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SUMMER/FALL 2018

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Resurrecting History

LINDSEY FITZHARRIS '04



(Below) **Amelia Glueck '18** claimed her second national long jump title when she topped the field at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, in May 2018. Glueck was named Illinois Wesleyan's 128th Academic All-American following the season. (Inset) The Illinois Wesleyan softball team was the national runner-up in the NCAA Championship, marking the best season finish in the program's history. The Titans also claimed College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin regular-season and postseason titles. See stories, page 6.





INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 2 | SUMMER/FALL 2018

ON OUR COVER:

Lindsey Fitzharris '04 has achieved celebrity historian status with her award-winning debut novel *The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister's Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine*, a popular YouTube series and an active social media presence.

FEATURES

14 Resurrecting History

Lindsey Fitzharris '04 delivers medical history to a wide audience by utilizing mediums both old and new.

22 Posse Power

Supporting one another has been key to the success of Illinois Wesleyan's first class of Posse Scholars.

25 An Ocean of Opportunity

Research trips to the Smithsonian Marine Station have provided **Jamie Blumberg '19** with experiential learning opportunities to help launch a career in science.

HOMEcoming 2018

October 5-7, 2018

www.iwu.edu/homecoming



Smithsonian

Page 25

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 *From the President's Desk*
- 3 *Inside IWU*
- 8 *Authors and the Arts*
- 11 *Social Lights*
- 12 *Commencement 2018*
- 28 *Homecoming Preview*
- 30 *Alumni Update*
- 34 *Alumni Association News*
- 36 *Tiny Titans*
- 37 *Titan Celebrations*
- 38 *In Memory*

From the President's Desk

Summer on campus is a quiet time for us – at least in theory. Commencement has come and gone, May Term is over, and most of the students have left, but maintenance season is in full swing. Among the buildings receiving special attention is Buck Library, which is having its gorgeous stonework cleaned and retucked. It is worth a trip to campus to see.

Speaking of trips to campus, we're expecting lots of new faces soon. Our largest incoming class in some years will arrive this August. That alone is great news, but they are the usual talented group, with typically high test scores and records of high school achievement, and they are more racially and ethnically diverse than any preceding class has been. Part of our success in this area stems from a successful partnership with the Posse Foundation, which is detailed in this issue.

A lot has been said in the press about college affordability. We are not among the villains in that story, but affordability is a real concern for many of our students. It is important to recognize that while economic diversity is not exactly the same as racial or ethnic diversity, they are interrelated. Thus, if we are serious about building an inclusive campus community, we need to pay attention to economic challenges faced disproportionately by minority students. But, we cannot lose sight of the fact that many non-minority students face comparable financial challenges. Over the years, an important part of our culture has been ensuring access to students who came from modest means. The Illinois Wesleyan community, working together, can continue to provide the financial resources to make the inclusive IWU experience that we treasure accessible to all of our potential students.

Our new “Be Breakthrough” marketing theme is a way to communicate these and other opportunities to the larger world. As part of the new, more personalized recruiting effort accompanying these changes, many alumni, as well as faculty and staff, reached out personally to prospective students.

The large incoming class very clearly reflects conscious efforts on the part of all of us here – faculty and staff – to build a good student experience into a uniquely great one, and to publicize it to the larger world. So, for example, about one-third of the incoming class has signed up for “First-Year Experiences,” in which fall seminar work is supplemented by spring field work. Some seniors already have enjoyed “Signature Experiences,” which are wide-ranging amalgams of traditional senior research projects, internships, and cross-disciplinary independent studies. One of these experiences is detailed in this issue, and many more are under development.

Our new “Be Breakthrough” marketing theme is a way to communicate these and other opportunities to the larger world. As part of the new, more personalized recruiting effort accompanying these changes, many alumni, as well as faculty and staff, reached out personally to prospective students. Thank you, all, for your hard work this past year! We look to your help to extend our successes into next year, as we continue targeted efforts – the McLean County Scholars right here in town, supported by the Illinois Wesleyan Associates; actively pursuing other Illinois recruits; and increased national, international and transfer recruiting.

Go Titans!



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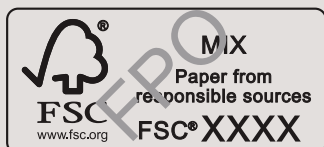
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Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

Wilson Atrium Dedicated in Honor of Former IWU President and First Lady

The Center for Natural Science Learning and Research (CNS) atrium was renamed The Wilson Atrium in honor of former Illinois Wesleyan University **President Richard F. Wilson** and former **First Lady Patricia L. Wilson** during a dedication ceremony May 7, 2018.

The dedication was hosted by the IWU Board of Trustees (BOT) and featured remarks by **President Eric Jensen**, BOT members **Jim Shirk** and **George Vinyard '71**, and the evening's guests of honor, Richard and Patricia Wilson.

"This space typifies the characteristics that I think we associate with Dick and Pat as a tangible reminder of their contributions," Vinyard told the crowd of more than 90 guests. "It's a welcoming space that reflects intelligence, excellence, grace and unpretentious elegance."

Richard and Patricia Wilson unveiled a large inscription of the University seal set into the atrium floor and encompassed by "The Wilson Atrium," along with the years of Wilson's presidency: "2004-2015." Two bronze plaques and lettering commemorating the space were also unveiled.

"Pat and I are absolutely ecstatic to have this space named in our honor and in recognition of our work here," Richard Wilson said. "Nothing means more to us than the people we have met while working here at Illinois Wesleyan."

Wilson told the crowd that he likes having his last name associated with the CNS atrium for a number of reasons, including the fact that the building has two front doors which connect the north side of campus with the south side of campus.

"Literally hundreds of students, faculty and staff meet here informally every day," Wilson said. "I like the feeling that evokes in my mind. This is an active space."

One of the bronze plaques unveiled was inscribed with the message: "With gratitude for their passionate and inspiring leadership and years of selfless service to the lasting betterment of Illinois Wesleyan University and the greater Titan Community." The other plaque features a quote by Wilson, which was his traditional closing to annual Commencement ceremonies: "Search for what is true. Stand for what is just. Strive to make a difference."

Along with financing The Wilson Atrium seal, plaques and lettering, members of the BOT furnished the atrium with new chairs and couches to make the space more comfortable and functional.

"Many people work very hard in their jobs, but the lucky ones are those who feel the work they do makes a difference in other people's lives," said Patricia Wilson. "Dick and I felt from the beginning that what we were doing at Illinois Wesleyan did matter – that it really could enhance and change lives. To be recognized for our work is a special privilege."

Richard Wilson served as the President of Illinois Wesleyan University from 2004-15. Wilson gave special attention to developing a strategic plan for Illinois Wesleyan, strengthening the University's financial position, and conducting the largest fundraising campaign in the school's history.



(Above) The atrium of the CNS building was dedicated as The Wilson Atrium for the contributions of IWU **President Dick Wilson** and **First Lady Pat Wilson**.

Illinois Wesleyan Adds Four Majors, Seven Minors for 2018-19



(Above) Professor **Abigail Kerr** works with **Brock Taylor '18** in the neuroscience lab during May Term.

In keeping with the increasingly diverse academic interests of students, Illinois Wesleyan will offer four new majors and seven new minors, in addition to more than 80 existing majors, minors and programs currently available, for the 2018-19 academic year.

Starting in the fall, students can declare themselves as any one of the following new majors:

■ Biochemistry

Drawing from curricula in the biology and chemistry departments, a major in biochemistry will allow students to study the physical and chemical mechanisms that underlie biological systems. Students will benefit from IWU's core liberal arts education while maintaining the freedom and flexibility to focus on individual research interests with the support of faculty mentors. A biochemistry degree can be applied to a variety of future studies, such as medicine, dentistry, physical therapy, optometry, forensic science and law.

■ Health Promotion and Fitness Management

The health promotion and fitness management major will provide an academic focus on growing health concerns regarding disability and disease, as well as ways to promote healthy living. Students will take prerequisite coursework preparing them for a variety of graduate careers in the health and fitness industry, especially in high-demand areas such as exercise science,

physical therapy, occupational therapy, cardiac rehabilitation, chiropractic, sports nutrition, biomechanics, or athletic training. This major falls under the purview of the School of Nursing, the Physical Education Department and the Biology Department.

■ Marketing

Previously offered as a concentration for business majors, the marketing major will prepare students to respond quickly and ethically to changing business landscapes in order to reach consumers. As the marketing field continues to grow, students will learn innovative means to promote their ideas to a range of audiences, both in the classroom and hands-on in a professional business environment.

■ Neuroscience

Expanding upon previously offered neuroscience courses, IWU has built a comprehensive neuroscience major that combines elements of biology, chemistry and psychology to establish a holistic understanding of the brain's functions. Students will gain exposure to the structure and function of the nervous system at a variety of levels, from the individual molecules involved in neural function, to brain network analysis, to the behavior of the whole organism. The major offers two concentrations, cellular and molecular neuroscience and behavioral neuroscience, aimed at students interested in pursuing medical school, biomedical engineering, physical therapy, graduate study medicine and more.

■ New Minors

Creative Writing
Data Science
Finance *
Humanities
Journalism and New Media Studies
Theatre Arts Design & Technology

**One minor for non-business majors; one minor for accounting majors.*

INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

(Right) University President **Eric Jensen** (center) presented the inaugural President's Award for Inclusive Excellence to **Sharla Brown-Ajayi** (left) and **Wendy Kookan** (right) on April 6, 2018.



Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence Announced at Honors Convocation



Carmela Ferradáns (above right) was named the 2019 recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence at Illinois Wesleyan University on April 11, 2018.

The Kemp Award winner, announced at the annual Honors Convocation, is recognized for bringing spirit, passion and scholarship to the art of teaching.

"I am very surprised, and of course, honored," Ferradáns said. "I nominated an amazing colleague, and I am just surprised that I was the one recognized. But, I am very honored."

A professor of Hispanic Studies, Ferradáns teaches all levels of Spanish language, literature and cultural history of Spain, as well as writing intensive courses for the Writing Program. As chair of Illinois Wesleyan's Council for Excellence in Teaching

and Learning, she has ventured into the field of multimodal pedagogies, especially those dealing with writing and speaking across the curriculum.

"Every nominator shared that (Ferradáns) cares deeply about students," IWU Provost and Dean of the Faculty **Mark Brodl** said when introducing Ferradáns. "She takes students beyond what they may have thought they could accomplish. She connects students. She connects colleagues. She connects students and colleagues. She is the model of a teacher-scholar."

Before Ferradáns was announced as the 2019 Kemp Award recipient, Kemp Foundation representative Chris Kemp made a presentation to 2018 award-winner **Victoria (Noltkamper) Folse '86** (above left), who serves as a professor and the Caroline F. Rupert Endowed Chair of Nursing.

In her presentation, titled "In Pursuit of Excellence: From Patient Centered to Student Centered," Folse shared her experience as a first-generation college student raised by a single mother who was reliant on welfare, food stamps and a medical card.

"I now reflect on how fortunate I was to have known poverty, as my accomplishments were in spite of – and perhaps because of – my unyielding desire to climb the socioeconomic ladder," Folse said. "My focus on having a better life – which for me meant without government assistance – and helping people around me improve their lives – was my catalyst for excellence."

An annual celebration of excellence, the Honors Convocation was dedicated to the Class of 2018 and to students who earned scholastic and activity honors.

At the ceremony, colleagues also paid tribute to retiring members of the faculty: **Mary Ann Bushman, Robert Leekley, James Matthews, Sherri McElroy, Mauricio Parra, Kevin Strandberg, Dan Terkla and Marcia Thomas '72.**

Entrepreneurial Fellowship Winners Selected

A pair of student-led enterprises were awarded Illinois Wesleyan University's \$5,000 biannual Entrepreneurial Fellowship grant during the 2017-18 academic year. A mobile meme game app developed by **David "Nico" Lopez '21** and an online clothing storefront catering to the needs of children with disabilities, established by **Liam Keffer '20, Benjamin Sestak '19 and Zachary Walsh '20**, were this year's winners.

After identifying the opportunity and surveying IWU students, who helped confirm the viability of his product, Lopez developed "Caption It." He has employed a team of IWU student programmers and graphic designers to help with the startup project, including **Ania Bui '18, Liuting Chen '18, Ziyang Liu '19, Michael Modaff '19 and Joi Stack '18.**

Lopez, who is from Ecuador, got the idea for the app after trading memes with his girlfriend, who still lives in Ecuador. "It's a fun thing to do, and I asked myself, 'Is there a mobile platform to do this?'" Lopez said.

Keffer, Sestak and Walsh formed the online clothing store "Unity Threads," designed for children with disabilities. "Our

(Right) **David "Nico" Lopez '21** developed a meme-making game app called Caption It.

goal is to make any child or teen that wears Unity Threads feel no different than the kid sitting next to them," the Unity Threads entrepreneurs explained in their business plan.

The company will provide families of children with Down syndrome and other disabilities access to clothing that fits specific body dimensions and maintains aesthetic appeal. "If nothing else, we hope that our clothes can give these children and their families a sense of confidence and comfort," Sestak said.

The 2017-18 winners of the Entrepreneurial Fellowship grants were the fourth and fifth, respectively. The grant was established with the funding support of **Marc Talluto '94.**



O'Carroll selected for Fulbright Program

Sean O'Carroll '18 has been chosen to represent Illinois Wesleyan University and the United States as a J. William Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Malaysia next year.

O'Carroll will leave for Malaysia in January 2019 and, after a three-week orientation program, will spend 10 months teaching English in a rural Malaysian high school. In partnership with a native Malay-speaking teacher, he will conduct in-class activities as well as extracurricular programs, including an English camp.

"They don't normally have visitors in rural Malaysia, so anything that I can do to help the students learn English or learn more about America is part of my job," O'Carroll said. "Because the Fulbright Program is funded through the U.S. Department of State, I'm a representative of the United States government while I'm over there. And, I need to do as much as I can to help out, because that's the whole mission of Fulbright."

As an Illinois Wesleyan student, O'Carroll gained international business experiences through the IWU Freeman Asia Internship Program, which supports student internships in Asia for two months each summer. Shortly after completing a semester-long study abroad program in Milan, Italy, O'Carroll spent the summer of his junior year as a Freeman Asia intern with the Mizuno Corporation, a Japanese sports equipment and sportswear company led by President and CEO **Akito Mizuno '74**.

"It really opened my perspective in the business world," O'Carroll said when describing his time at Mizuno. "I never really thought about designing shoes, specifically for production three years in the future. As a consumer, you just think about what's out now. So, working in the global footwear department was absolutely incredible because I was able to see Mizuno shoes way back from when it was starting in 1906 to the shoes that haven't even come out yet."

O'Carroll primarily attributed his Fulbright selection to study abroad opportunities. "I wouldn't have gotten it if I didn't have an internship in Japan or if I didn't have experience traveling in Europe when I was studying abroad," he said. "And, that was all thanks to the International Office and people here at Illinois Wesleyan."

O'Carroll is one of more than 1,900 U.S. citizens who will conduct research, teach English, and provide expertise abroad during the 2018-19 academic year through the Fulbright U.S. Student Program. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic and professional achievement along with a record of demonstrated service and leadership potential in their respective fields.



Titan Athletics Report

Glueck wins second national long jump title

Amelia Glueck '18 won her second national outdoor long jump title at the NCAA Outdoor Track & Field Championships, in La Crosse, Wisconsin, May 24, 2018. Glueck, the long jump winner in 2016 when IWU won the national championship, turned in a school-record leap of 19 feet, 10.25 inches.

Teammate **Karly Goodman '18** was second in the javelin, and also placed eighth in the shot put and ninth in the hammer throw, while **Molly McGraw '18** placed eighth in the high jump.

An eight-time All-American in the long jump in her career, Glueck placed second in the event at the NCAA Indoor Track & Field Championships in March 2018, while Goodman placed 15th in the weight throw.

With a 4.0 grade-point average (GPA) majoring in health promotion and fitness management, Glueck received the Elite 90 award for the 2018 NCAA Division III Women's Indoor Track Championship. The Elite 90 award is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative GPA participating at the finals site for each of the NCAA's championships. Glueck was later named to the Google Cloud Academic All-America First Team.

Spring sports teams claim CCIW titles, make NCAA appearances

Completing an academic year when Illinois Wesleyan teams won eight College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin championships, spring sports teams accounted for four of those – men's golf, both men's and women's lacrosse, and softball.

Making its third-consecutive trip to the final round of the national tournament, the Titan softball team advanced deeper in the NCAA Division III Championship than any previous team, finishing as the national runner-up to Virginia Wesleyan University. The program's previous best season came in a third-place finish in 2003. IWU finished with a 40-14-1 record and set team marks for at-bats, runs scored, hits, home runs and runs batted in, en route to winning both the CCIW regular-season and postseason tournament titles, as well as an NCAA regional and super-regional.

Shortstop **Sam Berghoff '20**, who was named the CCIW's Most Outstanding Player, was chosen to the first team, and pitcher **Ally Wiegand '20** was named to the second team, of the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-America squad. Berghoff established new Illinois Wesleyan season marks in hits (78), doubles (21), home runs (13), runs batted in (68) and total



Amelia Glueck '18



Karly Goodman '18



Sam Berghoff '20



Ally Wiegand '20



Rebekah Ehresman '18



Conner O'Neil '18

bases (146), while Wiegand, who was the league's top newcomer, won 19 games and struck out a school-record 229 opponents.

The women's lacrosse team finished with a 16-5 mark to set a program record for most wins in a season and advanced to the third round of the NCAA Division III Tournament before losing to perennial power Middlebury (Vt.) College. **Dani Engelbreit '19** and **Mariah Smith '18** earned first team all-region honors.

The men's lacrosse team finished 16-4, won its second-straight conference title and played in the NCAA tourney for the second year in a row. **J.C. Grabarek '19** was tabbed as the league's defensive player of the year, and **Peter Trunk '21** was named newcomer of the year.

Grabarek and **Grainne Kelly '19** were elected to the Academic All-District at-large teams for men's and women's lacrosse, respectively. Grabarek was later named an Academic All-America Third-Team pick.

After winning its seventh-straight conference title, the IWU men's golf team finished 15th in the 42-team NCAA Division III Championships. **Conner O'Neil '18** earned All-America First Team honors and, for the second year in a row, was a Division III semifinalist for the Jack Nicklaus National Player of the Year Award. **Rob Wuethrich '21**, who was IWU's top finisher in the national tournament, was selected as the winner of the national Phil Mickelson Outstanding Freshman Award.

Titan hoops teams win CCIW titles, compete in NCAA tournaments

In the winter of 2017-18, both IWU basketball teams won CCIW championships and played in national tournaments.

The IWU women's team finished with a 25-4 overall record, went 15-1 in winning the CCIW regular season and tournament, and played in the NCAA Tournament for the second-straight season and the 11th time in program history. Molly McGraw and **Rebekah Ehresman '18** earned honorable mention on the 2018 Division III Coaches' All-America team and Ehresman, who was chosen as CCIW Player of the Year, also earned honorable mention status on the D3hoops.com All-America squad. Ehresman was additionally named to the second team of the Academic All-America team.

After an absence of two years, the IWU men's basketball team played in the 2018 NCAA Tournament, its 25th overall tournament appearance in 35 years of NCAA affiliation. The

Titans finished with a 19-8 record and were 12-4 in the CCIW. Head coach **Ron Rose '88** was selected as co-winner of the league's coach of the year honor.

Awards presented at inaugural senior banquet, Tommy Awards

The inception of three new awards and the presentation of the annual Order of Titans awards to deserving senior student-athletes highlighted the inaugural "Victory With Honor Senior Banquet," held April 30, 2018.

Volleyball's **Kyleigh Block '18** was the winner of the first "Jason Jones True Titan Award," presented to the senior student-athlete who represents the highest character as a member of the Titan athletic community. The award is named for former basketball and baseball standout **Jason Jones '91**, who perished in a plane crash in April 2015.

Also beginning in 2018, two awards were founded to honor the top female and male Order of Titans honorees. Track and field's Amelia Glueck won the initial "Barb Cothren Award," named in honor of longtime IWU coach and women's athletic administrator, while golfer Conner O'Neil was the first recipient of the "Dennie Bridges Award," named for the longtime IWU coach and athletic director.

The seventh-annual State Farm Tommy Awards, sponsored by the IWU Student-Athlete Advisory Committee (SAAC) and State Farm Insurance, presented awards to IWU student-athletes in an array of categories (a la the ESPN "Espy Awards") on April 16, 2018. The winners of the top male and female athlete of the year awards went to football's **Jordan Hassan '18** and volleyball All-American **Tyler Brown '19**. The IWU women's cross country team won the "Academic Team of the Year" honor for top overall GPA and, for the second-straight year, the women's lacrosse team earned the "Do Good Now" award for its dedication to community service.

Titans finish 14th in Learfield Sports Directors' Cup Standings

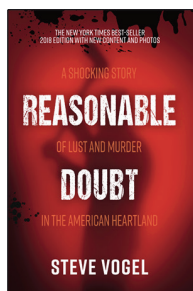
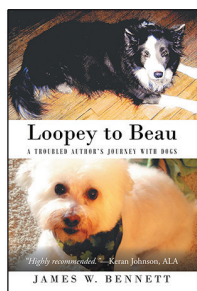
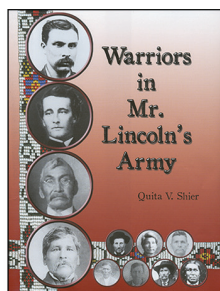
Illinois Wesleyan finished 14th (among 329 ranked schools) in the final 2017-18 Division III Learfield Sports Directors' Cup Standings, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics announced May 31, 2018.

Illinois Wesleyan, the highest-scoring school from the CCIW, finished with a total of 653 points for the year. Points are awarded based on each institution's finish in up to 18 sports (nine women's and nine men's) in Division III national championships. The 14th-place finish is IWU's third best in school history.



(Left) Head baseball coach **Dennis Martel** (left) earned career victory No. 800 in a 7-6 win at Millikin University on April 19, 2018. In 31 seasons, Martel has amassed 805 wins.

Authors and the Arts



BOOKS

James McClarey '58 has authored the book *Judging Jesus: Making Right Judgements About What to Believe*. Rev. McClarey is a retired minister who for many years served as the pastor at First United Methodist Church in downtown Champaign, Illinois. Rev. McClarey said the theme of the book is how Jesus Christ remains relevant today, regardless of ideology. Rev. McClarey is a resident of Primrose Retirement Community in Decatur, Illinois, where he leads a service nearly every Sunday. His book can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Quita (Verban) Shier '60 published *Warriors in Mr. Lincoln's Army: Native American Soldiers Who Fought in the Civil War* in December 2017. The book contains comprehensive profiles of 140 little-known soldiers – enlisted “grunts” – of Company K, First Michigan Sharpshooters, and the reasons why they wanted to enlist to fight a war in a country where they were not even recognized as citizens. The book is available at iUniverse.com and Amazon.com.

James Bennett '64 has published his 13th book, *Loopey to Beau: A Troubled Author's Journey With Dogs*. While most of James' previous works have been fiction, *Loopey to Beau* is a nonfiction and autobiographical book chronicling the author's 40-plus-year struggle with a mental illness, and profiles the many dogs who shared the journey and offered support and comfort. It is widely available.

Steve Vogel '68 has released an updated version of his true crime classic, *Reasonable Doubt*, 35 years after the Hendricks family murder shocked the Bloomington-Normal community and made national headlines. The rereleased version of the *New York Times* best-seller includes new content and photos, and comes on the heels of a national TV show episode about the crime and investigation. *Reasonable Doubt* can be purchased online at www.stevevogelauthor.com.

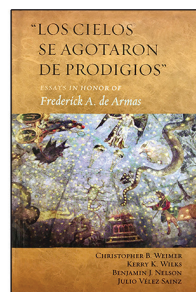
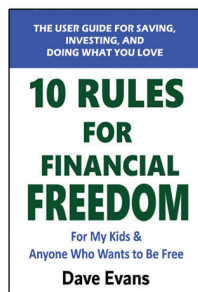
John Herrmann '74 has co-edited the textbook *Beyond One Health: From Recognition to Results*, published by Wiley-Blackwell. John is a clinical associate professor at the University of Illinois, both at the School of Public Health, in Chicago, and College of Veterinary Medicine, in Urbana-Champaign. *Beyond One Health* offers in-depth insight into how our health and the health of every living creature and our ecosystem are all inextricably connected. It can be purchased at Amazon.com.

Dave Evans '84 has published *10 Rules For Financial Freedom: The User Guide For Saving, Investing, and Doing What You Love*. It outlines how to start an emergency fund, cut expenses and debt, save for retirement, develop and follow a simple investing plan, beat Wall Street, avoid large losses, quit the 9-to-5 and do what you love. It is available at Amazon.com.

Benjamin Nelson '99 co-edited *Los cielos se agotaron de prodigios: Essays in Honor of Frederick A. de Armas*, published by Juan de la Cuesta Hispanic Monographs in 2018, which includes his essay “Pilgrimage to the Temple of Diana: Jorge de Montemayor, Merida, and the Septizodium.” It is available at Amazon.com.

David A. Varel '05 has written an intellectual biography of Allison Davis, a pioneering black scholar whose work transformed American social science even as institutional racism marginalized his contributions. *The Lost Black Scholar: Resurrecting Allison Davis in American Social Thought*, published by the University of Chicago Press in 2018, is widely available.

Kristina Mahr '09 had her first novel, *All That We See or Seem*, published in May 2018 by Uncommon Universes Press. *All That We See or Seem* follows 17-year-old protagonist Reeve Lennox who, torn between two lives, struggles to remember what's real ... until night and day collide. The book can be purchased at Amazon.com, and more information is available at www.kristinamahr.com.



FILM

Sandra Steingraber '81 is the subject of the documentary *Unfractured*, which follows her efforts to secure a ban on fracking. Sandra has devoted the past 35 years of her life advocating for environmental protection, and her work has often placed her in harm's way, whether at the hands of Romanian police who pepper-sprayed her after visiting anti-fracking activists, or New York police who arrested her for blockading a gas storage site during a campaign of civil disobedience. All the while, she overcame

hardship in her personal life, after her husband endured a series of strokes. However, in a passionate rally speech, Sandra asserted her commitment to continue the fight against fracking, a practice that threatens the health of the planet and all those who rely on it. “The work we must do to ban fracking is bigger than any one of our individual tragedies,” she declared. “Because we are fighting for everyone's sons and daughters and husbands and families. Because we are fighting for life itself.”



MUSIC

A mashup created and performed by **Lisa Mishra '15** went viral in late May 2018. Lisa blended "Tareefan," the featured track in the Bollywood feature film *Veere Di Wedding*, with "Let Me Love You," by DJ Snake featuring Justin Bieber, to create an acoustic arrangement titled "Tareefan Reprise." After posting it on Instagram, the song reached one of the stars of *Veere Di Wedding*, Sonam Kapoor, who flew Lisa to Mumbai to professionally record the song and produce a music video, featuring stars from the movie's cast. It accumulated more than two million views in its first week on YouTube.

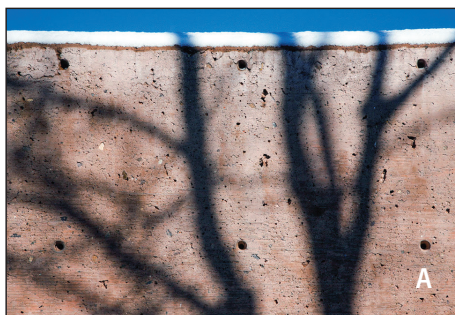
ART

An exhibit of photographs from **Justin Kronewetter '62** (A), *Seen While Looking*, was featured in IWU's Wakeley Gallery Feb. 26 through March 22, 2018. Justin's exhibit brings attention to things that are normally overlooked due to their presumed insignificance – things that are typically "hidden in plain sight." His photographs showcase common things seen in an uncommon way, as he uses tightly-cropped images to focus on one particular object instead of the chaotic everyday environment from which it is derived. His exhibition *Purposeful Looking* was on display at the Crossroads Gallery for Contemporary Art at the University of Notre Dame from May 20 through July 20, 2018. Another exhibition, titled *Seeing With One Eye*, is planned for early 2019 at Allegheny College in Meadville, Pennsylvania.

Spencer Sauter '70 (B) had a piece titled *Chair Over There* accepted into the 23rd annual Arts in Harmony International Show, held at the Hopkins Center for the Arts, in Hopkins, Minnesota, Feb. 15 through March 16, 2018. The piece was later chosen for inclusion in the Special American Swedish Institute Summer Show, in Minneapolis, May 26 through June 24, 2018. Spencer's work was also featured last year in exhibitions in Rhinelander, Wisconsin; Jasper, Indiana; Harrisonburg, Virginia; Elk River, Minnesota; and in a one-man show at Illinois Central College in East Peoria, Illinois. Spencer produces his work from "The Dungeon," the name he affectionately calls his studio. A sampling of his work can be found at www.spennmedia.com.

PERFORMANCES

William Powers '64 (C) offered a vocal recital to a packed house at the Auditorium of Barrington (Ill.) White House on April



15, 2018. Accompanied by Lyric Opera of Chicago Associate Conductor William Billingham, Powers transformed – using on-stage costume and makeup changes before the audience's eyes – into several of opera's most notorious characters, including Leporello, Mephistopheles, Fiesco and Boris Goudinov. Lighter second-half programming included selections from the *Great American Songbook* and many other well-received favorites. A principal guest artist at the Metropolitan Opera of New York, Powers has sung well over 100 leading and supporting roles in major opera houses in the United States, Europe and South America. Widely commercially recorded, with collections and roles available for listening on the labels of CENTAR, CRI, TELDEC and RCA – as well as online at YouTube – Powers has no plans to retire anytime soon. This fall, he will join the Teatro Lirico d'Europa's East Coast opera tour, reprising his role as the evil "Baron Scarpia" from Puccini's opera *Tosca*.

A production of the children's opera *Baobab*, starring students from the Illinois Wesleyan School of Music, was written by **Nancy Steele Brokaw '71** and directed by **Rhys Lovell '87**. The show toured in May 2018, with 46 stops at local schools, the Normal Public Library and the Normal Theater.

Lisa Renee Ragsdale '72 composed string trios in 2013 and 2017, both dealing with the topic of climate change. The works were performed on July 23, 2018, at Throwback Brewery, in New Hampton, New Hampshire. The evening began with a discussion regarding the effects of climate change, and string quartets by Joel Love and David Balakrishnan were also performed at the event co-hosted by the Portsmouth (N.H.) Symphony Orchestra and Throwback Brewery. The event marked the world premiere of all four works.

David Skillrud '76 (D) played several pieces on the piano at the (Bloomington, Ill.) Children's Discovery Museum fundraiser, "Doctors in Concert," April 7, 2018, at the DoubleTree Hotel by Hilton, in Bloomington, Illinois. Dr. Skillrud performed several songs, including selections from *Phantom of the Opera*, at the event held to raise money to purchase supplies for the museum's medical exhibit.

Jim Rupp '80 performed as Arvide Abernathy in the Altarena Playhouse production of *Guys and Dolls*, March 30 through May 5, 2018, in Alameda, California.

(continued on next page)

Authors and the Arts (continued)

Christine McHugh '82 (E on previous page) directed *Flight Plan* by Marguerite Scott, May 10-20, 2018, at the Santa Fe (N.M.) Playhouse. The artistic director at the Santa Fe Playhouse is **Vaughn Irving '06** and, when one of the lead actors dropped out just nine days before the show, Vaughn gamely stepped up to fill in as a replacement. "He's one of the best actors I've ever worked with and I'm sure a lot of that has to do with Wesleyan," Christine said of Vaughn. "Years after I left McPherson and it appears that the talent just keeps getting better."

Deanna (Bantz) Jent '84 is directing William Shakespeare's *The Merry Wives of Windsor* at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, in Bloomington-Normal, in July and August 2018. Deanna has directed at professional theatres throughout St. Louis and has been nominated five times for the Kevin Kline "Best Director" award in St. Louis, winning in 2007 for *Standing on My Knees*. She is the playwright of the Drama Desk Award-nominated play *Falling*, a former *Riverfront Times* theatre critic, former editor of *Christianity and Theatre*, and founder of the Mustard Seed Theatre. Deanna is a professor of theatre at Fontbonne University, where she has taught and directed shows since 1995.

Nikki Savitt '90 is among the 2018 troupe of visiting professional theatre artists performing this summer with the Nettle Creek Players in Hagerstown, Indiana. The visiting artists live in the community for nine weeks as they prepare and present Nettle Creek Players summer stock productions of *Into The Woods*, *Hoosier Harmony* and *Master Cat: The Story of Puss in Boots*, as well as the NCP Young Actors Musical Theatre Workshop.

Illinois Wesleyan was well-represented in a production of Leonard Bernstein's *Candide*, based on Voltaire's satirical tale, in a one-night-only benefit concert at Carnegie Hall in celebration of the Bernstein Centennial. The April 18, 2018, production featured performances from **Kyle Pfortmiller '92** and **Bryonha Marie Parham '07**.

Four IWU alumni performed in a New Music Cafe concert March 8, 2018, at Westbrook Auditorium in Presser Hall. The alumni, all of whom have careers as college professors, performed contemporary art songs. They included pianist **Robert Elfine '97**, bass-baritone **Seth Keeton '98**, cellist **Karl Knapp '00** and soprano **Jamie-Rose (Guarrine) Knapp '00**. Three guest com-

posers also contributed: IWU adjunct instructor **Kyle Shaw**, Bloomington native Edward Breitweiser, and University of Illinois doctoral composer **Will Pearson**, who recently taught at IWU. Rounding out the program was a performance of *Three Songs* by Northern Illinois University professor emeritus Jan Bach, performed by IWU adjunct instructors **Ingrid Kammin** and **Andrew Voelker**.

Nola Richardson '08 (F) took first prize in the Kentucky Bach Choir's 2018 Audrey Rooney Vocal Competition, April 14, 2018, in Lexington, Kentucky. As part of the prize, Nola will return to sing with the Kentucky Bach Choir next season. She later performed with a chorus of Yale Schola Cantorum alumni and Juilliard415, the school's primary period-instrument ensemble, on April 28, 2018,



at Yale's Woolsey Hall. She also performed at: the Washington National Cathedral, in Washington, D.C., with Josh Cohen and ACRONYM (May 10, 2018); the Park Avenue Christian Church, in New York, with the Clarion Orchestra (May 23, 2018); and the Blue Hill Bach Festival, held at multiple locations in Maine (July 26-29, 2018). Other recent performances have taken her to Colorado, Florida and Wisconsin. Nola is pursuing a doctorate in music arts at Yale University.

The MoonSharks, an ensemble of nine veteran Chicago performers including **Lizzie Daniels '12**, performed *An Improvised Play* at Chicago's Steppenwolf Theatre, June 8-9, 2018.

Amanda Vandermeer '14 directed the musical *bare*, by Damon Inrabartolo and Jon Hartmere, Jr., at Many Lights Theatre in Canton, Illinois, in June 2018. *bare* is a rock musical that follows a group of Catholic boarding school students as they grapple with issues of sexuality, identity and the future. It is the first musical to be performed at Many Lights, which is celebrating its 10th season this year.

Aaron Woodstein '15 (G) has written *The Fires of Nero: Rise of a Dictator*, which will be performed at Chicago's Stage 773, Aug. 30 through Sept. 9, 2018. The play tells the tale of an ambitious young man, his respected tutor, his exploitative friends and his domineering mother. The play was adapted from a paper Aaron wrote as a student at Illinois Wesleyan. The production will feature two more IWU alums, in **Sam Mullooly '16** and **Luke McLoughlin '15**, who are serving as composer and music director, respectively. For more information, or to purchase tickets, visit: www.stage773.com/show/firesofnero.

Megan Koch '17 (left) and **Kate Tombaugh '07** (right) (H) performed in the Fort Worth (Texas) Opera showcase *Frontiers* on May 3, 2018, at Bass Performance Hall. Megan sang excerpts from *Mabel's Call*, a new opera by composer-librettist Nell Shaw Cohen. Kate sang excerpts from *Companionship* by Rachel Peters, and *Fordlandia* by composer William Susman and librettist Stuart Rojstaczer. Megan recently finished her first year as a graduate student at the University of North Texas. Kate, who also performed in Fort Worth Opera's *Brief Encounters* April 29 through May 1, 2018, is the founder and executive director of Poco a Poco, a nonprofit summer music festival and vocal training program for high school-aged musicians in her hometown of Streator, Illinois.



carlorobustelli
@carlorobustelli

@IL_Wesleyan students and faculty taking a tour of @Google in Chicago with alums for @IWU_DTE (Design, Technology, Entrepreneurship) May Term.

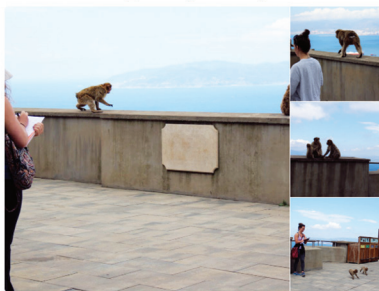


12:59 PM · 16 May 2018



Ellen Furlong
@EllenFurlong1

Lots of great monkey observations today in #Gibraltar! @IL_Wesleyan #MayTerm



12:10 PM · 18 May 2018



We are watching for your #IWUTitanPride posts on social media, so be sure to tag #IllinoisWesleyan!



illinoiswesleyan



@IL_Wesleyan



@IL_Wesleyan

#IllinoisWesleyan

SOCIAL LIGHTS



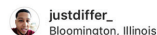
knhardesty13



76 likes

knhardesty13 Congrats!! You did it!! I'm so proud of you

❤️❤️ #illinoiswesleyan



justdiffer_
Bloomington, Illinois



14 likes

justdiffer_ #Congratulations to my Sister-in-law @claww_ for completing the first step to a beautiful life!! Proud of You!!! #collegegraduate #illinoiswesleyan #ThisIsOnlyTheBeginning



Illinois Wesleyan University was mentioned in a post.

Justin Ahrens is attending Entrepreneurship Society Networking Event with Tom Carlson at mHUB Chicago.

May 16 · Chicago · Great Illinois Wesleyan University alumni event with Tom and some guy you may have seen at a Chicago game or two! #GoTitans #Entrepreneurship #alumni



37

1 Comment



Rick Hanna
@rick_hanna

This biking kit (thanks @iwusports) seemed appropriate for #AllInForWesleyan! Day. Help spread the word on social media, and show your support of current and future Titans by making a gift at: iwu.edu/all-in



1:59 PM · 3 Apr 2018 from Arizona, USA



#IllinoisWesleyan Social Lights



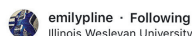
Lisa Mishra
@lisamishra

#TGOE @IL_Wesleyan



Illinois Wesleyan @IL_Wesleyan
Three years before her #TarzanReprise from @vdiwthefilm earned more than 2 million YouTube views in a week, #IllinoisWesleyan alum @lisamishra '15 could be found performing on the IWU campus.

10:33 AM · 6 Jun 2018



emilypline · Following
Illinois Wesleyan University



42 likes

emilypline We're #AllInForWesleyan! Having fun on campus today as we support our IWU students





COMMENCEMENT 2018

Illinois Wesleyan University celebrated more than 400 graduating members of the Class of 2018 during Commencement exercises May 6, 2018, in the Shirk Center.



CLASS OF 2018



(Above) President Eric Jensen presents a diploma to a graduate.
(Left) Crystal Ocampo-Fernandez '18 adjusts her tassel prior to Commencement.





(Above) **Alyssa Marie Canda '18** (left) and **Sally Buabeng '18** (right) share a laugh while preparing for Commencement.
(Right) **Timothy Foszcz '18** touches the Titan pineapple for good luck after receiving his diploma.



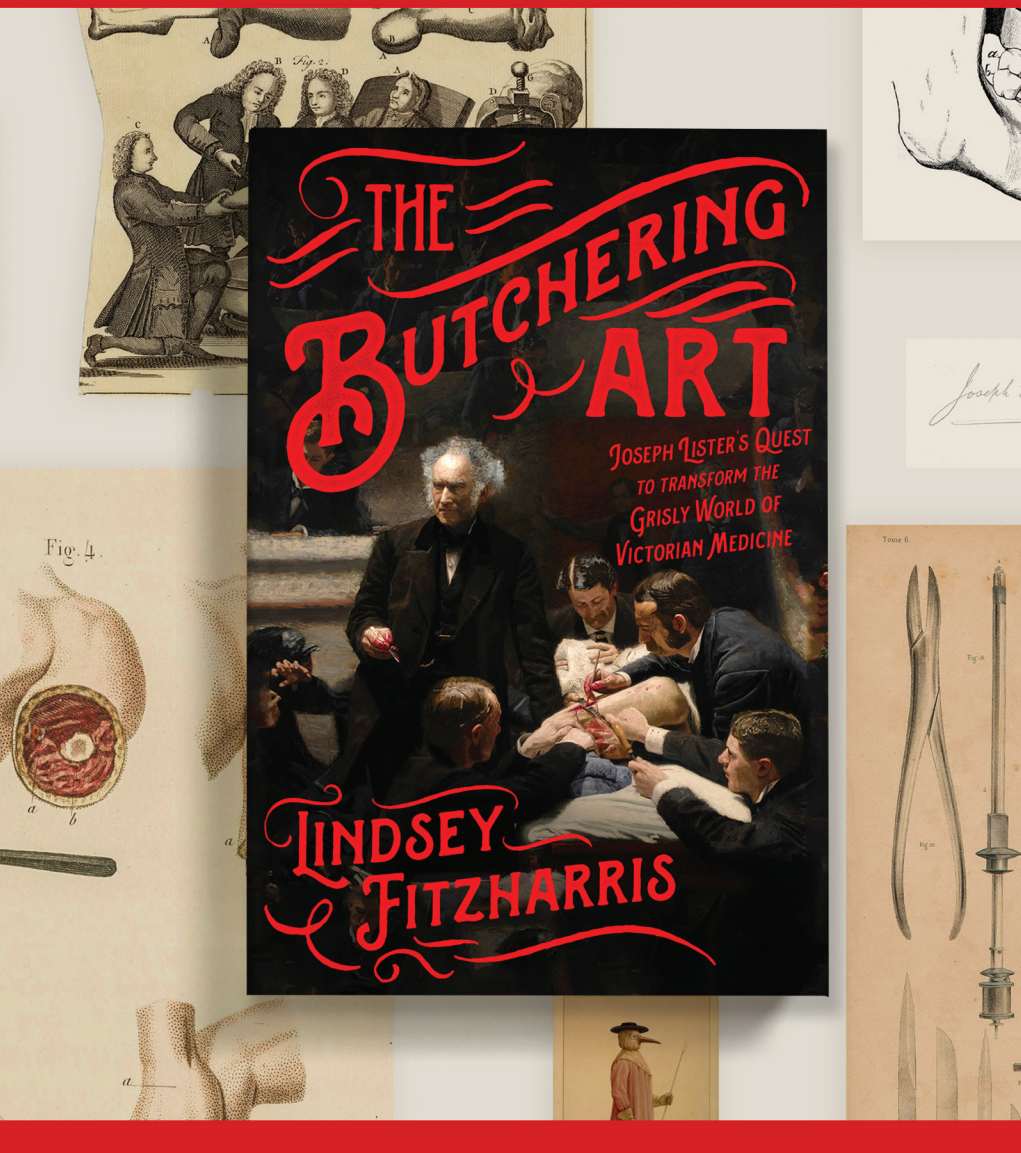
KIRK SCHROEDER '84 (pictured left)

A life science researcher and entrepreneur who has co-founded two life science companies, Schroeder told graduates in his commencement address, "You believe you can change the world, and because of that belief, you probably can."



(Below) **Emani Johnson '18** poses in a 2018 graduate frame.
(Below left) Emeritus trustee **David Gaffron** (left) visits with professors **Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy** (center) and **Nancy Sultan** (right) prior to Commencement.





The most common biographical detail known about Joseph Lister, a majority of the general public will tell you, is that he is the inventor of a popular mouthwash that promises to “kill germs that cause bad breath.”

But they would be wrong.

Though he inspired St. Louis-based doctor Joseph Lawrence to develop Listerine in 1879, the namesake of the product had nothing to do with its conception beyond providing the light-bulb moment for Lawrence.

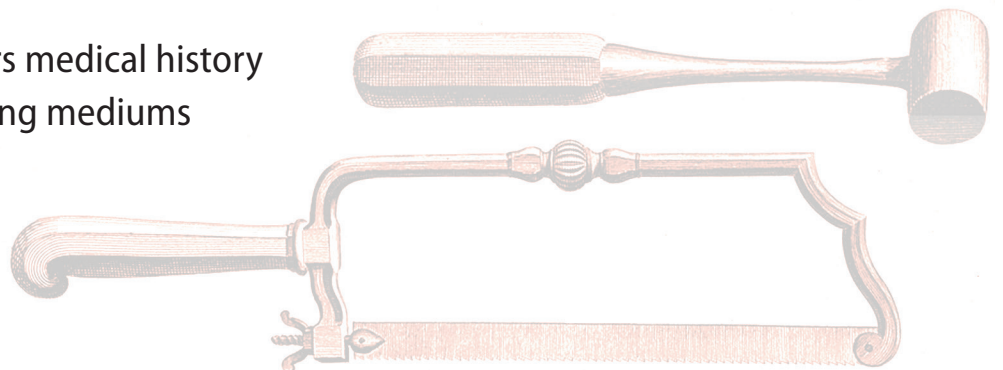
Dr. Lindsey Fitzharris '04 has told Listerine's origin story more times than she can count. The preeminent Lister scholar and author of the critically acclaimed biography *The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister's Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine*, Fitzharris addressed the misconception in her acceptance speech after winning the PEN America/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing for *The Butchering Art* in February.

“Most people only know Lister's name because of the product Listerine, which incidentally he didn't create. It was named for him, but not by him,” Fitzharris explained to the audience at NYU's Skirball Center. “And it wasn't even used as a mouthwash in the 19th

RESURRECTING HISTORY

Lindsey Fitzharris '04 delivers medical history to a wide audience by utilizing mediums both old and new

Story by MATT WING



century. *It was more commonly used as a treatment for gonorrhea.*"

The surprising detail punctuating Fitzharris' explanation, which drew a chorus of laughter from the audience, was characteristic of her style. Whether the audience is readers of her book or her highly popular blog *The Surgeon's Apprentice*, viewers of her YouTube series *Under the Knife*, or her thousands of followers on social media, Fitzharris delivers historical accounts in graphic-but-not-too-graphic detail, driven by suspense and often lightened by humor.

"You hear the phrase 'It's a real page turner,' and her book is certainly that. She has a gripping narrative style," said Robert W. Harrington Professor of History Dr. Michael B. Young, who taught Fitzharris during her time as a student at Illinois Wesleyan and has stayed in touch with his former pupil since her graduation in 2004. "She creates suspense, and you keep reading to find out what is going to happen next."

While she's quickly earning status as a respected historian, Fitzharris considers herself first and foremost a storyteller. It's a career that her mentor Young is not surprised she has thrived in, when he considers the most prominent talent she exhibited as a student.

"As a child, I used to drag my grandmother from cemetery to cemetery 'hunting ghosts.' Some people think I was obsessed with death, but actually I was fascinated by the people who lived and died in the past. I think it's safe to say that I was on the path to becoming a historian from an early age."

— LINDSEY FITZHARRIS '04 (pictured right)

"What do I remember about her the best? She was one hell of a talker. A terrific talker. She could talk your ear off," Young said, smiling widely. "And she's made a career out of it. She's turned that talent into a profession."



How does one develop an interest in medical history that some might politely describe as unique, but others might classify as morbid?

Time spent with her grandmother as a child served as the beginning. Whether she was dragging her grandmother to the cemetery to "hunt ghosts" or poking around the dusty relics cluttering her grandmother's attic, Fitzharris developed an interest in people and things from the past.

"Some people think I was obsessed with death, but actually I was fascinated by the people who lived and died in the past," she said. "I think it's safe to say that I was on the path to becoming a historian from an early age."

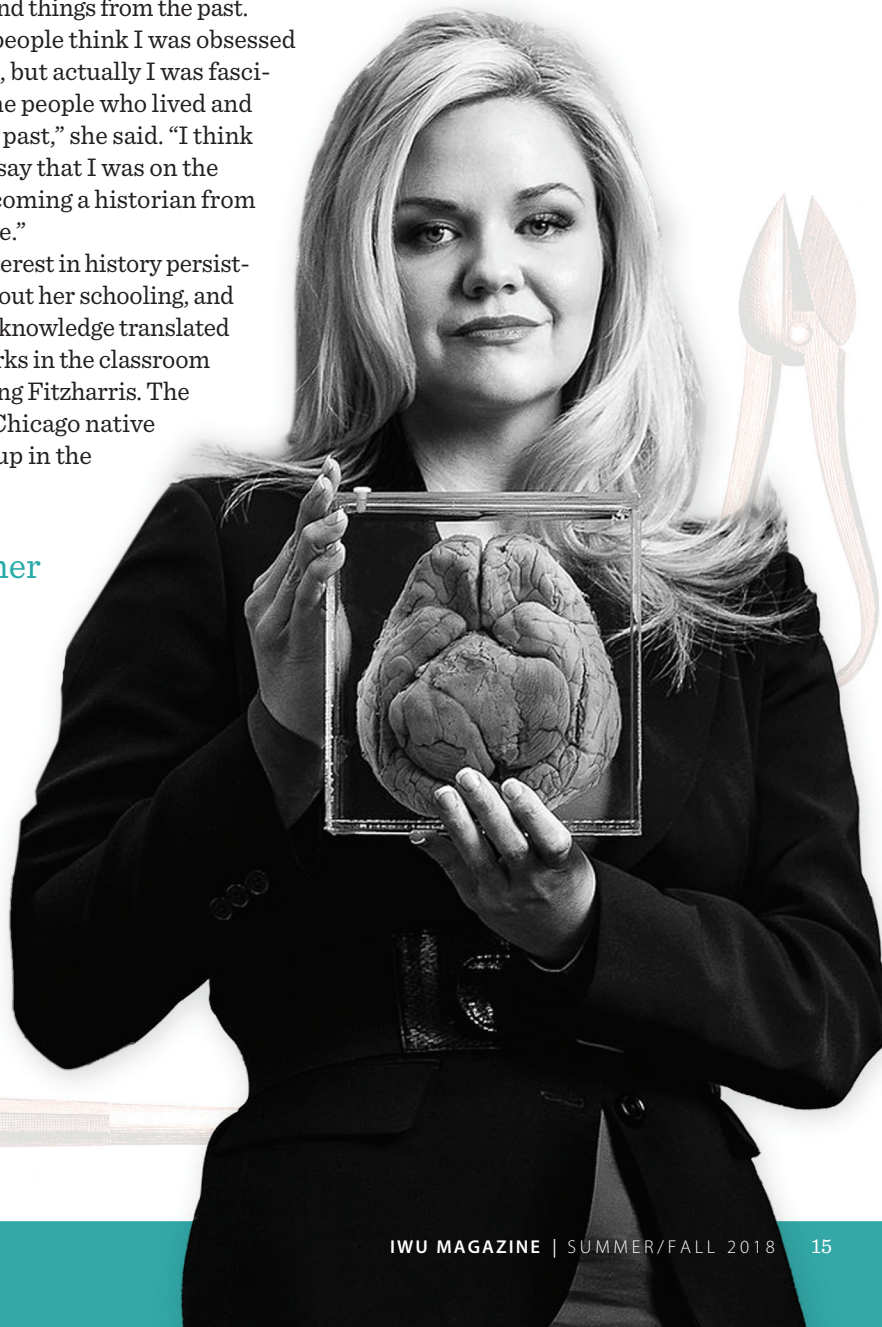
That interest in history persisted throughout her schooling, and a quest for knowledge translated to high marks in the classroom for the young Fitzharris. The suburban Chicago native (she grew up in the

northwest village of Mount Prospect) had been accepted to the University of Illinois and was fully prepared to make the trip downstate to continue her education in Champaign-Urbana.

But a campus visit to Illinois Wesleyan late in her senior year of high school changed things.

"I instantly fell in love with the campus and the small classrooms," Fitzharris remembers. "I knew IWU was the right place for me."

Fitzharris was intent on earning a degree in political science in preparation for law school – she graduated from IWU just one credit short of a political science major – but her academic interests



changed, after inspiration came in the form of a study abroad experience and an inspirational professor.

Fitzharris spent her junior year studying at Oxford University in England as part of the Institute for Study Abroad-Butler program. Immersion in the academic culture at the oldest English-speaking university in the world aroused within Fitzharris that same interest in the past she harbored as a child.

And so did that professor.

As a first-year student at IWU, Fitzharris enrolled in Young's course on the Enlightenment, despite repeated warnings from her peers that it would be difficult and that Young was one of the toughest professors on campus.

"But it was the best decision I ever made," Fitzharris said. "Dr. Young introduced me to the history of science and ideas, and mentored me through my undergrad degree and beyond."

Fitzharris graduated at the top of her class with a history major and political science minor. Her honors thesis, *Magic,*

Mysticism and Modern Medicine: The Influence of Alchemy on Seventeenth-Century England, served as what would now be called a Signature Experience, a comprehensive project representative of one's entire academic experience. Fitzharris' capstone project at IWU showcased her proficiency in research. Her thesis cited 14 primary and 25 secondary sources, and included 79 footnotes.

"What I remember most about that was what little work it required on my part," Young stated. "It's unusual to have an undergraduate student who goes to the sources and finds questions in them. That's one of the hardest things to teach a history student as an undergraduate, to notice what the good questions are, to think of what the interesting angles are to take, and she found the interesting questions and the interesting angles."

"And when she'd come in to talk to me about her research, I just sat back and listened."

Though he often needed only to lend an ear to the "terrific talker" Fitzharris,

Young's guidance ultimately had a profound impact.

"By far, the biggest influence on my career was and is Dr. Michael B. Young," Fitzharris said.



Fitzharris returned to Oxford in 2004 after earning an undergraduate degree at Illinois Wesleyan. She earned master's and doctoral degrees from one of the world's most prestigious institutions of higher learning. She received funding from the Wellcome Trust to conduct postdoctoral research.

But during her postdoc at University College London, Fitzharris began to feel burned out.

"I wanted to fall back in love with history," she said. "I wanted to get back to the stuff that really excited me as a child."

Fitzharris' blog *The Surgeon's Apprentice* was born from that desire to fall in love again. An outlet to flex her creative muscles and share her interests as a hobby, the blog's readership soon surpassed what she thought possible.

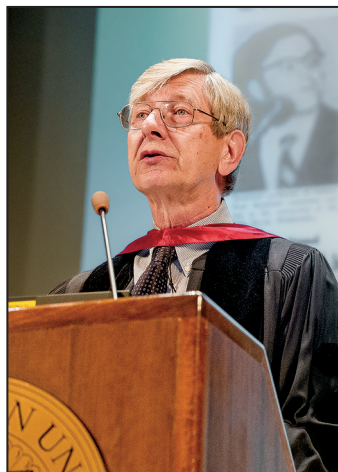
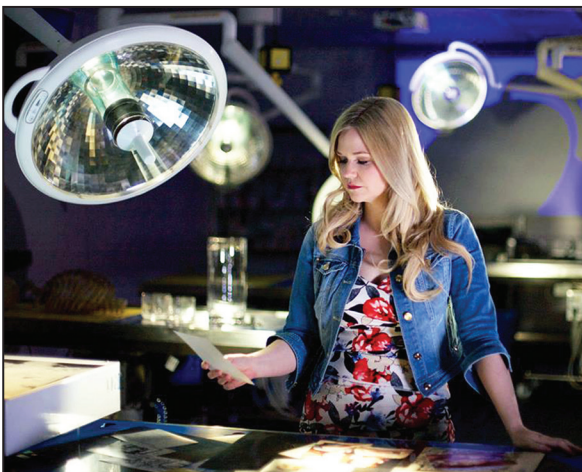
"Before I knew it, I was dedicating most of my time to public engagement," Fitzharris said. "I realized then that an academic career was not for me."

Other mediums have been utilized to reach wider audiences more recently. Her YouTube series *Under the Knife* has over 27,000 subscribers, and its episodes have been viewed more than a half-million times.

Equal parts history and humor, Fitzharris tells the stories behind primitive medical practices and products from bygone eras: dentures made from the teeth of executed criminals, the unusual embalming and burial of Abraham Lincoln, and – in the most-viewed episode to date – Victorian anti-masturbation devices.

Fitzharris was also an early adopter of social media, where she reaches a global audience at the speed of a few keystrokes. Her website (www.drindseyfitzharris.com) states she is a "purveyor of gruesome artefacts" on Instagram, Twitter, Facebook and YouTube. Her social media accounts are peppered with bizarre snapshots of medical history, updates on upcoming projects and cross promotion between her social media channels.

"You hear the phrase 'It's a real page turner,' and her book is certainly that. She has a gripping narrative style. She creates suspense, and you keep reading to find out what is going to happen next." — DR. MICHAEL B. YOUNG



(Above) **Lindsey Fitzharris '04** appeared in an episode of the PBS series *Secrets of the Dead*.

(Above right) Illinois Wesleyan Professor of History **Michael B. Young** served as a mentor for the history major Fitzharris during her time at Illinois Wesleyan.



(Above left) Fitzharris (second from left) is photographed with authors shortlisted for the 2018 Wellcome Book Prize. (Above right) Fitzharris poses with a phrenology head in the most recent episode of her YouTube series *Under the Knife*. (Left) Fitzharris and husband Adrian Teal are photographed before the PEN America Awards in New York City in February 2018. Fitzharris won the PEN America/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing.

The versatile Fitzharris has additionally lent her talents to a number of wide-ranging publications (*The Guardian*, *The Lancet*, *New Scientist*, *Penthouse*, *Huffington Post* and *Medium*) and television networks (PBS, Channel 4, BBC and National Geographic).

"She's popular and well-liked and scholarly, all at the same time," Young said. "There are several celebrity historians in our profession – people who, whether they are academics or not, are read by more than just their colleagues. Sometimes they turn to not just writing

popular books, but television or other media to draw attention to their work.

"And I think Lindsey is well on her way to becoming one of those celebrity historians."



"Have there been failures?" Fitzharris asks, repeating a question. "Absolutely!"

For every success, every positive review, every like on social media, there are often a proportionate number of failures. The highs and lows associated with success and failure impact individuals in every profession, even historians. And problems in one's personal life can easily compound professional shortcomings.

Before her breakthrough moment came in the publishing of *The Butchering Art*, Fitzharris found herself at a low point.

"Several years ago, my ex-husband abruptly ended our 10-year relationship and disappeared," Fitzharris recalled. "As a result, I suddenly found myself facing deportation from a country I had called home for many years. My passport was confiscated, and I wasn't allowed to work while my immigration situation was being decided."

Fitzharris had called England home ever since she returned to pursue her master's at Oxford. The chances of her remaining in her adopted country seemed bleak and dependent on contentious legal proceedings.

"My ex-husband's lawyers painted a picture of me as a failed writer, which was easy to believe since I had no money, no job prospects, and no right to remain in my home," Fitzharris said. "During



those eight excruciating months, I worked on a proposal.”

Her proposal was a pitch to a publisher. A longtime admirer of the pioneering surgeon Joseph Lister, Fitzharris saw Lister as the hero in a story of a groundbreaking medical discovery that changed the way we live. Lister’s ideas were considered radical, and he spent much of his life persuading people that it was germs that caused so many deaths following surgery.

The climate of skepticism and doubt he faced was overwhelming. But the visionary Lister persevered. He lived just long enough to see the concept of antiseptic surgery accepted by the medical community.

“My intention when I set out to write *The Butchering Art* was to ensure that Lister’s name would become just as familiar to people as those of Sir Isaac Newton, Charles Darwin and Marie Curie,” Fitzharris said. “Lister revolutionized surgery and made safe procedures that had been perilous for centuries.

“I wanted to honor his legacy by writing this book.”



Building a cult following can gain one a certain level of notoriety – fame even. But it seldom pays the bills.

The Butchering Art has paid some of those bills. And it’s ushered Fitzharris into the mainstream.

The book sold out on Amazon’s U.K. website within 24 hours of its initial release and has sold approximately 70,000 copies in the U.S. and U.K. in its first six

(continued on page 20)

HOUSES OF DEATH

What a charming task, to sit quietly down in the apartment and take apart this master-piece of workmanship; to call each piece by its proper name; know its proper place and work; to wonder over the multitude of organs pressed together, so diverse in operations, yet each executing its appointed task in the grand confederation.

—D. HAYES AGNEW

A HALO OF LIGHT from a gas lamp illuminated the corpse lying on the table at the back of the room. The body had already been mutilated beyond recognition, its abdomen hacked away by the knives of eager students who afterward carelessly tossed the decomposing organs back into the gory cavity. The top of the cadaver’s skull had been removed and was now sitting on a stool next to its deceased owner. The brain had begun to degrade into a gray paste days before.

Early in Lister’s medical studies, he came face-to-face with a similar scene at UCL. A central walkway split the dingy dissection room in half, with five wooden tables on either side. Cadavers were left with their incised heads hanging over the edges, which caused blood to gather in congealed puddles below. A thick layer of sawdust covered the floor, making the deadhouse disconcertingly quiet to those who entered it. “Not a sound could be heard even of my own feet ... There was only that dull and rolling sound of the traffic in the streets which is peculiar to London, and which came dismally down through the ventilators in the roof,” a fellow student observed.

Although UCL and its hospital were still relatively new in 1847, its dissection room was just as grim as those found in older institutions. It harbored all kinds of horrible sights, sounds, and smells. When Lister sliced into the abdomen of a cadaver—its recesses turgid with a thick soup of undigested food and fecal matter—he released a powerful mixture of fetid smells that would cleave to the inside of the nostrils for a considerable time after one had quit the scene. To make matters worse, there was an open fireplace at the end of the room, making it unbearably stuffy during the winter months when anatomy lessons commenced.

Unlike today, students could not escape the dead during their studies and often lived side by side with the bodies they dissected. Even those who did not live immediately adjacent to an anatomy school carried with them reminders of their gruesome activities, because neither gloves nor other forms of protective gear were worn inside the dissection room. Indeed, it was not uncommon to see a medical student with shreds of flesh, gut, or brains stuck to his clothing after his lessons were over.

The cadaver tested the courage and composure of anyone who dared set foot inside the deadhouse. Even the most seasoned dissectors could find themselves in pulse-quickenning situations from time to time. James Marion Sims—an illustrious gynecological surgeon—recalled a terrifying incident from his student days. His instructor was performing a dissection by candlelight one evening when he accidentally knocked loose a chain that was wrapped around the corpse and anchored to the ceiling above the upper end of the table.

The cadaver, pulled by the weight of its own lower limbs, “jerked to the floor in the upright posture” with its “arms forcibly thrown over” the dissector’s shoulders. Just then, the candle, which had been resting on the dead man’s chest, sputtered out, leaving the room in total darkness. Sims was astounded by the sight of his instructor calmly taking hold of the body under its arms and placing it back on the table, before remarking that if it had been up to him, he’d have left the dead man to the force of gravity.

For the uninitiated, the dissection room was a waking nightmare. The French composer and former medical student Hector Berlioz jumped out of a window and ran home, later recalling that it was “as though Death himself and all his grisly band were hot on my heels” the first time he stepped into a dissection room. He described an overwhelming feeling of revulsion at the sight of “the limbs scattered about, the heads smirking, the skulls gaping, the bloody cesspool underfoot,” and “the repulsive stench

Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine (excerpted)

of the place." One of the worst sights, he thought, was of the rats nibbling on bleeding vertebrae and the swarms of sparrows pecking at the leftover scraps of spongy lung tissue. The profession was not for everyone.

But for those wishing to continue with their degrees, there was no avoiding the dissection room. Far from viewing it as repulsive, most students ultimately embraced the opportunity to carve up the dead when the time came to commence their anatomical lessons, and Lister was no exception. There was a centuries-old battle between reason and superstition: a chance to shed light where there was still scientific darkness. Within the medical profession, the anatomist was often hailed as an explorer boldly traveling into regions that had been largely unknown to the scientific world only half a century earlier. One contemporary wrote that through dissection, the anatomist "forced the dead human body to disclose its secrets for the benefit of the living." It was a rite of passage through which one gained membership in the medical fraternity.

Little by little, students began to view the bodies set before them not as people but as objects. This ability to divorce oneself emotionally came to characterize the mind-set of the medical community. In *The Pickwick Papers*, Charles Dickens describes a fictional but entirely credible conversation between two medical students on a frosty Christmas morning. "Have you finished that leg yet?" asks Benjamin Allen. "Nearly," replies his colleague Bob Sawyer, "it's a very muscular one for a child's ... Nothing like dissecting to give one an appetite."

Today, we disparagingly call this apparent coldness clinical detachment, but in Lister's day it was described as a necessary inhumanity. The French anatomist Joseph-Guichard Duverney remarked that by "seeing and practicing" on dead bodies, "we lose foolish tenderness, so we can hear them cry, without any disorder." This was not simply a by-product of medical education. It was the goal.

As medical students became desensitized, they also became irreverent—much to the public's horror. Pranks in the deadhouse were so common that by the time Lister entered medical school, they had become a mark of the profession. Harper's *New Monthly Magazine* condemned the jet-black humor and indifference toward the dead that pervaded the dissection room. Some students completely overstepped the bounds of decency and used the rotting body parts of their allotted cadavers as weapons, fighting mock duels with the severed legs and arms. Others smuggled entrails out of the room and secreted them in places where they would shock and horrify the uninitiated when discovered. One surgeon remembered curious spectators visiting the dissection room when he was a student. These outsiders wore double-breasted jackets and often received in their tail pockets free donations of available appendages.

It wasn't all frivolity. Cutting open dead bodies also carried with it many physical risks, some of which were fatal. William Tennant Gairdner, a professor at the University of Glasgow, addressed an incoming class with this dire message: "Not a single session has passed over our heads since I was appointed to my office among you, that has not paid its tax of life to the great Reaper, whose harvest is always ready, whose sickle is never weary."

Jacob Bigelow—professor of surgery at Harvard University and father of Henry Jacob Bigelow, who later witnessed William T. G. Morton's operation with ether—also warned future medical students about the poisonous effects of a slight wound or crack in the skin made by the dissecting knife. These so-called pinprick cuts were a fast way to an early grave. The dangers were always present, even for the most experienced anatomists. Death was often inescapable for those trying their hardest to prevent it.

The living, in the form of diseased patients, were also taking a toll on those on the front line of medicine. Mortality rates among medical students and young doctors were high. Between 1843 and 1859, forty-one young men died after contracting fatal infections at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, before ever qualifying as doctors. Those who succumbed in this manner were often eulogized as martyrs who had made the ultimate sacrifice in order to advance anatomical knowledge. Even those who survived often suffered some sort of illness during their hospital residencies. Indeed, the challenges were so great for those entering the profession that the surgeon John Abernethy frequently concluded his lectures by uttering bleakly, "God help you all. What will become of you?"



(Above) Fitzharris signs copies of *The Butchering Art* at a stop on her book tour in New York City in November 2017.

For the uninitiated, the dissection room was a waking nightmare. The French composer and former medical student Hector Berlioz jumped out of a window and ran home, later recalling that it was "as though Death himself and all his grisly band were hot on my heels" the first time he stepped into a dissection room.

Excerpt from *The Butchering Art: Joseph Lister's Quest to Transform the Grisly World of Victorian Medicine* by Lindsey Fitzharris. Copyright © 2017 by Lindsey Fitzharris. Reprinted by permission of Farrar, Straus and Giroux.

(continued from page 18)

months. That number is expected to jump when *The Butchering Art* is released in paperback on Oct. 2, 2018, and Fitzharris' publisher is expecting a bigger sales boost than usual for a nonfiction paperback. By the end of 2018, the book will have been released in Czech, German, Italian, Mandarin, Polish, Portuguese, Spanish and Russian language editions.

Fitzharris' story of a protagonist who overcomes odds and determinedly seeks to make the world a better place has resonated with the general public – even those who thought Lister was just a guy who invented mouthwash.

Fitzharris' ode to Lister has been hailed by critics. *The Butchering Art* was nominated for and won the PEN America/E.O. Wilson Prize for Literary Science Writing earlier this year, accompanied by a \$10,000 award (IWU was well-represented at the awards ceremony, as fellow alum Dave Kindred '63 earned the PEN America/ESPN Lifetime Achievement Award for Literary Sports Writing). Fitzharris' debut book was also shortlisted for the Wellcome Book Prize and the Wolfson History Prize, recognizing outstanding works in the fields of medicine and history, respectively.

The Butchering Art has gained traction in general circles as well, outside the niche interests of science, medicine and history. Fitzharris dutifully promoted her work through her blog, web series and social media channels. She supported the book's October 2017 release with U.S. and U.K. book tours, during an appropriately macabre time of year; her promotional stop in Washington, D.C., near the end of her stateside tour, took place on Halloween.

Maintaining wide appeal, however, requires a delicate touch when the main action in your story is comprised of dissections, amputations, and even an instance of medical students mock dueling with severed arms and legs as their weapons of choice.

"By its nature, medical history can be gruesome. I don't feel that I'm doing the doctors and patients justice if I hold back from describing what it was really like in the past," Fitzharris said. "At the same time, I don't want to be insensitive,



(Above) Fitzharris and husband Adrian Teal wed in a ceremony at the Tower of London in September 2017.

and it's always important to remember that these were real people."

Fitzharris also strikes a balance between academic and popular history writing. Her biography of Lister is scholarly in its examination of a historically relevant figure, yet it maintains a wide appeal because of Lister's underappreciated genius and his relatable struggle for acceptance.

"Some academics don't see a value in what I do, but the past doesn't belong to scholars alone. It belongs to everyone," Fitzharris said. "My hope is that I can bridge the gap between academia and popular history, and open up new and interesting subjects to a curious public. In order to do this, I have to find imaginative ways to engage non-specialists with medical history."

A Butchering Art has served as a breakthrough for Fitzharris. She says it's been "rewarding, but also very exhausting," as she's spent much of the past year traveling to promote her work.

Her professional and financial situations have improved as a result of the success but, ever the historian, Fitzharris

is most proud of her work's achievement in "shining a light on Lister's legacy."

Fitzharris' personal life is better than ever, too. She never was deported and has continued to make her home in the English countryside. She recently married illustrator and cartoonist Adrian Teal in a ceremony at the Tower of London, a historically significant English landmark befitting the wedding of a historian. "It was magical," Fitzharris said.

And she and Teal are partners, both domestically and professionally. Before they were a couple, they collaborated on several projects, most notably *The Hung & Drawn Quarterly*, an illustrated comic strip drawn by Teal featuring gruesome stories told by Fitzharris and Chris Skaife (who possesses the very unique real-life title of The Ravenmaster at the Tower of London).

Teal also played a critical role in *The Butchering Art*, and Fitzharris expects him to continue contributing in much of her work moving forward.

"Before anything gets sent to my publisher, he is always the first to read

and comment on my manuscript, and he's a fantastic editor," she said. "On a personal note, it's been wonderful being with someone who understands the pressures I face as a freelancer, since Adrian himself has been a freelance cartoonist for 21 years.

"He's incredibly talented, both as an artist and writer, and I hope we get to collaborate on more commercial projects in the future."



The Butchering Art has been on shelves for almost a year and Fitzharris is still on the publicity circuit. Another wave will come in October when it's released in paperback form.

More and more frequently, though, she's asked the burning question: What's next?

She's not entirely sure, but there are a few projects in the works. She recently traveled to Los Angeles to meet with interested parties to explore the possibility of adapting *The Butchering Art* into a feature film. "Hollywood is unpredictable, but I would be delighted to see this story come to life on the big screen," Fitzharris said.

She also recently announced the subject of her next book, which pays homage to another physician, like Lister, whose pioneering work addressed a widespread medical problem.

Harold Gillies, who united art and medicine to treat soldiers who had suffered horrific injuries in World War I, is known as the father of modern plastic surgery. Charged with treating soldiers injured during a time when technological advances in weaponry by far outpaced military tactics and medical capability,

Gillies performed procedures that not only restored function, but also helped individuals reclaim their identities.

Gillies' work treating wounds from machine gun and mortar fire, and skin-piercing shrapnel, required first-of-their-kind surgeries in a field that has grown exponentially since its inception. The American Society of Plastic Surgeons estimates nearly 1.8 million cosmetic surgical procedures were performed last year domestically.

"Gillies was presented with the seemingly impossible task of reconstructing entire faces with no textbooks to guide him and no mentors to consult for advice," Fitzharris said. "Working closely with a team of artists, Gillies did not just strive to restore function to his patients, many of whom could not breathe, swallow, or eat efficiently because of the damage to their faces. He was determined to give them back their identities as well. His life-saving techniques are a testament to the true meaning and power of a field of medicine many view as superficial, or even frivolous.

"I've long been inspired by Gillies' work, and I hope my readers will find this story just as fascinating as I do."



Even with a new book and a potential screen adaptation of her debut work being considered, new ideas continue to percolate within Fitzharris. As much as anyone else, Michael Young is curious what will come next from his former student.

The IWU professor, who will soon begin his 49th year of teaching, wishes he kept better tabs on his former students. He blames himself for not being as accessible

as he could be; his aversion to Facebook has eliminated perhaps the easiest way for former students to reach out. He'll occasionally receive news from former students to prompt moments of nostalgia, but it doesn't happen as often as he'd like.

"It's gratifying to know how some of our students turned out, but I wish I knew more," he said.

Young remembers one particular student who had the very specific career aspiration of working for one of the premier auction houses.

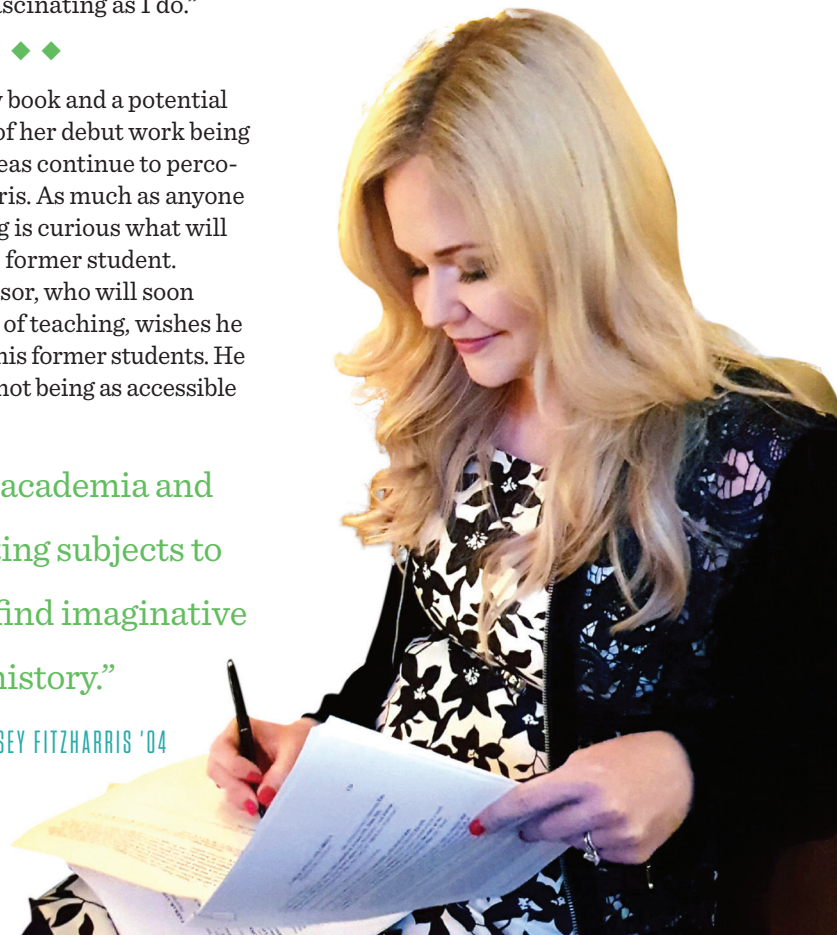
"I've thought about her a lot lately," Young says. "Did she succeed? Is she at Sotheby's? Is she at Christie's? Did she make it to Leslie Hindman up in Chicago?"

Young isn't sure he'll ever know. He is sure, however, that he'll keep tabs on his former student Lindsey Fitzharris ... and that it won't be too difficult to do so.

"I'll certainly be following her career, but I don't think it'll be much of a mystery. I think she'll pop up without me having to do much searching," Young said, smiling again. "I expect great things from her, and I hope this is just the beginning of a sterling career." ♦

"My hope is that I can bridge the gap between academia and popular history, and open up new and interesting subjects to a curious public. In order to do this, I have to find imaginative ways to engage non-specialists with medical history."

— LINDSEY FITZHARRIS '04



POSSE POWER

Story by MATT WING

Illinois Wesleyan University's campus is 838 miles from Bourbon Street, but for some first-year college students from New Orleans, it might as well be the distance to the moon.

The culture. The climate. The food. It's all so different it can feel like another planet.

So when a student from the Big Easy seeks to blaze a trail toward a college education in an unfamiliar locale, it's helpful to have a friend or two – or 10 – sharing the experience.

That's the premise on which the Posse Foundation was established. The non-profit organization identifies and recruits high school students with leadership potential from 10 U.S. metropolitan areas and matches groups of 10 students with its 56 partner colleges and universities.

Illinois Wesleyan became one of those schools when a partnership with the Posse Foundation was launched two years ago. Inspired by a student who said, "I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me," the Posse Foundation found both its name and its purpose when it began in 1989.

The organization counts 8,480 scholars and alumni among its ranks. Each Posse Scholar earns a full-tuition scholarship

to the institution with which he or she is paired. Partner colleges have awarded more than \$1.2 billion in scholarships to date and, beyond the scholarship commitment, provide weekly faculty mentoring and other support.

Nationally, Posse Scholars graduate at a rate of 90 percent. Most are leaders on campus. Eighty percent of 2017 graduates were officers of a campus organization. One in five served as a student government president. Notable Posse alumni include the president of Ithaca College, the general manager of the NBA's Cleveland Cavaliers and the press secretary for Elizabeth Warren's 2018 reelection campaign.

Illinois Wesleyan announced in 2016 that it had signed on to partner with the Posse Foundation with initial funding provided by a five-year, \$375,000 grant from the Tortora Sillcox Family Foundation. IWU was paired with Posse New Orleans, one of the newest Posse expansion sites, established in 2011 in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

"Increasing access, diversity and our geographic reach are key goals that this new partnership with the Posse Foundation will help us accomplish," IWU President Eric Jensen said when announcing Illinois Wesleyan's affiliation with the Posse Foundation.

(Right) Members of Illinois Wesleyan's inaugural class of Posse Scholars pose for a picture at a Mardi Gras celebration in the Memorial Center's Dugout, on Feb. 9, 2018. Members of the group are from the New Orleans area and played key roles in the organization of the event.

Supporting one another has been key to the success of Illinois Wesleyan's first class of Posse Scholars



The partnership signaled a clear investment in recruiting students from a population unfamiliar with Illinois Wesleyan and providing access to traditionally underrepresented students.

“They represent the diversity that you would see in any group of people,” IWU Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students Karla Carney-Hall said of IWU’s first class of Posse Scholars. “They are diverse in terms of race and ethnicity, in terms of personality, in terms of introverts and extroverts, in terms of majors and the things they’re interested in, and in the ways they approach problem solving, with some landing on the creative side, and some more analytical, and then everyone in between.

“They represent that broad range.”

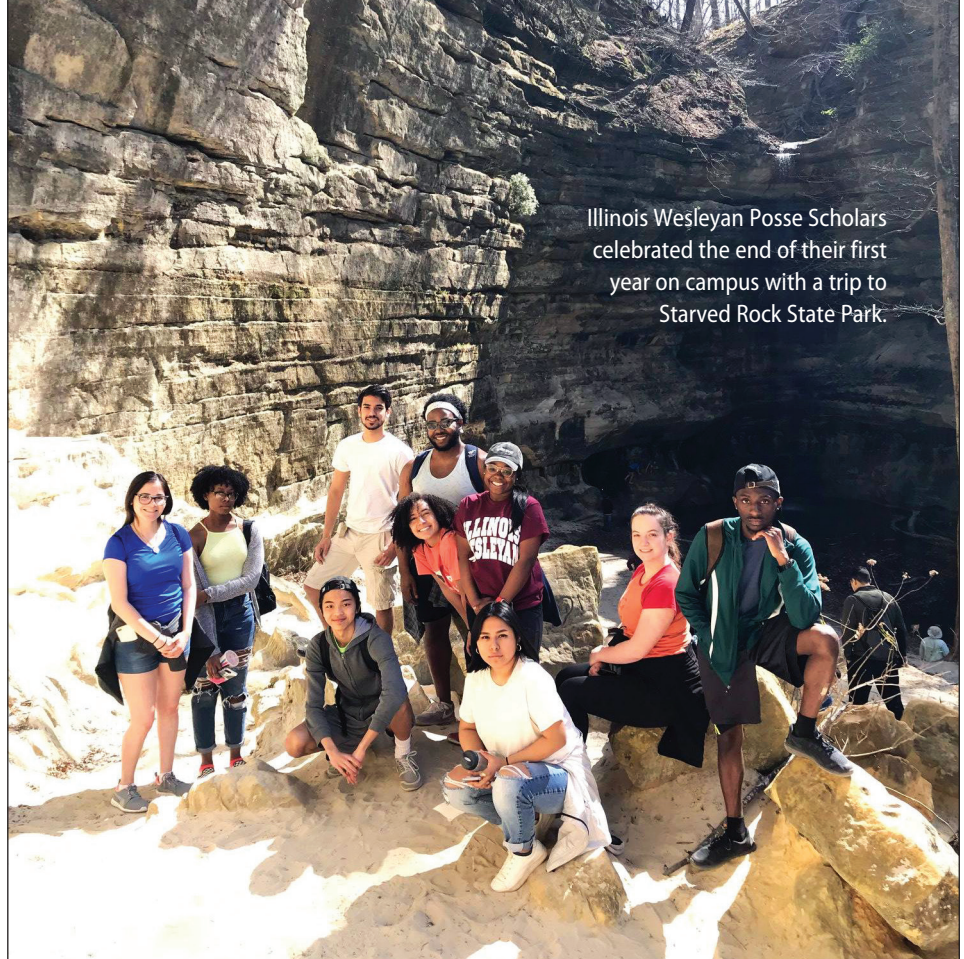
The first cohort of Posse Scholars – known internally as Illinois Wesleyan Posse 1 – began their academic studies at IWU in the fall of 2017, but their path to Illinois Wesleyan started much earlier.

Thousands of nominated high school students compete for Posse Scholarships each year, and the Posse journey begins with the Dynamic Assessment Process, a three-part assessment that includes large-group and individual interviews, to identify future leaders who may have been missed by traditional admissions criteria but possess the qualities to thrive at a selective college or university.

Once selected as a Posse Scholar, students then undergo eight months of pre-collegiate training, beginning in January of their senior year of high school. Weekly workshops bring the Posse cohort together with staff trainers and focus in four areas: team-building, cross-cultural communication, leadership and academic excellence.

“It was to make sure we were aware of social things that happen on college campuses, to prepare us for college life in general and that shift from high school to college,” said Que Jackson ’21, a member of IWU’s inaugural Posse cohort.

The bonds built between Posse members begin during the pre-collegiate training sessions. By the time the group arrived on IWU’s campus in August, they were truly a “posse.”



Illinois Wesleyan Posse Scholars celebrated the end of their first year on campus with a trip to Starved Rock State Park.

Inspired by a student who said, “I never would have dropped out of college if I had my posse with me,” the Posse Foundation found both its name and its purpose when it began in 1989.

“Posse definitely knew what they were doing when they put us together,” said Shaela Phillips ’21. “I feel like all our personalities are all so different, but they mesh together in a beautiful way.”

Beyond the preparation provided by Posse’s national and local arms, Illinois Wesleyan faculty and staff members offer further support. Carney-Hall serves as the group’s campus liaison, while IWU Associate Professor and Chair of Sociology and Anthropology Meghan Burke serves as the inaugural cohort’s faculty mentor.

Carney-Hall is the point person relaying information between IWU and Posse staff, and coordinating campus visits. Burke leads weekly workshops with the Posse Scholars and meets with students individually every other week in her mentorship role.

“Karla and Meghan are tremendous resources for us on campus,” Jackson said. “They have a direct ear to the

heartbeat of the campus, so it’s good to have that source of knowledge. If you have a problem or a question you can go to them and they’ll be able to help you.”

Acclimating to life as a first-year college student is difficult for everyone – even with eight months of pre-collegiate training. Some Posse Scholars fought homesickness. Others struggled academically. Some needed help branching out beyond the comfort zone of the group. Some needed help on all fronts.

For Phillips, an admitted introvert, Burke became a trusted advisor.

“She was a real support system for me,” Phillips said. “She encouraged me and told me to use office hours, telling me not to be scared to go, because I really was scared to go at first.

“And she was just there for me. She’s kind of been like a second mother.”

More times than not, though, support came from within the posse itself. When

one student struggled, others quickly came to the rescue.

“They’re a very close-knit group,” Burke said. “They have a lot of fun together, but they also really meaningfully support each other in a lot of ways beyond that, too.”

Several events throughout the academic year helped strengthen bonds between Posse Scholars. The Posse Plus Retreat, a weekend of workshops designed to address campus and nationwide issues, brought together Posse Scholars with IWU faculty, staff, administrators, trustees and members of the larger student body.

This year’s theme of “Hope, Hate and Race in the United States” spurred conversations on issues of diversity and social justice, and how they relate to our campus and community.

“I think people left feeling a sense of community, and mutual commitment to one another, and a deep commitment to moving the conversation forward,” Carney-Hall said.

Other events and gatherings of Posse Scholars throughout the academic year reinforced connections, perhaps none more so than an on-campus Mardi Gras celebration.

Wanting to celebrate the essential New Orleans tradition despite being hundreds of miles from home, Posse Scholars stepped up in the organization of the event. Students met with the Sodexo staff and sampled dishes to ensure things were just right.

Jackson, one of the lead organizers, attested to the importance of the test run.

“We got to do a tasting and really told them what was good and what wasn’t,” Jackson said. “We didn’t want people to have a misrepresentation of what the food is like back home.”

Turnout for the event exceeded what anyone would have predicted and, in addition to having a taste of home, the Mardi Gras event allowed Posse Scholars to share their culture with others.

“I was really, really proud of them for organizing that event,” Burke said.

“It came off great and it was a really fun night.”

Burke was equally pleased with her end-of-the-year exit meetings with the Posse Scholars. All 10 students finished the 2017-18 academic year in good academic standing and all 10 will return to campus in 2018-19.

And the longer the group has been together, the more they’ve grown.

“It’s been a really special thing to witness,” Burke said. “I was doing end-of-year reflections with each of them before they left campus this spring, and they all said a line that echoes the Posse Foundation origin story, that they don’t think they would have been successful without each other, that they really have each other’s backs, and that they challenge each other.”

A new Posse cohort – IWU Posse 2 – will report to campus in August 2018. During the Dynamic Assessment Process and selection last winter, IWU officials were so impressed by the candidates that an exception was made and 11 students were chosen for the group.

Members of IWU Posse 1 will be around if members of the new class have questions, but both Jackson and Phillips insisted that support should come primarily from within the group.

“I think that’s what made our posse so strong, being here by ourselves and having no one but ourselves in the beginning,” Phillips said. “That allowed us to become a strong group and a strong posse.”

Even in the infancy of IWU’s partnership with the Posse Foundation, the early returns have been extremely positive. Professors who have had Posse Scholars enrolled in a class, administrators who have met them on the quad, and fellow students who may have enjoyed a bowl of jambalaya at a Mardi Gras event have unanimously agreed – Illinois Wesleyan’s campus is a better place with a Posse presence.

“They are going to leave their mark at Illinois Wesleyan, there’s really no question for me about that,” Carney-Hall said. “And not just through the formal, structured ways that Posse has them leaving their mark, but in really helping the campus be who they need to be.

“And we all get better because of that, and I think that’s important.” ❖

“I feel like all our personalities are all so different, but they mesh together in a beautiful way.” — SHAELA PHILLIPS ’21



(Above) Posse Scholars attended Illinois Wesleyan’s annual Unity Gala, an event co-sponsored by the Black Faculty Staff Association, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, and cultural student organizations, on March 3, 2018, at the Hansen Student Center.

Story by MATT WING

The classroom Jamie Blumberg '19 reported to each morning for a week last August was unlike other educational settings. No desks. No blackboards. No walls.

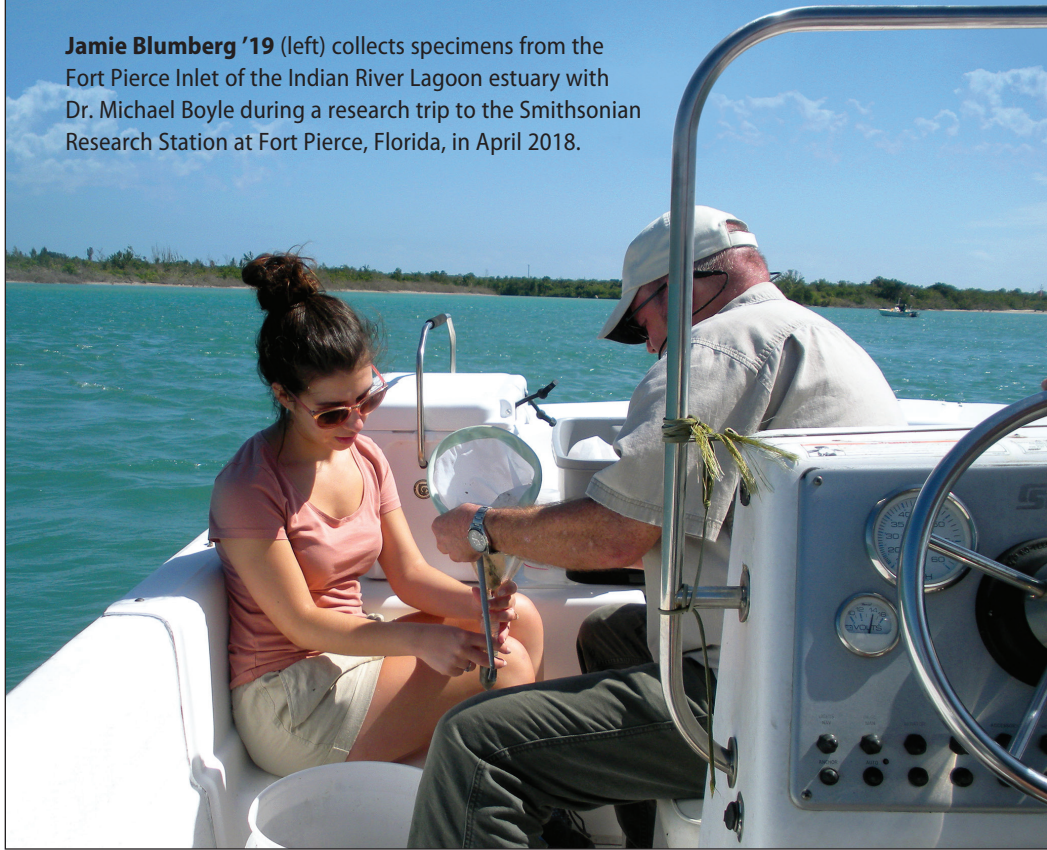
This was no typical classroom.

Warmed by the late summer sunshine and with a coastal breeze filling her nose with a smell most people associate with the ocean (most times it's actually seaweed they are smelling), Blumberg's college campus this week was the Smithsonian Marine Station (SMS) at Fort Pierce, Florida.

Her classroom? The Atlantic Ocean.

Joined by IWU Professor of Biology Will Jaeckle, Blumberg was on her second of three such research trips to the SMS. The IWU contingent had flown to Florida's Atlantic Coast to take part in STREAMCODE, a joint project of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History's Department of Invertebrate Zoology and the

Jamie Blumberg '19 (left) collects specimens from the Fort Pierce Inlet of the Indian River Lagoon estuary with Dr. Michael Boyle during a research trip to the Smithsonian Research Station at Fort Pierce, Florida, in April 2018.



An Ocean of OPPORTUNITY

Smithsonian Marine Station's Life Histories Program. A talented group of researchers, with wide-ranging expertise, had converged on the SMS to study the diversity of life in the Gulf Stream.

All three of Blumberg's SMS expeditions have provided immersive marine research experiences, in many ways embodying what the University has come to call a Signature Experience – a capstone project encompassing the totality of a student's IWU education.

"You learn a lot of good things in the classroom, but it's very different to be hands-on and to be experiencing those things and seeing them through a microscope yourself," Blumberg said. "It's a very valuable learning experience when you're at the SMS."

Jaeckle has been studying planktonic invertebrates at the SMS since the early 1990s. With its direct access to the

Research trips to the Smithsonian Marine Station have provided Jamie Blumberg '19 with experiential learning opportunities to help launch a career in science

Atlantic Ocean and Indian River Lagoon, first-class research facilities and convenient on-site living quarters for visiting researchers, the SMS is an ideal spot to take students.

And like an expert angler who knows all the best fishing holes, Jaeckle knows just when and where to go to begin the collection of samples. He's taken students to the Bahamas and done field research in Antarctica, but the SMS offers a prime location for faculty-student research.

"I have a pretty good sense of which animals will be available and how to get the specimens we need, so it's a place where I feel really comfortable, in terms of being

able to get the materials that the students need to do their work," he said. "There are a great number of uncertainties that are eliminated by working at the SMS. It's an easy place to work, the animals are really nice, and I know it really well. It's a safe place for me to take students."

Though the focus of each expedition varies, the processes of collecting, examining and cataloging remain constant. And every time a net is cast into the ocean or one peers through a microscope, the potential for discovery is very real. That's why Jaeckle, Blumberg and other scientists return to the SMS each year to continue their research.



(Left) Members of the STREAMCODE research team (from left) **Stephanie Bush '02**, **Jamie Blumberg '19** and IWU Professor of Biology **Will Jaeckle** pose on the balcony of the Tyson House, the living quarters for visiting researchers. (Above) Blumberg (foreground) was joined by fellow Illinois Wesleyan students **Ian Taylor '18** (left) and **Morgan Flynn '18** (right) on a research trip in April 2017.

Blumberg said her experience working with Bush helped her see the real-life steps to advance from an undergraduate to graduate school to an internship to a full-time job as a working scientist.

“Even for me after all these years, there’s the possibility of seeing something new,” Jaeckle said. “There’s the possibility of learning something new.”

That type of curiosity helped steer Blumberg into the sciences. She started her college journey at the University of Alabama, where she worked in a laboratory studying mutant strains of yeast as a model for cancer cells and looking at various mutants’ resistance to cancer drugs. But Blumberg, who was homeschooled from the second grade through high school, grew increasingly homesick during her first year. She also wasn’t being challenged academically. Earning an A+ in honors biology seemed far too easy.

Transferring home to Illinois Wesleyan University was an easy decision.

And if there was any doubt she had made the right decision, it was quelled when she met Jaeckle.

“On the first day he asked me what I was interested in, and I told him I was interested in viruses,” Blumberg

recalled of her first exchange with the IWU professor. “He was like, ‘Oh, I’ve got something for you!’”

Blumberg and Jaeckle devised a research topic that combined her interest in viruses with his interest in invertebrate animals. But beyond the development of the topic, Blumberg has taken total ownership of the ongoing research.

Blumberg’s attention to detail has helped produce clean results as she asks and answers questions through experimentation. Also aiding in the process is her genuine sense of curiosity. Like her professor, she enjoys the thrill of the hunt.

“She is curious,” Jaeckle said. “And she seems to enjoy the process as much as the results of that process.”

It helps if a scientific researcher can enjoy the journey as much as the destination. Individuals don’t make groundbreaking discoveries every day, so being able to enjoy the day-to-day work is essential.

But one day last year while Blumberg was conducting research in an on-campus

(Above) A cerinula larva of a cerianthid sea anemone collected from the Indian River as seen through a microscope.



lab, she noticed something interesting when she looked at a specimen through her microscope. She quickly called Jaeckle over to confirm her finding.

“He said, ‘Jamie Blumberg, you are the only one in the world right now who knows that this unicellular organism ingests viruses,’” Blumberg said, recalling the breakthrough moment. “That discovery was something I learned that I could share with the rest of the world.”

That sharing of new information with the scientific community and the interconnectedness of the discipline are reasons why people like Blumberg and Jaeckle are drawn to science. Each discovery helps us better understand the world we live in and, in turn, holds the potential to inspire future discoveries.

This cycle is perhaps best explained using Jaeckle's analogy where each discovery is a brick.

"So we are all adding bricks, but the question then is: does it make a wall, or is it just a pile of bricks?" Jaeckle posed. "Each one represents a discovery, but what is important is how all the individual bricks come together to create a whole."

The research Blumberg and company conducted during STREAMCODE, and in other research trips to the SMS, is an attempt not only to produce more bricks, but to organize those bricks into a structure, something with a sum greater than its parts.

Bringing together scientists with varying areas of expertise is vital for projects like STREAMCODE. Having Blumberg and Jaeckle, and their experience in identifying invertebrate larvae, and a host of others ranking as authorities in very specific fields, are what make projects like STREAMCODE work.

"There are so many people who have dedicated their lives to study so many different things, and when you get them together you're amazed that someone could tell you exactly what jellyfish you're looking at when everything looks the same," Blumberg said. "All you can hope for is that someday you're the person to share a piece of that puzzle for someone else."

"And that's what I loved about those trips."

Among the experts on hand to take part in STREAMCODE was a scientist who was once in Blumberg's shoes. In a "small world" moment, Blumberg and Jaeckle worked alongside Stephanie Bush '02, an IWU alum and former biology major who has gone on to study invertebrates, with an emphasis in cephalopods.

When she scanned the list of STREAMCODE attendees in an email detailing the project, she was elated to see a name she recognized.

"I was like, 'Oh my gosh, Will Jaeckle!'" Bush remembers thinking.

Though she hadn't been taught by Jaeckle at Illinois Wesleyan, Bush had been acquainted with the professor. She had a similar experience to Blumberg, having worked closely with the late professor Susie Balser (see obituary, page 38),

who helped steer her toward a study abroad opportunity in Australia and a May Term marine biology course that included travel to the Great Barrier Reef.

Balser later tipped Bush off to an internship at the Monterey Bay Aquarium Research Institute, where Bush eventually earned a full-time position. She is now a member of the Smithsonian National Museum of Natural History Invertebrate Zoology Staff.

While working with Jaeckle and Blumberg, Bush saw a little bit of herself in Blumberg.

And Blumberg saw a little bit of herself in Bush.

"I could tell immediately she was a hard worker and she was always enthusiastic," Bush said. "It was really great to have her there."

Blumberg said her experience working with Bush helped her see the real-life steps to advance from an undergraduate to graduate school to an internship to a full-time job as a working scientist.

"Working with her was great because you could see what happens after you graduate from IWU. She went on to grad school, she's traveled the world on her different expeditions, and she's so

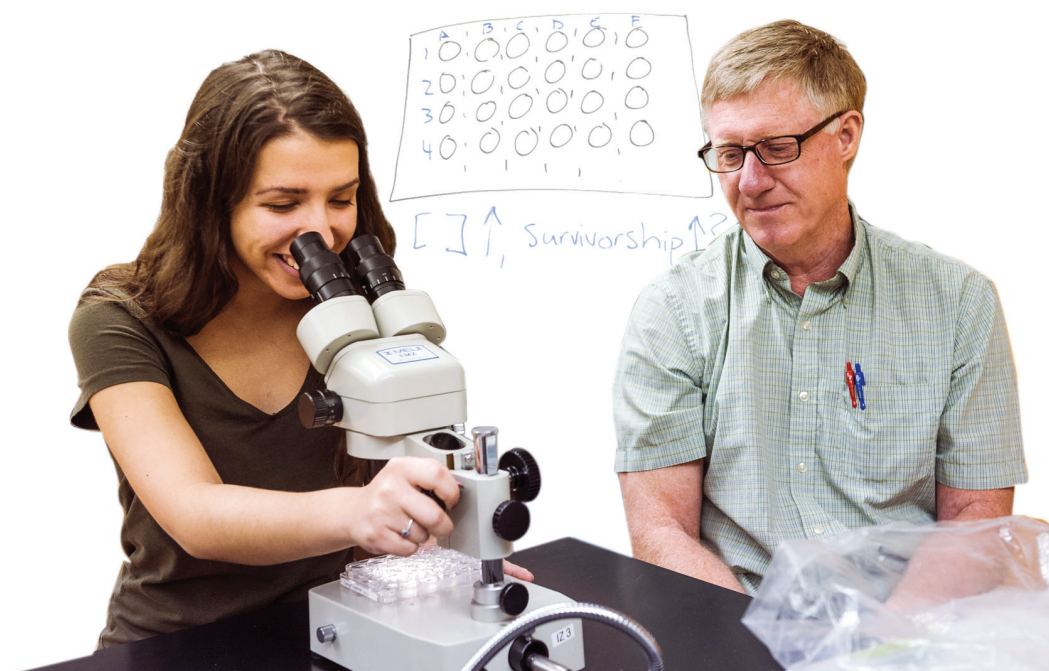
knowledgeable in her field," Blumberg said. "STREAMCODE was just us sorting everything we could find, and so if I found something and I didn't know what it was, and it was something Stephanie worked with, she was able to identify it and show me what it was, and that was very helpful."

Blumberg isn't quite sure what her next step will be after she graduates in December 2018. She got married over the summer and, after she graduates, is planning to work in a lab in Peoria, Illinois. Grad school will most likely follow.

What comes after that is up in the air, but whatever it is, Blumberg thinks she'll be ready.

"I feel really prepared, especially for grad school or whatever I'm going to do afterward, even if it's just working in a lab, because I've been really challenged here at IWU," she said. "I've also been given the opportunity to develop skills that I can use to solve problems on my own, and I can think critically about things, design experiments and implement them."

"I feel more confident and independent since coming here, and I think that has a lot to do with the environment that I've been working in since I got to IWU." ❖



(Above) Jaeckle checks in with Blumberg as she continues an independent research project the two devised, combining her interest in viruses with his interest in invertebrate animals.

Friday, October 5 – Sunday, October 7

Celebrating 100 years of alumni and friends
returning to campus for Homecoming.

Remembering the reunions, music,
football games and all the events
that have made this weekend special.



Highlights include:

■ ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY: *BEST OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN*

Join President Jensen and the Alumni Association Board of Directors as we honor our distinguished roster of 2018 Alumni Award Winners, the new Golden Titans from the class of 1968, and others from the Titan Community.

Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge

■ BACK TO COLLEGE CLASSES

Topics include: History of Haiti, Saint John's Bible, Advances in Medical Technology, Political Unrest of 1968 and more.

The Ames Library, Beckman Auditorium

■ REUNION WEEKEND

Honoring and celebrating milestone reunion classes with special celebrations for the graduation years of 1968, 1973, 1978, 1988, 1993, 1998, 2008, 2013 and 2018. Reconnect with your classmates through special class events. **Visit iwu.edu/reunion**



#IWU_CenturyofCelebration

#IWU_HC18

iwu.edu/homecoming

(888) IWU-ALUM



ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



TITAN TAILGATE

Celebrate your Titan Spirit with friends and family. Local food trucks will be available for food and beverage purchases. New this year: a Milestone Reunion tent will be available for alumni celebrating milestone reunions. *Shirk Center Parking Lot*

CLUB TOMMY

All are welcome to this annual event. Enjoy a DJ, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, all for just \$20. This event is perfect to meet up with friends and classmates. Milestone Reunion gatherings for the classes of 2008, 2013 and 2018 will take place here. *Hansen Student Center * New location this year!*

OTHER EVENTS INCLUDE

Titan pep rally and games, pancake/sausage breakfast, family fun on the Quad, alumni career panel, departmental receptions, IWU archives museum, historical campus tour, football game (IWU vs. Carthage), all-campus chapel service **and much more!**

For a complete schedule and registration, please visit www.iwu.edu/homecoming or call (888) IWU-ALUM for more information.



Recipients of the 2018 Alumni Awards will be honored during a Friday evening reception at the Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge.

2018 Distinguished Alumnus Award

Steve Doran '79 is an oral surgeon in Bloomington, Illinois. He is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan and SIU School of Dental Medicine, and completed his oral surgery residency at Cook County (Ill.) Hospital. His activities in the Illinois State Dental Society (ISDS) include participation with local dentists in the Gary S. Johnson '71 free extraction clinic twice per year and participation in four ISDS Mission of Mercy clinics. In 2011, he received the ISDS President's Award for outstanding contributions to the dental profession. He has also twice received the McLean County Dental Public Health Award. Steve's passion is overseas mission work; he has made 12 oral surgery mission trips to Haiti and Honduras since 2011. He presently serves on the boards of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal and John Scott Health Services. Steve is a proud member of the Alpha Iota Sigma Chi fraternity and is a former board member of the Illinois Wesleyan Associates. He and his wife Joy, a retired IWU piano instructor, have provided generous financial support and summer employment for many IWU students.



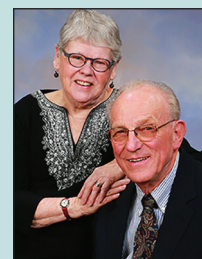
2018 Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumnus

Debo Olaosebikan '06 is the chief technology officer and co-founder of Gigster, a smart software development service that combines top freelance developers and designers with automation tools. Gigster builds software for a stable of top enterprise clients including Staples, Airbus and MasterCard, and is backed by Andreessen Horowitz, Redpoint and Y-Combinator. Debo came to IWU from Nigeria as a Presidential Scholar at 16, taking junior-level physics courses by age 17. In the IWU chapter of the Society of Physics Students, he was "the one" to turn to with difficult challenges. Debo was inducted into Phi Beta Kappa and was named the IWU Anderson Scholar for 2005-06. In 2005, he worked on theoretical/computational frameworks for analyzing experimentally observed transitions in spin transfer devices at IBM. Debo went on to graduate work in physics at Cornell University, working in the nanophotonics group on light-matter interactions, electro-optics and non-linear optics. He was the Cornell representative in a collaboration with MIT, Stanford and Caltech, to build the world's first electrically activated silicon laser, a project supported by \$6 million in grants. Debo has since demonstrated his dedication to promoting education through a variety of scholarships and educational opportunities for students in Nigeria, including CATCH AFRICA, a scholarship competition for secondary school students.



2018 Loyalty Award

John and Pat (Lashbrook) Jordan graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1957 and 1959, respectively. While students, both chaired the Religious Activities Commission of the student government and were active in other organizations. John was state president of the Methodist Student Movement and served on its national committee. He was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship and, after graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, he studied politics, philosophy and economics at Oxford University. He then earned a graduate degree in divinity from Drew University. While living in New Jersey, Pat went on to earn a master's degree and taught for 15 years. She served as president of the Education Association, was active in Citizens for Public Education, and also served as the district reading specialist. The Jordans lived in Teaneck, New Jersey, while John worked for the United Methodist Church, but later returned to Illinois, where he served as the Executive Director of the University of Illinois YMCA. John joined the IWU Board of Trustees in 1992 and has served on many committees, including the committee for re-accreditation. Since retiring in 1999, the Jordans have visited over 20 countries and much of the U.S. Both have served on committees at Wesley United Methodist Church at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. They served as emcees for the Golden Titans homecoming dinner in 2017 and have been loyal supporters to the University through their donations and service.



Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1960s

Members of Sigma Chi from the classes of 1960 through 1964 met in the Chicago area in Fall 2017 to celebrate more than 55 years of brotherhood and friendship. Those in attendance included **Val Lecas '60, Garr Becker '61, Emil Ludy '61, Charles Hawker '62, Justin Kronewetter '62, Don Roth '62, Ron Zehr '62, Dave Adams '63, Brad Handley '63, Bob Janssen '63, Curt Tobin '63, Craig Rabiega '64** and **Bill Rapp '64**.

1961

On the 50th anniversary of Martin Luther King Jr.'s assassination, **Dennis Groh, Richard Muirhead '66** and Illinois Wesleyan University archivist **Meg Miner** recalled King's visits to IWU in a segment on radio station WILL, on April 4, 2018. Dennis is a former IWU chaplain who chaired the committee that brought Dr. King to campus in 1961. Richard was the student senate president and a senior when Dr. King visited in 1966.

Emil Ludy is a player-coach for the Illinois Ice adult ice hockey team that competed at the 2018 USA Hockey Adult Men's Recreational Nationals at Florida Hospital Centre Ice in Wesley Chapel, Florida, April 19-22, 2018. The Illinois Ice took second place in the 70+ Tier 2 Division.

1962

James Proctor Brown, III presented a lecture, "Understanding African Art," to the Torch Club of South Hampton Roads in January 2018. In March, he was presented with the Moultrie Guerry Award for the best paper of 2016-17, for his work, "Kenya: An Historic Safari." He has also been interviewed by WTVZ-TV for a story on the history of the Peace Corps, along with some personal experiences.

1977

Theatre alum and prolific character actor **Kevin Dunn** returned to campus to

visit former mentor **John Ficca** and to see IWU's stage production of *Xanadu* on April 10, 2018.

1978

Carol Brandt, wealth management advisor at Merrill Lynch, was recognized by *Forbes* as a "Best-in-State Wealth Advisor," in 2018. Carol is based in Chicago.

1979

Cheryl Emmons received the Lucille Thies Personal Achievement Award at the Manteno (Ill.) Historical Society's annual banquet on April 22, 2018. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Dr. Emmons earned her medical degree from the University of Chicago. She completed residency in internal medicine at the University of Iowa, where she stayed on for an extended nephrology fellowship. She continued her research as an assistant professor at UCLA and the University of Cincinnati. She has been in private practice in Mt. Vernon, Illinois, since 1999.

1982

Michael Huth has retired from State Farm Insurance, in Bloomington, Illinois, after 33 years of service.



Kevin Dunn '77 (left) and John Ficca

1986

After 28 years of service in the brain injury rehabilitation field, **Darcy Kriegsman** retired from NeuroRestorative (formerly the Center for Comprehensive Services), in Carbondale, Illinois, in 2016. In retirement, Darcy has kept busy traveling with family, dancing Zumba, filmmaking and participating in community theatre.

1988

Gail Gaboda, a former *Argus* features writer and copy editor, conducted a design workshop for *Argus* staff during the spring semester. She showed the staff how to create eye-catching layouts using advanced features of Adobe InDesign software. Gail is currently editor and designer for Town Square Publications, a division of the *Daily Herald*, based in Arlington Heights, Illinois. "It was a delight to meet the current generation of talented, passionate journalists and to see the *Argus* office and its spirit hasn't changed since I graduated," she said.

Lora (Biddle) Wey has been appointed assistant vice president of strategic philanthropy at Ringling College of Art and Design, in Sarasota, Florida. She was most recently executive director of annual giving and director of development for Milner Library, and served as interim executive director of alumni relations at Illinois State University.

1993

Angela (Behrens) O'Bryant was named a clinical associate faculty member and director of academic programs at Illinois College of Medicine, in Peoria, Illinois, in March 2018. Angela works with medical students in their clinical experiences and develops community health sites for medical students and residents.

1994

Jason Mierek was promoted to director of operations for the Humanities Without Walls consortium, headquartered at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

1996

Eric Doolittle has been the chaplain at North Central College in Naperville, Illinois, for the past four years. A profile published in the *North Central Chronicle* stated that Rev. Doolittle has “connected with the North Central community with a belief in uniqueness and inclusivity.”

Ambika Kumar is the founder of Barcelona Wine Tastings, a multifaceted business started in 2015, focusing on distribution of small batch production wines throughout Europe and the United Kingdom, wine list development for hotels, restaurants and private collectors, and exclusive wine tasting events around the world. She was recently featured in an interview in *Barcelona Metropolitan* magazine.

Michele Thornton obtained her Ph.D. in health policy and administration from the University of Illinois at Chicago in December 2017. She has accepted a position as an assistant professor in the School of Business at the State University of New York at Oswego.

1997

Jason Drengwitz was named the head football coach at Normal (Ill.) Community High School on March 12, 2018. Jason has been an assistant coach at the school for 14 seasons, and offensive coordinator for the past 10. He has been a business teacher at the school for the past 14 years.

2000

Otis Carter serves as general counsel for TriMark USA, the country’s largest provider of commercial food service equipment and supplies, based in South Attleboro, Massachusetts. He is currently pursuing his MBA at The Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania. When not busy with work or school, Otis and his wife Molly are kept occupied by three sons active in youth hockey.

Attorney **Ryan Jumper** has been selected to serve as an associate judge in Illinois’ Third Judicial Circuit, serving Madison and Bond counties.

Burke Nihill was recently promoted to vice president and general counsel of the National Football League’s Tennessee Titans. He has served as general counsel to the Titans since 2016. Burke manages the team’s legal affairs, including contract negotiation and management, labor and employment issues, intellectual property



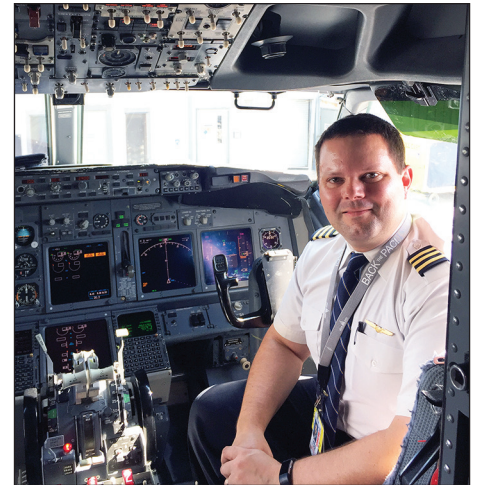
Burke Nihill '00 and family



Ambika Kumar '96



Gail Goboda '88 (back row, second left) visits the Argus



Christopher Olson '00

{SEND} your news to *IWU Magazine*, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702, iwumag@iwu.edu, or via our website, at: www.iwu.edu/magazine.

concerns, and real estate and construction matters. Burke and his wife **Holly (Munch) Nihill** live in the Nashville area with their three children.

Christopher Olson was hired to fly with United Airlines in March 2015. He took his first flight lesson in 1997 and has been flying commercially since 2001. Chris is based out of Chicago/O’Hare International Airport and pilots the Boeing 737. He resides in Evergreen Park, Illinois, and is married to **Stephanie (Seale) Olson '01**, with two children, Aaron and Julianne.

Eric Weil is a pediatrician at Our Lady of the Lake Children’s Hospital Pediatric Development and Therapy Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Eric primarily cares for children with ADHD, developmental delays, learning disorders, anxiety, and depression, among other diagnoses.

2001

Danielle (Blomarz) Kays, of the law firm Seyfarth Shaw, was among the organizers of a summit on employment

law on April 17, 2018. Danielle, who often represents employers, told radio station WGLT the worldwide #MeToo movement “has made these claims public and it’s important to talk about these issues.” The #MeToo movement and similar issues were topics the McLean County Bar Association, McLean County Chamber of Commerce and the Bloomington-Normal Human Resource Council explored at the summit, held at the Old Main Room of Illinois State University’s Bone Student Center.

2002

Luke Tripodi has been appointed senior vice president and business development officer for PNC Business Credit, with responsibilities for private equity and direct origination in the Minnesota and Chicago markets. Tripodi joins the organization from BMO Harris Bank, where he spent the past 10 years, most recently serving as vice president for BMO’s asset-based lending group.

(continued on page 32)

Alumni Notes (continued from page 31)

2003

Brendan Hendrick earned a doctorate in school psychology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. His dissertation explored evidence of student talk in small group reading comprehension interventions as a part of an Institute of Educational Sciences (U.S. Dept. of Education) three-year grant. His current work is centered on school-based mental health service coordination and supporting tiered intervention implementation efforts at the elementary school level.

Chris Silagi has been hired as assistant superintendent of student services for Community Unit School District 200, serving DuPage County, including the suburban Chicago communities of Wheaton and Warrenville, as well as portions of Carol Stream, Winfield and West Chicago. Chris had served as the principal at Wheaton Whittier Elementary for the past eight years.

2004

Paul Mysliwiec has joined Burford Capital as corporate counsel. He was previously a corporate partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where he focused on the formation, management and operation of private equity and real estate funds. He began his career at Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, where he advised on mergers and acquisitions, fund formation and other corporate transactions.

Abby Reel is spearheading efforts to rebuild a theater space for the Conklin Players in Goodfield, Illinois. Construction began in June 2018. Dubbed the Barn III, the new space will replace the group's former Barn II home, which was destroyed by a tornado in 2015. Several members of the troupe are IWU alums and a number of current IWU students are interning at the Barn III. Abby left her position in IWU's Hart Career Center this spring to pursue the venture full-time. In addition to hosting performances, the space will also be available for weddings, community functions, fitness classes and other events.

2005

Chris Haran is joining Midwest Real Estate Data as its chief technology officer, having previously served as vice president of field operations for real estate franchise Coldwell Banker.

Jon Mladic has been appointed to the role of professional development director on the College Reading & Learning Association Board of Directors. Jon serves as the dean of library and learning services at Rasmussen College.

2006

Adam Miller represented Illinois at the USA Curling Mixed Nationals, held March 23-31, 2018, in Lakeville, Minnesota. Miller's team, which includes his wife Sara Gaum, was formed in 2015. The team finished the round robin in 10th place, missing the playoffs, but left nationals determined to return in 2019.

Katie Salo served as a member of the selection committee for the 2018 Caldecott Medal, which went to Matthew Cordell for *Wolf in the Snow*. Four other books were also honored. The Caldecott Medal was named in honor of 19th-century English illustrator Randolph Caldecott, and is awarded annually by the Association for Library Service to Children, a division of the American Library Association, to the artist of the most distinguished American picture book for children.

Steve Schweer was named the head men's basketball coach at Illinois College on April 23, 2018. A former member of the IWU men's basketball team, Steve has been an assistant coach at Lakeland College, North Park University, Monmouth College and, most recently, North Central College.



Jon Mladic '05



Adam Miller '06

2007

Emilee Bocker operates a rural family medical practice in Amboy, Illinois. Dr. Bocker was featured in a profile in *AgriNews*, a publication covering topics that affect farm families and their businesses, in May 2018.

Charlene Carruthers served as the graduation keynote speaker for the (Bloomington, Ill.) Multicultural Leadership Program on April 28, 2018, at Illinois State University's Bone Student Center. Charlene has been recognized as one of the most influential African-Americans by *The Root* 100, one of *Ebony Magazine's* "Woke 100," and an "Emerging Power Player" in *Chicago Magazine*. She was named IWU's 2017 Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumna.

Steve Groetsema, of Bridge Development Partners Midwest Region, was recognized among *Commercial Property Executive's* "Stars to Watch," as one of the industry's top 10 professionals under 40.

Shannon O'Rourke Kasali participated in the 2018 Rotary Peace Fellow Retreat in Nepal, May 21-24, 2018. She was one of 10 from an applicant pool of over 300 to be selected. The retreat united a small, focused cohort of peace fellows and peace fellow alumni to analyze, discuss, and develop courses of action related to key issues within the peace and conflict resolution field. The retreat was conducive to focused reflection and open discussion, while allowing peace fellows time away from the day-to-day rigors of their demanding work, academic courses and research responsibilities. The theme for the 2018 Rotary Peace Fellow retreat was, "How to Build a Healthy, Happy, and Productive Team in Conflict, Disaster, and Demanding Development Situations."

All submitted content received by June 4, 2018



Steve Schweer '06



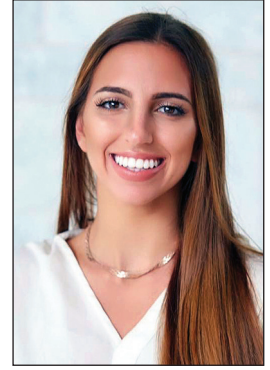
Charlene Carruthers '07



Elizabeth (Sowatzke) Schlicht '09



Britnee Ruscitti Kenyon '10



Boryana Borisova '17

2008

Caitlin (Ludwig) Pusateri is vice president of leadership development at the Rockford (Ill.) Chamber of Commerce. She was profiled in a *Rockford Register Star* story in April 2018.

2009

Chris Green finished second at the Illinois PGA Match Play Championship, held at Kemper Lakes Golf Club, May 7-10, 2018. Chris also published a column in the (Chicago) *Daily Herald*, offering advice for golfers attempting to correct a slice.

Elizabeth (Sowatzke) Schlicht has been promoted to associate executive and director of digital marketing at Association Acumen, LLC, where she serves as executive director for the Minnesota Academy of Physician Assistants and associate executive director for the Automotive Fleet & Leasing Association. Elizabeth also recently earned her Certified Association Executive credential.

2010

Michael Gorman serves as president of the board of directors for Green Top



Sara Yemm '14 and Rick Yemm '78

Grocery, the only co-op grocery store in Bloomington-Normal. Michael is the senior web developer at Illinois Wesleyan.

Kate Krempely co-authored a study in *Genetics in Medicine* on direct-to-consumer genetic tests and the dangers of false positives. The study found that 40 percent of variants in a variety of genes reported in direct-to-consumer raw data were false positives, and that some variants designated with "increased risk" classifications were classified as benign, and are noted to be common variants in publicly available population frequency databases. The study concluded that its results demonstrate the importance of confirming direct-to-consumer raw data variants in a clinical laboratory well-versed in both complex variant detection and classification.

Britnee Ruscitti Kenyon is the theatre director at Rolling Meadows (Ill.) High School. She directed a production of *1984* this spring, highlighted in a (Chicago) *Daily Herald* preview. Britnee also recently enrolled in a New York University graduate school program for educational theatre with an emphasis in social justice theatre.

2011

Alex Willett participated in a psychology career alumni panel, offering insight to current Illinois Wesleyan students, on Feb. 6, 2018, in the Minor Myers, Jr. Welcome Center Auditorium.

2012

Kristin Fields, Casimir Frankiewicz and **Korey Williams** met with IWU First-Year Humanities Fellows during the group's Spring Break Immersion Trip in Chicago. First-Year Humanities Fellow **Rachel McCarthy '21** blogged about the trip at www.iwu.edu.

Hannah Johnson is the education program coordinator at the McLean County Museum of History (MCMH) in Bloomington, Illinois. Among Hannah's responsibilities is coordinating the MCMH's "Movies Under the Dome" series, which features films with a local connection. A screening of *The Visitor*, starring **Richard Jenkins '69**, is planned for July 31, 2018. The screening will feature a talk from **Dennis Brown '67**, a classmate and friend of Jenkins, who taught *The Visitor* for many years as part of a film appreciation course at Webster University.

Olivia Lett was named the head women's basketball coach at Millikin University on March 12, 2018. Lett was a standout member of the women's basketball team during her time at IWU, helping guide the team to a national championship in 2012. She most recently served as the top assistant coach for the women's team at the University of Chicago.

2014

Katie Rothas is currently attending New York University College of Dentistry. She traveled to the University of Nicaragua last summer as part of her studies, providing emergency dental attention and assisting in a children's educational program on proper oral hygiene.

Dana Rotz won the women's 12K at the 37th annual Lake Run at Lake Bloomington, Illinois, May 5, 2018.

Sara Yemm and **Rick Yemm '78** form a parent-child team as second- and third-generation leaders of Yemm Auto in Galesburg, Illinois. The dealership has been in the family since Rick's father, Dick Yemm, bought the business with partner Ray

(continued on page 35)

Alumni Association News



Dear Fellow IWU Alumni,

At Commencement on May 6, 2018 (see page 12), I welcomed 424 graduates into our ranks. And what an Alumni Association they've joined – 21,000 alumni in all 50 states and 52 countries around the world. You're a key part of this network.

Among the graduates were 44 international students, IWU's largest-ever class, prompting the launch of the International Alumni Network (see accompanying story), an addition that expands your Alumni Association and benefits us all.

But the Class of 2018 isn't the only news. Just look at IWU's incoming Class of 2022! Thank you to 166 alumni volunteers who made 1,921 recorded contacts with admitted students this spring. Of those who decided to enroll, 93 percent were contacted by a volunteer. The incoming class is 34 percent larger than last year, and SAT scores and GPAs are both up. This is great news and much credit goes to alumni volunteers.

Your Alumni Association also welcomed a group of first-year students into our ranks at an April 13, 2018, luncheon with the Posse Scholars (see page 22). You'll be proud of them. We're fortunate to have them at IWU.

There's a lot to celebrate about Illinois Wesleyan nowadays! You'll get your chance at Homecoming, Oct. 5-7, 2018 (see page 28). Take time to renew old bonds, meet new friends, and show your support for our alma mater.

As I reminded the Class of 2018: "Illinois Wesleyan has been good to you, so please always be good to Illinois Wesleyan."

Hoping to see you at Homecoming!

Scott E. Huch '86, President
Alumni Association Board of Directors

Cooperative Admissions Push Yields Success

Cooperative efforts between Illinois Wesleyan's admissions staff, alumni, faculty, trustees and current students have paid early dividends, as the University plans to welcome a large incoming class. Emphasizing contact throughout the admissions process, Illinois Wesleyan and admissions constituency relations liaison **Molly Munson-Dryer** recruited over 300 volunteers to make nearly 4,000 phone contacts with prospective students.

After students were informed they had been admitted, alumni and trustee volunteers matched by geography, major, or area of interest initiated a second contact. A third contact was made by faculty members and a fourth by current students. Ninety percent of deposited students had been contacted by a volunteer as of May 2018.

Alum and trustee **Steve Dudash '99** was one such volunteer. Dudash recruited a group of 20 fellow alums as part of a pilot project, with each alum asked to connect with two undecided students. From that group, IWU received 17 deposits. Dudash's effort is already being viewed as a blueprint, with other trustees and alumni planning to form similar groups next year.

To serve as an alumni volunteer, contact Molly Munson-Dryer at (309) 556-3648 or mmunsond@iwu.edu.

International Alumni Network Launched

At the Alumni Association Board of Directors meeting on April 13, 2018, the International Alumni Network (IAN) was formed. The group was publicly announced at Commencement on May 6, 2018, which included the largest number of international graduates (44) in Illinois Wesleyan history.



The international community at IWU has grown tremendously over the years and has reached a point where collaboration and coordination among members would significantly enhance their Illinois Wesleyan experience. The IAN is working to increase connectivity and visibility of our international alumni and students.

The short-term goals of the IAN are to establish a connection with all international alumni and update the University records with the most recent contact information. This will give us a great opportunity to showcase the places around the world where our international alumni currently reside. In the long-term, the IAN initiative aims at organizing events in the U.S. and abroad that provide an opportunity for our international alumni and students to connect, network and mentor.

The IAN is recruiting volunteers for various committees to expand its outreach and communication efforts. If you are an international alum or current international student and interested in helping out, please reach out directly to the group's co-chairs, **Teddy Petrova '10** (tpetrova@iwu.edu) and **Faizal Chaudhury '96** (auditor007@hotmail.com).



(Above) A reunion of Illinois Wesleyan alums took place in New York City in April 2018. In attendance were (from left): Ruiqing Sun '17, Yizhe Gao '16, Derek Tu '14, Sophie Ma '14, Yichen Shao '15 and Kerry Zhang '17.



(Above) Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors pose with Posse Scholars in April 2018.

Upcoming Alumni Connections

- ◆ **SUNDAY, JULY 29:**
Denver Connection
Denver Museum of Nature & Science
- ◆ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 2:**
St. Louis Happy Hour
Cafe Napoli
- ◆ **SUNDAY, AUGUST 5:**
Network Summer Picnic
Home of Dave '79 and Genie Darling
Tinley Park, Ill.
- ◆ **THURSDAY, AUGUST 9:**
McLean County Connection
Braizé (inside the Park Regency Hotel)
Bloomington, Ill.
- ◆ **TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 11:**
Chicago Golf Outing
Mistwood Golf Club

For more information, call (888) IWU-ALUM or visit www.titanpride.org.

Alumni Notes (continued from page 33)

Weaver in 1961. The Yemms were recently profiled in a feature story and Q&A interview in the (Galesburg, Ill.) *Register-Mail* in March 2018.

2015

Kimberly Wenger Diller participated in a data science panel for Illinois Wesleyan students on Feb. 7, 2018, in the Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center Auditorium.

Brandon Heyen is a skills trainer for Pure Sweat Basketball, a national skills training camp. One of his clients, Normal (Ill.) Community West High School's Francis Okoro, is a 6-foot-9 forward who recently committed to the University of Oregon's men's basketball team. Brandon's work with Okoro was reported in a story in the *Ford County Record* in May 2018.

Casey Plach is an international resident advisor through Augsburg University's study abroad program in Central America. Casey travels with students to Guatemala, Nicaragua and Costa Rica, helping them navigate their study abroad experiences. She previously worked for an immigration law firm in Chicago, where she worked on family-based cases, including applications for citizenship, green cards, waivers of inadmissibility, fiance visas and more.

Emily Potosky has been accepted into the medical dietetics program at Ohio State University and will begin her studies in August 2018.

Brianna Siebert and **Lexia Swope-Hassan** participated in a psychology career alumni panel on Feb. 6, 2018, in the Minor Myers, jr. Welcome Center Auditorium. Brianna is a research analyst for Willis Towers Watson. Lexia is social worker for Champaign (Ill.) Unit 4 schools.

2016

Meaghan Mormann recently finished her second year of medical school at Michigan State University's College of Human Medicine. Meaghan completed her clinical work, serving a predominantly Spanish-speaking population, and she has been accepted into MSU's College of Human Medicine Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved certificate program.

Sydney Muchnik has been awarded a National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship. The highly selective NSF Graduate Research Fellowship program accepts 2,000 applicants from a nationwide pool of undergraduates in STEM fields. Since 1952, NSF has funded over 50,000 graduate research fellowships out of more than 500,000 applicants. "IWU provided me with my first research experiences which helped me discover my love of science and influenced my decision to study genetics in graduate school," said Sydney, who is now pursuing a doctoral degree at Yale University.

Emily Shankar began her service in the Peace Corps two months after her Illinois Wesleyan graduation. Emily is a Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) volunteer living in the small, remote, indigenous community of Barranquilla, Panama, a 12-hour bus ride from Panama City. As a WASH volunteer, Emily works with community members to improve their access to clean water, learn and implement good hygiene behaviors, and increase access to sanitation.

2017

Boryana Borisova (photo on page 33), who completed her first year of graduate school at the Indiana University School of Informatics, Computing and Engineering this spring, has earned the U.S. Department of State Critical Language Scholarship Award. The Critical Language Scholarship Award will allow her to spend 10 weeks this summer in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan, to undergo intensive Russian language study. Boryana has also earned \$20,000 through the National Security Education Program David L. Boren Fellowship for overseas studies in intensive Russian language, Kazakh language, and courses in cybersecurity and informatics, at KIMEP University, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, for the 2018-19 academic year.

Evan Mok-Lamme competed for Team Hong Kong at the 2018 Federation of International Lacrosse World Championships, July 12-21, 2018, in Netanya, Israel.

(continued on page 36)

Alumni Notes (continued from page 35)

2018

Raymond Bolton and **Zoe Bouras** were named the recipients of this year's Phi Beta Kappa Liberal Arts Scholar Awards, recognizing undergraduate research that engages, translates and bridges academic disciplines and/or crosses traditional academic boundaries. Applicants for the awards submitted senior-level research papers involving works of art, compositions, films, collections of poetry or experience-based research. The award-winning projects will be published in *CrissCross*, the IWU chapter of Phi Beta Kappa's online journal of undergraduate interdisciplinary work.

Emilee Monken has accepted a teaching position at Lincoln (Ill.) Community High School. Emilee will teach Spanish classes at LCHS.

Tiny Titans

Sean Foley '00 and Sara; Abigail Josephine, born April 2, 2018

Lisa (Krapf) Cross '04 and **Laban '03**; Molly Marie, born Jan. 24, 2018

Amy Frymark Flores '04 and Leo; Elena Grace, born Sept. 12, 2017

Claire (Hagemann) Parmenter '05 and **Brett '05**; Brynn Elizabeth, born Feb. 20, 2018

Lea (Panek) Samartino '05 and **Mark '06**; Max Stanley, born April 26, 2018

Ross Straseske '06 and Jancey; Stella Grace, born April 16, 2018

Renee Scherer '08 and Ross Dexter; Natalie Kate, born March 4, 2018

Sarah (Keister) Armstrong '08 and **Dan '08**; Bea Elizabeth, born March 6, 2018

Melanie (Essayans) Boyajian '09 and Arlen; Bella Zara, born Jan. 27, 2018

Rachel (Low) Green '09 and **Christopher '09**; Emma Isabel, born Jan. 24, 2018

Amy (Burns) Ehmen '09 and **Ryan '09**; Owen William, born March 28, 2018

Kimberly (Stabosz) Zimmerman '09 and Dustin; Clara Marie, born Feb. 20, 2018

Christopher Betzle '10 and Embarina; Easton Eulalio, born June 26, 2017

Jenna (Frazier) Schafer '11 and Scott; Ainsley Jo, born March 14, 2018

Erika (Olsen) Ohlendorf '12 and **Cameron '12**; Theodore Lawrence, born May 21, 2018

ALUMNI

Melanie (Etheridge) Shellito '92

Marc Talluto '94

Michael Gorman '10

Teresa Banks '13

Bobby Nash Castillo '13

Ted Delicath '13

Matt LaLonde '14

Lucy Bullock '17

Lily Chang '18

Crystal Ocampo-Fernandez '18

FACULTY AND STAFF

Brandon Common

Kelly Mathy

Grace Sheese

COMMUNITY

Kim Kaufman

Laura Kalmes

TEDx IWU

Illinois Wesleyan hosted TEDxIWU Feb. 2, 2018, at Hansen Student Center. Designed to highlight the innovative spirit of the Bloomington-Normal area, the event brought together IWU students, faculty, staff, alumni and local community members to share their best ideas. TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is a media organization which posts talks online for free distribution, under the slogan "ideas worth spreading." TEDx is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. Fifteen members of the Illinois Wesleyan and Bloomington-Normal community presented TED Talks at the event.

SAVE THE DATE | TEDxIWU 2019 | MARCH 23, 2019



IWU Magazine considers for publication photos of IWU people at celebrations and reunions of alumni. Please send your Titan Celebration photos to *IWU Magazine*,

P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702, iwumag@iwu.edu, or via our website, at: www.iwu.edu/magazine.



(Above) A group of Illinois Wesleyan alums traveled to Puerto Rico to visit with **Ivan Soler '77**. Pictured are (from left): **Bill Breach '78**, **Carl Tenney '79**, **Ivan Soler '77** and **Al Black '79**.

(Below) **Evan Edwards '11** married Laura Beyer on Oct. 21, 2017, at his family farm in Rankin, Illinois, with several alums attending, including (from left): **Joe Howard '12**, **Evan Edwards '11**, **Michael Handke '11**, Laura Beyer, **Michael Mancini '11**, **Erin (Thompson) Mancini '11**, **Jeff Lawson '11** and **Emma (Clark) Lawson '13**.



(Below) Illinois Wesleyan was well-represented at the 29th annual YWCA McLean County Women of Distinction Awards Banquet, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center, in Normal, Illinois, on May 22, 2018. Among the nominees were (from left): **Nancy Steele Brokaw '71**, **Dianne (Smith) Williamson '62** and **Linda (Lueck) Bollivar '88**.



Titan Celebrations



(Above) A team comprised of Illinois Wesleyan faculty, staff and friends competed in the Bourbon Chase, a 200-mile relay race along the Kentucky Bourbon Trail, in October 2017. The annual race across the Bluegrass State winds through bourbon distilleries, horse country and enchanting small towns. Another IWU group, with several returning members, will compete in the 2018 Bourbon Chase, Oct. 12-13, 2018.



(Above) **Cory (Grapenthien) Bedtke '13** married **Scott Bedtke '13** Sept. 9, 2017, in Holland, Michigan, with many IWU alums in attendance. Pictured are (back row, from left): **Parker Carroll '13**, **Ray Krishock '11**, **David Whitman '12**, **Zach Anderson '14**, **Matt Siegert '14**, **Sean O'Neill '11**; (middle row, from left) **Ryan Eich '13**, **James Mosterd '11**, **Nick Varchetto '13**, **Scott Bedtke '13**, **Sean O'Connor '11**, **Jeff Beres '14**; (front row, from left) **Kasey Evans '12**, **Melissa Seeborg '13**, **Matt Simon '14**, **Cory (Grapenthien) Bedtke '13**, **Matt Rooney '14** and **Kaitlyn Eichinger '14**.

(Right) Illinois Wesleyan was well-represented at the Quincy (Ill.) Community Theatre's QUILTA Awards on Jan. 20, 2018, at Town & Country Inn and Suites in Quincy. IWU alumni in attendance included (left to right): **J.T. Dozier '78**, **Adrienne Fisk '13**, **Doris (Spencer) Sanders '91** and **Beth Izzo '11**. Doris is the event chairperson.

(COONROD PHOTOGRAPHY)



All submitted content received by June 4, 2018

In Memory

Faculty and Staff

Elizabeth “Susie” Balser of Normal, Illinois, died in April 2018. Susie was a faculty member in the biology department and was often recognized as an expert on the anatomy of echinoderms. Her passion for invertebrate animals inspired the creation of three new courses at Illinois Wesleyan. Both as an instructor and as a research mentor, Susie challenged students to carefully study the natural world and make their own discoveries.

L. Jane Brue of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 12, 2018. She was 84. Jane was the director of nursing at St. James Hospital in her hometown of Pontiac, Illinois, for 10 years prior to moving to Bloomington. She was a professor of nursing at Illinois Wesleyan for 21 years and received multiple accolades from students and faculty. She led student study trips to Arizona, Hawaii and Japan. She and her late husband John were loyal fans of IWU basketball and regularly hosted the team for postseason meals. Jane, who maintained emerita faculty status in retirement, was a published author in the field of geriatric nursing; her book *A Nurse’s Guide to Caring for Elders* was published in multiple languages and used in classrooms all over the world. Surviving are her four children, including **Joyce (Brue) Clay ’80** and **Darcey (Brue) Signs ’85**, 15 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Harold Guskin died May 10, 2018, in Park Ridge, New Jersey. He was 76. Harold was a faculty member at Illinois Wesleyan University in the 1970s before moving on to New York University School of the Arts. He had previously taught at Indiana University, where he mentored **Richard Jenkins ’69**, who was quoted in Harold’s *New York Times* obituary. Harold was a revered acting coach, having worked with notable actors such as Kevin Kline, Glenn Close and James Gandolfini, among others. He occasionally acted and directed, but primarily worked out of his New York apartment, preparing actors for auditions and performances. He is survived by his wife and three brothers.

George Krippenstapel of Manchester, Connecticut, died in March 2018. He was 80. George was the staff piano tuner at Illinois Wesleyan from 1996 until his retirement in 2014. Prior to his arrival on campus, he had trained as a piano tuner and technician at Steinway. He had tuned at the White House, and also for Leonard Bernstein, Benny Goodman and Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis. After retiring from IWU, he returned to Connecticut to be closer to family. He was active in the Piano Technicians Guild. He loved to read science fiction, solve crosswords and play the piano. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two stepdaughters and several grandchildren.

John “Jack” Troyanovich of Orion Township, Michigan, died April 9, 2018. He was 81. Jack was the former chair of the foreign language department at Illinois Wesleyan. He had studied at the University of Michigan, University of Illinois and Michigan State University. He spoke many languages fluently and taught them at Michigan State and the University of Kansas before coming to IWU. Jack left academia and went to work in the auto industry, holding positions with Volkswagen and Chrysler, which brought him back to Michigan, where he stayed in retirement. In later years, he spent time writing two published novels based loosely



All submitted content received by June 4, 2018

on his life as a professor and auto industry liaison. Jack also wrote, submitted and published several poems. Surviving family members include a sister, five children and seven grandchildren.

Alumni

Ruth Holbert Steele ’41 of Normal, Illinois, died March 30, 2018. She was 99. Ruth was a longtime supporter of IWU, the Illinois Symphony Orchestra, Prairie Fire Theatre and Second Presbyterian Church. She was active in many clubs and community organizations and generously volunteered her time for worthy causes. Ruth was known for her brisk daily walks on Constitution Trail, a practice she enjoyed into her nineties. Also while in her nineties, Ruth was featured in a nationwide Mitsubishi TV commercial. She was preceded in death by husband **Leon Steele ’40**. She is survived by children **Denny Steele ’67** and **Nancy Steele Brokaw ’71**, four grandchildren, including **Katie Brokaw ’02**, and two great-grandchildren.

Ruth (Adams) Thornton ’45 died Feb. 28, 2018, in Tracy, California. She was 91. Ruth was a native of Danville, Illinois, and worked at the Palmer American National Bank in Danville after graduating from IWU. She moved her family to Anaheim, California, in 1963, to improve the educational prospects for her children. After the move, she served as a media specialist in the Anaheim Union High School district for 17 years. She is survived by two sons, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Helen K. (Yoder) Vercler ’47 died May 10, 2017, at her residence in Chenoa, Illinois. She was 92. Helen earned a degree in nursing at IWU and spent many years in the profession, in a variety of settings. Helen was a dedicated recorder of family history and her own experiences. She also painted in watercolors and oil, and enjoyed several types of craftwork. Following the example of her father, Helen chose to donate her body to medical science through the Anatomical Gift Association of Illinois for the purpose of medical education and research. Helen is survived by her husband, three children, seven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren and two sisters.

Imogene (Worner) Zelhart '47 of Warrensburg, Illinois, died May 8, 2018. She was 93. Imogene was active in Kappa Delta while at Illinois Wesleyan. She later taught at Maroa (Ill.) High School before retiring to care for her family. She is survived by three sons, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Helen (Hilpert) Waltz '49 of Tempe, Arizona, died Jan. 15, 2018, at her residence. She was 90. Helen met and married **James Waltz '48** while the two were students at Illinois Wesleyan. They lived in Jacksonville, Illinois, and Joliet, Illinois, before settling in Tempe. Helen served as a grade school teacher in Jacksonville, a chemist for Spreckels Sugar Co., a bookkeeper for Sullbrook Water Treatment Service, started and ran a wreath-making business called the Pod Patch, and was an avid Shaklee distributor. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two sons, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bob Byler '52 died April 28, 2018, in Venice, Florida. He was 87. After earning his bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan, he earned a master's at the University of Missouri and a doctorate at Bowling Green State University. He headed the journalism division at the University of Evansville from 1958-73 but returned to Bowling Green from 1973-90. Bob was a lifelong journalist, archivist and fan of jazz music. He wrote for *The Mississippi Rag* and the *Venice Gondolier Sun*. He archived jazz performances through photos and videos, compiling thousands of photographs and hundreds of hours of concert footage. Bob and his late wife Ruth traveled to all 50 states and over 50 countries, often following their passion for music. Bob also served in the U.S. Army in the mid-1950s as a signal corps film photographer and traveled to 13 countries while on leave during his service. Bob is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

John Dale '54 of Stromsburg, Nebraska, died March 6, 2018. He was 85. After his time at Illinois Wesleyan, John went on to earn another degree from the Boston School of Theology, and later, a doctorate in ministry from Bethany College. John served for over 40 years in churches in Vermont, Illinois, Colorado and Nebraska, before retiring in 1995. He was involved in Lions Club, Masonic Lodge (belonging to York Rite), Scottish Rite, Shriners International and Rotary Club. He is survived by his wife **Jean (Kendall) Dale '54**, three daughters, five grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many other relatives and friends.

John Remo '58 of West Lafayette, Indiana, died Feb. 14, 2018. He was 81. John obtained his pre-medical undergraduate degree at IWU before attending medical school at the University of Wisconsin and the University of California in San Francisco. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1962-65 and later completed his residency in radiology at the University of Michigan in 1971. John started his diagnostic radiology practice in Lafayette, Indiana, shortly after, and served the area until as recently as December 2017, as he returned to work in a part-time role after "flunking retirement." John was a longtime member of Illinois Wesleyan's Board of Trustees. He was active in Covenant Church's Bereavement Meal and Missions committees, and through his work developed a fondness for the Orucho Hills Worship Center in Western Kenya and

Deaths Reported

Clarissa (Reynolds) Strom '34; Nov. 19, 2017

Mary Esther (Drake) Wahl '40;
Feb. 24, 2018

Harriet (Wyatt) Johnson '42; May 21, 2018

Ray Hedrick, Jr. '43; April 15, 2018

Charlotte Schaeffer '44; May 2, 2018

A. Maxine (Lange) Duke '45; Jan. 18, 2018

Jeanette (Brooks) Hersey '45;
March 27, 2018

Virginia (Greiner) Clifton '46; Feb. 19, 2018

Alfred Price '46; May 18, 2018

Audrey (Brown) Bergstrom '47;
May 17, 2018

Frank Cahan, Jr. '47; May 6, 2018

Carmen (Barnes) Ewing '49;
March 25, 2018

Harold Anderson '50; Aug. 20, 2017

Norida (Miller) Barr '50; May 2, 2018

James Elliott '50; May 6, 2018

Ralph Glenn '50; April 6, 2018

Darrell Piersol '50; Feb. 24, 2018

Barbara (Hakes) Smith '50; May 26, 2018

Anne (Ewan) Steele '50; July 10, 2017

Dennis Watson '50; April 18, 2018

Grace (Chung) Ahn '51; Feb. 15, 2018

Pauline (Hurst) Fairfax '51; April 30, 2018

Maureen (Jones) Harris '51; March 2, 2018

Arnold Schrank '52; Oct. 23, 2015

Jack Guess '53; March 10, 2018

Robert Teutsch '53; Aug. 9, 2017

Jean (Sage) Ulander '53; Dec. 27, 2017

William Vandever '53; Dec. 10, 2017

L. Richard Yeager '53; May 11, 2017

Audrey (Dearinger) Akerly '54; May 2, 2018

Janice (Whitehead) Timm '55; March 14, 2018

Sally (McCallister) Edwards '57; Oct. 25, 2017

Ellen (Willems) Reinhard '57; April 7, 2018

James Stirling '58; May 12, 2018

John Downing '59; April 20, 2006

Ruth (Howell) Darling '60; Dec. 28, 2017

David Fuller '60; Jan. 24, 2018

Charles Wills '60; Oct. 28, 2017

William Carter '62; May 4, 2017

Marcia (Johnston) Jurgens '63; March 4, 2018

Joe Collier '64; Jan. 21, 2018

L. LaVonne (Cotherman) Morgan '65;
March 10, 2018

Sharon Schnittker '66; March 19, 2018

Judith (Umecker) Moffitt '67; May 14, 2018

Clifford Sichta '67; Feb. 13, 2018

John Whitworth '67; May 20, 2018

Alanna (Whittle) Preussner '68; Jan. 9, 2018

Christopher Grube '72; Feb. 13, 2018

Siri (Scott) Gadbois '73; April 29, 2018

Janice Bradley '74; March 17, 2018

Penny Watkins-Zdrojewski '79;
March 4, 2018

pastor Peter Onyango. Later, when John and his wife Jean moved to Westminster Village in West Lafayette, John became involved with the Vespers Committee, where he had served the past six years. John is survived by his wife, son, daughter, sister-in-law, and several nieces and nephews.

Lloyd R. Brackney '59 died April 4, 2018. He was 81. Lloyd earned a bachelor's degree in music education from Illinois Wesleyan and his master's degree from Loyola University. He directed middle, junior high and high school bands during his career. While serving in the U.S. Army, he directed the 113th Army Training Unit Band. Lloyd retired in 1994 after teaching for 24 years at Roosevelt Middle School in Kenner, Louisiana. In retirement, he was active as a music adjudicator and clinician in Southeast Louisiana. He was a member of Music Educators National Convention, Louisiana Music Educators Association, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and Kappa Delta Pi. He was also a past president of the Jefferson Parish Band Directors Association. He is survived by three siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

(continued on page 40)

In Memory (continued from page 39)

David Coss '60 of Cameron, Missouri, died April 13, 2018. He was 80. David taught English at schools in Warren, Illinois, after graduating from IWU. He earned a master's degree at Illinois State University in 1966 and went on to a 30-year teaching career at Northwest Missouri State University. In 1982, he earned a doctorate from Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. He is survived by a sister and a brother, and several nieces and nephews.

Cyril "C.B." Frevert '61 of Knoxville, Tennessee, died Dec. 16, 2017, in Port Charlotte, Florida. He was 79. C.B. earned a bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan and a master's from Northwestern University; both his degrees were in music. He taught in Earlville, Illinois, and played the organ for many years at churches in the Bloomington-Normal area. He lived on his family farm in Stanford, Illinois, for many years, and more recently in Knoxville, overwintering in Florida. Longtime friend Eric Magnuson helped him to enjoy life, which included many recent trips before his passing.

Gloria "Peggy" (Storey) Usher '64 of Rantoul, Illinois, died Feb. 11, 2018. She was 75. Peggy taught at J.W. Eater Junior High School in Rantoul for 35 years. She is survived by her husband, son, granddaughter, sister and stepmother.

Richard "Rick" Lee Kumler II '72 of Elgin, Illinois, died Feb. 22, 2018, at his home. He was 67. Rick studied biology at Illinois Wesleyan, where he met his future wife **Christine Marie (Johnson) Kumler '73**. He served in the U.S. Army from 1972-75 and resumed his education afterward, eventually earning a degree in pharmacy from the University of Iowa. Rick served as a pharmacist at Presence St. Joseph Hospital in Elgin for 37 years. Rick is survived by his wife, three sons, including **Todd Kumler '07**, as well as two grandchildren, his mother and two sisters.

Cherlynlavaughn Bradley '73 of Winfield, Illinois, died Aug. 30, 2014. She was 62. Cherlynlavaughn graduated from IWU magna cum laude and received the Outstanding Senior Award and the Marple-Schweitzer Award for outstanding achievement in chemistry. She later earned master's and doctoral degrees in inorganic chemistry from Northwestern University. She joined the Amoco Corporation's Analytical Division in 1977 as a research chemist and climbed the ranks to become a senior research scientist. During her 22 years at Amoco, she was recognized within the company and throughout the petrochemical industry for her work in the field. Cherlynlavaughn was also an active volunteer with the BP Volunteers, Court Friends Program and Morton Arboretum. She is survived by her best friend and husband, aunt, uncle, and several cousins.

Christine (Bane) Kefferstan '73 of Morgantown, West Virginia, died Aug. 20, 2014, at her home. She was 63. Christine was a classical pianist, having performed all over the world. She was a tenured professor of music at West Virginia University for 35 years and was recognized by the WVU division of music and by the West Virginia Music Teachers Association for her excellence in teaching. An active member of Music Teachers National Association (MTNA) since 1982, Kefferstan served as West Virginia state president, MTNA eastern division president, and a member of both the MTNA National Foundation board

Editor's Note: *IWU Magazine* runs obituaries of alumni based on information received from our readers. Please include full name of deceased; IWU class year; date and place of death; essential biographical information; and survivors, including name of surviving spouse and names of relatives of the deceased who are IWU alumni.

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and the MTNA board of directors. She is survived by her mother, husband, son, daughter, and eight siblings and their spouses.

Glenn Lawler '74 of Edwards, Illinois, died Feb. 10, 2018, at his home. He was 65. Glenn founded Incode Systems, a software development company, in 1982. He loved his work and often said he could not imagine retiring because he loved what he did so much. Glenn enjoyed motorcycle rides, playing guitar, flying small aircraft, woodworking, electronics, family get-togethers and a good bourbon. He is survived by his wife of 41 years, two sons, two grandchildren, three siblings, four stepsiblings, and many nephews and nieces.

Rebecca "Becky" Enrietto '80 of Springfield, Illinois, died March 15, 2018. Becky worked as an announcer and news reporter at WTAX-AM in Springfield for 12 years as a political editor of the Illinois News Network. She reported government and state news from the state capital for 60 radio stations across Illinois, including KMOX in St. Louis, and WMAQ and WGN in Chicago. She won a number of broadcasting awards including Best Feature for Illinois Notebook. Becky left radio to work in Governor Jim Edgar's press office in Chicago. She later became a spokesperson for the Department of Commerce and Community Affairs. Becky was a lover of animals and supported many animal welfare organizations. She was also a faithful attendee of Illinois Symphony concerts and the Springfield Muni Opera.

Jack Wilk '82 of Riverside, Illinois, died in April 2018. He was 57. After earning his bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan, Jack studied at John Marshall Law School in Chicago. He was a member of the Illinois and Chicago bar associations, and served as the finance committee chairman at St. Mary Catholic Church. He was a member of the Illinois FOP State Lodge and Riverside Township Lions Club. He is survived by his wife, two sisters and two nieces.

Damon Banks '06 died Feb. 20, 2018. He was 34. Damon was a standout member of the IWU football team as a three-time all-conference selection and team captain. He started a successful career with Frito-Lay/PepsiCo in 2008. He earned his MBA from Northern Illinois University in 2017. His greatest achievement, however, was fathering his son, Chase. Damon is survived by his son, parents, grandmother, three sisters, two nieces, and a host of aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.



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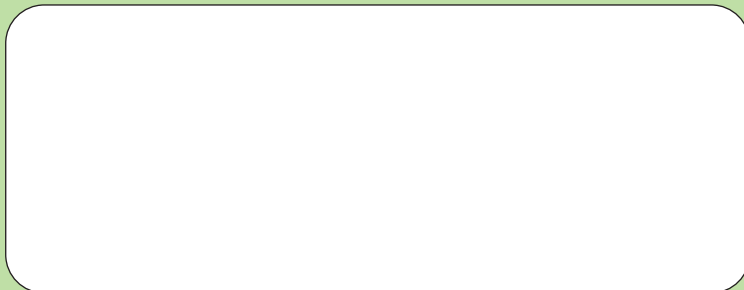
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summer symphony

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