resides in Springfield, Missouri.

Janet (Schwab) Chobar ’66 is retired from Morningside College, where she was the licensure officer in the graduate education department. She and her husband, David, have been married 51 years. They reside in Sioux City, Iowa.

Wes Faris ’66, M.S. ’73, has been a teacher and coach for nearly 50 years. He and his wife, Linda, met at ISU and celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August. They are the parents of five adult daughters and reside in Ottawa.

Scott Rezabek ’66, M.S. ’67, is retired from the Ford Motor Company. He resides in Heber Springs, Arkansas.

Geraldine (Taylor) Peeples ’67 is retired as a specialist with human and community development through the University of Illinois Extension. She and her husband, George, reside in Savoy.

Bob Court ’68 retired as academic dean from Northwest High School in Washington. He taught, coached and was a school administrator for 50 years in various high schools surrounding Seattle. He was a member of the 1967 Redbird football championship team. He resides in Issaquah, Washington.

Roger Ellis ’68 is retired from River Valley Financial Bank, where he worked as a commercial credit analyst. He and his wife, Marsha, reside in Floyds Knobs, Indiana.

Diana (Corley) Schnapp ’68, M.S. ’70, is the executive director of the International Listening Association. She retired from teaching at colleges and universities in Illinois, Maryland and Kansas. She and her husband, Frank, reside in Overland Park, Kansas.

1960s
Don Metz ’60 is retired after 34 years with the K-mart Corporation. He and his wife, Sharon, have been married 56 years. They have three adult children and six grandchildren. The couple resides in Northville, Michigan.

Fred Koerner ’62 is retired as president of Koerner Consulting Inc. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Mount Pleasant, South Carolina.

Dale Prest ’62 worked 35 years as a teacher and librarian for Elmhurst School District 205. He and his wife, Donna, reside in Lombard.

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Pause for applause
End of an era
After serving as president of Thomas Edison State University for 35 years, George Pruitt ’68, M.S. ’70, L.H.D. ’94, will retire from the office this year. He is one of the longest-serving collegiate presidents in the country. Pruitt became a national higher education leader at Towson, which serves only adult students. He helped make degree completion feasible for working adults and active military service members. Pruitt served five Secretaries of Education under three presidents. He is remembered on ISU’s campus for his leadership as the first president of the Black Student Association and foundational work on ISUs’ High Potential Student Program.

Broadway accolades
Laurie Metcalf ’76 added another honor to her acting resume this year by capturing a Tony Award for best Broadway performance as a leading actress in a play. She was cast as Nora in A Doll’s House, Part 2. It was the fourth Tony nomination for Metcalf, a theatre and dance graduate known for her role as Jackie in Roseanne. Metcalf helped create Steppenwolf Theatre in Chicago and has fond ISU memories. “I don’t know if ISU helped me become what I am,” she said, “but I know that if I hadn’t gone there, I wouldn’t be what I am today.”

Messaging millennials
Binta Diallo ’14 embraces both her American and African roots. She uses her time and talents to help others, from working as a volunteer with humanitarian organizations to supporting anti-bullying campaigns and creating Internal Archives. The online platform empowers millennials of color to celebrate their cultural identities. Diallo’s messages of motivation encourage everyone to stay true to themselves and keep moving forward. “Life will be filled with updates and revisions,” she writes. “No great story was published after the first draft. Respect your story and your struggles.”

Global praise
Theatre major Jonathan Browning ’93 has captured the spotlight by appearing in dozens of national commercials, from pitching Progressive with Flo to promoting Home Depot. He has appeared on award-winning television shows, including How I Met Your Mother and The Office. Browning writes one-act plays presented in Los Angeles, and also teaches improvisation at Second City Hollywood and American Musical and Dramatic Academy. His greatest acclaim comes as a writer and director of short films created through his company, Screaming Frog Productions. Browning’s comedic short films have been screened in more than 400 international film festivals and have captured 28 international awards.
How we met

Tina (Fabley) ’79 and Mark Chase ’78 took a trip to Oahu, Hawaii, this year to mark their 40th wedding anniversary and to celebrate a romance that began on Illinois State’s campus.

The Chases tied the knot on August 13, 1977, the summer before his senior and her junior year. He majored in business administration and minored in economics, and she was an elementary education student. They met during Tina’s freshman year. Two of her roommates were dating a pair of Mark’s housemates in Watterson Towers.

Mark remembers being attracted to the cute blonde he passed on the Quad. “I had a head of hair that I don’t have anymore,” he said. “We just clicked.”

They bonded over Redbird sports. The couple was in Horton Field House the day the Redbirds upset top 5-ranked UNLV, and traveled to Indiana State to watch ISU play Larry Bird’s Sycamores.

Date nights often consisted of a movie at Capen Auditorium followed by dinner at Avanti’s. “It was a cheap date,” Mark said. “The whole thing was like five bucks.”

In 1976 Mark proposed to Tina on the Quad after a Redbird football game. They held an impromptu engagement party that night in Watterson Towers.

The couple returned to campus last summer to catch up with some college friends. “We have fond memories of ISU,” Tina said.

Mark retired in 2016 after 38 years with State Farm Insurance Company. He worked in Illinois, Oregon, Illinois again and finally in California, where the couple now resides. Tina served in public and private elementary schools during her career. “As the travelling spouse, I always taught,” she said.

They have three children—Nicholas, Scott, and Stacy—and five grandchildren, with another one on the way this fall.

Lorraine (Fisher) DeWitte ’69 is retired from Sciatic-Atlanta/Cisco Systems. She celebrated her 70th birthday observing the total solar eclipse. She and her husband, Joseph, reside in Buckhead, Georgia.

Claire Ricewasser ’69 is the associate director of communications at Al-Anon Family Group Headquarters Inc., where she has worked 30 years. She resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

1970s

Helen (Moser) Petersen ’70 is the marketing director for the Carmel Racquet Club. She and her husband, James, reside in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Mary (Thompson) Schaeffer ’70 is retired from her work as a learning disability specialist. She and her husband, Terry, reside in Ventura.

Stephen Post ’71, M.S. ’73, retired after 20 years of teaching and 25 years in sales management with Brach’s Candy Company, Collector’s Art, and Sprint Telecommunications. He and his wife, Susan, reside in Leesburg, Florida.

John Erickson ’72 retired after 44 years in the insurance industry, with the last 11 as an account specialist II at Aon Corporation. He resides in Des Plaines.

Nancy Maclay ’72, M.A. ’96, is retired from Aurora University, where she was a research librarian. She resides in Ft. Wayne, Indiana.

Genalee (Waters) Tewebaugh ’72 is retired after teaching middle school language arts for 35 years. She also sponsored the National Junior High Honor Society and coached the speech club. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Saint Joseph.

Robert Bond ’73 is retired after 45 years working as a research and exploration geologist, and a software and systems network engineer. He resides in Castle Rock, Colorado.

Paul Burton ’73 completed a juris doctorate at Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He is an attorney and judge pro tem in King County District Court in Washington. He and his wife, Kathleen, reside in Issaquah, Washington.

David Crumbaugh ’73 has retired after practicing law 41 years. He and his wife, Mary Jo, reside in Chicago.

William Otton, Ed.D. ’73, is retired as executive director of the Art Museum of South Texas, where he worked 14 years. He served as vice president of the founding board for Verge Center for the Arts, and is now vice president of the board of directors for Marin Museum of Contemporary Art. He resides in Novato, California.

Daniel Rozak ’74 completed a juris doctorate at Loyola University School of Law. He has retired as Chief Felony Circuit Judge for the 12th Judicial Circuit in Illinois. He spent nearly 22 years on the bench and more than 40 years in the legal profession. He and his wife, Deborah, reside in Custer Park.

Lawrence Metcalf ’74, retired from the Coca-Cola company after 30 years. He is the volunteer director of outreach for Sunspot Solar, a nonprofit education outreach program offering elementary and middle school students free solar astronomy events. He and his wife, Rhea, reside in Columbia, South Carolina.

Steve Preis ’74, M.S. ’83, is the principal of Desert Meadows School. He received the 2017 CASE Outstanding Leadership Award from
the Arizona Council for Exceptional Children. He and his wife, Patty, reside in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jane (Gautier) Daum ’75 retired after serving 27 years as the bookstore manager at Feather River Community College. She and her husband, David, have one adult daughter and a grandson. The couple resides in Georgetown, Texas.

Jeffery Jones ’75 is the special assistant for enrollment management and diversity recruitment at Kutztown University. He has served as director of admissions at East Stroudsburg University. He has also been a collegiate basketball coach, including at KU. He and his wife, Maria, reside in Macungie, Pennsylvania.

Theodore Waltmire ’75 received the first annual Inspire Award from MarianJoy Rehabilitation Hospital in Wheaton. The honor recognizes his courage and effort to recover from a stroke in 2009. He has since written a musical about his stroke survival titled The Mighty Ted: An Unexpected Journey. It has been performed in Chicago. He resides in Oak Brook Terrace.

Brian Brown ’76 is retired from teaching and a writing position for the Arizona Republic. He resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Deborah (Scheri) Lamberti ’76, M.S. ’07, is retired from Bloomington School District 87, where she was a special education teacher. She and her husband, William, reside in Bloomington.

John Richards ’76 works in purchasing and customer service with Chicago Electric Sales Inc. He resides in Forest Park.

Douglas Sund ’76 retired as a forensic chemist with the Michigan State Police. He and his wife, Peggy, reside in Livonia, Michigan.

Karl Swager ’78 is a software developer with October Three. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Gainesville, Georgia.

Susan (Hubble) Burchell ’79 retired from the University of Southern Mississippi as an associate professor and associate dean of the College of Health. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Hattiesburg, Mississippi.

Wayne Musick ’79, M.S. ’81, is the resources director for the accounting firm Webster Rogers LLP. He and his wife, Rebekah, reside in Florence, South Carolina.

Michael Pisarcik ’79 works for CITGO Petroleum Corporation as a senior account manager for hydrocarbon solvents sales. He oversees the Western U.S., Canada and Mexico. He and his wife, Paula, reside in Naperville.

Kim (McDonough) Zinman ’79 retired after 33 years in education. She was principal of Kilmer Elementary School in Buffalo Grove for 19 years. She resides in Park Ridge.

1980s

Janie Eichhorst-Smith ’80 is a sales and marketing representative with Fastline Media Group. She and her husband, Brian, reside in Carlock.

Meg Goodman, M.S. ’80, is a managing director of Jacobs and Clevenger, a marketing agency in Chicago. She and her wife, Juli Swartzlander, reside in Winfield.

Willis Kern ’80 retired from WGLT as news director. He worked at ISU’s NPR station 24 years and in broadcasting 42 years. He was named the Best Downstate Radio Reporter by the Associated Press four times. He and his wife, Stacy, reside in Bloomington.

Catherine (Valack) Smith ’80 retired after 36 years with Burr Ridge CCSD 180. She worked as a teacher, reading interventionist, curriculum director and elementary principal. She resides in Darien.

Gregory Anderson ’81 is executive vice president for finance and operations at the University of North Texas Health Science Center. He resides in Fort Worth, Texas.

Kateri Kline-Johnson, M.F.A. ’81, is a stage combat director. She and her husband, David, reside in Grand Rapids, Michigan.

Stephen Ryan ’81 is chief financial officer for LW Consulting Inc. He resides in Nazareth, Pennsylvania.

Deborah (Ford) Van Hoorn ’81, M.S. ’85, Ph.D. ’96, is an adjunct instructor at Illinois Wesleyan University. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Congerville.

Denise Vezza-Maggiore ’81 is an award-winning artist and art instructor. She is a member of the Left Hand Artist Group and the Boulder Arts Association. She works as a freelance graphic and web designer at Schwartz Artz Creative Solution, while maintaining her own studio. She and her husband, Francesco, reside in Niwot, Colorado.

Libby (Jacobson) Wolkoff ’81, M.S. ’91, retired as a reading specialist in Waukegan Public School District 60 after 35 years of teaching. She has two adult sons and lives in Highland Park.

Jill Albertosa-Brown ’82, M.A. ’86, completed a master’s at Duke Divinity School. She is a pastor of congregational care and older adults at West Market Street United Methodist Church. She and her husband, Vince, reside in Greensboro, North Carolina.

Robert Decker, Ed.D. ’83, is professor emeritus at the University of Northern Iowa. He and his wife, Paula, participate in long-term church mission work. They served two years in Fiji and are now with a mission in Hawaii.

Troy Hickey ’83 retired as principal of Robinson High School. He received the 2016 Herman Graves Award from the Illinois Principals Association. He resides in Robinson.

Gary O’Brien ’83 is the director of communications for Columbus Arenas Sports and Entertainment at Ohio State University. He resides in Columbus, Ohio.

Jani Simon, M.S. ’83, plays the recurring roles of Pinky in the HBO show High Maintenance and Sideways Jane in Riding the D with Dr. Seeds. She has a role in the film Accommodations, set for release this year. She resides in New York, New York.

Robin (Moons) Solomon ’83 is the dean’s assistant for Indian Prairie School District 204. She and her husband, Steve, reside in Naperville.

Diane (Jacobs) Thorp, M.S. ’83, is a licensed clinician and owner of DMT Psychotherapy. She specializes in complex trauma and mar-

Connected beyond campus

What started as a friendship between four young undergraduates turned into a bond that remains strong yet today. All education majors, the ladies spent hours in DeGarmo Hall before each graduated in 1988. The group plans a gathering several times each year, including a return to campus for Homecoming. They are, from left, Julie (Beck) Savage of Ashland, Joanne (Blasko) Smude of Springfield, Kim Hahnenkamp of Taylorville, and Lisa (Seavers) Mack of Dunlap.
Redbird legacy

With her mother a dual graduate of Illinois State and employed at the University, Katharine Woollen ’17 knew what to expect when she decided to attend ISU. She was so certain of her decision to be a Redbird that Katharine did not apply to any other university.

“Since my mother attended Illinois State, I knew that the University offered quality programs and had excellent faculty,” Katharine said. “I took those into consideration. My decision to attend ISU was based on the quality of the anthropology program and the attention that faculty give to students.”

Susan Woollen, M.S. ’06, Ph.D. ’15, was excited and relieved to learn her daughter was accepted to Illinois State. “I was very proud of Katharine because I knew that ISU would be a good fit for her,” Susan said. She works in the Department of Criminal Justice Sciences as the director of undergraduate studies and enrollment management.

An educational administration and foundations graduate, Susan credits her professors for teaching her to become a more thoughtful and critical citizen by engaging with the world. She was confident her daughter’s educational experience would be as profound.

Katharine’s decision was made in her junior year of high school after visiting with Fred Smith, who was then chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She completed her undergraduate in anthropology as an Honors Program student who studied in England and conducted research on remains from Schroeder Mounds. She graduated with honors in May and remains at ISU to pursue a master’s in anthropology.

“Katharine shares what she learns in the classroom with me, and I’ve learned so much from her,” Susan said. “She is a more concerned and informed citizen and a promising young scholar as a result of her ISU education.”

The two also share in their Redbird pride. Katharine remembers attending with her mother ISU Homecoming events when still a child. Now the two partner to decorate floats for the parade. It is just one more way they appreciate and celebrate their Illinois State legacy.

Katharine ’17, left, and Susan Woollen, M.S. ’06, Ph.D. ’15, are one of many Redbird legacy families that share a connection to Illinois State.
Virginia McMath '92 completed a doctorate in education at Trevecca Nazarene University. She works there as a student success advisor and resides in La Vergne, Tennessee.

Michelle Simmons '92 teaches fifth grade special education students. She completed this year the Education Policy Fellowship Program offered by the Georgia Partnership for Excellence in Education. She resides in Georgia.

Bob Bogner '93 is the CEO of Railone USA Corporation. He resides in Bettendorf, Iowa.

Bob Kiser '93 toured with Broadway musicals before founding Bob Kiser Coaching. He is the associate director of the Graham Clinical Performance Center in the Department of Medical Education at the University of Illinois-Chicago. He authored the book, *Create the Life of Your Dreams*. He resides in Chicago.

Robin (Herwig) Fisher '94 is a deaf and hard-of-hearing program coordinator and teacher with West Aurora School District 129. She and her husband, David, have a daughter. Grace is a freshman at ISU. The couple resides in North Lenox.

Cynthia Osgood '94 is a finance manager with Rolls-Royce North America. She resides in Hayward, California.

Eric Swanson '94 is an assistant membership director with Peace Action. He and his wife, Katherine, reside in Washington, D.C.

Christine (Schwartz) Winger '94 is a Republican member of the Illinois House of Representatives for the state's 45th district. She and her husband, Mark, are parents to a daughter and reside in Wood Dale.

Kristen Janowski '95 is a special education supervisor in Oak Lawn-Hometown School District 123. She and her husband, Jason, have three children and reside in Chicago.

Juan Ordonez '95 is the vice president of procurement and logistics for Masering. He lost a leg due to complications from a car accident as a teen. He competes in golf tournaments for amputees and is working toward competing in the Paralympics in 2020. He and his wife, Monica, have homes in his native country of Colombia and Pembroke Pines, Florida.

Rich Bauman '96 is the vice president of operations at Applied Acoustics International. He resides in New Lenox.

Jennifer (Butler) Menzles '96 is a financial planning assistant with Lincoln Financial Advisors. She and her husband, Paul, reside in Roselle.

Jake Pschirrer '96 is a dentist who owns Pschirrer Family Dentistry. He and his wife, Cara, have two children and reside in Charleston.

Rachel Rone '97 is a senior investment associate with RBC Wealth Management. She and her husband, Robert, reside in Chicago.

Robert Brunke '98 is a network engineer at Illinois State. He and his wife, Joleen, reside in Morton.

Jenny (Foster) Klose '98 is an area ministry director for InterVarsity Christian Fellowship. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Santa Rosa, California.

William Koenecke, M.S. '98, is retired from Murray State University, where he was an education profes-

From mentor to colleague

John Sedbrook, an associate professor of genetics in ISU’s School of Biological Sciences, was in Egypt earlier this year at the invitation of a former graduate student. Noha Khalifa, Ph.D. ‘07, studied plant molecular genetics in Sedbrook’s lab while at Illinois State. She is now a faculty member in the botany department’s genetics unit at Ain Shams University in Cairo. Sedbrook presented guest lectures at the university.
York City Department of Education. She resides in Tenafly, New Jersey.

Frank Provenzano ’00 is manager of corporate partnerships at Herring University. He resides in Pingree Grove.

Nicholas Wennerstrom ’00 is head of the global contingent workforce at Zebra Technologies. He and his wife, Natalie, have two sons and reside in Libertyville.

Jason Berry ’01 is owner and creator of 4orm Studio. He resides in Chicago.

Veronica Johnson ’01 is an instructional technology consultant with DePaul University. She resides in Chicago.

Erin (Petric) Ludewig ’01 is a family and consumer science teacher at Elk Grove High School. She and her husband, Eric, have two children and reside in Elk Grove.

Julie Marllatt ’01, M.S. ’06, is dean of enrollment management at Parkland College. She resides in Downs.

Tilaine (Gray) Pugh ’01 works in customer service for Blue Cross Blue Shield of Florida. She resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Kryslaine (Lopes) Radomski ’01 completed a doctorate in medical sciences at the University of Florida. She is a staff scientist at the Center for Neuroscience and Regenerative Medicine at Uniformed Services University. She and her husband, Dennis, have a daughter and reside in Ijamsville, Maryland.

Park Allison ’02 is vice president of earthmoving and material handling for American State Equipment Co. He and his wife, Karen, reside in Chicago.

Casey Erickson ’02 is a lieutenant and patrol watch commander with the Calumet City Police Department in Illinois. He owns a Which Wich Superior Sandwiches franchise. He and his wife, Joanna, have a daughter and reside in Dyer, Indiana.

Leah (Schreiber) Johnson ’02 is a lecturer and faculty advisor for the Department of Art and Design at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She completed two master's degrees at the university and received the 2016 Outstanding Performance Award from its alumni association. She resides in Oak Creek, Wisconsin.

Johnny Reynolds ’02 is the assistant registrar of enrollment and registration services at Georgia State University. He and his wife, PaKisha (Buchanan) ’02, reside in Stockbridge, Georgia.

Lisa Brittingham, M.A. ’03, is a visiting professor of French at Knox College in Galesburg. She and her husband, John, reside in Normal.

Paige (Troelstrup) Dunmore ’03 is a physical therapist assistant at Mountain Land Physical Therapy. She and her husband, Geoffrey, reside in Salt Lake City, Utah.

Jennifer (Loveall) Fink ’03 is the director of information and ag literacy coordinator for the Macon County Farm Bureau. She and her husband, Mark, are parents of a daughter and reside in Decatur.

Stacey Kikendall ’03 is an assistant professor of English at Park University. She resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Ruthie (Harris) Kompood ’03 is an auditor with Peak Healthcare Solutions. She and her husband, Alan, reside in Orangeville.

Stephanie Nieland ’03 coordinates tours and group sales for the Philadelphia Phillies. She resides in Glenolden, Pennsylvania.

Jenny O’Brien ’03 owns Dreams Dance Academy in St. Charles. She resides in Elgin.

Dan Sandine ’03 teaches sciences in Indian Prairie School District 204. He and his wife, Bridget, reside in Naperville.

Sarah (Hosken) Scott ’03, M.S. ’09, completed a veterinary medicine degree at the University of Illinois-Urbana. She is a veterinarian at Ambassador Animal Hospital in Bloomington, where she resides with her husband, Dylan, and their daughter.

William Dwoinen ’04 is a director at Global Solutions Architects-CareerBuilder. He resides in Chicago.

Sarah (Baker) Lukach ’04 completed a master’s in agribusiness at Kansas State University. She is a principal credit officer in the food and agribusiness department of Compeer Financial. She and her husband, George, reside in Streator.

Neal Molnar ’04, is a sanitarian with the Kane County Health Department. He and his wife, Tara, reside in Aurora.

Dena (Ches) Schluenz ’04 is assistant director of admissions and records at Valencia College. She and her husband, Eric, reside in Orlando, Florida.

Ericka (Doan) Zetterberg, M.S. ’04, is the special education coordinator with Peoria Public Schools District 150 and a speech-language pathologist with St. John’s Hospital. She and her husband, Zac, reside in Peoria.

Brent Boardman ’05 is a freight analyst for Nestle. He resides in DeKalb.

Amanda Cushing ’05 is the director of sales at the Marriott in Uptown Normal. She resides in Normal.

Courtney Kronforst ’05 is a registered nurse at Advocate Lutheran General Hospital. She resides in Prospect Heights.

Catherine (Brown) Petersen ’05, M.A. ’07, is an English and literature instructor at Eastern Iowa Community College. She and her husband, Andrew, reside in Davenport, Iowa.

Marcie (Jackson) Stephan ’05 is an assistant vice president at Berkshire Hathaway Specialty Insurance. She and her husband, Stephan, reside in Itasca.

Dawn (Hall) Bibb, Ph.D. ’06, is an associate professor at Bellarmine University. She resides in Stockbridge, Georgia.

**Unique Redbird win**

Four young men who attended Illinois State in the 1960s never imagined they would win the top spots in a World Euchre Championship decades after graduation. They did just that earlier this year in Las Vegas. The first-place winners were Dale Perona ’67, M.S. ’68, left center, and Dave Dipolo ’65, right center. Perona was a member of ISU’s math faculty, and Dipolo was the first official Bone Victory Bell ringer. Bill Sneddon ’67, M.S. ’70, far left, and T.W. Lorig ’64, M.S. ’65, far right, took second place in the competition. Lorig is also a former ISU math instructor.
University in Louisville, Kentucky, where she resides.

Julie (Pakenham) Dannis, M.S. ’06, is the assistant dean of students at the University of Indianapolis in Indiana, where she resides.

Clinton Desmond, M.M. ’06, is an associate professor of music at Dakota Wesleyan University. He and his wife, Erin, reside in Mitchell, South Dakota.

Lisa (Johnson) Stith ’06 is a family and consumer science teacher at Mendota High School. She and her husband, Todd, reside in Morris.

Jillian (Rachford) Theis ’06 teaches second grade in the Brown County School District. She and her husband, Nathan, reside in Mount Sterling.

Brett Trimpe ’06, M.S. ’10, is chair of the Department of Engineering Technology at Butler Community College. He is an instructional assistant for NASA’s Community College Aerospace Scholar program. He and his wife, Emily, reside in Derby, Kansas.

Kori (Smith) Brimmer, M.S. ’07, teaches eighth grade literature at Mayo Middle School. She and her husband, Adam, reside in Charleston.


Craig Goodman ’07, M.S. ’12, is the director of parks and recreation for the City of Hartsville, South Carolina. He resides there with his wife, Megan.

Alexandra Gum ’07 is a registered nurse working in the neonatal intensive care unit at Meriter Unity Point Hospital. She resides in Dane, Wisconsin.

Kate (Keller) Mohan ’07 is the director of marketing for Fromm International. She resides in Chicago.

Heather Nelson ’07 is a compensation analyst with LSC Communications. She resides in Plainfield.

Jessica Schultz ’07 is a special education teacher for kindergarten through second grade in Community Consolidated District 21. She resides in Mount Prospect.

Michael Smith ’07, M.S. ’12, teaches language arts to middle school students in Pinellas County schools and works with under-performing students. He resides in St. Petersburg, Florida.

Carrie (Burdette) Upjohn ’07 is an adjunct instructor at Waubonsee Community College. She and her husband, Chris, are parents of two daughters and reside in Plainfield.

Marla (Ramos) Youngblood ’07 is a catering sales manager at Warwick Allerton in Chicago. She and her husband, Scott, reside in Homewood.

Katharine Adler, M.S. ’08, is the coordinator for advocacy services and sexual violence prevention at Marquette University. She resides in South Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Tyler Bain ’08 is park supervisor for the Town of Normal. He resides in Bloomington.

Jill (Prelaske) Connelly ’08 teaches English at Big Foot High School. She and her husband, Dean, have a son and reside in Walworth, Wisconsin.

Karyn (Fones) Gillespie ’08 is a human relations specialist in labor relations for Rock Island Arsenal. She and her husband, Shane, reside in Atkinson.

Dirk Hewetson ’08 is product implementation manager with Duck Creek Technologies. He and his wife, Mina, reside in Seattle, Washington.

David Joy ’08 is the coordinator of preventative maintenance at the University of Tennessee in Knoxville, where he resides with his wife, Megan.

Christie (Khalid) Lewis ’08, M.S. ’11, is the coordinator of residence life and student relations at Columbia College. She and her husband, Jamel, reside in Chicago.

Carlly Linden ’08 is a project manager at Allstate. She resides in Palatine.

Ty Windy ’08 is a marketing specialist with Centro Inc. He and his wife, Tiphanie, reside in North Liberty, Iowa.

Amanda (McLaughlin) Woods ’08 is a publicist at Tyndale House Publishers. She and her husband, Charles, reside in Carol Stream.

Stephanie Alessi-Shepard ’09 is a registered nurse working in ICU at Silver Cross Hospital. She and her husband, Edward, reside in Bourbonnais.

Brad Bytof ’09 is a sales manager with Petcurean Pet Nutrition. He resides in Vista, California.

Jessa Devore ’09 owns Green Acres Real Estate. She is a Homes for Heroes affiliate, donating part of her commission when a client works as a teacher, in healthcare, or in police, fire or military units. She resides in Clinton.

Tony Ensalaco ’09 is a senior strategic account analyst for Cvent. His wife, Sarah (Smetana) ’11, is a speech language pathologist for the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. They reside in Lisle.

Audrey (Kimbell) Escalante, M.S. ’09, taught five years and is now a technical-applications trainer for Luminex, a biotechnology company. She and her husband, Joshua, reside in Austin, Texas.

Michael Hoang, M.S. ’09, is an assistant athletic trainer at California State-Pullman. He resides in Torrance, California.

Michael Kennedy ’09 is a beer guide at Good River Beer. He resides in Denver, Colorado.

Jamie Maag ’09 is a veterinary ophthalmology technician and assistant retinal surgeon at Eye Care for Animals. She resides in Elburn.

Claire Nachowicz-Obuchowski ’09 is a senior environmental health and safety specialist with Zebra Technologies. She is president-elect of the American Society of Safety Engineers-Northeast Illinois section. She resides in Elk Grove.

Katherine (Taylor) Paulin, M.S. ’09, is a lecturer at the University of Kentucky. She and her husband, Eric ’07, are parents to a son, Liam. The family resides in Lexington, Kentucky.

Kera (Jacobson) Sanchez ’09 teaches high school Spanish in Round Lakes Area Schools District 116. She is also involved with the district’s equity team that serves students in need of additional resources. She and her husband, Michael, reside in Lake Zurich.

Annalise Smith ’09 works in treasury management sales for PNC Bank. She resides in Dallas, Texas.

‘Birds for better business

Jamie Stitt, M.S. ’03, and Eugene Bressler ’81 met through efforts to increase manufacturing jobs in the U.S. Bressler is the vice president of ATC Automation in Cookeville, Tennessee. Stitt is a deputy commissioner with the Tennessee Department of Economic and Community Development. The two are shown during a tour of ATC Automation’s manufacturing site, which is completing an expansion project that brought the two alumni together.
Jennifer (Olson) Tabb ’09 teaches fourth grade at Natomas Charter School. She and her husband, Jordan, reside in Lincoln, California.

Amanda (Kancer) Toomey ’09 teaches seventh grade English at Lincolnshire-Prairie View School District 103. She and her husband, Jim, reside in Lake Zurich.

2010s

Tara Adams ’10 is the assistant director of alumni programming for the University of Illinois College of Law. She resides in Chicago.

Timothy Baldwin ’10 is a judicial clerk at the Maricopa County Superior Court. He resides in Peoria, Arizona.

Kailigh (James) Dunn ’10 is a commercial real estate agent with Keller Williams Realty. She and her husband, Russell, reside in Lebanon, Tennessee.

Whitney Holsteen ’10 is an educational resource teacher with Christian Academy of Louisville. She resides in Louisville, Kentucky.

Amanda Landers ’10 is a corporate safety leader with Stepan Company. She is president-elect of the American Industrial Hygiene Association-Chicago section and resides in Waynesville.

Daniel Liddle ’10 is an assistant professor of English at Western Kentucky University. He resides in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Catherine Uphoff ’10, M.S. ’12, is a financial aid counselor at Boise State University. She resides in Boise, Idaho.

Larissa (Antognoli) Ausdenmoore ’11 completed master’s and doctorate degrees at Loyola University. She is a school psychologist in Highland Park. She and her husband, Joe, reside in Buffalo Grove.

Amy Cranston ’11 is an academic advisor with Columbia College of Missouri. She resides in Crystal Lake.

Brittany Hemmigan ’11 is a chiropractic physician and resides in Chicago Ridge.

Frank Hurd ’11 graduated from Southern Illinois University-Springfield School of Medicine. He is completing a general surgery internship, followed by a radiology residency. He and his wife, Jessica, reside in Litchfield Park, Arizona.

Kyle Mattson, Ph.D. ’11, is a tenured associate professor in the school of communication at the University of Central Arkansas. He resides in Conway, Arkansas.

Nathan Rebolz ’11, ’14, is a process analyst with State Farm Insurance Company. He resides in Bloomington.

Ashley Ring-Clarke ’11 completed an MBA at North Park University. She is a store and style box program manager with LUXE Warehouse and resides in Arlington Heights.

Luke Strack ’11 is a manufacturing chemist II at Integrated DNA Technologies. He resides in North Liberty, Iowa.

Samantha (Sherwood) Anderson ’12 is a special education teacher with the Dubuque Community School District. She and her husband, Casey, reside in Dubuque, Iowa.

Melissa (Curtin) Banks ’12 is a creative design manager of a marketing team at TCS Education System. She and her husband, Kegan, reside in Chicago.

Jamie Billups ’12 is an operating room nurse at Barnes Jewish Hospital. She resides in Fairview Heights.

Alex Carlson ’12 is director of the junior high band for Cary School District 26. He resides in Poplar Grove.

Kelsi Grubisch ’12 is an admissions officer at Northern Arizona University. She resides in Flagstaff, Arizona.

Briania Kuhn ’12 is coordinator of orientation programs at Clemson University. She resides in Anderson, South Carolina.

Dustin Rothbart ’12 is one of three founders of Blank Theatre Company, Chicago’s newest non-equity theatre. He resides in Chicago.

Amy Rouke ’12 is the associate editor of the Township Perspective with the Township Officials of Illinois. She resides in Chatham.

Amber Siggins ’12 is an inside sales representative for Colorado Rapids-KSE. She resides in Edgewater, Colorado.

Morgan Smith ’12 is a paralegal with the Kelly Law Offices. She resides in Bloomington.

Stephen Terpening ’12 is an occupational safety and health specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy. He resides in New Lenox.

Lauren Varel ’12 is a marketing and design specialist with Pernix Group Inc. She resides in Chicago.

Lauryn (Beneturski) Vukas ’12 teaches chemistry at Lake Central High School. She and her husband, Samuel, reside in Schererville, Indiana.

Shane Boyd, M.S. ’13, is an institutional research associate at Lake Forest College. He resides in Des Plaines.

Thomas Flynn ’13 is the band director at LaVilla School of the Arts. He resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Megan Noonan ’13 is a human resources analyst with Sidney Austin LLP. She resides in Chicago.

Rachel Orton ’13 completed a master’s in social work at St. Ambrose University. She is the ICU social worker at United Hospital System in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Angie Payton ’13 is a figure skating coach. She resides in Pekin.

Alec Rusche ’13 is a safety director for a company in the citrus business. He resides in Tampa, Florida.

Ashley Fenner ’14 is the digital marketing manager of the Herald & Review. She resides in Decatur.

Taylor Hobson ’14 is a technical writer for Follett School Solutions Inc. She resides in McHenry.

Morgan (Hiles) Kibler ’14 is a program assistant in the office of advancement at The Ohio State University. She and her husband, Kurt, reside in Hilliard, Ohio.

Brian Miers ’14 is a probation officer with the Rock Island County Court services. He resides in Rock Island.

Ben Femminella ’15 is the lead gift processor and development assistant for Holy Family Ministries. He resides in Norridge.

Amanda Fisher, M.S. ’15, is a research and database analyst with American Academy of Pediatrics. She resides in Des Plaines.

Morgan Smith ’12 is a paralegal with the Kelly Law Offices. She resides in Bloomington.

Stephen Terpening ’12 is an occupational safety and health specialist with the U.S. Department of Energy. He resides in New Lenox.

Lauren Varel ’12 is a marketing and design specialist with Pernix Group Inc. She resides in Chicago.

Lauryn (Beneturski) Vukas ’12 teaches chemistry at Lake Central High School. She and her husband, Samuel, reside in Schererville, Indiana.

Shane Boyd, M.S. ’13, is an institutional research associate at Lake Forest College. He resides in Des Plaines.

Thomas Flynn ’13 is the band director at LaVilla School of the Arts. He resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

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Angie Payton ’13 is a figure skating coach. She resides in Pekin.
Rebecca (Ruesger) Olson ’15 teaches fourth grade at Forest Glen Elementary. She and her husband, Brandon, reside in Wheaton.

Matthew Rillie ’15 is a social worker with DreamBikes Chicago, a nonprofit that creates jobs for underserved youth. He resides in Chicago.

Stephen Scott ’15 is a project manager with Miller Construction Company Inc. He and his husband, Wesley, reside in Mount Carmel.

James Shellie ’15 is a technical recruiter for Google. He resides in Foster City, California.

Daniel Suda, M.S. ’15, is the director of affinity programming in alumni relations at the University of North Texas. He and his wife, Catherine, reside in Oak Point, Texas.

Brittney (Henson) Vietti ’15 is an area coordinator with Augustana College. She and her husband, Kyle, reside in Rock Island.

Joshua Bates ’16 is a software developer with Wintrust Bank. He resides in Schaumburg.

Melaina Chromy ’16 is the assistant director of annual giving at Florida Southern College. She resides in Lakeland, Florida.

Alex Clayton ’16 works in tour operations for the PGA Tour at its headquarters. He and his wife, Melissa, reside in Jacksonville, Florida.

Renell Composto, D.N.P. ’16, is the birthing center manager for OSF St. Joseph Medical Center. She and her husband, Frank, reside in Bloomington.

Juliet Denckla ’16 is in leadership development at United Airlines. She resides in Chicago.

Bradley Dong ’16 is a pediatric ICU nurse at Mayo Clinic. He resides in Rochester, Minnesota.

Kai Harvey ’16 is a show band musician for Carnival Cruise Lines. He resides in Homewood.

Savannah Harrington ’16 is a passenger services coordinator with Thomas P. Gohagan and Co. She resides in Chicago.

Nicole Jones ’16 is an active aging program assistant with AmeriCorps VISTA. She resides in Honolulu, Hawaii.

Matthew Karstens ’16 is a risk management consultant with Connor and Gallagher OneSource. He resides in Wheaton.

Paige McManus ’16 is a talent acquisition assistant with The Horton Group. She resides in New Lenox.

Ashley Rosch ’16 is an associate industrial hygienist with Ramboll Environ. She resides in Chicago.

Drew Schroeder ’16 is the cofounder of MarketLeaf Solutions, a digital marketing and management firm focused on small businesses. He authored the novel Taking Chances. He resides in Chicago.

Kristin Esposito ’17 teaches fifth grade in Homewood School District 153. She resides in Orland Park.

Kelsey Farrell ’17 is a digital content strategist for the Boy Scouts of America Pathway to Adventure Council. She resides in Frankfort.

Marc Kurdas ’17 is an estimator for Morgan Harbour Construction. He resides in Darien.

Matthew Weiksner ’17 is a sales manager at Fastenal. He resides in Marengo.

Jason Binde, M.M. ’05, is a staff sergeant with the U.S. Army. He resides in Asheville, North Carolina.

Ashley Koenig ’14 is commissioned as an ensign in the U.S. Navy. She is a student naval aviator attending flight school in Pensacola, Florida, where she resides.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Claude A. Bell, Industrial Technology; 1/17
James P. Browne, WGLT; 5/17
Barbara A. (Felmley) Funk, College of Fine Arts; 6/17
Patrick J. O’Gara, Theatre; 5/17
Arnold Wolfe, Communication; 1/17

30s

Estella A. (Bowman) Hensley ’34, ’71; 5/17
Estella M. (Winkler) Newell ’36, ’59; 5/17
C. Evelyn “Evie” (Jones) Barton ’37; 5/17

40s

Dorothy M. (Martin) Cole ’40, M.A. ’70; 4/17
Cordelia (Warner) Kurtz ’40; 6/17
Florence L. (Bitting) Sutton Turner ’40; 7/17
Jane (Geske) Amerman ’42; 6/17
Shirley E. Robb ’42; 6/17
Caryl M. (Adair) Hineline ’44; 5/17
Norma (Paisley) Rowland ’45; 6/17
Janet (Bishop) Deprin ’48; 4/17
Myra L. (Barz) Francis ’48; 6/17
Murray J. Osborn ’48, M.S. ’55; 6/17
Esther E. (Eigsti) Sutter ’48; 6/17
Doris M. (Yoder) Worthinger ’48; 5/17
Floy J. Ekin ’49; 6/17

50s

Lynn LaTeer ’50, M.S. ’54; 6/17
Jeanne L. (Robbins) Seitz ’50; 5/17
Virginia M. (Phillips) West ’50; 5/17
Joseph Micka ’51; 5/17
Eldon G. Scriven ’51; 7/15

Allan L. Utech ’39; 6/17

Three easy ways to submit your information

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

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

3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Relations, Campus Box 3100, Normal, IL 61790-3100. Please include your graduation year, major, maiden name when applicable, and daytime phone number for verification purposes. News releases and information from published news clippings may also be used. Engagements and pregnancies will not be published.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478, or by email at alumni@IllinoisState.edu.
ISU’s $150 million campaign will lift the University for decades to come. Such significant private support will impact the entire campus, from high-tech labs essential for applied learning to activities that strengthen students’ leadership skills.

Your help is needed to make sure Redbirds continue to soar. Join the more than 40,000 ISU donors and make a gift using the enclosed envelope, by calling (309) 438-8184, or going online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving.

RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu

Herbert F. Snook ’52, M.S. ’59; 4/17
Wesley D. Bair ’55, M.S. ’60; 5/17
Edward W. Scaggs ’56; 4/17
Aaron P. Rasmussen ’57; 8/15
Russell D. Albert, M.S. ’58; 5/17
Edward J. Tully Sr. ’58, M.S. ’61; 6/17
Loretta M. (Warner) Whitaker ’58; 4/17
Barbara (Hawbaker) Moore ’59; 3/17
Jerome R. Traughber ’59; 6/17

60s
JoEllen “Joey” (Hoffman) Scambler ’60; 6/17
Phyllis J. (Breider) Bruno ’61; 5/17
Donald P. Gore ’62, M.S. ’70; 5/17
Barbara M. (Budde) Arvan ’63; 6/17
Nancy E. (Mann) Hynd ’63; 6/17
Ralph L. Moore ’63; 6/17
Paul R. Schmidt ’63, M.A. ’64; 5/17
Judith A. (Beaver) Coogan ’64; 7/17
William L. Duffy ’64; 5/17
Jerry D. Barton Jr. ’66, M.S. ’68; 5/17
Blanch H. (Habada) Hogate ’66; 12/16
Joseph A. Wellman, M.S. ’66; 6/17
Louis J. Smith, M.A. ’67; 5/17
Robert C. Strotheide ’67, M.S. ’73; 5/17
Marilyn K. Wolf ’67; 4/17
Raymond Belcher, M.S. ’68; 2/17
Paula L. (Romanelli) McCarren Brown ’68; 6/17
Lyle W. Smith, M.S. ’68; 7/17
John R. Todt ’68, ’86; 5/17
Elizabeth “Libby” (Streid) Wahls, M.S. ’68; 6/17
Judith R. (Whitesell) Feezor ’69; 5/17
Robert J. Kuchefski ’69; 5/17
Judy (Hob) Ruffus ’69; 5/17
Gregory Schuett ’69; 6/17

70s
Donald B. Dowling, M.S. ’70; 6/17
Charles O. Austin III ’71; 7/17
Ednamae (Riley) Bruce ’71, M.S. ’81; 6/17
Stephen A. Little ’71; 6/17
Lois M. Schertz ’71; 5/17
Sharon M. (Waugh) Gordon ’73, M.S. ’77; 5/17
Peter C. King ’73; 1/17
William “Toby” T. Meyers Jr. ’73; 6/17
Kathleen A. (Francione) Topolinski ’73; 6/17
Bryce C. House ’74; 5/17
Don W. Bockler, M.S. ’75; 5/17
Alan L. Tomaski ’77; 6/17
Wilma L. Woolard, M.S. ’77; 5/17
Kenneth B. Grodjesk, M.S. ’78; 6/17
David C. Kessler ’78; 7/17
Reta (Heinzelman) Riley, M.S. ’78; 5/17
Marilyn M. Whitman ’78; 5/17
Charles J. Bay III ’79; 5/17
Donna J. Schmidt ’79; 5/17

80s
James C. Bagley, M.S. ’80; 7/17
Michael E. Sigler ’81; 7/17
Constance (Kindrick) Patterson ’82, M.S. ’84, Ph.D. ’99; 7/17
Alan R. Boaz, MBA ’83; 5/17
Christopher L. Nafziger, M.S. ’85; 6/17
Scott J. Bell ’86; 5/17
John Lowe ’86; 4/17
Karen L. Wold, M.S. ’86; 8/17
Nadia Franciscono ’88; 5/17
Ellen M. Vogel ’89; 6/17
Bruce A. Weller ’89; 8/17

90s
Christopher T. Ryder ’90; 3/15
Kyle J. Schawel ’94; 6/17
Angela L. (Stevens) Clark ’96; 8/17
Rita M. (Foernssler) Martinez ’95; 6/17
Mark W. Crabtree, M.S. ’97; 6/17
Robert D. Day ’98; 7/17
Daniel J. Otto ’98; 7/17

00s
Andrew J. Schultz ’00; 7/17
Mary S. Anderson ’04; 4/17
Sandra L. Clay-Adkins, Ed.D. ’04; 7/17
Brigitta Nasimiyu ’05; 3/17
Sarah J. Alberts ’07, M.S. ’15; 7/17
Bryan C. Eisenhower ’07; 8/17

10s
Andrew “Ace” C. Ehrlichman-Sabatini ’10; 6/17
Joseph G. Prigge ’15; 8/17
Rachel A. Dean ’17; 9/17
Private support for Illinois State totaled more than $21.4 million in fiscal year 2017, which ended July 31. It was the third consecutive year of donor support surpassing $21 million, and the third best fundraising year on record at the University.

Records were set with more than 12,000 graduates contributing. Of that number, nearly 1,500 were first-time alumni donors. The funds will be used to support scholarships, student life, faculty, research, technology and facilities.

“The giving momentum at Illinois State is encouraging,” said University Advancement Vice President Pat Vickerman. “The number of donors and level of private support reflects the enthusiasm and confidence our donors have in our students, faculty and staff. Every gift truly makes a difference, and we appreciate each and every one.”

Because of the FY2017 fundraising success, 36 endowed scholarships were created, 2,072 scholarships were awarded, and the University’s endowment reached more than $112.6 million.

President Larry Dietz expressed appreciation for the overall support and increased alumni participation.

“These numbers are a testament to the lifelong impact of receiving an education at Illinois State University. We are honored that so many of our alumni and friends recognize the value of Illinois State,” Dietz said. “The generosity and continued support is inspiring. We are grateful for the private resources committed to advance the ISU experience.”

Will you make a difference by supporting your passion? Make a contribution to Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State by using the enclosed envelope, going online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving, or calling (800) 366-4478.
Campaign kickoff

There was an evening of celebration in September at the kickoff of Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State. More than 400 of the University’s top donors and students—including those who have received scholarships—gathered with ISU’s leadership team in Redbird Arena to launch the $150 million campaign. The total raised to date exceeds $106 million.