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Winter 2018

## Volume 27, Issue 3, Winter 2018-19

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WINTER 2018-19

# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Leap of Faith

LISA MISHRA '15





DEBO OLOOSEBIKAN '06  
ROBERT M. MONTGOMERY  
OUTSTANDING YOUNG  
ALUMNUS AWARD



## 2018 ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS

*Presented at the Alumni Awards  
Ceremony on Oct. 5, 2018*

STEVE DORAN '79  
DISTINGUISHED ALUMNUS AWARD



SUSAN OKUNO-JONES '86  
DISTINGUISHED NURSING ALUMNA AWARD



JOHN JORDAN '57 and PAT (LASHBROOK) JORDAN '59 LOYALTY AWARD



*Find more highlights and photos  
from Homecoming 2018  
on pages 14-15.*





## FEATURES

### 14 Homecoming 2018

Illinois Wesleyan celebrated 100 years of Homecoming at “A Century of Celebration,” with many alumni and friends returning to campus for the annual tradition Oct. 5-7, 2018.

### 16 Leap of Faith

Music has always been a way of life for **Lisa Mishra '15**, but a breakthrough moment launched a new career for the young alum.

### 20 Changing (many, many, many) Lives

Through an eight-figure endowment to support student scholarships, **Gene '50** and **Marilyn Nuziard** will provide the gift of an Illinois Wesleyan education to scores of future students.

## INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 27 | NUMBER 3 | WINTER 2018-19

### ON OUR COVER:

A breakthrough moment inspired **Lisa Mishra '15** to put her career on hold and pursue a future in the music industry. *Portrait photo by Jason Reblando. Digital illustration by Gary Schwartz.*



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## From the President's Desk

I'm writing this just after Homecoming. It is one of the high points of our year, an intense few days of reconnecting past with present. We get the pleasure of welcoming everyone back, but it's a special pleasure to meet the "5's and 0's" – the 10th reunion for the class of '08 was particularly well attended, as were the 25th, 40th and (as always) the 50th and Golden Titan reunions. It was a wet Homecoming. Very wet. So wet that the football game started at 3:20 p.m. instead of 1 p.m. A good time nonetheless was had by all, and we won the game in thrilling double-overtime fashion. We saluted Steve Doran '79 as our Distinguished Alumnus and Debo Olaosebikan '06 as our Outstanding Young Alumnus, and John '57 and Pat Jordan '59 won the Loyalty Award.

One casualty of the rain was a large bur oak that stood between Stevenson and State Farm halls. It had the reputation of being the oldest tree on campus. It had begun to lean toward the quad, and the soft ground let it fall late one night. We've cut some round sections out of the base, and hope to preserve them with rings marking certain years – class of 'XX graduated, man walks on the moon, and so forth – and putting them on display. It turns out that it had root damage from the grade around it being raised as the site was leveled to build the adjoining building – not 2013's State Farm Hall, but 1968's Sheean Library. It took 50 years to kill that tough old tree! We'll miss it, but thanks to the generosity of Homefield Energy, we will be planting a dozen new trees on and around the quad.

Just as with Homecoming, or as with trees on the quad, this issue of *IWU Magazine* has stories of tradition and renewal ranging from Golden Titans to brand-new graduates. You'll hear from Gene Nuziard '50 and his wife Marilyn about an eight-figure estate gift supporting scholarships, and from Lisa Mishra '15 and her breakthrough music career in Bollywood. You'll get a look at our new University wordmark and athletic logos as we continue our

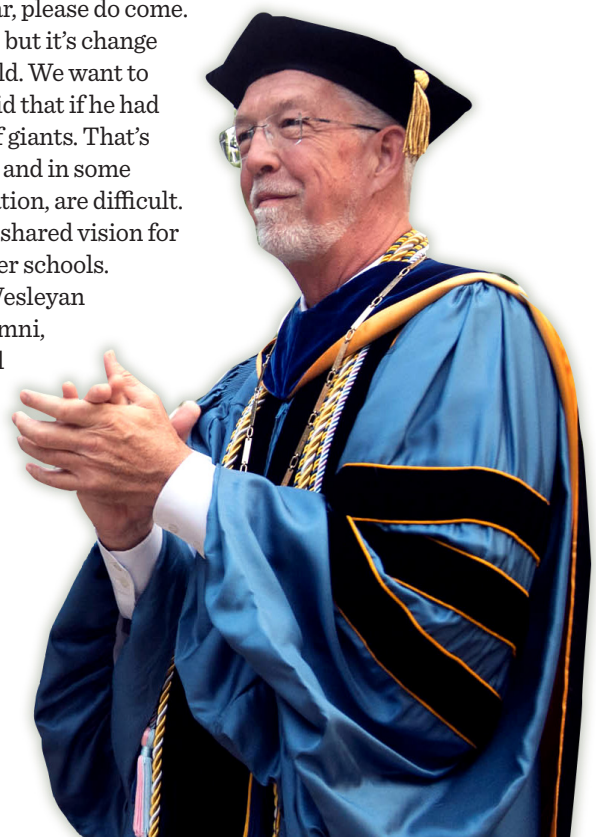
**These are exciting times for Illinois Wesleyan. Change is in the air, but it's change that builds on all that the graduates who came before helped to build. We want to share it with you, and we want to thank you for it.**

branding initiative, and you'll see what our brand-new Esports Arena looks like. And, staying firmly in the present, you'll read about other drivers of our recent enrollment increase, including the Alumni Admissions Network, our new Makerspace, and the great work of our Hart Career Center.

So to all of you who returned to campus for Homecoming, it was great to see you. Let's do it again next year! And to those of you thinking about it for next year, please do come. These are exciting times for Illinois Wesleyan. Change is in the air, but it's change that builds on all that the graduates who came before helped to build. We want to share it with you, and we want to thank you for it. Isaac Newton said that if he had seen further than other men, it was by standing on the shoulders of giants. That's true for us, as well. We live in a competitive world. The economics, and in some quarters, even the general perception by the public of higher education, are difficult. But because of our great history and traditions, and because of our shared vision for the future, we are in an advantaged position compared to most other schools.

I've said before that our future will involve the entire Illinois Wesleyan community. Thank you for all you've already done, as students, alumni, and parents, to help build what we now have. And thank you for all that you will do, as we move toward our future.

Go Titans!





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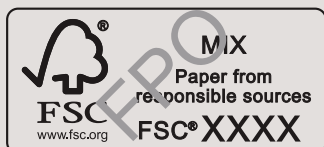
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# Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

## Illinois Wesleyan New-Student Enrollment Up 30 Percent

**I**llinois Wesleyan University welcomed to campus its largest incoming class in five years and its most diverse class in University history for the 2018-19 academic year. Official enrollment figures were computed after the 15th day of classes.

The incoming class includes 540 new students, a 30 percent increase in new-student enrollment from 2017. This growth was achieved while holding new-student grade-point average (GPA) and test scores steady.

"With each new crop of students comes a burst of energy to campus. This year, it's a big class, and a correspondingly big burst of energy," said **President Eric Jensen**. "While test scores and GPAs remain at typical high levels, we are excited and proud to welcome what is by far the most diverse class in University history. We believe that diversity of all kinds – whether racial, demographic, geographic, or socioeconomic – provides the richest learning environment, and are pleased that this year's incoming class reflects our commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive campus community."

Domestic new-student diversity – students who self-identify as multiracial, African-American, Latino or Asian-American – increased to 29 percent in 2018, from 22 percent in 2017, to mark the most diverse class in Illinois Wesleyan's history. Of IWU's 540 new students, 479 are domestic first-year, 41 are transfer students and 20 are international students. Total University enrollment increased to 1,693, from 1,649 in 2017.

"We make our acceptance decisions with a goal of finding best-fit students who will thrive at Illinois Wesleyan," said Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing **LeAnn Hughes**. "This year, an increased percentage of admitted students chose to enroll, which I believe speaks to the value of our holistic, liberal arts education and the ability of our world-class faculty to transform Illinois Wesleyan students into future professional and social leaders."

The incoming class consists of 37 students from McLean County – a 37 percent increase from 27 students in 2017 – with a boost from the McLean County Scholarship, which guarantees no less than \$27,000 in annual scholarships and grants to students who graduate from a McLean County High School and are admitted to attend Illinois Wesleyan. Students from 28 states make up the incoming class.

"Our reputation for individualized, experiential-learning opportunities, which consistently lead to financially and personally rewarding careers after graduation, is clearly paying dividends," Jensen said. "We are enjoying these enrollment successes in spite of the challenging climate, in Illinois and nationally, faced by higher education. Our admissions team will continue to collaborate with talented, dedicated colleagues across the University to make Illinois Wesleyan accessible and appealing on a national stage."



(Above) Members of the Class of 2022 exit Presser Hall following the New Student Convocation.

(Below) The Class of 2022 poses for a group photo outside State Farm Hall.





## State-of-the-Art IWU Esports Arena Opens

For more IWU news, visit: [www.iwu.edu/news](http://www.iwu.edu/news)

**W**earing an Illinois Wesleyan University Esports jersey pulled over the top of his dress shirt and tie, **President Eric Jensen** cut the ribbon to officially open IWU's state-of-the-art Esports Arena during a ceremony on Sept. 6, 2018.

"It is my great pleasure to introduce this program to you," Jensen told the crowd gathered outside the Esports Arena, located on the second floor of IWU's Hansen Student Center. "This space is a jaw-dropping, technology-driven undertaking."

Jensen's official jersey was presented to him by Illinois Wesleyan Esports Coach **Callum Fletcher** during the ribbon cutting ceremony. A jersey was also presented to IWU Associate Director of Financial Aid **Andrew Reddington**, who spearheaded the program and served as interim coach when the IWU Esports program first launched as a registered student organization (RSO) in Spring 2017.

"We're on the cutting edge, we're on the front end of something that's growing massively throughout the United States and the rest of the world, and we are incredibly excited to be some of the leaders in this program," Fletcher said.

Hired last fall as the program's head coach, Fletcher recruited this year's first-ever Illinois Wesleyan varsity Esports team, which consists of 12 players divided into: Varsity, Academy and JV teams. As members of the National Association of Collegiate Esports – which includes 86 programs nationwide – the IWU Esports program competes in "League of Legends," a fast-paced MOBA (Multiplayer Online Battle Arena) game set in a fantasy world. Two teams of "champions" battle head-to-head to demolish their opponent's base.

The Illinois Wesleyan varsity Esports team will compete in "The Coliseum" within the new Esports Arena.

"We're thrilled to be adding this program as a competitive program, as an experience and as a way that honors the interests of today's students in powerful ways," said IWU Vice



(Above) (From left) Associate Director of Financial Aid **Andrew Reddington**, Esports Head Coach **Callum Fletcher**, President **Eric Jensen** and Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Karla Carney-Hall** pose for a photo at a ribbon cutting event for the Esports Arena, housed within the Hansen Student Center, on Sept. 6, 2018.

President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Karla Carney-Hall** at the ribbon cutting.

Formerly a conference room, the space was transformed over the course of four months into a high-tech Esports practice and competition space. The Esports Arena features: 17 PCs and monitors, headsets, keyboards and mice; 17 custom chairs; one smart projector for analyzing film in the practice area; and one 55-inch TV located outside of the Esports Arena for the campus community to watch live streaming of game competition via the University's Twitch channel.

While "The Coliseum" competition space – housed within the Esports Arena – is exclusively for members of the varsity Esports team, the larger practice area is open to all Illinois Wesleyan students when it is not being used by the Esports program.

"Not only are students able to come to Illinois Wesleyan University and get the education that we provide here, but now gamers have a place on campus that they can come. Their interests are not only supported, but encouraged," Fletcher said. "The arena itself has been professionally designed and inspired for our teams to compete, but also for our students to enjoy."

Ranked No. 5 in the nation in June 2018 among "The Best Colleges for Esports and Gaming," according to ValueGamers, the Illinois Wesleyan Esports program will begin competing in January. However, the team is already utilizing its new space to practice and scrimmage against other universities across the country.

"My players will tell you that my goal – our goal – is to be the No. 1 program, the gold standard, in the United States," Fletcher said. "We want a program that will make our campus and community proud."



(Above) The recently opened Esports Arena includes "The Coliseum," a space exclusively reserved for members of the Esports team, as well as a practice area open to all IWU students.



## Bierman Named Vice President for Business and Finance

**M**att Bierman was named vice president for business and finance at Illinois Wesleyan University, effective May 15, 2018.

Previously serving as vice president for administrative services and interim director of business and financial services at Western Illinois University, Bierman will have responsibility for financial strategy, forecasting, cost analysis, and budget management, as well as operational responsibility for the business office, including human resources, and the bookstore and physical plant at Illinois Wesleyan.

"A longstanding and respected member of Western's leadership team, Matt brings a variety of experience to his new role," said **President Eric Jensen**. "I am confident that Matt will bring impressive ability, energy and enthusiasm to campus."

Bierman previously served as director of university budget and director of residential facilities at Western Illinois. He co-

chaired the Enterprise Resource Planning Steering Committee and served on the IT governance council. Off campus, Bierman was elected to the Macomb Community Board of Education in 2011 and served as its president from 2013-17, and was named the 2017 Business Leader of the Year by the Macomb Chamber of Commerce.

"My family and I are thrilled to join the Illinois Wesleyan University community," Bierman said. "I was impressed with the staff and students during the selection process and look forward to accomplishing great things. I am excited to be a part of a team that will continue to advance the University's mission and help students find success."



## Clay to Lead Office of Alumni Engagement

**R**osetta Clay, formerly Menlo College's executive director of alumni engagement and development, was named assistant vice president of engagement at Illinois Wesleyan University in August 2018. Clay brings to the position over a decade of experience in alumni relations as she leads initiatives for IWU alumni, parents and friends, and The Wesleyan Fund.



"I am extremely excited to join the IWU family," Clay said. "From my first interaction, I felt a strong sense of belonging and community. The joy of my work will be partnering with my colleagues, getting to know our alumni, engaging with current and prospective students, families, community leaders and others to be a conduit in elevating their Titan spirit and pride while effecting meaningful change."

Clay began working in development and alumni relations at the University of Maryland in 2005. In her role as director of alumni programs at Maryland's Robert H. Smith School of Business, beginning in 2007, Clay restructured the Alumni Chapter Board and launched a successful Regional Alumni Clubs program.

She went on to become the associate vice chancellor for alumni relations and executive director of the alumni association at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University from 2014-16. Clay led a rewrite of the alumni association's strategic plan, in addition to developing a university-wide strategy for alumni engagement.

Most recently, she was responsible for Menlo College's alumni engagement, fundraising and marketing communications program. Her work there resulted in a \$125,000 increase in annual giving.

"We've searched for a long time to find exactly the right fit for Illinois Wesleyan," said Vice President for Advancement **Steve Seibring '81**. "We wanted to find someone who was intelligent, articulate, had experience, and could relate well to IWU alumni, faculty, staff and friends of the University. Rosetta is a perfect fit and will do wonders in building our efforts to keep people engaged with IWU in all the ways they, and we, find important."



### MAX L. STARKEY AWARD

(Right) **Jan Alvis** (center) was presented the Max L. Starkey Award, given annually to a staff member whose loyalty, enthusiasm and outstanding contributions have provided an invaluable service to the IWU community, at the annual Faculty-Staff Breakfast on Aug. 24, 2018.



## Hart Career Center Launches Platform for Jobs and Internships

Illinois Wesleyan University's Hart Career Center has implemented Handshake, an online career services management system that gives students a one-stop source for job and internship postings, on-campus interviews, career fairs and other resources.

"Handshake offers opportunities for every student from all majors by connecting them to over 250,000 employers all across the world," said Hart Career Center Director **Warren Kistner '83**. "Using a robust and user-friendly interface, this platform aligns students with opportunities that will be of interest to them."

Handshake, which has replaced Illinois Wesleyan's former platform, Titan CareerLink, is currently used by more than 700 universities worldwide.



By building a professional Handshake profile, students can make themselves available to peers, alumni and potential employers, and in turn, students can express interest in specific opportunities based on type of work, location and other factors.

Handshake utilizes machine learning-based technology to match students with opportunities based on their interests and skills, which in turn provides the Hart Career Center – recently ranked 20th in a nationwide list of "Best Career Services" by *The Princeton Review* – with valuable information when mentoring students.

Illinois Wesleyan alumni are specifically invited to post their job and internship opportunities on Handshake, helping to ensure that each and every IWU student has a myriad of paths to lead them to success in any career.

**Titans helping Titans! Share your company's internship or employment opportunities with the Career Center. Contact Warren Kistner at [wkistner@iwu.edu](mailto:wkistner@iwu.edu) or (309) 556-3237.**

## IWU Tops State of Illinois in Graduate Earning Analysis

An Illinois Wesleyan University education pays dividends, as shown in a recent data analysis from Zippia, which calculated "Small Colleges with the Highest Earning Graduates by State" and ranked IWU No. 1 in Illinois.

The list from Zippia, a career advice website, used public data from the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard to calculate the average earnings of graduates from four-year institutions 10 years after entry into the workforce. IWU graduates earn \$60,500 on average, which is more than \$25,000 above the national median.

"It is one thing to look at immediate results, such as a student's first job, but quite another to see how your education allows you to advance in your career field," said Hart Career Center Director **Warren Kistner '83**. "IWU students develop skills that serve them well as they seek employment upon graduation, pursue graduate or professional study, and ultimately advance in their chosen field. It is not surprising to me that our graduates are uniquely positioned to excel on their career paths and seize opportunities that come their way."

Additionally, Illinois Wesleyan was included in *The Princeton Review's* annual listing of "Best Colleges," and recognized among the top 20 schools for "Best Career Services" and "Best College Library." Illinois Wesleyan has been on the publication's recognition of "Best Colleges" since the list's inception in 1989.

Illinois Wesleyan also ranked No. 72 among national liberal arts colleges in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2019 rankings of "Best Colleges."



(Above) IWU graduates are prepared for the job market through many programs offered by the Hart Career Center. An annual Career Immersion Excursion offers an up-close look at employers and advice from alumni.

IWU was additionally recognized by *Forbes*, in "Grateful Grads 2018 – 200 Colleges With The Happiest, Most Successful Alumni," an index based on alumni giving back to support their alma mater.



## Branding Initiatives Continue with New Logos, Wordmarks

The Illinois Wesleyan University Athletic Department unveiled a group of newly-designed logos to represent its 22 inter-collegiate sports teams, IWU athletic director **Mike Wagner** announced Nov. 12, 2018.

The revitalized logos have been formed to not only update the previous “Tommy Titan” logo but to provide a cohesiveness for the use of athletic branding and spirit mark use on a campus-wide basis.

Featured are a revised Titan head logo, a stylized Illinois Wesleyan “IW” and new Titan athletic wordmarks.

“Titan Athletics is very excited to share the new branding with our students, faculty, staff, alumni and fans,” said Wagner. “Our previous logo was selected from public clip art over 40 years ago, and so it is also used by a variety of other institutions around the country. Our new brand has been designed specifically for Illinois Wesleyan, which was a primary objective.”

The previous “Tommy Titan” logo, used by IWU athletics since the late 1960s, will continue to be featured at Illinois Wesleyan as a vintage or retro mark.

A collaborative effort involving members of the athletic department, the University’s marketing department and a student focus group helped to define the new branding effort over the last two years.

The new primary mark – a redesigned Titan head – was created by brothers **Robert Frank III ’14** and **William Frank ’14**. Robert is a web designer for Illinois Wesleyan University.

Rickabaugh Graphics, a Gahanna, Ohio, company, worked with Illinois Wesleyan to develop additional marks and further stylize the looks, which will be trademarked. Rickabaugh’s collegiate clients have included The Ohio State University, the University of Iowa, the University of Wisconsin, the University of Texas, Indiana University, Marquette University,



Seton Hall University, North Carolina State University, Baylor University and many others.

“We believe this new, modern branding will be attractive to prospective students and provide us with consistent graphic representation for our very successful athletic programs,” added Wagner. “I am thankful for the hard work of our rebranding committee, as well as Robert and Wil Frank, whose artistic talents helped shape the look and feel of our new brand, and Rickabaugh Graphics for helping us complete this important project.”

In the coming months, the new logos will replace the existing marks at a number of athletic department facilities as well as team uniforms, apparel, stationery, promotional material and equipment. In addition, apparel with the new logo will be available to purchase through the University Bookstore and online.

Illinois Wesleyan also unveiled a rebranded University wordmark and corresponding “IW” design mark for institutional use as an extension of its “Be Breakthrough” branding initiative.



### SCHOLARSHIP BENEFACTOR DINNER

(Left) **Veronica Torres Luna '19** thanked supporters of Illinois Wesleyan during her address at the 22nd annual Scholarship Benefactor Dinner. Scholarship support helps IWU annually provide more than \$41 million in financial aid.



## New Online Tool Demonstrates Affordability of IWU Education

By spending three minutes answering six simple questions, prospective students and their families can easily discover that an Illinois Wesleyan University education is a realistic financial fit through the MyinTuition Quick College Cost Estimator, launched in September 2018.

“Some prospective students and their families may assume from the sticker price that a high-value Illinois Wesleyan education is beyond their budget,” said Vice President of Enrollment and Marketing **LeAnn Hughes**. “MyinTuition demonstrates that through generous financial aid and grants from a range of sources, Illinois Wesleyan is not only within reach for qualified students, but it can often be their most valuable option.”

In partnering with MyinTuition, Illinois Wesleyan joins an elite group of peer institutions, including Carleton College, the University of Chicago, Grinnell College, Harvard University, Hamilton College and Washington University, in providing students with an easy, anonymous estimate of the actual cost of a high-value private education. MyinTuition was created by Wellesley College economics professor Phillip B. Levine,

with a goal of demonstrating to students and families – particularly from mid- and low-income backgrounds – that college education is more attainable than they think.

The new online tool functions similarly to the U.S. Department of Education’s Net Price Calculator, while also taking into consideration the possibility of merit and need-based scholarships, which constitutes a considerable portion of Illinois Wesleyan’s financial aid package. It also provides a breakdown for grants, loans, work-study and other forms of financial aid.

“Consistent with MyinTuition’s mission, we believe that prospective students should be considered for admission based on their academic and co-curricular strengths rather than on their financial resources,” Hughes said. “MyinTuition allows us to communicate Illinois Wesleyan’s affordability to prospective students early in their search process.”



## Makerspace Opens at IWU



(Above) **Dea Kentchadze '22** operates a 3D printer in the Makerspace, located in the lower level of Memorial Center. The Makerspace is a creative area open to all IWU students.

Whether working on a class project, creating hand-made presents, or simply trying their hand at a new skill, Illinois Wesleyan University students can get creative at the Makerspace, opened this fall in the Memorial Center’s Underground.

Students in the Makerspace will have access to 3D printers, sewing machines, laser cutters and other equipment to use for any creative project.

“We envision the Makerspace as a place where students can get their hands dirty and let their creative juices flow,” said IWU Director of Design, Technology, and Entrepreneurship,

and Instructor of Business Administration **Tara Gerstner '01**. “Open to all students, for any reason, the Makerspace will be an introduction to the world of design, technology, and hopefully entrepreneurship, as students dive into making things.”

The Makerspace is a way for the University’s “makers web” – an array of equipment scattered throughout various buildings in various departments – to come together in a cohesive space.

“It’s a space that can be used by any class, a place to sit and work, a place to hang out, a place to drink coffee, and a place to have a release,” said IWU Visiting Assistant Professor of Design, Technology and Entrepreneurship (DTE) **Mark Genrich '83**. “It’s a place to just go and be creative for a while.”

Expansion of the Makerspace is planned throughout the year by adding equipment and offering seminars for students on 3D modeling software and other available tools. In afternoons and evenings, the Makerspace will also employ student workers who can provide guidance on how to properly use the machinery.

The idea of a Makerspace was integrated into the development plan of IWU’s new DTE major from its inception, as a space where DTE students can share ideas and prototype their products. However, Genrich hopes that students across all majors will take advantage of the resources provided there.

“People think differently when they’re making things with their hands,” Genrich said. “There’s an element of creative problem solving that comes with it that gives people practice to work on other ideas for other things, by thinking in a different way. So, we think it’s really important for the students on campus to have this facility, for whatever reason they want.”



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



illinoiswesleyan



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# #IllinoisWesleyan SOCIAL LIGHTS

Brandon Common @B\_notsoCommon · Sep 14  
I'm ready for Titan Green Friday! @IL\_Wesleyan #TGOE



Beth White @SCintheMiddle · Sep 14  
When you attend a workshop in the same town as your alma mater—a bookstore stop is a given!  
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16 likes

connecttransit Thanks to Tommy Titan for helping us shoot some footage this morning! Don't forget IWU students, you can ride Connect Transit for FREE with your student ID! #getconnected #trytransit #seeyouonthebus #TommyTitan

OCTOBER 12

Dirk Behrends is with Nancy Behrends at Lemala Mara Luxury Tented Lodge.  
September 18 · 🌐

Fellow Titans, greetings from The Serengeti! Just a reminder, it's not too late to register for homecoming! I hope to see you back on campus in two weeks! #itanforlife



108

7 Comments 4 Shares

Like Comment Share

Habitat for Humanity of McLean County  
October 19 at 10:22 AM · 🌐

Our students from IWU Habitat for Humanity had fun with Titan fans of all ages at Illinois Wesleyan University homecoming! Support them as they build their 25th Collegiate House with Illinois State Habitat for Humanity by giving to bit.ly/25thCollegiateHouse.



8

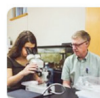
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## #IllinoisWesleyan Social Lights

McGraw-Hill HigherEd  
@mhhighered

See how @IL\_Wesleyan boosts student engagement with real-world experiences:  
[ecampusnews.com/?p=90230](http://ecampusnews.com/?p=90230) via  
@ecampusnews #higherled #edchat



Real-world learning comes to campus - eCampus News  
"A Signature Experience is meant to be a project that may often be anchored in a clear academic discipline, but it may not necessarily be."  
ecampusnews.com

2:06 PM · 20 Oct 2018

1 3

Collegiate Academies  
August 22 · 🌐

Garrison settling in at Illinois Wesleyan University.

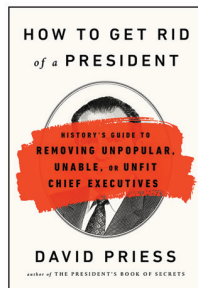
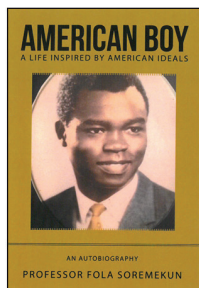


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## Authors and the Arts



### BOOKS

**Fola Soremekun '60** has published an autobiography, *American Boy: A Life Inspired by American Ideals*. The book details Fola's journey from Africa to the United States and more than a half century of teaching. Fola retired from a teaching position at Citrus College, in Glendora, California, six years ago in order to pursue a lifelong dream of opening a school in Africa. Today, he is the director of Highlands Education International Schools in Taraba State, Nigeria, where the inspired students often remind him of himself and the ideals that shaped his life. *American Boy* is available at Amazon.com.

**Robert Stach '67** recently authored *Time to Travel Again in Space*. Robert's latest book is the fourth in a series of science fiction books, which includes *Saving the Human Race*, *The Ice Age Cometh* and *The Andromeda Galaxy and Beyond*. All are available at Amazon.com. "Much that allowed me to write these books comes from the wonderful education I received at IWU," Robert said.

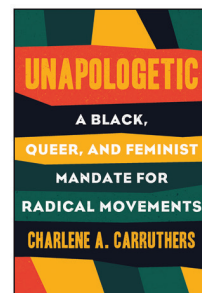
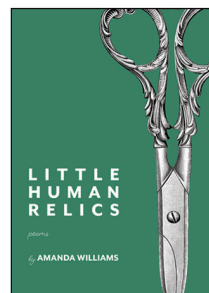
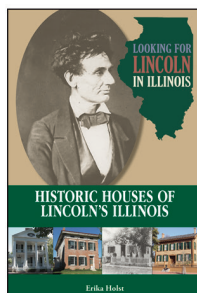
**Hal Graff '69** has written and published 34 novels. Twenty-six of Hal's novels are of the mystery/political espionage genre and are centered on the character Harold Gatewood. More recently, Hal has written and published eight mystery/historical fiction novels following a new character, a private investigator named Davis James Henry Finn V. Many of Hal's books draw upon his own experiences, and his newest protagonist is named after his four grandsons. All 34 of his novels are available at Amazon.com in paperback and e-book formats. Hal began his 35th novel in June 2018.

**Larry Johnson '73** has released a book of cat photos and portraits, published by Amherst Media. *Show Cats* contains photographs and wisdom about the nature of cats. Larry is a skilled photographer of animals with special talents to create unique portraits. *Show Cats* can be purchased at Amazon.com and Barnes & Noble in both paperback and Kindle versions.

**David Priess '93** has published *How to Get Rid of a President: History's Guide to Removing Unpopular, Unable, or Unfit Chief Executives*.

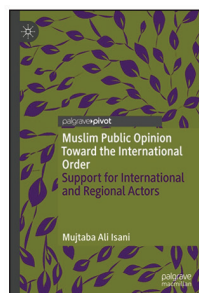
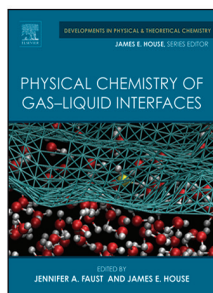
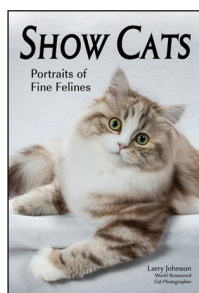
The book details the historical schemes, plots, maneuvers and conspiracies that have attempted – successfully and not – to remove unwanted presidents. David is supporting the book's release with national TV and radio appearances, and a book tour (dates available at: [www.publicaffairsbooks.com/contributor/david-priess](http://www.publicaffairsbooks.com/contributor/david-priess)). David served during the Bill Clinton and George W. Bush administrations as an award-winning intelligence officer, manager and daily intelligence briefer at the CIA, as well as a desk officer at the State Department. His first book, *The President's Book of Secrets: The Untold Story of Intelligence Briefings to America's Presidents*, was released in 2016. Both books are widely available, including at Amazon.com, chain bookstores and independent booksellers.

**Erika (Rozinek) Holst '01** has published *Historic Houses of Lincoln's Illinois*, an illustrated compendium of 22 historic buildings in the Abraham Lincoln National Heritage Area, all of which are open to the public. Each site links today's visitors with a place Lincoln lived, a home of a Lincoln friend or colleague, or a spot that illuminates Lincoln's era and legacy in central Illinois. Along with dozens of modern and historical photographs, entries contain explorations of historical connections to Lincoln and detailed information about exceptional features and artifacts. It is available at Amazon.com.



**Charlene A. Carruthers '07** has published *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*, a 21st-century activist's guide to upending mainstream ideas about race, class, and gender, to carve out a path to collective liberation. Drawing on black intellectual and grassroots organizing traditions, including the Haitian Revolution, the U.S. civil rights movement, and LGBTQ rights and feminist movements, *Unapologetic* challenges everyone engaged in the social justice struggle to make the movement for black liberation more radical, more queer and more feminist. Charlene is a black, queer feminist community organizer and writer with over 10 years of experience in racial justice, feminist and youth leadership development movement work. She was Illinois Wesleyan's 2017 Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumna. *Unapologetic* can be purchased at Amazon.com. More information is available at: [www.charlenecarruthers.com](http://www.charlenecarruthers.com).

**Jennifer Faust '10** and IWU Scholar in Residence James House served as co-editors of *Physical Chemistry of Gas-Liquid Interfaces*, published by Elsevier. The reference serves as the first volume in the series *Developments in Physical and Theoretical Chemistry*, for which James is the series editor. After her IWU graduation, Jennifer completed a Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin and did postdoctoral work at





All submitted content received by Oct. 12, 2018. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

the University of Toronto. She is currently an assistant professor of chemistry at the College of Wooster (Ohio). After spending 32 years in teaching and administration at Illinois State University, James has been adjunct professor of chemistry at IWU for almost 20 years.

**Mujtaba Ali Isani '11** delves into Muslim attitudes toward the legitimacy of global government in his book *Muslim Public Opinion Toward the International Order: Support for International and Regional Actors*. The work expands upon the author's dissertation at the University of Münster, Germany, where he is a post-doctoral fellow in the political science department. "I wanted to explore and pinpoint why populations in Muslim-majority countries hold particularly negative views of international organizations," Mujtaba said. "Hence, I decided to embark upon answering what seemed an extremely pertinent question to me." The book can be purchased at Amazon.com, while an e-book version is available at: [www.palgrave.com](http://www.palgrave.com).

**Amanda (Williams) Wilkinson '12** has published a second edition of a poetry collection titled *Little Human Relics*. The poems in the collection weave themselves through various notions of home and the quiet interiors of domestic life. The poems celebrate the ways in which devotion elevates all things in one's life to a position of reverence; a poem which marvels at the brutality of religious relics is placed alongside a poem depicting the mending of a child's nightgown, and suddenly that small act of love inspires equal awe. As the title suggests, the poems are carefully captured moments in a person's life that may have easily flown past, but they all represent a constellation of objects, events and characters who are undeniably worthy of praise. Like relics, they exist to both conjure memory, as well as teach readers a little more of what it means to be human. *Little Human Relics* is available at Amazon.com and [www.unsolicitedpress.com](http://www.unsolicitedpress.com).

## ART

**Herschel Cline '53** has rediscovered a passion for painting. The former art major at Illinois Wesleyan presented his most recent pieces in a gallery, titled "The Passions Project," on display Aug. 22, 2018, at Clark-Lindsey retirement village in Champaign, Illinois. The gallery was featured in a story in the (Champaign, Ill.) *News-Gazette*.

Illinois Wesleyan's Merwin Gallery featured work from celebrated painter and lithographer **Dorothea Bilder '62** (A), Sept. 4 through Oct. 25, 2018. Focusing on the relationship between changing aspects of human civilization and the changing environment, much of Dorothea's work depicts abstract, fragmented and pastel landscapes. Her attention to color and space is shown in her exhibit "Brazilian Experience," which reflects her inspiration from the landscapes of São Paulo, Brazil, where she produced a series of lithographs at Ymagos Atelier de Gravuras de Arta Ltda as an artist-in-residence. Dorothea generously donated the proceeds of all sales from her exhibition to support programming in the School of Art. A professor emeritus from the School of Art at Northern Illinois University, Dorothea's work has been displayed in exhibits all over the world.

Carolina Bronze Sculpture Park, North Carolina's newest sculpture garden, recently installed a steel sculpture by Winston-Salem artist **Don Green '64**. The sculpture, titled "Metaphor #1," is located along the sidewalk on East Main Street in downtown Seagrove, North Carolina.

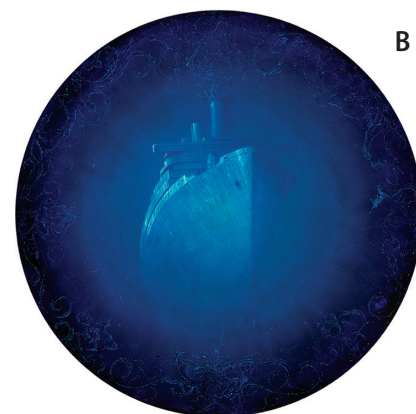


Paintings by **Renee McGinnis '84** (B) were featured in a Summer Group Show at ZG Gallery in Chicago, which ran from July 13 to Aug. 31, 2018. Renee later hosted a solo show, titled "The Garden of Mega-Structures," Sept. 28 through Oct. 31, 2018, at the Quincy (Ill.) Art Center's Elizabeth M. Sinnock Gallery. An opening reception was held Sept. 28, 2018, and an art crawl was held Oct. 26, 2018, which included an artist talk. More information and examples of Renee's work are available at: [www.reneemcginnis.com](http://www.reneemcginnis.com).

The work of artist **Dick Folsie '85** (C), appeared in IWU's Merwin Gallery from July 28 to Aug. 25, 2018, with a reception held Aug. 16, 2018. His work was additionally featured as part of a Bloomington First Friday event, on Aug. 3, 2018. Dick's work was later showcased in an exhibit titled "Redefining," at the Springfield



Art Association Collective at Hoogland Galleries, in Springfield, Illinois, Sept. 7 to Oct. 31, 2018. More information and examples of Dick's work are available at: [www.dickfolsie.com](http://www.dickfolsie.com).



(continued on next page)

## Authors and the Arts (continued)

### PHOTOGRAPHY

**Jerry Hahn '61** presented the Geneseo-Atkinson (Ill.) Food Pantry with a framed photograph of its former home, which was reported in a story in the (Moline/Rock Island, Ill.) *Dispatch-Argus*. Jerry has been a lifelong photographer after being introduced to photography by his father and becoming a "self-taught black and white darkroom addict." He has been a 20-year member of the Geneseo Art League, and his work has appeared in numerous exhibits.

### PAPER

**Blake Beehler '16** co-authored a paper titled, "Prevalence and Impact of Left-Handedness in Neurosurgery," that assesses the impact left-handedness has on the training and operative experience of neurosurgeons. Blake is currently attending Rush Medical College in Chicago.

### STORY

**Wilberta (Naden) Pickett '50** has penned a story on the Illinois Wesleyan alumni and professors who impacted her life, recently submitted for inclusion in the University Archives. Wilberta pays homage to her first piano teacher, **Luetta "Peggy" (Zahn) Cummins Moore '32**, who cultivated a love and appreciation for music during Wilberta's childhood growing up in St. Anne, Illinois. "I owe Peggy Cummins a deep debt of gratitude, and Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music an equally deep debt, for educating her and for educating me," wrote Wilberta, who was also thankful for lessons delivered later in her childhood by **Mary Allison (Badger) Seaman Coulter '37**. At Illinois Wesleyan, Wilberta credits professors **Kenneth Cuthbert, Lillian (Mecherle) McCord '27, Lloyd Pfautsch '78, Gretchen Van Roy and Maxine "Mickey" (Lebkuecher) Drexler '46** for providing inspiration. Later, at Union Theological Seminary, she found friendly faces in professor **Robert S. Baker '38** and his wife **Mary (Depler) Baker '38**. Wilberta has served churches as an organist and choir director in Richmond, Indiana, suburban Cleveland and suburban Pittsburgh. Wilberta and her husband John live in a retirement community in the Pittsburgh area, where Wilberta has chaired the music events committee and has played the piano at many events, and the couple still sings together in their church choir. "Music has enriched the lives of everyone in our family,



GINA LONG

including our five children, 13 grandchildren and 10 (soon to be 11) great-grandchildren, thanks to the early and continuing education I received from Wesleyanites."

### FILM

The Egyptian Theatre, in downtown DeKalb, Illinois, hosted a film series featuring nine movies starring DeKalb native **Richard Jenkins '69** on consecutive Tuesday evenings in September and October 2018. The films were handpicked by Richard, who attended a reception prior to a screening of *The Shape of Water* on Oct. 30, 2018.

### MUSIC

**Matt Mason '16** was invited to compose a piano piece for an international composition titled *250 Pieces for Beethoven* in celebration of Beethoven's 250th birthday. Pianist Susanne Kessel has invited composers from around the world to compose pieces inspired by Beethoven. The premieres of the pieces will be held in Bonn, Germany, the birth city of Beethoven, and will be published by Editions Musica Ferrum by 2020.

### PERFORMANCES

**Katherine James '73 (D)** starred in D.L. Coburn's Pulitzer Prize-winning *The Gin Game*, which played Sept. 8 through Oct. 6, 2018, at the Sierra Madre (Calif.) Playhouse. Katherine starred alongside her real-life husband Alan Blumenfeld in the tragicomedy focused on two elderly nursing home residents who strike up an acquaintance playing gin rummy.

**Tom Bost '78** was nominated for a 2018 Sacramento Area Regional Theatre Alliance (SARTA) Elly Award, for best supporting actor in a comedy, for his performance in *Duck Hunter Shoots Angel* at Sutter Street Theatre in Folsom, California. SARTA is an alliance of producing organizations, individual theatre artists and technicians, and administrators, formed to foster and promote high-quality theatre in the Sacramento, California, area and neighboring regions.



John & Wilberta Pickett '50

Karmann Bajuyo '94



A solo spoken memoir piece written and performed by **Christine McHugh '82**, *Parents Must Be Dead*, was presented Sept. 1, 2018, at Illinois Wesleyan's Westbrook Auditorium. A seasoned director of solo shows with over 25 titles to her credit, Christine developed her personal piece over the course of several years.

**Dawn Upshaw '82** performed at the Ravinia Festival on Aug. 27, 2018, in Highland Park, Illinois. Dawn performed with pianist Gilbert Kalish and the percussion ensemble So Percussion. An April 2018 review of a previous performance in the *Washington Post* read, "Upshaw has had an impressive career throughout a spectrum of new music, and she made a fine case for these songs." Dawn was also featured in an August 2018 story in *Opera News*, titled "The Teaching Artist," in which she spoke about her work as a teacher at the Tanglewood Music Center, where she is head of the vocal arts program, and at Bard College Conservatory of Music, where she is artistic director of the graduate vocal arts program.

**Chris Kawolsky '85** has been the producing director at Downstairs Cabaret Theatre in Rochester, New York, since 1992. Downstairs Cabaret is currently celebrating its 35th anniversary as a nonprofit professional theatre. Chris brings to his role experience from several professional regional theatres, including Houston's Alley Theatre, Miami's Coconut Grove Playhouse and Rochester's GeVa Theatre. For more information on Chris and Downstairs Cabaret, visit: [www.downstairscabaret.com](http://www.downstairscabaret.com).



**Stephen R. White '85** and **Vianey Salazar '18** worked together on a play titled *Now and Then*, by Sean Grennan, at the Peninsula Players Theater in Fish Creek, Wisconsin. Stephen served as lighting designer and Vianey was the master electrician. *Now and Then* ran from June 12 through July 1, 2018.

**Karmann Bajuyo '94** played the role of Gremio in First Folio Theatre's premiere production of *Shrew'd!* in Oak Brook, Illinois, that ran July 14 through Aug. 19, 2018. The new musical, based on Shakespeare's *The Taming of the Shrew*, is set in a 1930s Chicago jazz club and follows the lives of two sisters trying to make their mark in their father's nightclub. Karmann has previously appeared in productions of *Wild Boar* at Silk Road Rising and *Mahal* at Bailiwick Chicago. He is one of several IWU alums to contribute at First Folio Theatre; **Melanie Keller '97** currently serves as associate artistic director at the theatre founded by the late **Alison C. Vesely-Rice '79**.

**Rebecca (Davis) Wendorf '98** performed in *The Abduction from the Seraglio* at Opera San Jose (Calif.) in September 2018. A lyric soprano, Rebecca has lived in Germany for the past several years and has performed in dozens of renowned opera houses, both domestically and abroad.

**Bryonha Marie Parham '07** played the role of communications director Susan Lee in the musical *Dave*, in a limited engagement at the Arena Stage in Washington, D.C., from July 13 to Aug. 19, 2018. Bryonha's role in the musical mirrors the one played by fellow alum **Kevin Dunn '77**, who portrayed communications director Alan Reed in the 1993 feature film of the same name.

**Kate Tombaugh '07** presented her acclaimed one-woman theatrical production *It Just Takes One* on Oct. 17, 2018, at the University of Southern Indiana Performance Center.

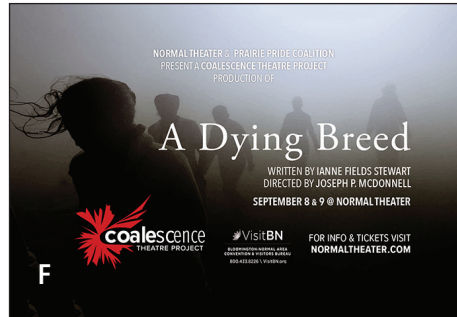
**Amber Robinson '08 (E)** is the director, co-translator and adapter of the TUTA Theatre



Bryonha Marie Parham '07



Sarah Bockel '10



Alexa Fajardo Eldridge '16



Allyce Carryn Torres '13

Chicago production of *RADIO CULTURE*, receiving its U.S. premiere Oct. 17 through Dec. 2, 2018. Amber is a Chicago-based director and performer with a focus on international theatre practices. In addition to TUTA, she is a member of Chicago's Akvavit Theatre, where she most recently co-directed *Hitler on the Roof* (a play for two clowns).

**Lauren Romano '09** and **Jenilee Houghton '05** performed together in the Big Noise Theatre production of *Kiss Me, Kate*, which ran from Sept. 21 to Oct. 7, 2018, at the theatre in Des Plaines, Illinois.

**Sarah Bockel '10** continues to play the lead role in the North American tour of *Beautiful – The Carole King Musical*. Sarah portrays King in her remarkable rise to stardom, from being part of a hit songwriting team with her husband Gerry Goffin, to her relationship with fellow writers and best friends Cynthia Weil and Barry Mann, to becoming one of the most successful solo acts in popular music history. Sarah will perform in the role for the duration of the musical's 2018-19 tour, which includes a run in St. Louis, March 12-17, 2019. Sarah performed "(You Make Me Feel Like) A Natural Woman," a song featured in *Beautiful*, on *Dancing with the Stars*, on Oct. 1, 2018. More information about *Beautiful*, including tour dates and ticketing details, can be found at: [www.beautifulonbroadway.com/tour](http://www.beautifulonbroadway.com/tour).

**Evan Kasprzak '10** was among a cast of Broadway veterans in a new dance narrative, *Alexa*, based on the Amazon device,

staged at Inwood Art Works' Culture Hub in Manhattan on June 29, 2018. Evan's recent credits include performances in the Broadway revival of *Cats*, the Broadway production of Disney's *Newsies*, the City Center's Encores! production of *The New Yorkers*, the Paper Mill Playhouse's *Can-Can*, The Old Globe's *Guys and Dolls*, and an episode of the Amazon Prime original *The Marvelous Mrs. Maisel*.

**David Getz '12** composed *Ruth: The Musical*, which received its world premiere at Grace Church in Morton, Illinois, in June 2018, to a standing room-only crowd. The musical was performed twice more, in September 2018, at Five Points Washington, in Washington, Illinois. *Ruth* tells the biblical story of Ruth, Naomi and Boaz, through 27 original songs that range from operatic arias to Broadway show tunes. More information about the musical is available at: [www.theruthmusical.com](http://www.theruthmusical.com).



**Allyce Carryn Torres '13** and **Alexa Fajardo Eldridge '16** performed in *Firefly Love*, by Alejandro Ricaño and translated by Héctor Garza, at Something Marvelous, a magical realism theatre company in Chicago. Allyce and Alexa worked closely in the production as Allyce performed regularly, playing the role of Lola, with Alexa serving as her understudy and twice performing in the role. *Firefly Love* ran from June 30 to July 15, 2018, at Athenaeum Theatre, Studio One, in Chicago. Allyce is the managing director of Windy City Performs, the company manager of Something Marvelous, and an ensemble member at Stage Left. Alexa is a working actor in Chicago and a student at The Second City's prestigious conservatory program.

A play written by **Ianne Fields Stewart '15 (F)** received its world premiere Sept. 8-9, 2018, at the Normal Theater. Presented by Coalescence Theatre Project, along with Prairie Pride Coalition and the Normal Theater, *A Dying Breed* offers a chilling window into a not-too-distant authoritarian future. Five unlikely characters are thrown together in an attempt to find shelter, survival and hope, in a world closing in on them. *A Dying Breed* dynamically explores the nature of family and power in a world of extremes, asking what each of us might do to survive. More information on Ianne is available at: [www.iannefieldsstewart.com](http://www.iannefieldsstewart.com).



MEMORIES FROM

# HOMECOMING 2018



(Above left) Members of the Class of 1968 gathered for their 50-year class reunion.

(Above) Vice President of Advancement **Steve Seibring '81** (right) shares a laugh with **Carol (Pedigo) Phoenix '67** (left) and **Jan (Stackhouse) Clark '66** (center) at the President's Reception.

(Below) **Deon Hornsby '97** (left) and IWU professor **Ky Ajayi** (right) visit at the Alumni Awards Ceremony.



(Above) **William West** (left) and **Nina Gordon** (right) perform at "Music of Joyous Celebration: A Music Faculty Showcase," at Presser Hall's Westbrook Auditorium. The event was held as a fundraiser for the purchase of a piano in the name of late IWU professor **Larry Campbell**.





(Right) **Bob Ladd '19** (right) and **Irene Armas '19** (left) were crowned Homecoming King and Queen at halftime of the Homecoming football game.

(Far right) Alumni and friends gathered for tailgating in the Shirk Center parking lot.



(Above) Friends (from left) **Christina Fitsalos '19**, **Halley Shanley '18**, **Amanda Schmidt '18** and **Savanna Steck '18** celebrated at Club Tommy, held for the first time at Hansen Student Center.




(Above) Students cheer on their classmates at the Titan Games.

(Lower right) **Andrew Ostrowski '19** (left) and **Keenan Scott '21** (right) celebrate an interception during the IWU football team's double-overtime win over Carthage College.



**SAVE THE DATE!**  
**IWU HOMECOMING 2019**  
**OCTOBER 4-6, 2019**





**Lisa Mishra '15** led a remodel and relaunch of Illinois Wesleyan's Multifaith Meditation Room while a student at IWU. (*Opposite page*) Mishra, who made many of her first solo appearances during her time at IWU, has used social media as the platform to launch a career in music.

PORTRAIT: JASON REBLANDO



# LEAP OF FAITH

A breakthrough moment inspired Lisa Mishra '15 to put her career on hold and pursue a future in music

Story by MATT WING

Lisa Mishra '15 went to bed on May 19 a data analyst with a budding part-time music career.

She woke up an internet sensation.

After posting a mashup of two popular songs to her Instagram account late that Saturday night, Mishra awoke to internet fame. Her post had been liked and shared by thousands while she slept. Fans helped spread the video to other social media platforms.

The mashup of “Tareefan,” from the soundtrack of the Bollywood movie *Veere Di Wedding* (translates to *Friend's Wedding*), and “Let Me Love You,” by DJ Snake, featuring Justin Bieber, caught the attention of many, including Sonam Kapoor, one of the stars of *Veere Di Wedding*. Kapoor shared Mishra's 55-second video with her nearly 15 million Instagram followers, introducing the Illinois Wesleyan alum to an audience equal to the population of the fifth-largest city in the world.

Born in India and raised in Chicago, Mishra's blending of a song from a hit Bollywood movie and a popular American dance track – featuring lyrics in both English and Hindi – was a fusion befitting a bicultural artist.

“Internet virality is such an interesting thing,” Mishra says nearly four months later. “And I was not prepared for it.”

But “the most bizarre week” of Mishra's life was just beginning.

She was soon inundated with a flood of comments and requests on social media. Foremost among them was a request from Rhea Kapoor, sister of Sonam Kapoor and the producer of *Veere Di Wedding*.



“How soon can you be in Mumbai?” she asked.

Two days later, Mishra was in a Mumbai recording studio alongside the stars of *Veere Di Wedding*, including Sonam and Rhea Kapoor, for the recording of the official music video of Mishra's mashup “Tareefan Reprise.”

The two-day shoot produced a video that was viewed two million times in its first week – and nearly 10 million times to date – and quickly climbed the popular music charts in India, eventually making its way into the top five.

Within a week of her initial Instagram post, Mishra was back at her desk in Chicago when she was contacted by Rhea Kapoor, with whom she had recorded “Tareefan Reprise” just a few days before.

“I don't think you can work your desk job anymore,” Kapoor told Mishra.



Lisa Mishra made her way to Illinois Wesleyan not to major in music, but to

pursue a double major in economics and religion.

Like many IWU students, she immersed herself in campus life. She was active in Student Senate and religious life. When Illinois Wesleyan Chaplain Elyse Nelson Winger, then in her second year at IWU, launched the Multifaith Ambassadors Program during the 2012-13 academic year, Mishra was one of the first to apply.

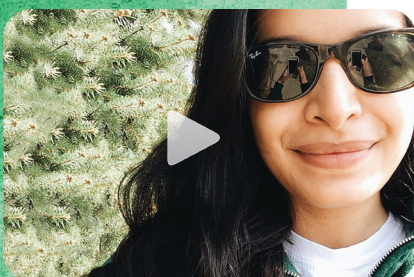
“I'm really grateful she walked through my door because she was the kind of leader that I needed to work with in order to build the program that I was dreaming could be built,” Winger said. “There were a couple students like that, who were open to learning, who were energized by doing something new, and who were really ready to bring it.”

Mishra spent the next summer studying interfaith prayer spaces on college campuses, supported by a Mellon Foundation grant, and helped lead a remodel and relaunch of IWU's Multifaith Meditation Room. She was also selected for a coveted internship with Harvard University's Pluralism Project, providing ethnographic research about Bloomington-Normal's Hindu community.

“She was someone who was really excited to learn and be a part of interfaith engagement,” Winger remembered. “And she was someone who was also deeply informed and committed to her own tradition, having grown up in a Hindu family, so she brought a lot of religious knowledge and literacy to our group.”

Mishra also brought her musicality to the group. She shared her talents with the Multifaith Ambassador program at





(Above) Mishra's music career was launched through social media as she gained a following through music shared on YouTube and Instagram.

events like "Light the Night," an on-campus multicultural holiday celebration.

But her musical talent was most on display at Undercover, Illinois Wesleyan's biannual live music competition, sponsored by the Office of Student Activities and Leadership Programs.

"Before that, I had never done a show or anything like that by myself – it was always in a musical or in a choir ensemble," said Mishra, who competed in Undercover a total of five times, with one win and two runner-up finishes. "I had never performed solo until college, and that was because of Undercover."

Mishra gained some of her first fans from those performances.

"I've always been a fan," Winger said, smiling widely. "And I'm just excited to see what happens next for her."

Mishra said her Illinois Wesleyan experience helped prepare her for the journey she is on now.

"It's not a surprise to me that I was allowed to pursue so many different interests and still be able to connect all the dots," she said. "I think that's the purpose and the benefit of a liberal arts education, being able to make those linkages and have that global understanding."



With the blessing of her parents, Lisa Mishra posted her first YouTube video in 2007, at the age of 13.

"I grew up singing," said Mishra, who performed an a capella version of Miley Cyrus' "See You Again" in that first YouTube post. "I never got training for it. It was just something I really liked doing, and my parents were really great about not interfering with that interest. They sort of just said, 'If you like it, then keep doing it.'"

And while they encouraged their daughter to sing, they demanded she – and all of their children – maintain a connection to Indian culture. The only language spoken in the Mishra home was Odia (one of India's many official languages), even after the family's immigration to the United States when Mishra was 6 years old.

"The culture and tradition of being Indian is very alive and well in our home," she said. "And I think that has been super necessary for me to be able to do any of this."

Though she had built a modest following through posting videos of popular English covers, Mishra eventually tried her hand at a Hindi cover. Her 2014 rendition of "Kabira" from the *Yeh Jawaani Hai Deewani* soundtrack quickly became her most popular post to that point (it currently has over 1.3 million views).

"That's really the one that took off and launched this new career," Mishra said. "I recorded it in my dorm room and started posting these much more



(Above) Mishra (far left) was one of the first members of the Multifaith Ambassadors Program, a leadership program for students with wide-ranging beliefs.



regularly because it just started gaining a lot of traction.”

Though she’s built a sizeable following in Bollywood, where the cinema and music industries are much more connected than they are in American culture, Mishra has had plenty of success domestically.

The first time she was in a real recording studio came when she contributed to Chance the Rapper’s 2016 Grammy Award-winning album *Coloring Book*. Mishra has also worked with DJ Khaled and Big Sean, among others.

And as her fan base grows, Mishra’s English-speaking fans are discovering her Hindi covers, while her Hindi-speaking fans happen upon her English covers. And both audiences are connecting to the mashups like “Tareefan Reprise,” with lyrics in both English and Hindi.

“There’s nothing greater than seeing two sides of the world combine,” Mishra said. “Having an Indian audience engaged in American music and an American audience engaged in Indian music is an interesting flip that I didn’t expect.”



Lisa Mishra took that advice from Rhea Kapoor.

Well, mostly.

Mishra won’t say that she’s fully quit her day job, but rather that she’s “scaled back” to something more flexible to better suit her music schedule.

Taking that leap of faith wasn’t easy.

“The packaging of the American Dream for a lot of immigrants is stability, and being an immigrant myself, and with music being such an unstable path, this just never seemed within my reach,” Mishra said. “I’ve done it to capacities that I felt were allowable, but never went any further, but then this thing happened and it’s kind of this moment where I don’t really get to say no anymore.”

She recently signed on for a slate of performances in India, beginning in October 2018, with three or four performances scheduled each month for the next several months.

Performing in front of live audiences will be a departure for an internet



(Above) Mishra’s first solo performances were made at “Undercover,” Illinois Wesleyan’s biannual live music competition.

“Having an Indian audience engaged in American music and an American audience engaged in Indian music is an interesting flip that I didn’t expect.” — LISA MISHRA ‘15

sensation whose fans are only accustomed to seeing her on a screen. In another development, she’s focused on writing original music to supplement her vast and wide-ranging catalogue of covers.

“My next step is getting comfortable being on the stage,” Mishra said. “I have a certain amount of comfort with public speaking or being a public-facing person, but not nearly to the extent that this career demands of me, so I really have to get familiar with performing for an audience without being nervous.”

The trepidation Mishra feels in anticipation of a major career change is soothed, however, by a wide network of support, including family and friends,

that has encouraged her throughout her musical journey.

“What’s lost in all this is the amount of support the people directly involved in my life are giving me,” Mishra said. “And I would not be anywhere without my parents telling me to never stop singing, to never stop making music.”

Another source of confidence comes from her Illinois Wesleyan experience. Being a leader, performing alone on stage and taking creative risks were all things she learned to do during her time on campus.

“My music is interestingly pretty much a direct reflection of my time at Wesleyan,” Mishra said. “I got to experience a bunch of things and I get to put that into the music I make now.” ◆



# CHANGING *many, many, many* LIVES



Through an eight-figure endowment to support student scholarships, Gene '50 and Marilyn Nuziard will provide the gift of an Illinois Wesleyan education to scores of future students

Story by MATT WING

## **Learn. Earn. Return.**

Gene Nuziard '50 has used this refrain before. He employed it as the theme for his acceptance speech when he received the Distinguished Alumnus Award at Illinois Wesleyan's 1997 Homecoming. He used it again when he sat down with IWU President Eric Jensen in September 2018 to discuss a pledge he and his wife Marilyn are making to support student scholarships at Illinois Wesleyan.

"There's a time for learning, there's a time for earning, and there's a time for returning," Nuziard told Jensen. "I'm giving to Wesleyan scholarship money so they can help other people, like they helped me."

Jensen announced the Nuziards' commitment to an eight-figure endowment for student scholarships at Illinois Wesleyan's annual Scholarship Benefactor Dinner on Oct. 4, 2018.







(Left) Gene '50 and Marilyn Nuziard have committed to an eight-figure endowment to support student scholarships. (Above and right) Gene Nuziard was a member of Theta Chi during his time at Illinois Wesleyan.



(Right) Gene and Marilyn Nuziard have played host to several Alumni Connections in the Los Angeles area.



(Above) Gene Nuziard enjoyed a prosperous career in the commercial baking industry, rising to the head of the Hostess Cake Division.

"The endowment that Gene and Marilyn Nuziard are setting up as part of their estate is large enough that huge numbers of students over the years are going to benefit from the Nuziards' support," Jensen said. "They're going to change thousands of lives."

The son of a working-class family, Gene Nuziard learned more on the streets of the South Side of Chicago than he did in the public school classrooms of his youth. But by combining those street smarts with an Illinois Wesleyan education, Nuziard embarked on a prosperous career in commercial baking with a recipe for success.

And now Nuziard, at age 90 and having crossed "learn" and "earn" off his self-imposed to-do list, has finished the job by putting a big, bold check mark next to the final step through his and Marilyn's commitment to future Illinois Wesleyan students.

"I never thought much about it. I just did it," Nuziard said when asked about the gift by Jensen. "I just thought about giving it to Wesleyan to help other students, like Wesleyan helped me. That's all I thought about."



Gene Nuziard's first education came from his father.

**"I just thought about giving it to Wesleyan to help other students, like Wesleyan helped me. That's all I thought about." — GENE NUZIARD '50**

Antoine Nuziard was a third-grade educated, first-generation immigrant from France who went to work in central Illinois coal mines at the age of 14 and lied about his age when he joined the Marines at 16.

Antoine Nuziard was tough. He took a run at amateur boxing in Chicago's White City when he returned from his military service, but quickly abandoned the career when the expense to treat a broken thumb was more than he had earned from the boxing match in which he suffered the injury. Antoine Nuziard was also a proud man. When physically threatened by a foreman

at the Chicago bakery where he was employed, Nuziard struck first. While others talked, he acted.

Once, when the Nuziards went to eat at a French restaurant without a reservation and were told no tables were available, Antoine Nuziard pulled the maître d' aside for a conversation in his native Parisian French.

Minutes later, the Nuziards were browsing menus at one of the finest tables in the restaurant.

"He always used to say to me, 'Son, if you can't get in the front door, you've got to get in the back door,'" Gene Nuziard remembers fondly.

**(Right)** Gene Nuziard (center) met with **President Eric Jensen** and Vice President for Advancement **Steve Seibring '81** (right) at Riviera Country Club in September 2018.

**(Below)** The Nuziards have often returned to Illinois Wesleyan for campus events.



**“I was up against Yale and Princeton and Harvard. And I was able to hold up. I was able to hang in there.” — GENE NUZIARD '50**



**(Above)** Gene Nuziard (left) was presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award by **Steve Wannemacher '73** (right) at Illinois Wesleyan's 1997 Homecoming.

The lessons Antoine Nuziard taught his son have stuck with him to this day.

“He was quite a guy, and that’s how I got in the bakery business,” Gene Nuziard said. “I loved him.”

The schooling he received from his father by far outweighed his early formal education. When Gene Nuziard spent time with his peers attending other schools, he quickly realized they were learning things he wasn’t.

“Until then, I didn’t realize I wasn’t learning anything,” he said. “When I would play with the kids in the street after school, I would listen to what they were learning, and they were talking way above my head.”

So when he finished high school and the time came to choose a college, he knew he wanted to be at a place where he would learn.

“I needed to select a smaller school so I could get some help,” Nuziard said. “I got personal attention at Wesleyan. I got the help that I needed.”

Active in Theta Chi and inspired by professors like Bill Beadles '23, Nuziard left Illinois Wesleyan in 1950 with a bachelor’s degree in business adminis-

tration. His IWU education served him well during the course of his illustrious career as he climbed the ranks in the commercial baking industry, often surpassing rival executives with Ivy League credentials.

“I was up against Yale and Princeton and Harvard,” he said. “And I was able to hold up. I was able to hang in there.”



Gene Nuziard started his career as a baker. He eventually became president of the company.

And that was just the start.

Nuziard nimbly navigated a career in commercial baking. He knew just when to get in or – more importantly – just when to get out of a business venture. When he left General Baking Company in the mid-1960s, he was quickly scooped up by Continental Baking Company (later ITT Continental), where he eventually oversaw the entire Hostess Cake Division.

Nuziard was responsible for the production of confections such as Ho Hos, Sno Balls and Suzy Q’s. But his favorite, of course, were Twinkies.



But not for the reason that one might suspect.

"They had the biggest margin," Nuziard says, matter-of-factly, before noting that lemon fruit pies came in at a close second place.

The best thing to come out of Nuziard's career in the baking business, however, came many years before he was charged with making million-dollar decisions.

Nuziard was a student at the American Institute of Baking (now AIB International) when he was drafted for the Korean War. Upon his discharge, he returned to AIB to finish his schooling, and working the registration counter was a young blonde woman who had just been accepted to Northwestern University.

A few days later when a group of classmates planned a night out, Nuziard thought of the pretty blonde woman working the registration counter. He asked her on a date. She said yes.

Gene and Marilyn Nuziard married a few years later in 1956.

"I guess that was a pretty good first date," Gene Nuziard says today, smiling.



Sixty-eight years after his graduation, Gene Nuziard remains very connected to his alma mater. The Nuziards have returned to campus many times and have been generous donors for decades.

Although Marilyn Nuziard is not an Illinois Wesleyan alum, she feels the same strong connection to the University her husband does.

"Marilyn agrees with Wesleyan because she's been down to Wesleyan, and she's met a lot of the professors, and some of the people there, and she thinks it's a great institution," Gene Nuziard said.

The Nuziards have also given back to Illinois Wesleyan by way of organizing alumni Connection events in Southern California.

Gene Nuziard remembers first being invited to a Los Angeles Connection event by former IWU President Minor Myers, jr. "This was before

Los Angeles even had a skyscraper," Nuziard recalled.

The day of the event, Myers lamented to Nuziard about attendance being poor, which Nuziard attributed to the location and the day of the week.

"I said to him, 'You want to throw a party? I can throw a party and people will come,'" Gene Nuziard told the Illinois Wesleyan president.

Nuziard helped organize Connection events in Southern California at exclusive locations, like Riviera Country Club and a local yacht club. Attendance went up. "Minor was really happy with that," Nuziard remembered.

But the most significant way the Nuziards have "returned" to Illinois Wesleyan is through their promise to provide scholarship support that will impact thousands of future IWU students.

"I'm not thinking about my legacy at Wesleyan," Gene Nuziard said when asked by Jensen. "I'm just thinking about what I'm doing for the people.

"I hope it makes a difference." ❖



**(Left)** The announcement of the Nuziards' gift at the annual Scholarship Benefactor Dinner drew a standing ovation.

**(Below)** Attendees of the Scholarship Benefactor Dinner were served Twinkies in honor of Gene Nuziard, who formerly oversaw the Hostess Cake Division.

"The endowment that Gene and Marilyn Nuziard are setting up as part of their estate is large enough that huge numbers of students over the years are going to benefit from the Nuziards' support." — PRESIDENT ERIC JENSEN



# Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## 1952

**Sybil (Wyle) Young** reports that her Illinois Wesleyan experience prepared her for 38 years of teaching and gave her an appreciation for music, literature, the arts and education. Sybil credits the many professors who inspired her during her time at IWU, as well as experiences she had as editor of the *Wesleyo* and singing in the University chorus. She gained a wealth of friendships and memories during her four years on campus. "If I could live those four years all over again, I would, in a heartbeat," she said. Sybil was previously misidentified in a printed class newsletter. Illinois Wesleyan regrets the error.

## 1955

**Anne (Kent) Clemens** helps coordinate Backpack Buddies, a program established to feed children who are food insecure. Anne works with the program to serve her local elementary school, where 90 percent of the students qualify for free or low-cost lunches. For some children, lunch at school is the only meal they will eat that day, and on weekends they often go home to little or no food. Backpack Buddies works to provide each child in the program with a free bag of food. The organization currently feeds 50 children each weekend, and teachers report there is less truancy on Fridays when food is distributed. The program is run through Anne's church in Salem, Oregon. Church volunteers raise the money to cover the costs of food – approximately \$8,000 each year – and pack and deliver each bag of food.

## 1959

**Sue Raye (Svec) Hughes** is an organist at St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Sister Bay, Wisconsin. She is also active in music at Gibraltar School, where she accompanies choirs and band students. In March 2018, she accompanied students to Disney World.

**Judy (Johnson) Riseling** and **Bob Riseling** continue to be active in the world of music. Judy sings with the Oakridge Presbyterian Choir and is director of the hand bell choir, performing for services and



Bill Samsøe '74 (right) and his wife Barb



George Jones '77

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

occasional concerts in London, Ontario. In addition to her own projects, she organizes workshops at the London Clay Art Centre. Bob recently presented master classes at Baylor University and the University of North Texas, and individual lessons at Colorado State University. In June 2018, he completed the recording of "Motor City Memoir," by Alan Torok, and gave the international premiere of five movements of the 10-movement work at the International Clarinet Association Clarinet-Fest in Ostend, Belgium. He also participated in a clarinet festival in Quebec City, Quebec, playing, conducting and giving a master class, November 8-10, 2018. In Summer 2018, Judy and Bob participated in the installation of a large mosaic in downtown London, Ontario.

## 1962

**Bob Evans**, founder of FMG Financial Services in Worcester, Massachusetts, was presented the 2018 Community Leadership Award by the Wachusett (Mass.) Area Chamber of Commerce at the organization's annual dinner on June 5, 2018. The award recognizes an individual in a leadership role exemplifying high ethical standards and a dedication to community service.

## 1963

**Dave Kindred** was the recipient of the Dan Jenkins Medal for Lifetime Achievement in sportswriting, presented at a banquet on Sept. 21, 2018, at the University of Texas at Austin's Center for Sports Communication & Media. The national award, named in honor of the legendary Texas sportswriter, celebrates the craft and culture of sportswriting. Jenkins has personified through his storied career. Dave has been a sportswriter across seven decades and has written 11 books. He has been a columnist at the *Louisville Courier-Journal*, *Washington Post*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* and *Golf Digest*. He won the Associated Press Sports Editors Red Smith Award in 1991 and, most recently, the PEN America/ESPN Award for Lifetime Achievement in Literary Sportswriting earlier this year.

## 1965

**Mary Sue (Knopp) Brewer** has retired after 29 years with the University of Georgia's Textile, Merchandising and Interiors Department. Originally hired to help conduct toxicity studies because of her biology background, Mary's most recent work involved using robots to study the



transfer of microbes from carpet to skin-like surfaces to determine the best carpet type for preschool locations.

**Al Carnine**, who founded the Missouri Southern State University Choral Society in 1980, stepped down as the chorus' director following the group's annual patriotic concert, on July 29, 2018, at St. Paul's United Methodist Church, in Joplin, Missouri. "They're really a great group," Al told *The Joplin Globe*. "They've been into it all these years, and they've enjoyed it. And so have I."

## 1967

**Ken Nelson** has answered a call to ministry, detailed in a story in the *Indianapolis Star*. A former field anchor for Indianapolis' ABC affiliate WRTV-6, Ken said the mission of his nonprofit organization will be to produce a six-part video series spreading Jesus Christ's basic message. The videos and study materials will be available free online next year.

## 1972

**Kent Taulbee** received the Pioneer Hall of Fame Award from (Normal, Ill.) University High School during its homecoming activities in September 2018. Kent's dermatological practice has served the Bloomington-Normal community for nearly 40 years.

## 1973

Trombonist **Philip Jones** has spent a lifetime performing alongside musical legends, including Frank Sinatra, Ray

Charles, Roy Orbison and Buddy Rich, and was recently featured in a *Chesterfield (Va.) Observer* profile.

## 1974

**Bill Samsoe** met his wife Barb bicycling 4,200 miles from coast to coast in 1976 on the TransAmerica Bicycle Trail. The couple wed two years later and recently celebrated their 40th anniversary with another coast-to-coast bicycle ride, traveling 3,100 miles from San Diego to St. Augustine, Florida, between March 5 and May 1, 2018.

## 1976

**Michele (Millotte) Doss** competed in the International Breast Cancer Paddlers Commission (IBPCP) Dragon Boat Festival, held in Florence, Italy, in July 2018. Michele was a member of the Sarasota, Florida-based team Survivors in Sync, which finished fourth out of more than 120 boats. The race along the Arno River was very close, with Michele's team finishing just 1.5 seconds behind the winning team in the 500-meter race. Dragon boat paddling has become a rehabilitation therapy activity for thousands who have undergone surgery, and over 3,000 breast cancer survivors participated in the IBPCP Dragon Boat Festival this year.

## 1977

**George Jones** has earned the Texas Bandmasters Association (TBA) Lifetime Administrator Achievement Award. He was presented the award at the TBA Convention



David Darling '79

and Clinic in San Antonio on July 26, 2018. George began his career with the Garland (Texas) Independent School District (GISD) in 1977 as band director at Memorial Middle School and assistant band director at South Garland High School. He has been the Director of Visual and Performing Arts (VAPA) for the GISD since 1997. He has served as chairman of the Metroplex Music Supervisors and president of the Texas Music Administrators Conference (TMAC) and, in 2012, he was named the TMAC Music Administrator of the Year. "I believe that my most important task as an administrator is to hire great teachers, provide them with the necessary support and then let them work their magic," George said. "In my 21 years as GISD Director of VAPA, I have witnessed great improvement in all of our programs."

**Charles Stuckey** has been accepted as a new member among America's Top Lawyers by the American Law Society Board.

## 1979

**David Darling**, a partner and shareholder in the law firm Stone & Johnson, Chartered, in Chicago, has been nominated by his peers and selected as one of Illinois' 2018 Leading Lawyers in Construction Law. Dave concentrates his practice in construction law, product liability, transportation and general negligence defense work in civil litigation.

**Dave Lawrence** served as the second-base umpire in the 2018 Congressional Baseball Game, played June 14, 2018, at Nationals Park in Washington, D.C. The



Robert Poynton '80 (right)

(continued on page 26)

*Alumni Notes* (continued from page 25)

annual event drew more than 16,000 fans and raised over \$1 million for local charities. The game also featured the return of individuals wounded in a shooting at a practice prior to the 2017 game, including congressman Steve Scalise. Despite limited mobility as he continues to recover from his injuries, Scalise started the game at second base and, on the first pitch of the game, fielded a ground ball hit to him – just feet from Dave’s umpiring post at second base – and retired the batter with a throw to first base.

## 1980

**Jonathan Goble** was named interim president of Ingalls Memorial Hospital in Harvey, Illinois, effective July 1, 2018. Jonathan most recently worked as president and chief executive of Indiana University Health’s north central region. Prior to that, he led IU Health’s LaPorte Regional Health System.

**Robert Poynton** has been associated with international recording artists The Lettermen since the late 1980s, and the group will soon be recognized for its distinguished recording career with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame. The Lettermen will be joined in the Class of 2019 with fellow musical acts Michael Bubl , Dolly Parton, P!nk and Linda Ronstadt, as well as actors Daniel Craig, Robert De Niro and Anne Hathaway. The induction of the Class of 2019 will take place in 2020 in Los Angeles.

## 1981

**Ansel Johnson** is an optometrist at Vision Salon Eye Care Associates in Blue Island, Illinois, working to detect and combat diabetes in his patients. Ansel uses new technology to detect subtle changes in patients’ color vision, potentially resulting from diabetes. He also offers his patients A1C testing and diabetes risk tests. His 28-year-old practice annually serves approximately 1,200 patients. “I have a personal testimony. I’m type 2 diabetic. It’s in my family. It’s in many African-American families. It’s a significant part of our patient database,” Ansel told the (Chicago) *Daily Southtown*. “The majority of my patients are from communities of color, African-American and Hispanic. Diabetes is a problem that I want to impact above and beyond.”

## 1984

**Sara (Shannon) Alijewicz**, an attorney and former general magistrate in Palm Beach County, Florida, was elected for a Palm County Court judgeship on Aug. 28, 2018.

## 1985

**Bill Damaschke** is president of animation and family entertainment at Skydance Media. He has also founded his own production company, StoryKey Entertainment, which produced musicals *Moulin Rouge!* and *The Prom*, debuting on Broadway this year.

## 1987

**Amy (Kistner) de Lannoy** was featured in a segment titled, “Tips for Changing Your Career Path Later in Life,” on *Good Morning Connecticut at Nine*, on WTNH-TV, an ABC affiliate in New Haven, Connecticut. In the segment, Amy detailed her journey from a career in pharmaceutical sales, to law school and a career as a corporate attorney, to managing a medical practice – all before moving on to her current position as a healthcare attorney with law firm Halloran Sage. Amy said she was nervous about getting back into law after being out of the practice for almost 10 years, but said she was fortunate her current employer viewed her varied experi-



Steven Hopp '87

ence as a valuable asset. Amy’s flexibility was also on display in February 2018 when she was randomly selected from a studio audience to assist in a Valentine’s Day edition of the recurring segment “First Drafts” on *The Late Show with Stephen Colbert*.

**Steven Hopp** is a registered piano technician and owns and operates PianoWorks Gallery & Clocks in Midland, Texas. The business provides comprehensive piano services, including: tuning, repair, moving, restoration, refinishing, humidity control, and more. Steven has played the piano since he was 5 years old. After receiving his degree from Illinois Wesleyan, he went on to earn an MFA from Northwestern University. He has performed in many venues and plays the piano for himself and professionally on a daily basis. For more information on Steven and PianoWorks Gallery & Clocks, visit: [www.pianoworksgallery.com](http://www.pianoworksgallery.com).

## 1988

**Dwight Kerlin** was named head coach of the boys’ soccer team at Metro-East Lutheran High School in Edwardsville, Illinois, prior to the 2018 season.

## 1990

**Stephan Paul Antonacci** was promoted to chief operating officer at Security Bank, headquartered in Springfield, Illinois, effective July 1, 2018. Paul has 21 years of broad banking experience, ranging from community banks to a large, money-center bank. His experience spans all types of financial services, including mortgage, commercial and consumer lending, retail services, cash and treasury management, private banking, and investments.

## 1991

**Tim Daugherty** was named vice president of operations and strategic planning at Mercy Medical Center in Sioux City, Iowa. In the new role, Tim has responsibility for business development and clinical services, as well as the Mercy Network Hospitals. He joined the Mercy Medical Center staff with more than 25 years of experience in a wide variety of healthcare systems and standalone hospitals, and was most recently employed at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, Florida.

**Juan Salgado** pledged to provide internships, apprenticeships or other





Stephan Paul Antonacci '90



Gina (Schopp) Wither '99 and Brian Smith '00



Scott Pluff '99

work-based learning opportunities to at least half of the approximate 8,000 students annually completing work in Chicago's community college system. The City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor and a past MacArthur Fellow, Juan set the goal before a crowd of business and civic leaders at a City Club of Chicago reception and luncheon on June 21, 2018.

## 1993

**Gerald L. Buldak** was promoted to senior lecturer of biology at Loyola University Chicago in July 2018.

**Jason Chambers** was chosen to serve as an at-large circuit judge in the Eleventh Judicial Circuit, the Illinois Supreme Court announced June 4, 2018. Previously serving as McLean County State's Attorney, Jason filled the vacancy created by Judge Robert Freitag's retirement; his appointment took effect Aug. 21, 2018, and will run at least through the November 2020 general election. Jason was one of four applicants for the job. In his new role, he will serve Ford, Livingston, Logan, McLean and Woodford counties.

**Mark Denzler** will become president of the Illinois Manufacturers' Association (IMA) on Jan. 1, 2019. Mark has served as IMA's vice president and chief operations officer since 2006. He held the role of director of government affairs from 1999-2003. The IMA represents nearly 4,000 Illinois companies and facilities, and has been in existence for 125 years.

## 1995

Community Consolidated School District 181 in Clarendon Hills, Illinois, hired **Christopher Reid**, most recently a

resource teacher for the district, as a pupil service administrator. Chris previously served as a special education teacher at Hinsdale (Ill.) Middle School for six years.

## 1996

**Jason Akemann, Nathan Hilding and Chris Bisailon '93** are the owners of five restaurant concepts in 14 locations, including the Old Town Pour House in Naperville, Illinois, which was featured in the *Naperville Sun* in October 2018.

## 1998

**Bill Murphy** is the director of the Forward BIO Institute, and Harvey D. Spangler Professor of Biomedical Engineering, Professor of Orthopedics & Rehabilitation, at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He also chairs the Forward BIO Initiative, a collaborative effort to make Wisconsin a recognized center of excellence in biomanufacturing, established with a \$750,000 grant awarded by the Wisconsin Economic Development Corporation on Sept. 6, 2018. "The Forward BIO Initiative will have everything it takes to amplify the impact of Wisconsin's innovations in biomanufacturing," Bill said in a press release.

**Niki Williams** is an English-major-turned-winemaker and is currently one of two winemakers for the The Prisoner Wine Company, recently featured in a *New York Times* article for bringing new energy and new design to Napa Valley. The company opened a new winery in St. Helena, California, in September 2018. More information on The Prisoner Wine Company can be found at: [www.theprisonerwinecompany.com](http://www.theprisonerwinecompany.com).

## 1999

**Scott Pluff** has accepted a new position as director of music and liturgy at St. Joseph Catholic Church in Cottleville, Missouri. Serving 5,300 families, St. Joseph is the largest Catholic parish in the state. Scott oversees the parish's worship ministries, directs three choirs, and serves as the principal organist. He has been a professional church musician for 25 years. At Illinois Wesleyan, he studied organ with professor **David Gehrenbeck**. Scott later earned a master's degree in theology from the Aquinas Institute of Theology in St. Louis. He lives in south St. Louis with his wife and three daughters.

**Gina (Schopp) Wither and Brian Smith '00** have worked at Steamboat Mountain School, a small, independent boarding school in Steamboat Springs, Colorado, for 20 and 19 years, respectively. Gina teaches biology, anatomy and physiology, and directs the competitive ski and snowboard program, as well as alumni relations. Brian is the dean of students and teaches calculus. Gina and Brian recently escorted students on a five-day canoeing trip on the Green River through Labyrinth Canyon, as part of the school's annual Desert Week trip.

## 2000

**Eric Snowden** was featured in a skit on *The Daily Show with Trevor Noah* about people who receive harassing tweets because they have a similar name to an infamous person, for whom they are often mistaken. The skit appeared on the show, which airs on Comedy Central, in July 2018.

(continued on page 29)

# Alumni Association News



(Left) Alumni Association Board of Directors President **Scott E. Huch '86** (left) poses with scholarship recipient **Robert Hilliard '20** (right) at the annual Scholarship Benefactor Dinner.

## Dear Fellow IWU Alumni,

Homecoming isn't the only thing that happened on campus this fall, but – for alumni – IWU's 100th Homecoming was one of the biggest. "A Century of Celebration" unfolded Oct. 5-7, 2018.

Your Alumni Association Board of Directors Annual Meeting was Oct. 5. Over breakfast, we met incoming first-year students who were contacted by alumni board members during the admissions process (see accompanying photo). Alumni volunteers are needed for 2019. At lunch we thanked IWU's Heritage Fellows for their planned estate gifts (see pages 20-23). We also finalized our commitment to 100 percent participation in annual giving to the Wesleyan Fund by alumni board members. And we formally launched the Alumni Academic Resource Council to bring alumni and professors in key fields together to benefit IWU students.

After the meeting, the board presented an alumni panel on careers in healthcare (see accompanying photo). This is only one of many opportunities for alumni involvement with IWU's career networking and mentoring programs. Alumni sharing internship and employment opportunities for recent graduates is another (see page 6).

With our "work" done, it was time to play. What a full schedule of great events this year! Select Homecoming photos are displayed in this issue (see pages 14-15). A renewed effort aimed at milestone class reunions was a big hit, with growing attendance and lots of smiles. And Club Tommy, at the Hansen Student Center for the first time, took Titan Spirit to new heights (see accompanying photo)!

Keep an eye out for Thank-a-Giver Day coming up Feb. 11, 2019. And "All In for Wesleyan" is April 11, 2019. Finally, mark your calendar for Homecoming 2019 – Oct. 4-6, 2019. See you there?

Go Titans!

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



(Above) Members of the Alumni Association Board of Directors posed for a photo at the group's annual meeting over Homecoming Weekend.



(Above) An alumni career panel, hosted by the Alumni Association, featured alumni working in the areas of medicine, healthcare advocacy and public health fields, including (from left): **Desiree Quizon-Colquitt '89**, **Jim Richter '93**, **Alissa Miller '08**, **Doug Aldeen '88**, **Ryan Siemers '98** and **Laura Randolph '92**.

(Right) Club Tommy served as a gathering spot for alumni and friends, including (from left): **Lilly Vore**, **Sara Vore '13**, **Rachel Paturi '13** and **Brogan Riches '13**.





## Alumni Notes (continued from page 27)

## Upcoming Alumni Connections

- ◆ **SUNDAY, JANUARY 27:**  
Arizona Titan Connection  
McCormick Ranch Golf Club, 12:30 p.m.
- ◆ **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4:**  
School of Theatre Arts  
Senior Showcase  
Chicago; time and specific  
location TBA
- ◆ **FRIDAY-SATURDAY,  
FEBRUARY 8-9:**  
Council for IWU Women Summit  
*Navigating Change*  
Illinois Wesleyan campus  
(various locations)
- ◆ **TUESDAY, MARCH 12:**  
Chicago Student Alumni  
Networking Event  
Time and location TBA
- ◆ **SUNDAY, MARCH 24:**  
Naples, Florida Connection  
Audubon Country Club, 3 p.m.

For more information, call (888) IWU-ALUM or visit [www.titanpride.org](http://www.titanpride.org).

The Illinois Wesleyan Collegiate Choir Tour hits the road in March 2019. Visit [www.iwu.edu/music/ensembles/co-choir](http://www.iwu.edu/music/ensembles/co-choir) for dates and details.



(Above) Yolanda Juarez-Sotelo '17 (right) communicated with first-year student Sarah Ziwicki '22 (left) during Sarah's admissions process, as part of the Alumni Admissions Network's efforts. They met face-to-face for the first time during Homecoming 2018 festivities.

## 2001

**Kyle Stern** attended a Jacksonville (Fla.) Jumbo Shrimp baseball game this summer at the Baseball Grounds of Jacksonville, marking the 100th professional baseball field at which he has seen a game played. Among the 100 ballparks are all 30 current Major League Baseball venues, as well as an assortment of minor league and independent league parks. Kyle resides in suburban Chicago with his wife and two children.

**Alison Sweeney** is a biophysicist at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research and findings relating to giant clams in Palau were recently featured in a story in *The Atlantic*, titled "Mysterious Glowing Clams Could Help Save the Planet."



Kyle Stern '01

## 2002

**Munib Mafazy** and his wife and Illinois Wesleyan University Professor of Anthropology **Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy** were members of an Illinois Wesleyan contingent that spent a week in July 2018 at the Lamu Center of Preventative Health (LCPH) in Kenya, providing free eye exams, screenings and glasses to over 300 patients in need. Other members of the group included **Erick Henderson '12**, his wife Erin, and current student **Annie Crumbaugh '19**. The LCPH was founded in 2007 by Rebecca and Munib, a native of Lamu who serves as executive director. "What we are doing with LCPH is making a paramount difference in many people's lives," he said. "We are on the frontlines of fighting diseases like malaria, HIV/AIDS, diabetes, hypertension and other chronic illnesses. We are blessed to have many people in the Bloomington-Normal community who care about making a difference."

**Adrian Perez** was named athletic director for Judah Christian School in Champaign, Illinois. Adrian had previously served as manager of two group homes for adults with developmental disabilities, basketball coach at Cornerstone Christian Academy in Sycamore, Illinois, and most recently, program services director at Champaign's Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club.

## 2003

**John Michael Betz** graduated from the University of Cincinnati College of Medicine earlier this year with a Master of Public Health in biostatistics. His thesis focused on the coping, death attitudes, spiritual struggle and resiliency of hospice workers. He was hired as a chaplain research fellow at Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center in July 2018.

**Dan Bucek** is a board-certified chiropractic sports physician who recently earned certification from the Fédération Internationale de Chiropractique du Sport (FICS), an international organization comprised of chiropractic sports councils from around the globe whose purpose is to set the international standard of care for athletes at sanctioned events. Dr. Bucek is on staff with Major League Baseball's Arizona Diamondbacks and serves as the sports chiropractor for the team's Class A affiliate, the Kane County Cougars. He is a rotating chiropractic sports physician at the U.S. Olympic Training Center in Colorado Springs, Colorado. He also cares for the 2016-17 Clark Cup champion Chicago Steel hockey team. "The FICS is responsible for the training and certification of sports chiropractors, worldwide, to serve at international sporting events," Dr. Bucek said. "This is a tremendous

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*Alumni Notes* (continued from page 29)

honor since the FICS ensures that the sports chiropractors on staff have the appropriate aptitude to care for athletes at a world event."

**John Camardella**, a social studies teacher at Prospect (Ill.) High School, was featured in an article in *The Harvard Gazette* detailing his implementation of the Harvard Divinity School Religious Literacy Project (RLP) method of teaching religious studies. John served as an RLP education fellow, asked to pilot its pedagogical materials and work closely with the RLP team to overhaul his class's curriculum.

**Randy Green** reflected on his football career, which included four seasons for the Titans, and what it taught him, in a story published in the (Champaign, Ill.) *News-Gazette*.

**Megan Pietrucha** was named The Chicago School of Professional Psychology's (TCSPP) Chicago campus Director of the Office of Placement and Training, in June 2018. Megan was also promoted to Director of Training at the American Psychological Program-accredited Community Internship Consortium at TCSPP.

**Patrick Spangler** was recently elected to the board of directors of the Public Interest Law Initiative (PILI), which supports pro bono and public service programs for current law students and fellowship programs for recent law school graduates. Patrick served as a PILI Fellow in 2005 and has continued an active pro bono practice, which has included representation of individuals in immigration asylum, family law and criminal justice reform litigation.

## 2004

**Dan Barkmeier** joined the University of Michigan Radiology Department as an assistant professor in the abdomen division.

**Janice (Ruhl) Scidmore** and her husband Brian recently opened a pottery shop, Cracked Up Pottery, in downtown Bloomington, Illinois. The business will sell Brian's pottery, host studio space for local artists and offer classes for individuals and groups.

**Joshua Worell** is an attorney at McVey & Parksy in Chicago. He earned his J.D. in 2009 at the University of Miami School of Law, where he graduated cum laude.

## Tiny Titans

**Jen (Schmitt) Popowitch '98** and John; Emily Jane, born July 23, 2018  
**Jenny (Grodecki) Gill '03** and Chad; Connor Thomas, born May 20, 2018  
**Kelly Green '04** and **Patrick Spangler '03**; Greta Enright, born July 9, 2018  
**Anna (Czipri) Redmond '04** and Jonas; Shea Jolene, born April 18, 2018  
**Sheena (Selvey) Watterson '04** and Adam; Nolan Jeffrey, born June 23, 2018  
**Carolyn (Marinier) Culberg '05** and David; Leo Alexander, born May 17, 2017  
**Emily (Beaugureau) Johnson '05** and Rob; Charlotte Grace, born June 15, 2018  
**Jake Sheley '05** and Lauren; Landry Beth, born June 6, 2018  
**Susanna Ludwig '06** and Tim Rourke; Adelaide, born June 25, 2018  
**Jessica (Jones) Rzepka '06** and Scott; Charles Scott, born Aug. 1, 2018  
**Aisha Davis '07** and Cory; Keylan O'ren, born Sept. 19, 2018  
**Emilee (Bocker) Henkel '07** and Zach; Collins Lee on Aug. 5, 2018  
**Anne (Wilkinson) Jbara '07** and **Brian '07**; David William, born June 30, 2018  
**Amy (Sipovic) Boyles '08** and Tom; Allison Judith, born July 16, 2018  
**Sarah (Albarran) Brooks '08** and John; Samuel Arthur, born March 2, 2018  
**Ashley (Sproull) Wessel '09** and **Jeff '10**; Mason Stuart, born July 28, 2018  
**Kathleen (Conway) Tietz '10** and **Brad '10**; Austin Bradley, Aug. 10, 2018  
**Natalie Cummings '10** and Austin Bradley; Thomas Roland, April 23, 2018  
**Lisa (Male) Cicinelli '11** and **Joseph '10**; Nicholas Paul, born March 24, 2018  
**Kate (Clark) Abens '12** and **Eric '10**; Finn John, born Jan. 4, 2018

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(Above) Members of the 2018 IWU Softball team were honored at Homecoming for their second-place finish in the NCAA Division III National Tournament. IWU forced a decisive game three before falling to No. 1-ranked Virginia Wesleyan in the 2018 championship series.



## 2005

**Lauren Ostrowski** has been appointed program dean at IES Abroad, an international education nonprofit organization focused on study abroad. In her new role, Lauren manages a portfolio of international centers in Spain, Germany and China. She is responsible for overall program and academic quality, including developing and implementing proposals for new areas of curricular focus, and leading qualitative and quantitative program reviews. She is also charged with leading overseas staffing, designing and executing strategic plans, and budget management. Lauren's connection to both Madrid and IES Abroad dates back to her study abroad experience in Madrid via the IES Abroad program while she was an Illinois Wesleyan student. She later returned to Madrid as a Fulbright fellow where she completed her master's degree at Universidad Alcalá de Henares. She previously served as managing director, chief of staff, for Teach For America-San Diego.

## 2006

**Matthew Cassady** accepted a position with the Minnesota Historical Society as the program specialist for its Interpretive Programs Team in August 2018. Matt's new responsibilities include leading institution-wide initiatives and projects around historic interpretation, educational program development, staff training, and communications for the Society's 26 historic sites and museums. Working with the other members of the team, Matt will also develop strategies to create and foster partnerships with community groups and leaders, organizations, businesses and educational organizations to further the mission of the Society.

**Ramin Fathi**, a board-certified dermatologist, has joined Southwest Skin Specialists, now a part of U.S. Dermatology Partners. Dr. Fathi joined the Phoenix-based practice on Aug. 1, 2018.

## 2007

**Kyle Griffith** joined the Illinois Wesleyan staff as director of residential life in June 2018. He had previously served in the office of residential life, as a complex director, at Emory University.



Matthew Cassady '06



Anne Kopf '08



Sara Ghadiri '11

## 2008

**Anne Kopf** has been promoted to architect at Quinn Evans Architects. Anne has worked extensively in the urban environment, contributing to multiple restoration projects at the Daughters of the American Revolution headquarters in Washington, D.C., and the modernization and adaptive use of the Old City Hall in Richmond, Virginia.

**Abigail Williams-Butler**'s dissertation as a developmental psychology graduate at the University of Michigan School of Social Work, "The Role of Relational Permanence in Positive Outcomes among African American Adolescents in Foster Care," was published in the *Journal of Child and Family Studies*.

**Bridget Wall** taught a "Back to College Class" during Illinois Wesleyan's 2018 Homecoming. Her class, titled "Stay in Circulation: The Impact of Medical Technology on Your Health," provided an overview of peripheral artery disease, current treatment challenges, and the newest medical devices to improve health. Bridget, who earned a doctorate at MIT after her time at Illinois Wesleyan, serves as a clinical evidence expert and scientific communications specialist in the information/training to sales, marketing, clinical, research and development, professional education, and health economics/reimbursement teams at Medtronic, a medical device company.

## 2009

**Carly (Calkins) Bashioum** graduated with a master's degree from Northwestern University's School of Communication on Aug. 3, 2018.

**Ben Hammer** is the head football coach at Rock Island (Ill.) High School. A native of Peoria, Illinois, Ben was profiled in the (Peoria) *Journal Star* this fall before return-

ing to the area for a game played in nearby Metamora, Illinois.

## 2010

**Babawande Afolabi** is the founder and CEO of Green Africa Airways. The new airline has received an Air Transport License from the Nigerian Government, commenced its Air Operating Certificate process and is in conversations with leading aircraft manufacturers. Green Africa Airways also recently announced it has completed its Series A round of financing with Kuramo Capital, a Pan African independent investment management group based in New York with additional offices in Lagos, Nigeria, and Nairobi, Kenya. As part of the new investment, Green Africa Airways has also formed an advisory board of senior industry leaders.

## 2011

**Sara Ghadiri**, an attorney for the Chicago-based firm Chapman and Cutler LLP, played a key role in supporting legislation to expand protections for survivors of domestic abuse and stalking. Illinois Governor Bruce Rauner signed Senate Bill 2330 on Aug. 10, 2018, amending current state law to permit courts to waive the publication requirement in name-change petitions for victims of domestic abuse or stalking. The law goes into effect Jan. 1, 2019. The idea to pursue legislative action was inspired by a question posed to Sara from a woman who had fled her abuser to start over in Illinois with a new name so that it would be more difficult for her abuser to track her down. A commercial litigator whose pro bono practice centers around helping survivors of domestic abuse, Sara advised that Illinois law had

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## ALUMNI UPDATE



**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](mailto:iwumag@iwu.edu), or via our website, at: [www.iwu.edu/magazine](http://www.iwu.edu/magazine).



(Above) **Larissa (Kowal) Thomas '15** married **Chris Thomas** on May 19, 2018, in Oak Park, Illinois, with several classmates attending. Those attending included (from left): **Lauren Thomas '16**, **Gemma Cozzi '17**, **Cameron McGlynn '15**, **Katie Vallorano '16**, **Clara Ehrhart '15**, **Chris Thomas**, **Matthew Braden '16**, **Larissa (Kowal) Thomas**, **Alejandra Salinas '16**, **Theoni Richardson '15** and **Maddie Savin '15**.



(Above) **Caroline Monsen '18** married **Beau Biedscheid '18** on Aug. 12, 2018, in Sycamore, Illinois, with several classmates attending, including (from left): **Skyler Reisig '20**, **Sophia LaMore '21**, **Monsen**, **Zoe Bouras '18**, **Sylvia Ho '18** and **Olivia Padilla '19**.



(Above) **Kristen Gattuso '12** and **Scott Wenzel '12** were married June 16, 2018, in Libertyville, Illinois, with many IWU classmates attending. Among those in attendance were (from left): **Bert Blodgett '13**, **Jessica (Hinterlong) Schaeffer '11**, **Brian Schaeffer '10**, **Johnny Simonelli '12**, **Cory Sloan '12**, **Wenzel**, **Ryan Flis '12**, **Gattuso**, **Kevin Johnson '12**, **Molly O'Brien '12**, **Benny Winterland '12**, **Hanni (Sha) Simonelli '12**, **P.J. Cummings '12**, **Rachel Soltwedel '13**, **Ben Houk '12** and **Chris Schaeffer '12**.



(Above) **Anna Bromaghim Compton '07** (front, left) married **Matt Compton** (front, right) on July 6, 2018, in Faribault, Minnesota, with many IWU classmates in attendance, including (back row, from left): **Kate (Swearingen) Nelson '07**, **Rachel Shulman '07**, **Krey Leesman '07**, **James Ball '07** and **Steph (Lyon) McMahon '07**. Anna is the event coordinator for conference services at IWU.



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan and Delta Omicron Sigma Chapter were well-represented at the National Triennial Conference of Delta Omicron, in July 2018, in the Orlando, Florida, area. Among those in attendance were (from left): **Brenda Maurer Dannewitz '77**, **Fern Noth**, **Jennifer Klafeta '88**, **Victoria Morford '20**, **Jake Scheuring '20** and **Matthew Neylon '11**.



(Above) **Carly (Calkins) Bashioum '09** married **Joshua Bashioum** in Park Ridge, Illinois, on Aug. 18, 2018. Many Illinois Wesleyan classmates attended, including (from left): **Tanya (Hnastchenko) Sikorski '09**, **Connie (Margaritis) Mayer '10**, **Joshua Bashioum**, **Carly (Calkins) Bashioum**, **Carly Visk '09**, **Erin Murray '09** and **Erin (O'Shea) Kaplan '09**.



(Below left) A group of IWU classmates gathered for the fourth-consecutive year at Lake Tahoe in July 2018. Among those in attendance were: **Beth (Grohne) Robins '86**, **Christie (Jurgens) Logan '87**, **Martina (Wilson) Scanlan '87**, **Kathy Horky '87**, **Stefanie (McGraw) Nelson '87**, **Leisa Dede Johnston '86** and **Mary Jane (Helm) Rogers '86**.



(Above right) A recent reunion of Sigma Chi members took place in Indiana. (From left) **Joseph Tolson '56**, **Donald Batz '56** and **John Andrae '58** spent a long weekend reminiscing about their time at Illinois Wesleyan and enjoying each other's company.



(Left) **Victoria Whitaker '14** married **Andrew Sorge** on June 23, 2018, in Des Moines, Iowa, with many classmates attending. Pictured are: (top row, from left) **Leah Tacchi '14**, **Amanda Fazzari '14**, **Megan Dyer '14**, **Abigail Mills '14**; (middle row, from left) **Kristin Wharton '14**, **Emily Shearer '14**, **Sarah Bussmann '14**; (front row, from left) **Miya Thalmann '14**, **Whitaker and Shelby Jackson '14**.

(Below) **Emily (Giacomino) Hackney '10** married **Henry Hackney III '10** on June 9, 2018, at the Chicago Cultural Center, with many IWU classmates attending, including (from left): **Lisa (Male) Cicinelli '11**, **Joseph Cicinelli '10**, **Maggie (Kotche) Colliander '10**, **Whitney Marlow '10**, **Lauren Relyea '10**, **Nicole Mocerino '10**, **Ewelina Wojnarowski '10**, **Brian Schaeffer '10**, **Henry Hackney III**, **Emily (Giacomino) Hackney**, **Steve Grisko '10**, **Nicole Bricknell '10**, **Brian Mulchrone '10**, **Katie Schlaffer '10**, **Amanda Pacholik '10**, **Thomas Brown '11**, **Katharine Klein '10**, **Jessica (Hinterlong) Schaeffer '11**, **Chris Schaeffer '12**, **Mike Duh '16** and **Neal Loftus '10**.



## Titan Celebrations

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(Above left) **Alyssa (Henzel) Lindquist '16** married **Jeremiah Lindquist '18** on Jan. 28, 2018, in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. Many IWU classmates celebrated with the Lindquists when they returned. (Above right) **Nancy (Rose) Harrington '73** (right) and **Katherine James '73** (left) reunited in September 2018 when Nancy traveled to California to see Katherine perform in *The Gin Game* at the Sierra Madre Playhouse (see page 12). (Below) **Kyle Painter '01** (center) married **Emmi Felker-Quinn** (right) in a small ceremony at a beach house on Ocracoke Island, North Carolina, on June 7, 2017. Among those in attendance was Kyle's brother **Chad Painter '97** (left).



(Below) The Richardson family poses at an alumni social preceding the Horenberger-Bass Classic, an annual baseball game played between Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University, on April 24, 2018. Pictured are (from left): **Elise Richardson**, **Alisha (Rogers) Richardson '09**, **Hazael Richardson** and **Brian Richardson '09**. Brian is an assistant director for career engagement in IWU's Hart Career Center. Illinois Wesleyan won the game, 10-4.





*Alumni Notes* (continued from page 31)

required petitioners to publicize their name changes for at least three weeks in the petitioner's local newspaper – there was no waiver available for people who are or have been protected under orders of protection. “The protections offered by this law are life-changing and further support the safety and well-being of domestic abuse survivors and their families,” said Sara, whose pro bono work was recently recognized with Chapman's Pro Bono and Volunteer Achievement Award. “I was honored to have been involved in drafting and testifying in support of this legislation and thank the Illinois Legislature, the Governor, and all those behind the scenes who supported this important initiative.”

## 2012

**Charon Cannon** graduated from Dominican University, in River Forest, Illinois, with honors and a 4.0 grade-point average, in May 2018. Charon earned a master's degree in social work.

**Jaclynn Sullivan** completed work on her doctorate in cognitive psychology in May 2018. She became a full-time faculty member at Mount Mercy University, in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this fall.



Jessica Taylor '14 (right)



Rob Gallik '14



Hannah Bowen '15

ROBERT KNAPP

## 2013

**Sara Vore** has started her own business, Flowers and Leather Events. During her time as a student at Illinois Wesleyan, Sara had the privilege of working on-campus in the Office of Student Activities and off-campus at a local bridal store. After graduation, she moved into a full-time career in event planning and management with several local organizations. While she continues to enjoy her full-time position as events coordinator at Illinois Wesleyan, Sara decided it was finally time to start her own business. Flowers and Leather Events focuses on wedding planning and specifically day-of (also known as month-of) coordination. Sara works with her clients to create a flawless wedding day, providing services from timeline planning to vendor coordination, as well as calligraphy and centerpiece crafting.

## 2014

**Amanda Fazzari** was named head softball coach at Trinity Christian College in August 2018. A former member of the Illinois Wesleyan softball team, Amanda most recently served as an assistant coach at her alma mater.

Former Illinois Wesleyan football standout **Rob Gallik** joined the Austria Football League's Graz Giants as an offensive coordinator/assistant coach but, due to an injury to the Giants' starting quarterback, was forced into a playing role. Rob led the team into the playoffs as its starting quarterback,

while continuing in his role as offensive coordinator/assistant coach.

**Colleen Leonard** joined the Ministry of Health of Zambia as a senior research associate for the National Health Research Authority, through a Global Health Corps Fellowship, in June 2018. Colleen completed her master's in public health degree, in global epidemiology, at Emory University in May 2018.

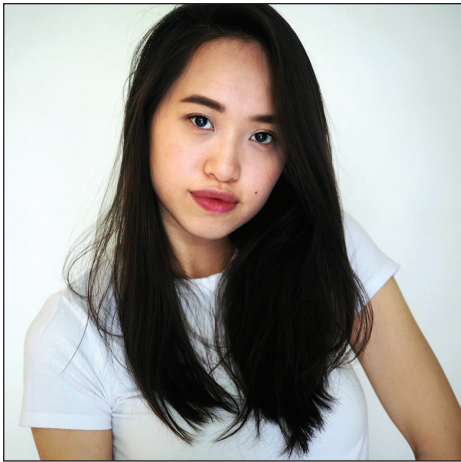
**Jessica Taylor** graduated from the University of Illinois-Chicago in May 2018 with a Doctor of Nursing Practice, in nurse-midwifery. She was recognized at commencement as the “Outstanding Student” by the Women, Children and Health Sciences Department. Jessica earned her doctorate while working full-time as a labor and delivery nurse. She earned her board certification and has begun work as a certified nurse midwife at Lee Health in Ft. Myers, Florida.

## 2015

**Hannah Bowen** has been accepted into Yale University's post-Master of Social Work Fellowship in Advanced Clinical Social Work. Hannah recently earned her master's degree from Erikson Institute, and the Yale fellowship provides advanced training for social workers wanting to become leaders in the field.

**Pat Sodemann** has been hired as an assistant men's basketball coach at Truman State University. A former member of the Illinois Wesleyan men's basketball team, Pat previously served as an assistant coach





Shen Yee Choong '16

at Missouri Baptist University and Ohio Dominican University, and most recently helped ODU to an NCAA Tournament appearance in 2017-18.

## 2016

**Shen Yee Choong** was one of 18 semifinalists in the 2018 Miss World Malaysia competition. The semifinal round was held Aug. 26-28, 2018, in advance of the finale on Sept. 8, 2018, in Kuching, Malaysia.

## 2017

**Adam Lavitola** is the founder of Club-house Athletic, a website for companies, groups and teams to order custom sports

apparel. In September 2018, he was featured in *Chicago Inno's* "25 Under 25," highlighting 25 rising entrepreneurs and technologists under the age of 25.

**Preslav Mantchev** has earned a pro bono notation from the University of Illinois College of Law, which will appear on his J.D. diploma, recognizing his contributions to the Champaign County Record Sealing and Expungement Summit, Forest Preserve District of Cook County, and the City of Chicago.

**Sam Rosenberg** joined Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Residential Life in July 2018 as an area director.

## 2018

**Zoe Bouras** was one of five recipients of the 2018 Howard Penniman Scholarship for Graduate Study from Pi Sigma Alpha, a nationwide political science honor society. Zoe will apply the \$2,000 scholarship toward her tuition costs at Oxford University, where she is a graduate student.

**Maisy Bowden** was the recipient of a \$5,000 Phi Kappa Phi Fellowship award to support her graduate studies, at Georgia State University, focused on the evolutionary precursors of language in nonhuman primates. "IWU gave me every opportunity to develop as a student, a researcher and a well-rounded human being" said Maisy, who plans to pursue a doctorate in psychology. "My experiences studying abroad and as a student-athlete and a sorority member

shaped me into a confident and ambitious woman and, ultimately, motivated me to pursue my passion for animal cognitive-behavioral research."

**Ryan Kaplan** combined his knowledge of finance with his experience as a student-athlete to reveal the multi-million dollar economic impact of Illinois Wesleyan's Department of Athletics on the Bloomington-Normal community. The 16-week research project, focusing on both revenue and expenses, served as a capstone project for the economics major.

**Anthony Lunsford** designed the logo for Illinois Wesleyan's Esports team (see page 1). The logo is displayed prominently on the team's apparel and in the newly opened Esports Arena.

**Shannon Maloney** has earned a \$33,000 scholarship through Rotary International to continue her education at Oxford University, where she will pursue a Doctor of Philosophy in Psychiatry. Shannon, who previously studied abroad at Oxford during the 2016-17 academic year, earned a bachelor of arts in psychology at Illinois Wesleyan in May 2018. Her research at Oxford will center on mindfulness and meditation, and their applications in treating illnesses ranging from IBS to dementia, and will additionally explore potential biomarkers of disease. Shannon was nominated for the scholarship by the Rotary District 6490 Scholarship Committee, and funding of the scholarship is provided by Rotary District 6490 and Rotary One.

**Mackenzie Marquis** received an on-field marriage proposal after an Illinois Wesleyan softball practice this spring, detailed in a Bill Flick column in *The Pantagraph*.

**Shante Williams** has joined the Peace Corps and will spend 27 months teaching English to students in Zambia. "I don't think that I would be going into the Peace Corps had it not been for Illinois Wesleyan," she said.

**Patrick Zajac** joined Illinois Wesleyan's Hart Career Center as a career technology and recruitment specialist in May 2018.

**Tianze "Linda" Zhang** received a Ustinov College Scholarship from Durham University, in Durham, England, where she is pursuing a master's degree in conflict prevention and peacebuilding.



Shannon Maloney '18



Maisy Bowden '18

## In Memory

## Faculty and Staff

**Richard “Dick” Whitlock** of Bloomington, Illinois, died June 12, 2018, at his residence. He was 75. Dick earned a bachelor’s degree at Gustavus Adolphus College and an MBA from the University of Illinois. An Eagle Scout, Dick worked at Boy Scout camps throughout his youth. He taught high school business in Adrian, Minnesota, after his studies. He then served as an executive in the Boy Scouts organization for 10 years. He began working at Illinois Wesleyan in 1976. He retired 28 years later after having led a staff whose achievements enabled the construction of several campus buildings and grew the endowment. Dick is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and two siblings.

**Arthur R. Williams** of Tampa, Florida, died July 3, 2018. He was 83. Arthur taught in the theatre department at Illinois Wesleyan in the 1950s. He later taught at Shimier College, West Virginia University and Eastern Michigan University. He was a founding member of the Society for Stage Directors and Choreographers in New York City in 1959, and he wrote for *The Tonight Show* and *The Jackie Gleason Show*. He was an avid golfer and musician. He was also a U.S. Army veteran. Later in life, he entered private practice as a psychotherapist, and family and marriage counselor in Anamosa, Iowa. In retirement, he moved to Florida, where he continued to golf, write and enjoy his pets. He is survived by his wife, four children and four grandchildren.

## Alumni

**Orvid Halane ’42** of Ballwin, Missouri, died July 24, 2018. He was 97. Orvid earned both undergraduate and graduate music degrees from Illinois Wesleyan, where he also met his late wife **Athlyne “Athie” (Henley) Halane ’45**. The two married after Orvid returned from serving in the U.S. Army Signal Corps from 1942-45. He taught in Ridge Farm, Illinois, and Smithville, Missouri, before teaching vocal music for over 30 years in the Maplewood-Richmond Heights School District in St. Louis County. He was active in music programs at both Grace and Manchester United Methodist churches. When he moved to an assisted living facility in 2009, he played piano for Sunday worship services and presented several holiday programs with his daughter, a violinist. He is survived by his two children and five nieces.

**Jean (Kepley) Pruett ’45** died July 19, 2018, in McLean, Virginia. She was 93. Jean studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and was an active member of Delta Omicron. She was an organist, choir member, soloist and/or director of the many church choirs where she and her late husband were stationed during his time in the U.S. Navy. She performed with the San Diego Civic Light Opera, also known as the Starlight Musical Theatre, from 1955-57, at Balboa Park in San Diego. Jean resided in McLean, Virginia, for 56 years. During that time, she served as president of the Navy Doctors Wives Club in Bethesda, Maryland. She also raised money for the establishment of the Navy Marine Coast Guard Residence in McLean, and volunteered in its gift shop. She is survived by three children, including **Merry (Pruett) Jonkers ’67** and **Roberta (Pruett) Beasley ’74**, nine grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

**Marjorie (Zehr) Sneed Smith-Otto ’45** died Dec. 24, 2017. She was 93. Marjorie studied at Illinois Wesleyan and Baylor University



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before beginning a career as a nurse in Yuma, Arizona. She first worked for Yuma County Hospital and later Yuma School District One, where she worked with children for 26 years. Her passions were her family and all children. She loved to travel, visit new places and meet new people. She is survived by seven children, 22 grandchildren, 19 great-grandchildren, three siblings and several nieces and nephews.

**Jack Stubblefield ’46** died Aug. 26, 2018, in Merced, California. He was 92. Jack met his late wife **Barbara Ann (Bigler) Stubblefield ’47** at Illinois Wesleyan. He was a pianist in swing bands in Chicago in the 1940s but gave up band life to raise his family. He was first a chemist at Kraft Foods in Chicago, but later moved his family to California, where he worked at Gentry Foods. He served on the Oxnard (Calif.) Planning Commission, volunteered with the Boy Scouts, and was on the finance committees of the American Field Service and Camp Fire Girls. Jack moved his family to Merced in 1969 when he took a job at USP. When the company folded, he sold insurance for Cal-Farm, farmed 175 acres of almonds, and then became personnel manager at CalCan. He served on the Merced Chamber of Commerce and was a member of the Kiwanis Club for over 22 years. Once retired, he and Barbara enjoyed travel-



ing, genealogy, and visiting family and friends. He is survived by his four children, three grandsons and one great-granddaughter.

**Rosemary (Stubblefield) Schertz '47** died Aug. 14, 2018, in Gibson City, Illinois. She was 93. Rosemary was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma, and met her late husband **C. Richard Schertz '49** at a social mixer with Sigma Chi members. She was later chosen as the "Sweetheart of Sigma Chi" in 1947, following the couple's engagement. Rosemary was a loyal supporter of both Illinois Wesleyan and her sorority. She taught grade school before caring for her children as a homemaker, but also used her business training to handle financial recordkeeping for her family's businesses. Rosemary was an avid genealogist and shared her husband's love of flying, obtaining her private pilot's license in 1987. She was also an active member of Gibson City United Methodist Church, Gibson Area Hospital Auxiliary, Governor Thomas Ford Chapter of Daughters of the American Revolution, and the Ford County Historical Society. She is survived by her two children, two grandsons, three great-grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

**Phyllis (Smith) Short '47** died June 7, 2018, in Bloomington, Illinois. She was 92. She studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and was a member of Delta Omicron, Phi Kappa Phi, PEO, Ladies Study Club, and UMW at Wesley United Methodist Church. She taught many young students how to play the piano and, later in life, worked at the McLean County Law and Justice Center. Phyllis was preceded in death by her husband **Lee Short '44**. She is survived by four daughters, including **Karen (Short) Mills '70**, **Deb (Short) Hester '74** and **Barbara (Short) Brown '77**, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Anne (Guckenberger) Delo '48** died Sept. 14, 2018, in Holland, Pennsylvania. She was 92. After studying at Illinois Wesleyan, Anne earned a master's degree at Ohio Wesleyan. She had a varied and distinguished career as a high school business education teacher, guidance counselor, TV talk show host, *Romper Room* star, model and real estate agent. In her leisure, she was an accomplished artist and enjoyed traveling, bird-watching, tennis and golf. She is survived by two stepchildren, two grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Lois (Lepper) Berggren '49**, originally from Quincy, Illinois, died Aug. 12, 2016. She was 88. While at Illinois Wesleyan, Lois served as president of Alpha Gamma Delta and was a member of several academic and honorary societies, including Phi Kappa Phi, Alpha Lambda Delta, Egas, Academy of Science, and the premedical honor society Alpha Epsilon Delta. She was also active in the Women's League and with the *Wesleyana*. Lois met her husband **George Berggren '50** at IWU. She was a dedicated elementary school teacher in the Quincy Public School System for 26 years before retiring. She served as editor of her IWU class newsletter for several years and enjoyed keeping up with her college classmates. Lois was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by four daughters, including **Priscilla (Berggren) Parker '78** and **Sara (Berggren) Barry '82**, as well as her sister **Shirley (Lepper) Davis '53**.

**Marion Hathaway '49** died Sept. 12, 2016. He was 92. He served in the U.S. Navy from 1943-46 and took part in the Normandy invasion in World War II, and later in the Pacific theater, in the

invasion of Okinawa. After earning a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan, he went on to earn a master's degree in social work from the University of Illinois. Marion supervised students at Chicago's Jane Addams School of Social work until 1969, when he was hired by the Cooperative Association for Special Education. He was an avid bridge player, wood carver, puzzle solver and reader, and enjoyed vigorous daily walks. He is survived by five children, three stepchildren, and many grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Maxine "Mickey" (Walters) Opperman '49** of Piper City, Illinois, died May 20, 2018. She was 90. Mickey studied home economics at Illinois Wesleyan and later worked for University of Illinois Extension, serving as a Grundy County youth advisor. She also worked at State Bank of Piper City. She owned and operated an antique shop for 50-plus years and farmed with her late husband until retirement in 1991. She was also a member of a bridge club and enjoyed spending time with family, camping, antiques and playing euchre. Mickey is survived by two children, including **Lu Ann (Opperman) Reinagle '79**, three grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, four great-great-grandchildren, and one sister.

**Elizabeth "Penny" (Oborn) Bailey '50** died March 5, 2018. She was 89. Penny resided in Freeport, Illinois, the past year after living in Rolling Meadows, Illinois, for the previous 60 years. Penny was a member of Kappa Delta and served as Illinois Wesleyan's chapter president. She later worked for Camp Fire (originally Camp Fire Girls of America) and the American Red Cross. She was active in her church and was an advocate for social justice. She was preceded in death by her husband **William Bailey '50**. She is survived by three children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Charles L. Moore '50** died April 20, 2017. He was 91. Chuck served as a merchant marine in World War II and later attended medical school before opening a general and thoracic surgery practice in Lake Worth, Florida, in 1961. During 39 years of practice, he was instrumental in establishing the first ICU in Florida, initiating the first comprehensive course for first responders, making early advancement in breast cancer treatment, and serving as the Lake Worth High School team physician. Inspired to serve his country yet again, he volunteered to serve as a combat surgeon in Vietnam. He received two Purple Hearts, the Legion of Merit and a Bronze Star. Chuck went on to serve as the chief of surgery, chairman of the board and, on two occasions, the acting CEO of JFK Medical Center, in Palm Beach County, Florida. He retired in 1990, but his legacy to serve others lives on, having been passed down to his daughters, grandchildren and great-grandchildren.

**Barbara (Hakes) Smith '50** of Plainfield, Illinois, died May 26, 2018. She was 89. Barbara was an active member of Alpha Gamma Delta during her time at Illinois Wesleyan. She was later active in Plainfield United Methodist Church and the Daughters of the American Revolution, as well as Plainfield Retired Teachers, Plainfield Park District and Red Rover social groups. Barbara taught Spanish at Plainfield Central High School for 25 years before retiring in 1990. She was preceded in death by her husband **Donald Smith '51**, and is survived by two sons, a brother, and many nieces and nephews.

(continued on page 38)

*In Memory* (continued from page 37)

**William Beadles '51** of Bloomington, Illinois, died Sept. 12, 2018. He was 88. Bill furthered his education at Northwestern University after his graduation from Illinois Wesleyan. After his schooling, he joined the U.S. Air Force, where he practiced as a dentist and obtained the rank of captain. He later started a dental practice in Bloomington, working until his retirement in 1992. He enjoyed spending time outdoors, camping, weaving and woodworking, but his greatest joy came from spending time with his family. Bill was preceded in death by his wife **Nell (Alexander) Beadles '50**. He is survived by son **Dave Beadles '75**, daughter **Margaret (Beadles) Deffenbaugh '79**, four grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and sister **Martha (Beadles) Giacobassi '48**.

**William "Bill" Benjamin '51** of Hot Springs, Arkansas, died April 27, 2018. He was 90. Bill grew up in Bloomington, Illinois, and enlisted in the U.S. Navy out of high school. Upon his return to Bloomington, he enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan, where he was a member of Phi Gamma Delta. He also met his late wife **Joan (Ericzon) Benjamin '51** at IWU. The Benjamins raised two children in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, where Bill worked for the House of Stainless for 29 years. Bill resided most recently in Arkansas, where he was active in Hot Springs Village VFW post, Hot Springs Village Lions Club, Masonic Lodge, Shriners and Phi Gamma Delta. He is survived by two children.

**Anna Mae (Harne) Dawson '53** of Moline, Illinois, died June 10, 2018. She was 86. After studying music at Illinois Wesleyan, she went on to earn a master's degree at Southern Illinois University. She was a teacher in the Moline (Ill.) and East Moline (Ill.) school districts, and later at St. Mary's Catholic School in East Moline. Anna Mae was also a private piano teacher for 53 years. She was a member of the Fine Arts Club, where she had served as president, and was active in the National Federation of Music Teachers, Illinois Retired Teachers Association and Christ United Methodist Church in East Moline. She is survived by two children, five grandchildren, four great-grandchildren and a sister.

**William Clark '54** of Redington Beach, Florida, and West Chicago, Illinois, died May 11, 2015. He was 82. After receiving his bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan, William went on to earn a master's degree at Bradley University. He served in the U.S. Army and was employed by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration. He retired from the organization with the title of Midwest Regional Director. He is survived by a wife, two daughters, seven grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren.

**Eleanor (Wilcox) Jokisch '55** of The Plains, Ohio, died Aug. 2, 2018. She was 85. Eleanor majored in home economics at Illinois Wesleyan and worked for the University of Illinois Home Extension Service in Morgan and Cass counties, and Famous Barr in Springfield, Illinois. She married her husband in 1960 and the couple settled in Virginia, Illinois, where they lived until 2012, before relocating to Ohio to be near their grandsons. Eleanor was a longtime member of the Virginia Park Board and Kiwanis Club in Athens, Ohio. She volunteered at Memorial Hospital in Springfield and later at OhioHealth O'Bleness Hospital in Athens. Eleanor attended Lutheran churches and taught Sunday school. She is sur-

vived by her husband, three sons, four grandchildren, and several nieces and nephews.

**Robert Cummins, Jr. '56** of Fairbury, Illinois, died July 26, 2018. Bob studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and taught vocal music in Bloomington (Ill.) public schools for 37 years. His hobbies included building model trains, boats and steam engines. Bob also enjoyed acting on stage, with the Community Players Theatre in Bloomington, Illinois, and Conklin's Dinner Theatre in Goodfield, Illinois. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren, four great-grandchildren, and a sister.

**Gordon Stone '57** of Peoria, Illinois, died May 6, 2016. He was 81. Gordon was an insurance broker for 50 years, working with his father and brother at the Stone Agency. His greatest enjoyment was spending time with his children and grandchildren. He was an active supporter of his kids' and grandkids' activities. He was an avid bowler and a die-hard St. Louis Cardinals fan. He is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, one great-grandchild, and a brother.

**William "Bill" Wartmann '57** died June 17, 2018, in Janesville, Wisconsin. He was 82. After studying at Illinois Wesleyan, Bill went on to graduate school at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. An art enthusiast, he made a career as an antique appraiser and sculptor. He supported local music and arts, Gifts for Kids, various humane societies including Friends of Noah, historical society ventures, Edgerton (Wis.) Hospital and Health Services, and Edgerton (Wis.) High School and its students. He was also passionate about LGBTQ causes and was a proud supporter of OutReach LGBT Community Center in Madison, Wisconsin.

**Robert "Bob" Sengpiel '58** of Champaign, Illinois, and formerly of Bloomington, Illinois, died Nov. 2, 2017. He was 88. Bob was a Korean War veteran and a lifelong member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, as well as the Knights of Columbus. He taught and coached baseball and basketball at Bloomington-Normal and area schools. He later worked for the State of Illinois Highway Department and retired after 23 years of service. He is survived by a son, two stepdaughters, a stepson, five grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**James "Jim" Stirling '58** of Ada Township, Michigan, died May 12, 2018. He was 82. During his time at Illinois Wesleyan, Jim was a member of Theta Chi. He was a pre-theology student who served two local Methodist churches during his time at IWU. He also served as president of his senior class. He married **Patricia (Neumeyer) Stirling '58** after graduation and started his seminary education at Garrett Theological Seminary. He was ordained by the Methodist Church and appointed as pastor to a "new-church-start" congregation in New Berlin, Wisconsin. He was outgoing and enjoyed the challenge of building the church to be a faithful and thriving community. In the early 1970s, he entered the business world and developed skills in sales and management. Jim enjoyed keeping in touch with IWU friends and often wondered about those with whom he had lost contact. Jim lived with the effects of a severe stroke he sustained when he was 47. His positive attitude and determination helped him overcome many odds that could have stalled his life. He is survived by his wife, four children and nine grandchildren.



# In Memory



## Deaths Reported

**Carl Burgener '38**; Aug. 26, 2018

**John Schaeffer '41**; June 5, 2018

**Eileen (Hallstein) Nemoitin '43**; Jan. 13, 2018

**Alice (Lillibridge) Zumwalt '45**; Aug. 14, 2018

**Roy Palmer '46**; July 7, 2018

**Julia (Davis) Schaeffer '46**; March 8, 2010

**Bernadine (Meadows) Tyner '48**; July 10, 2016

**Mildred (Carmichael) Williford '48**; Sept. 17, 2018

**Robert DeVary '49**; Sept. 10, 2018

**Irene Downey '49**; July 12, 2018

**Kenneth Engelman '49**; Sept. 5, 2018

**Gerald Ippel '49**; Aug. 17, 2018

**Dolores (Penfound) Desormey '52**; June 4, 2018

**Sam Smiley '52**; Aug. 15, 2018

**Phyllis (Applegate) Carlson '55**; July 14, 2017

**David Colby '58**; Sept. 24, 2018

**George Sutor '58**; June 13, 2018

**Merlin Lambie '60**; June 15, 2018

**David Alford '69**; Aug. 19, 2018

**William Mundt '75**; Dec. 25, 2017

**Sandra "Sandy" (Barr) Noren '59** died May 11, 2018, in Vinton, Iowa. She was 80. Born in Bloomington, Illinois, Sandy returned to her hometown to attend Illinois Wesleyan after spending childhood years in both Springfield, Illinois, and Arlington Heights, Illinois. She married her late husband **Ralph Noren '57** while a student at IWU. She later worked as a reference librarian for the First National Bank of Chicago before retiring to raise her children. Sandy was a member of the Missouri Valley Presbyterian Church for over 30 years, where she was an elder. She later became a member and elder at First Christian Church in Vinton and participated in the Wednesday morning Bible study for many years. She was a member of the Thursday Card Club for 15 years and was also a member of the Mentor Literature Club, and Hooks and Needles. She was a lover of dogs, horses, crocheting, reading, bird-watching and gardening. She is survived by her second husband, four children, 11 grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and sister.

**Robert Smith '59** of Arcola, Illinois, died June 28, 2018. He was 81. Bob lived his entire life in Arcola, with the only exceptions his time studying at Illinois Wesleyan and Washington University Dental School. He started his practice in Arcola in 1963 and was a mainstay on Main Street until he retired in 2006. He was active at Arcola First Christian, where he held leadership roles and played the organ. He was also a charter member of the Arcola

Foundation Board, serving for 33 years, the final 28 as chairman. For his many years of community involvement, Bob and his wife served as the grand marshals for the 2006 Broom Corn Festival. He is survived by his wife, three children, nine grandchildren and one brother.

**Judie (Brown) Groniger '60** of Oak Creek, Wisconsin, died Sept. 25, 2015. She was 77. Judie was a registered nurse who was employed by the Medical College of Wisconsin. She had a passion for reading, with particular interest in American history. She was an avid gardener and a fan of the Milwaukee Brewers. Judie also enjoyed traveling, having taken trips to Africa, New Zealand, Germany, Alaska, and the Lewis and Clark National Historic Trail. But her favorite place to visit was Siesta Key, Florida, where a celebration of life was held shortly after her passing. She is survived by two sons, two grandsons, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

**Mary Lee (Glose) Honegger '62** of Forrest, Illinois, died April 1, 2017. She was 76. Mary Lee married **Gary Honegger '61**, with whom she raised five children, in 1960. She was active in Forrest United Methodist Church. She always had a sense of humor and wanted everyone to know that she is still "just peachy." She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her five children, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

*(continued on page 40)*

*In Memory* (continued from page 39)

**Marcia (Johnston) Jurgens '63** died March 4, 2018, in Green Valley, Arizona. She was 74. While at Illinois Wesleyan, she met her husband **Doug Jurgens '63** and made lifelong friends in Kappa Delta sorority. She spent her career in social work: in the foster system for the City of Chicago, at Coles County Mental Health Center, 20 years in Mattoon (Ill.) Public Schools, and then teaching graduate students at the University of Illinois. She lived over three decades in Arthur, Illinois, before retiring in Arizona. She hiked the Grand Canyon five times, created and published crossword puzzles, was an avid gardener and member of multiple book clubs, and was a member of the Green Valley Hiking Club and the United Methodist Church of Green Valley. She is survived by her husband, three daughters, including **Christie Jurgens Logan '87**, and five grandchildren.

**F. Mark Wade '65** of Chicago died July 2, 2018. He was 76. Mark grew up in Normal, Illinois, attending University High School before Illinois Wesleyan. He joined the U.S. Navy after attending IWU, serving as a supply officer in Philadelphia, where he met his wife. He later worked in the food service and food equipment industries for 35 years. He enjoyed tennis, golf, motorcycles and traveling. He is survived by his wife, two sons, two grandchildren, and a sister.

**Richard Hiles '67** died May 18, 2018. He was 73. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Rich enlisted in the Air National Guard and eventually served in the Oregon Air National Guard and Illinois Air National Guard. He then began his career as an accountant and, later in his career, became certified in inventory management and production control. He was devoted to his church, where he served on numerous committees. He was a Eucharistic minister, and he served on the cooking crew on youth mission trips. Rich also volunteered at Holden Arboretum in Kirtland, Ohio, helped with the garden at his local Boys and Girls Club, and worked on a crew that built and remodeled houses for Habitat for Humanity. Rich was also a devoted Cleveland Indians fan and season ticket holder, having attended every opening day since 1994. He is survived by his wife **Stefanie (FERENCE) Hiles '68**, three sons, four grandchildren, a brother, and four nieces and nephews.

**Alanna (Whittle) Preussner '68** died Jan. 9, 2018, in Kent, Washington. Alanna studied English at Illinois Wesleyan and was active in Sigma Kappa. She and her late husband began their teaching careers at Yankton College in South Dakota, but later moved to Topeka, Kansas, where Alanna worked in grant writing for the Kansas Committee for the Humanities. In 1989, she joined her husband in Kirksville, Missouri, where they both worked at Northwest Missouri State University (now Truman State University). She worked in several roles, including teaching, grant writing and administration. She moved to Washington state in 2016 to be close to her family and quickly engaged in her community through the Kent United Methodist Church, its choir, the United Methodist Women, multiple book clubs, and the Kent Historical Society. She is survived by a daughter, granddaughter, brother and extended family.

**Terry Ridenour '68** of Roscoe, Illinois, died June 5, 2017. He was 71. Terry was a veteran of the Army National Guard and served in the Vietnam War. He worked in insurance and retired from Allstate Insurance Company. He was devoted to his church. He was an avid fisherman and belonged to many fishing organizations. Terry



**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.

Send to *IWU Magazine*, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702, [iwumag@iwu.edu](mailto:iwumag@iwu.edu), or via our website, at: [www.iwu.edu/magazine](http://www.iwu.edu/magazine).

was a member of Samuel H. Davis Lodge No. 96 A.F. & A.M. in Mt. Morris, Illinois, and a lifetime member of A.A. Scottish Rite Valley of Danville, Illinois. He is survived by his wife, two children, four grandchildren and one sister.

**Charles Hohenstein '76** of South Bend, Indiana, died Nov. 30, 2017. He was 62. In addition to Illinois Wesleyan, he held degrees from the Chicago Theological Seminary and the University of Notre Dame. He later taught humanities at Notre Dame. He is survived by three siblings and several nieces and nephews.

**Laura (Peterson) Roman '85** died Aug. 12, 2018. She was 54. Laura earned her bachelor's degree in psychology from Illinois Wesleyan and her master's from Illinois State University. Lifelong friendships were formed during her college years, among them a relationship with her future husband **Brian Roman '85**. Laura's devotion to children led to a career as a school psychologist in the Wheaton (Ill.) school district. Laura and Brian adopted a son, Joseph, in 2006. Though Laura was diagnosed with brain and spinal cord cancer in 2010, Brian made sure she participated fully in family events, from Joseph's ball games to charity races. Lauren was known for her courage and fortitude, sense of humor, joyful laugh, and an attention to detail. She was a lover of patty melts, angel food cake, the Beatles and Eric Clapton, and she adored her menagerie of dogs and cats, who kept watch over her. She is survived by her husband, son, mother, two sisters and countless friends and relatives.



# 2018

## *a year to remember*

was a year to remember at Illinois Wesleyan. Our students are making the most of their IWU experience by excelling in and out of the classroom. The generous support of our alumni, parents and friends helped in making many of these highlights possible for our talented and deserving students. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

► **THE 2018-19 ACADEMIC YEAR** saw Illinois Wesleyan welcome its largest incoming class in five years and its most diverse class in University history.



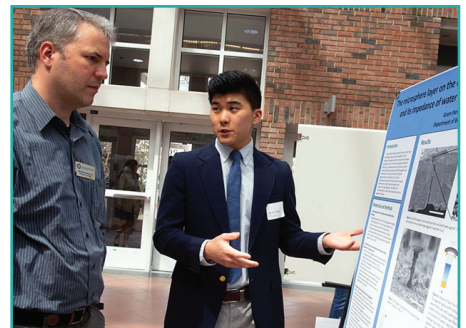
◀ **4 NEW MAJORS** including biochemistry, health promotion and fitness management, marketing, and neuroscience were established and available for declaration this fall.

► **ZIPPIA RANKED ILLINOIS WESLEYAN #1** in Illinois for "Small Colleges with the Highest Earning Graduates by State."



◀ **21 STUDENTS VISITED** New York City to meet and network with alumni as part of the third annual Career Immersion Excursion.

► **100+ UNDERGRADUATES** presented their research at the 28th annual John Wesley Powell Research Conference.



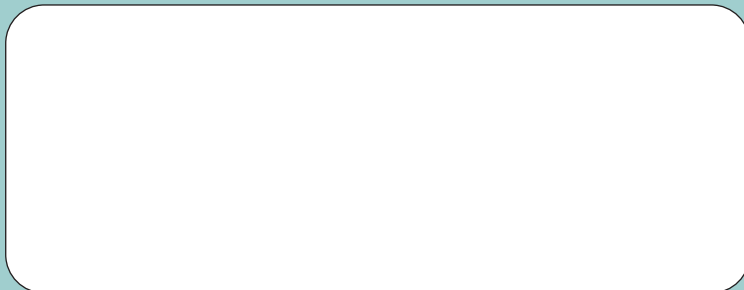
◀ **TITAN ATHLETICS RANKED 14<sup>TH</sup>** (out of 329 ranked schools) in the final set of rankings of the 2017-18 Division III Learfield Sports Directors' Cup Standings.

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## *frosty fall*

An early snowfall brought a unique look to Illinois Wesleyan's campus with the bright autumn leaves still in place.