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Summer 2020

## Volume 29, Issue 2, Summer/Fall 2020

Office of Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University

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A stylized illustration of a diverse crowd of people, all wearing white face masks. The people are depicted in various colors (green, blue, red, orange) and are arranged in a dense, overlapping pattern. The background is a solid dark green.

SUMMER/FALL 2020

# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Titans in the  
Time of COVID-19

IWU RESPONDS TO A PANDEMIC



We see you.  
We hear you.  
We stand with you.

We value diversity, inclusion and social justice at Illinois Wesleyan University. They are essential to our mission. But recent events remind us our work is not done.

We must do better.

We at *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine* are eager to feature more stories of our diverse alumni, students, faculty and staff in these pages. We believe that Black Lives Matter. Because of our publication schedule, content is created months in advance, and this issue includes extensive coverage of what was the dominant news at the time: the COVID-19 pandemic and the response of Illinois Wesleyan and its alumni. We look forward to dedicating our next edition to dialogue, reflection and celebration of our alumni of color — and the University's steadfast and evolving commitment to fostering a diverse and inclusive community — in this critical moment and beyond.

– *IWU Magazine* staff and contributors



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The COVID-19 pandemic has forced Illinois Wesleyan to adapt in unforeseen ways amidst the global health crisis.  
*Digital illustration by Ethan Lubin.*

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**Cheryl (Wallace) Reinking '87** oversees more than 2,000 frontline healthcare workers as the chief nursing officer at El Camino Health, a two-hospital Bay Area healthcare system.

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Illinois Wesleyan 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award winner **Dr. Raymond "Pete" Davis '80** treats and advocates for victims of child abuse and child sexual abuse.



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The world we experience today is palpably different from the world in which we lived last winter. It presents us with many challenges. As a part of the larger society, higher education — and particularly liberal arts education — faces challenges today as well. They compel our attention and response.

One of the many virtues of small colleges and universities like ours is that they can be nimble and responsive. They change. Illinois Wesleyan has changed many times over our almost two centuries of teaching and learning. Over those centuries, we have had a graduate program, a law school, a college of oratory and a domestic science program, among others. We do not have them today. Today, we have programs in data science, environmental studies and neuroscience that could not have been anticipated in other eras. Through all of those changes, we have adapted while remaining committed to the liberal arts at our core, and we will continue to do so.

This year has been a year of change for the University, not only because of the pandemic that has affected us and the renewed attention to inequity that has engaged us, but also because we embarked on a process of self-reflection, reviewing all of our academic programs. This kind of evaluation is being carried out across higher education today as institutions adapt to changing circumstances. Our process has been unusual for its degree of faculty involvement and its open communication to all constituencies. It has included multiple steps of review and discussion. The Trustees plan to make determinations about future programming in mid-July, based on this evaluation process.

To maintain our commitment to the liberal arts, I believe those decisions about the future of IWU must explore the full power of marrying the humanities, arts, social sciences and natural sciences with the professional studies that so many of our students pursue. A number of alumni have expressed the view that I myself could not hold more strongly: we need doctors and nurses who have studied our society and the societies of others; we need business professionals who have wrestled with the complexity of ethics and the wisdom in literature; we need artists to be prepared also as entrepreneurs.

Bridging differing realms and modes of thought is, in part, what it means to be liberally educated — today more than ever, when the complex issues we face defy simple analysis. This is the time to reaffirm the centrality of human values to our enterprise: to revitalize opportunities for studies of race and ethnicity, equity and inequity, and how to fully live out our social justice mission.

In recent decades, the areas of greatest intellectual excitement have tended to arise at the intersections of traditional disciplines, to be cross-disciplinary. Often, here and elsewhere, those new fields of study don't fit neatly into our historical academic structures. New ways of thinking may call for new ways of organizing our work. Here at Illinois Wesleyan, we have an additional opportunity to cross traditional boundaries. Our University's excellence in both liberal arts and professional studies provides a unique opportunity to build intellectual bridges with wider spans and greater strength than would be possible in a university devoted solely to one or the other.

Continuing to offer students a broad array of the learning opportunities they want and need to be productive citizens in our ever-changing world calls upon us to identify possibilities for change that will make us a stronger university.

Change is challenging. But I am confident that, with all of the Illinois Wesleyan family working together, we will rise to this challenge. That's what Titans do. I look forward with excitement to moving forward, together with you.



S. Georgia Nugent

*Illinois Wesleyan University President*







**(Above)** Provost and Dean of Faculty **Mark Brodl** and others chalked the names of Class of 2020 graduates around Aspiration Fountain on May 3, 2020, the original date for Commencement.

## Four New Endowed Professors Named

**F**our Illinois Wesleyan University faculty members were invested as endowed professors during the 2019-20 academic year.

They include: Associate Professor of Nursing **Ann Eckhardt '03** to the Deloris Helsley Ascher Professorship of Nursing; Professor of Religion **Robert Erlewine** to the Isaac Funk Professorship; Professor of Biology **Will Jaeckle** to the Semour and Diana Galina Endowed Professorship; and Professor of English **Michael Theune** to the Robert W. Harrington Endowed Professorship.

Eckhardt joined Illinois Wesleyan as a visiting instructor in 2011 before becoming an assistant professor in 2012. She was promoted to associate professor in 2018. A 2003 Illinois Wesleyan alum, Eckhardt earned a B.S.N. from IWU and a Ph.D. from the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she served as a teaching assistant for a number of graduate and undergraduate courses. Her nursing experience includes three years in the cardiovascular intensive care unit, where she cross-trained to surgical/trauma and neonatal intensive care, and 12 years as an administrative house officer.

Erlewine, a member of the IWU faculty since 2006, was promoted to professor in 2018. He served as Chair of the Religion Department from 2016-19. He earned a bachelor's degree from St Mary's College of Maryland, a master's in philosophy from Boston College, and a Ph.D. in religious studies from Rice University. Erlewine teaches such courses as Facing Evil, Religious Tolerance and Pluralism, Philosophers Read the Bible, and American Jewish



Ann Eckhardt '03



Robert Erlewine

Thought. His scholarship explores the complexity of religious life in the modern world, examining how religious traditions reconcile monotheist beliefs with contemporary values of tolerance and diversity, and the ways that minority religious traditions like Judaism were shaped by and helped shape the understanding of religion in the larger cultures of which they lived.

Jaeckle began teaching at IWU as an adjunct assistant professor in 1996 before becoming an assistant professor in 2001; he was promoted to the rank of full professor in 2015. Jaeckle earned a bachelor's degree in zoology from Humboldt State University and a Ph.D. in biology from the University of Southern California. Jaeckle's research is focused on aspects of the life history, development, physiology and ecology of invertebrate animals, with particular emphasis on their free-living developmental stages called larvae. His primary research interests relate to understanding how and in what form aquatic invertebrates and their larvae acquire food from the environment.

A member of the Illinois Wesleyan faculty since 2002, Theune was promoted to professor in 2015. He earned bachelor's degrees from Hope College and the University of Oxford, a master's from the University of Iowa and a Ph.D. from the University of Houston. Theune's courses focus on creative writing, poetry and Romantic literature. Theune writes criticism and poetry, and his scholarship has three main concerns: the poetic turn (places where poems radically change their focus); the assessment of poetry; and Romantic poet John Keats.



Will Jaeckle



Michael Theune



## Burke, Powell Earn Inclusive Excellence Leadership Awards

**M**eghan Burke and Adriane Powell were named 2020 recipients of the third-annual Illinois Wesleyan University Inclusive Excellence Leadership Awards. The award recipients, announced virtually to campus on April 10, 2020, were nominated by students, faculty and staff, and selected by the University Council for Diversity.

An associate professor and the chair of sociology and anthropology, Burke co-developed and directed Illinois Wesleyan's Engaging Diversity pre-orientation program, a three-day intensive program for incoming students to deeply consider white privilege and anti-racism, to prepare them to work as partners for social and racial justice. She also serves as a Posse mentor and facilitates community discussions regarding issues of systemic inequality.

IWU's director of alumni engagement, Powell collaborates with colleagues to create and maintain pathways for alumni participation that advance the goals of the University. Powell works closely with the Council for IWU Women, Pride Alumni Community and Minority Alumni Network.

The Inclusive Excellence Leadership Awards, presented annually to a faculty member and staff member, are intended to recognize outstanding contributions that champion diversity and inclusion at Illinois Wesleyan. The Inclusive Excellence Leadership Awards are intended to recognize the commitment of IWU faculty and staff who have made exceptional efforts in celebrating diversity and demonstrating a commitment to advancing inclusion to create a safe and supportive community.



Meghan Burke



Adriane Powell

## Entrepreneurship Fellowship Winner Creates Coffee Enhancer

**A** cup of coffee, with a dash of a "healthy, functional" enhancer, developed by **Jeremy Glickman '20**, could provide consumers with increased energy and focus.

Glickman, the spring winner of the biannual Entrepreneurship Fellowship, has collaborated with a group of student entrepreneurs to create a "coffee creamer that is designed to amplify the positive effects of coffee — which are mood, energy and focus — and mitigate the negative effects, which are the jitters and anxiety that come with caffeine."

The enhancer comes in a powdered form and dissolves into a regular cup of coffee. "Whether you're using a creamer or sugar or whatever you put in your normal coffee, you can add the enhancer, stir it up, and it dissolves right away," Glickman said. "It also prolongs the effects of coffee, so it helps people cut down the amount they need throughout the day."

Glickman said the team plans to use the \$5,000 Entrepreneurship Fellowship award money for its packaging design, which costs \$1,500, as well as for its branding process, which will include developing a name for the product. Glickman said the team has partnered with a manufacturer, and the rest of the money will be used to cover initial production costs.

Glickman has received guidance from Illinois Wesleyan faculty along the way.

"The fellowship has been a great chance to work with Wesleyan, and to know that I'm supported by the school and faculty has been very helpful," he said. "A lot of the professors at IWU have been checking in with me and following my progress, and it's been awesome to be at Wesleyan while starting this business."

By winning the Entrepreneurship Fellowship, Glickman is one step closer to achieving his dream job.

"It's definitely the dream to be able to turn this into a full-time gig eventually or a summer job," he said. "I want to be able to keep working on this business for hopefully what will be the rest of my life."



(Above) **Jeremy Glickman '20**, creator of a coffee enhancer, was selected for the biannual Entrepreneurship Fellowship.

## Titan Athletics Report

### COVID-19 Disrupts Titan Athletics

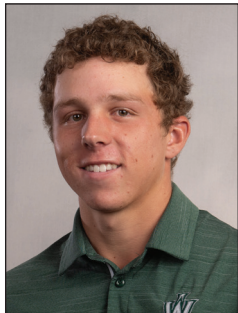
Athletics was one of the first and most visible areas affected by COVID-19, and Illinois Wesleyan student-athletes felt that impact when, on March 13, 2020, the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin canceled all remaining 2019-20 competition. The announcement came one day after the NCAA canceled all remaining winter and spring championships.

IWU teams impacted included:

**Men's Golf** started the season as the nation's top ranked team, and the reigning NCAA champions finished in the same spot after five victories and a pair of runner-up finishes in seven tournaments before the stoppage. **Rob Wuethrich '21** and **Jimmy Morton '22** were named PING All-Americans, while **Andrew Abel '21** earned All-America Second Team status and **Skylar LeVine '20** honorable mention. Head coach **Jim Ott '91** was named the Dave Williams Division III Coach of the Year for the second-straight year. Wuethrich and Abel additionally earned College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) Academic All-District honors. Wuethrich was later named an Academic All-American.



Rob Wuethrich '21



Jimmy Morton '22



Andrew Abel '21



Skylar LeVine '20



Jim Ott '91

**Softball** was off to a 9-1 start before the 2020 season was cut short. IWU was ranked No. 4 in the final National Fast-pitch Coaches Association Top 25 poll. **Ally Wiegand '20** tossed four shutouts in five games, including a perfect game, and was twice named CCIW Pitcher of the Week. **Sam**

**Berghoff '20** hit three home runs to break IWU's career home run record. Wiegand and Berghoff were later named CoSIDA Academic All-Americans.



Ally Wiegand '20



Sam Berghoff '20

**Shelby Fulk '20** was named a CCIW Player of the Week.

**Baseball** posted a 7-3 record prior to the cancellation of the season. **Nick Figus '20**, one of the program's most decorated players, earned CoSIDA Academic All-District honors.

**Men's Lacrosse** was off to a 5-2 start before the season was suspended. Four players earned CCIW player of the week accolades, including: **Patrick Murphy '21**, **Rick Smith '22**, **Max Bousky '21** and **Will Harris '21**.

**Women's Lacrosse** posted a pair of wins before play was halted. **Amanda Best '20** and **Janaye Godfrey '21** earned CCIW Defensive Player of the Week honors in the shortened season.

**Men's Tennis** was off to its best start in six seasons when the remaining portion of its spring schedule was canceled. The Titans were 9-4 and finished with a .692 win percentage, the program's best in the past decade.

**Women's Golf** finished third at the CCIW Championships in the fall, and entered the spring season ranked 16th nationally. **Melanie Wolf '20** and junior **Jackie Garcia '21** reeled in WGCA All-Great Lakes Region accolades.

### Women's Track and Field Second, Men Seventh at CCIW Indoor Championships

The Illinois Wesleyan women's track and field team earned a runner-up finish while the IWU men took seventh at the CCIW Championships, held Feb. 28-29, 2020, at IWU.

**Katie North '21** captured the CCIW title in the



Ayana Blair '21



Cora Wilkinson '21



women's 5,000-meter run, while **Ayana Blair '21** and **Cora Wilkinson '21** earned United States Track & Field and Cross Country Coaches Association All-America honors and qualified for the NCAA Championships. Blair was set to compete in the shot put and weight throw, and Wilkinson the long jump, before the championships were canceled. Blair set IWU's shot put record at the CCIW Championships. Wilkinson was later named a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection.

All-CCIW honorees from the women's team included: **Addison Bendery '23**, **Lexie Dorsey '22**, **Emma Helferich '22**, **Nia Lee '21**, **Kinlee Miller '23**, **Jenna Mirande '22**, **Angela Roman '20**, **Katie Vogler '22**, **Kelsey Wyman '21**, North, Blair and Wilkinson. All-CCIW picks from the men's team were: **Jake Mahaffey '21**, **Davis Nguy '22**, **Colin Orchard '20**, **Cole Paraday '22**, **Steven Raybould '20** and **Drew Tatlock '23**.

The Titans' 2020 outdoor track and field season was canceled due to COVID-19.

### Women's Swimming and Diving Third, Men Fourth at CCIW Championships

The IWU women's and men's swimming and diving teams posted third- and fourth-place finishes, respectively, at the CCIW Championships, Feb. 20-22, 2020. Thirteen school records were broken and seven individual titles were claimed at the conference meet.

**Ellen Gilbert '22** captured individual titles in the 100- and 200-yard butterfly events, and 500-yard freestyle, to lead the women's team; her 100 fly time set a school record. **Lauren Feddersen '23** set a school record in winning the 200-yard breaststroke. Gilbert was named the CCIW meet's Most Valuable Swimmer, CCIW Swimmer of the Year, and she later earned College Swimming & Diving Coaches of America All-America, and CoSIDA Academic All-District and Academic All-America honors. She qualified for the NCAA Championships which were later canceled due to COVID-19. **Laurin Ebert '21**, **Amber Gauthier '20**, **Donna Kurek '23**, **Megan Wong '22**, Gilbert and Feddersen earned All-CCIW honors.



Ellen Gilbert '22

**Mason McCauley '22** led the men's team with conference titles in the 500- and 1,650-yard freestyle events, both with school-record times. **Will Garcia '20** won the 200-yard freestyle. **Dillon Cherwin '23** was tabbed the CCIW Rookie of the Year and earned All-CCIW status along with McCauley and Garcia.

### Men's Hoops Finishes Third in CCIW, Plays for CCIW Tournament Title

The men's basketball team finished the year with a 19-9 overall record, including an 11-5 CCIW mark. The Titans, who finished third in the conference, advanced to the league's

tournament title game for the first time since 2015.

**Matthew Leritz '22** and **Peter Lambesis '22** earned All-CCIW accolades. Leritz was a first team honoree, while Lambesis landed on the second team. **Luke Yoder '23** became the first Titan to be named CCIW Freshman of the Year since the award's inception in 2013.

### Women's Basketball Wins CCIW Tournament, Advances to Second Round of NCAA Tourney



The Titans claimed their third-straight CCIW Tournament championship and earned their fourth-straight NCAA Tournament berth. IWU advanced to the second round of the NCAA Tournament and concluded the season with a 20-9 overall record. The Titans went 11-5 in conference play and finished as the regular-season runner-up.

**Kendall Sosa '21** earned All-CCIW First Team and D3hoops.com All-Region honors, before ultimately being named a D3hoops.com All-American. Sosa, who led the CCIW in scoring average and became the 24th player in program history to reach 1,000 career points, was a CoSIDA Academic All-District selection. **Sydney Shanks '20** and **Riley Brovelli '21** were named to the All-CCIW first and second teams, respectively.



Kendall Sosa '21



## BOOKS

**James Dohren '66** authored his second book, *Windy City Stories*, a collection of 20 stories about Chicago, published by Sunbury Press under its Posey Press mark. The stories contained within the collection vary from the humorous to the terrifying. Even lifelong Chicagoans will learn facts they didn't know before. Jim is a retired public school teacher who taught history and government for 32 years in Downers Grove, Illinois. *Windy City Stories* is available on Amazon.

**Ruth (Cashin) Monsell '68** wrote *Frances Perkins: Champion of the American Worker*, an inspirational young adult biography of the little-known true architect of the New Deal and first female cabinet member, soon to be published by Islandport Press. Ruth's first book was inspired by a 2012 visit to the Frances Perkins homestead in Newcastle, Maine.

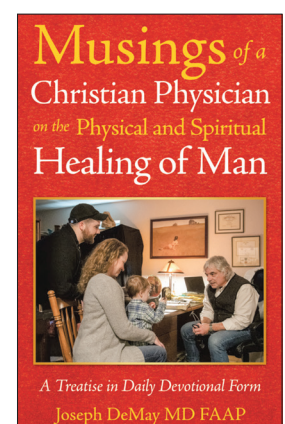
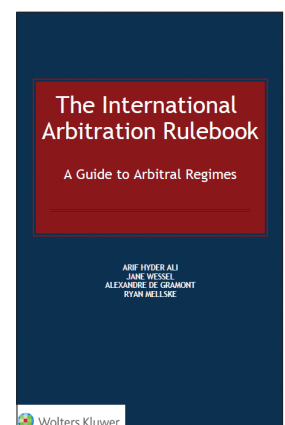
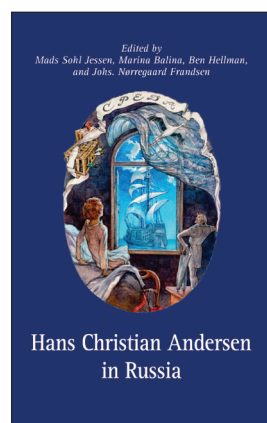
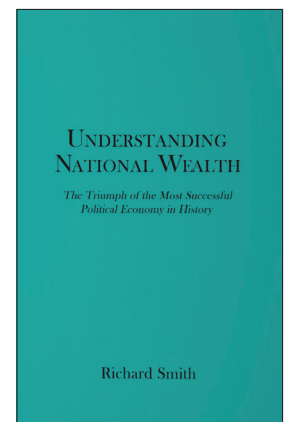
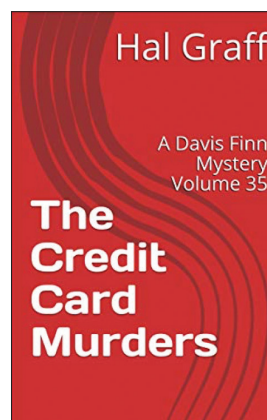
**Hal Graff '69** penned his 61st novel, *The Credit Card Murders: A Davis Finn Mystery, Volume 35*. The latest entry in the mystery series follows protagonist Davis James Henry Finn V as he investigates a rash of murders related to one of the world's largest credit card companies. *The Credit Card Murders* and other novels in the series are available on Amazon.

**Richard Smith '79** published *Understanding National Wealth*, a book providing a succinct summary of where the United States stands financially by bringing together and consolidating the best available data into a national balance sheet containing all private and public sector assets and liabilities. The book is a comprehensive first-of-its-kind financial report on the United States, with specifics of the country's wealth well documented and researched. It is available at Barnes & Noble, on Amazon, and at [go.richoutlook.com](http://go.richoutlook.com).

**Joseph DeMay '81** wrote *Musings of a Christian Physician on the Physical and Spiritual Healing of Man: A Treatise in Daily Devotional Form*. The work contains 52 weeks of Monday-through-Friday devotional writings, loosely centered on the topic of divine healing and its relation to modern medical science. Joseph has been a practicing pediatrician in Williamsport, Pennsylvania, since 1992. The book can be purchased on Amazon.

**Ryan Mellske '99** co-authored *The International Arbitration Rulebook: A Guide to Arbitral Regimes*, published by Kluwer Law International in 2019, which was recently announced at a book launch event at the World Bank. Ryan is the founder of Flex Arbitri, PLLC, a law practice in Washington, D.C., devoted to the resolution of international legal disputes. He is also a senior lecturing fellow at Duke University School of Law.

Illinois Wesleyan Professor Emerita of Russian Studies **Marina Balina** co-edited *Hans Christian Andersen in Russia*, published in January 2020 by the University Press of Southern Denmark. The book is an international project supported by the Danish government, the Hans Christian Andersen Center and the Carlsberg Foundation. It features 17 chapters by renowned international scholars of Russian literature and culture from Canada, Denmark, Finland, Russia and the United States. Balina served as a co-editor and co-author of the introduction, and she has contributed a chapter on Hans Christian Andersen and the Russian Literature of the 1960s. It is the 11th collective volume for which she has served as editor, co-editor and major contributor.







Richard Jenkins '69 (right) in *The Last Shift*



Michael Cooper '77



Marlon Nettleton '77 (second from left)

## PAPERS

The work of Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Nursing **Brenda Lessen Knoll '89** and co-authors, including **Victoria Drake '18**, titled *Randomized Controlled Trial of a Prefeeding Oral Motor Therapy and Its Effect on Feeding Improvement in a Thai NICU*, was nominated for the 2020 Best of *Journal of Obstetric, Gynecologic & Neonatal Nursing* Writing Award. Brenda is the founder and author of an oral motor therapy program for preterm infants and provides onsite training to neonatal providers who are researching and/or implementing her oral motor program (PIOMI) in their neonatal ICUs. She has also recently launched a website for both scholars and providers of neonatal oral motor therapy: [www.piomi.com](http://www.piomi.com).

## MOVIES

**Richard Jenkins '69** will appear in three feature films slated for release in 2020. Richard stars in the crime comedy-drama *Kajillionaire* and the comedy *The Last Shift*, both of which premiered at the Sundance Film Festival in January 2020. Richard will also star in *The Humans*, a comedy currently in post-production. He was filming *Nightmare Alley* this spring when production was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

**Lisa Ragsdale '72** received two commissions in late 2018. Between February and May 2019, she composed *Ethereal Trio* for double bass, cello and viola. Between August and November 2019, Lisa composed a three-movement sonata for alto saxophone and piano. Lisa also composed a trio for violin, cello and piano, titled *Butterfly Screams*, which she described as "a rejection of the destruction of a butterfly sanctuary in Texas in order to build a wall on the Texas border."

After spending 21 years in the entertainment industry in Los Angeles as a live entertainment creative executive for Warner Bros., Mattel, Inc., 20th Century Fox, and consulting at Disney, **Michael Cooper '77** returned to directing theatre full-time and was recently named the artistic director of The Alchemy Theatre in Austin, Texas. He now splits time between Los Angeles and Austin. While working for the studios in Los Angeles, he directed over 50 productions, including: *Two Men Losing Their Minds* by Michael Moss; *Tennessee Jar* by John Lewter; the workshop production of *The Dorothy Parker Project* and the co-op production of *The Lion in Winter* at Pacific Resident Theatre; and *The Lion in Winter* and *To Kill a Mockingbird* at the Sierra Madre Playhouse. He began in Austin by staging readings of *Peter and Alice* by John Logan, *Domesticated* by Bruce Norris and *The Virgin Trial* by Kate Hennig for The Alchemy Theatre. His most recent Austin credits are the critically acclaimed productions of Truman Capote's *A Christmas Memory*, Kenneth Lonergan's *The Waverly Gallery* and John Patrick Shanley's *Outside Mullingar*. Michael was one week into rehearsals for The Alchemy's re-imagined version of the Jerry Herman musical *Mack & Mabel* when production was halted by the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Marlon Nettleton '77** is a member of the Lake Ashtones, who sang the national anthem prior to a National Basketball Association game between the Orlando Magic and Philadelphia 76ers on Dec. 27, 2019, in Orlando.

*All submitted content received by June 1, 2020. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.*



**Jan Peterson '78** has directed The Goldenaires, a seniors mixed choir, since 2009. The group performs regularly between September and May at retirement communities and senior centers in the Chicago area. The Goldenaires perform seven concerts a year and have performed 75 concerts overall under Jan's direction.

**Scott Moreau '01** has traveled the world performing as Johnny Cash for the past decade. He performed in late 2019 in *Ring of Fire* at the Actors' Playhouse in Coral Gables, Florida. The production was nominated for two Carbonell Awards, recognizing excellence in South Florida theatre. Scott later performed four shows in Arizona in January 2020 and two in North Carolina in February. More shows this spring were canceled or postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, including a planned performance at the American Organization of Nursing Leadership's annual conference in Nashville. Instead, Scott performed *Late and Alone: An Intimate Portrait of Johnny Cash* via live stream, with proceeds benefiting the AONL.

**Jonathan Cable '07** joined the off-Broadway production of *Jersey Boys* in February 2020. Jonathan plays Nick Massi in the musical playing at New York's New World Stages. Jonathan spent the past two years on the *Jersey Boys* national tour, which included a week of performances at Chicago's Auditorium Theatre in 2019.

**Rachel Grimes '13** was cast in Jeremy Kareken's *The Red Wool*, to be staged at Theatre Upstairs in Phoenix. An industry staged reading took place Feb. 10, 2020, in New York City. *The Red Wool* is a comedy set during the reign of Assyrian King Ashurnasirpal II.

Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Music **Roger Garrett** performed as a soloist with the Peoria (Ill.) Symphony Orchestra, as principal clarinetist, in the *Concerto for Clarinet, Viola, and Orchestra Op. 88* by Max Bruch, at the orchestra's Romance concert on Feb. 15, 2020.

**Meghan Picerno** has performed opera in major houses and concert venues around the world. She recently made her Broadway debut and currently stars as the lead in *Phantom of the Opera*. She opened the production's world tour in 2019, premiering in Tel Aviv, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Singapore and the Philippines. She originated the role of Christine in the U.S. premiere and sold-out first national tour of Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Love Never Dies*, and was handpicked by Lloyd Webber to represent him at the Classic Brit Awards at Royal Albert Hall in London after performing her signature role of Cunegonde in Hal Prince's smash hit revival of Bernstein's *Candide* at New York City Opera.



Jan Peterson '78



Scott Moreau '01



Jonathan Cable '07



Meghan Picerno (left)



# LONG WAY HOME

Story by MATT WING

When the novel coronavirus outbreak presented travel challenges for Illinois Wesleyan students abroad, the IWU community came together to help students return home quickly and safely.

The global reaction to the novel coronavirus felt like a series of falling dominoes. News came fast with little time to digest the latest development before another update scrolled across the screen. For travelers abroad, those falling dominoes threatened to box them in and leave them stranded in a foreign land.

Fifty-five Illinois Wesleyan students were studying in 15 countries during the Spring 2020 semester. Other groups, like the IWU volleyball team, were traveling abroad over Spring Break.

IWU students studying in Italy, an early coronavirus hot spot, were required to return on March 2. Less

than two weeks later, all IWU students abroad — and international travelers nearly everywhere — were assigned an immediate and mandatory task.

Get home.

“It felt like wave after wave of crises,” said Stacey Shimizu, IWU’s director of the International Office and Study Abroad program. “With each success, there was relief, celebration, exaltation. But it was all shadowed by the question of *what next?*”

The challenges presented by the unprecedented time were many: suddenly closed borders, crowded airports, canceled flights, stress



and anxiety amid the chaos. But the Illinois Wesleyan community came together to negotiate those hurdles and to assist and empower students faced with unforeseen circumstances.

“Bringing students home was a group effort, involving people at IWU, partners overseas, travel agents, and the students themselves,” Shimizu said. “In the midst of all the stress and uncertainty, colleagues acted with calm urgency, sharing information and ideas, and responding at all hours.”



Being stood up, scammed and majorly stressed did little to weaken the resolve of Shakira Cruz Gonzalez '21. She was going to make it home.

“Failure was not an option,” she said.

The junior political science major had been studying abroad in

Morocco for two months before she was called to return on March 12. But, to get home, she had to endure a marathon of waiting and a series of disappointments before returning to her hometown of New Orleans.

“I wasn’t afraid. I was hopeful and optimistic, determined to find a way out, although there were times I felt like the universe was against

*“With each success, there was relief, celebration, exaltation. But it was all shadowed by the question of what next?”*

— STACEY SHIMIZU

me,” said Cruz Gonzalez, who was in the Moroccan capital of Rabat at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic. “Every time something new came to light, I became more determined and more focused on the idea that I was getting home.”

Cruz Gonzalez first tried to move up her return flight home by two months. An hours-long phone call

with airline customer service was unsuccessful. A flight from nearby Casablanca to New Orleans was then booked for a week later. It was canceled later that same day.

Plans were made to head to the Rabat airport early the next morning with students from other universities, but the driver never showed. A frustrated Cruz Gonzalez then

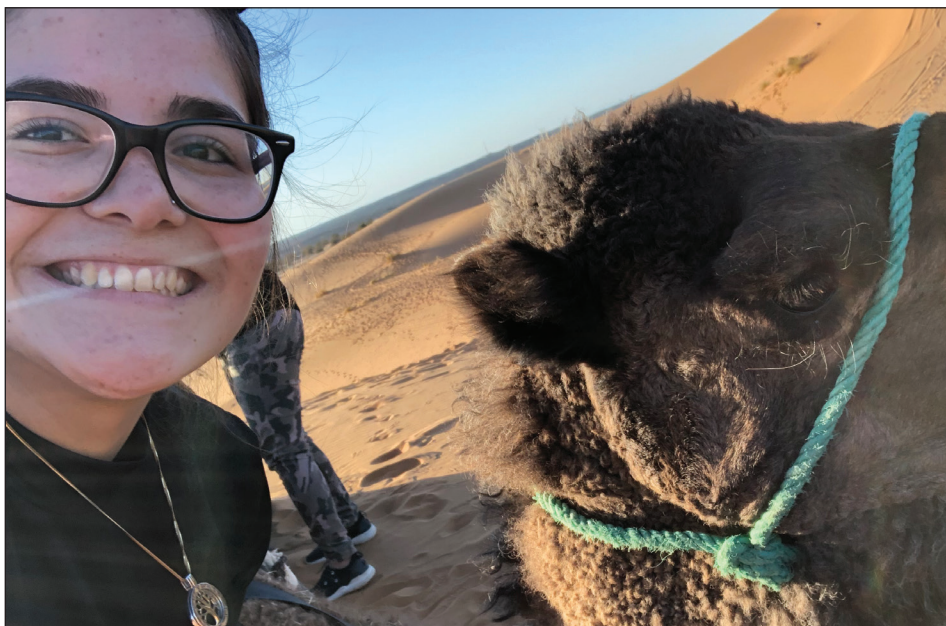
took the advice of Shimizu, whom she had kept apprised of each development, and headed to the Casablanca airport. There, Cruz Gonzalez went from counter to counter seeking a flight home, but struck out over and over again.

Needing to clear her mind, she took a walk around the airport concourse when a kiosk caught her eye. She was offered and purchased what she believed to be a \$500 ticket to France. But she was misled. It was only a wait-list ticket.

Though her frustration grew, so did her determination. Cruz Gonzalez continued to search for a way out. She stayed in contact with Shimizu. She eventually learned that flights to France were being booked only for passengers with pre-booked flights from France elsewhere. Shimizu helped book a flight from France to the United States. Cruz Gonzalez was then able to book a flight from Morocco to France.

After five days of anxiety and uncertainty, she was heading home.

“The two feelings I felt were sadness and gratitude,” Cruz Gonzalez said. “The sadness I felt came from the realization that I was never going to be able to study abroad



(Above) Shakira Cruz Gonzalez '21 rides a camel in the Sahara desert in February 2020. Cruz Gonzalez was one of dozens of Illinois Wesleyan students abroad who faced challenges while attempting to return home at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic.



(Above) The Illinois Wesleyan University volleyball team was on an exhibition tour of Germany and Austria when the pandemic prompted an early return home.

again. ... The gratitude came from the reminder that I was actually in Morocco, even if it was only for a short time.”

Cruz Gonzalez had to rely on herself to navigate the difficult situation, but was thankful to have an ally at IWU. “Stacey Shimizu is the hero in my story,” she said. “She was so kind, patient, encouraging and resourceful.”



Illinois Wesleyan volleyball coach Kim Nelson-Brown awoke to a knock on her hotel room door in Salzburg, Austria, at 2:30 a.m. on March 12. She picked up her phone to check the time and was alarmed to see dozens of missed calls and text messages.

A half-hour earlier, seven time zones away, the U.S. had announced restrictions on travel from European countries. Although there were

many unknowns at the time, the decision to cut short the remainder of the team’s exhibition tour of Austria and Germany was made out of an abundance of caution.

Just how that would happen required swift coordination. Nelson-Brown worked with Illinois Wesleyan Athletic Director Mike Wagner and a travel company to quickly devise a plan.

“Obviously, at 2:45 a.m., there’s not a whole lot to do,” Nelson-Brown said. “But our travel company contacted me and encouraged us to start packing and head immediately to the airport.”

The group, which included two coaches, 14 student-athletes and 22 family members, departed at 5:15 a.m. that morning for the airport in Munich, which was believed to offer the best chance for the group to travel together. They sought a flight — any flight — that would return them to the United States.

**Dr. Paul Pedersen ’73** led OSF St. Joseph Medical Center’s efforts to address the COVID-19 pandemic as the Bloomington, Illinois, hospital’s chief medical officer. Dr. Pedersen additionally advocated for Illinois healthcare workers and patients through his leadership role with the Illinois State Medical Society.

**Dr. John Herrmann ’74**, clinical associate professor of epidemiology and health policy at the University of Illinois, and current vice chair of the State Board of Health Members for the Illinois Department of Public Health, provided leadership during the pandemic. Dr. Herrmann shared the basic virology of coronaviruses and the epidemiology of the pandemic in a Titan Talks webinar on April 23, 2020.

Director of Economic and Fiscal Policies at Center for New York City Affairs at The New School **James Parrott ’74** is working with the New York City government, philanthropists and the nonprofit community on understanding and responding to COVID-19’s economic impact in New York City. His early analyses in late March and early April helped call attention to the magnitude of the unemployment crisis and were widely cited in the local and financial press.

**Mike Mason ’80** addressed the value of maintaining a positive attitude in the midst of a crisis situation during his Titan Talks webinar on May 21, 2020. Mike’s role as senior vice-president and chief security officer at Verizon requires him to lead a large, sophisticated organization in a manner that keeps them focused on the mission while maintaining their own well-being and that of their families. Mike very passionately discussed the critical value of leaders maintaining a positive attitude as they navigate their teams through the current pandemic crisis.

**Dr. Eric Bieher ’82** provided leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic as president and chief executive officer of Rochester Regional Health, a large

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(Above) Illinois Wesleyan students on the Spain Program in Barcelona pose in front of the Girona Cathedral, also known as the Cathedral of St. Mary of Girona, in Girona, Catalonia, Spain.

The team's bus was stopped at the German border and all its passengers were required to get off and show passports. "Anxiety was high already, and you could tell some of our group members were stressed when this happened," Nelson-Brown said.

The group arrived at the Munich airport and secured boarding passes for a flight to Chicago with a connection in Charlotte. Some play-

ers' parents met the group in Chicago to take them home. A bus was sent to transport the remaining group back to Bloomington-Normal. Having closed campus and extended Spring Break for an additional week, those players stayed the night at a local teammate's house before returning to their respective homes the following day.

"Besides being a 30-hour day, there was relief to be home so we could figure out what was going on," Nelson-Brown said. "As a coach and as a parent, I consider myself a mom to these players, so there was relief to get them all home safely and together."



Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Biology Given Harper remembers the exact time he began coordinating travel back to the United States for the 24 students he was leading on the Spain Program in Barcelona.

It was 3:13 a.m.

That's when Harper received a text message from a panicked student in the early morning hours of March 12. The U.S. had just announced European travel restrictions. Specifics were hard to come by, but it was clear their trip would be cut short.

Harper worked with Shimizu to book flights back to the U.S. on March 15. Students were instructed to be at the airport four hours before the scheduled departure, but Harper's phone started buzzing again on the taxi ride to the airport. Several students reported they were not listed on the flight manifest.

Upon arrival at the airport, Harper bounced between airline counters seeking answers. "We believe the flight was overbooked and the airline's computer system was overwhelmed," he said.

Harper stayed in contact with Shimizu throughout the uncertainty. Four students booked separate flights with help from their families. Meanwhile, Harper continued to work the airline desks. Eventually, he and the students were encouraged to try checking in again.

This time, the results were more promising.

Five students secured their booked seats. Thirteen were placed on standby. But two more students were not in the system at all. Harper and his wife Jean offered their seats to the students, but the airline would not allow the transfer. Luckily, a high rate of cancellations (mostly European nationals not allowed to enter the U.S.) allowed for those two students — and all 13 on standby — to board the flight.

"Jean and I told the students we would be waiting for them out in the terminal if they were unable to board the flight. We assured them they would not be alone if they did not make their flight," Harper said. "Several minutes later I started receiving a stream of texts from the students indicating they were able to board. Once I heard from the final student, it took a minute or two for the realization to sink in that all students would make it out.

"Needless to say, I was extremely relieved to hear such wonderful news."

Amid the chaos, the Harpers missed their flight. Another was booked for the following day. They taxied back to their Barcelona apartment where Given had wisely hidden a key above the door, half

expecting such a return. After hauling their luggage up five flights of stairs at the end of an emotionally exhausting day, they collapsed on the bed.

The streets of Barcelona were mostly deserted with shops and restaurants closed due to the pandemic in the days before the IWU Spain Program left. But the city came to life each night when Barcelonans gathered on their balconies to cheer and applaud healthcare workers.

“They repeated their perfor-

“IWU students are resilient, and I know that each one of them looks forward to the day when they can again explore the world.”

— STACEY SHIMIZU

mance that night,” Harper said. “It was a profoundly moving experience that brought tears to our eyes.”

The Harpers returned home to Bloomington-Normal the next day. The feelings at the end of the ordeal ranged from exhaustion to disappointment to relief.

“I was extremely disappointed that the semester ended for the students, as I had put my heart and soul into helping make this an experience of a lifetime for them,” Harper said. “I believe they certainly had such an experience, although it was much shorter than what we had hoped.”



Illinois Wesleyan’s efforts to return students to campus, or to their homes, was almost a total success. Fifty-four students studying abroad, and groups like the volleyball team and Collegiate Choir — which earned accolades while touring South Africa over Spring Break — were able to return despite travel

challenges.

One student, Thao “Jenny” Le ’21, was unable to return from Oxford’s Pembroke College despite repeated attempts to book a flight from London to her native Vietnam. Shimizu stayed in contact with Le on a regular basis throughout March and has continued to check in frequently (Le was finally able to travel home to Vietnam in early June).

That continued support from Shimizu mirrors the cooperation between IWU officials and others helping coordinate student travel

during the coronavirus outbreak. From Shimizu working with airlines and travel companies, to IWU International Student and Scholar Advisor Robyn Walter communicating with international students, to Director of Government and Community Relations Carl Teichman ’80 working with government officials to navigate travel restrictions, the Illinois Wesleyan community came together at a time when the situation demanded it.

“Although I wish our students had been able to enjoy their full semester abroad, responding to COVID-19 has certainly made their time abroad both more memorable and more precious,” Shimizu said. “Seeing the ways in which they initially fought to remain abroad, and then the calm and competency with which they managed their return, has been a gift.

“IWU students are resilient, and I know that each one of them looks forward to the day when they can again explore the world.” ❖

## TITANS IN THE TIME OF COVID-19



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five-hospital healthcare system in Rochester, New York. Dr. Bieber also recorded a song with his band to honor healthcare workers.

**Laurel Mode Teichman ’84** began preparing for the arrival of the coronavirus in central Illinois in February 2020. In her role as an infection preventionist at Bloomington-Normal’s Advocate BroMenn Medical Center, she has helped address the Center’s response to COVID-19.

**Dr. Royal Becker ’88** is the medical director of a hospice facility in Tyler, Texas, and a hospitalist in Bossier City, Louisiana, where he provided care for COVID-19 patients. Many patients were treated before testing was available, yet critical care doctors were quickly able to lower the mortality rate of infected patients. Dr. Becker and his colleagues also provided compassionate care to patients unable to see family members and loved ones due to strict visitation rules.

City Colleges of Chicago Chancellor **Juan Salgado ’91** was selected for a committee, convened by the Illinois Board of Higher Education, to shape guidance on how campuses can open safely this fall semester amidst the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

Peoria, Illinois’ OSF HealthCare Director of Infection Prevention and Control **Lori (Musser) Grooms ’92** began drafting contingency plans for managing critical supplies, such as personal protective equipment, in February 2020. She has also emphasized the importance of community-level mitigation, such as frequent hand-washing and sanitizing cell phones, and provided guidance to the community, such as tips on how to get children to wear face masks.

**Dr. Jamie Loggins ’92** treated suspected COVID-19 patients in the ICU at Sentara Norfolk (Va.) General Hospital, where he practices as a general surgeon.

President and CEO of the Illinois Manu-

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**Dr. Gregory A. Poland '77** has spent decades studying infectious diseases and developing vaccines, and is a leading voice during the current health crisis.

**D**r. Gregory A. Poland '77 first discovered an interest in medicine when, at the tender age of 4 years old, he severed the tip of a finger caught in a closing door.

As his mother and siblings scrambled to assist him, Poland calmly picked up the detached digit. He examined it. He watched the spurting blood. He was fascinated.

Poland's mother rushed him to the nearby military hospital — the son of a career Marine, Poland and his family were then stationed in Hawaii — where a very green lieutenant sewed Poland's finger back on. The lieutenant repeatedly shook his head as he performed the procedure without needing to anesthetize his young patient.

"I just sat there fascinated as he explained to me what he was doing,"

Poland recalls. "I just watched and listened."

So began a lifelong quest for knowledge and understanding. Shortly after that freak accident, Poland was given a chemistry set. He learned to make gunpowder to build rockets. He developed an interest, he reluctantly confesses, in dissecting small animals.

He would later prick his own finger to study his blood under a microscope he bought for \$20, no small sum for a kid in the late 1960s. As a high school student, he found janitorial work in a medical building where he befriended physicians who lent him medical texts and reagents to stain his blood slides.

Poland eventually found his way to Illinois Wesleyan and, from there, to Southern Illinois University

# WAGING WAR ON COVID-19

Story by MATT WING





School of Medicine, the University of Minnesota and, eventually, Mayo Clinic. Today, he's a prominent infectious diseases expert and vaccinologist with a long list of titles: a named professor of medicine and infectious diseases at Mayo Clinic; founder and director of Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group; Distinguished Investigator of the Mayo Clinic; and editor-in-chief of the medical journal *Vaccine*.

While many members of his family dedicated their lives to military service, Poland has dedicated his to fighting infectious diseases and developing vaccines for viruses like SARS-CoV-2, more commonly known as COVID-19, the novel coronavirus.

"My father, my brother and my middle son are all warriors who have served in the military," Poland said. "My war has been infectious diseases."



Two important things happened for Poland during his time at Illinois Wesleyan: he got his formal start in science and he met his future wife.

As a biology major, he was routinely challenged by professors like Bruce Criley, Harvey Beutner, Wendell Hess, Robert Hippensteele and Dorothea Frazen, who held students to what sometimes felt like impossibly high standards.

"I don't think there was a single one of us who didn't, at times, work in tears," he said. "They demanded of us more than we even thought we had talent for, but it shaped us. I look back on this now, as almost a 65-year-old man, and I have used those lessons over and over in my career and teaching."

But Poland's education went far beyond the realm of science. He

developed skills in writing and public speaking, critical thinking, and the ability to formulate and present arguments. He learned to question assumptions and dig for deeper meaning.

It all prepared him for what came next. "I didn't know it at the time — we just whined about how hard we were being pushed — but I could not have been better prepared for medical school," said Poland, who completed medical school in three years before an additional five years of training in internal medicine, clinical trials and infectious diseases.

Another perhaps more important development during Poland's time at Illinois Wesleyan came on Friday, Sept. 12, 1975, around 8 p.m., on the steps of the Memorial Center. That's when he met Jean Kunze '79.

"I saw the most beautiful girl I had ever seen in my life," Poland says between long pauses. "I felt paralyzed. I couldn't eat. I couldn't walk. I fell head over heels in love."

Poland and Kunze realized they were from the same hometown of Arlington Heights, Illinois. "I was from the poor side," Poland said. "She from the side where if you needed braces and allergy shots, you could get them." Kunze, a freshman nursing major, soon asked Poland for a ride back to their hometown. With hardly enough gas money in his pocket, an excited Poland quickly agreed. The relationship officially began.

A couple months from now they'll celebrate the 45th anniversary of that night on the steps of the Memorial Center.

"I think it was that night — my wife says it was a few nights after that — when I asked what she would think if I asked her to marry me," Poland said. "I absolutely knew when I looked over at her and

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facturers' Association **Mark Denzler '93** provided leadership for manufacturers ramping up production of essential products, including those that repurposed facilities to meet needs caused by COVID-19. Mark was named by Governor JB Pritzker as co-chair of Illinois' Essential Equipment Task Force at a press conference on March 23, 2020. He provided a Titan Talks webinar on April 9, 2020, detailing the role of manufacturing in the pandemic response.

President and CEO of Medical Alley Association **Shaye Mandle '93** led an effort to combat medical shortages caused by COVID-19. Medical Alley Association launched a COVID-19 "Resource Connect" to connect those needing assistance with offers of surplus supplies, manufacturing capacity, expertise and more.

**David Priess '93** provided a Titan Talks webinar on May 14, 2020, on the powers of — and the constraints on — federal and state governments as they respond to COVID-19. A former CIA intelligence officer and author of two books on the presidency, he is the chief operating officer of the Lawfare Institute in Washington, D.C., and speaks frequently on network television, radio and podcasts about presidents and national security matters.

**Dr. Patrick B. McGrath '93** focused on helping people manage anxiety disorders in the midst of the global pandemic. He is a psychologist and head of clinical services for NOCD, a free mobile app and telemedicine site that provides online treatment with licensed practitioners for people with obsessive-compulsive disorder.

**Corey Schieler '97** and his wife Pam brought much-needed levity to residents of a Bloomington-Normal assisted living facility where Pam's parents reside. For 34 consecutive days, the Schielers dressed in Halloween costumes for their daily visits viewed by residents at a safe distance from their windows.

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(Above) Dr. Gregory A. Poland '77 speaks with a team member at his Mayo Clinic Lab.

couldn't breathe that night that this was the woman I was going to marry."



Poland's expertise in the field of infectious diseases and vaccinology began with a series of events during his residency.

There was the man with tetanus who suffered permanent neurological damage. There was the HIV-positive woman some doctors were hesitant to treat at the outset of the AIDS epidemic when little was known about the virus. There was the newborn child with a bacterial form of meningitis who became permanently deaf.

And then a personal bout with the flu provided him a firsthand experience.

"I just kept thinking '*How are all of these diseases possible?*'" Poland said. "*We know how to prevent them!*"

Poland declared war on infectious diseases. Over the next four decades, he became an internationally prominent infectious diseases expert and vaccinologist. He's won numerous awards and grants, and

published nearly 700 scientific papers on his findings. He's been an outspoken advocate for mandatory flu shots and inspired the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommendation for all persons over the age of six months to receive one. Poland is a past president of the Armed Forces Epidemiological Board and was appointed by President George W. Bush to two terms as president of the Health Defense Board. President Bush and Secretary of Defense Donald Rumsfeld awarded him the highest civilian medal for his work in biodefense and infectious diseases prevention, the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service. The National Institutes of Health awarded him a MERIT Award given to less than 2% of federally funded researchers.

"I've had the opportunity to be in the right place at the right time, with the right training to use all the things that I have learned in my life," he said.

Poland founded and continues to lead the Mayo Clinic's Vaccine Research Group, which is one of more than 100 teams working on a

COVID-19 vaccine. Poland has cautioned against rushing a vaccine to market, however, without following the necessary scientific and regulatory pathways. He specifically used the fable of *The Tortoise and the Hare* in framing an editorial to this point published in *Vaccine*.

Poland attempts to inform the public through frequent appearances in news media all over the world. "I've been trying to shape and lead public policy by being a voice putting forward the science in an honest and transparent way that is digestible for the general public," he said.

Poland furthermore provides leadership through his role as a professor at Mayo Clinic where he mentors students much in the same way he was mentored at Illinois Wesleyan.

"It's pretty special to be a part of that circle where you've had those types of mentors and now you get to pass it on to the next generation," he said.



In the past few months, Poland has been asked over and over, "*When are we going to get back to normal?*"

His simple answer is: we won't.

Poland believes fundamental change will come from the COVID-19 pandemic, extending far beyond increasing usage of face masks and discontinuing the practice of shaking hands. Shopping and procuring food and goods will change. Ways in which we participate in religious life will change. Actions as simple as visiting a public restroom will change.

And, yes, higher education will change.

"I really can't think of a domain that won't legitimately be changed," Poland said. "While there may be a window in which things 'go back to



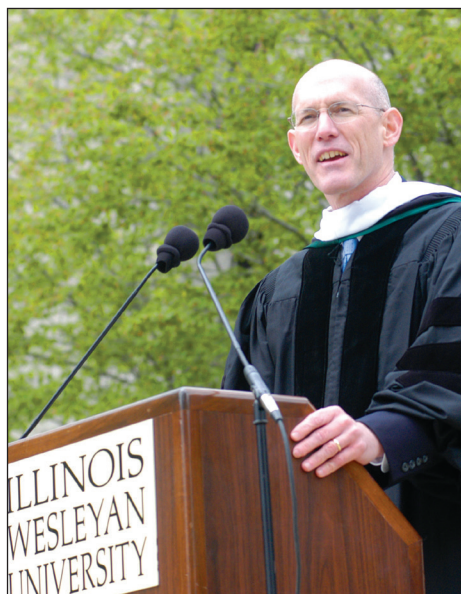
normal' during the summer, it will only be temporary."

That potential return to normalcy is perhaps one of the scariest aspects of the pandemic, Poland suggests. As we become numb to the reality of living in a world threatened by a pandemic, the lessons learned begin to fade and history becomes more likely to repeat itself.

Poland points to a cautionary tale of systemic failure included in the 9/11 Commission Report, which identified lack of imagination as one key area of failure.

"Though we had been warned multiple times, we failed to believe those warnings, and therefore we could not imagine it happening and failed to prepare," he said.

Poland has seen the same absence of imagination in planning for pandemics. He's taken part in tabletop exercises addressing pandemics, where the lack of planning has been exposed and the inability of governments to plan, adapt and cooperate often leave the world in a state of anarchy.



(Above) Poland provided the keynote address at Illinois Wesleyan's Commencement ceremony in 2005.

Poland all but guarantees there will be a second wave of COVID-19 this winter, which will be complicated by flu season running concurrently. He anticipates future coronaviruses like COVID-23 and COVID-28. He admits little is known about the long-term impact on individuals who have been infected and recovered from COVID-19.

It can all be a little overwhelming, Poland admits, and while the lessons learned at Illinois Wesleyan have guided him in his work, the woman he met there has helped keep him sane by providing moments of levity.

Poland jokes that he awoke one morning recently with his wife gently pressing a pillow over his face. Startled, he scrambled to his feet and asked her what she was doing. "She told me she loved me so much that she didn't want me to breathe in the coronavirus," Poland said, laughing.

Those moments, and an earnest desire to save lives and prevent disease, give Poland the strength to carry on. His lab is hard at work developing a unique COVID-19 vaccine, while he continues informing the public on the dangers of viruses like COVID-19 and the repercussions of lacking imagination.

"We're not going to have a vaccine by this fall — certainly not one that has been safety-tested — and we're in danger of replaying everything we've just been through, and there's only one reason: imaginability," Poland said. "We could have and should have had diagnostics, antivirals and vaccines stretching back for years — after all, we have had three novel coronaviruses jump the species barriers into humans in the last 18 years — but we don't take these threats seriously.

"And that's my war." ❖

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**Steve Dudash '99**, president of IHT Wealth Management, shared in a March 2020 *Financial Planning* article his book recommendation to help fellow advisers and wealth management executives serve their clients during uncertain times.

**Dr. Ben Killey '99** volunteered as an emergency room doctor with COVID Care Force, an organization that quickly mobilizes groups of healthcare professionals to deploy to hot spots and areas of critical healthcare staffing shortages. After signing up on April 27, 2020, Dr. Killey was flown to the Navajo Nation in Gallup, New Mexico, where he worked for two weeks in the emergency department of the Gallup Indian Medical Center.

**Sharon Chung '00**, a professional violinist, violist and instructor, found innovative ways to provide instruction and share her music with the community during stay-at-home orders. Sharon continued instruction through video platforms and shared musical performances through similar mediums. She also formed a string trio, called the Antiviral Musicians' Collective, which performed outdoor concerts on lawns and driveways in the Bloomington-Normal area during the COVID-19 pandemic.

**Matthew Roberts '01** is an assistant vice president of Medicaid State Healthcare Assessment at IPRO, serving patients at the epicenter of the pandemic in New York. IPRO nurses are inspecting nursing homes, assisting with COVID-19 testing and managing hotlines. Matthew's team conducted a drug study of hydroxychloroquine which was featured in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. He also participated in a video chat with IWU students during the Spring 2020 semester.

**Casey Erin Clark '04, Bryonha Marie Parham '07, Kevin Schuering '09, Sarah Bockel '10, Evan Kasprzak '10 and Britta (Whittenberg) Kasprzak '11**, and others from the Broadway commu-

(continued on page 21)



A portrait of Cheryl (Wallace) Reinking '87, a woman with shoulder-length brown hair, smiling. She is wearing a red blazer over a green patterned top. A small pin is visible on her lapel.

# LEADING ON THE FRONT LINES

Story by MATT WING

**Cheryl (Wallace) Reinking '87** oversees more than 2,000 frontline healthcare workers as the chief nursing officer at El Camino Health, a two-hospital Bay Area healthcare system.

Florence Nightingale is widely recognized as the founder of modern nursing. Known as the “Lady with the Lamp,” who dutifully treated wounded soldiers during the Victorian era, Nightingale founded the world’s first non-secular nursing school and shaped the healthcare industry in lasting ways.

Cheryl (Wallace) Reinking '87 can tell you all that. And then some.

“I’m kind of a big fan,” she says, laughing.

Nightingale has served as an inspiration for Reinking throughout her nursing career. Reinking dresses as the 19th century nurse on Nightingale’s birthday. She recently penned an article in the medical journal *Nursing Management* framed by Nightingale’s innovative approach to nursing.

In celebration of the 200th anniversary of Nightingale’s birth, and much to Reinking’s delight, the World Health Organization declared 2020 as the “International Year of the Nurse and the Midwife.” But that designation was made long before the COVID-19 pandemic elevated the role of nurses who have played essential roles during the global health crisis.

“I think the general public has seen during this how nurses contribute to the well-being of the whole person, including their mental health and their spiritual health. I think this has been recognized through the pandemic as nurses have served as family members to patients because of the situation we’re in, with families unable to visit,” Reinking said. “Nurses are



caregivers and family members and priests and preachers, all in one, at the bedside of their patients.”

As chief nursing officer for El Camino Health, a two-hospital healthcare system in California’s Bay Area, Reinking oversees 1,300 registered nurses and more than 700 ancillary workers primarily responsible for direct patient care. She leads them while guided by lessons learned from childhood experiences caring for an ill grandfather, her time at Illinois Wesleyan, and more than 30 years in the healthcare sector. And inspiration, of course, drawn from Nightingale.

“Nurses are caregivers and family members and priests and preachers, all in one, at the bedside of their patients.”

— CHERYL (WALLACE) REINKING ’87

They’ve all served her well as she’s provided critical leadership during the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Who would have known, or who could have guessed, what would have happened this year as nurses across the world are facing the struggle against COVID-19?” Reinking said. “But El Camino Health nurses have risen to the challenge and taken care of numerous patients with the diagnosis.”



Reinking was raised in a small town with a post office and a general store, but not much else.

The city of Grafton, Illinois, is such a place. A trip to “the city” usually meant a 20-minute drive to Alton or Jerseyville, or a trip across the Mississippi River to St. Louis. Grafton is the kind of place where generations of the same family live in close proximity and grandma’s

house is just a short bike ride away.

Reinking was raised on a family farm just outside Grafton. Her grandparents lived next door. Her grandmother was a secretary for the chief nursing officer at nearby Alton Memorial Hospital, who dreamed that her first grandchild would become a nurse. Her grandfather was a talented carpenter and woodworker who fell ill with multiple sclerosis early in Reinking’s childhood.

“The whole family was taught to be caregivers. I was quite young, but I participated in his care,” she said. “And that was something that I

certainly attribute to my decision to become a nurse.”

Reinking’s nursing journey continued years later at Illinois Wesleyan, where she gained formal training in the profession that’s become her life’s work.

“When I came to Illinois Wesleyan, I found what I was looking for,” Reinking said. “I felt welcomed and supported from the leaders and peers in my dorm to the professors who supported us through the transition to college.

“I never felt I was alone. I knew I could reach out for help for whatever I needed.”

Reinking remembers moments when she realized she was becoming a professional nurse. Classroom learning and time spent in the nursing lab prepared her for her first rotations.

“I felt nervous and anxious about interacting with patients for fear of saying or doing something wrong,”



(continued from page 19)

nity, engaged current students enrolled in a music theatre scene study course this spring through Q&A sessions over Zoom, which are archived on YouTube.

**Dr. Erin (O’Neill) Zerth ’03** led the Edward Hines, Jr. VA Hospital’s Primary Care Mental Health Integration team, which provided emotional, bereavement and stress management support to COVID positive veterans and family members, and mental health support to veterans struggling with isolation and mental health difficulties during Illinois’ stay-at-home orders. She also helped form COVID-19 Front Line Hero Meal Trains, a service that provided over 120,000 meals to frontline healthcare workers, which was reported on by Chicago’s CBS affiliate.

**Dr. Herb Zerth ’03**, medical director at AMITA Adventist Hinsdale (Ill.) Hospital’s Department of Emergency Medicine and partner at Illinois Emergency Medicine Specialists, helped develop COVID treatment and safety protocols for several AMITA hospitals, provided direct patient care, and reported on ER conditions in a local newspaper story. He also served as a panelist on a webinar outlining the new pandemic threat of people not calling 911, while sharing what hospitals are doing to keep the public safe, and when and how to seek help during COVID-19.

Bestselling author and medical historian **Lindsey Fitzharris ’04** penned an article for *The Wall Street Journal* on the discovery of hand-washing as a means of killing germs.

**Kayla (Kindred) Roan ’08** put her sewing talent to work during stay-at-home orders to donate hundreds of handmade face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic. A client services manager for the National Hockey League’s Chicago Blackhawks, Kayla’s efforts were recognized in a story on the NHL website.

**Michael Zaremba ’09**, a registered nurse serving in the ICU at Advocate

(continued on page 23)

## LEADING ON THE FRONT LINES

she said. “But as time went on, the skills I obtained through practicing in the nursing lab and just feeling more comfortable in the practice setting made me feel much more confident.”

Reinking was soon a direct care nurse. Not long after, she became a charge nurse with managerial responsibilities. Within five years of her graduation from Illinois Wesleyan, Reinking was managing a large surgical unit.

She’s been in nursing leadership positions ever since.

“While I didn’t realize it at the time, IWU’s nursing program prepared me to step into a professional nursing role very quickly,” she said. “The leadership courses required in the nursing curriculum allowed me to see processes and systems in nursing and healthcare more broadly, which served me well as I have moved into nursing leadership roles throughout my career. The nursing faculty was second to none in promoting a broader view, always incorporating innovation and evidence in making clinical decisions and solving problems.

“I feel so fortunate to have chosen IWU for my baccalaureate program in nursing.”



El Camino Health treated the first known COVID-19 positive patient in Santa Clara County, and the second overall in California, on Feb. 28, 2020.

Reinking hasn’t had a normal day since.

“There hasn’t been anything we have experienced that has been quite like this,” she said. “I’ve never seen something quite as impactful on the healthcare system.”

A command center was quickly

established. Contact tracing was conducted. El Camino Health dusted off its pandemic plan and put it in action.

But plans and practices have frequently changed as health officials learned more about the novel virus. Reinking has kept nurses apprised of changes, such as recommended personal protective equipment (PPE), through a variety of mediums: sessions with nurse educators, written materials, daily e-newsletters and mobile technology nurses can access bedside.

“We have had to change our practices, and I would have to say that’s been the most difficult thing we’ve had to endure,” Reinking said. “It’s been especially challenging with the staff because one day it’s this kind of PPE, but tomorrow is another type of PPE, and that’s been based on availability in some instances. So that’s been frustrating to have to administer because it’s presented a lot of confusion.”

Testing has also been a challenge for El Camino Health, but it has improved, both in terms of

availability and turnaround time for results, since the outset of COVID-19. Hospitals have additionally faced issues with patients who have delayed seeking treatment in fear of being at a hospital during the pandemic. There’s also the financial struggles hospitals endured when elective procedures were suspended, though Reinking is thankful the lost revenue has not impacted staffing at her hospital.

But many nurses will tell you the most difficult part of the COVID-19 pandemic has been caring for patients unable to see loved ones due to closed visitation. Nurses have arranged video conferencing between patients and their families, but it isn’t quite the same. As a result, nurses have increasingly been required to play supportive, compassionate roles for patients isolated from their family and friends.

Reinking is able to make exceptions to the rule when patients are facing dire prognoses.

“I can never say no to that,” she says. “I look at the chart and make sure that the situation is appropriate



(Above) Cheryl (Wallace) Reinking '87 (second from left) celebrates the 200th anniversary of Florence Nightingale's birth with nurses at El Camino Health.





(continued from page 21)

Good Samaritan Hospital in Downers Grove, Illinois, shared his experiences of treating patients during the COVID-19 pandemic on LinkedIn.

**Marie Huey '10** provided leadership and communication during the pandemic as the Public Policy and Advocacy Coordinator for Think Small, a Minnesota nonprofit that provides resources and support to advance quality early childhood education. She was part of a statewide advocacy effort that resulted in the passage of nearly \$30 million in Peacetime Emergency Child Care Grants.

Senior director with LaSalle Network **Jessica (Hinterlong) Schaeffer '11** provided insight on Chicago's ABC7 on how the coronavirus has impacted the labor market and provided tips for people who have lost their jobs.

**Amanda (Williams) Wilkinson '12**, the owner of historical costume business The Bodice Babe, made over 150 face masks during the COVID-19 pandemic, which she delivered to local hospitals.

**Ted Delicath '13**, an associate with the McChrystal Group, is drawing on his experiences in the U.S. Army and international security to provide crisis communication tools and decision-making guidance during the pandemic. Ted is on the ground assisting in several states' responses to the pandemic.

**Karly Yerkes '16**, a registered nurse in the Surgical Trauma ICU at the University of Colorado Hospital, left to serve in the ICU of a Manhattan hospital in April 2020 as the COVID-19 pandemic hit the New York City area especially hard.

**Muyi Yang '18** launched a #Coronafriend initiative and developed a website ([coronafriend.se](http://coronafriend.se)) to help vulnerable groups cope with isolation resulting from social distancing, quarantine and stay-at-home orders.

**Jourdyn Keehan '20** served residents of a nursing home/memory care unit during the COVID-19 pandemic.



(Above) El Camino Health nurses constructed a quilt commemorating 2020 as "The International Year of The Nurse and The Midwife," as designated by the World Health Organization.

and it's the right thing to do. But this is the end of the patient's story, the end of their life, and I can't deny that request."

Nurses have encountered countless heartbreaking moments during the COVID-19 pandemic, but there have been small victories and moments of hope along the way.

Reinking triumphantly recalls the story of a 65-year-old man who was treated for COVID-19 at her hospital. The previously healthy man was placed on a ventilator and given the antiviral medication remdesivir, but his condition did not improve the way doctors had hoped. He was eventually prescribed extracorporeal membrane oxygenation (ECMO), a treatment using a pump to circulate blood through an artificial lung and back into the bloodstream, but that required a transfer to a larger hospital in San Francisco.

The survival rate for COVID-19 patients on ECMO was very low — only 14% at the time, Reinking says — but the man responded to the treatment and his condition slowly improved. Though he was still very weak and unable to walk or swallow, he was eventually transferred back to El Camino Health, where the staff

helped rehabilitate him.

After more than two months in the hospital he was finally discharged.

"We had a little celebration for him when he left and surprised him when he came off the elevator with signs and a little parade for him," Reinking said. "It was something our staff really needed, and I think it was good for him, too."

The remarkable recovery wouldn't have been possible without the dedication of hospital staff, and Reinking takes great pride in the work being done by frontline health-care workers under her charge during what may be the greatest healthcare crisis of our time.

"El Camino Health nurses have demonstrated exemplary practice standards and extraordinary compassionate care when caring for COVID-19 patients," Reinking said. "The community has reached out to show its gratitude by donating meals, displaying signs of gratitude throughout the community, and we've received literally hundreds of handwritten cards."

"I couldn't be prouder of our staff and the generous community it serves." ❖



# PROTECTING THE VULNERABLE

Illinois Wesleyan 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award winner **Dr. Raymond “Pete” Davis ’80** treats and advocates for victims of child abuse and child sexual abuse.

Story by MATT WING

**D**r. Raymond “Pete” Davis ’80 has been a pediatrician long enough he is occasionally asked what it’s like to treat a second generation of patients.

He laughs before answering. “I’m actually treating the grandkids now,” he says.

Davis has impacted thousands of lives in Rockford, Illinois, where he has practiced for nearly a third of a century. One of the greatest compliments he is paid is when former patients trust him with their children.

“It’s a great feeling when someone you took care of as a child thinks enough about the care you gave them and felt comfortable and liked

you enough that they want to bring their kids to see you,” he said.

Davis treats a largely vulnerable population on Rockford’s west side where nearly half his patients are Medicaid recipients. But through expertise he’s gained over decades of treating patients, and by seeking additional training and certifications, he has increasingly treated and advocated for the most vulnerable population among us.

Davis is a leading expert in child physical and sexual abuse who regularly assists law enforcement and social services in efforts to protect and advocate for victims of abuse.

Dr. Raymond Davis is the recipient of Illinois Wesleyan’s 2020

Distinguished Alumni Award.

“I’m extremely honored and extremely humbled,” he said. “The Lord gave me a brain, Wesleyan gave me a tremendous education, and I found an area that I like to use them.”



Raymond Davis loved school. He enjoyed science and showed an early interest in medicine. He was inspired when he toured a local hospital and when he attended a presentation from a world-renowned cardiovascular surgeon, where he stuck out as the lone high school student in an audience of



healthcare professionals.

Throughout his formative years, campus visits were incorporated into Davis family vacations. He visited Harvard, Yale and others. On the advice of a family friend, he was encouraged to consider Illinois

became quite clear.

“I’d always enjoyed working with kids. Pediatrics was very rewarding, very fulfilling,” Davis said. “It was fun when you could get a little kid who didn’t feel good to smile.”

Davis completed his residency

“I’d always enjoyed working with kids. Pediatrics was very rewarding, very fulfilling. It was fun when you could get a little kid who didn’t feel good to smile.”

— DR. RAYMOND “PETE” DAVIS ’80

Wesleyan. “He said if you are really interested in medicine, that Wesleyan was the place to go,” Davis recalled. “He said if you could get through Wesleyan’s pre-med program, you were going to go to medical school.”

Davis investigated and found that nearly all IWU biology graduates found placement in medical or dental school. “*How do you not go to a school like that?*” he said.

At Illinois Wesleyan, Davis found professors who pushed him hard while also providing guidance and mentoring. That, combined with his love of learning, led him to a triple major in biology, chemistry and physics.

He was admitted to the University of Illinois College of Medicine, where he found himself uniquely prepared. “Wesleyan was a great preparatory school because it took a lot of work if you were going to be successful,” Davis said. “I’m not sure I’d have made it through medical school without Wesleyan.”

Along the way, Davis discovered a passion for pediatrics. He enjoyed previous experiences as a youth baseball and swimming coach and, as he explored different areas of medicine, his preferred field

at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, and, after a year in Lafayette, Indiana, returned to Illinois and began practicing as a pediatrician at Rockford Clinic (now part of the Mercyhealth System), where he has remained since 1988.

Experiences with child abuse early in Davis’ career made an impact on the young doctor. In the first year after his residency, he testified in court cases of child abuse and medical neglect. He attended a police presentation on forensic interviewing of potential victims. With minimal child abuse training

during his residency, he conducted independent study and devoured the little research available on the topic.

Legislation was soon passed that required counties to develop protocol for handling allegations of sexual abuse, and Davis was asked to help plan a children’s advocacy center for Winnebago (Ill.) County. Two years later, the county opened its center in a temporary space but soon moved into a dedicated, child-friendly building with space for interviews, law enforcement, state’s attorneys and social services. Davis was named medical director at the facility where he examined patients and eventually recruited and trained five other doctors to help with exams.

Law enforcement and Department of Child and Family Services officials, knowing when and where they could find Davis, soon began stopping by the center with photographs of suspected abuse. Davis was asked to provide an opinion on the spot, with limited information, in what he called “curbside consults.” Knowing that it could be done better, he approached DCFS and the University of Illinois College of Medicine Rockford with



(Above) Dr. Raymond Davis ’80 meets with a Rockford Police Department officer and detective to discuss the results of an exam. (Opposite page) Davis meets with a young patient at his general pediatric practice.



## GIL DORSEY '62

Scan the bleachers at an Illinois Wesleyan athletic event

and chances are you will spot Gil Dorsey '62 in the crowd.

Dorsey finds entertainment and opportunities to socialize at athletic events. Even as a young alum, he became a fixture at ball games. Longtime IWU coach and athletic director Jack Horenberger '36 took notice one day and decided to call Dorsey and tell him it was time to make his first gift.

"Shortly thereafter, at a baseball game at O'Neil Park — this was probably 1966 or 1967 — he walked by and asked if I had thought about what he had called about," Dorsey recalled. "And here I am, a guy who didn't play sports, and four years after I graduate he walks by and knows my name. I was really impressed. I knew I couldn't turn down the opportunity."

Dorsey wrote a check for \$100, good enough then to earn a spot in IWU's Century Club.

He's been giving and engaging with Illinois Wesleyan ever since.

Dorsey is this year's recipient of the Loyalty Award.

"It's certainly an honor to be recognized for being loyal to your school," he said.

Dorsey graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1962 with a bachelor's degree and a job at Procter & Gamble. He credits IWU for lining up job interviews that helped him begin his career just one week after graduation, and for providing him with an education that allowed him

to be successful.

"It was a good, rounded education," he said. "I truly believe in the liberal arts. The thing I probably learned most was learning to learn."

"And I'm still learning."

A few years after beginning his career at P&G, Dorsey returned to Bloomington-Normal with a job at Eureka, where he rose from sales positions to president of the company.

The new job allowed Dorsey to be closer to his alma mater ... and to attend a few ball games.

But Dorsey engaged with IWU in other ways, too. He joined the Board of Trustees in 1992 and continues to serve in an emeritus role. He was a member of the search committee that recommended former president Richard "Dick" Wilson. He particularly enjoyed chairing the Campus Life Committee for the interactions with current students. Dorsey gets together for coffee and conversation nearly every weekday with a loyal group at Hansen Student Center, a space he helped shape through his involvement with the Campus Life Committee.

He and wife Betty (Biehl) Dorsey '66 continue to engage with IWU, providing opportunities for the next generation of students and maintaining relationships with the many friends they've made along the way.

And Gil Dorsey still goes to all the games he can.

"I hope to continue to support the University and student opportunities on campus for as long as I can," he said. "It's been wonderful to live in this community and be able to do that."

a proposal for a formal child protection service. Both were receptive and the UICMR's Medical Evaluation Response Initiative Team (MERIT) opened in 2008. It was at this time that Davis joined the faculty of the University of Illinois College of Medicine and started working toward becoming a board-certified child abuse pediatrician. He earned his certification in 2013 after passing the board exam, and became one of only 13 child abuse pediatricians in the state.

More legislation requiring local governments to address child physical and sexual abuse put Davis' expertise in high demand, and nearby counties called on him to help meet new standards. He now serves as the medical director for advocacy centers in seven northern Illinois counties and provides training to law enforcement, state's attorneys and DCFS officials in 15 counties.

"I was happy doing my bit in my own little part of the world. The only desire I had initially was to do the best I could in my own practice," Davis said. "I didn't anticipate ever being where I am right now."



Normally, a decrease in reported abuse cases would be good news for Davis. But in the time of COVID-19, it's not necessarily a good thing. Far from it, actually.

Davis knows better than to celebrate the decline in reported cases. He knows it's likely the result of children being out of schools, day cares and other

activities in the company of adults who typically report abuse.

"It's really scary to think what might be happening to these kids because they are sheltering at home with potential perpetrators," Davis said. "This time has really showed how important our teachers are."

Like healthcare workers all over the world, Davis is working through the COVID-19 pandemic and continuing to provide a high level of care. And he's continued to be a leading voice in combatting child abuse and child sexual abuse, specifically as a mentor to the next generation advocating for children.

"It takes lots of people to be on guard and watching out for these kids," he said. "I think the biggest part of my job now is educating my colleagues on the front line."

Though his age might suggest retirement is on the horizon, Davis insists that he won't leave his program until a full-time child abuse pediatrician can be hired to replace him. Nor is he ready to retire from his general practice, which has often served as a comforting retreat from his work with victims of abuse.

Being able to make a sick kid smile gives Davis the boost he needs to continue his work.

"The general pediatrics part keeps me from getting burned out because it really can get overwhelming," he said. "It helps keep me grounded and keeps me focused, which helps me to do better with the child abuse part, and gives me energy to keep going." ♦

## SARA GHADIRI '11

*"Go forth and do well.  
But, more importantly,  
go forth and do good."*

*- Minor Myers, jr.*

Inspired by Minor Myers, jr.'s iconic advice, Sara Ghadiri '11 sought a career that would allow her to do both.

She found it practicing law.

A double major in political science and philosophy with a minor in music, Ghadiri didn't consider a legal career until late in her time at Illinois Wesleyan. But, wanting to know if it was the right path for her, she dedicated the Summer of 2010 to finding out. Nearly every waking moment that summer was spent immersing herself in different aspects of the law through internships, research and advocacy.

After that summer, she knew.

"Though each experience was different, each one revealed that law was where I should go," Ghadiri said.

Since embarking on a career in law, Ghadiri has repeatedly been recognized for the service she provides clients who often need her voice to help theirs be heard.

Ghadiri is the recipient of the Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumni Award.

"When I got the call that I was selected, I searched some of the previous winners and was amazed to see all the wonderful things they had accomplished," she said. "To join them is a great honor."

Ghadiri focused on public service in law school. She earned an internship, through the American Bar Association's Judicial Intern

Opportunity Program. Ghadiri later worked for the University

of Iowa Clinical Law Program. She won awards from the College of Law for human rights and client service in the clinic.

Ghadiri sought training offered by a law firm and, after a summer internship, joined the firm's banking and financial services litigation group after earning her law degree in 2014. In recognition of her dedication to the underserved, she was appointed the firm's first pro bono counsel in 2018. She now balances pro bono work and management of the firm's program with an active bank-related litigation and regulatory practice.

Ghadiri has provided counsel to self-represented litigants, survivors of domestic violence, families separated at the border and asylees seeking safety from persecution. Her work has been recognized with awards from Chapman and Cutler, the American Bar Association, the National Immigrant Justice Center, Legal Aid Chicago, and the Illinois Jaycees, which named her an Illinois Outstanding Young Person of 2019.

"Nothing makes me more passionate than seeing difficulty get unlocked for someone," Ghadiri said. "Whether that is access to court to get an order of protection, or changing a law that had unintended consequences, or advocating on behalf of someone whose voice is being drowned out because no one is paying attention. Each time I am able to help someone, it stokes my passion."





W  
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY  
*Homecoming*  
Your Story Starts Here  
October  
2020

## Dear Titans,

For over 100 years, Illinois Wesleyan has honored the Titan community with a Homecoming celebration. While these past few months have proven to be a challenge for planning in-person Titan gatherings, **Your Story Starts Here** and we are determined to bring you together. It is our hope to have a traditional Homecoming; however, we may have to adjust accordingly. As has been the case in this evolving environment, we will take precautions and follow guidelines related to the COVID-19 pandemic. The safety of the entire Titan community is our top priority. A decision regarding Homecoming and reunions will be made in July 2020. Please watch your email and visit [www.iwu.edu/homecoming](http://www.iwu.edu/homecoming) for up-to-date information on Homecoming and reunion events.

Be well,



**Rosetta L. Clay**

Assistant Vice President of Engagement  
[iwu.edu/alumni](http://iwu.edu/alumni) | (888) IWU-ALUM



## New Engagement Opportunities

### Titan Talks Webinar Series

This webinar series features IWU alumni who are leaders in their field, faculty with insight on their research, and staff with updates on their respective areas. The Titan Talks webinar series is a lifelong learning and engagement opportunity for the Illinois Wesleyan community.

### Titans Doing Well and Doing Good Blog

This online blog spotlights and celebrates Titans who are out in the world doing well and doing good, as encouraged by former IWU President Minor Myers, jr. Visit [blogs.iwu.edu/titans-doing-well-good](http://blogs.iwu.edu/titans-doing-well-good).

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

## *Hello Fellow Titans,*

I hope this letter finds you safe and healthy during this unprecedented time in our history. While most of us followed shelter-in-place orders, many Titans were and still are on the front lines doing amazing work. I feel a great sense of pride and gratitude in knowing there are Titans all over the world in various industries who are helping us to be safe and to heal.

We are facing a new world that requires new leaders. Much like many of you, our most recent alumni will be among those new leaders making an impact. **WELCOME to the Class of 2020!** We look forward to seeing you excel!

I encourage you to participate in new engagement opportunities, including the Titan Talks webinar series featuring some of our renowned alumni. And have you heard about the new Titans Doing Well and Doing Good blog? It was created to showcase alumni who are doing just that. Be sure to check it out and send in submissions. Congratulations to this year's alumni award winners Dr. Raymond "Pete" Davis '80, Sara Ghadiri '11 and Gil Dorsey '62. The Engagement Team is making plans for Homecoming and will make a final decision that aligns with the campus environment. For more details, visit [www.iwu.edu/homecoming](http://www.iwu.edu/homecoming).

Illinois Wesleyan remains committed to its mission of providing a quality liberal arts education. Alumni support is critical to that mission and we can have greater impact for the future of our beloved alma mater! If you are able, please consider giving a gift before July 31, 2020.

I wish you all health, safety and joy.

Go Titans!

**Molly Rollings '99**  
*President, Alumni Association*  
*Board of Directors*



## The Young Alumni Council

Composed of graduates of the past decade, council members assist in fostering and sustaining relationships between IWU and their classmates to keep them engaged and actively involved. The YAC aims to enrich the lives of students and recent graduates through programming, philanthropy, networking opportunities and volunteer recruitment. These opportunities assist young alumni in their transition from a collegiate to professional career, and lay the foundation for a relationship with their alma mater that lasts a lifetime.

## Titan Student Emergency Fund

The Titan Student Emergency Fund provides assistance to current students who undergo unforeseen financial challenges. Gifts to this fund help students maintain their best college experience and achieve their educational goal of becoming an Illinois Wesleyan graduate.

Although started at this time, these opportunities will continue to exist as we create programs and activities to strengthen your connection and engagement with one another and the University. To participate and learn more about these opportunities, visit [www.iwu.edu/alumni](http://www.iwu.edu/alumni).



# Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## 1962

**James Proctor Brown, III** was interviewed about his Peace Corps experience for a national archive of interviews of former Peace Corps volunteers in December 2019. James also gave a lecture on the Peace Corps and Nigeria to the Southampton Roads Torch Club in October 2019. In February 2020, he gave a lecture on African art to 38 docents from the Chrysler Museum in Norfolk, Virginia, and provided them with a tour of the African Art Museum at Norfolk State University, which he helped to establish.

## 1971

**Dr. Nancy Hutson** was named to Clearside Biomedical, Inc.'s Board of Directors, the company announced in April 2020. Dr. Hutson is an accomplished healthcare executive with more than 30 years experience as a research and development expert in the biopharmaceutical industry. She retired from Pfizer, Inc., in 2006, after 25 years in leadership positions. Dr. Hutson is a member of Illinois Wesleyan's Board of Trustees, where she serves as vice president of the Executive Committee.

## 1975

**Thomas E. Patterson** leads a law firm that recently won what is believed to be the largest legal malpractice verdict in Ohio history. Patterson Law Firm won a \$32 million legal malpractice jury verdict for RevoLaze, a small Cleveland technology company, against international law firm Dentons, the world's largest law firm by number of lawyers, in February 2020. Dentons was hired to help RevoLaze enforce its patent, but was disqualified

by the International Trade Commission on the eve of a key hearing, which resulted in lost licensing revenues for RevoLaze. The trial took place in Cleveland and lasted three weeks. Tom founded the firm, a boutique business litigation law firm focused on business disputes, legal malpractice, and real estate litigation, in 2000.

## 1976

**Stew Salowitz** received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the College Sports Information Directors of America at the organization's annual convention, conducted virtually, in June 2020. Illinois Wesleyan's longtime sports information director, who retired in 2019, Stew was one of seven individuals recognized by CoSIDA. The Lifetime Achievement Award is presented to CoSIDA members who have served at least 25 years in the profession and who are retiring, have retired, or are leaving the profession.

## 1977

**Jim Brown**, a wealth management adviser with Northwestern

Mutual-Bloomington (Ill.), was recognized by the Million Dollar Round Table for his 2019 performance. The MDRT Court of the Table recognizes the leading life insurance producers in the industry at a level three times that of MDRT membership requirements, and indicates sales and service achievement and strict ethical and production requirements. Jim has qualified for MDRT for 40 years and Court of the Table for the past nine.

**Jim Molinari** was inducted into the Bradley University Athletics Hall of Fame on Jan. 22, 2020. The former head coach of the Bradley men's basketball team is the program's all-time leader in Missouri Valley Conference coaching wins (110) and fourth in Bradley history in total wins (174). Jim, who has also served as head coach at Northern Illinois, Minnesota and Western Illinois, is currently an assistant at Oklahoma.

## 1978

**Carol Brandt** was recognized by *Forbes* as a Best-In-State Wealth Advisor, selected based on quantitative and qualita-

tive data, including in-person interviews, industry experience, compliance records, revenue produced and assets under management. Based in Chicago, Carol is a wealth management adviser for Merrill Lynch with 36 years of experience. She's previously been recognized by both *Barron's* and *Financial Times* for her expertise in the field.

**Wendy (Oldenburg) Hall** and **Kristin (Schwab) Kroll '85** are teachers with Allendale Association, a nonprofit organization providing care, treatment, education and advocacy for youth with emotional, mental and behavioral challenges. Kristin has taught at Allendale for the past 30 years, while Wendy has taught art for the past 10. Wendy and Kristin have teamed up to deliver home-based instruction during COVID-19.

## 1979

**Kevin Schultz** spent the first full week of April 2020 at home — and not Augusta National Golf Club — for the first time in 30 years. Kevin, a Bloomington, Illinois, dentist, was a gallery guard on the 15th hole for 27 years before retiring from those duties in 2017. He attended the tournament as a spectator the past two years, but he spent Easter Sunday watching a replay of the



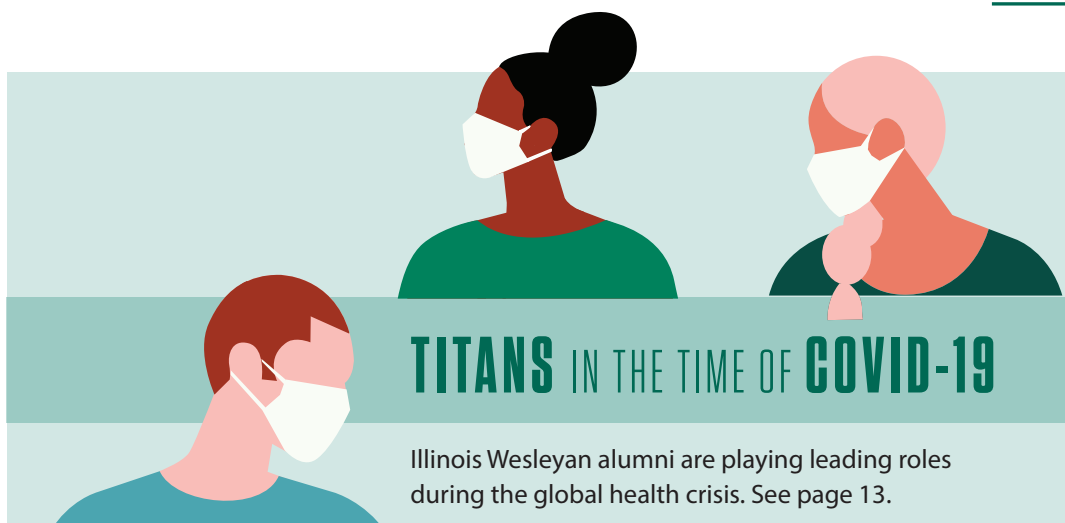
Thomas E. Patterson '75



Carol Brandt '78



Kevin Klockenga '89



Economy Fire & Casualty, St. Paul and MetLife.

## 1989

**Kevin Klockenga** was recognized in *The (Santa Rosa, Calif) North Bay Business Journal* as a "healthcare leader you should know," in February 2020. Kevin is an executive vice president and chief executive with St. Joseph Health-Northern California, where he oversees the nonprofit's five hospitals and multiple clinics in Humboldt, Sonoma and Napa counties.

## 1990

**Darryn Dunbar** became the director of critical care and emergency services at The Queen's Medical Center's West Oahu campus in Honolulu, in December 2019. Darryn, who earned a doctorate in nursing practice from Johns Hopkins University last year, first visited Queen's 30 years ago as an Illinois Wesleyan student on a January Term transcultural nursing trip.

## 1994

**Tom Carlson** and **Marc Talluto** were guest speakers for Illinois Wesleyan students on March 5, 2020, at State Farm Hall. The presentations, which also included a networking luncheon, were part of a series of entrepreneurship guest speakers.

**Chris Fusco** was promoted to executive editor at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where he has worked for the past 20 years, in May 2020. Chris has held multiple roles at the newspaper, rising from state government reporter to relief city desk editor to the Watchdogs investigative reporting team. He was previously named editor-in-chief in 2017.

## 1995

**Paul Kinsella** was named head football coach at Roncalli High

**{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).

2019 tournament from the comfort of his home as the event was postponed due to the COVID-19 pandemic. It's been rescheduled for Nov. 12-15, 2020, and Kevin plans to be in attendance. Kevin and his brother **Mark Schultz '77**, who continues to serve as a gallery guard, were featured in a story in *The Pantagraph* in April 2020.

## 1981

**Sandra Steingraber** was the guest speaker for a virtual presentation hosted by Wellness House, a nonprofit in Hinsdale, Illinois, providing free programming for people impacted by cancer, on June 4, 2020. Sandra spoke about her life's work investigating the links between human health, cancer and environmental toxins. **Caly Meyers-Mixa '09** serves as Wellness House's human resources and volunteer manager. **Brittany Brady '15** is Wellness House's oncology education coordinator.

## 1982

**Ann Marie Morgan** was appointed Early Music Ensemble

interim director at the University of Colorado's College of Music for the spring 2020 semester. A performer on viola da gamba and baroque cello, Ann Marie has enjoyed a 30-year career of concertizing, recording and teaching, serving on the faculties of the Peabody Institute of Johns Hopkins University and the Interlochen Arts Camp. She has performed as viola da gamba soloist with the Cleveland, Philadelphia and Minnesota orchestras in Bach's *Passions*, and internationally at the CRR Hall in Istanbul and at the Prague Spring Festival. This spring, she served as a judge for the 2020 Indianapolis International Baroque Competition.

**Sue (Snapp) Seibring** was nominated for the Communication Innovation Award, presented at the Association for Women in Communications Bloomington-Normal Chapter's Crystal Awards, on Feb. 27, 2020. As Advocate BroMenn's manager of volunteer and auxiliary services, Sue manages hundreds of volunteers and oversees several community events, including the biennial Chase for Cham-

pions, an innovative event to honor public safety responders. Money raised from the event supports public safety scholarships and facility funding for BroMenn to continue to provide top-quality care.

## 1984

**Kenneth French** was named one of four finalists in the middle school category for the Vanderburgh County (Ind.) Educator of the Year Award in April 2020. Kenneth is a sixth-grade social studies teacher at Plaza Park International Prep Academy in Evansville, Indiana. He has been teaching in Evansville since 1987 and has been in his current role since 1995. His wife, **Laurel (Bauer) French**, won the same award in 1998. The Frenches have both taught at Plaza Park International for 25 years.

**Michael Wall** was promoted to assistant vice president of underwriting at Rockford Mutual Insurance Co. Michael joined RMIC in March 2015 as director of research and development with approximately 30 years of combined experience with





John Baines '98

School in Manitowoc, Wisconsin, in March 2020. Paul is a math teacher at the school and has served on the football coaching staff for the past seven seasons. A former all-conference member of Illinois Wesleyan's football team, Paul has previously coached at Lawrence University, Lakeland College and Northern Illinois University.

**Ellen (Buldak) Wandless** was hired by (Plainfield, Ill.) Troy Community School District 30-C as its next director of finance. Ellen previously served as business manager, district office manager and treasurer with Wilmington (Ill.) School District 209U. Prior to that, she served as director of tax extension for the Kankakee (Ill.) County Clerk.

## 1998

**John Baines**, head men's basketball coach at Elmhurst University, was named co-coach of the year by the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association. John was one of 10 college basketball coaches in the state,

across all divisions, to earn the honor. He led Elmhurst to a record-setting season in 2019-20 as the Bluejays set a school record for wins with a 25-5 overall record. The team won the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin Tournament for the first time in school history to earn the league's automatic bid to the NCAA Tournament. The Bluejays won their first- and second-round games to advance to the Sweet Sixteen for the first time in school history before the tournament was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

## 1999

**Chad Beaty** was promoted by Heartland Bank and Trust Company in February 2020 to senior vice president, commercial lending, and senior lender, for the Bloomington, Illinois, area. A 19-year employee of Heartland Bank, Chad will lead business development, recruiting, training and management of the Bloomington area business lending team.

## 2000

**Kris Kaneta** accepted a new role in March 2020 as chief product officer for MMIT (Managed Markets Insight & Technology), a provider of advanced software and analytics supporting drug and therapy market access. Kris has also served as a contributor to *Forbes* and was recently named a finalist for the American Marketing Association Pittsburgh Marketer of the Year.

**Burke Nihill** was promoted to president/CEO of the National Football League's Tennessee Titans in May 2020. Burke will replace Steve Underwood, who is retiring from full-time duties. Burke is in his fifth year with the Titans and was previously elevated to senior vice president/business operations and chief legal officer in February 2020. He earlier held the title of vice president and general counsel. He joined the Titans in 2016 with 15 years of professional experience working as an attorney and strategic business counselor with companies ranging from technology startups to Fortune 500 businesses.

## 2003

**Molly (Ehlert) Lamb** has been named the executive director of the University of Illinois Spring-

field Center for State Policy and Leadership, pending approval by the University of Illinois Board of Trustees. Molly joined UIS after serving as deputy director of the Illinois Department of Public Health Office of Health Protection. She began her career as an emergency response coordinator for Logan (Ill.) County Health Department and has taught at Lincoln Land Community College. She is currently pursuing a doctorate in public health leadership at the University of Illinois at Chicago after previously earning two master's degrees at UIS in public administration and public health.

**Chad McGehee** joined the University of Wisconsin-Madison athletics department as its first director of meditation training in March 2020. Chad has provided mindfulness and meditation training to UW-Madison student-athletes and athletics department staff for several years through previous roles with The Center for Healthy Minds and Healthy Minds Innovations. His hiring was featured in a story in *The (Madison) Wisconsin State Journal*.

**Patrick Spangler** was elected to the board of directors of Chicago Volunteer Legal Services, one of the largest legal aid providers



Chad Beaty '99



Kris Kaneta '00



Burke Nihill '00

in the Chicagoland area. Patrick, a shareholder with law firm Vedder Price, previously served as a Public Interest Law Initiative Fellow at CVLS in 2005.

## 2006

**Ryan Smith** was promoted to chief technology officer at Grabango, a leading checkout-free technology service provider for grocers and convenience stores founded by Will Glaser. Ryan, who previously worked for Amgen and Sight Machine, was named vice president of product and engineering for Grabango last year.

## 2009

**Aaron Gierhart** successfully defended his dissertation, focused on digital pedagogy of elementary teachers, to earn an Ed.D. Aaron graduated from Illinois State University in May 2020. He accepted a job as an assistant professor of elementary education at Columbus State University, in Columbus, Georgia, beginning in August 2020.

## 2010

**Matt Wennmaker** was named executive director of the Illinois Junior Golf Association in February 2020. Matt previously served as the IJGA's associate executive director. An All-American golfer at Illinois Wesleyan, he is the



Molly (Ehlert) Lamb '03

organization's first executive director to have played in IJGA events growing up. Matt joined the IJGA full-time in 2011 — he served an internship in 2010 — and has previously served as a tournament manager, manager of communications and events, director of communications and events, and senior director of programming.

## 2012

**Will Jenkins** is the co-founder and vice president of strategic partnerships for MoLo Solutions, a transportation and logistics company based in Chicago. MoLo was recognized by *Forbes* in March 2020 on its list of "America's Best Startup Employers." MoLo ranked 63rd



Will Jenkins '12



Matt Wennmaker '10

overall, second in Illinois, and first overall among transportation and logistics companies.

## 2015

**Alexandra Bidner** earned a master's of education in curriculum and instruction from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in 2019. She began a new position as a math interventionist in Round Lake (Ill.) Area Schools Community Unit District 116 in August 2019.

**Amy DeBoer** earned a master's of education in curriculum and instruction at Olivet Nazarene University in May 2020. Amy is a third grade teacher at Kerkstra Elementary School in Oak Forest, Illinois.



Joe Ruskey '15

**Joe Ruskey** earned a Juris Doctor degree and graduated *cum laude* from Northwestern University Pritzker School of Law in May 2020. Joe will begin his legal career in September 2020 as a corporate restructuring associate in the Chicago office of Kirkland & Ellis LLP.

**Kelli Sloan** is pursuing a master's degree in social work at the University of Pennsylvania, with an anticipated graduation date of May 2021.

## 2016

**Meaghan Mormann** earned an M.D. from Michigan State University College of Human Medicine in May 2020 and began her residency in pediatrics at Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago in June 2020. During her time at MSU, Meaghan held leadership positions in the American Medical Association, American Medical Student Association, and Latino and Native American Medical Association. She volunteered with a pharmacy assistance program and provided translation services at a primary care clinic. Her work with underserved patient populations directed her to MSU's Leadership in Medicine for the Underserved certificate program, where she worked closely with Flint (Mich.) Pediatric Public Health Initiative in the wake of the Flint water



Meaghan Mormann '16



crisis. She helped distribute food and water in the community and taught children about health-related topics. Meaghan provided further instruction in Flint Public Schools. She additionally developed a curriculum to promote self-efficacy skills for residents of a transitional living residence for runaway youth. She participated in research investigating barriers to reproductive healthcare amongst Latina patients and surveyed Hispanic/Latinx communities in Flint to document their experiences during the water crisis. She presented her research at the 41st annual Michigan Family Medicine Research Day Conference. Meaghan earned honors in several clerkships and was inducted into Alpha Omega Alpha honors medical society in November 2019. She plans to pursue a career working within critical care environments with underserved patients.

## 2019

**Brady Rose** enjoyed a successful rookie season playing professional basketball in Germany's ProB league. Playing for Dusseldorf, Brady averaged 18.9 points and 3.8 assists per game and

landed a spot on the third team of the league's all-star squad. The former IWU standout hopes to return to Germany next season.

## 2020

**Sydney Alery** joined Cardinal Health as sales associate for the Northwest Acute Specialty Sales Team in May 2020. Sydney covers the territory of: California, Nevada, Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Montana and Alaska. She covers product portfolios in: compression, cardiology, gastrointestinal, nutritional insufficiency enteral access/feeding and other specialty acute care devices. Sydney's sales team is also responsible for the Advanced Technologies Specialists team selling negative pressure wound therapy and Kangaroo IRIS.

**Jon Recchia** joined the Peace Corps and will leave for Indonesia in September 2020. Jon will work as an English teacher and teacher trainer. His primary goals will be to improve students' English, enhance their life and academic skills, increase Indonesian teachers' English fluency, and improve teachers' instructional capacity.



Brady Rose '19

## Tiny Titans

**Erin (Luke) Rosas '98** and Daniel;

Jade Ember, born Nov. 18, 2019

**John Haugen '06** and Elizabeth;

Hazel, born January 2020

**Anne (Gilmore) Meetz '06** and Jeff;

Henry David, born March 6, 2020

**Kelly (Petrowski) Benante '08** and Tim;

Vincent Edward, born April 15, 2020

**Aaron Gierhart '09** and Alesha;

Ramona Sue, born March 13, 2020

**Aimee Rieger '09** and Jeremy St. John;

Foster James, born May 5, 2020

**Erin (McKenzie) Roth '09** and **Alex '09**;

Quinn McKenzie and Lena Finney, born Aug. 9, 2019

**Maggie Wood-Davis '09** and Brian;

Susan Maire, born April 2, 2020

**Chris Betzle '10** and Embarina;

Eleena Grace, born Jan. 19, 2019

**Mackenzie (Clemens) Crouch '10** and **Adam '10**;

Tessa Mae, born April 22, 2020

**Stephie (Swope) Predmore '11** and Alex;

Eden Noelle, born Feb. 8, 2020

**Jenna (Frazier) Schafer '11** and Scott;

Beau, born April 2, 2020

**Hannah (Smith) Phelps '14** and Neal;

Charlotte Rose, born March 2020

**Jennifer (Boll) Sloboda '14** and **Michael '12**;

Grace Rose, born Jan. 30, 2020

ALL IN FOR  
WESLEYAN

Thank You, Titan Community  
RECORD BREAKING

**\$1,013,555**  
**GRAND TOTAL**

**\$651,055**

DOLLARS  
RAISED

**+\$362,500**

PACESETTERS/  
CHALLENGES

**1,848**

GIFTS/  
PLEDGES

**2,122**

DONORS

*All submitted content received by June 1, 2020. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.*

# 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*, at [www.iwu.edu/magazine](http://www.iwu.edu/magazine), via email at [iwumag@iwu.edu](mailto:iwumag@iwu.edu), or by mail at P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702. All submitted content received by June 1, 2020.



(Above) **Cathryn (Volk) Gardner '15** and **Jack Gardner '17** were married July 13, 2019, in Hinsdale, Illinois, with many alumni present. Included in the wedding party were **Audrey Fitzgerald '17** (far left), **Dan Drake '20** (third from right) and **Zach Silver '18** (second from right).



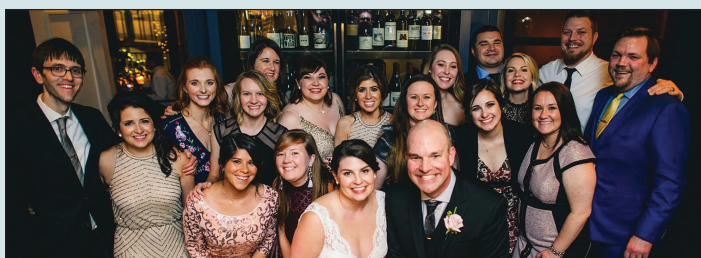
(Above) **Netherland Joiner '16** and **Tyler Peterson '15** were married June 21, 2019, at Makray Memorial Golf Club in Barrington, Illinois, with many Illinois Wesleyan track and field alumni and friends in attendance.



(Above) **Dani (Jauregui) Norwell '13** married Oli Norwell on Dec. 14, 2019, in Downers Grove, Illinois, with many alumni in attendance, including: **Nora Peterson '14**, **Kathy Tatar '14**, **Laura Brady '16**, **Monica Huback '13**, **Brenda Wheeler '15**, **Alex (Lopez) Hegwood '13**, **Tim Hegwood '13** and **Anneth Venegas '13**.



(Above) **Bryonha Marie Parham '07** married David Goldsmith on Sept. 8, 2019, at The Cliffhouse, in Cape Neddick, Maine. Several Illinois Wesleyan alumni were in attendance, including: **Michael Sicher '05**, **Sarah (Ziebart) Sicher '07**, **Jonathan Cable '07**, **Torri Newman '06**, **Julia VanderVeen '07**, **Peter Durkin '07**, **Carol (Rose) Durkin '07** and **Ryan Naimy '07**.



(Above) **Ronni (Tansey) Martin '10** married Bradley Martin on Dec. 28, 2019, across the street from Wrigley Field in Chicago, where the two were engaged on July 4, 2016. The ceremony was attended by several Illinois Wesleyan alumni and friends, including many Kappa Delta sisters. **Kim (Stabosz) Zimmerman '09** was the matron of honor. **Ibby (Stith) Lowery '08** and **Elizabeth (Davies) Shindler '08** were bridesmaids. The officiant was **Wayne Messmer '72**, and a quartet including **Evan Lowery '08** and **Andrew Ladendorf '03** performed at the wedding.



(Above) **Emily Hinchman '13** and **Joe Sweeney '12** were married Feb. 22, 2020, in Chicago, with many alumni among their guests.



# HART CAREER CENTER HAPPENINGS

**Illinois Wesleyan's Hart Career Center** is constantly engaging with alumni and connecting them with current students in fun and enriching ways. See below who has helped out recently. Do you want to assist students to ensure their career success? Does your organization have internships or employment opportunities for Titans? Contact the Career Center staff at [ccenter@iwu.edu](mailto:ccenter@iwu.edu) or (309) 556-3095.

## Psychology & Sociology Career Luncheon, Feb. 12, 2020

Bianca (Spratt) Cotton '11, Cameron McKee '17, Cecilia Mendoza '13, Colleen O'Connor '14, Samantha Robinson-Sherrod '01 and Alex Willett '11

## Career Immersion Excursion, Spring Break 2020

Sharique Ahmed '92, Alexander Bell '14, Olivia Heffernan '18, Bridget Howerton '11, Pearl Huang '10, Kathleen Johnson '12, Dana Jourdan '17, Jeffrey Kennedy '94, Matt LaLonde '14, Dan McCarthy '08, Matt Miller '01, Aaron Moody '11, Celina (Mendoza) Nettleton '10, James Nettleton '05, Megan Presnak '04, Bob Quillman '93, Larry Rolle '75 and Amber (Simkins) Young '12

## Practice Interviews

Claudia Brogan '77, Paige Buschman '17, Laura (Gerdes) Ehrhart '84, Jessica Freiburg '04, Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78, Pam Jacklin '66, Jen Knobloch '95, Jeff Lockenvitz '84 and Mike Wieting '86

## On-Campus Recruitment

Sean Conroy '96, Hussain Hasan '91, Matt Hill '12, Tim Irvin '06, Will Jenkins '12, Ben Johnson '19, Jason Kotecki '14, Justin Krzeczowski '18, Ashlee Kuhl '02, Aneesh Sehgal '15, Yolanda Juarez-Sotelo '17, Jessica (Hinterlong) Schaeffer '11, Culley Summers '94 and Ling Zheng '19

## Additional Programming

Kevin Clark and Tyler Smith '07

## Virtual Programming

Jaynanne Calaway-Habeck '99, David Crawford '99, John Haugen '06, Matthew Roberts '01 and Todd Stocke '93

## Pre-Health Programming

Valerie (Lambrecht) Corwin '05, Caitlin (Grabarits) Mann '12, Caitlyn McHugh '12 and Jill Volk '87



(Above) Jessica (Hinterlong) Schaeffer '11 held a networking lunch, co-sponsored by IWU's chapter of the American Marketing Association, with IWU marketing students. Those in attendance included (from left): Mateo Grajales '21, Esther Niedert '20, Schaeffer, Nick Watson '21 and Matthew Blaney '21.



(Above) A group of young alumni shared career experiences in business, technology and finance with students during the Career Immersion Excursion in Dallas. They included (from left): Aaron Moody '11, Alexander Bell '14, Dana Jourdan '17, Matt LaLonde '14 and Olivia Heffernan '18.

## Titans Helping Titans

The COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted the 2019-20 academic year and a number of students need new opportunities. The Hart Career Center is continuing to assist by identifying internships and employment opportunities, but we need your help. If you can assist by providing internships, job opportunities, career/industry guidance, informational interviews, virtual programs or virtual practice interviews, please let us know by contacting us at [ccenter@iwu.edu](mailto:ccenter@iwu.edu) or (309) 556-3095.

### Faculty and Staff

**Sharon Albee** of Normal, Illinois, died Feb. 2, 2020. She was 75. Sharon served Illinois Wesleyan international student and registrar's offices for 18 years until her retirement in 2017. Sharon earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois State University. She was known for putting others' needs before her own and loved spending time with her family and dogs. She is survived by three children, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a brother.

**Edward Pisoni** died Feb. 10, 2020, in New York City. He was 76. Edward was a faculty member in IWU's theatre department in the 1960s and 1970s, where he designed sets for many productions. He relocated to New York City to begin a new career as a theatre set designer and eventually segued into an accomplished career in film and television. He was a frequent collaborator with directors Herbert Ross and Sidney Lumet, and his credits included the films *The Verdict*, *Steel Magnolias*, *The Secret of My Success*, *True Colors*, *The Hand That Rocks the Cradle*, *84 Charing Cross Road* and *Jackknife*. His television credits included *Damages* and *The Sopranos*. He is survived by two brothers, three nieces and nephews, and five grandnieces and grandnephews.

### Alumni

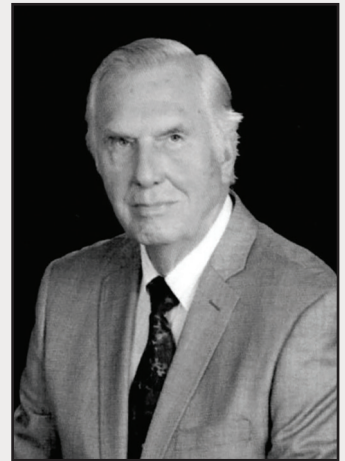
**Martha "June" (Yolton) Cusey McClister '49** died Feb. 22, 2020, in Normal, Illinois. She was 93. After earning a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in Kappa Delta, June graduated from the McCormick Theological Seminary in Chicago. She was an active member of Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington, Illinois, and was a former member and director of education at First Presbyterian Church in Decatur, Illinois. She was active with University of Illinois Extension and previously served as a mentor at Irving School and the YWCA. She also worked with her late husband at Cusey Insurance Agency for several years. June is survived by a son, **Phillip Cusey '81**, two grandchildren and a brother.

**Eugene "Gene" Hermann '50** of Havana, Illinois, died April 11, 2020. He was 91. Gene earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at Illinois Wesleyan. He owned and operated an insurance and real estate agency in Havana for 34 years. He was a member of St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Havana, and served on formation committees for Mason District Hospital, Havana Little League and Lakewood Golf Association. Gene was treasurer of the Havana Optimist Club during its effort to build the Optimist Pool. Illinois Governor James Thompson appointed him to Havana Regional Port Authority, where he was instrumental in developing Havana Regional Airport. He was additionally a member of the Regional Board of School Trustees for Mason, Menard and Logan counties. He was an avid sports fan and could often be found in the stands attending local basketball games. He is survived by his wife, two sons and four grandchildren.

**Robert Conrad Price '50** died Jan. 25, 2020, in Litchfield Park, Arizona. He was 92. Robert served in the U.S. Army and enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan upon his return. He pursued postgraduate studies at the University of Iowa. He married **Billie (Brummell) Bogart '50** and, although they later divorced, they remained close friends. Robert worked for the U.S. Army in Europe throughout the mid-1950s as a field entertainment director. He later served as an adviser in the IWU School of Theatre Arts before working as an advertising executive at State Farm. All throughout, Robert remained active in theatre. Adopting the stage name of

#### **Donald Hildebrand '50** died

April 14, 2020, in Nashville, Tennessee. He was 91. Don majored in history at Illinois Wesleyan before pursuing a law degree at Vanderbilt University. He entered the U.S. Army after his second year of law school but returned to Vanderbilt after an honorable discharge and earned his law degree in 1955. He was employed by State Farm for several years before founding the law firm Lester, Hildebrand, Nolan Porter and Mondelli. Don



was a man of many interests and talents. He was active in American Legion, Shriners, Masons and the Eisenhower Foundation "People to People." He hosted legal talk shows. He was a lifelong lover of music who performed in a lawyers' orchestra and another group known as "The Established." He ran for the Tennessee Supreme Court, and was a colonel in the Tennessee State Guard and the State Guard judge advocate, then the adjutant general, and finally the State Guard inspector general. He was also a published author who wrote *The Community House* about growing up in Emden, Illinois. Don was a longtime member of Belmont United Methodist Church in Nashville, where he served in the choir, as a Sunday school teacher, class president, and member of the administrative board. He also attended services at Belle Meade Methodist Church in Nashville. Of his time at Illinois Wesleyan, Don said, "When I reflect on the values and education that directed me in my career, I credit Wesleyan for providing me a strong and lasting foundation in both of these areas, along with many other wonderful experiences. Proudly, I credit Wesleyan for preparing me for a very successful career." Don was preceded in death by his first wife. He is survived by his second wife, step-daughter, two brothers, including **Robert "Bob" Hildebrand '52**, and three nephews.

Conrad McLaren, he began an acting career in the late 1960s and built an extensive resume of theatre, film, television and commercial credits. He is survived by his domestic partner, three children, seven grandchildren, two great-grandchildren and a beloved friend.

**Yvonne (Maxey) Hougham '50** of Normal, Illinois, died April 13, 2020. She was 91. Yvonne had a 30-year career as the director of benefits at Illinois State University. She traveled frequently, often visiting family and watching her beloved Chicago Cubs in spring training. She was active in University High School alumni activities, Antique Questers, Sigma Kappa and Women's Club. She is survived by two children, three grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Louise (Wichmann) Dennin '51** died Feb. 29, 2020. She was 91. Louise earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree at Ball State University. She worked as a teacher of Christian education in schools in Fort Wayne, Indiana, and as director of the Children's Center of Delaware County (Ind.). She also led the senior



learning program as director of Older Adult Ministries at High Street United Methodist Church, in Muncie, Indiana. She was active with the United Methodist Women, P.E.O. International, Church Women United, Christian Ministries, Lucille Raines House, and was a member of High Street United Methodist Church. She also enjoyed time spent with family. Louise is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, two brothers, and special friends and caregivers.

**James Stuckey '51** of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 1, 2020. He was 93. Jim served in the U.S. Army before his time at Illinois Wesleyan, where he was a member of Sigma Chi. He later studied at the University of Illinois. Jim farmed in Ford (Ill.) County for most of his life before moving to Rochester, Illinois. He was the county executive director of the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) for Ford County (1961-72) and Iroquois County (1972-92). He was presented the Ford County Progressive Farmers Award in 1958. He was recognized by ASCS with state and national service awards in 1990. Jim was a dedicated public servant who served on the Piper City (Ill.) School and Parkland College boards. He was also on the boards of Piper City Home Guaranty Savings and Loan, Greenbriar Nursing Home and the Ford County Chapter of the American Cancer Society. He was a member of the Rotary Club of Piper City and United Presbyterian Church of Piper City. He volunteered for the Cooperative Extension Service and local 4-H program. Jim enjoyed playing bridge, jigsaw puzzles, word and number games, boating, sailing and skiing. He moved in 2017 to Westminster Village in Bloomington, where he was a member of a vocal group, attended exercise classes, called bingo and worked in the wood shop. He was preceded in death by his first wife **Helenjean (Lauterbach) Stuckey '51**, and second wife. He is survived by three children, **Randy Stuckey '75**, **Charles Stuckey '77** and **Beth (Stuckey) Woodard-Wolfe '78**, 15 grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren, one sister, and many nieces and nephews.

**Bobby Winkles '52** died April 17, 2020. He was 90. Bobby played baseball and basketball at Illinois Wesleyan, and was active in Sigma Chi. He played minor league baseball for seven years before becoming Arizona State University's first head baseball coach. Bobby built the program from scratch and turned it into a national power by winning three national championships in 13 years at the helm. He later managed for four years in Major League Baseball with the California Angels and Oakland Athletics, and also spent several seasons in a variety of roles with the San Francisco Giants, Chicago White Sox and Montreal Expos. Bobby was inducted into the ASU Hall of Fame in 1982, the American Baseball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1997 and College Baseball Hall of Fame in 2006. He was named Illinois Wesleyan's Distinguished Alumni Award winner in 1971.

**Helen (Johnson) LaCroix '53** died Feb. 10, 2020. She was 88. Helen studied art and met future husband **Chuck LaCroix '53** at Illinois Wesleyan. She and Chuck raised five children together. Helen's artwork was exhibited at local and regional galleries throughout the Midwest, and she shared her love of art by leading workshops at Gorton Community Center in Lake Forest, Illinois. She was proud of her Finnish heritage and maintained relationships with relatives living in Finland, and shared Scandinavian traditions and recipes with her loved ones. She was preceded in death by her husband and a son. She is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

**James Orr '53** died Feb. 11, 2020, in Springfield, Illinois. He was 88. Jim earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and was active in Theta Chi at Illinois Wesleyan. He was a third generation Titan, following in the footsteps of his father and grandfather. After graduation, Jim joined his father at Orr Insurance Agency, Inc., where he worked for over 50 years. He was active in several organizations, many in leadership roles. They included: Westminster Presbyterian Church; Springfield Insurance Agents Association; Independent Insurance Agents of Illinois; Springfield/Sangamon County Regional Planning Commission; Woodside (Ill.) Township and LeLand Grove (Ill.) government; Ansar Shrine; Shriners Hospital for Children in St. Louis; Springfield Consistory; Tyrian Lodge No. 333; Springfield York Rite; Red Cross of Constantine; Abe Lincoln Hi 12 Club; Sangamo Club; National Society Sons of the American Revolution; and Royal Order of Jesters Court 20. He is survived by his wife, three children, three step-daughters, sister, eight grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Andrew "Lee" York '56** died April 17, 2020, in Sullivan, Illinois. He was 85. Lee studied music education at Illinois Wesleyan and was active in Phi Mu Alpha, Bloomington-Normal Symphony, IWU's orchestra and concert band, the Apollo Quartet and collegiate choir. He later completed graduate work at the United States Armed Forces Institute and Eastern Illinois University. Lee taught music in Chatsworth, Illinois, before serving in the U.S. Army. He later taught in Sullivan before becoming the publicity and public relations director for Sullivan's Little Theatre on the Square. He finished his career in Illinois Wesleyan's admissions department, where he spent 20 years as a counselor and assistant director of admissions. Lee performed with community bands and orchestras throughout Illinois, including recitals with his late wife **Jeanette (Smith) York '56** and friends in Sullivan. One of his proudest achievements was earning his private pilot's license. Lee remained engaged with his alma mater throughout his life, through the Alumni Association Board, as a class chair and newsletter editor. He is survived by three sons, including **Kevin York '85**, six grandchildren and a sister.

**Charles Harmon '58** died May 1, 2020. He was 84. After attending Illinois Wesleyan and serving in the U.S. Navy reserves, he entered active naval service. Upon his discharge, he moved to Milwaukee, where he met his first wife and became a mechanical draftsman with Harnischfeger. Chuck loved sports. He was a fan of the Chicago Bears and Cubs. He took his children to Milwaukee Brewers and Bucks games every year. He enjoyed bowling, tennis, sailing, socializing, church activities and spending time with family. He is survived by his second wife, brother, four children, five grandchildren, five stepchildren, nine step-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

**John Edwards '59** died April 17, 2020, in New Holland, Pennsylvania. He was 83. John earned a Ph.D. at the University of Illinois at Chicago and conducted two years of postdoctoral research at Tufts University. He taught biochemistry at Villanova University for 38 years and served as department chair for 10 years. John was a member of Phi Kappa, Sigma Xi, American Chemical Society and the American Society of Biological Chemistry. He enjoyed camping, hiking, orienteering and distance running. He ran two marathons and many trail runs and half-marathons. He also served as an assistant Boy Scout leader. John moved to Garden Spot Village in retirement, where he engaged in hobbies and various groups and volunteer efforts. He is survived by his wife **Peg (Smith) Edwards '61**, three children and five grandsons.

**Diana (Davis) Doxey '60** of Valparaiso, Indiana, died April 30, 2020. She was 81. Diana met her future husband **Charles Doxey '58** at Illinois Wesleyan. Together they raised three children in: Chicago; South Bend, Indiana; Hazel Crest, Illinois; Rockford, Illinois; Peoria, Illinois; Fox Point, Wisconsin; and Valparaiso. Diana and her husband enjoyed plays, art events and traveling. Annual vacations to Door County, Wisconsin, provided cherished time spent with family and friends. Diana was active in golf, gardening, bridge groups and participating in dinner clubs. She held several community leadership roles. She is survived by her husband, three children and two nephews.

**Lyman Carpenter '61** of Manteca, California, died Aug. 9, 2019. He was 84. He served in the U.S. Army before attending Illinois Wesleyan. He later earned a master's degree from Arizona State University. Lyman spent the majority of his career as a social worker. He was an avid genealogist and had traced his lineage back to his ancestors' arrival in the United States. He is survived by his son, two granddaughters and two nephews.

**Gordon Williamson '61** died May 10, 2020, in Peoria, Arizona. He was 81. Gordon was active in Sigma Chi and met his future wife **Della (Nelson) Williamson '62** at Illinois Wesleyan. He went on to earn a doctoral degree in dental surgery from Loyola University Chicago College of Dental Surgery. He served two years as a dental officer in the U.S. Army. After his service, Gordon and Della moved to Pontiac, Illinois, where he opened his dental practice. He was active as an elder at Pontiac Bible Church and served in the Kiwanis Club and on the local school board. In 1980, the Williamsons moved to Phoenix, where Gordon purchased the practice of a retiring dentist in Sun City, Arizona. He sold the practice in 2006 but continued working in dentists' offices until his 75th birthday. He was active in his Arizona community, at Northwest Community Church, Christ's Church of the Valley and the Kiwanis Club. Gordon loved golf, snow skiing, travel and sports. He was a season ticket holder for the Phoenix Suns and Arizona Diamondbacks, and he was in the stands when the Diamondbacks won the World Series in 2001. Gordon is survived by his wife, three children, six grandchildren, brother **Richard "Dick" Williamson '56**, and many nieces and nephews.

**Merikay (Deuschle) Gilmore '62** of Kankakee, Illinois, died Feb. 25, 2020. She was 79. Merikay was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan, where she majored in business administration. She was the former owner of Deuschle-Gilmore Insurance Agency, Inc. She was active with the Junior Service League of Kankakee and worked as vice president of Kankakee Community College, where she started the Adult Literacy Initiative Volunteers Expanded literacy program, as well as Peoples Bank Investments Stockbrokers. She was also involved with "Golly Whoppers," a group that performed plays for local grade school students. Merikay enjoyed sports, socializing and attending her grandchildren's sporting events. She is survived by her husband **William "Bill" Gilmore '62**, son and four grandchildren.

**Mary Ellen (Bails) Wernsing '63** of Springfield, Illinois, died May 23, 2020. She was 81. Mary Ellen studied music and was active in Sigma Alpha Iota at Illinois Wesleyan. She was a co-owner and operator of the Wernsing & Son Meat Locker in Harvel, Illinois, until 1987. She then worked for US Bank in Springfield for many years before retiring from the State of Illinois Treasurer's office. In retirement, she worked as a

*All submitted content received by June 1, 2020. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.*

## Deaths Reported

**Dorothy (Hoppe) Olson Pauletti '39**; March 27, 2020

**Loudene Grady '42**; April 30, 2020

**George "Dick" Hewitt '45**; April 15, 2020

**Iona Lueck '45**; Nov. 1, 2019

**Donna (Pampel) Foard '47**; May 25, 2020

**Lois (Howes) Burke '50**; Feb. 6, 2020

**Patricia Ann (Dietrich) Niss '50**; March 21, 2020

**Louis Wilhelmi '50**; May 18, 2020

**William Boys '51**; Feb. 1, 2020

**Marilyn Jane (Williams) Danforth '51**; April 11, 2020

**Joanne (Ruppel) Clough '52**; Feb. 17, 2020

**Mary Clark '56**; May 14, 2020

**Ken Winter '56**; Feb. 17, 2020

**Nancy (Figg) Anderson '57**; April 25, 2020

**Ray Fidler '58**; Dec. 20, 2019

**Janet (Thompson) Andrews '59**; May 18, 2020

**Philip Burton '62**; Oct. 17, 2019

**Linda (Wolke) Boyer '64**; Aug. 27, 2019

**Carl Lauer '65**; April 7, 2020

**Margaret (Rowley) Marshall '65**; March 15, 2020

**Gary Branson '66**; March 9, 2020

**Nancy Cochran '66**; Feb. 21, 2020

**Jean (Elliff) Landrum '67**; March 27, 2020

**Teryl (Kalbacken) Engel '71**; May 11, 2020

**Steven Haeger '74**; Feb. 24, 2020

**Bradley Andrews '04**; April 8, 2020

**Michael Vinson**; April 2, 2020

**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).



Mary Kay consultant. Mary Ellen was a longtime member of Harvel Christian Church, where she played piano and organ. She is survived by two children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Bonnie (Hall) Ruecker '65** of Decatur, Illinois, died March 18, 2020. She was 76. Bonnie was a registered nurse, working at St. Mary's Hospital in Decatur and part-time at her husband's medical office. She was a member of the American Quilt Society and Decatur Quilt Guild. Bonnie volunteered with Meals on Wheels and Project Linus, PEO-CX Chapter, and was a member of DMH Auxiliary and Junior Welfare. She was a member of First Congregational United Church of Christ. Bonnie was also a member of Illinois State Medical Society Alliance, holding many offices, and a past president of the Macon County Medical Alliance. She and her husband were active supporters of Little Theatre on the Square in Sullivan, Illinois, and she was a board member of the Decatur Area Arts Council. Bonnie was a member of Alpha Gamma Delta at Illinois Wesleyan and remained engaged with IWU throughout her life. She was a member of IWU's Alumni Association Board of Directors and served as a regional committee president, class chair, newsletter editor and class reunion committee chair. In 1995, she and her husband **Dr. Ronald Ruecker '66** were presented Illinois Wesleyan's Loyalty Award. Bonnie is survived by her husband, two children, including **Robin (Ruecker) Rice '93**, four grandchildren, two brothers, and many extended family members and friends.

**John Larsen '67** of Flossmoor, Illinois, died April 28, 2020. He was 75. After earning a bachelor's degree in business, John and his wife joined the Peace Corps, where they served in the Philippines. He went on to earn master's degrees from Illinois State University and Erikson Institute, and a doctorate from Loyola University. John enjoyed a long and successful career in education in Chicago and the surrounding area, where he held a variety of positions. John was a fan of the Chicago Cubs and White Sox, and loved Ray Charles, the Beach Boys, popcorn, coffee and chocolate. Above all, he enjoyed time spent with family. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren and a brother.

**Steve Adams '68** of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 8, 2020. He was 73. Steve earned a degree in business administration at Illinois Wesleyan before joining the U.S. Army, where he served the United Nations Command in Seoul, South Korea. His service was recognized with the Joint Services Commendation Medal for Meritorious Service. Steve had a 10-year career with *The Pantagraph* as a sports writer and assistant sports editor before a long career at Illinois State University, where he wore many hats in its Office of Admissions. He was perhaps best known as the "Voice of the Redbirds," as the longtime public address announcer for ISU men's basketball and football. He earned many awards, including: the Neal R. Gamsky Quality of Student Life Award from ISU Student Affairs; Stretch Miller Award for service to Illinois State University Athletics; Joseph F. Warner Golden Redbird Award; Missouri Valley Conference Most Courageous Award; and was inducted into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association and University High School Alumni Association halls of fame. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, including **Katie (Adams) Hart '94**, four grandchildren, and a niece and nephew.

**John Addis '71** of Burbank, California, and formerly of LaFayette, Illinois, died April 7, 2020. He was 70. John studied theology at Illinois Wesleyan before pursuing theatre and dance at the University of Utah. He was a professional performer, choreographer and director

on stage, screen and television, with credits including *A Chorus Line*, *Annie Get Your Gun* and *Murder, She Wrote*. He worked for The Walt Disney Company, where he retired in 2019 as a senior show director. He received Disneyland's Golden Spirit Award and was inducted into the Entertainment Hall of Fame. John was a member of West Jersey (N.J.) United Methodist Church and attended Hollywood (Calif.) United Methodist Church. He is survived by his mother, brother, nephew and grandniece.

**Ann (Pegram) Nordstrom '82** of Morris, Illinois, died April 16, 2020. She was 59. Ann met her future husband **Paul Nordstrom '80** while attending Illinois Wesleyan. Her passions were her family and her faith. She sang in the church choir for many years and loved singing in the annual Christmas program at First Christian Church in Bloomington, Illinois. Ann enjoyed long walks, traveling and dining with friends. She is survived by her husband, two sons, two granddaughters, sister, and many friends and relatives.

**Michael Rave '90** of Bloomington, Illinois, died Feb. 18, 2020. He was 51. Mike earned a bachelor's degree in business administration at Illinois Wesleyan. He spent the entirety of his career with State Farm Insurance, first serving an internship at State Farm Corporate and working his way up through the company before eventually owning his own agency. He enjoyed hunting, his black lab, and spending time with family and friends at his cabin. He also enjoyed music and sports, especially the Chicago Cubs and Minnesota Vikings. He is survived by three children, his parents, including father **Ronald Rave '70**, two siblings, including **Robert Rave '96**, and several aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces and nephews.

**Michael Rampey '04** of Evanston, Illinois, died May 11, 2020. He was 39. Michael was an executive director at Morgan Stanley. He was a member of Evanston Vineyard Church, where he often shared his gift of music. Michael loved music, soccer and time with his family. He is survived by his wife, two children, parents, grandfather, four nephews, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

**Daniel Evans '07** of Springfield, Illinois, died May 2, 2020. He was 35. Dan studied biology as a pre-med student at Illinois Wesleyan, and went on to earn degrees at Illinois State University and Millikin University. Dan was a certified registered nurse anesthetist at St. John's Hospital in Springfield. He also served as a regional director on the board of Illinois Association of Nurse Anesthetists. Prior to CRNA school, Dan worked at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois, from 2010-13, as a registered nurse in the Surgical Intensive Care Unit. Dan loved talking and taking walks with his son, date nights and weekends with his wife, rock climbing, working on his cars and wood-working. He is survived by his wife **Erin (Lohrstorfer) Evans '07**, son, parents, two brothers, including **Phil Evans '09**, grandmother, and many other relatives and friends.

**Allison McKey '07** of Gridley, Illinois, died April 4, 2020 in Denver. She was 34. Allison earned her CPA and had an illustrious career in accounting, which started at Deloitte in Chicago. She was most recently employed with Whiting Petroleum in Denver, where she moved to follow her dream of living in the mountains. Allison had many passions, including water and snow skiing, hiking, traveling, exploring the local food scene, and cooking at home. She is survived by her parents, boyfriend, maternal grandmother, numerous aunts, uncles, and cousins, and friends and sisters she met through Kappa Kappa Gamma.





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For 50 years, **Jack '62** and **Pam Muirhead '68** have been giving to IWU. As students, the Muirheads benefited from grants and lending programs. This created a familiarity with the importance of giving back to Illinois Wesleyan. When Pam later became an assistant English professor, their affinity to the University grew even more, along with the funding they were able to provide. Jack and Pam have continued to support IWU for many reasons. At the top of the list is their belief that Illinois Wesleyan continues to provide a traditional, open and flexible liberal arts education.



**“When I was attending IWU, I appreciated the ways that even small amounts of money could make a difference to a student.”**

*– Pam Muirhead '68*



**“Over the decades, I have increasingly appreciated the ways that the University positively interacted with the larger Bloomington-Normal community.”**

*– Jack Muirhead '62*

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*dog days*

A pink flowering dogwood tree blooms this spring near  
Illinois Wesleyan's Harriet Fuller Rust House.