Disconnected

The dark side of our addiction to cell phone usage?
Strained relationships.
The end of the academic year is just weeks away.

Preparations are nearing completion for May commencement ceremonies celebrating the accomplishments of all in the Class of 2019, who will be welcomed to the ranks of Redbird alumni.

Graduation remains an exceptional moment at Illinois State, as the commitment to acknowledge each student on stage by name continues. I am delighted when asked to be included in photographs of students and their families, as it gives me an opportunity to learn more about the sacrifices, determination, and motivation that are required of every individual who earns a degree.

Another thought that comes to my mind as I participate in each college’s commencement is that once again, Illinois State has delivered on its promise to provide a quality education to the next generation. I see in each graduate potential that has been sharpened during their Redbird experience.

It is a given that the University will have a graduating class each year. The expectation means that it is consequently rare for individuals to pause and contemplate the teamwork required for Illinois State to honor its legacy by continuing to gladly learn and teach.

Keeping the University at its national level of excellence is a significant undertaking. Illinois State remains strong and stable through the efforts of every administrator, faculty member, and staff employee.

Our success is also contingent upon all who invest financially in Illinois State, including those whose gifts have resulted in $137 million raised toward the $150 million Redbirds Rising campaign goal.

Private dollars are essential because Illinois State receives the lowest state appropriation per full-time equivalent student of all 12 public universities in Illinois. This is despite the fact ISU’s enrollment is the third largest in the state, with students from across Illinois accounting for 97 percent of the University’s enrollment.

I share these numbers with the hope that as the season for graduations approaches, you will be reminded that your alma mater is an institution in which you can and should be proud for its commitment to excellence—despite inevitable obstacles such as limited state funding.

Know that I am forever grateful to all who partner with the University to ensure our educational endeavors continue in stellar fashion. By supporting Illinois State, you show confidence in not only the institution but the students whose Redbird experience is enriched through your dollars. Your investment is ultimately in our students, who are consequently able to persevere and cross the commencement stage ready to pursue their Redbird passion.
FEATURES

8 Changed perspective
Jamie Baldwin Fergus ’05 is a biologist whose research on the vision of crustaceans is on permanent display at the Smithsonian. Family is her top priority, which is why she has put a hold on her groundbreaking research.

12 Nurturing nurses
Mennonite College of Nursing has been a part of ISU since 1999, however, its start goes back to 1919. The legacy of excellence established in the decades since is celebrated during this centennial year.

16 Time to hang up?
Most individuals are attached to their mobile phone, which is increasingly a source of contention in relationships. Associate Professor Aimee Miller-Ott studied how cell phones strain interactions. She offers advice on how to be more present with people in our daily lives.

20 Bolstering black students
Andrew Purnell ’57 understands the challenges many young black people encounter as they work toward a degree. He and members of the Black Colleagues Association have raised nearly $300,000 in scholarships for black ISU students.

24 Path to Progressive
Tricia (Thomas) Griffith ’86 went from a claims adjustor trainee at The Progressive Corporation to running the firm that is now the nation’s third largest auto insurer. She is Fortune Magazine’s first female Businessperson of the Year.

DEPARTMENTS

2 University News
6 Redbird Athletics
26 Alumni Awards
28 #Redbird Proud
30 Class Notes

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.

On the cover: An estimated 95 percent of Americans own a mobile phone. It’s no wonder School of Communication faculty research shows that there is a growing problem with relationships, as too much attention is given to interacting through devices.
A s a premiere undergraduate institution, it’s not surprising that Illinois State keeps students as the focal point in all endeavors. The result is an exceptional student population that thrives on individualized attention from administrators, faculty and staff who are equally pleased to be a part of the University.

For the fourth consecutive year, ISU has been recognized by The Chronicle of Higher Education in its “Great Colleges to Work For” report. The 2018 study recognizes universities and colleges that have created exceptional work environments.

Selection is based on the results of a survey administered to a random sample of faculty and staff. An institutional questionnaire that captures workplace practices and policies is also evaluated.

Results are tabulated into 12 categories that evaluate satisfaction from collaborative governance to job satisfaction, confidence in senior leadership, work/life balance, compensation, and job satisfaction.

Illinois State was recognized for excellence in 11 of the categories, showing a need for improvement in only the area of diversity. Efforts to increase enrollment of underrepresented student populations has been a goal in recent years, with initiatives underway in various areas including Admissions and Financial Aid. In addition, the University has launched the INTO Illinois State program as a means to attract more international students.

“To earn the ‘Great Colleges to Work For’ designation for four consecutive years—with a record 11 categories this time—is a testament to the excellence of Illinois State,” President Larry Dietz said. “Each year we have grown in the number of categories garnering accolades, which reflects our continued drive to excel in every aspect of education.”
Students open pantry to meet needs on campus

Food insecurity—or not knowing from where the next meal is coming—is at the heart of the School Street Food Pantry opened last fall for ISU students. Located at the First United Methodist Church adjacent to Milner Library, the pantry is a joint effort of campus and community organizations.

ISU’s Student Government Association partnered with students in the majors of family and consumer sciences, social work, and history to study food insecurity. Nearly 66 percent of students responding to surveys said they knew someone at ISU struggling to obtain food.

School of Social Work graduate student Jeanna Campbell pulled together the groups that worked to launch the pantry. An advisory board was formed with student and community representatives. Members agreed the pantry was needed because there are none close to campus.

As an official food pantry, pallets of food are delivered for distribution. Students do the bulk of the work. They have created a community connection while helping their ISU peers, who no longer worry about empty cupboards.

Two students are chosen as Fulbright scholars

The Fulbright U.S. Student Program award was given to Illinois State students Kylie Ashton Maurer and Sydney Velez for the 2018-2019 academic year. They were honored through the U.S. Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Senior Spanish major Maurer will travel to Colombia to teach English in post-secondary education for 10 months. While she is there, Maurer will also implement her community project designed to develop an educational farming program for low-income/underserved communities.

Velez is a senior double major in public relations and English studies. She will attend the Instituto de Empresa in Madrid for 11 months, where she will pursue her master’s degree in corporate communication.

“The University community is incredibly proud of the achievements of Kylie and Sydney,” President Larry Dietz said, noting that the honor goes to students with excellent academic merit and leadership potential.

Teaching in the sciences improves through grant

Undergraduate education in biology, geology, and environmental science will be bolstered as a result of a $1.7 million grant from the National Science Foundation. The funding, which runs through September 2023, will help faculty and students work with large data sets.

A series of 30 classroom modules will be created through Project EDDIE, which stands for Environmental Data-Driven Inquiry and Exploration. Additional goals are to improve students’ skills in quantitative reasoning, understanding of the nature of environmental science, and scientific discourse.

“Teaching in the sciences improves through grant

In this day and age, there are tons of data online,” Associate Professor of Geology Catherine O’Reilly said. “These large, sensor-based data sets are a whole new way of doing scientific research.”

O’Reilly is leading the grant team that includes biology faculty members Rebekka Darner, Steve Juliano, and Bill Perry; and Willy Hunter from the Center for Mathematics, Science, and Technology. Faculty from Carleton College, University of Arizona, and Queens College-City University of New York will help develop the modules.

Approval advances for new business education degree

Business teacher education preparation at Illinois State will advance through a new academic program that has received approval from the University’s Board of Trustees. The proposal for a master’s in business education degree within the Department of Marketing is now under
Where are they now?

During his 34 years as a faculty member in the Department of Politics and Government, Gary Klass made an impact both on ISU’s campus and across the community.

With a doctorate from State University of New York at Binghamton, Klass was prepared to teach a variety of courses, including public policy, race and ethnicity, and quantitative research methods.

He contributed on campus as a member of the University’s Academic Senate, creating much controversy when he opposed the construction of the Redbird Arena. He was also a voice in his field as an author of journal articles and the book, Just Plain Data Analysis, which teaches practical statistical skills not often taught in statistics courses.

In addition, Klass co-edited the Political Science Research and Teaching List. He also serves as the associate editor of Social Science Computer Review.

Beyond his academic life, Klass played a significant role in the University’s Habitat for Humanity chapter. He has been involved with the ISU student volunteers since the campus chapter formed in the mid-1990s, serving as a faculty advisor and project director. ISU students have partnered with Illinois Wesleyan University to construct 25 houses in 24 years. The chapters have been recognized as the Habitat Collegiate Chapter of the Year in 2010, and are recipients of the Jimmy and Rosalyn Carter Partnership Award.

His dedication was recognized by the College of Arts and Sciences in 2005, when he received the Outstanding Service Award. Klass also received a Lifetime Achievement Habitat Hero Award last fall. The honor recognizes the many years that Klass has raised funds and worked at construction sites on weekends.

He continues to do both and remains a project director in his retirement, which began in 2015. He resides in Normal with his wife, Patricia, who is retired faculty from ISU’s College of Education. Beyond his priority to create positive relationships in the community and meet housing needs through Habitat, Klass spends much of his time trying to beat fellow politics and government faculty retiree, Bob Bradley, at golf.

Klass can be reached at gmklass@ilstu.edu.

Annual rankings show ISU’s strength, stability

Illinois State remains among the top 100 public institutions in the nation, according to rankings released by U.S. News & World Report last fall. The University is 91st in the report that evaluates overall excellence in higher education.

ISU maintained high rankings in the area of faculty to student ratio, with 33 percent of classes enrolling fewer than 20 students. This is despite a 10 percent increase in the freshman class, which totals 3,689 this academic year. The University also maintains a graduation rate far above the national average.

“Illinois State University remains strong and stable, and the numbers show that people are aware of the excellent education we continue to provide,” President Larry Dietz said. “These rankings are another reminder that Illinois State is a leader in public education.”

Federal funding used for microscope lab

A National Science Foundation grant totaling more than $661,000 resulted in creation of the Confocal Microscopy Core Facility being installed in the University’s Science Lab Building last fall. It will allow scientists to study the building blocks of cells and the organization of tissues with exceptional clarity and detail.

ISU faculty will use the facility to advance knowledge in genetics, cell biology and development, neuroscience, and plant science. It will be a benefit from the study of bioenergy crops to the aging of cells.

“This will be a significant new resource for Central Illinois and beyond,” said Associate Professor of Genetics Kevin Edwards, who is the principal investigator. Other biology faculty involved
Artifacts from Powell taken to Utah museum

The 150-year legacy of explorer John Wesley Powell preserved at Illinois State has been shared with the Natural History Museum of Utah.

A collection of artifacts from his travels in the 1800s were taken west by Distinguished Professor of Geology Dave Malone and Paul Meister, who coordinates academic services for the Department of Geography, Geology, and the Environment.

Items included a number of baskets, a child’s blanket, moccasins, and a wooden bow thought to be collected during an 1868 exploration. “What is amazing is that the original string is still on the bow,” Meister said. “Restorers have found sunflower seeds in the weaving of the baskets. These pieces are a find for the museum.”

Replicas will be kept on campus, where Powell taught and was affiliated with the Illinois Natural History Society housed in the University’s Old Main building. During that era, he led many exhibitions, returning each time with items used by Native Americans.

Some of Powell’s collection are with the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C.

Lisbeth Louderback, curator at the Utah museum is thrilled to have items from ISU’s collection. “The return of these remarkable artifacts connects us to Powell’s legacy,” she said, “and the lives of the native people who made them.”

Research team explores animal magnetic field

Research into how animals detect the earth’s magnetic field will advance with a $638,000 National Science Foundation grant.

Assistant Professor of Molecular Neuroethology Andrés Vidal-Gadea will involve undergraduate and graduate students in his study of the neurological systems of tiny worms known as C. elegans.

“We understand how animals smell, touch, and hear, but we don’t really have much of an idea of how animals can detect magnetic fields,” Vidal-Gadea said. “We know that animals use magnetic fields to migrate. They can use and orient to the magnetic field. Right now no one is sure how.”

He studies the miniscule worm because it only contains around 300 neurons compared to millions in larger animal brains. “It also helps that they migrate in soil, unlike birds that can migrate around the globe,” Vidal-Gadea said.

His team will look for magnetic beads or pearls near magnetic neurons. The pearls align and move like a compass needle. The grant will help fund the study of genes in the worm in the hope of identifying the ones that are important for the creation and function of the pearls.

Mail

To the Editor,

I just completed a first read of your Illinois State article “Immigrant Tale” (November 2018). I am quite interested in what motivated the “tale.”

A couple of my newer Ph.D. students worked on current problems with procedural flaws in our immigration system. In one of the research pieces, the methodology used Sudan and East African immigration flaws instead of Mexican.

Clearly our immigration system has some serious flaws in preparing potential immigrants to be successful in entering the United States legally in various paths. This is clearly, I hope, the objective of most of us.

What flaw in our immigration system do you think your article addresses?

Politically I am a centrist. I am also a strong fan of President Donald Trump, who is open to trying to fix some of the serious flaws in our immigration system on behalf of our United States citizens. I have also worked overseas, including Sudan and East Africa.

Thanks so much for sharing your ideas. I love quality writing!

David Rine ’63

To the Editor,

Unlike the two letters that were published in the August 2018 Illinois State magazine, I was disgusted with the lesbian marriage photo (“Red-bird Romance,” April 2018). God’s design for marriage is between one man and one woman. Anything else is an abomination to the Lord.

This country is spiraling in the wrong direction because people are living ungodly and going against the Bible. The Bible is an instruction manual for life. If America would stop taking God out of everything, we could turn this country back in the right direction!

Linda Jackson ’85

Editor’s note: Diversity and inclusion is one of the University’s core values established so that the campus community is a welcoming environment for all individuals.
Fans and student-athletes will no doubt appreciate seating and flooring improvements that will begin this spring at two key buildings on west campus—Redbird Arena and Horton Field House. The projects will be financed through auxiliary facilities system revenue bonds and facility reserve funds.

The lower bowl seats and seating platforms will be replaced at the arena, which opened in 1989. It is home to men’s and women’s basketball, as well as volleyball. The current seats are retractable and have been in place since the arena’s completion 30 years ago. Parts needed to repair broken seats are no longer easily available.

Improvements will also address the need to make Redbird Arena more accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Renovation plans include widening the size of seats and rows, the placement of handrails in the lower bowl, and the creation of additional handicap seating. Semi-private loge box seating areas and an additional suite will also be available following the project’s completion.

The project will begin immediately following spring commencement in May, and is scheduled to be done before volleyball begins in the fall. The estimated cost is $6.2 million.

The second project will upgrade Horton Field House, which was constructed in 1961.

Horton houses locker rooms, offices, and practice space for many athletic teams. The facility is also heavily used by campus recreation, kinesiology and recreation classes, and a variety of student and community activities and events.

The flooring and indoor track is set to be replaced in the field house starting this month. The work is expected to cost approximately $600,000.

Upon approval of these renovation projects, Board of Trustees Chair Rocky Donahue ’82 emphasized the ongoing need for a new indoor practice facility for athletics.

Athletics is actively fundraising for a multi-purpose indoor facility that would benefit all 400 student-athletes. If you are interested in learning more about Illinois State Athletics fundraising and opportunities to give, visit weisbecker-scholarshipfund.com.
The legacy of ISU softball coach Melinda Fischer ’72, M.S. ’75, has been recognized by the National Fastpitch Coaches Association (NFCA). It has named its Distinguished Service Award for Fischer, who was the first recipient of the honor in 2002.

Fischer has completed 34 seasons of coaching at the University, where she has compiled more than 1,000 wins. She is one of only 22 Division I coaches with such a record, and the winningest coach in ISU history in any sport.

“This honor was completely unexpected,” said Fischer, who has served in multiple leadership roles in the association. She has been inducted into the NFCA Hall of Fame, as well as Illinois State Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame, and ISU’s College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame.

Fischer played softball at ISU in 1969 and began coaching the Redbirds as a graduate assistant. She has led the softball program since 1986, earning nine NCAA regional appearances and 10 regular season Missouri Valley Conference titles. She is the MVC All-Centennial Head Softball Coach.

Student-athletes honored at event

The success of student-athletes during the 2017-2018 academic year was celebrated at The Reggies last semester. The annual event, sponsored by State Farm Insurance Company, highlights individual, academic and competitive success.

Anderson Devonish was chosen Milt Weisbecker Male Athlete of the Year. An indoor track and field competitor, he was a 2018 NCAA national qualifier. Jaelyn Keene from volleyball was named the Jill Hutchison Female Athlete of the Year. She was a four-time All-MVC First Team selection.

Kiley Walsh was honored as the Linda Herman Female Scholar-Athlete of the Year. A Bone Scholar, she was a member of the women’s golf team. J.D. LaFayette from cross country and track and field teams was recognized as the Doug Collins Male Scholar-Athlete of the Year.

Student-athletes posted a combined 3.23 grade point average in fall 2017 and 3.24 in the spring semester. They provided more than 2,500 hours of community service.

Mourning the loss of ISU football standout

Ron Bell ’73 lost his fight against cancer in December. Inducted into ISU Athletics Percy Family Hall of Fame, he is remembered on campus as the football player who carried the ball 543 times for 2,830 yards from 1970-1972. Bell set records for rushing yards, total offense, touchdowns and carries.

He still holds records for yards by a sophomore with 965, total points in a game with 42, the longest rush in ISU history of 92 yards for a touchdown, and rushing yards per game for a career at 134.8. He is tied for the record of touchdowns in a game with six. Bell was drafted by the Pittsburgh Steelers. He was living in Hawaii at the time of his death.

Volleyball Redbirds in NCAA tourney

ISU’s 2018 volleyball team earned an at-large bid to the program’s second NCAA Tournament in five seasons, and first under the direction of second-year head coach Leah Johnson.

The selection marked the team’s 14th overall NCAA appearance, and capped a 25-7 season. ISU captured a share of the Missouri Valley Conference regular season title. The NCAA tournament play began against Cincinnati. The Redbirds engaged in an offensive war against the Bearcats but lost the match in straight sets.

“I want to say how proud I am of our team,” Johnson said. “I give kudos to our senior class. Our senior leadership was phenomenal, and that set the tone for the future.”
Marine scientist leaves ocean to focus on family by Kate Arthur

On a walk one day, Jamie Baldwin Fergus’ graduate school advisor asked her if it all ended tomorrow, would she be happy?

Even though she was only in her 20s at the time, Fergus was content. She had earned her undergraduate degree in biological sciences at Illinois State in 2005, and was completing a doctorate in biology. She had been doing research dives in the north Atlantic, swimming around the bells of giant jellyfish.
As she was trying to figure out what her next step would be after earning her Ph.D. at Duke University, she wondered if she’d be jobless. Instead, she was offered a two-year Peter Buck Fellowship at the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History.

Her time was split between North Carolina and Illinois, where her husband and state trooper, Josh, lived. She was a long way from where she grew up in Shumway, Illinois. Just a spot on the map, it is where she grew up pulling her mother’s tulips apart and examining them under a microscope.

The distance was not a problem, as she primarily worked from Illinois and trekked to the Smithsonian once a month or so to pick up specimens. When she was at the museum, she found it hard to believe she was walking through the historical galleries on the way to her office. There she continued work on what crustaceans can see, research she began at Duke.

Fergus specifically looked at the eyes of hyperiid amphipods—small crustaceans that live as far as a half mile deep in the ocean. More than 300 species have been identified. She was captivated by the four-eyed Paraphronima gracilis.

Smaller than a dime and resembling its distant relative, the shrimp, the creature is translucent except for orange eyeballs that make up half of its body. Two bulbous eyes with a row of 12 orange retinas look upward. There’s an eye on each side of its body too.

The Robert G. Bone Scholar talks in a rather non-scientific way about the “seriously weird” structure of the creature that has evolved to be able to see in the twilight zone of the ocean. Beyond the deep blue water, the ocean becomes pitch black. The only source of light is bioluminescence, which is the light emitted from sea creatures, similar to flashes from a lightning bug.

With no shore or ocean bottom in its habitat, there’s no place to hide. Seeing without being seen is the key to survival. Fergus has done complicated calculations on how light is absorbed by the creature to try and determine what it can see. She believes multiple retinas send electrical signals to the brain, allowing it to see in nearly complete darkness.

Having four eyes, with two searching for overhead targets, allows the Paraphronina to seek out hosts like jellyfish. The creature lives on or near jellyfish, feeding on their leftovers.

A Smithsonian model maker created a 13-inch sculpture of Fergus’ work for an exhibit in the museum’s Sant Ocean Hall. What was supposed to be a two-year exhibit has become permanent.
When her fellowship ended, Fergus decided to leave the east coast metropolitan life and settle into rural Illinois life in the community of Mason—a place a GPS cannot find.

It's there she and Josh are raising their children, Olivia, 6, and Mack, 4, along with two dogs—including a one-eyed, three-legged Great Pyrenees. Although her home is 700 miles from her Smithsonian life, it's near family so her children can have a close relationship with their grandparents.

Her home displays her past and present. An antique bookcase holds a zoology book; two pairs of worn baby shoes; and “Fred the Dead,” a 12-inch long isopod she describes as a giant roly poly. A red microscope she received when she was 3 also finds space there. (Both are shown in photo on page 8.) Her daughter occasionally peers through the instrument that Fergus used to view slides decades ago.

The items remind Fergus of her path. She might have become a veterinarian, but her experiences at Illinois State sent her in another direction. Biology Professor Martha Cook offered her a research position her freshman year. For three summers, she worked as a research fellow with now retired biology professors Robert Preston and George Kidder, who were awarded a National Science Foundation grant to study killifish.

Preston remembers Fergus as a bright and committed student who did exceptional research. “It’s very satisfying when a student catches fire doing basic research like Jamie did,” he said. “She just loved it, and to see her get deeply involved and make original contributions to basic science is most rewarding.”

Although Fergus remains a research associate at the Smithsonian, she’s put her ground-breaking science on hold. She turned down biology faculty positions that would have required 60-hour work weeks. Instead, she took a job in 2016 as a plant and pesticide specialist for the Illinois Department of Agriculture, inspecting medical cannabis facilities. Everything that happens in the cultivation centers, from seed to sale, has to be monitored.

The work is a long way from exploring the ocean in a submersible and doing blue water dives among jellyfish. But there is no sacrifice here.

“Here my kids can go outside. They have a pasture. Someday, I’ll get a donkey,” Fergus said. When she misses science, she can go to a fridge stocked with vials of nearly invisible crustaceans. “I have a little space in my basement for research when time allows, and to continue working on things if the mood strikes.”

In a few years, when her children need her a little less, she’ll have time to get back to scientific research, she said.

“I’ve had wonderful experiences in science, and now I’m having a big adventure in parenthood.”

Nearly a decade after that conversation with her advisor, Fergus can still say she’d make the same choices all over again. She remains completely content.
MENNONITE MILESTONE

Nursing college celebrates centennial

by Susan Marquardt Blystone
Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN) marks its centennial year having achieved a level of excellence and energy that belies the struggle behind its founding. From its start as a Sanitarium Training School in Bloomington to its national status today at Illinois State, the educational endeavor has required extraordinary courage and commitment.

The beginnings trace back to Emanuel Troyer, a humble Central Illinois Mennonite pastor. While raising funds to establish a school in 1919, he could never have envisioned the college as it stands today with graduate programs, million-dollar research initiatives, high-tech lab equipment, and students who consistently pass the profession’s standardized test far above state and national averages.

Troyer’s goal 100 years ago was to see the Mennonite Church extend its Christian outreach by establishing a hospital and training nurses. It took work convincing congregations of farmers to financially support the idea, but enough funds were acquired to purchase a home for $10,000 in Bloomington. Converted for hospital care, the first patients arrived in May of 1919.

Expansion into education came quickly with an offer from physician George Kelso, who was ready to sell his Bloomington sanitarium for $75,000. Troyer and four others struck a deal “without a dollar in the treasury to pay for it,” according to Troyer’s personal writings. As a result, the Mennonite Sanitarium Training School opened with 11 students in May of 1920.

“The situation was so acute,” Troyer stated, “that for two whole nights I rolled and tossed, until finally it was just like a voice that said ‘The problem is more mine than yours.’ This brought a peace to Troyer, who repeatedly stated ‘This is of God—it will succeed.’

The decades since have proven Troyer’s prophecy true, as the college has flourished beyond expectations while remaining grounded in its Mennonite roots. Two decades after the school’s two-year diploma program started, Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing was established.

The school advanced with financial support from Mennonite Hospital. Academic offerings steadily expanded and by the 1980s, a baccalaureate curricu-
lum was approved. The paradigm shift from a diploma to a degree program was significant, as Mennonite blazed a new trail in nursing education.

“We were establishing a college. The enormity of that undertaking! We were making history,” said Kathleen Hogan, who served as founding dean when MCN was formed in December of 1982. She went on to become president in 1990.

It was under Hogan’s watch that the college received accreditation from the North Central Association in 1986, with the endorsement from the National League for Nursing acquired in 1987. The credential was retroactive to the first baccalaureate class in 1985, which was the same year the last class of diploma students graduated.

Mennonite was consequently the first independent, upper-division, single-purpose, degree-granting nursing institution in the entire country. The milestone elevated MCN to a new level from which the college advanced further. Scholarships were initiated, enrollingments grew to consecutive records, and graduate programs were added.

“We never planned to stop at the baccalaureate level,” Hogan said. “We went right into developing a graduate program. Our 10-year strategic plan included the framework for a doctoral program.”

There were obstacles to overcome in pursuing that goal, with finances the greatest hurdle. Hogan was at the helm when the college’s viability under BroMenn Healthcare became a concern. Medicare funds used by BroMenn to support the college’s $3 million annual budget were dwindling. The situation was so critical that the college had to explore aligning with an existing institution of higher education or face closure.

A proposal from Illinois State was deemed the best fit. The possibility of uniting was pursued by Hogan and ISU President David Strand, with leadership teams from both institutions partnering. Hogan worked to guarantee the Mennonite legacy would continue. Strand enlisted Illinois legislators—Sen. John Maitland Jr. and Rep. Bill Brady—to acquire $1.2 million in state funding needed for the University to finance the college.

The efforts were rewarded with Mennonite College of Nursing at Illinois State University welcomed to campus on July 1, 1999. It was the first private/public higher education merger in the state. ISU acquired a sixth college, and its first professional program. MCN gained financial stability and a world of opportunity with greater teaching resources once settled into Edwards Hall, which underwent a $1.5 million renovation.

There was also a responsibility to intensify a research agenda, while maintaining the fundamental goal of preparing the next generation of caring and competent nurses. The effort to reach both objectives was led by Nancy Ridlenour as the college’s first dean at ISU, followed by interim dean Sara Campbell ’86, M.S. ’93. Janet Krejci took the helm in 2009, with H. Catherine Miller serving as interim prior to the arrival of Judy Neubrander in 2016.

As the current dean, Neubrander expresses gratitude to all of her predecessors for collectively creating an exceptional college. “I am blessed by all who went before me the past 100 years,” she said, acknowledging the excellence that has continued throughout Mennonite’s history.

There is ample evidence of reason to boast of all accomplished, including within the 20 years since MCN joined ISU. The college has invested more than $2 million to create a simulation lab that provides a virtual hospital unit. Students learn by working through nursing scenarios that build critical thinking skills and confidence.

Federal external funding totaling millions has resulted in programs focusing on specific aspects of nursing, from training nurses for geriatric care to addressing needs of rural populations and recruiting underrepresented groups to the profession. Community outreach has intensified, with students working beyond hospitals and nursing homes. They are also active in local schools through America’s Promise, which counts as

A housemother and 17 students shared an eight-bedroom home with one bathroom in 1939.
clinical hours for the students as they work to improve the health of children.

MCN students train abroad as well through an ongoing transcultural nursing program. It is one of many expanded academic opportunities, as the college has added doctoral degree programs, accelerated learning options, and a path for registered nurses to complete a bachelor's degree in nursing.

U.S. News & World Report ranks Mennonite College of Nursing as having one of the country's best graduate schools, and scores it among the best national online bachelor's and graduate programs as well.

Given its reputation, it is not surprising student demand is strong. The College is exploring strategic growth where feasible, however, finding additional sites to place students is an obstacle. This is one reason the college's focus for growing enrollment is in the area of graduate studies and the opportunity for registered nurses to complete an undergraduate degree online. Dual enrollment with community colleges is an option MCN is implementing. Neubrander is also exploring how to expand the simulation lab options as a means for students to complete more required clinical hours.

Regardless of how nurses are prepared, the need to recruit and retain faculty with a master's or doctorate is a second obstacle as the college goes forward. “As a part of succession planning, we anticipate future retirements within the next few years,” Neubrander said, adding that it is a challenge to entice nurses into pursuing the path of an educator in the field.

Neubrander is confident those who join the faculty in the future will take research a step further by securing more government grants. Work is needed in areas of how to care for patients outside the hospital, which is the direction of health care. She would like to see more done to prepare students to work with geriatric patients, who often have complicated care needs, and is eager to see the college focus on further developing a mental health track.

Efforts to increase private giving are another priority for Neubrander. She is pleased to know the University continues to have within its master plan the building of a facility for the college, but is realistic in knowing such a structure is in the distant future.

Neubrander’s focus is consequently on more immediate issues of ensuring students are prepared to make a difference at the bedside of their patients as a nurse with a fantastic skill set who is equally attentive to the holistic care of the individual. Teaching this critically important mix has been fundamental throughout the past century.

“We have such a rich history that has made us who we are,” said Neubrander, who is as committed as her predecessors to making certain each graduate enters the field with compassion, competence, confidence, commitment and conscience.

That has been—and remains—the Mennonite way of preparing nurses.
Hello?!

HOW
CELL PHONES
COMPlicate
CONVERSATION

BY KEVIN BERSSETT
According to the Pew Research Center, 95 percent of Americans own a mobile phone. Many of us walk around with smartphones as if they were an appendage. From the moment we wake up to the time we slink back into bed, our phones are with us.

For the last decade, School of Communication Associate Professor Aimee Miller-Ott has studied how our ever-increasing use of mobile phones has affected our interpersonal relationships—may they be between romantic partners, friends, or parents and their children. She began researching the devices partly due to how she saw them interfering with her life.

“You know how annoying it is when you're talking to people and they're on their phones. Or when you're trying to share something and they aren't receptive, and you're like, ‘Are you listening to me?’” Miller-Ott said.

More interested in phone usage than social media platforms, she started looking at texting and phone calls with her collaborators, University of Hartford Professors Lynne Kelly and Robert Duran. “As phones evolved, we started expanding our interests in what you do on your phone, especially when you're with other people,” Miller-Ott said.

The team’s research has been published in academic journals and books. Their work can be found in *Communication Studies, Emerging Adulthood, Encyclopedia of Mobile Phone Behavior, Southern Communication Journal*, and *Western Journal of Communication*.

In the following Q&A, Miller-Ott talks about the weird impasse we find ourselves in when companions are on their phone; and how texting can lead to miscommunication, especially between couples and friends.

Do you have strong opinions about cell phones?

It’s interesting being in the academic environment now and seeing students with phones. I think, “That’s too bad. I’m sorry that you have those because life's different when you’re not attached to your phone all the time.” I certainly don't hate cell phones; a lot of the time my students think I hate them because I have very specific policies in my class about not using them. This whole checking the phone under your desk while I’m talking—as a professor, I find it incredibly rude.

And it’s not just the students. It happens at meetings all the time. Parents and professionals are just as guilty of it as the younger generations are, so I don’t hate phones. I think they’re useful in the ability to keep in touch and to check up on people and in case of emergencies.

A lot of the research that I’ve done looks at the function of staying connected over a distance. I just finished a book chapter on mother-daughter technology usage. Both mothers and daughters say that if they didn’t have their phones, they wouldn't be able to keep up their relationship, because they live far away from each other.

So, of course, it’s wonderful, but I think it's the day-to-day interactions that it's most impactful on. Those opportunities that we have where we’re sitting face-to-face with somebody and we’re choosing to be disconnected by using our phones. And I wish that we could separate ourselves from our phones. That’s one of the things that we've looked at a lot in our research.
Can we disconnect?

No. That’s a very common theme in a lot of my research. People will say it in interviews: “I would love to turn my phone off, but if I do, I turn my phone back on and I have my mom who’s like, ‘Are you alive? You’re not responding right away. Are you dead?’” and I’ve got my boyfriend asking, ‘Why are you not responding, are you mad at me?’ I’ve got my boss going, ‘I needed to get in touch with you and I couldn’t. Where were you?’ So it’s very hard, if not impossible, to completely disengage from other people.

You did a study looking at when it was polite or impolite for college students to use their cell phone when they were with friends. What is the politeness theory through which you examined this issue?

Part of it has to do with face, that I have a certain impression that I want to put forth to other people. In this realm of politeness theory, I can have positive face, which is my desire to be liked by other people, to be thought of in a positive way. Then there’s negative face, which is my desire to be autonomous, to make my own decisions.

According to politeness theory, certain events or activities can happen called face-threatening acts, and those things make us lose face. We then engage in certain behaviors to try to restore our face. When someone is engaging in a face-threatening act, we have certain behaviors that we might do to get them to stop doing those behaviors. Those things we say to them are influenced by how much we care about their face.

So, if you’re on your phone and I’m in a conversation with you, I could say, “Stay off your phone. We’re having a conversation. You’re being rude.” I don’t really care how you feel. I want you to get off your phone. Or I could engage in the positive politeness strategy where I might say, “I’m enjoying our time together,” something to maintain your positive face. “I would love if you could just put your phone down for a second so we could finish talking.”

We’ve looked at that from a qualitative perspective, and more recently through survey data, to figure out when someone is using their phone when you’re with them, how do you feel: Is it threatening to your own face, and then what do you do about that?

We tend to find that most threatening in general is face are activities like playing games on your phone, mindlessly scrolling through your phone. If it’s behaviors like your boss is trying to contact you or if your mom is trying to contact you, that tends to be a little less face threatening.

We also found in our most recent work that cell phone usage in general is more positive face threatening. It makes us feel bad about ourselves. Where you are matters. If we’re on a date, cell phones tend to be less acceptable. If we’re hanging out, watching TV, a casual context, we tend to be more accepting of those behaviors and cell phones tend to be less threatening to us.

However, across all studies that we’ve done, one of the most common responses to people engaging in cell phone usage is to do or say nothing. The possible reasoning for it is interesting. One, it doesn’t bother them. It’s become so normal. “So I’m not gonna tell you to get off your phone. I do it too, no big deal.” Another one is, “They’re so rude, and I can’t believe they’re doing it, but it’s not my place to tell them to get off their phone. They should know to get off their phone.”

We have found there is this tension with cell phone usage that we’ve come to experience. It’s normalized now in our society to use our phones, but we hate it at the same time. We wish we didn’t have to use it at times, but people expect us to. It doesn’t bring us closer; it makes us feel disconnected when we’re in the same physical space. If we’re at a distance, it’s great because I can text you and we can chat, but when we’re together, we don’t like it but we don’t say anything.

We think that culturally it’s become so acceptable that if I tell you to get off your phone, I’m now causing you a face threat because I’m pretty much violating your negative face because I’m saying, “Don’t do what you want to do right now,” and that’s not my place to do that.

The last study I want to talk about is one focused on the miscommunication in text messages. You gathered actual text from 295 people. Did you do a survey as well?

We did. It just got published. For the first part of the survey, they had to give us exact texts they thought involved miscommunication. They had to explain in their own words who started the conversation and why they think it’s miscommunication. Then they had to talk about the type of relationship they had, how long they’ve known their partner, and how close their relationship was.

We did a thematic analysis of the actual text interactions, which was so...
“YOU COULD NOT TALK TO ANYONE ALL DAY LONG FACE-TO-FACE AND STILL HAVE CONNECTIONS.”

fun. Some of the examples were hilarious. A lot of them did stem from not understanding the word they used. A good example was someone writing “It’s over.” And the response was, “Are you breaking up with me?” “No, the movie is over.”

Is there anything else interesting about what you found in that study?

The fact we text on the go, text quickly, we text little snippets of information, we have typos, we’re not sitting face-to-face with that person so the person can’t be like “What did you say?”—all those things make it unique. Miscommunication does happen face-to-face, but it’s different because you’re not able to read nonverbals.

And then there are the things like, “My phone died,” or “It autocorrected my words.” Stuff like that when the emoji didn’t come through on the iPhone because I have an Android—things that wouldn’t happen face-to-face. Also realizing how much we rely on text messaging and it’s so heavily full of miscommunication, it’s like, man, we’re in trouble.

How do we overcome that?

We didn’t explore that, but just being more aware of what can happen is important. We found in our data that people were using their texts to have really big conversations about their relationships or blaming texting because of their relationship issues. What you saw as miscommunication wasn’t because of texting; it’s because your relationship was having problems and you were trying to work it out through texts. That’s a relational issue. But that’s interesting because people are somehow blaming the technology for things that aren’t technology-related.

How much does the fact that large companies are creating addictive products like Facebook have to do with phones dominating our lives?

I think the ease at which we are able to use these devices and what’s on them creates that need to use them so much. When we first started studying this, we didn’t have all of these apps on our phone to be able to be in contact with people all of the time. The function of that creates this need to be on your phone. There is this fear of missing out.

You could not talk to anyone all day long face-to-face and still have connections, know what people are doing, be able to eat, be able to get from place to place, whatever it is, without ever having to have an interaction.

When you grow up like that from an early age—when you get a phone at 6 years old—it’s not too surprising that people are buried in their phones. People now can’t have a face-to-face interaction. On campus people are walking together, and everyone’s on their phones.

I think there’s a danger in that: You don’t have to talk to anyone if you don’t want to anymore because you can literally do anything on your phone, which is scary and harms our ability to have good interpersonal interactions.

This article is condensed and reprinted from the March 2019 edition of ISU’s Redbird Scholar.
An ability to find solutions combined with his vision and determination has made Purnell ’57 an exceptional educator and mentor throughout his career. Add in humor with humility, and it is no wonder individuals across generations appreciate Purnell and the fruits of his labor.

Among the grateful are the myriad Redbirds who have benefitted financially and academically through the Illinois State University Black Colleagues Association (BCA) that Purnell and others initiated in 1983. The group was chartered in 1984 with 40 members. Since then, more than $280,000 has been raised. There were nearly 300 active members who contributed $30,910 last year. All funds are earmarked primarily for scholarship assistance to black students.

“The Black Colleagues Association has led the way as an ISU alumni affinity group,” said Pat Vickerman, vice president of University Advancement. “While celebrating their heritage, BCA members remain dedicated to keeping the Illinois State experience affordable and accessible to African American students.”

That has been the goal since its founding, according to Purnell, who is “happily surprised by the success.” The association was formed “specifically to promote the interests and welfare of black students, faculty, staff, and alumni.” The association fulfills its purpose by helping to recruit students, then encouraging them as they adjust to collegiate life.

The result is friendships between mentors and students that last years beyond graduation. In addition, the group focuses on helping students finish a degree. From the first $500 given in 1987 to the 13 financial awards provided during the current academic year, BCA lifts up individuals through several scholarship funds.

Among them is the Judge Russell DeBow Scholarship in memory of the 1935 graduate who participated in writing the BCA’s original bylaws and constitution. “He was with us when we started,” Purnell said, remembering a group of graduates he met with in Chicago in 1983 for a reunion. Conversation arose during the gathering about how alumni could be engaged. “We were interested in raising retention rates of black students. We wanted them to stay in school and graduate.”

What’s ironic about Purnell participating in such an effort is the fact he did not want to attend ISU, and he had no plans to finish a degree at the University once he arrived in 1953.

Born in Chicago, Purnell was raised by parents who worked hard at jobs that paid little. He attended college in the city. His sibling, Barbara, enrolled at what was then Illinois State Normal University. Her decision led to parental pressure for Purnell.

“They said I should go with her. I did not want to go away. They worked on me a whole semester until they finally convinced me,” he said. “I don’t know why I agreed to come to ISU. I came thinking I would stay for a year, but within two weeks I was sold on the University.”

One reason for the hesitancy was that Purnell wanted to study engineering, which the University did not offer. He opted for industrial arts with a minor in mathematics, deciding in his junior
year on math as his major. His reluctance also stemmed from the expense. Purnell found a way to cover costs by working as a mail carrier in the summer months and taking campus jobs.

“I worked in Dunn Hall in food service,” he said. “I could either take pay or work for my meals, so I had my food expense covered and was able to pay for my whole first year.”

“The practice was not ended overnight, but it did end,” Purnell said, noting the accomplishment was empowering. “At a certain point in life, you feel like standing up and saying something. You figure out the problem, and how to solve it. If you are successful, it encourages you to do more.”

That same drive for purpose and change motivated Purnell throughout his life. Following graduation, he was drafted into the U.S. Army and assigned classified government work because of his mathematical ability.

“This work gave me an appreciation for what I learned in the classroom at Illinois State,” Purnell said. Upon leaving the military, he began teaching math in a junior high school and later at Eisenhower High School.

After several years of teaching, Purnell began work on a master’s program and graduated with a degree in supervision and administration. He served as an administrator in several positions at Eisenhower High School, and later at Alan B. Shepard High School in Palos Heights. He chose retirement in 1994, allowing more time with family, including his three adult children: Sharon ’87, Anthony, and Timothy.

He continues to be committed to Illinois State, which has recognized his contributions with induction into the Steve and Sandy Adams Legacy Hall of Fame and as a recipient of the Alumni Association Mercier Outstanding Service Award. He was chosen as the alumnus Homecoming king in 2013, which created one more opportunity for Purnell to return to campus. He enjoys every visit, especially meeting with ISU administrators who have been supportive of the BCA since its start.

Purnell credits Charles Morris, former vice president of Administrative Services, for his help in getting the association started. He appreciates the support that has come from ISU presidents, including Victor Boschin Jr., Al Bowman, and currently Larry Dietz. He is grateful for support from Gloria-Jeanne Davis, past ISU director of Affirmative Action; Alumni Engagement staff; and Vickerman, who applauds the BCA’s unwavering support of Redbirds across three decades.

“BCA scholarships provide welcomed financial assistance to Redbird students, who gain confidence that they belong at ISU because the BCA has invested in their future,” Vickerman said. “The University is so grateful for BCA’s engagement, enthusiasm, and private gift support of our talented and deserving students.”

Purnell is equally thankful for BCA members across the country, who stay motivated in the mission to help students. To date, the BCA has provided 192 scholarships. Graduates from across the country have joined, including many who received financial help while a student at the University.

“BCA is going strong and keeps evolving as we look for different ways of doing things to get students involved and provide the support they need to stick with their education,” said Purnell, who maintains a list of all BCA scholarship recipients. The spreadsheet includes each student’s graduation date.

He smiles while reflecting on the stories of students who persevered to complete their ISU education with the help of the BCA. “Just knowing they earned their degree, that alone is enough gratification for me.”

He developed close relationships through activities that included intramural wrestling, fast-pitch softball, and bowling. He also focused on campus issues as a member of the class advisory board, and joined peers in forming the University’s first NAACCP chapter. One motivation to start the group was to end discrimination beyond campus and Normal.

“We wanted to test the public accommodations for African Americans in Bloomington,” Purnell said, adding that obvious problems needed to be challenged. For example, African Americans were only allowed to roller skate on one specific day each month. The same policy was in place at the Bloomington YMCA swimming pool.

Dining was another issue Purnell tackled as the chapter vice president. NAACCP members tested the service they received when dining as couples or groups that included white students compared to when only black students were customers.

“When we went back, they would not serve us,” Purnell said. After several months, he and the chapter president met with the McLean County State’s Attorney to present their findings and push for change. They gained assurances action would be taken to stop the unlawful discrimination.

He smiles while reflecting on the stories of students who persevered to complete their ISU education with the help of the BCA. “Just knowing they earned their degree, that alone is enough gratification for me.”

To learn more about BCA or to make a gift to support BCA scholarships, go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/bca.

For information about joining the association, contact Lindsay Vahl at lmvahl@ilstu.edu or call (309) 438-7380.
When Mike Essington ’81 transferred to Illinois State in 1979, he was interested in a new major called computer science. Since personal computers weren’t around, students created and stored data on paper punch cards.

Professor Emeritus Gerry McKean stressed to his students the importance of two classes: COBOL, a programming language; and systems design.

“They are a big reason why I got hired by State Farm,” Mike said. It wasn’t long into his 34-year career with the insurance giant headquartered in Bloomington that Essington started giving back to ISU, with the company matching his gifts.

State Farm is where he met his wife of more than 30 years, Karen Essington. She was hired with a degree in computer science from Augustana University in Sioux Falls, South Dakota.

The couple retired in 2015, and started thinking about the next chapter. Long-time Illinois State donors, they appreciated what the University was doing for students and the community. With an affinity for the College of Business, they committed to a seven-figure planned gift through Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State.

“We always knew we wanted to do something,” Mike said of the gift that expands the couple’s financial support of the college. They created the Mike and Karen Essington Business Information Systems Scholarship three years ago.

Giving comes naturally to the couple.

“We were raised that way,” Karen said. “When you were little, you had your envelope you’d take to Sunday school. That’s just always been a part of our lives.”

Karen proudly calls herself “an ISU alumni in-law,” and enjoys meeting recipients of their scholarship. Without several scholarships, she would have graduated with much more student loan debt. Mike worked his way through school as the night manager at a Dairy Queen. ISU’s affordable tuition helped him graduate without debt.

“You have to remember back to where you were, and how you can help the next generation,” he said. “It always feels good to give back.”

Your investment in Redbirds Rising elevates scholarship and academic excellence, educates tomorrow’s leaders, and sparks continuous creativity and innovation. Support the campaign by sending a gift in the enclosed envelope, by calling (309) 438-8184, or by visiting RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu.
Tricia (Thomas) Griffith's accomplishments as chief executive officer of The Progressive Corporation are so impressive that she is the first woman named Fortune Magazine’s Businessperson of the Year. The 1986 marketing graduate captured the honor in 2018, just two years after taking over the leadership role in the company that she joined as a claims representative in 1988.

Griffith, 54, is one of only 24 female Fortune 500 chief executive officers. She has led Progressive to become the nation’s third largest auto insurer, orchestrating sales growth that has outpaced both Apple and Microsoft in recent years.

Progressive grew by $2.8 billion and 6,600 employees in Griffith's first year as CEO in 2016. The following year, those numbers were $3.8 billion and 6,000, respectively, and in 2018 more than $5 billion. Expansion has been managed in such a positive way that the company was included in Fortune's Best Places to Work list last year.

Only Geico and State Farm now insure more auto drivers than Progressive, which is a testimony to the fact Griffith's vision for the company and leadership of its more than 38,000 employees is a winning combination.

“My biggest role is to create a great culture of trust at Progressive,” Griffith said. She credits her ISU College of Business education and campus opportunities to nurture leadership skills for starting her on a professional path toward the pinnacle of the insurance industry.

Griffith leads Progressive with a commitment to five core values that enable the company to “grow profitably and in the right way.” They are to maintain integrity, follow the Golden Rule, work from clear objectives, and stay committed to excellence while making a reasonable profit.

Griffith shared these fundamentals during a visit to campus last year. She delivered the keynote address during Business Week. She candidly chronicled her journey from the University to the top job of the company known for having Flo as its spokesperson.

“Illinois State is really where my leadership started” Griffith said, pinpointing pivotal experiences as a Preview Guide. “It was a life-changing summer. I realized then that if you lead with your values, you can really influence people.”

The death of her father while still an undergraduate resulted in Griffith returning from her apartment to once again live in the residence halls. She became a resident assistant in Watterson Towers as one way to help cover college expenses. The work allowed Griffith to hone skills that bolstered her confidence going forward following graduation.

Griffith’s career start was in retail, and included working for a home building materials firm in Indianapolis. As a management trainee, she learned to drive a forklift and mix paint, but wanted something more. A decision to answer a classified ad resulted in her first job at Progressive, where she was initially a claims adjustor trainee.

“I was estimating car damage and meeting with injured people,” Griffith said, recalling crawling under wrecked automobiles in body shops while wearing a skirt. The company was so young and unknown in the 1980s that even her mother thought Griffith's job was with the soup company, Progresso.

“I fell in love with the people, the culture, and the fact that every day I learned something new,” said Griffith, who furthered her education by completing the Advanced Management Program through the Wharton School of Business.

Her longevity at Progressive resulted in her holding many titles. She served as the company’s chief human resource officer, launching Progressive’s first inclusion and diversity program. Griffith was later chosen to lead the claims division, followed by working as president of customer operations and later chief operating officer of the company’s Personal Lines area.

Each new role and its challenges prepared her to become a unique CEO, who is committed to remaining approachable. She addresses each group of new hires, and randomly selects a table of employees in the corporate’s cafeteria to join for lunch.

Griffith works diligently to ensure all in the company know its purpose statement, strategy, and vision, which is to “become consumers’ number one choice and destination for auto and other insurance.”

There is a confidence the goal will be achieved, in part because Griffith is personally and professionally anchored by solid principles. These include knowing when to lead and when to get out of the way, making certain her actions match her words, and maintaining a life balance with priorities that are “faith, family, and then Progressive.”

Griffith is equally committed to openly communicating both good and bad news. She encourages healthy debate, takes the blame while giving credit to others, and firmly believes that “management comes from hierarchy, but leadership comes from anywhere” across the company.

The latter truth is one proven by her own life story. It explains how the young woman who started in claims at a little-known business is breaking barriers as she leads that same company, nurturing it to become a giant in the competitive industry of insurance.
Distinguished Alumni Award
David DeMarini ’72, M.S. ’74, Ph.D. ’80
Genetic Toxicologist, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

After receiving three ISU degrees in biological sciences, David DeMarini went on to a 34-year career as a research scientist with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) in North Carolina’s Research Triangle Park. He has made a major impact on environmental and public health around the globe during his career.

As an expert in the field of environmental mutagenesis and genetic toxicology, he has been a leading scientist in determining what environmental agents cause cancer. He is credited with generating much of the data identifying the types of mutations caused by polluted air, various combustion emissions, and chlorinated water.

At the invitation of the World Health Organization, he served on panels that declared cigarette smoke, diesel exhaust, indoor and outdoor air pollution, and arsenic to be human carcinogens. His findings guide regulations in the U.S. and throughout the world.

He coauthored several of the U.S. Surgeon General’s reports on smoking and health, which have been used to set smoking policy in the U.S. In 2015, he was awarded the highest award the U.S. EPA gives for human health risk assessment, The Joseph Seifter Award. The honor recognized his completion of the first risk assessment of a U.S. tribal nation, and for developing a protocol that can be used for other tribes throughout the U.S.

A member of the College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame, DeMarini has received the Alumni Achievement Award and Outstanding Young Alumni Award. For more than 30 years, he has served as an adjunct professor in the Gillings School of Global Public Health at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Outstanding Young Alumni Award
Samuel Alex ’07
Syndicated Radio Host
Nashville, Tennessee

Sam Alex, an award-winning radio and television personality, hosts Taste of Country Nights. The nationally syndicated radio show is heard weeknights on more than 100 stations. He has interviewed countless celebrities and newsmakers, from Will Ferrell to Dolly Parton.

In 2016, Alex was nominated for an Academy Country of Music’s National On-Air Personality of the Year award. He appeared as himself in an episode of ABC- TV’s Nashville. He is also a special correspondent for the syndicated entertainment newsmagazine television show Celebrity Page seen on Reelz Channel and more than 150 TV affiliates, including ABC/New York, CBS/Los Angeles, and WCIU/Chicago.

Raised in Hoffman Estates outside Chicago, Alex received an undergraduate degree in interdisciplinary studies at ISU. He was an exchange student at Hokkaido University in Asahikawa, Japan. His career began in 2003 with an internship at WLIT/Chicago. Following graduation, he was on-air personality at radio stations in Bloomington, Indiana; Cincinnati, Ohio; and Washington, D.C.

Alex is an ambassador for Get Caught Reading, which is a nationwide campaign to remind people how much fun it is to read. Always a Redbird, he has organized many alumni events as ISU’s Nashville Area Alumni Network leader. Alex resides in Nashville with his wife and son.
E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Charlotte Talkington ’61
Professor Emerita, Illinois State University
Family and Consumer Sciences
Bloomington

Charlotte Talkington combines a commitment to the family and consumer sciences profession with a devotion to her community through a lifetime of service. She supports the Department of Family and Consumer Sciences (FCS), where she earned her undergraduate degree.

She taught in the department 26 years, and provided financial support through the Charlotte E. Talkington Scholarship in FCS, My Mentors Endowed Scholarship for FCS, FCS Recruitment and Retention Endowed Scholarship, and The Charlotte Talkington Professional Development Fund.

The Recruitment and Retention and My Mentors scholarships provide financial assistance and help attract talented students. Mentor recipients befriend Talkington, spend time in her home, and join her for professional networking meetings.

Talkington is a College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame inductee, the past recipient of the ISU Alumni Achievement Award, and a member of ISU’s Half Million Dollar Club. She is active with the McLean County Master Gardeners, Baby Fold Festival of Trees, and the Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals of McLean County.

She has served through Faith in Action, McLean County Extension Service Foundation, YWCA Senior Advisory Council, Heartland Community College Senior Advisory group, SCORE, Counselors to Small Businesses, the senior group at Calvary United Methodist Church, and the Normal Literary Center.

Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

Charles Sorensen, M.S. ’67
Chancellor Emeritus,
University of Wisconsin-Stout
Awarded posthumously

A transformational leader, Charles Sorensen was chancellor of the University of Wisconsin-Stout from 1988 to 2014, becoming the longest serving chief executive in the university’s history. He died in February at age 77 following a stroke.

A first-generation college student, Sorensen majored in history at ISU. His early educational experiences, beginning at a community college, made him aware of what accessible, publically supported education can do for individuals.

There were many transformations at the Wisconsin university under Sorensen. The number of undergraduates doubled, and enrollment increased 31 percent. More than 97 percent of students were employed in their fields within one year of graduation.

The Stout Technology and Business Park opened, along with a Center for Applied Ethics. In 2007, the university was designated Wisconsin’s Polytechnic University. A science center was completed, along with a football stadium and Millennium Hall, which has been renamed Sorensen Hall in his honor.

Foundation assets grew from $2.3 million to more than $47 million. He was diligent in his efforts to connect higher education more closely to the business community and employers. UW-Stout consequently became the first higher education institution to receive the prestigious Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award, given by the president of the United States.

Alumni Achievement Award

Karen (King) Jensen, MBA ’86
President and CEO, Farnsworth Group, Inc.
Bloomington

A professional engineer and College of Business graduate, Karen Jensen joined the Farnsworth Group in Bloomington in 2002. She began working as a principal of the infrastructure division of the architectural and engineering firm.

She rose to her current position in 2006, and now leads the company that has been ranked one of the top design firms in the nation. Farnsworth Group employs 500 individuals and manages a client base that includes Fortune 100 companies.

The engineering industry has come through some troubling times, one of her nominator’s wrote. During Jensen’s tenure as president and CEO, however, the company has been transformed into one of the top financial performing firms in the industry—with revenues in excess of $78 million.

The Farnsworth Group was recently named a Great Place to Work by the Great Place to Work Institute. Jensen is credited with playing a major role in the firm gaining the honor, and the fact more than 95 percent of staff say they take great pride in working at Farnsworth Group.

A member of ISU’s College of Business Hall of Fame, Jensen is the recipient of the college’s Beta Gamma Sigma Distinguished Alumni Chapter Award. She serves on ISU’s College of Business Advisory Board.
Redbirds can get help with career plans and job searches from the Illinois State Career Center. It assists students and alumni with developing, evaluating, and implementing career, education, and employment decisions.

Graduates can partner with a professional career advisor, who helps individuals redevelop career plans and work on self-assessment.

Individuals searching for employment have access to the center’s Hire-A-Redbird program. It allows alumni to research companies, look for open positions, and complete applications. The center also hosts career fairs on campus each year that alumni are welcome to attend.

Graduates can use the center’s Career Resource Guide and social media platforms to stay updated on career events, industry news, and tips. Alumni are able to sharpen their interviewing skills using InterviewStream, an online video tool that provides questions and answers listed by profession.

“With ever-changing trends in the global workforce, many Illinois State alumni seek professional growth or re-careering opportunities,” Career Center Director Pamela Cooper said. “The Career Center is proud to be able to assist Redbirds in continuing to achieve career success beyond their journey at Illinois State.”

Alumni can give back to Illinois State as well, by sharing their time and talent. The center is looking for career stories to share on social media or include in university materials for a State Your Success campaign.

There are also opportunities for graduates to share experiences with current students in person and inspire them to achieve career success. For Redbirds looking to hire graduates, the center’s Employer Relations helps connect employers with current students looking for job and internship opportunities.

Visit CareerCenter.IllinoisState.edu, call (309) 438-2200 or email CareerCenter@IllinoisState.edu to find these employment tools or share your success story.
Alumni News

Plan for Homecoming and nominate royalty
Illinois State will celebrate its many traditions October 21-27 during Homecoming 2019: Come One. Come All. Events will include a parade through Uptown Normal, with the football team taking on Indiana State University in the afternoon.

The tradition of choosing an alumni king and queen continues. The Alumni Association is seeking nominations for this year’s royalty, including a prince and princess. Applications are available at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu/Royalty.

To be eligible for alumni king and queen, graduates must have celebrated their 50th class reunion, have a strong ISU connection, and be able to attend Homecoming events throughout the weekend of October 26-27. Nominations are due by July 19.

Children between the ages of 4 and 7 at the time of Homecoming with a parent who is an ISU graduate are eligible to be the prince and princess. These nominations are due by August 9.

To learn more about events as they are scheduled, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu or call Alumni Engagement at (309) 438-2586.

Alumni meeting set
Alumni are invited to the Alumni Association annual meeting at 9:30 a.m. on June 22 in the Alumni Center. Agenda items include the election of Alumni Association board of directors members and officers.

Alumni who have made a gift through the University Foundation in the current or preceding year are eligible to vote at the meeting. Go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Association or call (309) 438-2586 for more information about the meeting and board selection process.

From the archives
Students have always enjoyed all that is available just a few blocks east of the Quad in Normal. The area that was known as downtown in 1958, top, was anchored by a post office, The Alamo II, and the Normal Theatre. All three remain, with the historic theatre now a movie and entertainment venue. There is otherwise very little graduates from decades ago would recognize in what is now called Uptown Normal. Favorite bars such as Rocky’s no longer exist, with a children’s museum standing instead. Restaurants and shops remain, with additions that include student apartments, a drugstore, parking decks, two hotels, and a new transportation center for travel by train or bus.
Barb (Kalscheur) O’Malley ’84 was one of few women in applied computer science when she began working for Northern Trust in Chicago 34 years ago. She has since led the lending applications team and development of client-facing tools, while engaging in the company’s Mentoring Matters and Women in Leadership forums.

Much has advanced in her field, yet there are still not many women in O’Malley’s profession. “Things have changed significantly, but at the same time they haven’t,” she said.

This reality motivated O’Malley to create the School of Information Technology Distinguished Student Scholarship with a $100,000 gift to the Redbirds Rising campaign. The fund will support primarily women considering information technology (IT) careers.

“I hope that I can create a little incentive for those considering the profession to pursue it,” said O’Malley, who helped ISU gain a cybersecurity sequence at the University while a member of the School of Information Technology Business and Industry Advisory Council.

“I want to make sure a college education is available to any person who wants to take advantage of it,” O’Malley said. “What if the next great leader in IT doesn’t go to college because of the cost?”

School of Information Technology Director Mary Elaine Califf is confident the fund will help attract students.

“Four-year scholarships are extremely valuable because students can feel secure in that financial help they are receiving,” Califf said. “Barb has been a wonderful supporter of the school for many years, and we’re thrilled that she has been able to provide this opportunity for students.”

Although preference will be given to female applicants, male students may be considered for the scholarship as well. O’Malley’s ultimate goal is to foster talent by supporting students of promise, regardless of gender, striving to make IT more inclusive for everyone.

“With the department being fairly new, there weren’t many scholarship opportunities,” O’Malley said. “I wanted to give back in a way that helped the computer science department flourish and maintain relevancy.”
1950s

Robert Aussprung ’53, M.S. ’67, worked 29 years at Peotone School District as a teacher and coach; widowed and resides in Mesa, Arizona.

1960s

Mary (Grothaus) Michael ’60, M.S. ’90, taught art in DePue Unit Schools for 47 years, including full-time for 29 years; resides with her husband, Clint, in Princeton.

Ronald Weingartner ’60 worked 27 years in toys and games with Milton Bradley and Hasbro; retired as vice president for inventor relations; authored The Toy and Game Inventor’s Handbook; writes a toy industry blog called Toy Dreamers; resides in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

Roger Cushman ’61 is retired as director of ISU’s news service; resides with his wife, Jane, in Crete.

1970s

Thomas Taubbee ’70, M.S. ’71, Ed.D. ’73, is a psychology professor at Richland College; resides in Parker, Texas.

Wayne Durflinger ’71 retired as director of underwriting international insurance with Prudential International Insurance Company; resides with his wife, Jane, in Bloomington.

1950s

Robert Aussprung ’53, M.S. ’67, worked 29 years at Peotone School District as a teacher and coach; widowed and resides in Mesa, Arizona.

1960s

Mary (Grothaus) Michael ’60, M.S. ’90, taught art in DePue Unit Schools for 47 years, including full-time for 29 years; resides with her husband, Clint, in Princeton.

Ronald Weingartner ’60 worked 27 years in toys and games with Milton Bradley and Hasbro; retired as vice president for inventor relations; authored The Toy and Game Inventor’s Handbook; writes a toy industry blog called Toy Dreamers; resides in South Dartmouth, Massachusetts.

Roger Cushman ’61 is retired as director of ISU’s news service; resides with his wife, Jane, in Crete.

1970s

Thomas Taubbee ’70, M.S. ’71, Ed.D. ’73, is a psychology professor at Richland College; resides in Parker, Texas.

Wayne Durflinger ’71 retired as director of underwriting international insurance with Prudential International Insurance Company; resides with his wife, Jane, in Bloomington.

Ann (Scharff) Sweany, M.S. ’71, is retired and volunteers as clinic coordinator with Justice for Our Neighbors-West Michigan-Kalamazoo Clinic, a United Methodist Church ministry serving immigrants; resides with her husband, Ray, in Kalamazoo, Michigan.

Ferol Hettick ’72 is senior vice president and director of compliance at Trustmark National Bank in Jackson, Mississippi; resides with his wife, Carol, in Brandon, Mississippi.

Leatha Reynolds Pierce ’72 taught fourth grade for 33 years in Illinois Oswego District 308; enjoys six grandchildren and photography; fosters/adopts Boston Terriers; with his wife, Nancy (Patterson) ’93, M.A. ’94, in Santa Fe, New Mexico.

Mort Castle ’68 is a writer and producer; executive producer of Shadow Show on Roku’s Terror TV; resides with his wife, Jane, in Crete.

Roger Ellis ’68 retired as a commercial credit officer for River Valley Financial Bank; volunteers with AARP doing free tax returns; searching for roommates from 600 School Street; he and wife, Marsha, have two sons and two grandchildren; couple resides in Floyds Knobs, Indiana.

Don Phillips ’68 is retired after teaching five years, working with DCFS for 28 years, and Sears Holding Company for 10 years; resides with his wife, Maureen, in Dix.

Albert Schon ’69 is an ordained minister; retired as director of administration at Eden Theological Seminary; resides with his husband, Roger, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Best in Indiana

College of Education alum Jeff Butts, M.S. ’95, has built a career teaching and leading students. His efforts and excellence have been noted with his selection as the 2019 Indiana Superintendent of the Year. Butts leads the Metropolitan School district of Wayne Township on the west side of Indianapolis. During his eight years in that role, the district’s graduation rate has climbed 34 percent, the state’s first public virtual high school opened, and a collaboration with area colleges resulted in more than 27,000 dual college credits earned by district students prior to finishing high school.

Proud pathologist

Laura Severs ’11 has been honored by the American Society for Clinical Pathology (ASCP) as one of the Top 40 Under Forty Leaders in Laboratory Medicine. Severs received the honor from the world’s largest professional membership organization for pathologists and laboratory professionals. Severs graduated with a degree in medical laboratory science. She is section head of transfusion services and point of care testing coordinator at Advocate BroMenn Medical Center in Normal. She also serves as a safety coach, and has won awards for her collaborative efforts in providing gold standard care.

Pause for applause

Football Fame

Redbird NFL fans have one of their own on the Pro Football Hall of Fame Board of Trustees. Marketing graduate Robert Zmudka ’89 was elected last year after serving on the Hall of Fame’s Advisory Board. The Hall of Fame has inducted 318 since its first class in 1963. It is located in Canton, Ohio. Zmudka’s involvement is outside of his work for Rail North America, GATX Corporation. He is senior vice president and chief commercial officer.

Running ahead

Outstanding student-athlete Aisha Praught Leer ’12 still holds records from her time on ISU’s cross country/track and field teams. She captured numerous Missouri Valley Conference awards, and qualified for the NCAA Championships as a senior. She represented her native country of Jamaica in the 2016 Olympics. She finished 14th in the 3,000-meter steeplechase, and holds the Jamaican national record for the event. Her accomplishments caught the eye of Under Armour. The sportswear manufacturer has signed Praught Leer to its roster of star athletes featured in ad campaigns.
How we met

Joyce Cunningham recalls one very cold night on campus in 1969. A storm had dumped nearly eight inches of snow. She left Milner Library and headed for coffee at The Cage before trudging a mile home. Seated there was a friend, Mary, and a guy Joyce had met weeks before when tracking down the only copy of a book she needed for a paper. The young man, Jim Brinkmeyer, had checked it out.

Jim agreed to drive Mary home, but only if Joyce came along. When he reached her place, Jim asked her out. Joyce agreed to a date the following weekend. Her roommates were excited to hear about him, especially when they learned his name was Jim. They reminded Joyce that a Ouija board predicted she would marry a man named Jim from Rock Island. During the date, Joyce confirmed that was his home town.

The two were a couple throughout the spring semester in 1970, which is when Jim received a draft notice. That summer he joined the Air Force and was stationed at Scott Air Force Base outside of O’Fallon. Joyce graduated in 1971 with an education degree in family and consumer sciences. She began working with the Cooperative Extension Service in Carthage, which was close enough to the base that the two could see each other on a regular basis.

The couple married in Normal in May of 1971. Jim completed his biological sciences degree at ISU in 1975, and later earned a master’s that prepared him for a career as an industrial hygienist. Joyce completed a graduate degree in educational administration and was a community college administrator.

The two lived in many states, and raised two children. Now retired, Jim and Joyce enjoy spending time with their grandchildren. They reside in Tennessee, where there are still plenty of cold and snowy winter nights that are a reminder of how their love story began.

“He has been taking me home during snowstorms for the last 48 years,” said Joyce, who chuckles with gratitude as she recalls their first car ride decades ago.
Jan (DeAno) Capodagli '76 teaches sixth grade; chair of the English department in the Lewisville district; resides with her husband, Ron, in The Colony, Texas.

William Kirkman '76 retired from Caterpillar Inc. as a process control engineer in global purchasing; resides with his wife, Kathy; in Mukwonago, Wisconsin.

Rick Lombardi '76 is retired from Maine West High School after 35 years as a guidance counselor; coached tennis and wrestling; resides with his wife, Sandra, in Bartlett.

Steven Longman '76 is a cost engineer with Jacobs Engineering in the Shell Refinery; resides in Pleasenear with Jacobs Engineering in ant Hill, California.

Carol Dipazo '78 retired as a premium auditor with Travelers Insurance; resides with her husband, Stephen, in Davie, Florida.

Pamela (Nicoll) Hamilton '78 is a teacher's aide at St. Gilbert School; resides with her husband, Mark, in Grayslake.

Kevin Pucklewicz '78 is a service letter carrier; resides in Helotes, Texas.

William Allison '79 is a national managing principal with Deloitte consulting; resides with his wife, Mary, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Susan (Harcharik) Coffinbargar '79 is retired after teaching first grade for seven years and working for the State of Illinois for nearly 32 years; resides in Springfield.

Christie (Hobbs) Davis '79 retired from teaching music at Riverview Gardens School District; teaches private piano and clarinet lessons; piano accompanist; resides with her husband, Drew, in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Dave Edyburn '79, M.S. '82, is associate dean of research at the University of Central Florida; professor in the Department of Exceptional Education at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee for 24 years; resides with his wife, Pam (Williams) '81, in Oviedo, Florida.

Janet (Klempin) McGann '79 teaches reading at a Broward County Middle School; lived in nine states and enjoys international travel; mom to two sons; resides in Davie, Florida.

David Patterson '79 retired from Sanofi-Aventis as a regional sales director; resides with his wife, Kimberly, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bill Roach '79 teaches at Warren Township High School; resides with his wife, Char, in McHenry.

1980s

Jane Urquhin '80, Ed.D. '14, is president and owner of Partners for Life Planning Inc.; resides in Hometown.

James “Jay” Cardwell '81 is COO of The CFO Squad LLC; worked 30 years on entertainment projects; promoted Barbra Streisand's World Tour; resides in New York City and Pecomic, New York.

Craig Culp '81 is an assistant deputy collector with Macon County; resides in Maroa.

Steven Kagan '81, MBA '83, is a vice president at IBM; resides in Burr Ridge.

Marsha (Brown) Klein '81 teaches first grade in the Henry-Senachwine Community Unit District 5; received the Excellence in Education Award from the LaSalle, Marshall and Putnam Counties Regional Office of Education; resides with her husband, Stephen, in Henry.

Michael Phares '81 is the senior global director of membership for Club Quarters Hotels; resides in Naperville.

Denise (Moring) Plock '81 retired as a special education teacher in Freeport School District 145; resides with her husband, Ronald, in German Valley.

Ronald Zemke '81 is a church musician retired from teaching music; resides with his wife, Dawn, in Gilberts.

Albert Beard '82 is retired from teaching industrial technology to middle school students; resides with his wife, Dena, in Franklin, Indiana.

Michelle Burris '82 is a compliance inspector with the State of Colorado Health Department; resides in Grand Junction, Colorado.

Dianne (Deaver) Hustad '82 is self-employed financial consultant; resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Bob Koch '82, M.S. '97, is a manager at the Illinois Commerce Commission; resides in Atlanta.

Brenda Lloyd-Jones, M.S. '82, is human relations associate professor and associate chair at University of Kentucky; resides in Louisville.

Val (McIntyre) Ross '82 is a branch manager with U.S. Small Business Administration; resides with her husband, Jack, in Springfield.

Geri (Higgins) Stites '82 retired after working 32 years as an elementary general/choral music teacher; she and her husband, Bryan, have two grown children; couple resides in Broken Arrow, Oklahoma.

David Yelaska '82 is a middle school teacher with CCSD93; has taught science for 22 years; resides in Naperville.

Michael Davidson '83 retired as executive director of finance of the Central Indiana region for Ivy Tech Community College; worked nearly 20 years in accounting at Lake Land College; resides in Danville, Indiana.

Kelly Leggett '83 is a real estate broker with Keller Williams Realty; resides in Chicago.

William Mairson '83 is the associate director of environment, safety and health for Los Alamos National Laboratory; resides with his wife, Catherine, in Los Alamos, New Mexico.

Jami Simon, M.S. '83, is an actress; appeared in The Blacklist; co-starred in recurring role of Pinky on High Maintenance; main role in music video for Bet Ain't Worth the Hand by Leon Bridges; played Sideways Jane in pilot of Riding the D with Dr. Seeds; resides in New York, New York.

Mike Suhaneck '83 is a sales director with ITW ProBrands; he and his wife, Rebecca, are parents of a son; reside near Atlanta, Georgia.

Far from Normal

Three College of Business graduates were grateful for the opportunity to make new memories as old classmates while hiking fjords in Norway. The trek last fall added to adventures the friends have enjoyed since leaving campus. They are, from left, accounting alums Donna (Fret) '79 and Phil Zarcone '78, and business administration graduate Patti (Sarles) Hart '78.
Redbird legacy

Valerie (Quevillon) Duewer ’84 arrived at Illinois State wondering if she would enjoy attending with her older brother, Pat ’83. Decades later, she is grateful they were on campus together. She is also thrilled to have her entire immediate family as alums.

Valerie’s legacy grew with her marriage to Kevin Duewer ’84. They met as residents of Hamilton-Whitten. He studied agriculture, while Valerie majored in finance. The two settled in Waverly, where Kevin’s family farmed. The couple still live on the Duewer homestead and run their business, Waverly Cabinet Company.

Valerie and Kevin welcomed three children: Katy, Joe, and Claire. They all visited ISU while growing up, with frequent stops at Avanti’s and the Quad during road trips.

Katy’s decision to attend ISU was made during a campus visit. Molly Arnold ’83, M.S. ’86, then the director of Admissions, spoke to the prospective students. Seeing Molly, who was a friend of the family, made Katy feel at home as she studied interior design. She lives in Chicago and is employed in residential design with Michael Abrams, Limited.

Joe decided as a youngster that he would be a Redbird. He spent time at ISU sport camps, and was eager to enroll. A marketing major, he joined a business fraternity and completed internships before graduating. He works for Otis Elevators and lives in Louisville, Kentucky.

It appeared Claire would break the Redbird lineage. She attended Augustana College, in part to play volleyball. Claire changed directions and transferred to ISU with the same majors in math and secondary education. A Golden Apple Scholar, she plans to teach in Illinois and coach volleyball following graduation this spring.

Valerie is excited for Claire’s commencement, as it will be the third time she has stood when alums are recognized during the ceremony. “I get emotional,” she said. “Illinois State University was home to me, and it still is. I never imagined that my kids would go there, but it means the world to me” to have that special Redbird bond. “The Duewers are five for five!”

Timothy Anglum ’84 is a managing partner of Anglum Group Consulting; resides in Minnetonka, Minnesota.

Sharon Elsick ’84 is a special education and mainstream inclusion teacher with Mount Dora High School; taught in the same district 31 years; resides in Mount Dora, Florida.

Tamara (Marks) Furda ’84 is retired after 27 years as a United Airlines flight attendant; enjoys traveling the world with her husband, Scott; resides in Naperville.

Sharon (Muehlhauser) Jones ’84 is a certified nutrition and fitness coach with Sharon Jones Wellness; resides in St. Peters, Missouri.

Melissa (King) Livingston ’84, M.S. ’91, is a counselor at Leland High School; resides with her husband, James, in Somonauk.

Tom Parton ’84, M.S. ’86, is a speech and language pathologist with Unit 5 school district; resides with his wife, Susan, in Normal.

Linda (Ebersole) Williams ’84, MBA ’94, is the director of sponsored programs at the University of Illinois; resides in Normal.

David Hall ’85 is president of Global Receivables Solutions Inc.; resides with his wife, Tassie, in Pickerington, Ohio.

Gina (Hooper) McDannold ’85 is a certified optician with Gally Eye Clinic; resides with her husband, Randy, in Bloomington.

Jennifer (House) Merzdorf ’85 is communications director for the Davidson School of Chemical Engineering at Purdue University; resides with her husband, Russell, in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Alice (Thompson) Tennis ’85 is a communications director; resides with her husband, Russell, in West Lafayette, Indiana.

Betty Van Heel) Adamowski ’86 is director of the Wheaton Public Library; resides with her husband, Gary, in Geneva, Iowa.

Molly (Loh) Baker ’86 is an itinerant early childhood special education teacher; resides with her husband, Bill, in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Sandy (Perry) Hallmann ’86 is a music director at St. Paul Evangelical Church in Bloomingdale; teaches percussion lessons; helps run family business, Hallmann Sanitary Service; family includes two daughters and eight grandchildren; resides with her husband, Terry, in Hanover Park.

Michael Raucci ’86 is lieutenant in the investigations division; resides with his wife, Laura, in Huntley.

Scott Snyder ’86 is the chief operating officer of David Nielson and Associates LLC; resides with his wife, Daria, in Highlands Ranch, Colorado.

Tim White ’86 is the head of adult services for the Worth Public Library District; resides in Palos Heights.

Maryann (Zanni) Lucarz ’87 is the administrative assistant with Park Ridge Park District; resides with her husband, Bob, in Bensenville.

Monica Mapel ’87 completed a master’s from the Naval Postgraduate School Center for Homeland Defense and Security; works in homeland security investigations; resides in New Braunfels, Texas.

Garth Nicholas ’87 owns Nicholas Consulting; COO of New Wave Net Corporation; resides in Heyworth.

Denise Spangler ’87, M.S. ’89, is dean of the College of Education and professor at the University of Georgia; resides in Athens, Georgia.

Deb (Riker) Datweiler ’88 is a social worker at Presence Saint Mary’s Hospital; resides with her husband, Todd, in Herscher.

Michele Evans ’88 is the grants and communication director for Illinois Prairie Community Foundation; resides in Bloomington.
Diane Graebner ‘88 earned a master’s in hospitality management at University of Central Florida; is completing a doctorate; works in sales with Universal Studio resorts; resides in Clermont, Florida.

Elise Noble ‘88 is an ADA accommodation consultant with Sedgwick; resides in Park Forest.

Diane (Randolph) Pilgrim ‘88 is a finance manager with New Balance Athletics Inc.; resides with her husband, Ed, in Ballwin, Missouri.

Todd Slater ‘88, M.M., ‘90, is the director of bands at Eureka High School; composes for Alfred Publishing Company; resides with his wife, Angie ‘90, M.M. ‘06, in Eureka.

Anamari Jani ‘89 completed a master’s in curriculum and instruction from Concordia University; has earned several certificates and endorsements; teaches fifth grade in Cicero School District 99; resides in Willowbrook.

Mike Kileen ‘89, ’00, is a data scientist of the Boeing Company; resides with his wife, Diane, in Troy, Missouri.

Mike Metzger ‘89 is a district manager with Ace Hardware Corpora
tion; he and his wife, Ramona (Sitki) ‘89, have one son; he is attending ISU; couple resides in Springfield.

Michael Scanlon ‘89 is a regional service manager with Siemens; resides with his wife, Michele, in South Elgin.

1990s

Joe Kollins ‘90 is a major with the Illinois State Police; resides in O’Fallon.

Michael Kelly ‘91 is president of Kelly Insurance Services; resides with his wife, Laura, in Evergreen Park.

Robert Miller ‘91 is a senior IT applications consultant with We Energies; resides with his wife, Regina, in Lemont.

Ryan Rempfer ‘91 is a disability claims analyst with the State of Illinois; resides with his wife, Sue, in Springfield.

Eric Serrahn ‘91 is an analytics executive with IBM Worldwide Business Development; resides with his wife, Deborah, in Ponte Vedra, Florida.

Christine (Ellenberger) Strong ‘91, M.S. ‘07, is a study abroad director at Indiana State University; resides with her husband, Todd, in Terra Haute, Indiana.

Scott Curtis ‘92 is vice president of home lending with Capital Farm Credit; resides with his wife, Rosi, and their two children in San Antonio, Texas.

Michael Doremus ‘92 is a sales and marketing manager with SuperMax Tools; resides in Bruce Township, Michigan.

Sandra Knack ‘92 teaches first grade in Lowpoint Washburn District 21; resides in Washburn.

Paul Walton ‘92 is the director of business development at MicroAge; resides with his wife, Lisa, in Phoenix, Arizona.

Jeff Benzing, MBA ‘93, is a senior community investment specialist for BAE systems; member of Indiana Institute of Technology Board of Trustees; his wife, Patty (Warren) ‘84, is a substitute teacher for the Diocese of Fort Wayne-South Bend; couple resides in Fort Wayne, Indiana.

Leigh (Schmidt) Hayes ‘93, M.S.W. ‘09, is a social worker with the McLean County Health Department; resides with her husband, Rick, in Downs.

Adam Mittleman ‘93, M.S. ‘00, is manager of quality improvement analytics for WellCare Health Plans Inc.; resides with his wife, Celestine, in Acworth, Georgia.

Paul Novak ‘83 is an associate judge in the 19th Judicial Circuit Court in the State of Illinois; he and his wife are parents of two children; resides in Lake County.

Roberto Trujillo ‘93 is the director of benefits for the Teamsters Joint Council No. 83 of Virginia Health and Welfare and Pension Funds in Richmond, Virginia; resides in Virginia Beach, Virginia.

Beth (Pytlewicz) Cairns ‘94 is a physical therapist with Nicolette Visser Physical Therapy; resides in Roselle.

Kevin Gross ‘94 is a supervising attorney in the staff counsel department of Geico Insurance Company; resides with his wife, Michelle, in Arlington Heights.

Kyle Hendren ‘94 is a global marketing and product manager with Drake Elevator; resides in Wendell, North Carolina.

Heather (Arnold) Hendron ‘94 is a drafter and designer with Johnson Engineering; resides in Mason City.

Laura (Toncray) Kerrins ‘94, M.S. ‘99, teaches sixth grade in Pontiac District 429; resides with her husband, Jim, in Cullom.

Paul Molitor ‘94 is a train engineer with Metra; resides with his wife, Laura, in Elburn.

David Peterson ‘94, M.S. ‘98, is assistant vice provost for enrollment management at the University of Cincinnati; resides with his wife, Shawn, and daughter in Cincinnati, Ohio.

Melissa (Gibbs) Weber ‘94 is a principal process manager with Capital One; resides in Wasco.

Michael Blomberg ‘95 is an officer with the police department in Elgin, where he resides.

Julee (Haab) Holland ‘95 is an employee relations manager with State Farm Insurance Company; resides in Normal.

Jenn (Tirtillili) Kupres ‘95 is head of global talent acquisition with Getinge Group; resides in Buffalo Grove.

William Newton, M.S. ‘95, is an assistant clinical professor in the Department of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation at Vanderbilt Medical School; medical director of the Spine, Joint and Pain Center in the Murfreesboro Medical Clinic; resides with his wife, Merissa, in Christiana, Tennessee.

Kristine (Wagner) Wahlgren ‘95 is a recreation center supervisor with the parks and recreation department in the Village of Romeoville; resides with her husband, Kai, in Bolingbrook.

Nicole (Purdy) Christianson ‘96 teaches fourth grade with Lexington Unit District 7; resides with her husband, Corey, in Lexington.

Scott Gajda ‘97 is a financial analyst; has been recognized as a top financial advisor in the country by

Friendship of note

Music brought five women together at ISU in the 1970s. It was as part of the Treble Choir that Caryl Hefley ‘79 met the other four, who were music therapy majors. They celebrate milestone birthday reunions, including a visit last year in North Carolina. They are, front row from left, Alexis (Gray) Rasley ’79 of Oak Park; Cindi Warner ’79 of Columbus, Ohio; and Stacy (Miller) Pratt ’79 of Crystal Lake. Back row from left are Denise (Gulick) Riser ’80 of River Vale, New Jersey; and Hefley of Cincinnati, Ohio.
Redbirds represent

Lisa Castleman ’96 is proud to be principal of Olympia West Elementary School in Minier. One unique aspect of her job at the pre-K through eighth grade school is the opportunity to work with a number of Redbird graduates. Each wore ISU garb during an institute day and posed while spelling out ISU. As a member of the University’s Alumni Association board of directors, Castleman loved the idea.

Northwestern Mutual; resides in Irvine, California.

Jason Kuhl ’97 is executive director of the Arlington Heights Memorial Library; resides in Arlington Heights.

Jerry Myers ’97 is a professor of music at St. Louis Community College; resides with his wife, Laura, in Fenton, Missouri.

Jacob Gourley ’98 has taught history and worked as a social studies division leader for 18 years; is principal of Thornton Fractional South High School in Lansing, where he resides.

Bradley Jesse ’98 is senior marketing manager over autotransfusion with Fresenius Kabi USA; resides with his wife, Silvia, in Bartlett.

Jenny (Foster) Klouse ’98 has worked with InterVarsity Christian Fellowship for 17 years; is an area director; resides with her husband, Erik, in Santa Rosa, California.

Renee (Lenz) Osbrink ’98 is an accounting specialist with Hawk Chevrolet; parent to two children; resides with her husband, Chris, in Manteno.

Jennifer Christianson ’99 is an elementary teacher at Washington School for the Deaf; resides in Portland, Oregon.

Cathy Denbesten ’99, MBA ’10, is the owner and broker of Denbesten Real Estate; resides in Bloomington.

Joe Wolf ’99 is COO of SWCA Environmental Consultants; elected rotating director of the SWCA board of directors; resides in Homer Glen.

Suzanne (Frank) Schwartz ’99 is a special education teacher in Winnetka School District 36; parent of two sons; resides with her husband, Tom, in Morton Grove.

Christy (Shults) Wavering ’99 is senior tax manager with Sikich LLP; resides in Springfield.

Dannielle (Gayle) Greene ’00 is a manager with FedEx; resides with her husband, Antonio, in Douglasville, Georgia.

Aja Holmes ’00, M.S. ’02, completed a doctorate from Iowa State University; is senior associate director of residential life at CSU in Sacramento, California, where she resides.

Michelle Lindenmeier ’00 is a probation officer in McLean County Court Services; resides in Bloomington.

Dana Trunnell ’00, M.A. ’02, is an assistant professor of communication at Prairie State College; resides in Chicago.

Melanie (Sheets) Weller ’00 is office manager for Ray Kelly State Farm in Plainfield; resides with her husband, Jason, in Joliet.

Zachary Callen ’01, M.S. ’03, is an assistant professor of Allegheny College; authored Railroads and American Political Development: Infrastructure, Federalism, and State Building; resides in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Michelle (Casey) Feltes ’01 is a counselor in Chicago Public Schools; resides with her husband, Kyle, in Evergreen Park.

Chad Germanis ’01, M.S. ’03, is dean of campus life at Saint Joseph’s College; resides with his wife, Maria, in Standish, Maine.

Thom Reed ’01 is the first African American deputy chief genealogical officer at FamilySearch International; resides in South Jordan, Utah.

Brad Smetanko ’01 is a network planning manager with Frontier Communications; resides with his wife, Cortney, in Heyworth.

Frances Tracy-Dunn, M.S. ’01, is interim dean of students at Eastern Maine Community College; resides with her husband, Ryan, in Hermon, Maine.

Jennifer (Louie) Trainum, M.M. ’01, is Suzuki violin teacher at the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa; won a Music Teachers National Association Teacher Enrichment Grant to attend the American Suzuki Institute; resides with her husband, John, in Northport, Alabama.

Eric Barton ’03 is a credit analyst and works in quality control at First National Bank of New York; resides in Streator.

Vandana (Rajput) Fotopoulos ’03 is a corporate recruitment relationship manager with Allegis Global Solutions; resides with her husband, Constantine, near Naperville.

Becky Goldstein ’03 completed master’s degrees in social work and Jewish studies; is a transplant social worker at New York-Presbyterian Hospital; resides in New York, New York.

Kara Kossler ’03 is an ob/gyn physician; resides with her husband, Mark, in Bloomington.

Carnella Williams ’03 is an assistant principal at an elementary school in Ferguson, Missouri; resides in St. Louis, Missouri.

Sasha Douyon ’04 is an inspector with the United States Postal Service; resides with his wife, LaQuisha, in University Park.

Matthew Goldberg ’04 is a consumer banking reporter at Bankrate in New York; is a leader for ISU’s New York City Area Alumni Network; resides in North Haledon, New Jersey.

Christine (Bagnell) Husted ’04 is a senior manager with Allstate Insurance Company; resides in Lake Zurich.

Zachary Janus ’04 is a CPA in the state of Florida and tax manager with Wrobel Accounting; resides with his wife, Amy, and their two sons in Brandon, Florida.

Shannon (Ross) Michael ’04 is a talent acquisition manager with McDonald’s Corporation; resides with her husband, John, in Homer Glen.

Deah Partak ’04 is a self-employed clinical social worker; resides with
her husband, James, in Portland, Oregon.

Micah Riordan '04, M.S. '06, is STEM director at McHenry Middle School; resides with his wife in Palatine.

Amy Savage '04 is a hearing itinerant teacher at Southwest Cooperative; resides in Palos Hills.

Tim Woelke '04 is a territory manager at Unilock; he and his wife, Tiffany, were married in November and reside in Round Lake.

Jill (Fertig) Baugh '05 is a probation officer in McLean County Adult Court Services; resides with her husband, Charles, in Normal.

Kristina Krueger '05 completed a master's in education at Loyal University; curator of invertebrates in the Alabama Museum of Natural History; has researched around the world; resides in Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Beth (Swango) Phillips '06 is a general manager of Steak 'n Shake; resides with her husband, Sean, in Normal.

Susan Woollen, M.S. '06, Ph.D. '15, is the director of undergraduate studies and enrollment management for ISU’s Criminal Justice Sciences Department; resides with her husband, Tim, in Normal.

Janna Baker '07 is a GIS coordinator for Tazewell County in Illinois; resides in Peoria.

Matthew Damschroder, M.A. '07, Ph.D. '15, is vice president for student life and dean of students at Juniata College; resides in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

Brian Greenewald '07 is an officer with Riverside Police Department; resides with his wife, Allyson, in Lombard.

Elisabeth (Lindsey) Gross '07 is a business development specialist with NEC Display Solutions of America; resides with her husband, Brian, in Bloomingdale.

Christina Horton '07 is an inspector general with the Department of Veteran Affairs; resides in Aurora.

Pete Lamonica '07 is a software engineer for Amazon.com.; completed a marathon; met his wife, Katie (Johnson) '04, M.S. '07, at ISU; resides in Seattle, Washington.

Rose (Crockett) Matthews '07 is copyright specialist with the Library of Congress U.S. Copyright Office; resides with her husband, Gary, in Savage, Maryland.

Erick Somodi '07 is the chorus and band director at the junior and senior high schools in St. Elmo; resides with his wife, Laura, in Effingham.

Kristina Torbik '07 is a marketing specialist with United Airlines; resides in Wheaton.

Laura Braun '08 is a communications associate in the California College of the Arts; freelance music journalist; resides in San Francisco, California.

Danielle (Lilenthal) Flaugher '08 is a registered nurse with UnityPoint Health-Methodist; resides with her husband, Jeff, in Mackinaw.

Adam Freehill '08 is a product support representative for combines and front-end equipment at John Deere Harvester Works; resides in Morrison.

Judd Kiddie '08 is a purchasing manager of EMCO Chemical Distributors; resides in Lake Villa.

Jayme Kirchner '08, M.A. '10, is an agent with Liberty Travel; resides in Astoria, New York.

Rachel (Higgins) Klein '08 completed a master’s at Concordia University; teaches special education in the Dunlap School District; she and her husband, Anthony '03, are parents of two children and reside in Dunlap.

Matthew Damschroder, M.A. '07, Ph.D. '15, is vice president for student life and dean of students at Juniata College; resides in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania.

strong sisterhood

College memories were renewed when two sorority sisters visited campus together last year. Sue (Carter) Kerata ‘90 of Raleigh, North Carolina, left, and Anne (Ferrish) Doyle ’91 of Arlington Heights, especially enjoyed touring the house of their sorority, Zeta Tau Alpha at 411 North School Street.
Lauren Bridges, M.A. ’10, is a doctoral student in historical anthropology and teaching assistant at the College of William and Mary; resides in Williamsburg, Virginia.

Amy Determan ’10 is a community engagement coordinator with the Habitat for Humanity in St. Louis, Missouri, where she resides.

Antishay Gardner ’10 is completing a master’s in social work at ISU; case manager at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria Medical; resides in Carlock.

Melissa (Ritter) Leyendecker ’10 is a reading team teacher with Burbank School District III; resides with her husband, Ryan, in Oak Lawn.

Stephanie (Donjon) Orme ’10, completed a doctorate in mass communications from Belisario College of Communications at Pennsylvania State University; lectures at Suffolk University; resides with her husband, Tylor, in Brighton, Massachusetts.

John Conrad ’11 is a support operations manager with iManage LLC; resides with his wife, Emily, in Chicago.

Colin Daly ’11 is an environmental engineer with Natural Resource Technology Inc.; resides in Chicago.

Sang Yong Han, MBA ’11, completed a doctorate in finance at Washington State University; is an assistant professor of finance at the University of Pennsylvania; resides with his wife, Inae, in East Stroudsburg, Pennsylvania.

Stephen Hon ’11 earned a medical degree and is completing an internal medicine residency at St. Vincent’s Hospital in Indiana; will pursue a fellowship in cardiology and practice as an interventional cardiologist; resides with his wife, Jody, in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Sarah (Michel) Irwin ’11 is an investment manager with State Farm Insurance Company; resides with her husband, Drake, in Bloomington.

Jennifer Liechti ’11 is director of the U.S. office for Global Academic Ventures; resides in Chicago.

Dawn Ma ’11 is an office manager and accountant with Lawrence Travis and Company; resides with her husband, Lyndon, in Normal.

Christopher Mallen, M.S. ’11, is a marketing manager with Outfront Media; resides in Dania Beach, Florida.

Adam McCrory ’11 is an assistant director at ISU’s Environmental Health and Safety Office; resides with his wife, Angela, in Normal.

Leah Sanders ’11, M.S. ’16, is coordinator of group fitness and instruction at Washington State University; resides in Pullman, Washington.

Amanda (Lentz) Schiel ’11 is a registered nurse at East Morgan County Hospital; resides with her husband, Jeff, in Brush, Colorado.

Caylyn Burek ’12 teaches fifth grade math at Knoxville Middle School; resides in Galesburg.

Alexandra Campbell ’12 teaches seventh grade at Sunset Ridge School; resides with her husband, Kenneth Sanderman, in Palatine.

Renee Changnon ’12 writes for the North American Retail Hardware Association’s magazine; worked with Jimmy John’s corporate headquarters; resides in Indianapolis, Indiana.

Diana (Logisz) Cummings ’12 is a registered nurse in neurosurgery with Northwestern Memorial Hospital; resides with her husband, Patrick, in Chicago.

Allison Hall ’12 teaches English at New Tech High School at Zion-Benton East; resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Jordan Hedge ’12 teaches kindergarten with Pekin Schools District 108; resides in Normal.

Shanta Hoard, M.S. ’12, works with George Sink, P.A. Injury Lawyers; resides in Moncks Corner, South Carolina.

Stephen Kwiatek ’12, M.S. ’17, is a special education teacher with Bloomington District 87; resides in Bloomington.

Merethe Maberg, M.F.A. 12, is a lighting designer in Norway, where she resides.

Casey Peek ’12 is a marketing and patron services associate with The Joffrey Ballet; resides in Chicago.

Simi Russell ’12 is a student at John Marshall Law School; resides in South Holland.

Audrey Surber ’12 is a marketing consultant with Unum; resides in Chicago.

Kylee Veresean ’12 is a registered nurse at Lake Cook Orthopedics; resides in Oakwood Hills.

Mary (Melia) White ’12 is a group registrar specialist with Devry Education; resides with her husband, Richard, in Orland Park.

Sarah Wood ’12 is a junior designer with Interior Design Associates Inc.; resides in Smyrna, Tennessee.

Molly (King) Gleason ’13 is a labor and delivery nurse at UnityPoint Health Methodist in Peoria; completed master’s in nursing at Methodist College; teaches OB clinicals at the college; resides with her husband and son in Morton.

Jorie Johnson ’13 is an associate foreclosure attorney with MLRP; resides in Evanston.

Kristin Pearson ’13 is communications manager and chapter consultant for Pi Sigma Epsilon; received second place award for publications improvement from the Fraternal Communications Association for her work on Dotted Lines, Pi Sigma Epsilon’s national magazine; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Kristyn (Raetz) Richert ’13 is a registered nurse working in the ICU at Johns Hopkins Suburban Hospital; resides with her husband, Craig, in Frederick, Maryland.

Jessica Sibigrotro ’13 is literacy coach at Dundee-Crown High School; completing a second master’s degree; resides in Itasca.
Our troops

Lyn Little '76 worked 32 years as a service as an Army civilian employee; specialized in ammunition and explosive safety; works under a U.S. Army Joint Munitions Command contract; resides with his wife, Fenessa, in Jordan, Utah.

Drew Doolin '82 retired as a Marine Corps Colonel after a 30-year military career; senior consultant for a not-for-profit public sector firm in Washington, D.C.; resides in Dumfries, Virginia.

Brianna Koenig '15 is a member of the U.S. Navy; resides in Pensacola, Florida.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Sylvie Bouriaux, Finance; 10/18
Carrol B. Cox Jr., English; 8/18
George M. Drew, Elementary Education; 8/18
Harold L. Gregor, Distinguished Professor, Art; 10/18
Warren R. Harden, Economics; Vice President, Business and Finance; 9/18
Walter B. Mead, Political Science; 8/18
Judith C. (Baker) Moulic '83; Administrative Information Systems; 9/18
Norma J. Oberholtzer '79, M.S. '88; Curriculum and Instruction; 8/18
Miriam G. Olsen, Finance; 10/18

30s

Anna Mae (Boning) Denny '39; 10/10

40s

Marian E. (Davies) Campbell '41; 8/18
Helen J. (Schneider) Quimby '41, '65; 9/18
Mary L. (Nafziger) Diesel '43; 7/18
Margaret E. Herman '43; 7/18
Velma J. (Pierat) O'Neal '43, '60; 7/18

50s

Richard D. Alexander '50; 8/18
Helen M. (Campbell) Erickson '50; 9/06
Howard G. Frink '50; 9/18
Josephine T. Mancuso '50; 9/18
Bruce S. Peterson '50; 8/18
David H. King '51, M.S. '52; 7/18
Eunice (Clayberg) Foster '52; 7/18
Michael T. Setina '52, M.S. '68; 7/18
Mary Ann (Morse) Fox '53; 9/18
Kenneth E. Barton '54, M.S. '57; 12/17
Carl E. R. Black '54; 4/18
Beverly E. (Gould) Dunahue '55; 9/18
Robert D. Martis '56; 7/18
Lois V. (Cotterell) Huffman '57, M.S. '70; 6/18
Freida M. (Bost) Craig '44; 9/18
Doris G. (Garmatter) Hamman '45; 11/16
Kathryn J. (Nebel) Stoops '45; 2/17
Veleta M. (Hendrix) Delaney '47; 8/18
Naoma M. (Glasscock) Wilhelmi '47; 2/18

60s

Richard D. Alexander '50; 8/18
Helen M. (Campbell) Erickson '50; 9/06
Howard G. Frink '50; 9/18
Josephine T. Mancuso '50; 9/18
Bruce S. Peterson '50; 8/18
David H. King '51, M.S. '52; 7/18
Eunice (Clayberg) Foster '52; 7/18
Michael T. Setina '52, M.S. '68; 7/18
Mary Ann (Morse) Fox '53; 9/18
Kenneth E. Barton '54, M.S. '57; 12/17
Carl E. R. Black '54; 4/18
Beverly E. (Gould) Dunahue '55; 9/18
Robert D. Martis '56; 7/18
Lois V. (Cotterell) Huffman '57, M.S. '70; 6/18
Freida M. (Bost) Craig '44; 9/18
Doris G. (Garmatter) Hamman '45; 11/16
Kathryn J. (Nebel) Stoops '45; 2/17
Veleta M. (Hendrix) Delaney '47; 8/18
Naoma M. (Glasscock) Wilhelmi '47; 2/18

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Sylvie Bouriaux, Finance; 10/18
Carrol B. Cox Jr., English; 8/18
George M. Drew, Elementary Education; 8/18
Harold L. Gregor, Distinguished Professor, Art; 10/18
Warren R. Harden, Economics; Vice President, Business and Finance; 9/18
Walter B. Mead, Political Science; 8/18
Judith C. (Baker) Moulic ’83; Administrative Information Systems; 9/18
Norma J. Oberholtzer ’79, M.S. ’88; Curriculum and Instruction; 8/18
Miriam G. Olsen, Finance; 10/18

30s

Anna Mae (Boning) Denny ’39; 10/10

40s

Marian E. (Davies) Campbell ’41; 8/18
Helen J. (Schneider) Quimby ’41, ’65; 9/18
Mary L. (Nafziger) Diesel ’43; 7/18
Margaret E. Herman ’43; 7/18
Velma J. (Pierat) O’Neal ’43, ’60; 7/18

50s

Richard D. Alexander ’50; 8/18
Helen M. (Campbell) Erickson ’50; 9/06
Howard G. Frink ’50; 9/18
Josephine T. Mancuso ’50; 9/18
Bruce S. Peterson ’50; 8/18
David H. King ’51, M.S. ’52; 7/18
Eunice (Clayberg) Foster ’52; 7/18
Michael T. Setina ’52, M.S. ’68; 7/18
Mary Ann (Morse) Fox ’53; 9/18
Kenneth E. Barton ’54, M.S. ’57; 12/17
Carl E. R. Black ’54; 4/18
Beverly E. (Gould) Dunahue ’55; 9/18
Robert D. Martis ’56; 7/18
Lois V. (Cotterell) Huffman ’57, M.S. ’70; 6/18
Freida M. (Bost) Craig ’44; 9/18
Doris G. (Garmatter) Hamman ’45; 11/16
Kathryn J. (Nebel) Stoops ’45; 2/17
Veleta M. (Hendrix) Delaney ’47; 8/18
Naoma M. (Glasscock) Wilhelmi ’47; 2/18

60s

Cadet W. Cottingham ’60; 9/18
Margaret A. (Trevor) Dean ’60; 5/18
Guy W. Fritz ’60, M.S. ’67; 7/18
Robert M. Walmsley ’61, M.S. ’65; 7/18
Judith A. (Smith) Hartley ’62; 7/18
Rosalind (Hammondds) Vance ’62; 8/18
Marylee (Challand) Frank ’63; 7/18
Patricia R. (Childers) Kozmier ’64, M.S. ’69; 7/18
Tom H. Scott ’64; 7/18
Robert J. McCoy, M.S. ’65; 9/18
John D. Scouller III ’65, M.S. ’66; 6/15
Clifford J. Kinat ’66; 7/18
Rebecca J. (Williams) Paule ’66; 9/18
Geraldine A. (Clancy) Haack ’67; 8/18
Nola B. (Crotchett) Campbell ’58; 8/18
William H. Cutler, M.S. ’58; 9/18
Billy J. Saunders ’59; 6/18
Thomas C. Walthouse ’59; 7/18

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 sjblyst@IllinoisState.edu.
3) Mail your news to Class Notes, Illinois State University, Alumni Engagement, 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 Engagement 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 47,000 ISU donors and make a gift using the enclosed envelope, by calling (309) 438-8184, or by visiting RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu
Ruth (Baughman) Oesch ’61 credits her rewarding nursing career to the preparation she received as a student of Mennonite College of Nursing (MCN). She holds equal appreciation for the donor who provided the scholarship funds she needed to pursue her passion.

“I was the oldest of four children,” Oesch said. “Without my scholarship, I don’t know whether I would have been able to complete my degree work. It helped my parents and me a great deal.”

The impact financial aid had on shaping her life inspired Oesch to create the Ruth A. Oesch Endowed Scholarship with a commitment of $50,000. Recipients will be registered nurses working to advance with a bachelor’s degree, or nursing undergraduates pursuing a master’s in the field.

“Nursing will continue to play a prominent role in health care throughout the world,” Oesch said. “I want to do something to ensure that as I and my family get older, there are well-educated nurses to help us with everything we encounter as health care consumers.”

Oesch has been dedicated to providing quality care others have need throughout her career. She established the first post-operative recovery room in the Bloomington-Normal area, and helped develop the community’s first intensive care unit.

Prior to her retirement, Oesch worked as a health care instructor and liaison to higher education institutions for years. Her efforts on behalf of Mennonite College of Nursing have included serving as president of the alumni association, as well as being a strong advocate while a member of the Mennonite Hospital School of Nursing Board of Trustees.

With MCN’s 100th anniversary celebration this year, there seemed to Oesch no better time to endow her scholarship. She is pleased to support the future of nursing overall by investing in the next generation of Mennonite College of Nursing graduates.

Will you make a difference by supporting your passion? Make a contribution to Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State by going online to RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu, or calling (309) 438-8184.

For information about supporting Illinois State through estate planning, visit GiveTo.IllinoisState.edu, or call (309) 438-8184.
The show goes on

Since its establishment by Clifford “Pop” Horton in 1929, Gamma Phi Circus has showcased the talents of students from across majors. Now the oldest collegiate circus in North America, Gamma Phi has trained students in acrobatic and circus acts that range from fire-eating performances to trapeze and dance routines. Circus alumni reconnected to celebrate Gamma Phi’s 90 years on campus earlier this month prior to an annual spring performance in Redbird Arena.