Against all odds

Redbird Tristen Sharp lives and learns despite extensive brain trauma.
First Glance

At first glance, it may seem that selection of a collegiate home is primarily dependent on a student’s chosen field of study. As those students who are entering Illinois State for their first semester this fall realize from having completed their own search, there is much more to be considered when selecting where to pursue a degree.

This is true because not unlike individuals, universities have unique traits that set them apart from other institutions of higher learning. It is often these distinct attributes and traditions that are weighted heavily by prospective students.

Graduates of Illinois State, for example, can attest to the fact that ISU is set apart because of the outstanding individualized attention given to students despite an enrollment that exceeds 20,000. This fundamental approach to teaching and learning always amazes incoming students and family members, while remaining a point of both pride and gratitude for alumni.

I would like to share what I consider another significant difference at Illinois State, which is the perspective taken at the University with regard to strategic planning. Too often the task of setting goals far into the future becomes an obligatory exercise, with the efforts shelved until the next mandated update.

At Illinois State, strategic planning results in a working blueprint that guides decisions made with regard to everything from curriculum changes and facility upgrades to student enrichment experiences and recruitment efforts. Accountability is key to progress, with attention given to the pursuit and completion of each objective through specific action.

Educating Illinois has been the University’s comprehensive plan since 2000, with updates made regularly. The most recent plan was approved by the Board of Trustees on May 11, 2018, putting into place Educate • Connect • Elevate: Illinois State —The Strategic Plan for Illinois’ First Public University 2018-2023.

This revised plan positions the University to take bold steps forward, while remaining true to our history and identity. Highlights include four strategic directions that involve enhancing ISU’s strength and stability, fostering innovation, nurturing diversity and inclusion, and enriching engagement.

Educate • Connect • Elevate emerged after extensive consultation with campus groups, community representatives and partners. It is written broadly to provide guidance versus constraint so that every aspect of ISU will continue to flourish into the future. There are also 47 specific action items identified. I encourage you to read the document at StrategicPlan.IllinoisState.edu. As you do, I have no doubt you will be encouraged and impressed that Illinois State remains committed to its mission, vision, and values, while ensuring and expanding its unique traits that set it apart from other institutions of higher learning.

Larry H. Dietz, Ph. D.
President, Illinois State University
FEATURES

8 Doctor’s orders
ISU alumna Dr. Sarah Hallberg goes against common thinking when telling patients managing Type 2 diabetes to reduce carbohydrates and take in more fat. Hallberg’s research and work with weight-loss patients convinces her the right diet eliminates blood sugar issues in Type 2 diabetes before it advances and insulin is prescribed.

12 Toughest test
For sophomore Tristen Sharp, the challenges of completing a degree go far beyond finishing class projects and taking exams. Her collegiate experience—and life in general—is more complicated because two accidents within 20 months caused irreparable brain damage. She inspires as she challenges everyone to realize their decisions change lives.

18 ISU’s individualized attention
Michael Thomas ’85 knows the University’s pledge to meet each student’s need despite an enrollment of more than 20,000 is a promise fulfilled. A faculty mentor challenged him to complete his degree and reach his potential. Now an executive with Toyota Engineering Manufacturing of America, Thomas is helping other students soar.

22 Baffled by bitcoins?
As the popularity of cryptocurrencies increases, so does confusion. Each media mention of bitcoins—the first cryptocurrency created—raises questions about buying, using, and mining this alternative to typical dollars. Information Technology Professor Glen Sagers shares the basics about cryptocurrencies.

DEPARTMENTS

2 University News
6 Redbird Athletics
26 Homecoming
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 siblyst@IllinoisState.edu, or mail to Campus Box 3420, Normal, IL 61790.
Since the introduction of Educating Illinois in 2000, the University has operated under the umbrella of a strategic plan that serves as a guide when all financial and academic decisions are made. As of July 1, the blueprint for going forward has been updated and renamed.

Educate • Connect • Elevate: Illinois State—The Strategic Plan for Illinois’ First Public University 2018-2023 articulates the University’s mission to serve citizens of Illinois and beyond.

ISU’s vision to remain a national leader offering premiere undergraduate and graduate programs is also stated in the plan that was approved by the University’s Board of Trustees in a spring meeting, shown above.

The approved plan evolved over months of consultation with campus stakeholders. A committee of faculty and staff representing all areas of campus led the work, which involved seeking input through surveys and open forums.

The document strengthens ISU’s core values by adding respect and collaboration to the existing list of leadership and scholarship, individualized attention, civic engagement, and integrity. Whereas Educating Illinois included diversity, the new plan expands the value to diversity and inclusion.

The plan also includes four strategic directions, which are to enhance strength and stability, foster innovation, nurture diversity and inclusion, and enrich engagement.

“Educate • Connect • Elevate will serve as a guide for divisions, units, and offices in planning and resource allocation decisions,” said President Larry Dietz. He praised the new strategic plan for its clear “desire to build on the strengths and successes of Educating Illinois, and to emphasize Illinois State’s broad educational reach.”

Thirteen objectives with 47 specific actions have been identified in the plan, which can be seen at StrategicPlan.IllinoisState.edu. Progress made in each area will be noted in the online document, as accountability remains a key factor to the plan’s success.
International push will up ISU’s global enrollment

Illinois State University and INTO University Partnerships have signed a long-term agreement to enhance campus diversity and bolster international enrollment. ISU’s goal is to increase the international campus student enrollment to 10 percent within 10 years.

INTO is an independent company that enables universities to increase international enrollment, while supporting students as they transition into studying at an American university.

INTO Illinois State University began in the spring. The first students enroll this fall, joining current international students who make up two percent of ISU’s overall enrollment and represent 67 countries.

“Through this partnership with INTO, we aim to provide talented and ambitious students with even more opportunities to study alongside those from other countries,” President Larry Dietz said. “We believe Illinois State will play a full role in the creation of the next generation of global citizens and leaders.”

Admissions decisions will be determined by the University, which has partnered with INTO to develop programs for international students to improve their English comprehension and succeed at ISU. Academic English, International Year One, and Graduate Pathway programs will be taught by Illinois State faculty.

Unique tool acquired using federal funding

Research will advance markedly across campus with the acquisition of a flow cytometer cell sorter. The instrument was obtained with a $316,778 Major Research Instrumentation grant from the National Science Foundation.

Hundreds of grant proposals were submitted from across the country, with only the top 16 percent of applications funded. Biological Sciences Professor Laura Vogel led the effort to obtain funding for the equipment, which will enable research not previously possible at ISU.

A mixture of cells pass through the cell sorter’s lasers, where they are purified and collected as particles available for study. The instrument can examine such parameters as cell morphology, surface and intracellular protein expression, gene expression, and cellular physiology.

Both faculty and students will use it for their research across disciplines. Cell sorters are commonly used in health sciences professions to diagnose diseases. Chemistry faculty will explore parasites and the cell cycle of microbes.

In biology, the equipment will be used in research of aging and the immune system, reptile and turtle immunity, immune cell signaling, bumble bee parasites, purification of pollen grains, insect cells, neurons, and avian blood cells.
Grad programs rise in annual national rankings

Three graduate programs have been recognized as excellent in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2019 edition of the Best Graduate Schools rankings. All three advanced in the rankings, which are based on expert opinions and statistical indicators measuring faculty, research, and students.

College of Education graduate programs moved to 108 compared to 120 in 2018. The part-time MBA program offered through the College of Business is ranked at 92, up from 143 in 2018.

Mennonite College of Nursing ranked 98 in Best Graduate Schools Master’s listing. It was at 115 in 2018. For the first time, the college was included in the Doctor of Nursing Practice category, with a rank of 105.

“These rankings are a testament to the excellent education being provided by our dedicated faculty,” Vice President and Provost Jan Murphy said. “They are also a validation that Illinois State University continues to be a higher education leader in the United States.”

Data for the list comes from statistical surveys sent to administrators at more than 1,970 graduate programs, and from reputation surveys sent to more than 16,500 academics and professionals in the disciplines.

U.S. grant to improve principal performance

The U.S. Department of Education has awarded ISU’s Center for the Study of Education Policy a $12.5 million grant over a three-year period. The funds will be used to increase principal effectiveness in performance areas that lead to increases in student achievement.

The project, titled Together Everyone Achieves More Through Integrated Leadership (TEAM Lead), will involve public and private schools in high-need regions ranging from rural schools to urban settings. Three other Illinois universities are participating.

The goal is to develop leadership support systems in schools, allowing time for principals to focus on working with teachers and problems of practice. The results will be evaluated by the American Institutes for Research.

Two faculty named as outstanding researchers

Psychology Professor Thomas Critchfield and Department of History Chair Issam Nassar, D.A. ’97, have been named Outstanding University Researchers.

Critchfield received his doctorate in psychology from West Virginia University, and completed a postdoctoral fellowship at Johns Hopkins University Medical Center. His research interests...
include general topics in behavior analysis and learning.

Beyond the honor of fellowships with the American Psychology Association and Association for Behavior Analysis International, Critchfield is a prolific author and has been in an editorial position with nine of the top 10 journals in the field.

Nassar completed a doctorate in history at the University and taught internationally. His research focuses on Palestine and Greater Syria in the Ottoman and colonial periods. He is co-editor of *Jerusalem Quarterly*.

**Provost is selected**

After serving as interim vice president for Academic Affairs and provost since January 2017, Jan Murphy has been named to the position permanently. Her Illinois State career spans more than 30 years.

“Illinois State has been a wonderful academic and professional home for me, and I am proud to continue serving in this leadership capacity,” Murphy said. She joined ISU in 1986 as faculty in Family and Consumer Sciences. She served as the department’s chair, and held various positions in the College of Applied Science and Technology dean’s office.

A University of Nebraska doctoral graduate in nutrition research, Murphy is a past director of Campus Dining Services. She worked more than a decade as an associate provost, and held the provost position on interim basis in 2008. She has been honored by ISU for outstanding teaching and research.

**Faculty chosen to be University Professor**

Geology Professor Eric Peterson has been named a University Professor. The title honors professors whose research has gained national recognition, or who have been identified as a stellar teacher. Peterson has a distinguished record in teaching and research. A specialist in physical hydrology, he has researched groundwater systems and how they are contaminated. He has secured nearly $2 million in external funding.

Pivotal in development of the hydrogeology graduate program, Peterson is a past recipient of the University's Research Initiative and Service Initiative awards. He has received the Outstanding Teacher award from the College of Arts and Sciences.

**Smartphone research advances with funding**

The National Science Foundation has awarded School of Information Technology Assistant Professor Jianwei Lai and her team members $718,000 to develop a way to log into and use smartphones with one hand.

The work, done through a partnership with faculty at University of Maryland, will detect unauthorized access to a mobile device through creation of an authentication process that can also be used by people with visual impairments.

Her goal is to develop a system that can differentiate users' identities based on thumb biometrics. The strokes users make with their thumbs on their smartphones “can be very unique,” Lai said, and can be used “to identify different users. This is what we call thumb biometrics.”

Beyond increased phone security, Lai sees the research making it feasible to have the convenience of logging into a phone with one hand.

---

**Mail**

To the Editor,

I am thrilled that ISU has recognized a lesbian couple’s marriage (Redbird Romance, April 2018). Times have changed since I was there in 1974.

Go Redbirds!

Nanette Gratkins ’76

To the Editor,

Thank you for including a lesbian marriage on page 12 of the April 2018 ISU alumni magazine (Redbird Romance).

I’m an officer in the Peace and Freedom Party (http://peaceandfreedom.org). Your including the marriage of Anita Smith and Chelsea Oakes advances the goal in the party platform of equality for women and the LGBT community.

Also, I’m grateful for the clinical psychology training I received at ISU, which included how to relate to others with more compassion and kindness.

Eric Bergman, M.A. ’78

To the Editor,

I am a proud alum of ISU, having earned degrees in 1986 and 1987 in communication disorders. At that time, I was a closeted gay man who struggled to find my place on campus. Reading your recent story about the love bench (April 2018) that included a same sex married couple made me even more proud to say I’m a graduate of ISU!

From the bottom of my heart, I want to express my sincere gratitude for your effort to be inclusive with your story. This small gesture means the world to so many of us!

Michael Barla ’86, M.S. ’87
The Weibring Golf Club at Illinois State University has achieved designation as a certified Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary, making it one of 897 golf courses internationally to earn the designation. Endorsed by the United States Golf Association, the Audubon program for golf courses helps preserve and enhance wildlife habitat.

ISU’s course “has shown a strong commitment to its environmental program,” said Audubon International Executive Director Christine Kane. She commended the University’s efforts “to provide a sanctuary for wildlife on the golf course property.”

Located on the northern edge of campus, the course is named after Illinois State alum and PGA Tour champion D.A. Weibring ’75. He finished first in 13 tournaments as a Redbird, and made two appearances in the NCAA Tournament. An All-American honorable mention, Weibring set team scoring records.

As a professional, Weibring earned 13 victories on the PGA Tour and Champions Tour. His firm, Weibring/Wolfard Golf Design, created plans for renovation of the ISU course and oversaw the project to completion in 2001.

More than a place of leisure and recreation, the course is home to a variety of turf and ornamental species. Vegetative landscapes, aquatic features and a diverse population of wildlife exist on the course.

“To achieve recognition for environmental stewardship through the Audubon Cooperative Sanctuary Program for Golf Courses is an extreme honor,” said Travis Williams, who is the course superintendent. He noted the team effort in gaining the certification, which requires environmental excellence in several categories.

Areas examined include environmental planning, wildlife and habitat management, outreach and education, chemical use reduction and safety, water conservation, and water quality management and community education.

The recognition places ISU on par with courses in Africa, Europe, Southeast Asia and beyond. Learn more about the course at ISUgolf.com.
Redbirds end season with classroom win

Student-athletes set a new semester departmental grade point average (GPA) record of 3.24 during the spring 2018 semester. Three 2018 teams tied or beat their previous team GPA records.

In addition, 295 of ISU’s 410 student-athletes were named to the AFNI Honor Roll. Every member of the women’s golf, soccer, tennis and volleyball teams earned the AFNI recognition. There were 85 student-athletes who posted a perfect 4.0 during the spring semester.

“It’s clear that our student-athletes are competing in the classroom as hard as they are on the field,” said Paul Downey, senior associate director for academics and life skills in Athletics.

“Setting a new GPA record is icing on the cake, and a sign of the collective efforts of the Athletic Study Center staff and our Athletics department as a whole,” he said.

The women’s programs combined for a 3.49 cumulative GPA. The men’s and women’s tennis programs were the team spring GPA winners, scoring 3.61 and 3.83 respectively. The softball team also set a new record with a 3.59 team GPA.

Turf replacement completed

Having withstood a decade of practices and game-day competition, the playing field at Hancock Stadium was replaced during the spring semester. The existing artificial turf had been installed in 2007, along with an underground drainage system.

Extensive use of the field in the years since resulted in a rough turf that was so tired, athletes had a hard time not slipping when making a play. ISU Athletics Director Larry Lyons is confident the new field will improve the ability of student-athletes to compete.

“I’m very pleased with the project from start to finish,” Lyons said. “I’m very pleased with the look of the turf. It will be a very good playing surface for us moving forward.”

Fans will notice alternating shades of green every five yards up to center field, where the logo is boldly displayed in a larger size than existed before the upgrade was completed. The sidelines are red, while the end zones have red and white lettering outlined in black.

Heart attack on court takes former Redbird

Zeke Upshaw, who played ISU basketball from 2010 to 2013, died in March of cardiac arrest. He collapsed while playing for the Grand Rapids Drive NBA G-League team. An autopsy showed that Upshaw, 26, had an enlarged heart with abnormalities.

“He was a great teammate, and an absolutely wonderful human being,” said head coach Dan Muller ’98. “He had a legitimate, successful professional career because of all the hard work he put in.”
Sarah (Dran) Hallberg is a physician on a mission to reverse Type 2 diabetes. She is convinced it can be done without using medicine—read insulin—to treat what she terms “a food problem.”

A published scholar, Hallberg’s research stands as evidence for her passionate belief that refined and processed carbohydrates are the root cause of diabetes. She consequently advocates a low-carb, high-fat diet as treatment for diabetes. Her message is a consistent plea: “Stop using medicine to treat food.”

Hallberg ’94, M.S. ’96, studied exercise science as an undergraduate before completing her master’s in exercise physiology. Both fit her passion for exercise. She worked at BroMenn while earning both degrees.

Her next step was completion of one year in cardiac rehab in Chicago. Her plan had been to complete a doctorate in exercise physiology until an argument with a cardiologist at the facility over a patient’s exercise regimen convinced Hallberg to become a doctor herself.

The goal was achieved in 2002, as Hallberg graduated from Des Moines University’s College of Osteopathic Medicine. She spent years as an internal medicine physician in a primary care setting before getting board certified in obesity medicine and clinical lipidology. She then founded the obesity program at Indiana University (IU) Health Arnett in Lafayette, Indiana. It was there she found her calling in the battle against Type 2 diabetes.

“IU knew that I had this exercise background, and they asked me to start a weight-loss clinic,” said Hallberg, who still serves as medical director.
of the program that began in 2011. To Hallberg’s surprise, she recognized an “epidemic of Type 2 diabetes” among patients striving to lose weight.

Diabetes is a condition where the body’s blood glucose exceeds a normal range, according to the American Diabetic Association (ADA). The most common form is Type 2, which typically develops in adulthood and does not usually require insulin initially. Without intervention, it can worsen to the point the drug is needed.

The deeper Hallberg delved into diabetes research, the more she became a proponent of a low-carb, high-fat diet to treat the disease. The stand is a reversal from the standard low-fat diet, which Hallberg admits she was preaching “like everyone else, just as you are taught in medical school.”

Her thinking changed as she studied the war on fat in America. She focused on what happens to food when the fat is removed, discovering that taste is also eliminated. This leads people to eat sweets and carbs. Hallberg consequently concluded “the notion that the more we restrict fat the better off we are is not true.”

This finding is critical to Type 2 diabetes, because most believe fat should be avoided when fighting the disease. Hallberg takes a radically different stance. “Fat is more than just acceptable to eat, it can in fact be key to reversing Type 2 diabetes,” she said. “We confuse dietary fat with the fat that we carry on our bodies.”

Hallberg said that since diabetes is a problem with elevated blood sugar and carbohydrates are what cause blood sugar to rise, carbs need to be cut, or at least cut down. She notes more physicians are agreeing with the idea of carb restrictions. But she also readily acknowledged that it’s not a meal plan readily embraced among people committed to losing weight, at least not initially.

“There’s a lot of misconception out there about what to eat,” Hallberg said. She faults corporations, the government, and the medical community in part for the dilemma—as well as America’s resulting obesity issue and the accompanying rise of Type 2 diabetes.

The United States Department of Agriculture, for example, makes dietary and nutritional recommendations that are designed to help Americans learn how to eat a healthy diet. The agency has encouraged consumers to follow the Food Guide Pyramid, which breaks food into six categories.

“The food pyramid—plain and simple—is bad advice,” Hallberg said, explaining that it labels fat as a negative while promoting carb consumption. She calls the guidelines “rubbish,” convinced they are not based on appropriate evidence.

“The dietary guidelines are sometimes called an evidence-free zone,” she said. “The horrible, unintended consequences gave us the diabetes and obesity epidemic.” Hallberg’s depiction of the problem’s scope is not an exaggeration.

The ADA reports that more than 30 million Americans have diabetes, which is slightly more than 9 percent of the population. Of that number, about 1.25 million have Type 1 and must take insulin.

There are 1.5 million new diagnoses each year, making it the seventh leading cause of death in the United States. Medical costs and reduced productivity in 2017 in the U.S. reached $327 billion, according to the association.

The medical community fights diabetes with prescriptions, which Hallberg calls the “vicious cycle of the insulin merry-go-round.” She advocates attacking carbs instead, and compares ignoring them while opting for insulin as akin to putting a Band-Aid on a bullet hole.
Redbird Prime

An alumni network dedicated to graduates 55 years and older, Redbird Prime offers several services tailored to individuals in this active stage of life. To learn more about the Redbird Prime Alumni Network, visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Prime. To get involved in the planning of programs and activities for the network, contact Stephanie Duquenne at saduque@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-2586.

Tips for Type 2 diabetics

Sarah Hallberg’s work helping individuals lose weight resulted in her determination to reverse Type 2 diabetes through diet. Her top tips for individuals interested in taking this approach to fight the disease include the following.

- The “No GPS” rule, which means eliminate grain, potatoes, and sugar from your diet. Each of these foods compromises metabolic health.
- Learn how to eat fat, and how to substitute with fat in your diet.
- Exercise is important. Pick an activity that you enjoy.
- Remember the importance of managing both your activity and food choices because no one can out-exercise a bad diet.

Hallberg explains to patients that carbohydrates are bad because they convert to sugar, which impacts insulin levels and leads to the body storing fat. The cycle is broken when carb intake is lowered or eliminated from the diet.

“The standard of care is just to give insulin—which is a fat-storage hormone—so you gain weight,” Hallberg said. Her aversion to drug prescriptions fits the treatment offered through Virta Health, where Hallberg is now a medical director.

An online medical clinic founded in 2014 in California, Virta’s mission is to reverse 100 million cases of Type 2 diabetes without medication by 2025. To that end, the company has secured $45 million in new funding.

Remote offices are located around the country, including near Hallberg’s home in West Lafayette, Indiana. She lives there with her husband, Brad ’95, and their three children. Now 46, Hallberg describes herself in three words: passionate, mother, wife.

She advances through Virta her other roles as an educator, physician, and researcher. She became connected with the company via one of its founders. IU and Virta teamed to do a study of diabetes, with Hallberg later joining the company “because they were solving the problem,” she said.

“We treat to reverse Type 2 patients, using a technology-enabled, remote-care clinic,” Hallberg said in describing Virta. She remains the medical director at IU, but research in her role at Virta is her primary focus. She’s had a number of papers published in peer-reviewed publications, including The British Journal of Sports Medicine and Diabetes Therapy.

Hallberg also shares the results of studies through podcasts. In 2015 she gave a TEDx talk, which can be viewed online. “My research and findings need to be available to millions of people struggling with Type 2 diabetes, and not just to the patients who come to see me in the clinic,” she said.

Regardless of how patients find her, they all hear the same advice, which Hallberg conveys through the words of Hippocrates: “Let food be thy medicine, and medicine be thy food.”

Hallberg explains to patients that carbohydrates are bad because they convert to sugar, which impacts insulin levels and leads to the body storing fat. The cycle is broken when carb intake is lowered or eliminated from the diet.
Like every young child, Tristen Sharp went through that toddler phase of incessantly asking ‘why.’ Now as a young woman, the question is one she has every reason to ponder.

Why did she suffer a traumatic brain injury when hit by a car while a high school junior? Why was her recovery thwarted months later when a car crash caused a second brain bleed weeks after graduation? Neither accident was her fault, but both radically changed her life. She now walks a different and extremely difficult path, one that involves navigating life with a brain that will never be whole.

Why?

“Why didn’t it happen to me? It’s just as legitimate a question,” counters Tristen, a sophomore criminal justice sciences major. “There is a reason, and there is a plan. Good things will come out of this.”

The words reflect the solid faith in God that has strengthened Tristen, her parents, and two siblings as they have all endured a range of pain beyond description—from physical to emotional and psychological. It was, in fact, while walking into a Wednesday evening church event on October 14 in 2015 that the first accident happened in Tristen’s Southern Illinois hometown of Mt. Vernon.

“I was just crossing the street and beyond that, I don’t remember,” Tristen said. Phone records show that she was not using her phone, and witnesses confirm she looked for cars before crossing.

The fact she has no memory of being launched by one vehicle into another stopped in traffic is a blessing. Her mother has vivid recall of every harrowing detail.

“I remember getting the call from a woman at the church and just screaming,” Brandy Sharp said. “I asked if Tristen was going to be OK. She just said to get to the hospital.”
An emergency helicopter was en route for Tristen, who was airlifted to Cardinal Glennon Children's Hospital in St. Louis without Brandy having very much time with her. At age 16, Tristen was admitted to a pediatric trauma care unit.

“They didn’t even guarantee Tristen would make it through the flight,” Brandy said. Tristen's injuries included a punctured lung, three pelvic fractures, a fractured sinus cavity, and a brain bleed so severe emergency surgery was needed to remove the right side of her skull to allow for swelling.

Even with that procedure, there was still no guarantee Tristen would survive. The first 72 hours were the most tenuous, with the initial 21 made more tense for Brandy because her husband and Tristen’s dad, Sean, was on the road. A truck driver with a load in Texas, he needed almost a full day to reach the hospital.

They and their other children, Haley and Trey, were joined by extended family and friends in keeping vigil as Tristen remained in a coma nearly a month. No brain stimulation was allowed, meaning no touching Tristen or speaking to her. She remained on a ventilator for several weeks, and suffered a setback when it was removed. Tristen could not breathe without the support of a machine. With time, she began to respond with limited movement. When she did finally open her eyes, there was a blank stare. She could not speak.

“The doctors said there was a very good possibility we may have to accept what function she had at that point,” Brandy recalled. “It was an emotional roller coaster. We were brought to our knees very quickly.”

Hope returned when Tristen was transferred for rehabilitation to Ranken Jordan Pediatric Bridge Hospital in Maryland Heights, Missouri.

“I had to learn how to walk, talk and swallow all over again,” Tristen said. “At first, I was just in shock. Then I was in tears from pain, frustration and anger. I had to work to regain who I was before.”

Tristen had been an exceptional high school student with enormous aspirations well within reach because of her determination, work ethic and incredible intelligence. A community volunteer and friend to all, she was ranked at the top of her class and on track to complete an associate's degree with her diploma.

“I loved to learn,” Tristen said. Classes were easy, requiring minimal study time to grasp material in advanced placement courses at Mount Vernon Township High School or Rend Lake College.

By contrast, everything was a struggle after the accident. She was in physical, occupational and speech therapy for nine months. She worked with homebound tutors to complete her junior year. She needed 24-hour care because of dizziness and vomiting, the possibility of seizures, and an inability to be trusted with simple tasks such as turning off the stove.

“Tristen had the mentality of a 9-year-old when she came home,” Brandy said. Her daughter had very little memory of her previous life. The family patiently worked with her as she rebuilt her memories. She also had no ability to maintain her academic success.

“She could not write full sentences,” Brandy said, recalling Tristen working for three hours on an essay. The result was one sentence written at the level of an elementary student.

“School was suddenly hard work,” Tristen said. “My learning comprehension was damaged. I had to repeat information and repeat it again to get it in my long-term memory.”

Beyond the support of friends from school, church, and the community as a whole, Tristen’s motivating force was her passion for cheerleading. She cheered from age 4 on through high school. Competitive dance was another childhood joy, but cheer was her first love.

“The sport was the driving force in Tristen’s recovery,” Brandy said. She witnessed Tristen's hard work to rebuild her physical strength, as she had dropped below 100 pounds and lost the majority of her muscle mass. She also had to overcome a mental block to cheer again, as she worried of another injury while performing flying stunts.

“I finally realized that I can’t live in fear,” Tristen said. “That’s not living.”
Tristen consequently had the courage and stamina to return to high school full-time as a senior. She was back on the cheer squad. Her schedule included advanced calculus and statistic classes, along with human anatomy.

She applied to five universities and was admitted to each. A visit to ISU convinced Tristen she wanted to be a Redbird. Just weeks after finishing high school, that plan was put in jeopardy when Tristen was in a second, equally devastating accident.

“What I’ve been told is that I was going to get ice cream with my best friend,” Tristen said. It was June 11, 2017. The shop was a 20-minute drive on a sunny afternoon by way of Interstate 57, which is where tragedy literally hit.

A driver, who has entered a guilty plea to being under the influence of drugs, crossed the interstate median and hit the vehicle in which Tristen was a passenger. The seatbelt kept her secure in the car that flipped and landed on its side down in a ditch.

“Devastating is an understatement,” said Brandy, who again raced to the hospital to see her daughter airlifted, this time to St. Louis University Hospital trauma center. The neurological team from the first accident was summoned.

This time the doctors found three brain bleeds on the opposite side of Tristen’s first injury. Her neck was broken just above the spot where paralysis would have occurred. She had cuts to her face and shoulder, with her nose broken in multiple places. Once again, a head injury compromised her memory.

“He tore my life apart all over again,” said Tristen, who has no memory of the accident. Her hospital stay was miraculously only nine days, with medicines controlling the brain swelling. A plastic surgeon repaired her face, and she wore a neck brace for 16 weeks. Back home she faced another round of extensive therapy to regain strength and simple life skills lost with the additional brain trauma.

“She did not know the basics, not even how to operate a shower,” Brandy said. She dropped down to the functional level of a 13-year-old, with the family noticing subtle changes.

“Most people don’t realize that brain injuries change your personality. For 16 years as Tristen’s mother, I knew everything about her. One day, I had to learn to love someone else because personality wise, the way she thinks, acts and talks, is different. Every single thing about her is different in so many ways.”

The explanation is simple. Brain trauma is lifelong and made more complicated because it is one of life’s most invisible injuries.

“Tristen’s scans show dead spots on her brain that will never live again. All of her functions are rerouted around those dead spots,” Brandy said. Titanium plates in Tristen’s head are there forever. The struggles are daily, which is why Brandy and Sean gave Tristen the option of delaying college.

“I never thought I wouldn’t go on to school,” said Tristen, who arrived as a freshman with a neck brace still in place. She worked through ISU’s Student Access and Accommodation Services to arrange a note-taker. During her first semester, she struggled to retain information from just one chapter of textbook reading. And yet, she was determined she would not quit.

“My professors were helpful, always looking at what’s best for me,” said Tristen, now 19. They allowed her to use notecards for exams and granted extra completion time, as she still has short-term memory issues. She joined Zeta Tau Alpha sorority at ISU, where she arrived with 22 credit hours completed. Despite all of her setbacks, Tristen will graduate in three years. Determined from a young age to be a lawyer, she envisions a career handling personal injury cases.

Unable to work during the recovery periods of both accidents, Tristen seeks scholarships to help fund her education. She is a recipient of ISU’s Redbird Scholarship, as well as numerous financial awards earned in national competitions.

“Defeat is not in my vocabulary,” Tristen said. She does not hold anger toward the drivers or seek pity, but rather focuses on helping others understand brain injuries. She also is very vocal about how individuals need to understand that their decisions can have devastating consequences that impact others as much as themselves.

“Mine is a sad story in that no one wins. I will have the effects of both accidents with me the rest of my life,” Tristen said. She makes the conscious choice to focus on the fact she still has life after being told she should not have survived either accident.

“I may never know why, but I know both happened for a reason,” Tristen said. “I look at the road ahead, and I know that something good is coming. God has a purpose for me.”

Learn more of Tristen’s story and follow her progress on Facebook at Tristen Tough.
The University Residence is more than just the house where Illinois State University presidents live. It is also the site for myriad events involving approximately 2,000 guests annually.

Keeping a balance between making a home and being the location for special university activities is a challenge for President Larry Dietz and his wife, Marlene. The University’s “First Lady,” Marlene knew when the two arrived at 1000 Gregory Street in 2014 that the house would need their personal touch. “It takes getting used to, but you have to add your own art and mementoes from travels to make it into your home,” Marlene said.

President Dietz concurs, and praises Marlene for making the residence in Normal “feel like our home.” That’s not easy to accomplish given the litany of visitors that range from stellar students, faculty and staff, to legislators, trustees, donors, graduates, international dignitaries, and notable campus speakers.

Among those recently invited to the home were Nobel Prize winner Muhammad Yunus, actress and alumna Jane Lynch, Robert Kennedy Jr., actor and alum Sean Hayes, actress Patricia Arquette, historian David McCullough, and fashion guru Tim Gunn.

The list is extensive when going back decades to when the home was built in 1972. The Board of Regents approved construction, with the understanding every president would live in the residence as a condition of employment. The intent has always been that the property would also be used for official university business and entertainment.

The second floor remains the family’s private residence.

The board authorized the 4,000 square-foot residence be built on five acres that were then part of the University Farm northwest of campus. The house, which sits adjacent to the Weibring Golf Club, was designed as a “farmhouse type of residence.” The cost was not to exceed $150,000.

1. Sunporch
The Dietzes love the home, and each has a favorite spot. For Marlene, it’s the enclosed sunporch equipped with both heating and cooling options. It was added on after the original construction. Larry enjoys the private den on the first floor, where the two relax during rare moments of down time.

The home is comfortable but not opulent, which suits them both just fine. Like the presidential couple, the space is...
open, welcoming and warm. There is an abundance of natural light throughout the home, which has 133 windows. A total of 50 are on the porch alone, according to Fran Kaufmann. Employed by ISU as the housekeeper, she has served four presidents and their families for nearly 19 years. University Facilities Management employees maintain the property and its landscaping.

2. Student work
Much of the artwork displayed throughout the main floor was created by artists who are College of Fine Arts students or faculty. The work of local artists and University Gallery pieces are also featured. This is just one way the Dietzes make the home a showcase of ISU’s excellence.

3. Piano
The focal point of the upper living room is a Kawai grand piano purchased by the Dietzes in memory of Marlene’s mother. Faculty and students are invited to perform at events, which creates another opportunity to appreciate Redbird talent.

4. Silver
A tradition in recent years is to make use of a set of Gorham sterling silver flatware deeded to the University by Central Illinois socialite Doris Strange upon her death in 2013. By design, the home is a great venue for welcoming guests, which is an experience both Larry and Marlene enjoy.

5. Entertaining
“When this public space is filled with people, I love it,” Larry said, gesturing toward the open first floor. For a shorter event with appetizers and drinks, the guest list is between 70 and 100 people. A sit-down dinner is usually capped at 50 individuals.

The social calendar is fairly crowded throughout the year, with an event or two often scheduled each week. April is the busiest. This year there were six events in seven days during the month. Homecoming week is another heavy season for guests, who are guaranteed a delightful interaction with the Dietzes and other loyal Redbirds.

“I’m honored that people see this house as a special place to come to,” President Dietz said. “We’re delighted that people feel comfortable here.”
THE POWER OF ONE
by Kate Arthur
A tough hallway conversation made all the difference for Michael Thomas. He was well into his construction management major as a junior, but his grades were slipping and he was losing his focus. His technology professor noticed.

“He was not taking things seriously here,” Hank Campbell recalled. “He was distracted by other things. We had this heart-to-heart conversation. I told him unless you get things together and really start performing, you’re not going to make it.”

It was a risky conversation for the professor and the student, who was raised by two generations of women. Campbell didn’t see his student in Turner Hall for awhile after that blunt exchange. When they did connect again, Campbell noticed a difference. Thomas had made a decision. He was going to get that degree.

“He recognized something in me I didn’t see myself,” said Thomas, whose study was concentrated in plastics technology. He graduated in 1985 and went to work on the assembly line at Mitsubishi Motors Manufacturing of America. He was promoted to engineer, and then senior engineer.

But that wasn’t the end of the story for the student and the professor. Campbell found reasons to drop in on Thomas at the plant, bringing students along for field trips. “It was really just an excuse to see him,” said Campbell, who taught in the Department of Technology from 1976 until retiring in 2004. “He said that had a real effect on him,” recalled Campbell, who remains proud of all Thomas has accomplished. “Culturally, this was quite different for him. Saying yes to a professional position in a large automobile company in a Midwest location is the same as saying no to your friends and your neighborhood.”

Thomas, of Kentucky, is now in a leadership position with Toyota Engineering Manufacturing of America. He manages the machine/equipment group, which serves all Toyota plants in the United States and Canada.

Thomas still remains in touch with Campbell. Although more than 30 years have passed, Thomas still remembers that hallway talk. The mentorship that began between Michael Thomas, left, when he was an ISU student and his professor, Hank Campbell, evolved into a lifelong friendship.
“Sometimes you have to follow your instincts.”

“It was a conversation that was needed, and it definitely turned my life around. Dr. Campbell was not only a friend and a mentor, he was really my first male role model. I grew up without a father,” Thomas said.

“Sitting me down and having that conversation straightened me out and had me looking at things in a different light. I knew I needed to get an education, and getting that education changed the trajectory of my life.”

While attending a vocational high school, Thomas didn’t realize the field of engineering existed. He knew he had a mechanical aptitude, so he focused on carpentry. He was accepted at the University of Wisconsin. A friend mentioned a planned visit to Illinois State University, and Thomas tagged along. He found his fit.

“Sometimes you have to follow your instincts,” he said. “It turned out to be one of the best decisions that I’ve ever made. I truly, truly enjoyed my experience at ISU. The campus, the family atmosphere, the professors, and the people I met, lifelong friends.”

He established roots for a family legacy on campus. Three of his children are Redbirds. Veronique Hunter ’08 teaches seventh grade science in Indianapolis; Jules Hampton earned his master’s in 2016 and teaches geometry at the high school where he graduated and will be teaching in Brooklyn, N.Y.; and step-daughter Tiffany Boyd graduated with her bachelor’s in 2000. His son, Julian Hampton, is finishing his degree at Chicago State.

Thomas’ success enabled him to send his children to college. And now he wants to do more as a result of, yet again, another conversation with Campbell. Thomas and his wife, Sandra Gillespie Thomas, have created the Michael Thomas Family Scholarship for underrepresented students who want to study engineering education.

Education allowed his spouse to follow her dreams too. The couple met while working at Mitsubishi, where she became a senior vice president—making her the highest-ranking woman in the company’s history. She was voted Top 100 Women in the Automotive Industry two years in a row.

Campbell is committed to supporting the scholarship, just as he has Thomas throughout the years. Campbell wrote nominations that earned Thomas the Department of Technology’s Distinguished Alumni award in 2011, and a place in the College of Applied Science and Technology Hall of Fame in 2017.

Thomas laughs when recalling the brief biography he had to write for last year’s ceremony.

“You get a little older and you look back and say, ‘Oh wow, I’ve been doing all this.’ I thought I was just getting up and going to work.”

Thomas is doing so much more. He is encouraging his friends, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity brothers, and coworkers to join him in supporting the next generation of engineers. He anticipates getting to know his scholarship recipients, just as his professor got to know him. He also plans on sharing their stories on The Michael Thomas Family Scholarship Facebook page.

“I want to have a relationship with them,” he said. “I want to get to know who they are, and for them to get to know who I am.”

Such a desire extends and exemplifies the impact of Illinois State’s commitment to provide individualized attention, which as Thomas attests, can make all the difference in a student’s life.

“I knew I needed to get an education, and getting that education changed the trajectory of my life.”

Thomas was inspired by Campbell’s scholarship efforts. He raised more than $1 million with his colleagues and friends for the Department of Technology in 2014. He also created the Dr. Hank Campbell Endowed Scholarship for Global Vision and Problem Solving.

Being able to similarly support, encourage and inspire the next generation means a lot to Thomas.

“Besides being a father, this is by far the greatest thing I’ve ever done, and I’m excited about the experience,” he said. “I’m older, my kids are grown. They’re off in their professional careers, and I have the resources to put some money toward helping someone come to ISU and fulfill their dream of becoming an engineer. If I can have an impact, it’s going to be an awesome experience.”
I want to say thank you to all the donors. Even though you may not know us personally, I feel like you know what we’re going through in school. It’s really heartwarming to be part of a community and a school that supports you so much.”

Rachel Miller
Senior music education major and scholarship recipient
MYSTERY money

A beginner’s lesson in cryptocurrency

BY SUSAN MARQUARDT BLYSTONE

Technology is both a blessing and a bane. While it’s wonderful to have the world at our fingertips, figuring out the latest versions of computer software and upgraded smartphones exhausts anyone who grew up using typewriters and landlines.

Even what once seemed a tangible national foundation—the monetary system established under the U.S. Department of the Treasury with physical dollars and coins—now faces competition in the cyber world.

Cryptocurrencies such as bitcoin are increasingly researched, debated, used for purchases and considered an investment option internationally. One universal surrounding cryptocurrencies is that most people struggle to understand them, as U.S. Sen. Thomas Carper from Delaware aptly surmised.

“Virtual currencies, perhaps most notably bitcoin, have captured the imagination of some, struck fear among others, and confused the heck out of the rest of us,” Carper said.

The basic definition is not helpful in bringing clarity. In the simplest of terms, cryptocurrencies are a virtual medium of exchange. Bitcoin—the most recognized from among more than a thousand cryptocurrencies and the first one created—began with Satoshi Nakamoto. The name is a pseudonym for a person or group that has never been identified.

“Bitcoin: A Peer-to-Peer Electronic Cash System” was written in 2008 by Nakamoto and is considered the currency’s launch. The article explains that Internet commerce relies on financial institutions, with fraud easily occurring.

“What is needed is an electronic payment system based on cryptographic proof instead of trust, allowing any two willing parties to transact directly with each other,” the article states.

What that means, explains Information Technology Professor Glen Sagers, is that cryptocurrencies allow for purchases to be made anonymously using digital money and without involvement of a financial institution.

Check ledgers and credit card statements are no longer needed to verify expenditures. Evidence of any purchase or money transfer instead comes through a tracking system known as the blockchain, which Sagers explains is the strength of cryptocurrencies.

“Fraud protection is the best argument,” he said. “It’s a really good idea, and is what appeals to a lot of people. There is proof that a transaction has occurred.”

The blockchain has been described as the Internet, with a bitcoin analogous to an email. Sagers explains the blockchain as a database with no central administrator. Every transaction is time
stamped and recorded, with multiple copies on millions of servers around the world.

“There is no way to fake the fact that a transaction has occurred, whereas a signature can be forged,” Sagers said. Any coin transfer is permanently recorded because data cannot be altered or erased from myriad computers scattered across countries.

This cryptocurrency feature attracts individuals eager to better protect their financial transactions. The need for improved safeguards overall resulted in creation of a cybersecurity degree program at ISU. Enrollment has grown to approximately 200 since its start last fall. Sagers, who helped launch the degree, understands people feeling leery as corporate credit card database breaches escalate.

He acknowledges that others are made equally nervous by the fact cryptocurrencies are not regulated and users are only known by a digital address. Circumventing the traditional financial sector leads many to contemplate if cryptocurrencies are tied to or encourage illegal acts.

“Virtual currencies have been linked to criminal activity in the past,” Sagers said. The anonymity may, for example, be an incentive for some to engage in illicit behavior that would be embarrassing if discovered in a way that names were exposed.

Another troubling aspect of no regulation is the fact that the currency fluctuates widely in value. “It is definitely the gambler’s market,” Sagers said, pointing to trends of rapid gain followed by huge collapse before another rally.

For example, one bitcoin equated to $2,900 in U.S. dollars in September of 2017, rose to $17,900 by December 2017, was $6,200 in February 2018 and up to $7,635 in June. This radical variation is just one reason cryptocurrencies are not deemed a good idea by scholars in the Department of Economics, according to Chair David Cleeton.

“Bitcoin markets are very poor alternatives to well-regulated banking and payment settlement systems. The exchange rate volatility of the bitcoin currency, the high fractional transaction costs and extremely low acceptability mean bitcoins are of no measurable influence in monetary systems,” Cleeton said.

There is limited research on the subject within the department because “economists rely on data to perform analysis of economic effects, and you simply can’t do any reliable data analysis.” By comparison, scholarly interest is high within Sagers’ area of information technology. This is understandable given computers are needed to verify transactions by creating the blockchain, which is also how bitcoins are created.

Computers collect pending bitcoin transactions, which are turned into mathematical riddles. The first whiz to find the solution receives 12.5 bitcoins once the answer is verified by other miners. As of June 6, 17 million bitcoins existed. There is a global limit of 21 million total that will be created, with expectations that cap will be reached in 2140.

The race to create bitcoins does not guarantee financial gain, however, because of the energy required. Hundreds of thousands of computers are running around the clock globally to solve the equations, which then adds to the blockchain and results in the bitcoin award. As more mining is done, more computers are used. The math problems become harder to crack, meaning more energy is needed to power more computers.

“It could all go bust because nobody wants to mine and confirm transactions,” Sagers said. There are predictions that is inevitable, as mining has led to banks of computers in warehouse buildings that require enormous electricity to power.

“Bitcoin could ruin the planet. “The underlying technology is a good thing, and it’s here to stay.”

“Bitcoin could ruin the planet,” said James Jones, executive director of the Center for Risk Management, Insurance, and Financial Services within the College of Business. “The crazy energy consumption by bitcoin miners is growing at a staggering rate, to the point it is greater than the energy consumption of some entire countries.”
In South Korea, for example, it takes approximately $26,000 in energy expenses to mine a single bitcoin. The cost is around $3,000 in Louisiana, which is the cheapest state for miners in the U.S.

Jones, who is focused on the ethical implications of cryptocurrencies, presents a solid argument both for and against bitcoin. Beyond the energy issue, he notes that the nation’s financial institutions could be destroyed.

“Central banks will lose control, overturning centuries of monetary policy,” Jones said. And while individual transactions may be more secure, cryptocurrencies can still be hacked. He points to $530 million lost when a cryptocurrency exchange in Japan was breached earlier this year.

There is the positive side of an investor potentially gaining significant profit, but Sagers cautions that bitcoin earnings are taxable under capital gains. The odds of a windfall are not great given the variability in value, yet Jones notes that there is a growing interest among students investing in bitcoin as a way to cover college expenses.

They could end up making money with such a payment plan, or they could spend exponentially more than the actual total cash bill for their degree depending on when the coins are bought and sold. There are online currency exchanges to do both, with the largest and most reputable being Kraken and Coinbase.

Both Jones and Sagers have invested minimally in bitcoins, in part to remain knowledgeable of the issues surrounding digital currency. They agree that the burden of finding ways to spend it is a huge deterrent limiting current use.

“It is not widespread enough to be a cash or credit card replacement,” Sagers said, at least not yet. But there are, as Jones points out, plenty of experts across disciplines convinced a global currency will emerge. Neither he nor Sagers make such a prediction.

“It is too soon to know if it is the future,” Sagers said. “But the underlying technology is a good thing, and it’s here to stay.”
REDBIRDS
RISING
HOMECOMING
ILLINOIS STATE
OCTOBER 8-14, 2018
SCHOLARSHIP • LEADERSHIP • INNOVATION

Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu
@ISU_Homecoming
RISE to the OCCASION

OCTOBER 13

5K and 1-Mile Fun Run/Walk

Parade

Tailgate/Football

#REDBIRDHOMECOMING

Download the official Illinois State University App for free from the App Store or Google Play Store and use the Homecoming Guide for schedules, maps, and more.
A loyal alumna and long-time Illinois State employee has been chosen to lead the University’s Office of Alumni Engagement. Kristin “Kris” (Meseth) Harding began as executive director in the spring following the retirement of Doris (Liefer) Groves ’81. Harding, far left in front row, leads a staff of nine.

She completed her master’s degree in educational administration and foundations in 1994. She has worked at Illinois State for nearly 20 years, beginning as an academic advisor in University College.

In 2005, Harding joined the Office of Admissions staff. She served as a transfer coordinator and communication specialist before being promoted to assistant director and later associate director. Harding transitioned in 2014 to the College of Education, where she became the director of constituent relations.

Her endeavors on campus include serving as the co-chair of Transfer Coordinators, the Illinois Association for College Admission Counseling’s Project Reach, and the Teaching in the 21st Century Conference. She also served on the planning committee for the New Teacher Conference in the College of Education.

Harding is honored to lead Alumni Engagement efforts for the University’s more than 215,000 graduates. “I look forward to meeting many proud Redbirds and sharing in their memories of Illinois State, as well as learning of their accomplishments as graduates,” Harding said.

She is a 2015 recipient of the University’s Administrative Professional Distinguished Service Award. Earlier this year she received the Crystal Award for service from the Association for Women in Communications. She is president of the Bloomington-Normal chapter.

An alumna of Leadership Illinois, Harding was a member of the 2018 class of Leadership McLean County. She is an active community volunteer, and has worked several years with The Baby Fold’s Festival of Trees.

Harding and her husband, Jamie ’94, M.S. ’96, met at ISU. They have two children, Kaleb and Emma.
Alumni News

Alums join board

Five alumni were elected to three-year terms on the Alumni Association board of directors. They are Walter Brandon Jr. ’82, M.S. ’85, a juvenile and family court judge; Elizabeth Garcia ’91, a bilingual corporate education trainer; Susan Nelson-Brown ’78, managing director of Brown Taxes; Marsha Reeves ’78, ’03, a retired hospital administrator; and substitute teacher Leah Walton ’88, M.S. ’92.

Doug Reeves ’69 is president. Lisa Castleman ’96 is vice president/president-elect. Steve Smith ’89, M.S. ’93, is secretary, and Michele Guadalupe ’01 past president.

For more information on the association and how to get involved, visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Association.

Grads across America

With an alumni base of more than 215,000, graduates have settled in most states. Illinois has the largest Redbird count, with more than 129,000 in the state.

Florida comes in second with 4,405, with California close behind at 4,104. Rhode Island and West Virginia have the fewest Redbirds, with 58 and 67 respectively. See state totals online at IllinoisState.edu/Magazine.

Get to know fellow Redbirds in your area by joining or starting a regional network. Go to Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Networks or email Alumni@IllinoisState.edu for more information.

Legacy families recognized

Anyone whose sibling, parent, or grandparent attended ISU is in a legacy family. Legacy families with current students attending will be recognized at the Legacy Brunch on Sunday, October 28. Registration is available at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Legacy-Brunch.

From the archives

The tripling of ISU’s enrollment from the 1950s to the 1960s resulted in the construction of Watterson Towers. The first students moved in during October of 1968 with the look of rooms changing from 1969, above, to today. The $14.4 million building stands nearly 300 feet. Suites are named after the first 10 U.S. secretaries of state, with the building named for Arthur Watterson. He was a professor and head of ISU’s Department of Geography in the 1950s. Alumni are invited to a celebration marking Watterson’s 50 years from 6 to 8 p.m. on Friday, October 12. Register at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/Watterson. Post your favorite Watterson memories on the Illinois State Watterson Towers Facebook group.
Ten thousand ounces of milk. That’s what Monique (Witkowski) Borzick ’06 provided to premature newborns as a result of pumping for 10 months following the birth of her third child.

She made the donation of more than 78 gallons to the Tiny Treasures Milk Bank, completing the effort last fall.

“My inspiration was to help preemie babies,” said Borzick, who knows breast milk contains enzymes that are crucial to the development of infant immune systems.

Borzick majored in physical education and was on the Redbird swim team. She met her husband, Tristan, at ISU. He supported her in the effort that came with numerous restrictions and rules. No medication was allowed, blood work was taken every 123 days, and a disciplined pumping schedule had to be followed.

“I would wake up and pump at 7:30, again at 10:30, at 1:30, and pump again at 5, 8, and around 11 or 11:30 right before I went to bed. I was up at 1:30 a.m. again to pump, then again at 4. I did that every day,” Borzick said.

The routine was exhausting, as she is mom to three and works full-time as the aquatics director at Lockport Township High School in Illinois. And yet she did not waiver, even when the family traveled from their home in Plainfield to Disney, where the family photo above was taken.

“My husband was fantastic during the whole process,” she said. “He helped me box all of my bags. He dropped them off at FedEx.”

There were frequent trips needed during the 10 months, as Borzick spent more than 208 hours pumping. Her donation filled 1,700 bags that were kept in three deep freezers. Fifty hours were needed to prepare those bags for shipping.

“It was very trying,” Borzick said. “I sucked it up and knew what I had to do. I had a goal in my mind. In the end, it was so rewarding.”
40s

Ruthelma (Benjamin) Wankel-Fricke '46 received the First Citizen Award in 2017 from the Chamber of Commerce of Petersburg, where she resides.

50s

Dorothy (Coatney) Bentz '51 is an administrative assistant in her daughter’s medical practice, Red Mountain Weight Loss; resides in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Paul Rosene '51, M.S. '56, is professor emeritus of ISU’s School of Music; received the Maquis Who’s Who Lifetime Achievement Award; resides with his wife, Doris, in Orlando, Florida.

Mary Ann (Augsburg) Kristiansen Eng '52 worked as speech and language clinic supervisor/director at the University of Wyoming; authored 11 articles in genealogy for the Mennonite Family History and is contributing editor to the magazine; resides with her husband, Raymond, in Green Valley, Arizona.

Bill Donnan '57 retired after 35 years of teaching math, coaching baseball and cross country at Lake Zurich High School; retired Ela Township clerk; resides with his wife, Barbara, in Lake Zurich, Illinois.

Pat (Stange) Poskocil '57 received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Historic Preservation Commission of Lombard, where she resides.

Donald Stagen '58 is retired from teaching and his work as a principal; resides with his wife, Mary, in Armstrong, Minnesota.

Gary Hodgson '59 retired in 1994 as the director of community, vocational education and applied arts at Libertyville High School; coached boys’ varsity track and field; worked as guidance counselor; resides with his wife, Marcia, in Mundelein.

60s

Martha Lehr '60 retired from Lane Community College; is an advisory board member and volunteer in continuing education classes for adults at the college; resides in Florence, Oregon.

David Beran '63, M.S. '64, is retired as a math professor at the University of Wisconsin-Superior; resides with his wife, Lillian, in Duluth, Minnesota.

Ann (Bastian) White '63, M.S. '69, is retired from teaching; program director for Heartland Theatre’s senior acting troupe, Young at Heartland; founding member of Vladimir/Canterbury Sister City of Bloomington-Normal; resides in Normal.

David Dueringer '65 is career center interim director at the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences at University of Arizona; resides with his wife, Jill, in Scottsdale, Arizona.

Richard Manahan '65, M.S. '71, Ed.D. '75, is a member of the Scholars Circle of the Tennessee School Board Association; retired vice president of East Tennessee State University; resides in Johnson City, Tennessee.

Robert Baker '66 is retired as dean of students at Waubonsee Community College; resides in Sarasota, Florida.

Robert Moore '67, M.S. '68, is an English professor at the University of Arkansas; author and poet under pen name Red Hawk; latest book titled Return To The Mother: A Lover’s Handbook; resides in Monticello, Arkansas.

Barbara (Johnson) Snell Suelter '67, M.S. '72, Ed.D. '86, is retired as superintendent of United Township High School District in East Moline; active community volunteer; resides in Jacksonville.

Brad Salley '68, M.A. '71, completed 50 years of teaching high school Spanish in May; resides in Belvidere.

Roger Brooks '69 is retired; volunteers with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Refuge in Florida each winter; travels in motor coach each summer with his wife, Janice; resides in Delray Beach, Florida.

Pause for applause

Best on Broadway

College of Fine Arts alumna Laurie Metcalf ’76 had a repeat performance at the 2018 Tony Awards. She was named best featured actress in a play for her portrayal of character “B” in Three Tall Women. Metcalf won the leading actress Tony category in 2017 as Nora in A Doll’s House, Part 2. She has captured accolades across mediums in recent months, with an Oscar nomination for best performance actress in a supporting role in the 2017 film Lady Bird. She also appeared as Jackie in the revival of the Roseanne sitcom that aired on ABC through much of this year.

Ruling the court

Basketball fans who know the name Keita Bates-Diop may not realize the 2018 NBA pick and Ohio State standout is a University High School alum. He graduated in 2014 from U-High, which is part of ISU’s Laboratory Schools. Heavily recruited after his success as a Pioneer, Bates-Diop worked to overcome injuries during his collegiate years at Ohio. He was named the 2017-2018 Big Ten Player of the Year, was a semifinalist for the Naismith Player of the Year honor, and a top-five finalist for the 2017-2018 Julius Erving Award. He begins his NBA career with the Minnesota Timberwolves.

Movie magician

Much of what makes a film fantastic is the visual wizardry. Doug Spilatro ’79 has the talent to make Hollywood movies magical as the vice president of special effects for Technicolor. The former TV-10 student takes a screenwriter’s or director’s vision and then figures out how to make it real on set and in post-production. Spilatro can remove wires from a stunt scene, or add to an action film stunt scene blood splatter and gunfire. Among his credits are Black Panther, Doctor Strange, The Revenant, and Bridge of Spies. Avengers: Infinity War was released in May of this year.

Single sensation

Competition is nothing new for Colton Underwood ’17, who played Redbird football from 2010 through the 2013 season. He faced a different kind of opponent during the recently concluded season of The Bachelor, where Underwood went up against 27 men to win the heart of Becca Kufrin. Underwood, 26, made it to the show’s final four. This was not his first time in the spotlight, as Underwood is a tight end who has been signed for the practice squad by three NFL teams since leaving ISU. Currently a free agent.
How we met

Nothing about Mike Caringello’s Illinois State Normal University experience was anticipated. He never planned on attending, or expect to find his soul mate on campus. This month he celebrates 71 years of marriage to his love, Norma (Donnan), and their romance that started with a blind date.

That magical moment happened in the spring of 1946. Norma was in her first year of education classes. Mike was a nontraditional freshman who served in WWII as a Marine. “I had no interest in going to college because I didn’t have the money,” he said.

The GI Bill removed the financial obstacle. Mike headed to the University on a high school counselor’s recommendation, and because of rail service to campus from his home near Chicago. The family did not own a car.

The roommate Mike shared an off-campus apartment with was dating a lady who was friends with Norma. The duo arranged the blind date that consisted of a movie.

“We hit it off pretty good,” Mike said. “I was attracted to her good looks and personality.” There were additional movie dates, time spent with Norma’s family in their Bloomington home, and an occasional dance in McCormick’s gymnasium.

“There was always hired staff there to supervise. If you danced too close, they were there to say back off,” Mike said with a laugh.

The dating led to a wedding on August 16, 1947. Mike was 21 and Norma 19. She left her studies to work at State Farm Insurance Company. Mike graduated with a business education major in 1949, and a master’s and specialist certification in educational administration in 1955 and 1965, respectively. He had a career as a teacher, coach and educational administrator.

Now in their 90s, the couple lives in their Pekin home. They have a daughter, Linda Cooper ’73, and two grandchildren. While campus visits are no longer frequent, the two enjoy reminiscing about their days at Illinois State.

“It was the right decision as it turned out,” Mike said. “In some ways, it still seems like it was only yesterday.”

70s

Raymond Bruzan ’70 and his wife Pamela authored Cotton, Violins, and Shots in the Night: A Timeline Visit to Rochester, Illinois; taught 42 years, retiring as chemistry professor at Benedictine University; couple resides in Rochester.

Billiamin Alli ’71, M.S. ’72, is chancellor of the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons; distinguished professor of medicine and surgery; recipient of Congressional Gold Medal; resides in Grosse Pointe, Michigan.

Stanley Morris ’71 retired after 23 years with Peabody Coal Company, and another 23 years with Gilster-Mary Lee Corporation; resides in Courtlerville.

Thomas Meek ’72 is a consultant process engineer with Shell Global Solutions; resides in Burlington, Washington.

Carolyn (Bryer) Ronholm ’72 retired as a surgical nurse after 49 years in the field; she and her husband, Maynard, have four children, five grandchildren; resides in Pacific, Missouri.

Linda Ball ’73 has retired as executive director of publishing for the American Heart Association; resides in Geneva.

Roger Breternitz ’73 is seen in a national commercial for Copper Fit Back Brace; resides in Laguna Niguel, California.

James Carter ’73 is a retired plant personnel director for General Motors; widowed and resides in Romeoville.

Janet (Janulis) Look ’73 teaches English at Joliet Junior College; is an English education supervisor for ISU students; resides with her husband, Jim, in Frankfort.

Susan (McIntee) Schiewer ’73, M.S. ’76, is the director of graduate student life at the University of Northern Iowa; resides in Waterloo, Iowa.

Michael Jarrell ’74 is retired from the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago; resides with his wife, Patricia, in Naperville.

Katherine (Curry) Derry ’75, M.S. ’82, is a licensed professional counselor with a private practice; resides in Rosenberg, Texas.

John Wingate ’75 authored Lost Boys of Hannibal: Inside America’s Largest Cave Search; resides in Minneapolis, Minnesota.

Louis Butler ’76 is deputy general counsel for the State of Illinois; resides in Oak Park.

Randy Henry ’76 is a news producer/director with WDIV-TV 4; active in community service; resides in Detroit, Michigan.

Denis Medeiros, M.S. ’76, is dean emeritus of the School of Graduate Studies and professor emeritus of molecular biology and biochemistry at University of Missouri-Kansas City; completed 36 years on faculty at several universities; resides with his wife, Susan, in Prairie Village, Kansas.

Stephen Yarnall ’76, M.S. ’83, retired in 2012 after 26 years with Deer Creek-Mackinaw CUSD 701; worked as teacher, principal, and superintendent; vice president of the school board; treasurer on the Deer Creek-Mackinaw Education Foundation board of directors; resides with his wife, Pamela, in Mackinaw.

Arlene Farmer ’78 is an office assistant for DeKalb County Recreation, Parks and Cultural Affairs; actress who played the elder Grace character in 2017 Almost Christmas movie; resides in Lithonia, Georgia.

Ronald Krbec ´78 worked nearly 40 years in information technology; spending 27 months as Peace Corps agriculture community services volunteer in Tanzania.
Donald Staniszewski ’78 is president/CEO of National Home Delivery Association; completed two Ironman triathlons; resides in Gallatin, Tennessee.

Bertha Cohen, M.S. ’79, is the payroll manager for Letrue Entertain You Enterprises; resides in Chicago.

Christie (Hobbs) Davis ’79 retired from Riverview Gardens School District; taught elementary school music 31 years; teaching privately; resides with her husband, Drew, in Chesterfield, Missouri.

Janet Hebeler ’79 retired after teaching middle school 26 years; resides in Hanford, California.

Arles (Hendershot) Love ’79 is development director of Milestone Inc.; named one of 75 people in the Rockford area to watch by the Rockford Register Star because of her work for 27 years on the board of CrimeStoppers; resides with her husband, Joe, in Rockford.

80s

Timothy Como ’80 is a technology instructor for Department of Defense Education Activity in Europe; resides in Brussels, Belgium.

Tony DiLeonardi ’80, M.S. ’81, worked nearly 30 years in sales and managerial leadership; founded Third Quarters Advisers; author with latest book, Legacy Letters, released this year; resides in Wheaton.

Janis (Rowe) Grondalski, M.S. ’80, is McKinleyville High School head volleyball coach; director/coach of Lost Coast Volleyball Club; resides with her husband, John, in Blue Lake, California.

Jill Prosser ’80, M.S. ’82, is the volunteer and bereavement coordinator for UnityPoint Hospice; resides with her husband, Stan, in Goodfield.

Levon Richmond ’80 retired as a hazardous materials inspector with the Illinois Department of Transportation; wife is Lisa (Coplen) ’81, M.S. ’83; resides in Springfield.

Mary Chipman ’81 is a writer; completing master’s creative writing program at the University of Northern Iowa; resides in Cedar Falls, Iowa.

Dawn Conway ’81, M.S. ’92, retired as executive director of special education for Livingston County Special Services; served nearly 37 years in education; resides with her husband, Brian, in Normal.

Julie Holmen ’81 is the director of network management for Harken Health; resides in Brooklyn Park, Minnesota.

Mark Drake ’82 is a senior manager with IBM Corporation; resides with his wife, Kimberly, in Stillwell, Kansas.

Allison Renaud ’82 is a Lake County forest preserve deputy ranger; resides in Kenosha, Wisconsin.

Stan Shingles ’82, M.S. ’88, is assistant vice president of Central Michigan University; resides with his wife, Rene, in Mount Pleasant, Michigan.

Namora Boyd ’83 is an attorney; resides in Newark, New Jersey.

Sabiena (Hudson) Foster ’83 is the central region communications manager for FedEx Express; resides with her husband, Richard, in Bartlett.

Denise (Weathersby) Jones ’83 started the nonprofit organization Assistance Institute and remains as president/CEO; resides in Anniston, Alabama.

Renae (Rupp) Novak ‘83, M.S. ’93, is the event coordinator for the Archdiocese of St. Louis vocation office; independent demonstrator for Stampin’ Up!; resides with her husband, Gregory, in St. Louis, Missouri.

Jami Simon, M.S. ’83, co-starred on NBC’s The Blacklist and HBO’s High Maintenance; resides in New York, New York.

Sharon Wilson-Taylor ’83, M.A. ’89, Ph.D. ’06, is vice president of student affairs at Columbia College in Chicago; resides in Evanston.

Patricia (Meltzer) Maree ’84 is an enrichment teacher at Carle Auditory Oral School; resides in Tuscola.

Susan (Sefcik) Martin ’84 is a special education teacher with Joliet District 86; resides in Minooka.

Russell Moore, Ed.D. ’84, is professor emeritus of criminal justice, St. Ambrose University; resides with his wife, Janice, in Fort Madison, Iowa.

Janell (Gathmann) Durdle ’85 is a laboratory director with Advocate BroMenn Medical Center; resides with her husband, Ron, in Bloomington.

Gregory Hill ’85 practices with the law firm of Kozacky, Weitzel, and McGrath; teaches radiology as an adjunct professor at the Medical College of Wisconsin; resides with his wife, Mary, in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Kim Glas-Castro ’86 is a planning, zoning and building director for the Village of Palm Springs, Florida; resides in Lake Park, Florida.

Angela (Washington) Davis ’87 is a resource professional with the University of Illinois-Urbana; resides in Champaign.

Jeff Hines ’87 is the global lab director for Eli Lilly; resides with wife, Patricia, in Carmel, Indiana.

Tammie Kennedy ’87, M.S. ’95, received CCCC Outstanding Book Award in the Edited Collection category for Rhettics of White-ness; is associate professor of English, University of Nebraska-Omaha, where she resides.

Troy Thiel ’87, M.S. ’90, and his wife, Karen, are real estate agents and developer consultants with Windermere Yarrow Bay office in Kirkland, Washington, where they reside.

John Wagner ’87 is a lieutenant with the fire department in the city of Chicago, where he resides.

Gerald Headd ’88 is a deskside technical engineer with Tata Consulting Agency; resides with his wife, Denise, in Euclid, Ohio.

LuAnn (Viehweg) Underwood ’85 retired after teaching 30 years; founder/director of Southeast Wisconsin Scholastic Writing Region; Kenosha-Racine Walk to End Alzheimer’s volunteer; owner of antique business; resides with her husband, Michael, in Racine, Wisconsin.

Cindy (DeWolf) Weller ’85 is coordinator of the joint and spine center at McLaren Hospital-Flint; resides with her husband, Dan, in Flushing, Michigan.

Christine Dunham ’86 is a dentist; resides in Channahon.

Four decades later

After 40 years apart, three friends who met during their collegiate days reconnected and rekindled Illinois State memories last October. The ladies toured campus to take in the many changes, and visited each place they had lived while students. They are, from left, Patty (Tobias) Rolleri ’74 of North Carolina; Mary Cay (Lammers) Hahn ’73, M.S. ’74, of Illinois; and Karla (Schaer) Withrow ’73 of Washington.
Redbird legacy

Mary (Hynd) Schrock ’82 grew up in Moline with five sisters. Four of them followed her to Illinois State, creating a strong family legacy that deepened further when two of their children also chose to attend the University.

Accepted at two Iowa universities, Mary ultimately decided to study in Illinois. ISU rose to the top, and she enrolled as an English major. “I worked at the Vidette, which is where I met my husband,” Mary said. Cliff Schrock ’81, was also an English major.

Mary’s memories of happy campus moments include sharing a dorm room with her sister, Eileen (Hynd) Saksa ’84, an education major. “She roomed with me for one semester, just to help her get acclimated,” Mary recalled.

That sisterly help was continued down the line of siblings, as Eileen was still enrolled when Patricia (Hynd) Scott ’86 came to ISU to study elementary education. Patricia had not yet graduated when the next sister, Karen (Hynd) Fitzgerald ’88 became an accounting major. The last of the sisters to graduate was Janet (Hynd) Gibson ’91, who studied administrative systems and office technology.

“There was always an overlap. They all felt it was the best school in the state,” Mary said, with the location a perfect distance from their Moline home. “We are a very close family, so it was awesome.”

The bond strengthened when Eileen’s son, Christopher, also chose Illinois State. He graduated in 2016 with a degree in organizational and leadership communication. The family currently has another member enrolled, as Alex is entering his sophomore year as a criminal justice major. He is the son of Patricia.

The campus bond is one special way the sisters stay connected, as they are now scattered across the country. Mary is in Connecticut; Janet in Florida; and Eileen, Karen, and Patricia live across Illinois.

90s

Christy Broccardo-Grove ’90 is the digital media manager for Illinois Realtors; resides with her husband, Mike, in Springfield.

Amber (Blaser) Jones ’90 completed a master’s in nursing in 2017 from Chamberlain University; works at OSF Healthcare Pontiac Primary Care; resides in Bloomington.

Douglas Taylor ’90 is a traffic manager with Milport Enterprises; resides with his wife, Christel, in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

William Wille ’90 is the media and public relations manager for the Academy of Osseointegration; resides with his wife, Jennifer, and their two children in Yorkville.

Dennis Zirkelbach ’90 is a global program manager with Abbott Laboratories; resides with his wife, Kristin, in Pleasant Prairie, Wisconsin.

Kathy Campbell ’91 is an associate engineer with Walgreens; resides in Woodstock.

Bryan Eyrich ’91 is retiring after 26 years with the Illinois Department of Corrections; worked with the parole re-entry group in Chicago; resides with wife, Amy, in Glen Ellyn.

Elizabeth Garcia ’91 is a bilingual corporate education trainer at Combined Insurance; resides in Carpentersville.

Wayne Hoover ’91 owns Wicklander-Zulawski & Associates and the International Association of Interviewers; resides with his wife, Stephanie, in Sugar Grove.

Sarah Janssen ’91 is a senior physician with The Permanente Medical Group; resides in San Francisco, California.

Michael Schnell ’91 owns an AlphaGraphics Printing franchise; resides with his wife, Kim, and their two children in Homer Glen.

Wendy Sutter ’91 is a physical therapy assistant at Rock Valley Physical Therapy; resides in Rock Island.

Tami (Johnson) Vandenbark ’91 is a designer with Closets by Design; resides in Plainfield.

Dave Woesthaus, M.S. ’91, received a 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award for dedication to field of education; resides in Belleville.

Domenico De Bellis ’92 is a coach, entrepreneur, educator, author and public speaker; owns the firm Dom De Bellis International; resides in Niles, Michigan.

Rob Festenstein ’92 is the executive director of the Center for Independent Living Options in Cincinnati, Ohio, where he resides.

Ann O’Neill ’92, MBA ’94, is an IT governance, risk and compliance analyst with State Farm Insurance Company; resides in Normal.
Kent Studet ‘92 is director of corporate relations for the College of Engineering at the University of Illinois-Urbana; resides with his wife, Anne, in Savoy.

Heather (Loudenburg) Terry ‘92, M.S. ‘94, is a speech language pathologist in Champaign Unit 4 School District; resides with her husband, William, in Champaign.

Jim Walters ‘92 is executive director of Habitat for Humanity of McLean County; resides with his wife, Brandy, in Oneida.

Cynthia Hay ‘93 is a data analyst with Health Trust Workforce Solutions; resides in Midlothian, Virginia.

Misty (Johnson) Sierens ‘93 works as a sanitarian with the Rock Island County Health Department; there more than 22 years; resides with her husband, Michael, in Rock Island.

Margaret Swanson, M.S. ‘93, Ph.D. ‘09, is retired as interim provost at Illinois Central College; resides in East Peoria.

Jeff Benware ‘94, M.S. ‘95, is a psychologist with the Department of Veterans Affairs; resides with his wife, Allison, in Troy.

Eric Olson ‘94, M.S. ‘01, is a senior research scientist on physical and chemical characterization team of PPD; resides in Madison, Wisconsin.

Carl Try Jr. ‘94 is involved in a multi-year ERP application implementation in State of Illinois; several Redbirds are part of implementing the business application in the state; resides in Chatham.

Erica Corbett, M.S. ‘95, Ph.D. ‘99, is a biological sciences professor at Southeastern Oklahoma State University; resides in Durant, Oklahoma.

Jeffrey Lehman ‘95, M.S. ‘98, graduated from Southern Illinois University School of Medicine; practices with Southern Illinois Healthcare Medical Group in Carbondale; resides there with his wife, Kelly Higgins, and their two children.

Keri (Peceniak) Ciesia ‘96 is a Pampered Chef independent advanced director; resides with her husband, Tim, in Shorewood.

Jennifer (Baker) Glickley ‘96 is principal of Gurnee School District 56; resides with her husband, Kevin, in Lake Villa.

Sally Arnett-Hartwick ‘97 is an associate professor and program coordinator in Family and Consumer Sciences teacher education at ISU; resides with her husband, Trevor, in Carrollton.

Teresa Faulk ‘97 is a registered nurse in the Digestive Disease Endoscopy Center; resides with her husband, Jeremy, in El Paso.

Kelly (Fox) Gentsch ‘97, M.S. ‘02, teaches fifth grade at St. Mary’s Catholic School; resides in Normal.

Sarah (Mueller) Jones ‘97, received a 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award for dedication to the field of education; resides in Highland.

Julie (Helmstetter) Mazzola ‘97 is manager of marketing and communications for Ronald McDonald House Charities of Chicagoland and Northwest Indiana; resides with her husband, John, in Oak Park.

Julia (Georgas) Smeaton ‘97 is a supply chain manager with Apple, Inc.; resides with her husband, Richard, in San Jose, California.

Dan Washburn ‘97 is an auditor for the state of California; resides with his wife, Mary, in Roseville, California.

Hugh Williams ‘97, M.S. ‘99, is a lawyer operating The Williams Law Firm; authored novel titled The Rixey Files: The Quest for Caesar’s Medallion, with a portion of every sale going to help ISU’s nontraditional students; resides in Carbondale.

Kristi (Peterson) Hoffman ‘98 is a master dispatcher with PJM Interconnection; controls the electric grid on the East Coast and runs the energy markets; resides with her husband, Joe, and their two sons in Pottstown, Pennsylvania.

Erick Mund ‘98 is a senior probation officer in Livingston County; resides in Odell.

Dawn (Vavrik) Palmer ‘98, M.S. ‘00, is the administrative specialist in the office of the dean of students at the University of Georgia; resides with her husband, Russell, in Watkinsville, Georgia.

Rod Githens ‘99 is the assistant dean and an associate professor of leadership and organization development with the University of the Pacific; resides in West Sacramento, California.

00s

Timothy Bill ‘00, M.S. ‘02, is executive director of marketing and public information at Heartland Community College; resides with his wife, Mandy, in Bloomington.

Matthew Kellam ‘00 is a member of the Laner Muchin Ltd. law firm; practices as a labor and employment attorney; resides in Western Springs.

Marc Knopp ‘00 is associate division head of pediatric cardiology at the University of Illinois College of Medicine-Peoria; resides with his wife, Stacie, in Dunlap.

Barbara Feeney Abendschein, M.A. ‘01, teaches English composition at Embry Riddle Aeronautical University; resides in Ormond Beach, Florida.

Zack Hendricks ‘01 is an attorney with Howard & Howard; resides with his wife, Kristin, in Naperville.

Julie Marlatt ‘01, M.S. ‘06, is associate vice chancellor of enrollment management for the Tennessee Board of Regents; resides in Nashville, Tennessee.

Teresa Morris ‘01 is a paralegal specialist with the Department of Justices; resides with her husband, Mark, in Germantown, Tennessee.

Kathy (Wilson) Anderson ‘02 is the marketing manager for Veterans Care Coordination; husband Robert ‘02 is an occupational health and safety specialist; parents of two sons; reside in Lake Saint Louis, Missouri.

Aimee (Hale) Butcher ‘02 and her husband, David ‘06, own a State Farm Insurance company agency office; parents to a daughter and son; reside in Galena.

Withstanding tests of time

Eight young women met on the eighth floor of Hamilton Hall as freshmen in 1965. Their friendship blossomed quickly, and they soon became known as “the elite eight.” They have remained close through life events, including the loss of one in the group. They reunited in Florida last year to celebrate their 70th birthdays and 52 years of friendship. It was the first time since graduation that they were all able to attend a planned reunion. They are, front row from left, Penny Clodfelter ‘86 of Overland Park, Kansas; Kathy (Nerad) Van Eyndhoven ‘69 of Motueka, New Zealand; and Holly (Treadway) Rabbe ‘69 of Normal. Back row from left are, Shirley (Hall) Hill ‘69 of Zion; Paula (Chodakowski) Smith ‘69, M.S. ‘71 of Okemos; Penny (Nix) Pelkey ‘69 of Crystal Lake; Maggie (Paine) Thompson ‘69 of Normal. Cynthia (Osborne) Tar, who attended 1965-1967, died in 2002.
Team of teachers

There are six Illinois State alumni on the teaching and administrative staff at Glenbrook South High School in Glenview. They connected to show their Redbird pride by posing at the school during Homecoming last fall. They are, from left, Mark Knoeppel ‘14, Mark Dec ‘92, Caitlin Reichert ‘13, Leah Maskin ‘16, Matthew Lucchetti ‘15, and Stacey (Friedman) Wolfe ‘99.

Aimee Davis ‘02 is the Field Museum volunteer and public learning experiences administrator; teacher of improv for creative pedagogy classes and workshop for ‘The Second City; resides in Chicago.

Brad Malloy ‘02 is a detective with the Glendale Heights Police Department; resides with his wife, Cathy, in Lake Zurich.

Fayyaz Poonawala, M.S. ‘02, is a principal software engineering manager in the Azure Cloud Platform division at Microsoft; resides with his wife, Fatima, in Sammamish, Washington.

Angela Bernard ‘03 owns Stocker and Associates; resides with her husband, Aaron, in Port Charlotte, Florida.

Dana (Schulte) Burns ‘03 received a 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award for dedication to field of education; resides in St. Charles, Missouri.

David Hermann ‘03 is the registrar/director of admissions and registration at Kankakee Community College; resides in Kankakee.

Phyllis McElroy ‘03 is an actress, singer and comedian; appeared in several movies and starred in stage play “A Stepper’s Story;” resides in Normal.

Katharine Bettendorf ‘06 works for a college-access nonprofit supporting first-generation college students; resides in San Jose, California.

Danielle (Schweigert) Brink ‘06 is the director of community relations with DuPage High School District 88; resides with her husband, Gavin, in Round Lake Beach.

Elizabeth (Ellison) Nathan ‘06 is clinical coordinator with Rosencrance; married August 2017 to Joshua; resides in Chicago.

Alicia Gullidge ‘07, M.S. ‘14, is the assistant director of Millikin University’s Career Center; resides in Assumption.

Kristina (Torbik) Hanacek ‘07 is the senior marketing specialist for United Airlines; resides with her husband, Edward, in Chicago.

Amy (Heinrichs) Jahnel ‘07 is an athletic trainer with Carle Foundation Hospital; resides with her husband, Jeff, in Tolono.

Christine Loconti ‘07 has lived six years in Spain, teaching English and writing for tourism blogs; resides in Barcelona.

Amy Outland ‘07 is a freelance writer and editor; works part-time as a service excellence representative at Franciscan Health; resides in Frankfurt.

Jordie (Glassner) Bernhardt ‘08 is the director of youth and family programming at Temple of Aaron; resides with her husband, Aaron, in Saint Paul, Minnesota.

Christie (Khalid) Lewis ‘08, M.S. ‘11, is the coordinator of residence life at Columbia College in Chicago, where she resides with her husband, Jamel.

Douglas Meyer, M.S. ‘08, is associate director of residential life for housing operations at Illinois Wesleyan University; resides in Bloomington.

Ashley Thomas ‘08 is a nurse clinician in the neurosurgery department of Northwestern Medicine; completing MBA; resides in Chicago.

Nicole (Nalls) Wiesman ‘08 is completing a master’s in counseling psychology at North Park University; resides with her husband, Maxwell, in Lombard.

Elizabeth (Strain) Gonzalez ‘09 is a health educator at Lurie Children’s Hospital; resides with her husband, Ricardo Jr., in Chicago.

Elizabeth Hauck ‘09 is the associate director of human resources for Marcefl; resides in Normal.

Stephanie Murphy ‘09 is assistant professor of acting and voice at Stephen F. Austin State University; actress, voiceover artist and dialect coach; resides in Nacogdoches, Texas.

Jacqueline Oram-Shortt, Ph.D. ‘09, teaches in the Miami Dade County Public School district; served as a college professor and graduate school dean; resides with her husband, Brian, in Miami, Florida.

Genevieve (Sanderman) Owens ‘09 is a reading specialist at Round Lake High School; she and her husband, Brad, have one son; resides in Lake Zurich.

Lora (Barker) Phillips ‘09 is a health information technology and medical coding programs instructor at Rend Lake College; resides in Belle Rive.

Tom Ponce ‘09 is a high school English language development teacher through Teach for America; resides in Lakewood, Colorado.

Alexandra Rigo ‘09 is an emergency medicine resident at Cook County Hospital; resides with her husband, Erwin Secretov, in Chicago.

Adrienne Wilson ‘09 teaches world history at Carver Military Academy; resides in Chicago.

Jennifer Zang ‘09 is an attorney with Dodd & Maatuka; resides in Bloomington.

10s

Mallory Alekna ‘10 is a teaching assistant and completing a doctorate at Arizona State University; resides with her husband, Ryan Borden, in Tempe, Arizona.
Katharine Bettendorf ’10 taught in Republic of Korea for three years; is program coordinator at The Peninsula College Fund; resides in San Jose, California.

Scott Guerrero ’10, M.S. ’12, is the assistant director of financial aid for the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he resides.

Denisse Martinez ’10 completed a master’s degree in social service administration at the University of Chicago; resides in Chicago.

Juan Perez ’10 is an operations audit specialist with U.S. Bank/Syncada; serves as secretary of local Toastmasters Club; resides in Aurora.

Libby (Norcross) Torbeck ’10 is the Challenger Learning Center flight director at Heartland Community College; resides with her husband, Carl, in Normal.

Rachel Wayne, M.S. ’10, is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator with OSF St. Francis Medical Center; resides with her husband, James, in Normal.

Crystal Amendola ’11 is a human resources administrator for Annexus; resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Emily (Hopkins) Auffenberg ’11 received a 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award for dedication to field of education; resides in Swansea.

Brandon Harnack ’11 is a senior systems analyst with Kohl’s Department Stores; resides in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Lauren Patsos, M.M. ’11, is a music teacher at Oneco Elementary in Manatee County School District; resides in Sarasota, Florida.

Tim Putlak Jr. ’11 is a financial consultant for Navistar, Inc.; resides in Wheaton.

Eric Vinsel ’11 is learning advisor team manager with Cisco Systems; resides with his wife, Jennifer, in Bloomington.

Adis Dankha ’12 works for a Swedish engineering company creating and designing conveyor systems used in the automotive industry; resides in Skokie.

Rich Eckert, M.S. ’12, is vice president of Beardstown Savings Bank; resides in Beardstown with his wife, Ashley, and their daughter.

Paul Goedjen ’12 is the supervisor of adult hockey and MB Ice Arena for the Chicago Blackhawks; resides in Chicago.

Dominique (Jordan) Perry ’12 is a medical lab scientist at Advocate Christ Center; models with Factor Chosen Modeling Agency; resides with her husband, Kevin, in Calumet City.

Allison (Burke) Reeder ’12 is an English teacher and curriculum director at University Lake School; resides with her husband, Kyle, in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Kaitlin (Hernandez) Schneider ’12, M.S. ’14, is a speech language pathologist with Livingston County Special Services Unit; resides with her husband, Daniel, in Normal.

Dayna (Grismanauskas) Brzezowski ’13 is a Hines Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation specialist; resides with her husband, Scott, in Chicago.

Andrew Burgess ’13 is a registered operations leader with Ameriprise Financial; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Adam Cameron ’13 is a technical operator with Metal Flow Corporation; resides in Holland, Michigan.

Spenser Cullumber ’13 is percussion director for Webb City School District; resides with his wife, Dawn, in Joplin, Missouri.

Kevin Drews ’13 is director of professions brokerage at Insureon; resides in Downers Grove.

Rachel Haney ’13 is a clinical applications analyst with Loyola University Health System; resides in Batavia.

Zachary Harms ’13 is a chemist at Exelon LaSalle Nuclear Power Station; previously worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division; resides in Streator.

Ross Leary ’13 is a golf professional at Austin Country Club; resides in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Jess Manier ’13, M.S. ’15, is a senior operation and control analyst with U.S. Cellular; resides in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Celsy Martindale ’13 is marketing and communications coordinator for The Center for Prevention of Abuse; resides in Peoria.

Megan Scholl ’13 is a marketing coordinator for KSB Hospital; resides in Dixon.

Corey Sharp ’13 is a marketing strategist in the Office of Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Urbana; resides with his wife, Taylor, in Champaign.

Brooke Terranova ’13 is the legal advocate at the Sauk Valley YWCA; resides in Dixon.

Ashley Carboni ’14 is a CPA; technical associate with the IFRS Foundation; resides in London.

Jenna Cusumano ’14 event manager at the civic center in Peoria, where she resides.

Aria Drexler, M.S. ’14, is training specialist with Weld County School District Nutrition Services; resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Emmly (Norcross) Torbeck ’10 is the Challenger Learning Center flight director at Heartland Community College; resides with her husband, Carl, in Normal.

Katharine Bettendorf ’10 taught in Republic of Korea for three years; is program coordinator at The Peninsula College Fund; resides in San Jose, California.

Scott Guerrero ’10, M.S. ’12, is the assistant director of financial aid for the University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he resides.

Denisse Martinez ’10 completed a master’s degree in social service administration at the University of Chicago; resides in Chicago.

Juan Perez ’10 is an operations audit specialist with U.S. Bank/Syncada; serves as secretary of local Toastmasters Club; resides in Aurora.

Libby (Norcross) Torbeck ’10 is the Challenger Learning Center flight director at Heartland Community College; resides with her husband, Carl, in Normal.

Rachel Wayne, M.S. ’10, is a registered dietitian and certified diabetes educator with OSF St. Francis Medical Center; resides with her husband, James, in Normal.

Crystal Amendola ’11 is a human resources administrator for Annexus; resides in Phoenix, Arizona.

Emily (Hopkins) Auffenberg ’11 received a 2017 Emerson Excellence in Teaching award for dedication to field of education; resides in Swansea.

Brandon Harnack ’11 is a senior systems analyst with Kohl’s Department Stores; resides in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin.

Lauren Patsos, M.M. ’11, is a music teacher at Oneco Elementary in Manatee County School District; resides in Sarasota, Florida.

Tim Putlak Jr. ’11 is a financial consultant for Navistar, Inc.; resides in Wheaton.

Eric Vinsel ’11 is learning advisor team manager with Cisco Systems; resides with his wife, Jennifer, in Bloomington.

Adis Dankha ’12 works for a Swedish engineering company creating and designing conveyor systems used in the automotive industry; resides in Skokie.

Rich Eckert, M.S. ’12, is vice president of Beardstown Savings Bank; resides in Beardstown with his wife, Ashley, and their daughter.

Paul Goedjen ’12 is the supervisor of adult hockey and MB Ice Arena for the Chicago Blackhawks; resides in Chicago.

Dominique (Jordan) Perry ’12 is a medical lab scientist at Advocate Christ Center; models with Factor Chosen Modeling Agency; resides with her husband, Kevin, in Calumet City.

Allison (Burke) Reeder ’12 is an English teacher and curriculum director at University Lake School; resides with her husband, Kyle, in Waukesha, Wisconsin.

Kaitlin (Hernandez) Schneider ’12, M.S. ’14, is a speech language pathologist with Livingston County Special Services Unit; resides with her husband, Daniel, in Normal.

Dayna (Grismanauskas) Brzezowski ’13 is a Hines Veterans Affairs blind rehabilitation specialist; resides with her husband, Scott, in Chicago.

Andrew Burgess ’13 is a registered operations leader with Ameriprise Financial; resides in Milwaukee, Wisconsin.

Adam Cameron ’13 is a technical operator with Metal Flow Corporation; resides in Holland, Michigan.

Spenser Cullumber ’13 is percussion director for Webb City School District; resides with his wife, Dawn, in Joplin, Missouri.

Kevin Drews ’13 is director of professions brokerage at Insureon; resides in Downers Grove.

Rachel Haney ’13 is a clinical applications analyst with Loyola University Health System; resides in Batavia.

Zachary Harms ’13 is a chemist at Exelon LaSalle Nuclear Power Station; previously worked for the Illinois Department of Natural Resources Fisheries Division; resides in Streator.

Ross Leary ’13 is a golf professional at Austin Country Club; resides in Eden Prairie, Minnesota.

Jess Manier ’13, M.S. ’15, is a senior operation and control analyst with U.S. Cellular; resides in Sun Prairie, Wisconsin.

Celsy Martindale ’13 is marketing and communications coordinator for The Center for Prevention of Abuse; resides in Peoria.

Megan Scholl ’13 is a marketing coordinator for KSB Hospital; resides in Dixon.

Corey Sharp ’13 is a marketing strategist in the Office of Public Affairs at the University of Illinois-Urbana; resides with his wife, Taylor, in Champaign.

Brooke Terranova ’13 is the legal advocate at the Sauk Valley YWCA; resides in Dixon.

Ashley Carboni ’14 is a CPA; technical associate with the IFRS Foundation; resides in London.

Jenna Cusumano ’14 event manager at the civic center in Peoria, where she resides.

Aria Drexler, M.S. ’14, is training specialist with Weld County School District Nutrition Services; resides in Fort Collins, Colorado.

Talented or lucky?

Richard Wisner ’59, M.S. ’64, has had the thrill of sinking a hole-in-one five separate times. He remembers each one, starting in Bloomington in 1968. The most recent was in Petersburg in 2010. He confesses that the repeated feat is “98 percent luck.” A retired school administrator, Wisner served 16 years with the Illinois Association of School Boards. His wife, Arline (Nelson) ’57, is also a retired educator. They reside in Springfield.

August 2018  Illinois State  37
Heather Bayer ’15 is a trainer and quality assurance specialist with Pet Health Inc.; resides in Elk Grove.

Ashley Brehmer ’15 handles membership support for the Greater Madison Chamber of Commerce; is under contract with BMG Models; resides in Verona, Wisconsin.

Laureen DiLorenzo ’15, M.S.W. ’18, is a marriage and family therapist with the Center for Youth and Family Solutions; resides in Normal.

Elisabeth Hollander ’15 is a music teacher at Peking University Experimental School in Jiaxing, China.

Taylor McCormick ’15 teaches sixth grade math at Plainfield Community Consolidated School District 202; named the school’s 2018 Teacher of the Year; resides in Lockport.

Kyle Pass ’15 is an associate broker with Arthur J. Gallagher; resides in Elk Grove Village.

Jeremy Spaso ’15 is an account executive with Lipman Hearne; resides in Chicago.

Rachel (Manago) Tutko ’15 is a music therapist with Seasons Hospice and Palliative Care; resides with her husband, Jonathan, in Frankfort.

Alysha Biemolt ’16 is a program central manager with Ruffalo Noel Levitz; resides in Indianapolis.

Alex Clayton ’16 works in the course properties division for the PGA Tour; resides in Jacksonville, Florida.

Matthew Druffel ’16 is the human resources administrator with the Auto Truck Group; resides in St. Charles.

Kelli Erickson ’16 is a medical social worker with Fresenius Kidney Care; resides in Naperville.

Brooke (Egeland) Farmer, M.S. ’16, is a research assistant at Creighton University; resides in Bellevue, Nebraska.

Danny Gaytan, M.S. ’16, is facilities program coordinator for Arizona State University; coordinates sport programs and kids’ camp; resides in Tempe, Arizona.

Taylor Orr ’16 is a registered nurse at Memorial Medical Center; resides in Springfield.

Allyson Raymundo ’16 is a marketing coordinator with Egret Consulting Group; resides in Mundelein.

Sara Sneyd ’16 is the middle school band director for Herscher Community Unit School District; resides in Bourbonnais.

Tori Streitmatter ’16 works in human resources and recruiting for Growmark Inc.; grand prizewinner of 2017 Thrive#RootedinAg contest through Syngenta; resides in Bloomington.

Katie Wiedenski ’16 is a pediatric and neonatal registered dietitian working in a children’s hospital in the Chicago suburbs; resides in Orland Park.

Becca Young ’16 is a program advisor for IES Abroad; resides in Palatine.

Alleana Fuentes, M.S. ’17, is an outpatient therapist with Lincoln Prairie Behavioral Health Center; resides in Springfield.

Jaylon Joyner ’17 is an athletic trainer with Decatur Memorial Hospital; resides in Decatur.

Nicole McGill ’17 is an OSF Healthcare medical laboratory scientist; resides in Morton.

Kelly Mohler ’17 is a peer recovery specialist with Memorial Behavioral Health; resides in Springfield.

Faith Petkus ’17 is a special education teacher in the public schools of Chicago, where she resides.

Lauriene Wandland ’17 is an account manager with Uber Corporate; resides in Blue Island.

Troops

Lawrence Layden ’81 retired after 33 years of service in the U.S. Army and the U.S. Treasury Department; resides with his wife, Susan, in Normal.

Craig Osborne ’89 serves in the U.S. Army as chief of staff at National Defense University; resides in Haymarket, Virginia.

Elizabeth Roxworthy ’96 is a major in the Illinois Army National Guard; stationed at Fort Leavenworth, studying at U.S. Army Command and General Staff Officer College; master’s degree student at University of Kansas; resides in Kansas City, Missouri.

Jeff Burchfield ’98 is a U.S. Army air defense officer; resides with his wife, Lynn, in Queen Creek, Arizona.

Michael Verdun ’10 is a helicopter pilot with the Illinois Army National Guard; an investigator with the Rochester Police Department; resides in Rochester.

In memory

Faculty/Staff

Judy J. (Smithson) Boehle ’62, Ed.D. ’80; Student Access & Accommodation Services; 3/18
Sherman E. Peck ’74, Art; 3/18
Susan A. Westbury, History; 2/18
Tsang Chiao Liang Joseph, Chemistry; 4/18

Together again

Homecoming 2017 was the perfect opportunity for five sisters of the Pi Beta Phi sorority to reunite. They appreciated the opportunity to reminisce about the years they shared as students. They are, from left, Samantha (Hooker) Blake ’09, Shannon (Murray) Sundberg ’08, Lauren (Foerster) Platt ’09, Tricia (Berryhill) Banach ’08, and Nicole (Rousakis) Felke ’08.
Ming-Gon John Lian, Special Education; 3/18
Michael Macesich, Chemistry/U-High; 12/17

30s
Viola (Crone) Nelson ’37, ’63; 1/18
Louise E. (North) Schreck ’37; 1/18
Virginia H. (Ihlenfeldt) Streeper ’38; 4/18
Lois L. (Johnson) Leonard ’39; 1/18

40s
Lela M. (Loper) McDaniel ’41; 2/18
Madeleine M. (Lowell) Porter ’41; 3/18
Mary V. (Swartz) Sutherland ’42; 1/18
Elsworth A. Donovan ’43; 10/17
Dorothy J. (Griffin) Ayers ’55; 3/18
Edwin C. Carpenter ’55, M.S. ’56; 4/18
Elaine E. Eickmeyer ’55; 12/17
Russell E. Finley Jr. ’55; 3/18
Donald S. Hartman ’55; 4/18
Richard J. Myers ’55; 4/18
Barbara J. (Noren) Pelati ’55; 3/18
William E. Bonham ’56, M.S. ’62; 1/18
Patrick J. (Coen) Kafar ’56; 2/18
James A. Wiltz ’56; 12/17
Phyllis A. (Winkler) Caneva ’57; 3/18
Marjorie L. Dunlap, M.S. ’57; 10/17
John D. Frattick ’57; 3/18
Donald R. Pearson, M.S. ’58; 2/18
Gary White ’58; 2/18
Richard L. Fisher ’59, M.S. ’64; 10/17

50s
Robert E. Glenn ’50, M.S. ’51; 1/18
Vivienne V. (Lucas) Hertz ’50; 3/18
Lillian M. (Schnegel) Mellors ’50; 1/18
Margaret L. (Eggenberger) Parke ’50; 1/18
Mary A. (Goode) Lair ’50; 2/18
Richard B. Ferree ’53, M.S. ’60; 2/18
Roland D. Spaniol ’53, M.S. ’56; 2/18
Joan R. (Hodel) Summer ’53; 1/18
Laverne G. Wei더’53; 1/18
Robert G. Anderson ’54, M.S. ’56; 1/18
Paula M. (Zalewski) Kerr ’54; 12/17
Betty L. (Schafer) Pratt ’54; 2/18
John C. Watson ’54; 1/18
Doris J. (Griffin) Ayers ’55; 3/18
Edwin C. Carpenter ’55, M.S. ’56; 4/18
Elaine E. Eickmeyer ’55; 12/17
Russell E. Finley Jr. ’55; 3/18
Donald S. Hartman ’55; 4/18
Richard J. Myers ’55; 4/18
Barbara J. (Noren) Pelati ’55; 3/18
William E. Bonham ’56, M.S. ’62; 1/18
Patricia A. (Coen) Kafar ’56; 2/18
James A. Wiltz ’56; 12/17
Phyllis A. (Winkler) Caneva ’57; 3/18
Marjorie L. Dunlap, M.S. ’57; 10/17
John D. Frattick ’57; 3/18
Donald R. Pearson, M.S. ’58; 2/18
Gary White ’58; 2/18
Richard L. Fisher ’59, M.S. ’64; 10/17

60s
Paul W. Batty ’61; 12/17
John Robert “J.R.” Black ’61; 2/18
C. Richard Blakley ’61; 3/18
Patricia A. (Berberet) Kane ’61; 3/18
Phyllis R. (Joost) McAuliffe ’61; 3/18
Clifford A. Scott Jr. ’61; 11/11
Sue A. (Murphy) Alexander ’62; 2/18
Stephen R. France ’62; M.S. ’63; 2/18
Edward Linder ’62; 1/18
James W. Entwistle ’63, M.S. ’64; 12/17
Carl G. Lonquist ’63; 1/18
Irmaj J. (Lahr) Miller ’63; 4/18
Charles W. Chap ’64; 3/18
Peggy J. (Spencer) Jones ’64; 1/18
Michael Crawshaw ’65, M.S. ’71; 2/18
Dwight J. Feryance ’65; 3/18
Harry E. Hagerman Jr. ’65; 3/18
Carol D. (Bellinger) Hinkson ’65; 3/18
Carol A. (Ecker) Krumwiede ’65; 3/18
Nancy C. (Gilmore) Lane ’65; 1/18
Karen A. (Sevland) Allen ’66; 1/18
Alan J. Andreasen ’66; 1/18
David L. Coss, M.A. ’66; 4/18
Gary S. Kephart, MBA ’66; 1/18
Cheryl L. (Walton) Triefenbach ’66; 4/18
Jan E. (Esenpries) Weaver ’66; 4/18
Larry J. Woods ’66; 3/18
Diane R. (Wolf) Bussan ’67; 4/18
Connie P. Canham ’67; 3/18
Emily L. (Loftus) Gallivan ’67; 2/18
Bonne L. Harris ’67, M.S. ’73; 1/18
Ruth V. (Wittler) Holmes, M.S. ’67; 4/18
Donald E. Reed ’67, M.S. ’73; 1/18
Charles W. Sorensen, M.S. ’67; 2/18
Royleen M. Tipton ’67; 2/18
Oren E. Wright ’67; 12/17
Marilyn J. (Hardimon) Buchanan ’68; 4/18
James H. Cherry III ’68, M.S. ’69,
Ed.D. ’75; 4/18
Carl J. Hale ’68; 2/18
James H. Landor ’68; 3/18
Freda L. (Baker) McGee, M.S. ’68;
9/17
Charlene M. (Getson) Molnar ’68,
M.S. ’84; 2/18
Terry L. Stevig ’68; 4/18
James L. Teudeu ’68, M.S. ’69;
1/18
Gary R. Westen ’68; 1/18
Patricia M. Barrowman ’69, M.S.
’94; 3/18
Sally J. (Pace) Emery ’69; 1/18
Margaret L. (Allison) Janssen ’69,
M.S. ’81; 12/17
Patricia L. (McCann) Long ’69;
4/18
Jeanne M. (Vallazza) Zilm ’69, M.S.
’77; 1/18

70s
Barbara E. (Baker) Barton ’70; 2/18
Paul L. Goodwin ’70, M.S. ’70;
12/17
Jerry A. Merrick ’70; 1/18
L. LaVonne (Cotherman) Morgan,
M.S. ’70; 3/18

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 by email at alumni@IllinoisState.edu.
Mary A. (Thalmann) Bingenheimer ’71; 12/17
Margaret (Russell) Dewey ’71; 4/18
Ronald S. Hert, M.A. ’71; 2/18
Ruth Ann (Akrigh) Marseilles, M.S. ’71; 4/18
Mildred I. (White) McRell ’71; 1/18
Wayne R. Milling ’71; 12/17
Loretta Sigler ’71; 3/18
Samuel E. Achord ’72; 2/18
Jane E. (Whited) Anderson ’72; 2/18
Julie A. (Buck) Drije ’72; 10/17
Jerilyn C. (Herman) Dubeau ’72; 4/18
Patsy A. Mailand ’72; 10/17
Katherine L. (Goetz) Runion ’72; 12/17
Laura (Schumacher) Garrett ’73; 3/18
Keith K. Goodman ’73; 2/18
John P. Peecher ’73; 1/18
Thomas H. Pruitt ’73; 1/18
William A. Savage, M.S. ’73; 5/16
Michael W. Williams ’73; 1/18
Mark B. Gradberg ’74; 3/18
Jay E. Kemerling ’74; 2/18
Rex E. Presson ’74, M.S. ’75; 3/18
Edith L. (Brehman) Voights ’74; 3/18
Walter “Chick” L. Bishop, Ed.D. ’75; 11/17
Charles A. Grover ’75; 4/18
Gilbert J. Hobneck ’75; 12/17
Kathleen Holt ’75; 3/18
Judith (Howell) Lazar ’75; 3/18
Mary Beth (Fitzpatrick) Ripa ’75; 3/18
Linda J. (Hansen) Brushaber ’76; 3/18
Kathleen (Reilly) Lencioni ’76; 6/17
Elizabeth A. (Brown) Leonard ’76; 12/17
Mitchell C. Potter ’76; 3/18
Peter S. Pressman, MBA ’76; 3/18
Beverly (Bailey) Stitt Stone ’76; 83; 1/18
Julie A. Tomlianovich ’76; 3/18
Brian R. Bollman ’77; 2/18
Janice C. (Watson) Bradley, M.S. ’77; 3/18
Sheron (Moore) Carter ’77; 2/18
Marilyn R. (Putney) DePauw ’77; 10/17
Mary Lou Miller, M.S. ’77; 3/18
Harley M. Peckham ’78; 9/17
Charles W. Pohlman Jr. ’78; 3/18
Kenneth W. Robertson, MBA ’78; 12/17
Steven J. Syputt ’78; 1/18
Rose M. Bushno ’79; 2/18
Edward J. Didier ’79; 12/17
Barbara Reimers ’79; 3/18
Jill S. (Godfrey) Rister ’79; 10/17
Harvey Steele ’79; 12/17
Ronald E. Thompson ’79; 12/17
Dean Wirtz ’79; 2/18

80s
Patricia M. (Harnish) Yordy, M.S. ’80; 10/17
Philip C. Schafer, MBA ’81; 12/17
Linda K. (Bottin) Fiorenza ’83; 12/17
Richard D. Vitters, Ed.D. ’83; 2/18
James W. Winkler ’83; 3/18
Cheryl J. (Kraucunas) Klein ’84; 3/18
Raymond Riets ’84; 12/17
Jon G. Oakley ’86; 12/17
Arthur J. Rudnicki ’86; 4/18
Vincent A. Sanzotta ’88; 2/18
Donna (Waymire) Inyart ’89; 2/18
Mary J. Palley ’89; 2/18

90s
Joan (Feld) McGuire, Ph.D. ’90; 11/17
Thomas M. Soderlund ’92; 9/17
Keith A. Sprouse ’92, M.A. ’94; 10/17
Tracey L. (Borders) Wilber ’92; 1/18
Connie S. (Lanzotti) Young ’92; 3/18
Frances L. Delrose, M.S. ’93; 1/18
Lara J. (Moehling) Strzempa ’95, M.S. ’00; 1/18
Arthur “Kris” Giese ’97; 3/18
Kevin L. Nelson ’99; 12/17

00s
Gary Shepard ’01; ’04; 2/18
Lucas A. Schramf ’02; 12/17
June E. Allison, M.S.W. ’05; 12/17
Heather L. (Reum) Meister ’05; 10/17
Frank D. Patula ’05; 1/18
Meghan A. Bowers ’07; 3/18

10s
Zeke Upshaw ’13; 3/18
Demetrius D. Dandridge ’14; 10/17
Joseph E. Joria, M.S. ’14; 1/18
Taylor D. McClain ’17; 2/18

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 44,000 ISU donors and make a gift by calling (309) 438-8184, or by visiting RedbirdsRising.IllinoisState.edu

Rise to the Challenge

The Campaign for Illinois State
A legacy of generosity

Larry and Patricia (Hunkler) Stagen were committed to education throughout their lives. Even now, when both Larry and Patricia are deceased, their legacy continues through the Hunkler-Stagen Teaching Scholarship, originally established within the College of Education in 2008.

The Stagens bequeathed $600,000 of their estate to the principal of their scholarship fund. Their generous gift supports Redbirds Rising: The Campaign for Illinois State, and guarantees assistance to generations of ISU students on the path to becoming educators.

Created as a memorial to her parents and grandparents, the scholarship helps undergraduates majoring in education meet a financial need. It pleased both Larry and Patricia to know they were able to help aspiring teachers complete their degree.

A 1961 elementary education graduate, Patricia taught third grade for 32 years. Larry, who finished his degree in English in 1960, taught the subject in high school before working as a guidance counselor for 27 years. With more than six decades combined in the field, the couple actively encouraged others to pursue a career in education.

Melissa Fioretto ’15 was chosen as the scholarship recipient in 2013. She welcomed the opportunity to meet Larry and Patricia, as she was able to express her thanks in person.

“I was amazed at how excited the Stagens were to meet me and get to know my ambitions,” Fioretto said. “I am reminded of the Stagen gift each time I see my student loans. I know they are so much smaller thanks to them.”

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 your estate plans, visit GiveTo.IllinoisState.edu, or call (309) 438-8184.
Construction zone

Ongoing renovation work has changed the look of the Bone Student Center’s interior and exterior, where construction is underway at the main entrance and the building's northeast section adjoining the visitors' parking lot, shown below. The $33 million project began in September 2017, with completion expected in 2020.