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Summer 2019

## Volume 28, Issue 2, Summer/Fall 2019

Office of Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University

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### **Recommended Citation**

Office of Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University, "Volume 28, Issue 2, Summer/Fall 2019" (2019). *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine, 2018-present*. 5.

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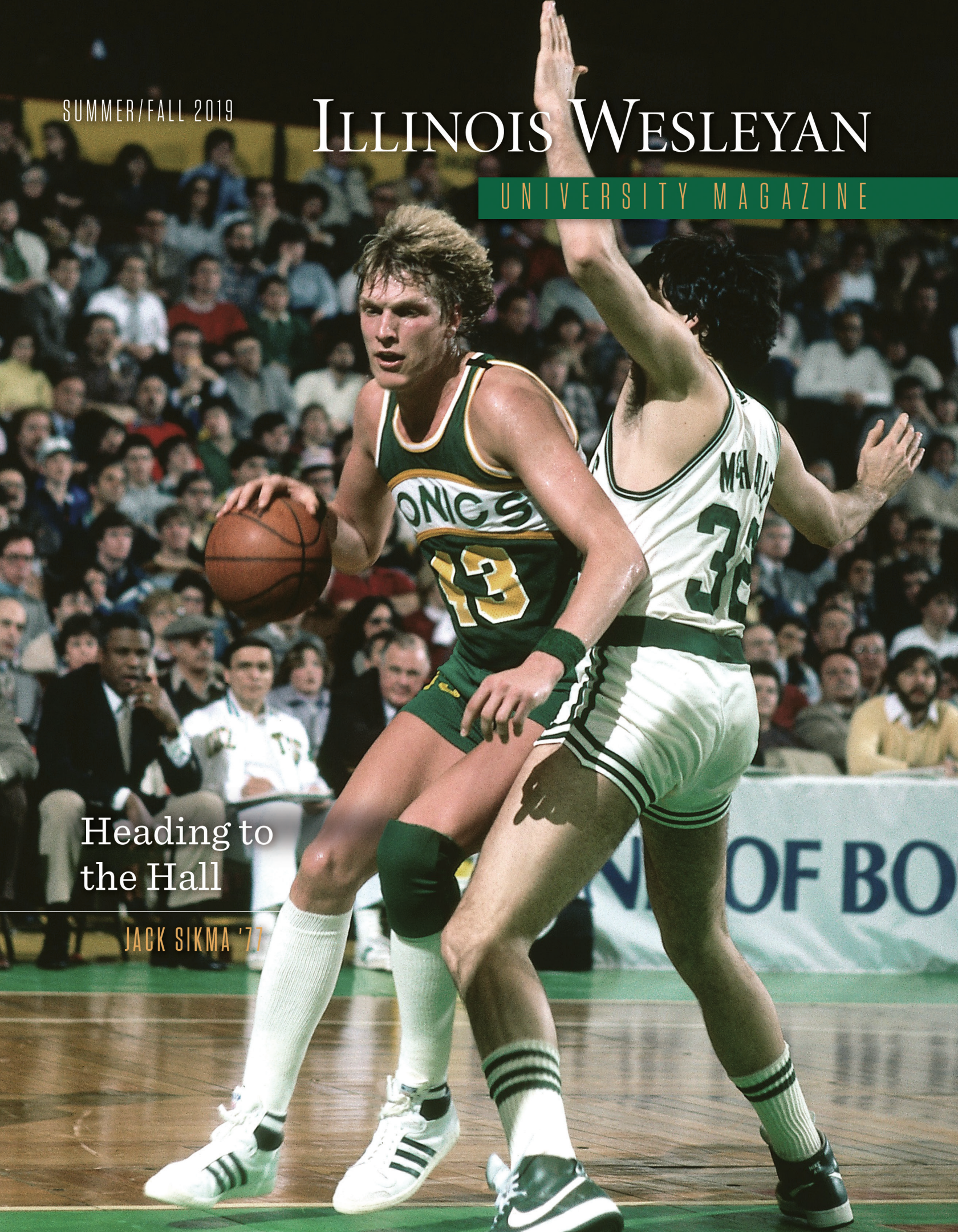
SUMMER/FALL 2019

# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Heading to  
the Hall

JACK SIKMA '77





# [ ALL IN FOR ] WESLEYAN

## UNLOCKING OPPORTUNITIES

24-HOUR GIVING DAY TOTALS YOU WERE THE KEY TO SUCCESS

**\$518,316**

DOLLARS RAISED

**+\$258,000**

PACESETTERS/CHALLENGES

**\$776,316**

GRAND TOTAL

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DONORS

**2,578**

GIFTS/PLEDGES

**\$388,635**

1,445 ALUMNI

**\$65,089**

229 PARENTS

**\$21,202**

172 FRIENDS

**\$23,175**

137 FACULTY/STAFF





# INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 28 | NUMBER 2 | SUMMER/FALL 2019

## ON OUR COVER:

**Jack Sikma '77**, who played 14 seasons in the National Basketball Association with the Seattle SuperSonics and Milwaukee Bucks, will be inducted into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September 2019. *Photo courtesy of the NBA.*

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The standard bearer for Illinois Wesleyan basketball, **Jack Sikma '77** will be immortalized as an inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September 2019.

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HOMEcoming 2019

October 4-6, 2019

[www.iwu.edu/homecoming](http://www.iwu.edu/homecoming)



## From the President's Desk

Elizabeth and I came to Bloomington as agents of change, and over the past four years, we've seen purposeful advances in Illinois Wesleyan's curricular innovation and inclusive excellence. We've seen new emphasis on focusing the attention of potential students on this great institution, and on concentrating our resources on the student experience.

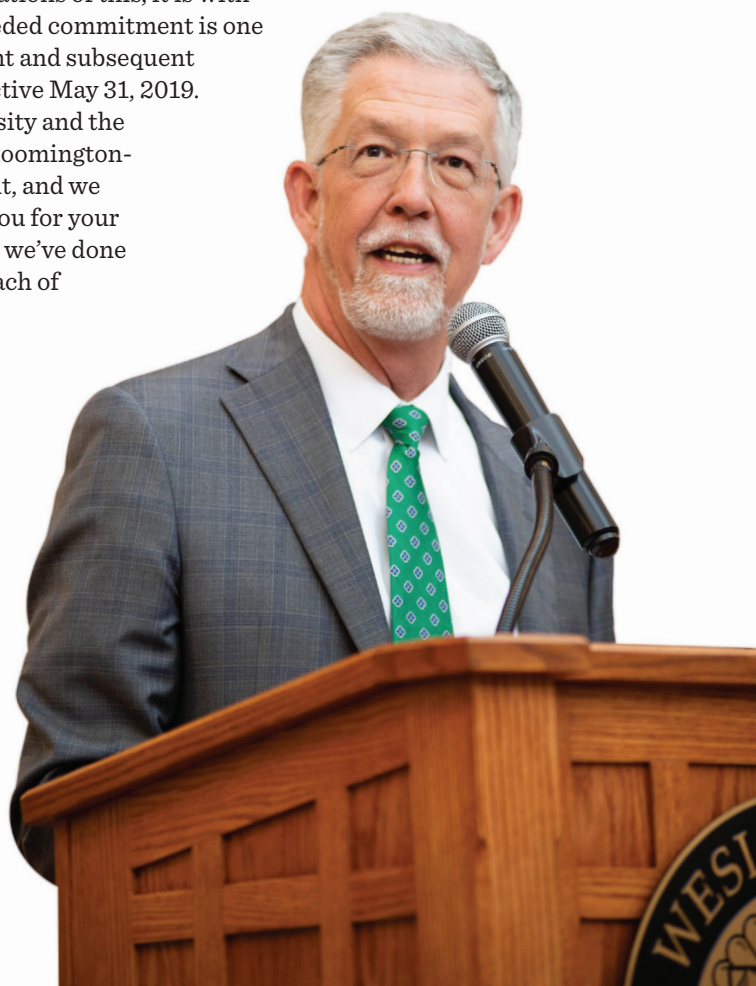
Now the process of revising the University's strategic plan is beginning. This will be an exciting opportunity to sharpen the institution's focus and strengthen Illinois Wesleyan's academic profile by defining exceptional educational experiences, and in so doing ensure its fiscal future. When the plan is finalized, there will be significant work to begin implementation of major initiatives.

Elizabeth and I treasure our time at this wonderful University and the friendships that we have made in the Illinois Wesleyan and Bloomington-Normal communities. The future of Illinois Wesleyan is bright, and we have been honored to be a part of its enduring legacy. Thank you for your dedication to Illinois Wesleyan, your support of the work that we've done together these last several years, and the contributions that each of you make every day to this special place. We will be following your progress closely.

As the public face of this effort, the demands on the President to see it through from start to finish are substantial. As I have considered the implications of this, it is with great difficulty that I have come to the conclusion that the needed commitment is one that I cannot make. Therefore, I am announcing my retirement and subsequent resignation as President of Illinois Wesleyan University, effective May 31, 2019.

Elizabeth and I treasure our time at this wonderful University and the friendships that we have made in the Illinois Wesleyan and Bloomington-Normal communities. The future of Illinois Wesleyan is bright, and we have been honored to be a part of its enduring legacy. Thank you for your dedication to Illinois Wesleyan, your support of the work that we've done together these last several years, and the contributions that each of you make every day to this special place. We will be following your progress closely.

Until our paths cross again,  
Go Titans!





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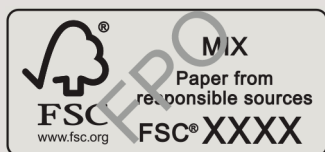
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*Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*  
[iwumag@iwu.edu](mailto:iwumag@iwu.edu)

*Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*  
(ISSN 1071-7757) is published quarterly by:  
Illinois Wesleyan University, P.O. Box 2900,  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2900.  
Periodical postage paid at Bloomington,  
Illinois, Post Office, and at additional  
mailing office.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:  
*Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*  
P.O. Box 2900  
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2900

Printed by Curtis 1000, Bloomington, Ill.



# Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

## Jensen Announces Retirement, Nugent Named Interim President

**E**ric Jensen, president of Illinois Wesleyan University since 2015, announced to the University's Board of Trustees and the campus community that he would retire and subsequently resign his position as president on May 31, 2019.



Eric Jensen



S. Georgia Nugent



Richard F. Wilson

"Eric has left a lasting imprint on the University, with many significant accomplishments that have changed IWU for the better," IWU Board Chair **Timothy J. Szerlong '74** said in a message to the campus community following Jensen's announcement (*see opposite page*). "We understand and respect Eric's decision about his future, and wish him, his wife, Elizabeth, and First Dog Calvin all the best in the coming years.

"As President, Eric valued the importance of the University investing in itself for a healthy future in a challenging higher education landscape. His achievements are significant, including a personal commitment to diversity which has inspired all of us."

On June 26, 2019, **S. Georgia Nugent** was named Illinois Wesleyan's interim president for the 2019-20 academic year. She will assume office on Aug. 15, 2019.

A widely published scholar of the classics and of higher education, Nugent earned a bachelor's degree from Princeton University and a doctorate from Cornell University. Before beginning a decade-long presidency at Kenyon College, from 2003 to 2013, Nugent served at Princeton as assistant to the president, associate provost, and dean of the Center for Teaching and Learning, and as a professor of classics at Princeton and Brown universities. She also taught on the classics faculties of Cornell as well as Swarthmore College and Kenyon.

Nugent later served as interim president at The College of Wooster during the 2015-16 academic year and is currently a senior fellow at the Council of Independent Colleges.

"I'm very excited to be joining the Illinois Wesleyan community and honored to have been chosen by the trustees. I have already had the opportunity to visit the beautiful Bloomington campus, to meet with a number of wonderful IWU people, and to hear from alumni about the difference this institution made in their lives," Nugent said. "IWU is a strong University with, I believe, great potential for continued success. My goal during this academic year will be to work with the campus community to do all that we can to fully realize that potential, so that my successor will come to a campus that is proud of its past and well-positioned for its future."

Illinois Wesleyan President Emeritus **Richard F. Wilson** served as acting president during the transition. Wilson, Illinois Wesleyan's president from 2004 to 2015, is an emeritus trustee of the University.

Illinois Wesleyan will conduct a national search and expects to welcome its 20th president by the beginning of the 2020-21 academic year.



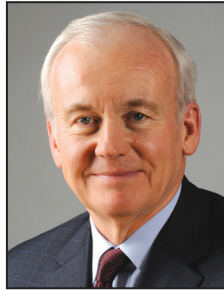
## Illinois Wesleyan Elects New Board Chair, Officers and Trustees

**T**imothy J. Szerlong '74 has been elected Chair of the University's Board of Trustees.

Szerlong, who lives in Lake Forest, Illinois, has served as a member of the Board of Trustees since 2011. He succeeds **George A. Vinyard '71**, who has served Illinois Wesleyan as a trustee for 42 years, including 14 years as Board Chair. Vinyard, an attorney in Glen Ellyn, Illinois, will remain on the Board of Trustees. The elections were held during the Board of Trustees meeting on May 21, 2019.

Szerlong graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with a bachelor's degree in business administration and later completed the advanced management program at the Wharton School of business at the University of Pennsylvania. He began his insurance career with the Chubb Corporation, where he held various positions over 35 years. He retired from CNA Financial Corporation, where he served as President, Worldwide Field Operations.

In other trustee elections, **Nancy J. Hutson '71** (retired senior vice president of global research and development and director of Groton/New London Laboratories; DeLand, Florida)



Timothy J. Szerlong '74

was elected as vice chair. **Robert K. Zimmermann '71** (retired vice president of Energizer Holdings; St. Louis) was elected as treasurer. Former secretary **Ann Marquis Fisher '82** (retired personal banking officer at Wells Fargo Bank; Pleasanton, California) was elected as vice chair, replacing **Herbert A. Getz '77** (president of Aspen Creek Partners Inc.; Naperville, Illinois), who was elected as secretary. **W. Thomas Lawrence '80** (tax managing partner at Ernst & Young LLP, Chicago) was re-elected to vice chair.

In addition, **Danielle Kays '01** and **Sundeep V. Mullangi '97** were elected to three-year terms on the board. Kays, of Bloomington, Illinois, is a commercial litigation attorney in the Labor & Employment Department at the international law firm Seyfarth Shaw based out of Chicago. Kays joins the Board as a representative of the Alumni Association. Mullangi, of Chicago, is Managing Director of PPM America, an investment management firm, in Chicago. He was elected as a trustee following a three-year term as a representative of the Alumni Association.

Trustees who were reelected at the meeting included: **Cesar Douglas '75**, **Vaughn Hoffman**, **John Horton '82**, **Nancy J. Hutson '71**, **Daniel E. Jameson '80**, **W. Thomas Lawrence '80**, **Kathy Larey Lewton '70**, **Ann Marquis Fisher '82**, **Thomas J. Neis '70**, **Edward B. Rust Jr. '72**, **H '94** and **Robert K. Zimmermann '71**.

## Career Placement Statistics Demonstrate Student Success

**F**Illinois Wesleyan University far surpasses most other institutions in preparing graduates for their careers, according to an annual graduate survey from the Hart Career Center and a job placement analysis by Zippia.

Based on 86.7% of recent graduates who responded to the Hart Career Center survey, 96.6% were either employed or in higher education programs within six months of graduating from Illinois Wesleyan. Additionally, the University's high career placement rate landed Illinois Wesleyan at the top of Zippia's list of "Best Colleges For Jobs in Illinois."

The list from Zippia, a career advice website, used public data from Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System and the U.S. Department of Education's College Scorecard to analyze job placement ratings of four-year institutions in Illinois, with a focus on employment levels 10 years after graduation.

Not only do Illinois Wesleyan alumni find jobs quickly, they find jobs that reward them for their knowledge and skills. The average full-time starting salary for 2018 graduates was \$47,486, taking into consideration graduates in healthcare, education, technology and other growing sectors. Another recent Zippia survey ranked IWU No. 1 in Illinois among "Small Colleges with the Highest Earning Graduates by State."

The National Association of Colleges and Employers identifies critical thinking/problem solving, oral/written communi-



(Above) **Miyka'El Jones '22** (left) meets with a recruiter from Archer Daniels Midland Company at the IWU Career Fair in October 2018.

cation skills, teamwork/collaboration, information technology application, leadership, professionalism/work ethic and career management as core competencies for career readiness, and Hart Career Center Director **Warren Kistner '83** says an IWU education instills students with these very skills.

"I believe it is a combination of factors that lead to our students' success," Kistner explained. "Strong academics, a diverse array of extracurricular activities, practical experience in their field of interest, and many other experiences prepare students to contribute to the success of an organization and/or excel in graduate/professional school."



## Rettich Named 2020 Kemp Award Winner

**T**imothy Rettich was named the 2020 recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence at Illinois Wesleyan's annual Honors Convocation on April 10, 2019. Selected by the Promotion and Tenure Committee, the Kemp Award winner is recognized for bringing spirit, passion and scholarship to the art of teaching.

“A nominator’s letter describes our 2020 honoree as ‘quite simply the most dedicated teacher I know.’ And this is a quote from someone I consider to be among the most dedicated teachers I have ever known.”

— PROVOST AND DEAN OF FACULTY MARK BRODL

Rettich said it was “quite surprising, unanticipated, and an honor,” to hear his name announced by Provost and Dean of Faculty **Mark Brodl**. “There are so many wonderful faculty here who are dedicated to their students,” Rettich said.

A Professor of Chemistry, Rettich’s general area of interest is physical chemistry. Along with teaching introductory General Chemistry, Rettich also teaches upper-level Physical Chemistry I (Thermodynamics) and Physical Chemistry II (Kinetics). Nominators credited Rettich with finding ways to make the most mathematical and theoretical of the chemical sub-disciplines “logical and accessible” to students.

“A nominator’s letter describes our 2020 honoree as ‘quite simply the most dedicated teacher I know.’ And this is a quote from someone I consider to be among the most dedicated teachers I have ever known,” Brodl said while introducing Rettich as the 2020 Kemp Award recipient.

Rettich joined Illinois Wesleyan as an assistant professor in 1981. He was promoted to associate professor in 1987, and to professor in 2004. Rettich earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Dayton and a Ph.D. in physical chemistry from Case Western Reserve University.

Before Rettich was announced as the 2020 Kemp

Award recipient, Kemp Foundation representative Toni Jenkins made a presentation to 2019 award winner **Carmela Ferradans**, who serves as a professor of Hispanic studies. The Kemp Family Foundation has funded the award since the 2009-10 academic year.

In her address titled “A Life in Subtitles,” Ferradans reflected upon her identity, shaped by a life’s journey from Vigo, Spain, to Las Vegas, to Irvine, California, to Bloomington, Illinois.

“It tells an old and oh-so-familiar story of power struggle, of living in the margins, of always being on the outside looking in,” Ferradans said.

Ferradans teaches all levels of Spanish language, literature, and cultural history of Spain, as well as writing-intensive courses for the writing program. Areas of Ferradans’ research interests include: contemporary Spanish literature and cultural studies; the Spanish avant-garde; the legacy of the Spanish Civil War; digital humanities; translation theory; multimodal curriculum development; and migration studies.

An annual celebration of excellence, the Honors Convocation is dedicated to the Class of 2019 and to students who have earned scholastic and activity honors. At the ceremony, colleagues also paid tribute to retiring faculty member **Marina Balina**.



(Above) Timothy Rettich (left), the 2020 recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence at Illinois Wesleyan, poses with 2019 recipient **Carmela Ferradans** (right) at the Honors Convocation on April 10, 2019.



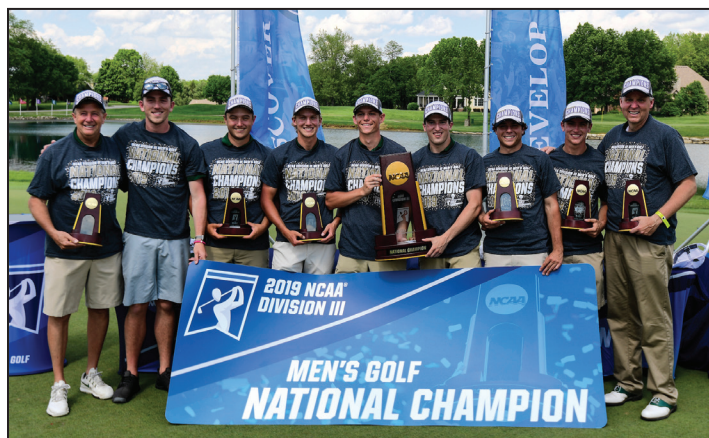
## INCLUSIVE EXCELLENCE AWARDS

(Left) The President’s Award for Inclusive Excellence was presented to **Amanda Hopkins** (left) and **Brandon Common** (right) at the Faculty-Staff Recognition Celebration on April 5, 2019.



## Titan Athletics Report

### Men's Golf Wins National Championship



A successful spring season was highlighted by the Illinois Wesleyan men's golf team winning the school's eighth all-time NCAA Division III national team championship. The Titans won the 2019 NCAA Championships at Keene Trace Golf Club in Nicholasville, Kentucky, May 14-17, 2019.

All five IWU players finished in the top 32 of the 96-player field. The Titans were led by **Drew Pershing '19**, who earned All-America status with a top 10 finish. **Ben Johnson '19**, **Andrew Abel '21**, **Rob Wuethrich '21** and **Skylar LeVine '20** were named Division III PING All-Central Region players by the Golf Coaches Association of America.

Head coach **Jim Ott '91** was chosen as the Division III winner of the Dave Williams National Coach of the Year Award presented by Golf Pride Grips. Ott led IWU to eight wins in 11 tournaments in 2018-19, including its eighth-straight College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) championship, where five Titans finished in the top six of the individual standings.



Drew Pershing '19



Jim Ott '91



Ally Wiegand '20

### Titan Softball Fifth at NCAA Championships

The Illinois Wesleyan softball team finished fifth at the NCAA Division III Championships in its fourth-straight trip to the final round of the tournament. The 2019 Titans finished with a 39-10 record.

**Ally Wiegand '20** won the Schutt Sports/National Fast-

pitch Coaches Association Division III National Pitcher of the Year award. Wiegand led the nation in earned-run average (0.50), fewest hits allowed per game (3.06), and strikeout-to-walk ratio (32.5). She earned her second-straight NFCA All-America and All-Region selections while also winning CCIW Pitcher of the Year honors. For the season, Wiegand was 23-4 with 10 shutouts and four saves.

In addition to Wiegand, four others were all-region selections: pitcher **Brea Walker '20**, outfielder **Jillian Runyon '19**, second baseman **Shelby Fulk '20** and first baseman **Colleen Palczynski '22**. Runyon leaves IWU as the program's leader in hits, runs and stolen bases.

### Lacrosse Teams Win Titles, Make NCCAA Appearances

Both Titan lacrosse teams enjoyed successful seasons with each capturing CCIW regular-season and tournament titles before advancing to the NCAA Division III Championships.

The women's team won a program-record number of games and finished at 18-3, advancing to the third round of the NCAA Division III Tournament. **Lindsey Kellar** won the CCIW Coach of the Year honor for the second-straight year and third time overall. **Grainne Kelly '19**, **Sam Bidlack '19** and **Dani Engelbreit '19** were named all-conference performers for the third-straight season and were joined on the all-Great Lakes Region team by **Riley Rooney '21** and **Janaye Godfrey '21**.

The men's team finished with a 16-2 mark, tying the school record for wins in a season, and played in the NCAA Championships for the third-straight season. **Will Rossi '19** and **Bailey Marth '19** earned honorable mention on the Division III All-America teams selected by United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association. **J.C. Grabarek '19** earned his third-straight CCIW Defensive Player of the Year honor and second-straight Academic All-America nod. Grabarek is a four-time all-CCIW selection including the last three on the first team. **Ricky Smith '22** earned CCIW Newcomer of the Year honors, and **Zach Iannucci** was named CCIW Coach of the Year for the second time in his career.

### Women's Golf 16th at NCAA Championships

The Illinois Wesleyan women's golf team finished in 16th place at the 2019 NCAA Division III Women's Golf Championships at Bay Oaks Country Club in Houston, May 14-16, 2019. IWU did not continue to the final day of the competition as the field was cut after 54 holes to the top 15 teams. **Maggie Warner '21** was IWU's low scorer, tying for 55th place in the 131-player field.

### Titan Baseball Posts Winning Season

Illinois Wesleyan baseball finished at 24-19 overall and 14-10 in the CCIW. **Nick Figs '20** and **Garrett Shea '20** were chosen to the second team, and **Quinn Gudaitis '21** was named to the third team, of the all-Central Region squads by the American Baseball Coaches Association.

Figs led the Titans with a .399 average; his career .381 bat-



2019 CCIW Men's Lacrosse Champions

ting average is fifth best in IWU history. Shea led the team with six home runs, 16 doubles and 34 runs batted in. Gudaitis led IWU with a 2.77 earned run average and a team high 70 strikeouts in 61.2 innings.

#### Anderson, Franklin Named All-Americans

**Zach Anderson '20** and **Jessica Franklin '22** earned All-America honors at the NCAA Division III Indoor Track and Field Championships, March 8-9, 2019, in Boston.

Anderson won both the weight throw and the shot put, and was selected as the Field Athlete of the Meet as the Titan men's team finished seventh at the CCIW Indoor Track and Field Championships, Feb. 22-23, 2019. The Illinois Wesleyan women's team placed fourth as the 4x400-meter relay team of **Becca Anderson '19**, **Kelsey Wyman '21**, Runyon and Franklin turned in a first-place time of 3:56.34.

Franklin won the heptathlon and the 400-meter hurdles as the IWU women's track and field team placed third and the men's team seventh at the CCIW Outdoor Track and Field Championships, May 3-4, 2019.

#### Women's Basketball Competes in NCAA Tournament

The Illinois Wesleyan women's basketball team finished with a 23-5 record and played in the NCAA Division III Tournament for the third-straight season.

**Maddie Merritt '19** was an honorable mention All-American on the Division III Women's Basketball Coaches Association squad and played in the inaugural WBCA Beyond



2019 CCIW Women's Lacrosse Champions

Sports Women's Collegiate All-Star Game, in Salem, Virginia. She was a unanimous first-team all-CCIW selection and finished her career as IWU's fifth leading scorer (1,408 points).

#### Brady Rose Leads IWU Men's Hoops

The Titan men's basketball team posted an 18-9 record and was led by **Brady Rose '19**, son of head coach **Ron Rose '88**. A unanimous first-team all-CCIW player, Brady Rose was an honorable mention d3hoops.com All-American as he averaged 21.1 points per game, becoming the first IWU player to average 20 or more points in two straight seasons in nearly 30 years.



Brady Rose '19

#### Gilbert, McCauley Earn Swimming and Diving Honors

**Ellen Gilbert '22** and **Mason McCauley '22** earned Rookie of the Meet honors at the 2019 CCIW Swimming and Diving Championships, Feb. 14-16, 2019. The Illinois Wesleyan women's team finished second, while the men claimed fourth. Gilbert won the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events and swam on the victorious 400- and 800-yard freestyle, and 400-yard medley relay teams. McCauley was the champion in the 500-yard freestyle and 1650-yard freestyle.

#### IWU Finishes 27th in Learfield Cup Standings

Illinois Wesleyan finished 27th out of 442 Division III schools in the final 2018-19 Division III Learfield IMG College Directors' Cup Standings, the National Association of Collegiate Directors of Athletics announced in June 2019.

IWU finished with 493 points for the year, with points awarded based on team finishes in up to 18 sports (nine women's and nine men's) in Division III national championships.

IWU amassed 100 points from the national champion men's golf finish, 78 points from the fifth-place softball finish, 64 from the ninth-place women's lacrosse national finish, 50 from the 17th-place finish by men's lacrosse, and 42 from the women's golf 16th-place finish.



Zach Anderson '20



Jessica Franklin '22



Maddie Merritt '19



## Frevert Gift Enables All-Steinway School Designation



(Left) **Star Commanday '21** (left) plays a Steinway & Sons piano, under the direction of IWU Associate Professor of Music and area head **Ilia Radoslavov** (right), at Presser Hall.

**T**hanks to a \$3.5 million gift from the C.B. Frevert Family Trust designated for Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Music, aging pianos will be replaced with instruments of the highest quality, and Illinois Wesleyan will become one of 153 universities in the world to earn the distinction of being an All-Steinway School.

"Through its investment in 35 new Steinway & Sons pianos, IWU will meet the requirements to earn the coveted All-Steinway School designation," said School of Music Piano Technician **David Horine '71**. "This investment is timely, as many of the instruments in Illinois Wesleyan's collection of pianos are between 50 and 132 years old. Although these pianos have been

well maintained through a budgeted maintenance program, it is time to bring new life to faculty studios and the practice rooms of Presser Hall by replacing them with Steinway & Sons pianos."

A portion of the designated gift from the late **Cyril "C.B." Frevert '61** will provide for the purchase of 35 new Steinway & Sons pianos, while a portion will fund an endowment for ongoing maintenance and repair of all pianos at the School of Music. Frevert specified that the remaining one-third of the bequest will fund endowed scholarships for School of Music students.

All-Steinway Schools demonstrate a full commitment to excellence by providing their students and faculties with the best instruments possible for the study of music. Additionally, all functioning pianos that were generously donated to the School of Music will remain part of Illinois Wesleyan's fleet.

"The generous Frevert trust has allowed us to prioritize student recruitment and retention," said Interim Director of the School of Music **Victoria Folse '86**. "The investment to become an All-Steinway School is consistent with our donor's intent and will provide an enhanced student, faculty and staff experience. We are excited to showcase our distinction for music excellence in the community."

## Phoenix Gates to be Dedicated at Homecoming 2019

**A** set of gates welcoming students, faculty, staff and visitors to campus will soon be named in honor of the local family who sold land to Illinois Wesleyan University some 165 years ago.

The campus gateway at the Presser Hall sidewalk, across from Evelyn Chapel, will officially be renamed The Phoenix Gates to honor **Carol (Pedigo) Phoenix '67**, her late husband **John Phoenix**, and the Phoenix family legacy, in a dedication on Oct. 5, 2019, at 9:45 a.m., as part of Homecoming 2019 festivities. Alumni and friends are welcome to attend the dedication.

"It makes me feel really terrific to do something to help preserve the land and the value of education and art for future generations," Carol Phoenix said.

Much of Illinois Wesleyan's campus was built on a 10-acre plot sold to the University by **Franklin K. Phoenix**, then-owner of Phoenix Bloomington Nursery, in 1854. Franklin K. Phoenix was the great-grandfather of John Phoenix.

The naming of the Phoenix Gates will permanently recognize the Phoenix legacy on campus, where the name is already associated with a pair of endowed scholarships established by Carol Phoenix, reflecting her family's values and interests. The Carol (Pedigo) Phoenix '67 and John Phoenix Endowed Scholarship, for a student majoring in environmental studies, and the Yenerich-Pedigo-Phoenix Endowed Scholarship for the School of Music, for a student majoring in string, piano or voice, relate closely to John and Carol Phoenix's college majors (biology and violin/music education). Carol and her sister,

**Julia Pedigo '74**, are also IWU legacies of their mother, **Ruth Yenerich Pedigo '34**.

"I felt a special connection with Illinois Wesleyan when I was in school," Carol Phoenix said. "I felt understood, appreciated, connected and alive, with like-minded people to learn with, perform with and discover with, which I hadn't had before."

Phoenix pursued a career in music, both as a teacher and performer, after her graduation. She later met and married John Phoenix — 20 years after her graduation — but neither knew the connection between his family and her alma mater. "It was **President Minor Myers jr.** who really connected all the dots," Carol Phoenix said of the realization. "We discovered all this together, and I can't tell you how exciting it was."

To have the connection live on through the naming of the Phoenix Gates is important to Carol Phoenix. "It humbles me, but it's not about me," she said. "It's about the Phoenix and Pedigo families."

(Right) **Carol (Pedigo) Phoenix '67** stands in the center of what will soon be renamed The Phoenix Gates to honor her, her late husband John Phoenix, and the Phoenix family legacy, at a dedication on Oct. 5, 2019.



**Matthew Damschroder** is with Jazmyne Kellogg and 3 others at JW Marriott Los Angeles L.A. LIVE.  
March 11 · Los Angeles, CA · 🌐

Had the opportunity to encounter some Illinois Wesleyan University #TitansForLife at #NASPA2019. So many amazing recollections; but no looking backwards. These colleagues are doing well and doing good from coast to coast! #TGOE



165

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**Lenore Sobota** @pg\_sobota · Apr 8  
True sign of spring is the blossoming of hammocks on college quads such as this one @IL\_Wesleyan



4 27

**hkhealthy2**



26 likes

hkhealthy2 @alexmaloney3 graduates today from @il\_wesleyan - the same school I graduated from in 1994 and Brian graduated from in 1995. It sure has gone fast since his first day of kindergarten. 🥰💕

MAY 5

**brandibomarmcgre**  
Illinois Wesleyan University School of Theatre Arts



34 likes

brandibomarmcgre PreK to BFA 🍷💕 This girl is on her way!!

MAY 18

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



illinoiswesleyan



@IL\_Wesleyan



@IL\_Wesleyan

# #IllinoisWesleyan SOCIAL LIGHTS

**Jim Ott** is at Wrigley Field.  
May 5 · Chicago · 🌐

Two IWU grads at the Cubs game. One to sing the national anthem and one to eat hot dogs and drink diet cokes. Guess who is doing what? With Kelly Ott and Wayne Messmer.



97

14 Comments 4 Shares

Like

Comment

Share

**Teresa Banks** is with Nicole Jovicevic.  
March 27 · 🌐

I have to give a shout out to TEDx IWU Illinois Wesleyan University for putting on another incredible event. From what I hear, the speakers were thought-provoking and inspirational. "Becoming Human" is a profound theme in which we can all relate. I'm really looking forward to listening to the talks once the official videos are live at TEDx Youtube! Nicole Adriane Bevin Andy



21

4 Comments

Like

Comment

Share

**Randy Kindred**  
May 22 · 🌐

Recruiting starts early when Mom is a former IWU softball player ...



41

2 Comments 3 Shares

Like

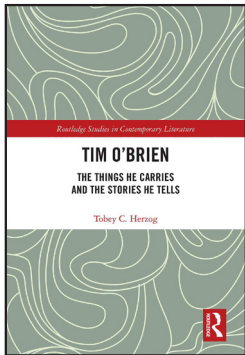
Comment

Share

#IllinoisWesleyan Social Lights

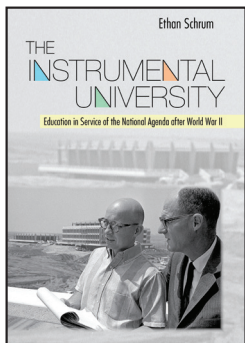


## BOOKS



*Tim O'Brien: The Things He Carries and the Stories He Tells* comprises seven essays by **Tobey C. Herzog '68** written especially for this book. Like the carefully linked collection of vignettes within O'Brien's *The Things They Carried*, Tobey's essays contain multiple critical and biographical angles with recurring threads of life events, themes, characters, creative techniques and references to all of O'Brien's books. Grounded in extensive research, the collection illustrates how O'Brien merges his life

experiences with his creative production; he rarely misses an opportunity to introduce critical life events into his writing. This latest work is Tobey's fourth book about authors and literature related to the Vietnam War. A Vietnam veteran, Tobey is an emeritus professor of English and chair of liberal arts at Wabash College. His books can be purchased at Amazon.com.



**Ethan Schrum '99** is the author of *The Instrumental University: Education in Service of the National Agenda after World War II*, published by Cornell University Press in June 2019. *The Instrumental University* shows how elite research universities adopted a new technocratic mission of solving social problems and promoting economic growth in the emerging knowledge economy. In so doing, these institutions took on more capitalistic and managerial tendencies, and marginalized some

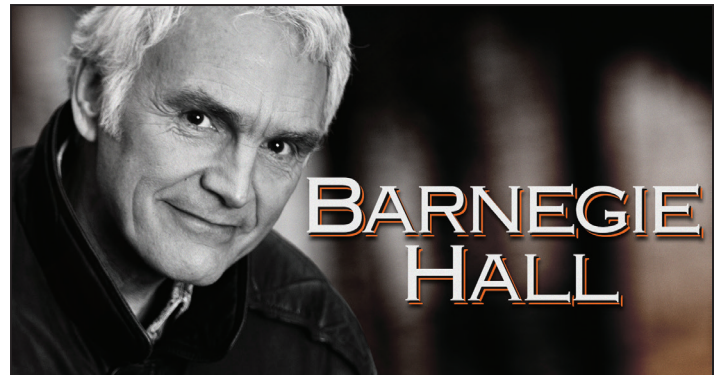
of their founding ideals. A chemistry major and physics minor at Illinois Wesleyan, Ethan started to write about higher education as editor-in-chief of *The Argus*. A class with **Paul Bushnell**, professor emeritus of history, helped inspire Ethan to become a historian. Ethan is an assistant professor of history at Azusa Pacific University near Los Angeles.

## FILM &amp; TV

**Frankie Faison '71** stars in the NBCUniversal drama *The Village*, which premiered March 19, 2019, in prime time. Frankie plays Ron, one of several residents of a Manhattan apartment building, whose hopeful, heartwarming and challenging stories prove that family is everything — even if it's the one you make with the people around you. Frankie is a veteran actor of stage and screen, with over 100 credits to his name.

**Demetria Kalodimos '81** is the owner of Genuine Human Productions, a media production company in Brentwood, Tennessee. Genuine Human is producing *Barnegie Hall*, a show about the art and craft of songwriting. It features Demetria's husband and veteran songwriter Verlon Thompson — and a wide range of talented and inspiring guests — from the breathtaking setting

## Authors and the Arts



of *Barnegie Hall*. The show premiered nationwide on PBS in June 2019 and will run weekly through September.

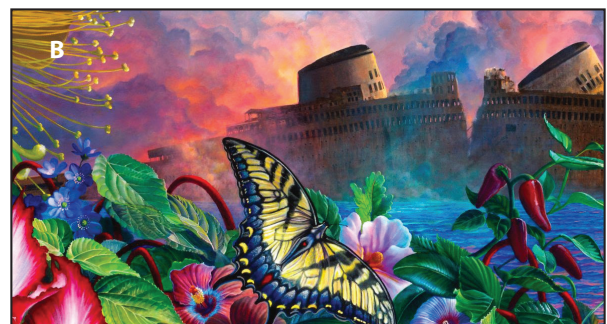
## ART

The work of distinguished painter, printmaker and sculptor **Oliver Lee Jackson '58** (A) will be featured at The National Gallery of Art, in Washington, D.C., through Sept. 15, 2019. The exhibition, *Oliver Lee Jackson: Recent Paintings*, includes some 20 paintings created



over the past 15 years, many of which are being displayed publicly for the first time. Oliver participated in a lecture on April 12, 2019, ahead of the gallery's opening, and will present a talk on Sept. 15, 2019, at the closing of the exhibition. Fellow alum **Shana (Bushy-head) Condill '99** serves in the National Gallery of Art's Communications Department and helped coordinate publicity of the gallery.

The South Shore Arts Gallery, in Munster, Indiana, is hosting an exhibition featuring work from **Renee McGinnis '84** (B) titled *Tales From the Biosphere* through Aug. 25, 2019. In promoting the gallery, South Shore Arts states that Renee's works "are painstaking-



All submitted content received by May 27, 2019. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

ingly painted to perfection in her romantic but melancholy style, in which decaying structures of abandoned ships and eerie industrial factories are contrasted against vibrant flowers, enchanting clouds and shimmering emeralds."

## THEATRE & PERFORMANCES

Prairie Fire Theatre toured *How To Be a Superhero*, its annual opera for children, in the Bloomington-Normal area this spring. *How To Be a Superhero* was written by **Nancy Steele Brokaw '71**, produced by IWU Assistant Professor of Music **Robert Mangialardi** and directed by **Rhys Lovell '87**, with musical direction by **Charlie Berggren '10**. The show, featuring Illinois Wesleyan students and faculty, is in its 17th year and was performed at almost 50 schools and public venues.

**Scott Moreau '01** performed in *Late and Alone: An Intimate Portrait of Johnny Cash* at New York City's Feinstein's/54 Below on April 2, 2019. Scott has been performing as Johnny Cash for a decade, and uses anecdotes from Cash's autobiography, interviews, concerts and documentaries to tell his story.



Kate Tombaugh '07

Opera singer **Kate Tombaugh '07** recently performed her one-woman show *It Just Takes One* at Eastern Illinois University and St. Mary's (Ind.) College, and twice at Southern Indiana University. *It Just Takes One* follows a young singer who is striving to begin her career while also trying to balance her social life. Kate also performed in Fort Worth (Texas) Opera's world premiere of Rachel J. Peters' opera *Companionship*, singing the lead mezzo-soprano role, in three performances in May 2019.



Anthony Michael Lopez '08

**Anthony Michael Lopez '08** performed in Shakespeare Theatre Company's *Vanity Fair* at the Lansburgh Theatre in Washington, D.C., Feb. 26 through March 31, 2019. Anthony was featured in a *Washington Blade* story previewing the performance.

**Marti Lyons '08** was nominated twice in the category of Outstanding Direction in a Play ahead of the Helen Hayes Awards, recognizing theatre excellence on stages in the Washington, D.C. area. Marti was nominated for her directorial performances in the Woolly Mammoth Theatre Company's *Botticelli in the Fire* and Studio Theatre's *The Wolves*.

**Ianne Fields Stewart '15** performed Alexander Sage Oyen's "Painting Now" at *Maybzgiving: A Queernucopia*, on Nov. 26, 2018, at the off-off-Broadway performance venue The Tank.

**Matt Mason '16** was one of four Butler University graduate students to have a composition premiered by famed New York clarinetist Thomas Piercy, on March 19, 2019, in the Eidson-Duckwall Recital Hall. Matt performed his piece, *Reflections on Ichimu's Death Poem*, alongside Piercy.

## BEST OF BROADWAY



*The Prom*, produced by **Bill Damaschke '85**, was nominated for seven Tony Awards, including Best Musical.

Nominations were announced April 30, 2019, ahead of the 73rd annual Tony Awards, which took place June 9, 2019, at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.



Bill Damaschke '85

Damaschke runs StoryKey Entertainment, which is responsible for producing musicals including *The Prom*, currently on Broadway, and *Moulin Rouge!*, scheduled to make its Broadway debut this summer. He previously served as president of Animation and Family Entertainment at Skydance Media following two decades with DreamWorks Animation, where he rose from an entry-level production assistant to the company's chief creative officer, overseeing such film franchises as *Shrek*, *Kung Fu Panda* and *How to Train Your Dragon*. While at DreamWorks, Bill Produced the Tony Award-winning *Shrek The Musical*.

*The Prom* is a musical comedy about Broadway stars on a mission to change the world, a girl who wants to change her small town, and a love that brings them all together. *New York Magazine* called *The Prom* "smart and big-hearted" and *The New York Times* declared it a Critic's Pick and said it "makes you believe in musical comedy again!"

In April 2019, Netflix announced it will adapt *The Prom* into a feature-length movie.





# COMMENCEMENT 2019

MAY 5, 2019

**Jack Druffel '19** stands to be recognized as the recipient of the Hope Ellen Pape President's Club Award in the Fine Arts.



(Above) **Paola Lehman '19** (left) and **Jace LeGarde '19** (right) await the start of Commencement activities.



(Above) A group of new graduates celebrates.

(Below) **Kalynn Boyd '19** returns to her seat after receiving her diploma.



(Above) **President Eric Jensen** (right) presents a diploma to **Gus Castro '19** (left), one of more than 400 graduates earning degrees.





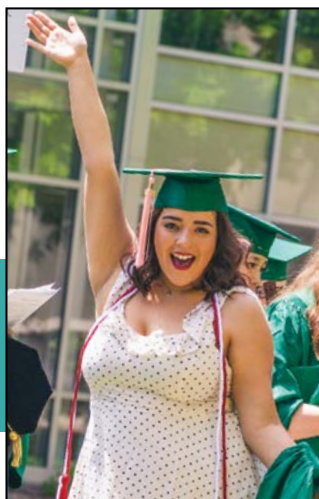
(Above) **Nitsueh Kebere '19** (third from right) poses with her family in front of Buck Memorial Library.



(Above) **Dr. Stephen Ondra '80**, a former military surgeon and leading healthcare policy expert, delivers the Commencement address. In the address, titled "Scientia et Sapientia," Ondra contrasted knowledge and wisdom. "Knowledge is knowing that a tomato is actually a fruit," he said. "Wisdom is knowing it does not belong in your fruit salad."



(Above) Professor and Chair of Hispanic Studies **Carmela Ferradans** carries the ceremonial mace.



(Above) **Crystal Muro '19** waves as students prepare for Commencement.



(Above) **Ellie Giannakopoulos '19** (left) and **Conor Geraghty '19** (right) are all smiles as they prepare for the start of Commencement.



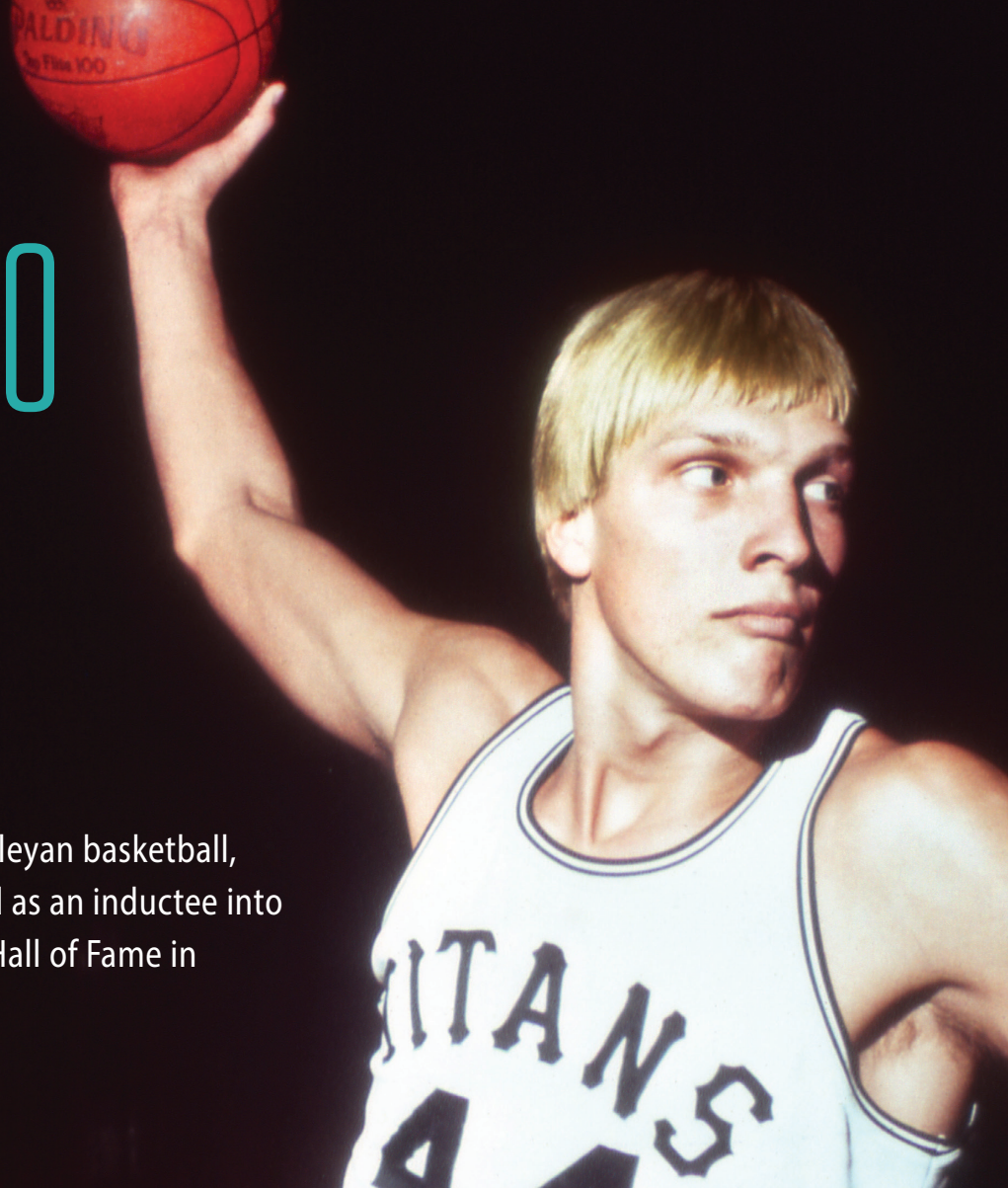
(Below) **Alysia Gazder '19** (left), and **Hope Gassmann '19** (right) pose for a photo.



# HEADING TO THE HALL

Story by MATT WING

The standard bearer for Illinois Wesleyan basketball, Jack Sikma '77 will be immortalized as an inductee into the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame in September 2019.



Jack Sikma '77 squirmed in the oversized chair in the study of his suburban Seattle home, knowing his phone would soon ring.

The call was coming either way. Good or bad.

The former Illinois Wesleyan basketball star, who went on to a 14-year career in the National Basketball Association, had learned he was a finalist for the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame a couple months earlier.

But it was on this day he'd learn if he was joining the elite fraternity.

"I was nervous," Sikma admitted.

But he didn't need to be. The call came. The news was good.

"There wasn't any jumping up and down or anything," he recalled. "I kind of went to a quiet place and just thought about the journey, and I kind of found my mind wandering to different snapshots of my life. I just sat there quiet for a while.

"It almost started to overwhelm me a bit, the thoughts and all the people who came to mind."

When he is inducted on Sept. 6, 2019, in Springfield, Massachusetts, Sikma will officially join the ranks of the game's all-time greatest players, and he'll do so as one of just a handful of American players having played their college basketball outside of Division I.

Sikma's basketball odyssey took him from his tiny hometown of Wichert, Illinois, to nearby St. Anne High School, and eventually to Illinois Wesleyan. The journey continued when he was drafted by the Seattle SuperSonics, for whom he played for nine seasons before finishing his playing career with the Milwaukee Bucks. He later coached for Seattle, the Houston Rockets and Minnesota Timberwolves, and is currently a part-time consultant for the Toronto Raptors, who won the

2019 NBA championship.

Sikma says he is lucky to have had mentors and friends at each stop along the way. He plans to retrace his steps in a pilgrimage of sorts leading up to his induction.

And Illinois Wesleyan will be an important stop on the tour.

"I'm going to have fun with this," Sikma said. "I'm going to see a lot of people, we're going to share a lot of stories, and I'm really looking forward to it."



Illinois Wesleyan men's basketball coach Dennie Bridges '61 got his first glimpse of the player that would forever change his program on Dec. 30, 1972.

Upon learning from the IWU admissions office there was a 6-foot-9 basketball player ranked third in a class of 117 students at St. Anne High, Bridges sent the player a handwritten



letter. The player replied and enclosed a St. Anne basketball schedule, per the coach's request. Bridges circled Dec. 30 on his calendar.

That night, the Titan coach made the hour drive to Chatsworth, Illinois, to see Jack Sikma playing in the championship game of the holiday tournament there. Sikma was as tall — and as skinny — as advertised. His shooting style was unorthodox, though he made most of his shots.

But what stood out most was something that couldn't be gleaned from the box score in the next day's newspaper.

"He was a late bloomer and a tall, skinny kid who could shoot, but what I saw beyond that was what a tremendous competitor he was," Bridges remembers.

Late in the game, with St. Anne leading by a point and an opposing player at the free-throw line, Bridges observed Sikma snapping his fingers and mouthing "miss it, miss it" as if putting a hex on the player at the charity stripe.

Bridges was sold. The coach's enthusiasm was tempered, however, by the reality that Sikma could be poached by a bigger school offering a grander stage and a full athletic scholarship. And as Sikma piled up the points and rebounds, and St. Anne High kept winning, that's exactly what happened. When St. Anne qualified for the state tournament, blue bloods like Illinois, Purdue and Kansas State entered the picture.

Nevertheless, Bridges remained dogged in his pursuit of Sikma. He convinced the shaggy-haired 17-year-old to visit campus, where he was hosted by a group from Sigma Chi, a fraternity he later joined. Bridges continually stressed to Sikma that he'd get a complete college experience at IWU — including ample opportunities to have fun — whereas his life at a Division I school would be much more basketball-centric. "The biggest thing I did was contrast the kind of life it was going to be," Bridges explained.

Sikma eventually committed to IWU, even as the University of Illinois ratcheted up its recruitment. And with no athletic scholarship or letter of intent,

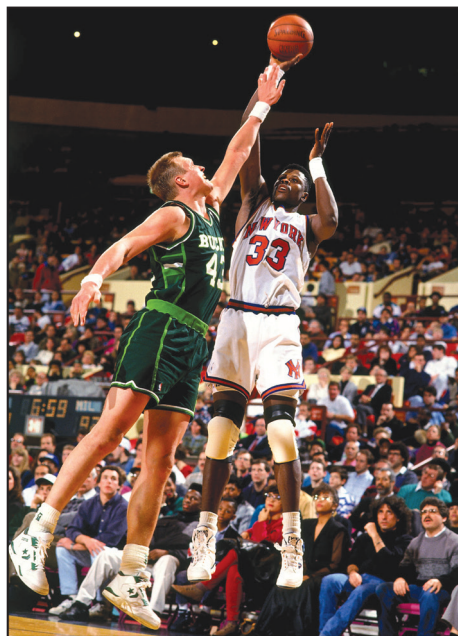
the Illini staff continued to woo Sikma even after he announced his commitment to IWU.

Bridges found every excuse to make daily contact with Sikma. If he didn't call, he wrote a letter. They met for golf. They went to a Chicago White Sox game.

"I trusted him, and I trusted his family," Bridges said. "But Illinois wasn't letting up and until the day he came in and enrolled, I was worried about it."

But he didn't need to worry. Sikma showed up for his first day of class.

And he stuck around for four very memorable years.



(Above) Jack Sikma '77 (left) contests a shot from fellow Hall of Famer Patrick Ewing.

(Opposite page) Sikma appears in a publicity photo from his days playing at Illinois Wesleyan.

"I made the decision to come to Illinois Wesleyan and it was the best decision I could've made, looking back," Sikma said.



In 36 years as IWU's head basketball coach, Bridges never promised a player a starting job ... with one notable exception.

Sikma was on the floor for the opening tip of Illinois Wesleyan's 1973-74 season opener. He immediately became a key contributor, at times combining his size with a deft shoot-

ing touch to become a serious dual threat. Other times, his aggressive play backfired and he found himself on the bench saddled with foul trouble.

"I remember a game at Millikin and I had a pretty bad first half," Sikma recalled. "We got in the locker room and Coach came right up and got on me about not focusing and not playing smart, but that was the kind of relationship we had."

"I needed those challenges to perform at a high level."

Sikma showed right away he could be a difference maker for Illinois Wesleyan, but Bridges knew his big man could do more. He toyed with the idea of helping Sikma develop a "go-to" move. The two experimented with a variety of post moves with varying levels of success.

They eventually tried the inside pivot, a move Bridges remembers being deployed primarily by "big clods" who lacked speed and agility. The inside pivot required a player to accept a post-entry pass with their back to the basket before swinging a pivot foot around to face the basket and create separation from the defender. The player then had two choices: shoot the ball from the newly created space, or put the ball on the floor and drive to the basket if the defender tried to close too quickly.

Of almost equal importance was an emphasis on releasing his shot from higher above his head to prevent blocked shots.

Sikma spent countless hours the summer between his freshman and sophomore years refining the maneuver. "We did repetitions from both sides, moving with both feet, and I started to become more comfortable with it," he said. "But I do remember sophomore year, at first, I wouldn't automatically go to it. It hadn't set in yet."

Sikma would occasionally revert to a reliance on his size and physicality — which still worked most of the time — at which point Bridges would offer not-so-subtle reminders about the game plan.

"I'd say, 'Damn it, Jack! Where's your move?'" Bridges remembers,



reenacting the familiar exchange with a wave of his arms. The coach smiles while telling the story, though he certainly wasn't smiling back then.

But with enough coaxing and countless repetitions, "the move" became second nature. Sikma remembers a game at Elmhurst during his sophomore year when he scored nearly 20 points in the first half, most the result of "the move."

It finally clicked.

"From there, I saw that it could be very successful, so I built the basis for my post game off of it," Sikma said. "Coach Bridges taught me the move and I worked to perfect it."

Sikma became a three-time National Association of Intercollegiate Athletics (NAIA) All-American and three-time conference player of the year. He led the Titans to conference titles and NAIA Tournament appearances in each of those final three seasons (Illinois Wesleyan joined NCAA Division III a few years later).

Playing in the national tournament afforded Sikma an opportunity to showcase his skills against the best teams in the country. So did frequent games against Division I opponents. But perhaps the best proving ground came when he was invited to the 1976 U.S. Olympic trials. Sikma entered the tryout for the national team as an afterthought in the eyes of some — "probably the 10th- or 11th-rated

**"I made the decision to come to Illinois Wesleyan and it was the best decision I could've made, looking back."**

— JACK SIKMA '77

center at the start," Bridges states — but was a controversial omission at the final cut after proving himself against some of the top players in the country.

Sikma finished his IWU career with school records for points (2,272) and rebounds (1,405) that stand to this day. His No. 44 remains the only number to be retired by the team. He developed a maneuver that would later become known by many as the "Sikma move." And he put himself on the radar of professional teams.



BRIANNA LEWIS/NAISMITH MEMORIAL BASKETBALL HALL OF FAME

(Above) Sikma (second from right) appears on ESPN as part of the network's coverage of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame induction announcement.

At 6-foot-11 by his senior year, Sikma stood out beyond his achievements on the basketball court. He was active in Sigma Chi. He excelled in the classroom and twice earned Academic All-America status. He remains Illinois Wesleyan's lone selection to the Academic All-America Hall of Fame.

"I made some great friends, had a lot of fun, did well academically. I was able to improve as a basketball player, and that opened up possibilities in that regard," Sikma said. "Illinois Wesleyan was

"A sports writer from out there called and said the people out there weren't too happy," Bridges recalls, smiling again. "I told him to call me back in a year."

Sikma was named to the NBA's All-Rookie team and helped the Sonics to the NBA Finals in his first season. The next year, he was named to his first of seven-straight All-Star games and led Seattle to its first and only NBA championship.

Bridges can't remember if that sports writer ever called back.

"The greatest thing about Jack's career is he just continued to get better," the longtime IWU coach said. "At our place, he grew and got stronger, learned his move and got things started. But then as he went to the NBA, he continued to get better."

Sikma averaged a double-double (with double-digit points and rebounds) for seven-straight seasons. He thrived in the NBA's meritocracy that cared only for what you could do on that given night.

"I was going to find a way to get out on that court," Sikma said. "That's the great thing about the NBA: it's not what you've done in the past but what you're doing now."

Sikma continued to improve as his

exactly what I was looking for and it was absolutely the right place for me."



The headline of one Seattle newspaper on the morning of June 11, 1977, poked fun at the player the hometown SuperSonics had picked with the eighth overall selection in the NBA Draft.

"Jack who?" it read, questioning the legitimacy of a player from a small private school playing at the NAIA level.

NBA career progressed, and he found new ways to contribute. He became one of the best passing centers in the game. In 1987-88, he led the NBA in free-throw percentage, and is still the only individual playing primarily at center to ever do so. As his career wound down, he extended his shooting range and became one of the first sharpshooting big men.

And he did it all during a golden age of NBA post players. The IWU alum had his best seasons going up against the likes of Kareem Abdul-Jabbar, Moses Malone, Hakeem Olajuwon and Patrick Ewing — all fellow Hall of Famers — on a nightly basis.

“I never really focused on who I was playing. It was more about what I needed to do,” Sikma said. “But when you think of all the winners I had to square off with and how many of them are in the Hall of Fame, I feel even better about what I accomplished out there because I competed against the best.”



When Sikma retired after the 1990-91 season, most of today’s NBA players hadn’t even been born yet.

But his influence on future generations is undeniable.

“Even today, you’ll be watching a game and someone will use his move and the announcer will say, ‘Somewhere Jack Sikma is smiling,’” Bridges explains.

Through his role as an NBA assistant coach, he’s directly influenced today’s players. He’s mentored All-NBA selections Yao Ming, Dikembe Mutombo, Kevin Love and, most recently, Marc Gasol.

“I’ve really liked working with young players who are discovering their talents and what they can be,” Sikma said. “Helping them to try to raise the ceiling they can get to has been a lot of fun and very rewarding.”

Sikma continued to influence IWU basketball, too, years after his last game as a Titan.

“Every year I would pick out three or four kids who I really wanted and I kind of wrote a letter for Jack that he could copy and sign and send to these

kids,” Bridges said. “But it got to be that the players were comparing who got a Sikma letter and who didn’t, and if you didn’t get a Sikma letter, Coach Bridges must not have thought you were very good.”

Sikma also impacted hundreds of young players from the Bloomington-Normal community when he co-hosted a summer basketball camp at IWU for many years with Bridges.

And one of those inspired kids just happened to be one of Bridges’ sons.

“The camp gave us a reason every summer to play golf and have fun, and every year we’d have a party over at my house with all the coaches and their wives,” Bridges said. “We were on the back porch one night and I looked out in the driveway and there was Jack, playing 1-on-1 with my son.

“And that’s just the kind of guy Jack is.”



Sikma’s Hall of Fame induction is still a few months away, but his basketball pilgrimage is well underway.

It started in April at the Final Four in Minneapolis when the announcement was made. There, he was joined by Bridges and a few former IWU classmates who helped celebrate. And with a virtual Who’s Who of basketball lifers in Minneapolis for college basketball’s signature event, Sikma was able to celebrate with many of his NBA peers.

Bill Walton, a Hall of Famer Sikma often squared off against early in his career, offered congratulations and told Sikma the honor was “long overdue.” The next night, Charles Barkley pulled up a chair and joined Sikma’s group to celebrate.

The celebration tour continues this summer. Sikma spoke at a YMCA fundraiser in Bloomington, Illinois, in June, giving him an excuse to meet with old friends and his former coach. A few days later, he threw out a ceremonial first pitch at a Chicago Cubs game. On July 21, he’ll take part in a Titan Connection event in Seattle, celebrating his Hall of Fame induction.

Sikma’s only regret in all of it is that his parents won’t be around to see his Hall of Fame induction. But he will be joined by his family — wife, Shawn, and sons Jacob, Lucas and Nathan — and a slew of friends and former teammates, many of them from Illinois Wesleyan.

“The most emotional part of the speech will be about my parents. They were my biggest supporters and invested so much time,” Sikma said. “After I get through that, I want to recognize different times of my life and the people that have been important, and just how fortunate I am.

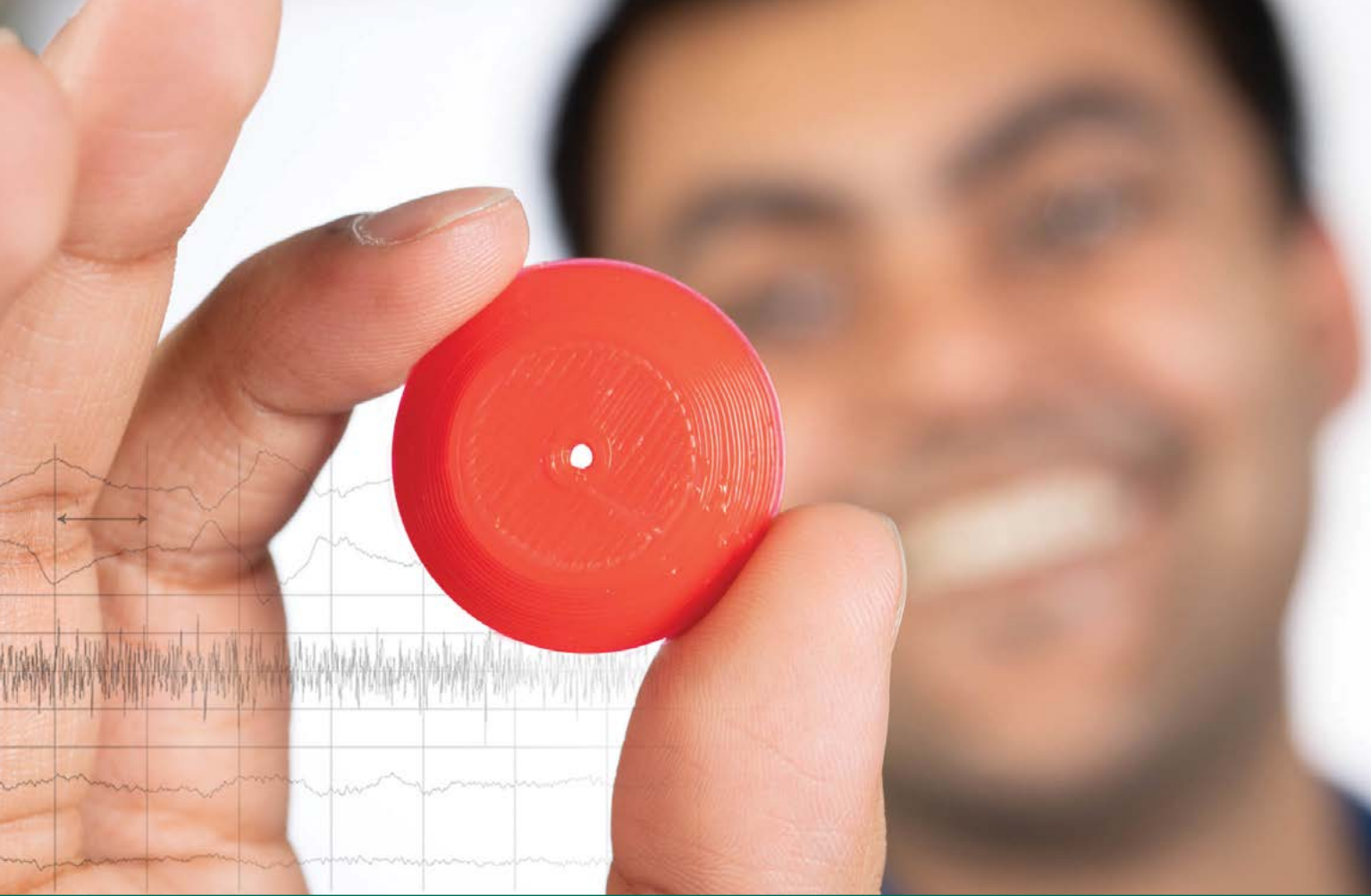
“Hopefully, I can translate my feelings and appreciation for all those involved and really enjoy the honor of being recognized by my peers and being worthy of the Hall.” ♦



STEVE GREEN/CHICAGO CUBS

(Above) Sikma threw out the ceremonial first pitch at a Chicago Cubs game on June 22, 2019.





# Innovative Dreams

Story by MATT WING

Photos by JASON REBLANDO

**(Above) Niyant Vora '19** holds a model of an electrode he designed and printed in Illinois Wesleyan's Idea Center. Vora has secured a provisional patent for a medical device he developed during his time as an IWU student.

**A**sk Niyant Vora '19 what he's working on and you may have to answer a question first.

*How much time do you have?*

The recent Illinois Wesleyan graduate spent the past four years on campus immersed in wide-ranging studies and activities. Biology labs in CNS. German classes in State Farm Hall. Evenings at the Mark Evans Observatory. Weekends volunteering at OSF St. Joseph Medical Center.

Free time? The few remaining moments of the past four years were spent pursuing other interests. Classical music. Bollywood movies. Karate classes. Harry Potter books. Playing the ukulele.

Oh, and developing a prototype for a device that could revolutionize sleep study.

And perhaps more.

With the aid of IWU Associate Professor and Chair of Physics Thushara

Perera, who agreed to serve as his adviser, Vora has developed, and continues to refine, a new system that will allow for testing of sleep disorders previously undiagnosable by standard studies.

And, in developing the device, he's discovered a multitude of additional uses extending far beyond the realm of sleep study. With further refinement, the device could be capable of performing other electrodiagnostic tests, such as an electrocardiogram, that rely on the transmission of data through electrodes.

And while the initial aim of the project was to improve study of sleep disorders like narcolepsy and sleepwalking, Vora's device could now diagnose maladies ranging from heart arrhythmia to neuromuscular diseases.

"I didn't set out intending for it to be like this, but it ended up being much more than what I had planned

on,” Vora said. “That’s kind of the nice thing about researching new ideas and pursuing projects.

“Sometimes they surprise you and they’re way, way more than what you thought they could ever be.”



The curiosity that helped spawn Vora’s creation is one of the foremost qualities he displayed as an Illinois Wesleyan student.

“He was the guy who stayed after class and asked questions about things and tried to make connections,” Perera said. “One of Niyant’s biology professors said he would stay and ask a question or two after every class, and they were about things he had learned in German class or in his physics class. He was trying to make those connections.”

Vora’s thirst for knowledge extended far beyond his declared field of study. A biology major in IWU’s pre-medicine program, he dabbled in other disciplines, picking and choosing courses he found most interesting.

Vora chose to attend IWU, in part, for the freedom students have to discover their interests, and for the type of learning that takes place on the campus of a liberal arts school.

“He goes from one thing to the other to the other, purely out of interest,” Perera said. “He’s a very high-level example of what can happen at a liberal arts college.”

But Vora’s curiosity in the world around him was born long before his arrival at Illinois Wesleyan.

He credits his parents for never limiting his persistent questions; rather, they encouraged his inquisitive nature. They provided him with educational toys, like an electronics kit. They took him to the library, where he filled his backpack with books on topics ranging from history to music to science fiction.

Born in India but raised mostly in Bloomington-Normal, Vora also credits his many teachers for helping shape him. A late talker who did not speak conversationally until he was two-and-a-half years old, Vora had only started to string together sentences by the time he entered preschool in India.

And his teachers soon realized most of those sentences ended in questions marks.

“Curiosity is something intrinsic to my very being,” Vora said. “Learning how things work, or why something happens or doesn’t happen, is what I think life is all about.”

Vora remembers his second-grade teacher indulging his request to study

optics shortly after he received his first pair of eyeglasses. More recently, he was inspired by IWU Assistant Professor of Biology Tyler Schwend, who assigned Vora and his classmates a research project with the directive to, “run with it and be as creative as possible,” Vora paraphrased.

“One thing I’ve loved about IWU is that professors have always been open to answering my questions,” Vora said. “They don’t just dismiss some of my more out-there ideas, but instead, they help ground them in realistic ideas and ventures that can be pursued to help eventually answer a larger question.”



Vora’s curiosity in medicine and health was sparked by personal experience.

Early in his life, he lost a young cousin whose cystic fibrosis went misdiagnosed. His paternal grandfather suffered an array of health issues, including narcolepsy, before an untimely death.

Vora couldn’t help but wonder if and how they could have received better care.

“I learned that a lot of Niyant’s altruistic motivations come from the death of his grandfather and the death of his

Boundless curiosity and deeply rooted motivation inspired a groundbreaking medical device and served as a springboard to a career in medicine for Niyant Vora ’19.

(Right) Vora peers through a telescope at IWU’s Mark Evans Observatory. A man of many interests, Vora’s interest in astronomy was sustained through work at the observatory.





cousin,” Perera said. “That affected him a lot, and I think that has shaped some of his interests.”

By the time Vora was ready to enroll at Illinois Wesleyan, he had decided to pursue a career in medicine, in large part to provide better care to patients in situations similar to those that took the lives of his beloved family members.

“It would have been helpful if we could have known what was actually going on (in those situations),” Vora said. “So I thought, ‘Let me see if I can do something and maybe help someone else who might be struggling.’”

He called upon this motivation to initiate his design of an improved sleep study device, an innovation his late grandfather could have benefitted from.

Vora came to the realization that traditional sleep studies are fundamentally flawed in their inability to accurately measure a person’s “normal” sleep pattern. Conducting studies in sleep centers (labs outfitted with beds and medical instrumentation to conduct studies) would provide skewed results, Vora hypothesized, due to the foreign environment in which the study was

conducted. A clumsy system of wired electrodes only added to the challenge of replicating one’s normal sleep environment, he reckoned.

Vora asked his classmates, his professors — anyone who would listen — and sought out professional opinions. They all agreed: sleep studies are flawed.

“That led me down this path that eventually led to me working with Dr. Perera, creating the electronics behind it, and then eventually crafting this device and beginning the patent process,” Vora said.

His concept was simple enough: a device that would take readings from a patient and relay data to a receiver to collect and interpret results.

His idea would allow for an at-home sleep study with minimal interruption of one’s normal sleep routine. And, in developing the device, he learned it could be used for much, much more. Vora’s innovation would allow patients to perform complex medical procedures in the comfort of their own homes with relative ease.

But developing and advancing the device were anything but easy.

“I’ve been working to make this device a reality, and now — despite

repeated failures — I have a working prototype,” Vora wrote in his medical school application letter last spring. “Through my failures, I’ve learned that achieving my goals requires curiosity, resilience, and knowing when to get help from others.”



In his final semester at Illinois Wesleyan, Vora decided it was time to pitch his prototype.

He applied for Illinois Wesleyan’s Entrepreneurial Fellowship, a \$5,000 stipend awarded biannually to a student developing an entrepreneurial idea, funded by alumnus Mark Talluto ’94.

Vora’s invention beat out a record-number of entries to earn the prize money, which helped him retain a patent attorney who secured a provisional patent.

The good news kept coming. The next day, he was accepted into medical school. Vora will attend Southern Illinois University School of Medicine in the fall.

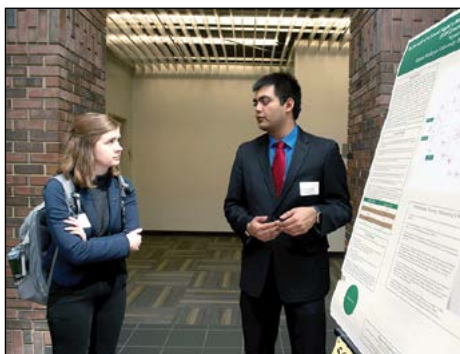
A celebration was in order. “I went to Olive Garden with my family,” Vora said, cracking a smile. “Then I had spring break to relax.”



(Above) Vora (center) poses with his family and Professor of Political Science and Director of Environmental Studies **William Munro** (second from right) at Illinois Wesleyan’s Commencement on May 5, 2019.

(Below) Vora presents a TED Talk on how language affects our understanding of mental illness at TEDxIWU on March 23, 2019.





(Above) Vora pitches his proposal for an improved at-home sleep study device at Illinois Wesleyan's 2018 John Wesley Powell Research Conference.

But the break was a short, rare pause for Vora. Driven by curiosity, he has been immersed in wildly varying interests — both in the classroom and out.

And that's something that could benefit him in his medical career.

"They have started to value that more in doctors and in the field of medicine," Perera said. "It can be a cookie-cutter profession, and the medical field has found that some of the innovators in the field are people who come from varied backgrounds."

Vora's varying interests have made it hard to pin down a specific career path. For now, he is most interested in neurosurgery, having job shadowed local neurosurgeon Dr. Ann Stroink '76, who also took a path from Illinois Wesleyan to SIU School of Medicine.

Yet Vora remains interested in all aspects of medicine and healthcare. He earned research honors in German for his study of the evolving cultural and linguistic context of mental illnesses during the 20th century; he also presented at TEDxIWU on how language affects our understanding of mental illness. He additionally earned research honors in psychology for his study of synesthesia, a neurological condition in which stimulation of one sense (e.g. hearing) leads to an automatic, involuntary experience in another (e.g. sight).

While limiting his scope is a challenge, his motivation doesn't falter.

His approach to treating patients has been shaped largely from his experience

## Entrepreneurial Fellowship Winners Grow Gourmet Mushroom Business

Illinois Wesleyan University students **Bryant Finkler '20** and **Nick Showalter '20** are growing a business in central Illinois.

Winners of the IWU Entrepreneurial Fellowship during the Fall 2018 semester, Finkler and Showalter were awarded a \$5,000 grant to help develop their business idea: Midwest Gourmet Mushrooms.

"We spent hundreds of hours researching and then building the grow room, so we were excited to receive the fellowship," Finkler said. "The \$5,000 is going to be really good for getting us off the ground."

After visiting grocery stores in the area, Finkler and Showalter found that gourmet mushrooms are hard to find in Bloomington-Normal. "It's a pretty involved process to grow them, and they have a very short shelf life," explained Showalter. "If you go to the store, those mushrooms are typically days or weeks old, shipped frozen from huge factories. But if you want to preserve the health benefits and the flavor profiles of these really gourmet mushrooms, they have to be consumed very quickly after they're harvested. They have to be grown locally."

Combining their backgrounds in marketing and computer science, the business will focus on bringing fresh and organic gourmet mushrooms to Bloomington-Normal consumers and, eventually, local restaurants. "The whole superfoods trend has been growing, and most gourmet mushrooms are considered superfoods," Showalter added. "The economy of Bloomington-Normal is pretty strong, so it's a good place if we're trying to sell to people who have a little extra cash to spend on some fancier mushrooms."

Finkler and Showalter plan to use the Entrepreneurial Fellowship grant to grow their business, allowing them to increase production and offer a wider variety of mushrooms. "We can expand this business, and it should be sustainable coming out of college," Finkler said. "It's something that will help us get our feet in the real world."



Bryant Finkler '20



Nick Showalter '20

"He goes from one thing to the other to the other, purely out of interest. He's a very high-level example of what can happen at a liberal arts college."

— IWU ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR AND CHAIR OF PHYSICS THUSHARA PERERA

volunteering at a local hospital — where his tasks were as varied as his interests — as well as those early life experiences, when advanced healthcare may have made a difference.

"My best self demands empathy toward others but also asks for something

more," Vora wrote in the conclusion to his med school application letter. "It asks me to take what I have learned from academia, volunteering, shadowing, and tutoring, and apply it all to improving the lives of others, in the best way I can: as a doctor." ❖





# LIKE A GOOD NEIGHBOR

Illinois Wesleyan 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award Winner and retired State Farm chairman and CEO Ed Rust Jr. '72 embodies his company's well-known slogan.

Story by MATT WING

**E**d Rust Jr. '72 spent part of his professional career in corporate boardrooms surrounded by executives sitting behind placards prominently displaying full names, complete with middle initials.

If his nametag matched the others, State Farm Insurance Company's chairman and CEO would offer a polite correction.

"Please, just call me Ed," he'd request.

The now-retired Rust treated individuals the same regardless of their title or position and wanted them to be comfortable in their exchanges with him. He was quick with a smile, offer of a handshake or a pat on the back.

It wasn't unusual for State Farm employees to bump into their CEO at the local Farm & Fleet or Tractor Supply Company on a Saturday morning. Nor was it unusual to spot Rust working on his farm, moving dirt or planting trees. Though he had the means to have someone take care of the place, he did most of it himself.

And he still does.

If a water line needs repaired, he fixes it. If a tractor won't start, he pops the hood to take a look.

Rust's down-to-earth personality was a hallmark of his leadership style at State Farm, endearing him to the company's thousands of employees.

"He's absolutely the best you could

ask for in a boss. He is kind and generous and pays attention to detail," said Kathy Payne, a retired senior director who served State Farm's Education Leadership team during Rust's tenure. "He is one of the best."

Serving as CEO of the largest insurance company in the United States for 30 years as a third-generation leader of the company, Rust followed in the footsteps of both his father, Ed Rust Sr. H '74, and grandfather, Adlai Rust '14, H '57 (although the company is no longer headed by a Rust, it continues to be led by an IWU alumnus: Michael Tipsord '81).

Ed Rust Jr. led the company during a period of unprecedented growth, all

while serving on a number of boards and advancing educational initiatives, including generous support of his alma mater.

Rust is Illinois Wesleyan's 2019 Distinguished Alumni Award winner.

"This is something that is indeed an honor," Rust said of the award. "I tend to stay a little more in the background, and something like this pushes me out of there — and I'll get over that — but this is quite an honor."

Becoming State Farm's CEO put Rust in a position many assumed he would someday fill. But he had no such assumptions.

"People mistakenly think because of my family's background that insurance was my focus," Rust said. "But it wasn't at all. Business? Yes. Finance? Yes. Obviously, insurance is incorporated as a part of all that, but my time at Wesleyan was figuring out what I wanted to do."

Rust was influenced by a variety of professors and coaches during his time at Illinois Wesleyan, where he earned a degree in business administration and competed for the school's football and wrestling teams. He ultimately decided to continue his education at Southern Methodist University, where he earned an MBA and a law degree.

It wasn't until then, holding multiple offers to join Dallas-based firms, that he truly considered State Farm as a possible landing spot. He eventually joined the company, first as a trainee in Dallas and then an attorney in the Corporate Law Department. Rust later earned several promotions leading



(Above) Ed Rust Jr. '72 (right) speaks with attendees of the annual Illinois Wesleyan Associates Luncheon in April 2014.

(Opposite page) Rust takes a break in his machine shop after planting trees at his Bloomington, Illinois, property.

## Erin Anderson '07

### Robert M. Montgomery Young Alumni Award

Erin Anderson '07 is changing the way cancer is treated.

A research chemist at Loxo Oncology, a wholly-owned subsidiary of Eli Lilly and Company, in Boulder, Colorado, Anderson has dedicated her professional life to fighting a disease 40% of the world's population will face personally, and nearly all of us will face one way or another.

Through her research, new cancer treatments are more effective and less intrusive than ever before.

Anderson is Illinois Wesleyan's 2019 Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumni Award winner.

"This is my dream job," Anderson said during a short break from work in May 2019. "And I definitely got it because my time at Wesleyan set me up for this."

Anderson arrived at IWU with an interest in science, leaning toward a career as a teacher or medical doctor. But research with IWU Professor of Chemistry Ram Mohan, who nominated Anderson for the Young Alumna award, influenced a change of direction. "He taught me you can do chemistry research," Anderson said.

Graduate-level research and a coveted internship at Pfizer Inc. during her time at IWU helped Anderson reserve a spot in the highly selective graduate program at The Scripps Research Institute, where she earned a Ph.D. in organic chemistry.

Anderson then secured a postdoctoral fellowship at the National Cancer Institute in Bethesda, Maryland. There, her award-winning work was recognized by the Center for Cancer Research and the National Institutes of Health.

"Cancer is a really complex disease and nearly every single thing I learn trying to fight it opens up more questions," Anderson said. "That's what makes it so hard, and it's also what I love about it."

Advances are being made. Through Loxo Oncology's focus on genomically defined cancers, researchers are able to treat specific forms of cancer better than ever before.

"I really like the change in cancer research where the goal is not just to treat patients," Anderson said. "I want to treat them in a way where they have a good quality of life, and the time they get from treatment is time they are enjoying, and time they are able to spend with their families and able to actually live."

Anderson's goal is simple: fight for people fighting cancer.

"I hope to stay here for a while and learn as much as I can about the way to bring cancer cures to patients," she said.



Erin Anderson '07



## Jean (Sullivan) Baird '80

### Loyalty Award

**J**ean (Sullivan) Baird '80 has lived in six states over the past 39 years, but the distance has never kept her far from Illinois Wesleyan. Often residing hundreds of miles from campus, Baird has served her alma mater in countless roles.

Board of Trustees. Alumni Association. Capital campaigns. Presidential searches. She's been a part of them all.

"I don't believe she has ever said 'no' to IWU," a nominator wrote in recommending Baird for Illinois Wesleyan's Loyalty Award.

Asked if the statement is true, Baird paused before responding. "That is probably a true statement," she admitted, laughing.

Baird is Illinois Wesleyan's 2019 Loyalty Award winner.

The second of seven children from a single-parent household, Baird relied on financial aid to enroll at Illinois Wesleyan. She majored in French, competed for IWU's track team and was active in Sigma Kappa. She spent the entirety of her professional career with State Farm, working in Arizona, Georgia, Colorado, Louisiana and Missouri, with many stops back in Bloomington in between.

Despite frequent moves, Baird never had a problem staying connected. She discovered pockets of IWU alumni in nearly all the places she lived, and she found her employer to be accommodating and flexible while she served in key roles at IWU. "I've been able to maintain a virtual relationship with Illinois Wesleyan when I couldn't be on campus," she said. "And I think sometimes we have alums who become disconnected because they think they have to be here, but that's definitely not true."

Baird remains engaged for many reasons, foremost among them a desire to provide today's generation with the same opportunities she was afforded when she was a college student.

"I knew as I was graduating that it was important for me to help support IWU to the degree that I could so that people like me could come to campus each year," she said. "I understood that I was only able to come to IWU because somebody else had done something similar for me."

Baird is looking forward to her next trip back to campus to accept the Loyalty Award, though she's refusing to take much credit. She wants to share the award with her husband Bill, an Illinois State University alum who "bleeds Titan green instead of Redbird red," she says. Baird also wants to share the award with everyone she's served alongside over the years. "I really feel like I am accepting on behalf of everyone I have worked with," she said.

The award, though, belongs solely to her. For all the times she's said 'yes.'

"And when Jean says 'yes,'" her nominator wrote, "you get an amazing gift."



Jean (Sullivan) Baird '80

to vice president, then executive vice president and chief operating officer, and finally CEO in 1985.

He led the company during times of dramatic and impactful changes, including the implementation and widespread use of personal computers, mobile devices and the internet, the construction of a system support headquarters in State Farm Corporate South, and constant tracking of insurance and risk trends.

"It's fascinating when you think about the influence of technology over the past 30 years," said Rust, fondly recalling a mid-90s conference at which the importance of the internet to business, if any, was debated. "You have to constantly push yourself to understand the changing world around us. It's essential for business leaders to develop a strong sense of intellectual curiosity."

Rust also served on a number of corporate and nonprofit boards during his time as CEO, some of which he continues to serve today. The benefits were many, Rust says, as it helped broaden his perspective and understanding of different industries in ways that were insightful for his responsibilities at State Farm.

"I'm a product of the Bloomington-Normal community, but you quickly learn that it's not the center of the universe," he says with a smile. "I saw being involved with outside organizations and international travel as a necessary engagement to observe and participate in the dramatic changes occurring across that external environment, recognizing the impact it has on us."

A sharp business acumen aided Rust in his three-decade run as State



(Above) Rust poses at a sign near the entrance of his Bloomington, Illinois, property.



Farm's leader, but being able to step back from the "pressure cooker" was also important. He was able to unwind and de-stress by tending to the land at the place he affectionately calls Rust Farms. Rust grew up with a fascination in agriculture and big machinery, vividly recalling family road trips from his childhood spent gazing out a car window at work zones and construction sites.

"What you see around here is kind of a continued manifestation of that," Rust says on a warm May morning, motioning toward the contents of a Morton building on his property filled with well-worn tools and machines. "This has been and continues to be a tremendous stress reliever and escape for me."

And now, after his retirement in 2016, he spends more time "working" at Rust Farms than ever before. There is plenty going on, and Rust has a couple of hired hands helping out. He treats them the same way he'd treat his business peers. None of them know his middle initial.

Rust embodies his company's longtime "like a good neighbor" jingle. Payne, Rust's former State Farm employee who once lived just a few doors down from him, can attest to the fact. During a blizzard one blustery winter day, she glanced out her front window to find Rust clearing her driveway (in a tank-like snow plow, of course). An-

"Wesleyan has been a very special place for me, I have been pleased through the years to be able to provide what help I can, or assistance, or be a sounding board on issues, so this (award) is indeed a pleasant honor."

— ED RUST '72

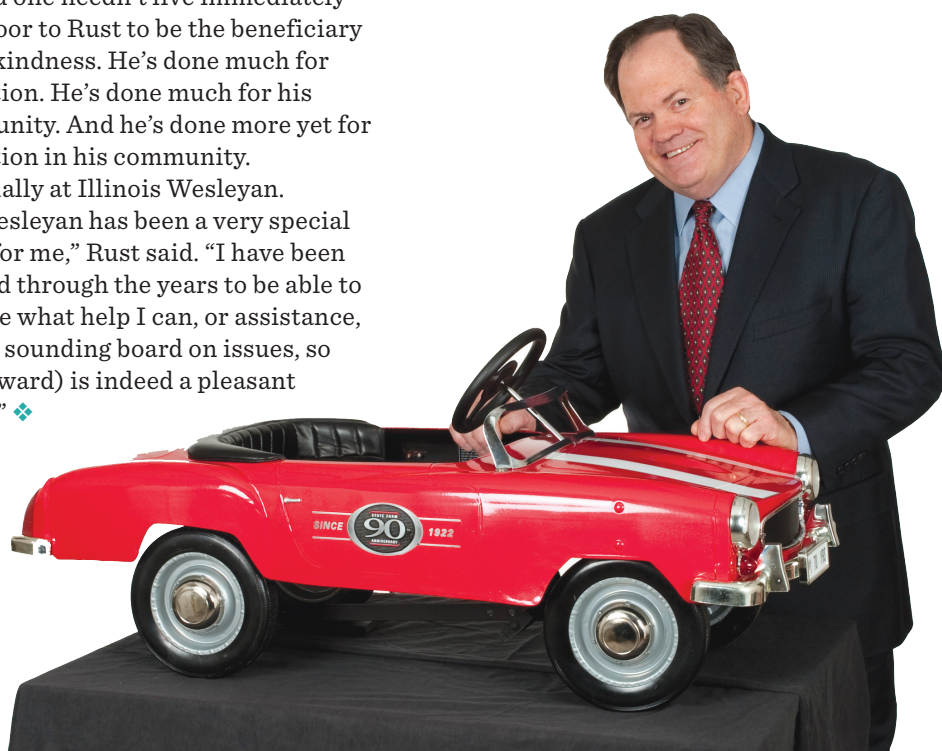
other time, when he and wife Sally were visiting Payne's son who had suffered broken bones in a motorcycle accident, Rust escaped and returned 30 minutes later with a contraption to elevate the broken wrist in a makeshift sling.

"That's Ed," said Payne. "He's so generous."

And one needn't live immediately next door to Rust to be the beneficiary of his kindness. He's done much for education. He's done much for his community. And he's done more yet for education in his community. Especially at Illinois Wesleyan.

"Wesleyan has been a very special place for me," Rust said. "I have been pleased through the years to be able to provide what help I can, or assistance, or be a sounding board on issues, so this (award) is indeed a pleasant honor." ♦

(Above left) Rust laughs while trading stories in his machine shop. (Above center) Rust poses for a photo on Illinois Wesleyan's campus. (Above right) Rust (center) pauses for a photo with former IWU President Dick Wilson (left) and Matt LaLonde '14 at the Illinois Wesleyan Associates Luncheon in 2014. (Below) Rust appears in a State Farm publicity photo celebrating the company's 90th anniversary.





W  
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

# Homecoming

Your Story Starts Here

October 4-6  
2019

We are looking forward to another great Homecoming this fall! Your story started here, and Illinois Wesleyan helped guide your path to where you are today. This is cause for celebration! Join us October 4-6 to reminisce and revisit your story.



## ■ REUNION WEEKEND

Reconnect with your classmates through special class events, including a reunion tailgate and much more. Classes honored this year are: 1969, 1979, 1984, 1989, 1994, 1999, 2004, 2009, 2014 and 2019. Visit [www.iwu.edu/reunion](http://www.iwu.edu/reunion) for more details and to get involved.

## ■ BACK TO COLLEGE CLASSES

*The Ames Library, Beckman Auditorium*

Topics include:

*Oh Yes, You Can: Create a Culture of Collaboration*

**Jean (Sullivan) Baird '80**, VP of Operations (retired),  
State Farm Insurance

*Harnessing Chemistry to Create Selective Cancer Treatments*

**Erin Anderson '07**, Associate Medicinal Chemist,  
Loxo Oncology

*The Future of Newspapers*

**Chris Fusco '94**, Editor-in-Chief, *Chicago Sun-Times*

*Seeking Perspective and Balance in an Uncertain World*

**Ed Rust Jr. '72**, former Chairman and Chief Executive  
Officer, State Farm Insurance

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## ALUMNI AWARD WINNERS



### ■ ALUMNI AWARDS CEREMONY: BEST OF ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

*Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge*

Join the Alumni Association Board of Directors in honoring 2019 Alumni Award Winners, new Golden Titans from the Class of 1969, and members of the Titan Community.

### ■ TITAN TAILGATE

*Shirk Center Parking Lot*

Show your Titan Spirit with friends and family. All those celebrating a milestone reunion are invited to the Reunion Tailgate to enjoy lunch and refreshments.

### ■ CLUB TOMMY

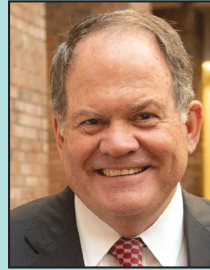
*Hansen Student Center, Center Court*

All are welcome to this annual event. Enjoy a DJ, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine, all for just \$20. This event is perfect to meet up with friends and classmates. Milestone Reunion gatherings for the classes of 2009, 2014, 2019 and 2020 will take place here.

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

*Plan your stay at our host hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton. Its staff will be ready to greet you in their Titan green. You'll be in good company with other alumni and enjoy a hospitality suite with refreshments.*

*Recipients of the 2019 Alumni Awards will be honored during a Friday evening reception at the Memorial Center's Young Main Lounge.*



**Distinguished  
Alumni Award**  
Ed Rust Jr. '72



**Loyalty Award**  
Jean (Sullivan)  
Baird '80



**Robert M.  
Montgomery  
Outstanding  
Young Alumni  
Award**  
Erin Anderson '07





# Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1959

**Dennis Stark** received an honorary doctorate from Alderson Broaddus University in Philippi, West Virginia, at the university's commencement exercise on May 4, 2019. Dennis was vice president for finance and chief financial officer of the university from 2015-18.

1963

**Navana (Eyre) Ahrends** serves the Illinois Retired Teachers Association as a state board region director. Navana, who earned a bachelor's degree in music at Illinois Wesleyan, taught music, band and chorus at elementary and middle schools for 38 years.

Longtime sportswriter **Dave Kindred** covered his 52nd Masters, at Augusta (Ga.) National Golf Club, in April 2019. Dave was profiled in a *Golf Digest* story by John Feinstein chronicling his long-running coverage of golf's premier event. Though Dave laments missing the 1986 edition of the tournament, wherein Jack Nicklaus shot 6-under-par on the back nine in the final round to win his sixth green jacket, he was present to see Tiger Woods win his fifth this spring.

1972

**Wayne Messmer** performed the national anthem at the Chicago Cubs' home opener on April 8, 2019, almost 25 years to the day after he nearly lost his voice — and his life — after being shot outside a West Chicago restaurant. Wayne estimates he's performed the anthem nearly 5,000 times professionally in his career, including approximately 1,500 performances at Wrigley Field. He was featured in the (Arlington Heights, Ill.) *Daily Herald* in April 2019.

1973

**Paul Pedersen** was sworn in as president of the Illinois State Medical Society (ISMS) in April 2019. Dr. Pedersen is vice president and chief medical officer at OSF



Dennis Stark '59

St. Joseph Medical Center in Bloomington, Illinois. Dr. Pedersen has been a member of ISMS since 1980. Locally, he is active in the McLean County Medical Society, where he served as president from 1995-96. He has also served on the board of the Rural Illinois Medical Student Assistance Program and is currently board president. Dr. Pedersen will serve as ISMS president through April 2020.

**Doug Stewart** was recognized for his community involvement with the Robert H. Michel Award, presented at the 121st annual George Washington Banquet, on Feb. 25, 2019, at Peoria (Ill.) Civic Center. Doug, who retired from a successful banking career in 2017, was recognized with the award named for the Peoria native and longtime United States congressman. Doug has played active roles in several community groups and events, including the Bielfeldt Foundation, OSF Healthcare System, Peoria Riverfront Museum, CEO Council and Heart of Illinois United Way.

1974

**Christine (Ellsworth) Coyne** trained for and completed the 2017 Chicago Marathon. Christine is a customer service representative at Molex, Inc., in the Chicago area.

1975

**Alice Arnold** recently completed her 44th year as an educator, including the past 21 as a professor at East Carolina University. Alice's teaching and research have been directed by a constructivist philosophy, with emphasis on inclusion. She has focused on the arts and literacy education, with particular attention on the creation of optimal learning environments. She has been recognized professionally on multiple occasions by the National Art Education Association and the North Carolina Art Education Association. In 2015, she was named one of East Carolina's "Women of Distinction," recognizing outstanding contributions from women in the campus community. She has been published in scholarly books and journals, and has presented at numerous conferences and workshops.

1977

**Jim Brown**, a wealth management adviser with The McClure Financial Group, of Northwestern Mutual, has qualified for Court of the Table membership in the Million Dollar Roundtable (MDRT), an international, independent association of leading life insurance producers. Court of the Table members distinguish themselves within the industry by producing at a level three times that of MDRT membership requirements. This is the seventh-consecutive year Jim has achieved Court of the Table membership.

**Jim Molinari** joined the University of Oklahoma men's basketball coaching staff in April 2019. Jim is a former head men's basketball coach at Northern Illinois, Bradley, Minnesota and Western Illinois. He most recently served as an assistant coach at Nebraska.

1978

**Carol Brandt** was recognized by Forbes as a Best-In-State Wealth Advisor for 2019. Wealth Advisors are selected annually based on quantitative and qualitative

data, including industry experience, assets under management, revenue produced, and compliance factors. Carol has more than 35 years of experience advising high-net-worth families and providing them with personalized wealth management strategies. She has previously been recognized as a *Barron's* Top 100 Women Financial Advisors, *Barron's* Top 1,000 Financial Advisors, and *Financial Times* Top 400 Financial Advisors.

1980

**Lou Bury** is the associate pastor at Downers Grove (Ill.) Community Church, where, as part of the church's "Building Bridges Series," music connects worshippers from different backgrounds. Lou and the "Building Bridges Series" were featured in a story in the (Arlington Heights, Ill.) *Daily Herald* in March 2019.

1981

**Demetria Kalodimos** participated in Lipscomb University's speaker series "Media Masters," on March 25, 2019, at Lipscomb's Ezell Center. Demetria has anchored and reported the news for more than 35 years and has won some of the top awards in broadcast journalism including: 16 Emmys, three National Investigative Reporters and Editors awards, two Edward R. Murrow awards for investigative reporting, the AP Broadcaster of the Year award, and a Gracie award. The longtime Nashville resident has consistently been voted best local anchor by readers of *The Tennessean* and *Nashville Scene*. She produces her own award-winning documentaries, music videos and other visual content through her company Genuine Human Productions, headquartered at the Filming Stations.

1983

**Martha (Smith) Henderson** is in a new position as a senior trial litigator for Zenith Insurance Company, a national company specializing in workers' compensation insurance. Martha was named to Illinois Wesleyan's Board of Trustees in 2018.

**Tony Robbins** has served as the Illinois Wesleyan Athletics Department's equipment manager since the 2005-06 academic year after previously serving as a part-time cross country coach from 1983-92. He was



Alice Arnold '75



Demetria Kalodimos '81



Martha (Smith)  
Henderson '83



Steven Riesenbergs '87

**{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).

featured in a profile in *The Pantagraph* in March 2019.

1984

Newly elected county court judge **Sara (Shannon) Alijewicz** held her investiture on Feb. 1, 2019, after being elected to serve the 15th Judicial Circuit of Florida in the August 2018 election. Sara was joined at her investiture by senior judge **Roger B. Colton '59**, who also represents the 15th Judicial Circuit, which serves Palm Beach County.

1985

**Kevin Garner** celebrated 25 years as pastor of Fox River Lutheran Church in Norway, Illinois, in March 2019. Kevin was featured in a story in *The (Ottawa, Ill.) Times*, and an open house was held at the church on March 31, 2019, to celebrate the anniversary.

1987

Captain **Steven Riesenbergs** retired from the Illinois State Police following a 31-year career in law enforcement. He served in patrol, investigative and covert operations assignments while earning three department service ribbons. A bagpiper with the State Police Pipes and Drums, he performed solo before three Illinois governors and twice on the floor of the Illinois House of Representatives. In 2012, he performed with the Illinois Wesleyan University Wind

Ensemble at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts in Michael Schelle's *The End of the World*. Steven concluded his career as the commanding officer of District 6 State Police in Pontiac, Illinois, and District 8 State Police in Peoria, Illinois.

1988

**Linda (Lueck) Bollivar** was one of three award winners recognized at the Bloomington-Normal Association of Women in Communications' Crystal Awards, presented Feb. 28, 2019, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Normal, Illinois. Linda was presented the Communication Innovator Award, recognizing a woman who has achieved excellence in communicating a project, mission, or event that benefits the Bloomington-Normal community. Linda is the executive director of the Multicultural Leadership Program in Bloomington, Illinois.

1992

**Kevin Barker** was appointed president of Beckhoff Automation LLC, where he will manage the company's domestic business operations, in February 2019. Kevin will oversee all sales, engineering, marketing and administrative operations from the Beckhoff Automation headquarters in Savage, Minnesota. Prior to joining Beckhoff, Kevin worked at Yaskawa America, Inc., as director of sales in the company's motion

(continued on page 30)



*Alumni Notes* (continued from page 29)

division.

## 1993

Harpist **Ted Nichelson** recently performed on the same bill as Tom Hanks, though not exactly in the way one might suspect. Ted played the harp during a photo slideshow moments after Hanks delivered the eulogy at a Southern California funeral. "Tom Hanks is a hard act to follow. But everyone loves a harp, right?" Ted deadpanned in Bill Flick's weekly column in *The Pantagraph* in February 2019.

**Marie (Tarbell) Zahorick** is a certified and licensed family nurse practitioner after earning a master's degree from Purdue University Northwest in 2018. In previous studies at Joliet Junior College, former classmate **Shannon (Dickinson) Jarot** served as one of Marie's nursing instructors, as well as a preceptor for her nurse practitioner program. Marie has worked at Edward Hospital in Naperville, Illinois, since 2014.

## 1995

**Stan Nord** was elected to the Normal (Ill.) Town Council in the April 2, 2019, general election. Stan received more votes than any of the other seven candidates on the ballot. He and others elected to the town council took office May 6, 2019.

## 1997

**Corey Schieler**, an investment professional at State Farm for the past 22 years, spoke to Illinois Wesleyan student-scholarship recipients about State Farm's significant investment in their education and future at the annual State Farm Scholars Luncheon on Feb. 20, 2019.



Corey Schieler '97



Judith Eckerle '98

## 1998

**Judith Eckerle**, the director of the Adoption Medicine Clinic at the University of Minnesota Medical School, was named a Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angels in Adoption honoree in September 2018. Judith was nominated by U.S. Senator Amy Klobuchar. Judy joined other Angels from across the nation in Washington, D.C. Sept. 25-26, 2018, to meet with government leaders.

**David Szwed** was appointed principal at Lincoln Middle School in Park Ridge, Illinois, in May 2019. David previously served as principal at Margaret Mead Junior High in Elk Grove Village, Illinois, for three years. Before that, he was an assistant principal for five years at Jane Addams Junior High in Schaumburg, Illinois.

## 2001

**Matthew Glavin** has joined Cozen O'Connor P.C. as counsel and principal of its Public Strategies Group and will reside in its Chicago office. Matthew previously served as national director of Government and Regulatory Affairs for American Water, the largest investor-owned water utility company in the United States. He also previously held a number of high-level state government positions under former Illinois Governor Pat Quinn, including director of the Illinois Office of Business Development and chief of staff for the Illinois Department of Financial and Professional Regulation. Earlier in his career, he served as deputy press secretary for U.S. Senator Dick Durbin.

Biophysicist **Alison Sweeney** explained how pollen gets its stunning diversity of shapes in an article in *Science News*. Alison is an associate professor of physics and



John Camardella '03

astronomy at the University of Pennsylvania.

## 2002

**Mike Mayo** returned to Illinois Wesleyan's campus on April 13, 2019, to present the Mayo Alumni Award at the annual student art reception and awards ceremony in the Merwin and Wakeley galleries. Mike has sponsored the prize, awarded to students who share his passion for fine arts, for the past 11 years. While visiting campus, Mike showed his children two of his pieces, completed while he was an IWU student, displayed in IWU's Center for the Liberal Arts.

## 2003

**John Camardella** visited campus on March 20, 2019, to share his experience working with Harvard University's Religious Literacy Project. A teacher at Prospect High School, in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, John has transformed his social science curriculum to emphasize global religious literacy, and he has worked with students, parents and community members to advocate for religious literacy in civic society. During his campus visit, John first offered a workshop and presentation to discuss his journey as an educator and how it led to his work with Harvard University's Religious Literacy Project. Later that evening, he presented, "Trying to Live on the Edge of Next: How My Liberal Arts Education at IWU Prepared Me to Become a Teacher, Coach, Harvard Fellow and Global Citizen," at the Welcome Center Auditorium.

**Ryanne (Bauer) Shafer** is the chair of Home Leone USA, a nonprofit organization with a mission to create a movement in the African nation of Sierra Leone, developing



Ryanne (Bauer) Shafer '03 (back center)

villages with thousands of low-cost homes, and supporting businesses, community infrastructure, education and training, enabling beneficiaries to make the most of their opportunities. Ryanne and husband **Jonathan Shafer '05** lived in Sierra Leone from 2008-10, while she taught in public schools and trained teachers, and he started an export processing zone. Ryanne returned to Sierra Leone in December 2018 to work with UK-based nonprofit Home Leone. Inspired by the work, she created Home Leone USA to support the parent organization. Ryanne went back to Sierra Leone in July 2019 to train teachers in hands-on methodologies and behavior management strategies.

## 2005

**Trevor Sierra** served as a practice judge for the Illinois Wesleyan Ethics Bowl team as it prepared for nationals, held in Baltimore, in March 2019. Trevor serves as the McLean County (Ill.) Assistant State's Attorney. The IWU Ethics Bowl team posted a 2-1-1 record this year at nationals.

**Brian Simonds** is a physicist with the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) currently researching laser welding. Brian provided updates on his organization's research in an April 2019 NIST news release, which cited two papers he co-authored on the subject.

## 2006

**Heather (Geeser) Huftalin** was named marketing manager for Jones Naturals LLC, where she will be responsible for planning and executing marketing strategies, maintaining web presence and managing social media accounts for the company's portfolio of dog treat and chew brands. Heather brings 11 years of marketing and communications experience to her new role, including five years in a similar role with a global heat-treating equipment manufacturer.

## 2007

**Patrick Beary** has been named senior director of strategic partnerships for Cornell University's David R. Atkinson Center for a Sustainable Future, a position partially supported by provost Michael Kotlikoff's Radical Collaborations Sustainability Task



Heather (Geeser)  
Huftalin '06



Lauren (Goldwasser)  
Cumming '09

Force. In his new role, Patrick will actively engage with Cornell researchers and external private and public-sector entities — such as NGOs, corporations and government agencies — in order to create partnerships and consortia that take sustainability ideas from the academy and turn them into real-world impact.

## 2008

**Vanessa Dremonas** is part of the family leadership team of Pete's Fresh Market grocery chain in the Chicagoland area. What started as a South Side produce stand in the 1970s has grown to 14 locations, now extending into the suburban market. Two more locations are slated to open this fall, with four more over the next 2-3 years. Vanessa and Pete's Fresh Market were featured in a *Chicago Tribune* story in May 2019.

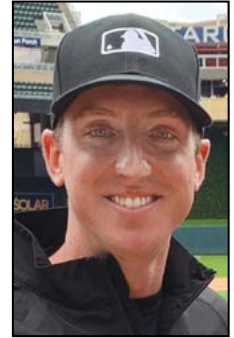
**Rachel (Anderson) Lyons** became Illinois Wesleyan's first member of the U.S. Track and Field and Cross Country Coaches Association NCAA Division III Track & Field Athlete Hall of Fame when she was inducted in May 2019. Rachel was one of four inductees in the Class of 2019. She was a seven-time national champion in individual and relay events, and helped Illinois Wesleyan win team national championships in both the indoor and outdoor seasons in 2008. She was also a two-time Academic All-America first-team selection and the women's track Academic All-American of the Year in 2008.

## 2009

**Lauren (Goldwasser) Cumming** was named principal at St. Louis' Bernard Middle School ahead of the 2019-20 academic year, the Mehlville Board of Education announced in March 2019. Lauren has



Rachel Short '09



Alex Tosi '10

served as the assistant principal at Bernard the past three years and last year was named the Assistant Principal of the Year by the Missouri Association of Secondary School Principals. Lauren has also served on her school district's Development Program Committee, Middle-School Standards Based Grading Committee and Middle School School Innovative Scheduling Committee.

**Lauren Gearhart** joined St. Louis-based law firm Paule, Camazine & Blumenthal, P.C., in July 2018. Lauren is a member of the firm's family law department and is licensed to practice in Missouri and Illinois. Her major practice areas include divorce, child custody and paternity.

**Rachel Short**, a doctoral candidate in the Department of Ecosystem Science and Management at Texas A&M University, is the lead author of a team that identified a new species of ancient rhinoceros, *Teleoceras aepysoma*, from the nearly five million-year-old Gray Fossil Site of eastern Tennessee. Other species of *Teleoceras* roamed the Great Plains for millions of years, but *Teleoceras aepysoma*, identified by Rachel's group through fossilized remains, is unique to the mountain forests. The findings were published in the *Bulletin of the Florida Museum of Natural History*, and the fossils are on display at the East Tennessee State University Museum of Natural History.

## 2010

**Alex Tosi** made his Major League Baseball umpiring debut on May 11, 2019, working both games of a doubleheader between the Minnesota Twins and Detroit Tigers at Target Field in Minneapolis. A former member of the Illinois Wesleyan baseball team, Alex is in his fourth year at Triple-A —

(continued on page 33)



# Alumni Association News



(Above) **Scott Huch '86** addresses the newest Illinois Wesleyan University alumni at Commencement on May 5, 2019.

## Dear Fellow IWU Alumni,

This letter is bursting with gratitude — one big THANK YOU!

First, thank you for giving me the honor to represent you and our 23,000 living fellow alumni at Commencement (see pages 12-13) on May 5, 2019. In my brief remarks, I welcomed more than 400 new graduates into our Alumni Association, and I encouraged them to stay connected to our alma mater.

Likewise, I encourage you to stay connected. Please make your plans now to attend Homecoming on Oct. 4-6, 2019 (see pages 26-27). It will be a great opportunity to share good times with old friends. It will be a time for sharing stories, too. When you think about your life after Illinois Wesleyan, your story starts here. Come tell us your unfolding story!

And thank you to the many Titans around the globe who nominated candidates for the three alumni awards that are presented each year at Homecoming. Not surprisingly, the quality of candidates is always very strong. So it's a difficult choice! But you'll be very proud of this year's award winners (see pages 22-25).

Another big thank you to the 161 alumni volunteers who made nearly 2,000 contacts with admitted students this spring. You're making IWU stronger as you help recruit our Class of 2023.

Finally, thank you for the opportunity to lead our Alumni Association over the last two years. My term as president will conclude in October. The best part of this "job" has been meeting Titans from all over the world. It was fun, and I had a lot of enjoyable conversations with many interesting people. Thank you for being the best part of the IWU Alumni Association!

While my "official" duties may end, my connection to IWU continues. I promise to stay connected, and if you'll do the same, then we'll always be connected through Illinois Wesleyan. Thank you for being good to our alma mater,

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

## Affinity Group Participation Unlocks Opportunities

During All in for Wesleyan, 2,205 alumni and friends showed their pride and support by coming together to unlock opportunities. It was an incredible day of giving on campus — and around the world — that supported the overall student experience at Illinois Wesleyan.

One of the many success stories of All in for Wesleyan was the participation and involvement of affinity groups, athletic teams, reunion classes and other alumni paying tribute and honoring what makes Illinois Wesleyan special to them. The enthusiastic and competitive nature of giving was felt across all areas of the University. Congratulations to the leaders!

<i>Top Class Year: Class of 1962</i>	<b>\$18,299.00</b>
<i>Top Affinity Group: Council for IWU Women</i>	<b>\$18,263.64</b>
<i>Top Team: Men's Lacrosse</i>	<b>\$16,877.58</b>
<i>Top Special Initiative: School of Nursing</i>	<b>\$12,372.00</b>
<i>Top Fraternity/Sorority Organization: Acacia</i>	<b>\$11,562.45</b>





(Above) The Alumni Association Board of Directors met for its annual meeting in April 2019.

## Upcoming Alumni Connections

- ◆ **SUNDAY, JULY 21:**  
Titan Connection — Seattle  
Ray's Boathouse featuring  
Jack Sikma '77 and Dennie Bridges '61
- ◆ **SUNDAY, AUGUST 4:**  
The Network (Minority Alumni  
Network) Summer Picnic  
Home of David '79 and Genie Darling  
Tinley Park, Illinois
- ◆ **MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 9:**  
Titan Alumni and Friends Golf Outing  
Mistwood Golf Club  
Romeoville, Illinois
- ◆ **THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 12:**  
The Network (Minority Alumni  
Network) Mixer  
Chicago, Illinois
- ◆ **FRIDAY-SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4-6:**  
Homecoming and Reunion Weekend  
Your Story Starts Here

Watch your inbox for information about upcoming alumni events in a region near you. For more information, call (309) 556-3251 or visit [www.iwu.edu/alumni](http://www.iwu.edu/alumni).

### **There is strength in numbers.**

We need you to be in the number. We are looking for more alumni to join regional committees to help plan events and activities throughout the year. If you are interested in getting involved, contact **Adriane Powell** at [apowell@iwu.edu](mailto:apowell@iwu.edu) or (309) 556-1355.

### *Alumni Notes (continued from page 31)*

the highest level of Minor League Baseball — where he serves as a crew chief in the International League. He has previously worked in the Class A Short Season New York-Penn League (2011), Class A Midwest League (2012), Class A-Advanced Florida State League (2013), Arizona Instructional League (2014), Double-A Eastern League (2014-15) and Triple-A International League (2016-present).

## 2011

**Emmy Grace** presented “Free Trade in Central and North America: Agrarian Crises and Outward Migration,” at the Thought for Food in the Luso-Hispanic Transatlantic International Food Symposium, co-hosted by Illinois State University and Illinois Wesleyan, on March 29, 2019.

**Sean Johnson** was promoted to assistant athletic director for development at Illinois State University in December 2018. A standout basketball player at Illinois Wesleyan, Sean stays connected to athletics by overseeing all aspects of athletics fundraising, including major gifts, the Weisbecker Scholarship Fund and scholarship endowments. He previously served as director of annual giving from 2013-18 and a graduate assistant for ticket sales and development from 2011-13. Sean was featured in a profile in *The Pantagraph* in March 2019.

**Lisa Lohmeyer** was elected to the Woodstock (Ill.) City Council in the April 2, 2019 election. Lisa received the most votes of any candidate on the city council ballot. She is an insurance agent and Woodstock native who promised to bring economic and residential growth to the city.

**Alex Willett** married Katy Hogan on May 18, 2019, at Illinois Wesleyan's Evelyn Chapel. The reception was held at IWU's Young Main Lounge.

## 2012

**Jordan (Diehl) Mann** volunteers for the nonprofit organization Step Up Women's Network, where she serves as a mentor for high school students in underserved Chicago communities. She attended the organization's College Connection Conference on Nov. 17, 2018. Step Up propels girls living or going to school in under-resourced communities to fulfill their potential by

empowering them to become confident, college-bound, career-focused and ready to join the next generation of professional women.

## 2013

**Michelle Brand** graduated from DePaul University's Master's Entry to Nursing Practice program in November 2018 to earn an M.S. in nursing. She passed the National Council Licensure Examination in January 2019 to become a registered nurse and accepted a job offer at Chicago's Northwestern Memorial Hospital, where she will be a clinical nurse in the Neuro Spine Specialty Surgery Unit.

**Michelle Gardner-Bilek** was included in the Women's Basketball Coaches Association's Thirty Under 30, recognizing up-and-coming women's basketball coaches from all levels, the organization announced in March 2019. Michelle is currently an assistant coach at the University of Chicago. She previously served as an assistant coach at New York University (2017-18) and director of basketball operations at Columbia University (2013-17). Michelle was a four-year member and captain of the Illinois Wesleyan women's basketball team and helped guide the team to a national championship in 2012.

**Ash Reddy** was appointed vice president, global strategy and corporate development for Jet Support Services, Inc. (JSSI), a leading independent provider of hourly cost maintenance programs for aircraft engines and airframes. Ash will be responsible for identifying, developing and executing organic and inorganic strategic initiatives globally for all JSSI business units. The new role includes long-range strategic planning, driving synergies across the organization and linking business trends to enterprise strategies and opportunities.



Sean Johnson '11



Lisa Lohmeyer '11



*Alumni Notes* (continued from page 33)

**Raven Stubbs** presented “A day late and a dollar short,” a workshop series and ethno-dramaturgical project exploring the role of class within contemporary black life and community at Recess Assembly, a non-profit arts organization based in Brooklyn, New York. Over the course of four public sessions on education, identity expression, assets and socialization, Raven worked with Assembly participants and invited facilitators to foster dialogue and inquiry around the complex intersections of blackness and class. The project concluded in an original dramatic piece co-written by the youth of the Assembly program titled *A Labyrinth*. “A day late and a dollar short,” was presented between Jan. 10 and March 16, 2019.

## 2014

**Nora Peterson** was named Carleton College’s first full-time sexual violence prevention coordinator in February 2019. Nora works with campus groups, facilitates training and online programming, and develops prevention initiatives in her new role. She previously served as the direct service specialist/volunteer coordinator at Montana State University, where she worked directly with survivors of interpersonal violence (including sexual assault, relationship violence and stalking) and supervised a group of student volunteer advocates.

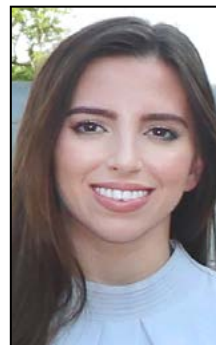
**Anjelica Rodriguez** co-authored a paper published by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America in February 2019. The paper is titled “Physical exertion exacerbates decline in the musculature of an animal model of Duchenne muscular dystrophy.” Anjelica earned a master’s degree at Illinois State University in 2018. She is currently a research specialist at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

## 2015

**Amelia (Smith) Von Gemmingen** presented “A Use Case Dilemma for Autonomous Weapon Systems,” to students enrolled in the Policy and Ethics First-Year Experience on April 17, 2019, at Illinois Wesleyan’s State Farm Hall. A psychology major at IWU, Amelia is now a master’s student of philosophy at Carnegie Mellon University.

Michelle Gardner-Bilek '13  
(p. 33)

Nora Peterson '14



Boryana Borisova '17



Muiyi Yang '18

## 2017

**Boryana Borisova** was selected to participate in the Library of Congress Junior Fellows Summer Intern Program, which offers undergraduate and graduate students the opportunity to experience a diverse range of work in managing, preserving and sharing the library’s unparalleled collections and resources. The program runs from late May through early August. Boryana recently concluded a Boren Fellowship in Kazakhstan and will finish work on a master’s degree in information science this fall at Indiana University.

## 2018

**Muiyi Yang** was the recipient of a Rotary Peace Fellowship, to study at an institution designated as one of the organization’s peace centers. As a Rotary Peace Fellow, Muiyi will attend Uppsala University, the oldest university in Sweden, where he will pursue a master’s degree in social science as part of the university’s Peace and Conflict Studies program. Muiyi worked for several years in international business before following his passion for international security and enrolling at Illinois Wesleyan as an international studies major.

## Tiny Titans

**Bethany Evans-Campbell '00** and John; Zane Orion, born Feb. 21, 2019

**Laurie Gilbert Wood '00** and Andrew; Mary Rose, born Oct. 27, 2018

**Mark Ordones '02** and Christina; Charlotte Grace, born June 29, 2018

**Chelsea Yontz-Duke '05** and Jamie; Emma Nicole, born Feb. 21, 2019

**Lindsay (Brown) Dausch '08** and Matthew; Bennett Francis, born March 3, 2019

**Mackenzie (Gebhardt) Fleming '08** and Brandon; Jack Riley, born April 16, 2019

**Heidi (Adams) Murray '09** and **Tim '07**; Rosaleen “Rosie” Joan, born April 8, 2019

**Laura (Allen) Ross '09** and **Thure '09**; Madelyn Sherrill, born March 12, 2019

**Kaitlyn (Gosch) Strauman '09** and Mike; Ella Elizabeth, born Jan. 3, 2019

**Monica (Piotrowski) Moore '10** and Kevin; Kyrie Alexis, born April 4, 2019

**Stacey (Arlis) DiGrazia '11** and Anthony; Anthony Luciano, born Aug. 20, 2018

**Ariana (Wilkey) Gladfelter '11** and Adam; Liam Jay, born Dec. 25, 2018

**Audra (James) Shields '14** and Kody; Asher James, born March 3, 2019

# TEDxIWU

Illinois Wesleyan's second annual TEDxIWU event brought faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members together to celebrate the innovative spirit of the campus and community on March 23, 2019, at IWU's Hansen Student Center. TED Talks with the common theme of "Becoming Human" were offered as part of the event that promotes the sharing of ideas.

(Right) **Cindi (Ellison) Perrine '88** delivered a TED Talk, titled "How stories can make us human," at TEDxIWU on March 23, 2019.



(Above) TEDxIWU presenters included faculty, staff, students, alumni and community members.

## Presenters

**Cindi Perrine '88, Nicole Jovicevic '15,  
Niyant Vora '19, Isaac Simmons '20,  
Amanda Wesche '20, Wendy Kookan,  
Hailey Thomas**



(Above) Attendees took part in an interactive art display at the event.

# Titan Celebrations

*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) **Matt Pankau '14** and **Jill Kawasaki '14** were married Sept. 8, 2018, in Long Grove, Illinois, with many IWU classmates and alumni attending, including (from left): **Jane (Mizuno) Kawasaki '82, Jason Pankau '11, Hope (Schulte) Pankau '11, Bethany Presutti '14, Cody Collinson '14, Tara Gracer '13, Matt Pankau, Gabe Chanez '14, Jill Kawasaki, Joel Backs '14, Leah (Allen) Wheeler '08 and Alexandra Bidner '15.**



(Above) Acacia members reunited on a cruise from Budapest, Hungary, to Bucharest, Romania, in May 2019. The group included (from left): **Paul Witt '68** and Ann (Johnson) Witt, **Howard Thomas '69** and **Merrilyn (Gregory) Thomas '69, Dick Wray '71** and Carol (Schofield) Wray, **Richard Whyte '69** and Sherry Whyte, and **John Portle '69** and **Karen (Smith) Portle '71**. All five couples met during their college years; Ann, Carol and Sherry are Illinois State University graduates.

(Right) **Tim Lambert '90** (left) and **Scott Swayne '90** (right) celebrated 20 years of attending Chicago Cubs home openers together. Tim and Scott commemorated the occasion by watching the game on April 8, 2019, from left-field rooftop seats. Tim is a chief counsel and legal executive with Caesars Entertainment and lives in Plainfield, Illinois. Scott is a human resources executive with General Mills, living in Minneapolis. Tim and Scott are pictured here at opening day in 2016, the year the Cubs won the World Series.



*All submitted content received  
by May 27, 2019.*



## In Memory

## Faculty and Staff

**John McGrosso** died Feb. 3, 2017, in Bloomington, Illinois. He was 101. John was a faculty member in the School of Music for over 25 years, and directed the University Concert Band, through which he influenced hundreds of students. He performed solo and chamber music concerts with his Illinois Wesleyan colleagues and played the clarinet as a member of the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra. He was also a cellist in the Peoria (Ill.) Symphony Orchestra for many years. John was raised in Hornell, New York, and attended the Eastman School of Music in Rochester, New York. He was a band leader in the U.S. Army and was among the first Americans to arrive in England in 1940. After the war, he earned a master's degree from Northwestern University and studied at the Conservatoire de Paris. He then taught at the University of Texas at Austin before arriving at Illinois Wesleyan in 1960. John was preceded in death by his wife, **Anna McGrosso**, who also taught at IWU. He is survived by a son and stepson.

## Alumni

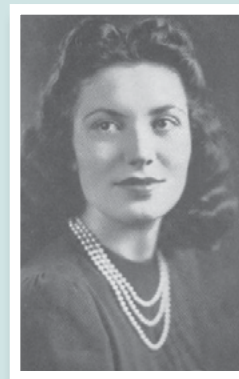
**Helen (Horney) Greenhalgh '41** died Dec. 6, 2018, in Park Forest, Illinois. She was 98. During her time at Illinois Wesleyan, Helen served as president of the Women's League, sorority house president, a member of a senior women's honorary society, and an accompanist for the college choir. She met future husband **Ted Greenhalgh '42** at IWU. Though her studies were interrupted by World War II, her passion for music continued to play a defining role in her life. She accompanied Park Forest Faith United Protestant Church's many musical performances, taught piano at Park Forest Music Conservatory, taught music at Park Forest Public Schools and was a docent for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. Helen was a collector of antiques, lover of poetry, and an avid follower of current events and sports. She was preceded in death by her husband, and is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Eileen (Holforty) Leach '41** of Morris, Illinois, died Feb. 12, 2019. She was 98. Eileen came from an Illinois Wesleyan family, as all five of her siblings attended IWU, as did her husband and several in-laws, a daughter and a granddaughter. Eileen was active in Sigma Kappa at IWU. She married **Arthur Leach '42** in 1942 and the couple moved to Morris to start their family. Eileen was active in the Morris Hospital Auxiliary and a local bridge club. Hobbies including reading, knitting and walking. She was preceded in death by siblings **Charles Holforty '41**, **John Holforty '44**, **Alice (Holforty) Goodrich '50** and **Robert Holforty '52**. Eileen is survived by two daughters, including **Lianne (Leach) Moyer '68**, four grandchildren, including **Megan (Leach) Smith '02**, four great-grandchildren, and one sister, **Phyllis (Holforty) Zandi '50**.

**Gordon King '43**, of Blacksburg, Virginia, died Feb. 5, 2019. He was 97. Sponsored by the town of Beason, Illinois, Gordon attended Illinois Wesleyan to study divinity and become a minister. After graduation, he served his country in World War II and spent time stationed in the foothills below the Himalayas in northwest India. Later, inspired by his introduction to world cultures, he

**Myra Rodgers Shepard '42**

died Feb. 5, 2019, in Bloomington, Illinois. She was 97. Myra, who was instrumental in four generations of her family attending and supporting Illinois Wesleyan University, attended IWU while her father **Harry Rodgers, Class of 1911**, was President of the Alumni Association. Myra was only 20 when she graduated with a degree in economics. Shortly thereafter, she enlisted in the U.S. Navy WAVES (Women Accepted for Volunteer Emergency Service), where she encoded and decoded top secret messages to locate and conceal movements involving German submarines in the Atlantic. She received her private pilot's license with her GI benefits. For all she accomplished, her son **Tracy Morgan Shepard '80** remarked, "Like many of her generation, she was so humble. In describing her time at Washington, D.C., all I ever heard was that everyone she knew was involved in the war, and she was just doing her part." Myra returned to Bloomington in 1946 and married Trent Shepard in 1948. She is survived by four children and nine grandchildren, including **Robert Trent Shepard '15**.



returned to school on the GI Bill and earned a master's degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies. He served the U.S. Department of State as an analyst, consul, economics officer, political officer and, finally, as consul general in U.S. embassies or consulates in Afghanistan, Iran, Pakistan, Germany and England. In retirement, Gordon wrote and published several books of poetry. He is survived by three sons and two grandchildren.

**Wanda (Razor) Dean '46** of Bloomington, Illinois, died March 27, 2019. She was 94. Wanda was active in Kappa Delta at Illinois Wesleyan. She went on to a career as a stewardess and teacher. She was a member of the First United Methodist Church of Le Roy, Illinois, and a member of the Junior Mothers Club, Empire Social Club and Family & Consumer Science Professionals Club. She served on the board of The Baby Fold in Normal, Illinois, and the district conference office of United Methodist Women. She is survived by five children, 16 grandchildren, including **Kara Kasten '03**, and 27 great-grandchildren.

**Betty (Walters) White '46** of Piper City, Illinois, died May 15, 2019. She was 94. Betty was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan. She was a member of First Presbyterian Church in Piper City, where she served as an elder for 16 years and a member of the church choir for 68 years. She and her husband owned and operated Piper City Hardware & Variety Store for 30 years. She enjoyed auctions, antiques, gospel music, crafts, knitting and decorating for the holidays. Most of all, she enjoyed spending time with family. She is survived by one daughter, three grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**James "Jim" Hershbarger '48** of Champaign, Illinois, died April 15, 2019. He was 93. Jim won letters as a member of Illinois Wesleyan's football, basketball and baseball teams. He was named to multiple all-conference teams and was elected to the Order of Titans. Jim spent 32 years in the auto industry. He also served as an insurance agent for American Family Insurance before retiring in 1995. He was a member of Champaign's St. Peter's United Church of Christ, where he was on the consistory and church treasurer for two years. He was also a member of the Elks, Moose and Phi Gamma Delta, where he served as a member of the Interfraternity Counsel. He is survived by his wife, daughter, three grandchildren and a brother.

**Eleanor (Brown) Pistorius '48** of Forsyth, Illinois, died Feb. 10, 2019. She was 92. Eleanor studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and the University of Missouri-Kansas City. She was deeply involved in music throughout her life, as a performer, teacher and director of choirs. She directed choirs at First Christian Church in Blue Mound, Illinois, and First United Methodist in Moweaqua, Illinois, as well as the Brown Cousins Family Choir. She taught music at Boody (Ill.) and Blue Mound grade schools, as well as St. Patrick Catholic School in Decatur, Illinois. She sang with Grace Notes, was a longtime member of the Decatur Symphony Guild and volunteered with the Decatur Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She is survived by three children, nine grandchildren, 17 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

**Marilyn (Warnecke) Schieber '49** died March 28, 2019, in Trumansburg, New York. She was 92. Marilyn attended Illinois Wesleyan on a piano scholarship. She met and married classmate **Robert Schieber '50** in 1950. Marilyn taught English and music at Eureka (Ill.) High School for one year before she and Bob moved to Battle Creek, Michigan, where she was the choir director at St. Paul Lutheran Church. The Shiebers later lived in: Kalamazoo, Michigan; Gainesville, Florida; and Edwardsville, Illinois. Marilyn was active in churches throughout her life, including 46 years as a singer and arranger with the choir at Our Lord's Lutheran Church in Maryville, Illinois. Marilyn and Bob moved to New York in 2012 to be closer to family. There, they joined the First Presbyterian Church of Ulysses (N.Y.). Marilyn is survived by her husband, two daughters, four grandchildren, one great-grandson and one sister.

**Marilyn (Gahm) Ames '50** of Gibson City, Illinois, died April 26, 2019. She was 91. Marilyn met **John Ames '50** during her time at

## Deaths Reported

**Margaret (Bingham) Sommerfield '42**; June 14, 2017  
**Ruth (Shaheen) Downs '43**; March 28, 2017  
**Esther "Lucille" (Benetti) Kilmar '43**; Oct. 8, 2018  
**Walter Norris '44**; Nov. 25, 2018  
**William Starke '45**; June 6, 2018  
**Mona (Newcomer) Sorenson '47**; April 26, 2019  
**Virginia (Swartz) Carey '48**; March 20, 2019  
**Robert Daubenspeck '49**; Nov. 10, 2017  
**Robert Turnipseed '49**; March 22, 2018  
**Ellen (Davidson) Read '49**; April 17, 2019  
**Richard Alexander '50**; June 27, 2017  
**Roslyn (Johnson) Birch '50**; May 9, 2019  
**Joanne (Freedlund) Burchett '51**; Dec. 2, 2018  
**Lucy (Coffey-McClendon) Neenan '51**; Dec. 21, 2018  
**March Wells '51**; March 21, 2019  
**Gene Archer '52**; May 11, 2019  
**Theodore Chase '54**; April 6, 2019  
**Marilyn "Joy" (Pritchett) Meyer '57**; Feb. 11, 2019  
**James Johnson '57**; April 28, 2019  
**Donald Winn '59**; Feb. 12, 2019  
**Cleo Larson '59**; Feb. 14, 2019  
**Dennis Mattix '59**; May 2, 2019  
**Arthur Schroff '61**; March 4, 2019  
**Carolyn (Imig) Argo '64**; Aug. 7, 2018  
**Everett "Eugene" Cline '65**; April 4, 2019  
**William Mullins '65**; March 12, 2019  
**Richard Kramer '66**; Feb. 27, 2019  
**John Miller '66**; April 21, 2019  
**Kenneth Albers '67**; Nov. 13, 2018  
**Douglas Black '69**; Dec. 14, 2018  
**Judith "Judy" (Townsend) Tessendorf '73**; May 5, 2019  
**Steven Eckhoff '75**; March 26, 2019  
**Diane Goerlitz '80**; Jan. 14, 2019

*All submitted content received by May 27, 2019.*

Illinois Wesleyan, and the two wed shortly after their graduation. Marilyn taught history at Melvin-Sibley (Ill.) Junior-Senior High School for 30 years. She chaired committees to compile histories of Sibley and Ford County. She was twice named Outstanding History Teacher of Illinois by the State Historical Society. In 1994, she was named Illinois Mother of the Year. As a life member of the Gov. Thomas Ford Chapter of the National Society of Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), she helped many women join DAR by proving their ancestry. Marilyn was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren, a foster son and a brother.

**Vernon "Vern" Prenzler '50** of Bloomington, Illinois, died March 10, 2019. He was 90. Vern was raised in Bloomington and  
*(continued on page 38)*



## In Memory



studied business at Illinois Wesleyan, where he was active in Phi Gamma Delta. He served in the U.S. Army from 1950-52, stationed in Italy, Austria and Germany. He was later the manager and owner of Corn Belt Lumber Co. before embarking on a prosperous career as a real estate developer. He developed over 2,000 residential lots and several commercial properties in Bloomington-Normal. He also played a key role in preventing Interstate 55 from being diverted to Peoria, Illinois, and allowing Bloomington-Normal to become the state's central transportation hub. Vern served on the Bloomington City Council, McLean County Board and McLean County Republican Central Committee. He is survived by his wife, three children, two stepchildren and 10 grandchildren.

**Earl Neeman '54** of Mackinaw, Illinois, died April 27, 2019. He was 88. After attending Illinois Wesleyan, Earl taught school and coached. He and his wife **Carolyn (Worner) Neeman '57** moved to Arizona in the early 1960s, and he worked as supervisor of recreational therapy at Arizona State Hospital. After returning to Illinois, he worked at Reed Zone Center in Chicago. In 1966, he went into sales, first working for Random House, then Nystrom, and later with Ronnoco Coffee. He and Carolyn owned and operated a restaurant in Mackinaw from 1980-92. Earl then returned to sales, working with Standard Coffee until retiring in 1997. He

was a bus driver for the Deer Creek-Mackinaw school district for several years in retirement. Earl was also an active member of New Castle Bible Church in Mackinaw. He is survived by his wife, two children, six grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and one sister.

**Nancy (Roberts) Poust '54** of Orion, Illinois, died Oct. 24, 2017. She was 85. Nancy was a member of Kappa Delta at Illinois Wesleyan. She married classmate **John "Jack" Poust '54** one year after they graduated from IWU. Nancy began her teaching career in the Orion school district, where she taught kindergarten, and first and second grade. She retired in 1986 after more than 20 years in the district. She was a member of Orion United Methodist Church, where she was active in United Methodist Women, Queen Esther Circle. She was a founding member of the church's quilting group. She enjoyed her time with the Red Hat Ladies and was an avid reader, knitter and quilter. She and Jack were members of a card club for over 60 years. She is survived by her husband, two sons, five grandchildren, one brother, and many nieces and nephews.

**James Ridenour '54** died March 10, 2019, in Baltimore. He was 86. Jim was a member of Sigma Chi and served as editor of the student newspaper at Illinois Wesleyan. IWU also served as the place where he began his career as a fundraiser, as he helped lead efforts to raise funds for a new Sigma Chi house. He later met and married IWU professor of music **Doris (Maxeiner) Ridenour**. Jim was an Armstrong Cork Co. representative for 13 years before being named IWU's associate director of development in 1968. He later worked in development at Western Maryland College (now McDaniel College) and Berry College before becoming a senior consultant at Marts & Lundy in Lyndhurst, New Jersey, where he advised colleges and universities on more than 50 capital campaigns over the next two decades until his retirement in 2008. Jim was a communicant of the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation and headed a successful giving program for the Episcopal Diocese of Maryland. He was a volunteer with the Baltimore International Seafarers' Center and a troop committee chairman of Boy Scout Troop 3939 in Westminster, Maryland, where his three sons obtained Eagle Scout status. He is survived by his wife, four children and eight grandchildren.

**William Dunworth '56** died Feb. 10, 2019. He was 85. Bill studied business at Illinois Wesleyan, where he met future wife **Laurel (Scott) Dunworth '57**. Bill's career as an engineer and plant manager for Corn Products Company, Best Foods, and its subsidiaries, relocated the family from Illinois to Kansas, back to Illinois, and eventually to Chesterfield, Missouri. In retirement, Bill worked as a florist delivery driver, where he earned the nickname, "The Flower Man." He volunteered at the Missouri Botanical Garden and at Yellowstone National Park. He was an usher and greeter at St. Timothy's Episcopal Church in Creve Coeur, Missouri, for many years. Bill enjoyed the outdoors, music, computers, libraries and keeping busy. He is survived by his wife, four children, seven grandchildren, one great-grandchild, one sister, and many other relatives and friends.



**Charles Robert "Bob" Berg '65** of Detroit died May 8, 2019. He was 76. Raised in Cissna Park, Illinois, Bob became a spokesman and adviser for two of Michigan's most influential politicians: former Michigan Governor William Milliken and former Detroit Mayor Coleman Young. After his time at Illinois Wesleyan, Bob held reporting roles in Iowa and Nebraska. He left for Lansing, Michigan, to head a state capital bureau for United Press International. He later became state capital bureau chief of Panax Newspapers and, by 1977, was hired to work in the public affairs office of Milliken, the longest-serving governor in state history. Bob held the role until Milliken left office in 1982, at which point he was hired as a press secretary for Young, the city's first black mayor. When Young left office in 1994, Bob started a public relations firm that lives on today as Van Dyke-Horn Public Relations. During his time in Detroit, Bob worked to form a relationship between the Detroit Public Schools and Illinois Wesleyan, in which IWU became the only out-of-state university to participate in the district's Wade McCree Scholarship Program. Bob was recognized in 2000 with IWU's Loyalty Award, in 2014 with a John Rakolta Jr. Leadership in Race Relations Award, and in 2018 by the Urban League of Detroit as one of its Distinguished Warriors. He served on the boards of the Coleman A. Young Foundation, Roeper School, Detroit Police Foundation, Detroit Urban League, and Caring Athletes Team for Children's & Henry Ford Hospitals. He was also a member of Jefferson Avenue Presbyterian Church. He is survived by his longtime partner, three children, four grandchildren and two siblings, including **Karen (Berg) Dolan '70**.

**Jane (Livingston) Lawson '56** of Elgin, Illinois, died Feb. 15, 2019. She was 84. Jane studied elementary education at Illinois Wesleyan and Northern Illinois University. She was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at IWU. Jane taught fifth- and sixth-graders at Elgin's Grant School and served as a substitute teacher for 10 years in retirement. She was a loyal member of Elgin Retired

Teachers, P.E.O. Sisterhood, American Association of University Women, Elgin Symphony League and Wesley United Methodist Church. She loved the Chicago Cubs, her dog Sam, spending time at her cabin on Lake Vermillion in Minnesota, and spending time with friends and family. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Don Winn '59** of Normal, Illinois, died Feb. 12, 2019, in Maquoketa, Iowa. He was 81. After earning his bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan, Don earned master's degrees from Illinois State University and Southern Illinois University-Carbondale. He worked as a teacher, coach, truck driver and security guard. A lifelong runner who captained IWU's cross-country team in 1958, Don ran the Boston Marathon multiple times. He is survived by his wife, sister, former wife, three children, and many stepchildren and grandchildren.

**Lyle Magin '61** of Rockford, Illinois, died May 16, 2019. He was 80. Lyle was a veteran of the U.S. Army. He was an elementary school teacher for 30 years in Rockford, having taught at Beyer, Nashold and West View elementary schools. Lyle enjoyed gardening, photography and travel. When he moved into a retirement home, he donated his house to a family in need. He is survived by a sister and several nieces, nephews, grandnieces and grandnephews.

**Frances Swain Ramos '62** of Anaheim, California, and formerly of Hudson, Illinois, died March 12, 2019. She was 78. Frances attended Illinois Wesleyan and the University of Kentucky. She was a captain in the U.S. Army, serving as a registered nurse. She enjoyed gardening, crafts and reading. Frances especially enjoyed time with family and raising her children. She is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

**Louise (Bottorff) Toft '62** of Champaign, Illinois, died March 12, 2019. She was 79. Louise married classmate **Viktors Geislers '62** while the two were students at Illinois Wesleyan; he preceded her in death in 1974. Louise was a broadcast production assistant at WILL-AM radio, from 1963-74. Her work won awards from the Associated Press and other news organizations. She was also a freelance writer and, in 1973, was elected to a four-year term on the Urbana (Ill.) Township Board of Auditors. She then worked for the Illinois Extension Service, Warner Management Services, and SLM Instruments, doing technical proposal and documentation writing. In 1982, she married Stuart Toft, with whom she founded Alliance Communications, a commercial telephone installation and services company. The couple divorced in 1993. Louise then flipped houses before taking a position with Publication Services Inc. She worked as an indexer until the company closed in 2011, at which point she began working from her home as a freelance indexer. She was a lover of classical music and opera, a voracious reader and owner of a vast stamp collection. She is survived by many friends.

**Carol (Schimpf) Schach '63** died Dec. 12, 2018, in Crescent City, California. She was 77. Carol studied sociology at Illinois Wesleyan and later graduated from the Glen Fishback School of

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**In Memory** (continued from page 39)

Photography. She was a prize-winning photographer, artist, poet and supporter of the arts. She was employed at the College of the Redwoods and Del Norte, and wrote a weekly column for a local newspaper. She also managed her husband's law office for a brief time. Carol led her daughter's Blue Bird groups, her son's Cub Scouts troops and taught at Sunday school. She was an avid birder, gardener, traveler, musician and Scrabble player. She is survived by four children and eight grandchildren.

**Melvin Roger Hayes '66** of Brentwood, Tennessee, died Feb. 8, 2019. He was 75. Roger was active in Phi Gamma Delta at Illinois Wesleyan. He served in the U.S. Navy after his time at IWU. He later worked at Ford Motor Company in Omaha, Nebraska. He then moved his family to Tennessee, where he spent a combined 30 years employed by Atlantic Envelope Company and Pinnacle Business Partners. In retirement, Roger enjoyed working in his yard and garden. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, **Matt Moak '84**, six grandchildren, one great-granddaughter, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

**Peter Bryan Olofson '66** died March 18, 2019, in Effingham, Illinois. He was 74. Bryan, who was known as "Olee" to his family and friends, played football at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, he formed a company called Central Business Forms, serving banks in southern Illinois. He retired in 2013. Bryan is survived by his wife, two daughters, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

**Elisabeth (Liddle) Allen '68** of Little Chute, Wisconsin, died April 23, 2019. She was 72. Elisabeth studied music at Illinois Wesleyan. She later obtained a teaching license from the University of Wisconsin-Green Bay and a master's degree from the University of Wisconsin-Oshkosh. Elisabeth was a lifelong learner and passionate teacher who taught fifth and sixth grades in Wrightstown, Wisconsin. She also enjoyed providing private music lessons. She worked as a student teacher supervisor at Marian University in Fond du Lac, Wisconsin, and as a school counselor in the Seneca (Wis.) Area School District. In retirement, she volunteered for an adult literacy program in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin. After relocating to the Fox Valley area, she volunteered for the local Boys & Girls Club and Little Chute's after-school tutoring program. Elisabeth enjoyed gardening, reading, music, animals and thrift shopping, and was a member of Celebration Church. She is survived by her daughter, two grandchildren, brother, former husband, and many nieces, nephews, foster children and friends.

**Michael E. Davey '70** of Alexandria, Virginia, died March 2, 2019. He was 71. After obtaining a bachelor's degree in history at Illinois Wesleyan, Mike acquired master's degrees in sociology, educational administration and future studies. He taught sixth grade and worked for Batelle and the American Association of State Colleges and Universities before beginning his career as a researcher at the Congressional Research Service. While there, Mike was selected to attend the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at the National Defense University. He also spent a year on loan to the National Research Council as the National Nanotechnology Initiative Study Director. Mike taught evening classes at the University of Maryland. He had a lifelong love of sports and

**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).

coached youth sports for many years. He was active in his church and was a President of the Board of Directors for United Community Ministries, a local nonprofit. Mike is survived by his wife **Bonnie (Earl) Davey '70**, two children, two grandsons and two sisters.

**Charles McCarthy '73** died April 10, 2019, in Normal, Illinois. He was 86. Charlie attended the University of Colorado-Boulder on a football scholarship. He left after his sophomore year to join the Marines and served in the Korean War from 1952-55. After being discharged from the service, he attended and graduated from the Illinois State Police Academy, joining the force in November 1955. Charlie became an expert in riot control and mob violence during the political unrest of the 1960s. He taught at the Illinois State Police Academy in Springfield, Illinois, and his expertise was called upon during riots in Cairo, Illinois, in 1967, the Democratic National Convention in Chicago in 1968, and the Pontiac (Ill.) Prison riot in 1978. After relocating his family to Bloomington, Illinois, in 1971, Charlie used his veteran's benefits to attend and obtain a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan. He was promoted to lieutenant in 1975 and captain in 1977. He retired in 1987 and built a home in the shadows of the Collegiate Peaks, near Nathrop, Colorado, where he and his wife summered until 2012. Charlie is survived by his wife, three children and seven grandchildren.





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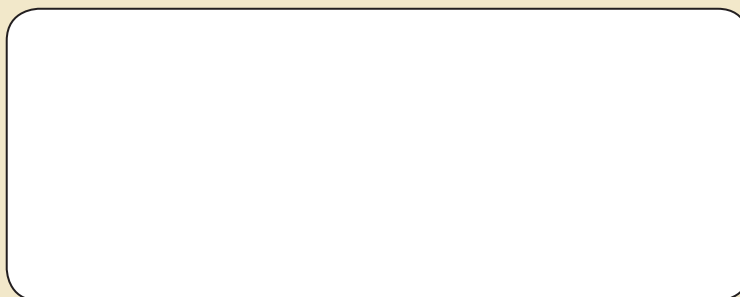
**LARA CATTANI '19** graduated in May with a degree in nursing. Because of donor generosity, Lara received a high-quality IWU experience.

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## *arts slam*

Illinois Wesleyan celebrated three days of fun and spontaneous events hosted by the schools of art, music and theatre arts, April 10-12, 2019.

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