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WINTER 2020-21

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Now is the Time

RECKONING WITH RACIAL JUSTICE
AND INCLUSION AT IWU



Thank you for making a difference



Illinois Wesleyan alumni and friends volunteer their time, talent and treasure to ensure the success of our students year after year. Through the help and thoughtfulness of our dedicated Titan Community, we are able to provide a world-class experience and education. Thank you for helping the next generation of students succeed.

For more information on how you can get involved at Illinois Wesleyan, contact the Office of Alumni Engagement at iwualum@iwu.edu.

Photo from 2017.



FEATURES

12 Community Conversation

Recent events in our country have required us to look introspectively at what we are doing to be the people and the community we want to be. We asked the IWU community questions that many Americans are grappling with at this critical point in our history.

16 Titan Talks

When horrific acts of racial injustice brought renewed attention to deeply rooted systemic inequality, Titan Talks pivoted to offering a forum to discuss the critical issues of our time.

18 Safe Space

Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, led by **Hannah Mesouani** and **Veronica Torres Luna '19**, provides services and programming for underrepresented students while fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus community.

22 Vision for the Future

Diversity of faculty, students and curriculum are essential to the future of Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music under the direction of **Franklin Larey**.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

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ON OUR COVER:

Students like sophomore theatre arts major **Nyja White '23** are grappling with world events and their impact on Illinois Wesleyan's campus and community. *Portrait photo by Nick Helten. Graphic design by Ethan Lubin and Nick Helten.*

ON OUR BACK COVER:

Inspired by the words of members of the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal, **Bruce Clark '97** painted a mural featuring an image of George Floyd framed by dialogue between members of the Boys and Girls Club. The mural is accompanied by a poem, "Holding on to Each Other," written by **Yovana Milosevic '21**. *Photo by Nick Helten.*

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All too often, we hear of “the real world” as something distinct from college campuses. But college campuses are often where we wrestle with the pressing social and cultural issues of the day. This was true during the cultural unrest of the '60s and '70s, it's true of the Black Lives Matter movement, and it's true today as we confront a pandemic, racial tension and economic uncertainty. While our nation — and the world as a whole — faces this tripartite challenge, it is particularly acute on university campuses.

This issue of the alumni magazine is devoted to examining issues of race, which have come forth with renewed urgency in recent months. We reflect on how institutionalized practices and privilege affect all of us today. Our campus, like our country, must face the fact that — whether intentionally or unintentionally — there have been consistent and systematic inequities in the opportunities, lived experience and basic human dignity afforded the majority white population, in contrast to others.

This system is no longer tolerable. While we cannot undo the past, we can acknowledge it, seek to learn from it, and determine to change in meaningful ways. Our campus has been engaged in efforts to foster diversity, equity and inclusion for many years. We have gathered data, compiled reports and taken positive steps. Progress has been made. But in this moment, we need to focus on specific actions that will yield outcomes — both in changing the composition of our campus population and in the continuous work of changing the campus environment itself. I am working with the Board of Trustees, campus constituencies and community partners to move more intentionally from reflection to action, and you can expect to learn more about these steps in coming months.

With respect to COVID-19, arguably no sector of our society has drawn more attention and scrutiny in its management of the virus than higher education. The health and safety of students, faculty and staff are at stake, certainly. But concerns have not been limited to the confines of the campus. Are universities inherently “hot spots” in their communities? Are students liable to spread the virus as they travel to their homes? These and other issues make clear that the college community and the “real world” are not so separable.

We are especially proud of how the Illinois Wesleyan campus has responded to the pandemic. The efforts to deal with the virus and attend to the safety of students, faculty and staff have involved literally every aspect of the campus. As we enter the home stretch of the semester, we are cautiously confident that the semester has been a success.

The third challenge I referenced is the financial uncertainty affecting every sector of society.

Obviously, higher education is no exception. Questions and speculation about the future of higher education are rampant. Some offer dire predictions. My view is more positive; I believe that one “silver lining” of the COVID era is what we are learning about learning. The obligatory turn to online instruction, in my view, will profoundly affect — and improve — what we are able to offer our students in the future. Illinois Wesleyan will always adhere to its core values of residential liberal arts education. But we are also recognizing new ways in which technology can enhance that experience, bringing “high tech” to the “high touch” experience that we prize above all. It will be exciting to see — and to create together — the future of liberal arts.



S. G. Nugent

S. Georgia Nugent
Illinois Wesleyan University President

IWU MAGAZINE STAFF

EDITOR

Matt Wing

GRAPHICS EDITOR

Ethan Lubin

CONTRIBUTORS

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Ann Aubry

ASST. DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

John Twork

WEB CONTENT SPECIALIST

Kristen Buhrmann

VIDEOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Nick Helten

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Gonzales

STUDENT WRITERS

Megan Baker '21

Rachel McCarthy '21

Office of Communications

(309) 556-3181

IWU Admissions Office

(800) 332-2498

www.iwu.edu

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iwumag@iwu.edu

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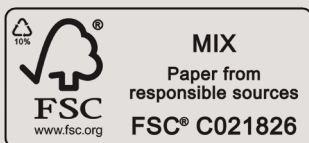
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Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

IWU Adapts in Continued COVID-19 Response

After transitioning to a remote semester in late March 2020 as the global pandemic began — pivoting after Spring Break with students remaining away from campus — IWU faculty and staff worked diligently throughout the summer to prepare for a successful fall return. Classroom technology was enhanced, a range of protocols developed and teaching plans adjusted, so that students could be offered options of in-person, hybrid, hyflex and online courses.

A majority of students were housed in single-occupancy rooms on campus, and a local hotel was secured to provide additional housing. Student Involvement efforts earned strong feedback from students for keeping them connected and engaged, even in restricted or virtual environments.

All members of the campus community were urged to uphold a “Titan Pledge” of protocols to protect their health and the health of others.

Fall semester classes began a week early and other calendar adjustments were made to allow the semester to conclude by Thanksgiving Break, to reduce the risk of disease transmission and the intersection of COVID and flu season.

Universal baseline testing was required for all students returning to campus in August, which allowed for early identification and isolation of positive cases. Weekly surveillance testing was then initiated among a strategic sampling of the student body, placing emphasis on those participating in high-contact activities such as athletics and theatre arts — plus limited weekly voluntary testing for additional students, faculty and staff. An online dashboard of student COVID cases was updated daily throughout the semester (more information is available at www.iwu.edu/covid-19).

Looking toward spring, the academic calendar has been altered once more, with the start of classes delayed by one week and Spring Break canceled to reduce the spread of disease. Universal testing will again be conducted as students return to campus and courses will be offered in hybrid, hyflex, in-person and online modes.

Consistent campus updates from “Dean Karla” (Dean of Students and Vice President of Student Affairs **Karla Carney-Hall**) have taken on a closing salutation to “be well.” Similarly, the Academic Affairs team announced spring semester plans with a reminder to the Titan community, “Please stay well and know that we are all in this together.”



(Above) Students wearing face coverings talk while walking across campus this fall.

Illinois Wesleyan Conducts Program Review Toward a Stronger Future

Through recent decades, Illinois Wesleyan has undertaken successive strategic planning and curricular review efforts. Last fall, the University launched an academic program review intended to enhance and foster IWU's educational mission through sustainable programs that meet the learning needs and interests of today's and tomorrow's students — an evolving target that requires continual self-assessment.

This latest review process, which examined all academic programs, began with a Program Evaluation Task Force (PETF) of elected faculty representatives and included multiple subsequent stages: review by faculty governing committees, votes by the full faculty, an administrative response, and preliminary communications that evoked broad feedback from alumni and students.

In votes at two meetings of the Board of Trustees, in May and July 2020, decisions were made to sustain or transform 27 current academic units, including the schools of music and art; and to discontinue programs in American culture studies; anthropology; design, technology & entrepreneurship (in its current form); French; Greek and Roman studies; international business; religion; and the minor in Italian (more details are available at www.iwu.edu/program-review).

Curricular changes won't begin until the 2021-22 academic year, and students now majoring or minor-ing in impacted programs will be able to complete their degrees in the programs as planned. Future students will still have opportunities to explore these

fields through the University's rich shared curriculum — a liberal arts core which fosters intellectual independence, critical thinking, imagination and social awareness.

"We are confident that these decisions, though difficult, will bring new vitality to the future of liberal arts education at IWU and enhance the educational mission of the University," **President S. Georgia Nugent** wrote in a communication detailing the Board's actions in July. "The Board acknowledges that assessment and change are challenging, and appreciates the evaluative work undertaken by faculty members and the administration, as well as the great care and interest demonstrated by our alumni, faculty, students and staff."

She noted that almost half of the University's 40 programs were recommended — either by the PETF and/or by the Board — for "transformation," which might include pedagogical innovation, interdisciplinary outreach and/or more efficient use of resources. Efforts at innovation are underway across the curriculum, with a goal of developing a stronger University for the future.

Similar reinvention is part of the long history of Illinois Wesleyan, which at various times has included a law school, a household economics program and even mergers with other schools.

What hasn't changed, Nugent said, is that "Illinois Wesleyan students continue to receive a distinctive and rigorous education from outstanding and caring faculty members.

"Good things happen here, and great people are making them happen. Our liberal arts core, coupled with pre-professional programs, position us to make a distinctive contribution to American higher education, and to stand strong for many years to come."

MAX L. STARKEY AWARD

(Left) Following an announcement in a virtual gathering of faculty and staff, **Trey Short** (left) accepted the Max L. Starkey Award from **President S. Georgia Nugent** (right). Named in honor of **Max Starkey '57**, the University's controller for more than 39 years until his retirement in 1996, the award is made possible through a gift from the Starkey family.



IWU Recognized in National Rankings

Illinois Wesleyan University was recognized among the nation's best colleges for liberal arts learning and pre-professional career preparation according to several 2020 rankings.

Illinois Wesleyan ranks No. 7 in the nation and No. 1 in

**#1 BEST COLLEGE
IN ILLINOIS
FOR GETTING A JOB**

Illinois on *Zippia's* 2020 list of "The Best Colleges for Getting a Job," as well as No. 5 in the nation for "Best Small Colleges for Jobs," based on U.S. Department of Education College Scorecard data.

Illinois Wesleyan was included in *The Princeton Review's* annual listing of "Best Colleges," and has been every year since the list's inception in 1989. Students surveyed describe Illinois Wesleyan as "a small school that oozes big opportunities," where they feel confident about getting a job straight out of college.

Illinois Wesleyan ranks No. 80 among national liberal arts colleges in the *U.S. News & World Report* 2020 rankings of "Best Colleges." Illinois Wesleyan consistently ranks high in graduation and retention rates, and small class sizes, which are key measures of quality and value. In addition, IWU is ranked among "Best Value Schools" — those with highly ranked academics and a low net cost of attendance after need-based financial aid. Illinois Wesleyan is also listed among the "Top Performers on Social Mobility," based on opportunities and outcomes for economically disadvantaged students.

In *Money's* 2020 "Best Colleges" list, Illinois Wesleyan ranked No. 250 out of 739 for best colleges in America based on value.

Illinois Wesleyan was ranked No. 2 in *Niche's* list of 2021 "Best Liberal Arts Colleges in Illinois." To determine the ranking, *Niche* reviewed "academic, admissions, financial, and student life data from the U.S. Department of Education, along with millions of reviews from students and alumni."

Illinois Wesleyan ranked among the "Top 25 Best Colleges Without Application Fees" in 2020 and No. 2 among "Hidden Gems in the Midwest," in 2020 and 2021 *College Raptor* rankings. These selections recognize Illinois Wesleyan as a leading institution in the country based on factors including graduation rates, campus diversity, endowment per student, and other key metrics as reported via the National Center for Education Statistics.

New-Student Enrollment Up 9%

Illinois Wesleyan welcomed 487 new students to the University this fall, a 9% increase in new-student enrollment. Total enrollment held steady at 1,636.

"As many universities across the country face significant enrollment declines amid the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, we are especially pleased to be breaking this trend with a larger-than-expected group of diverse, accomplished students," **President S. Georgia Nugent** said. "The strength of this class underscores the value of an Illinois Wesleyan educational experience and the personal attention our faculty and staff provide each student — whether they opted to pursue their courses in person, online, or with hybrid delivery this fall."

The incoming class includes 131 students — 27% of the total class — who self-identify as students of color, representing the third-most diverse class of students in University history.

Students from six countries, 30 states and Washington, D.C., make up the incoming class. Locally, 58 new students from McLean County enrolled. Transfer numbers also increased this fall, with 42 new transfer students — a 35% increase — including nine from Heartland Community College. Academic quality held consistent, with an average class grade-point average of 3.8. The incoming class consists of 62 first-generation students and 64 with an Illinois Wesleyan family legacy.

"We're happy that students and families are recognizing that Illinois Wesleyan offers a distinctive education, combining a broad liberal arts curriculum with strong pre-professional programs — a uniquely valuable offering in our rapidly changing environment," Nugent said.

Illinois Wesleyan continues to recruit and retain high-caliber students, with a 90% average retention rate — 12% above the national rate — according to College Scorecard data.



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan students assist on move-in day for incoming IWU students on Aug. 11, 2020.

Lutze Named 2021 Kemp Award Winner

Professor of History **Tom Lutze** was named the 2021 recipient of the Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence at Illinois Wesleyan University.

The Kemp Award winner, selected by the faculty Promotion and Tenure Committee and announced at the President's Convocation on Sept. 9, 2020, is recognized for bringing spirit, passion and scholarship to the art of teaching.

Typically announced during Honors Convocation, the Kemp Award winner selection was delayed, and this year's Honors Convocation was canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Professor of Chemistry **Tim Rettich**, the 2020 Kemp Award recipient, would have spoken during Honors Convocation under normal circumstances. Instead, he delivered his talk, "A Grain of Salt," via video.

Rettich was recognized during the virtual President's Convocation by **Toni Jenkins**, daughter of emeritus trustee **Parker Kemp**, on behalf of the Kemp family and foundation.

A member of Illinois Wesleyan's faculty since 1996, Lutze specializes in Asian history and teaches a wide variety of courses ranging from introductory surveys of China and Japan to focused courses on 20th Century Asia, including WWII in the Pacific, the Chinese Revolution, Modern Japan, and the Vietnam Wars.

"Through his various contributions to the intellectual and civic culture of our campus, Tom Lutze makes Illinois Wesleyan a better place," one colleague nominator wrote. "On a quotidian basis, he strives not only to be a fine teacher and scholar but to build the intellectual and civic community on campus. His

commitment to the institution shines through in the remarkable range of roles and activities that he performs. In this sense, he is a leading campus citizen and a fine role model for his colleagues and students."

Another colleague nominator added, "He uses innovative pedagogy to make the class topic come alive and enable students to have a deep emotional and intellectual engagement in the topic."

An alumni nominator who experienced this engagement firsthand said, "Tom put his heart on the line every class, every day, and he demanded that you did too. As an educational leader, I can tell you there is nothing more important in the lives of young men and women than seeing this modeled for you, and I was lucky enough to see it for four consecutive years at IWU with Tom."

Lutze's research and writing center on the intellectual, social and political roles of the urban and rural middle classes in the Chinese Revolution from the 1930s onward. His first book, *China's Inevitable Revolution: Rethinking America's Loss to the Communists* (Palgrave-MacMillan, 2007), explores the pivotal battle between the United States and the Chinese Communists for the allegiance of the urban liberal democrats during the civil war, 1946-49. More recently, Lutze worked on a new edited volume titled *Radicalism, Revolution, and Reform in Modern China: Essays in Honor of Maurice Meisner* (2010). His chapter, "Post-Socialist Capitalism in Rural China," examines the economic basis — in particular, the controversies over land ownership — at the root of tens of thousands of peasant protests in China.



Tom Lutze



JACK NICKLAUS PLAYER OF THE YEAR

(Left) **Rob Wuethrich '21** was named the 2020 recipient of the Jack Nicklaus National Division III Player of the Year Award by the Golf Coaches Association of America on July 8, 2020. Wuethrich posted four individual wins during the shortened 2019-20 season and is the first Titan, and the first College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin golfer, to win the award.

IWU Announces Robert M. Leekley Endowed Scholarship

An endowed scholarship established by late Illinois Wesleyan University Associate Professor **Robert “Bob” Leekley** will benefit generations of IWU students, **President S. Georgia Nugent** announced at IWU’s opening meeting for faculty and staff on Aug. 14, 2020.

The Robert M. Leekley Endowed Scholarship was established by the longtime Illinois Wesleyan professor who arrived in 1974 and served the University and its students through five decades. He died Jan. 1, 2019.

“His long-term commitment to Illinois Wesleyan University students continues through his generous, seven-figure endowment to be used for student scholarships,” Nugent said in the announcement.

Leekley was a fixture in IWU’s Department of Economics, heading the department and serving on numerous faculty governance committees. He taught a wide range of courses, including statistics and econometrics. Over his long career, he chaired many research honors committees and served as a member of many more. Unsatisfied with statistics textbooks at the time, he wrote his own; Leekley published *Applied Statistics for Business and Economics* in 2010.

“What most did not know is that Professor Leekley often helped students with direct financial support when they were in real need,” Nugent said. “He did so quietly and without fanfare. That was his style.”

Longtime colleague **Mike Seeborg**, a retired IWU economics professor, said the endowed scholarship would provide an enduring legacy of his friend’s commitment to IWU students.

“Bob Leekley’s unwavering commitment to helping students learn defines his 44 years as an Illinois Wesleyan University professor,” Seeborg said.



(Above) Late Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor **Robert “Bob” Leekley** (right) works with a student in 2007.

Bookstore Partner Offers New Products and Services



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan’s bookstore, located in Hansen Student Center, has partnered with Follett to bring new products, savings and support to the IWU community.

Illinois Wesleyan University has partnered with Follett, the largest campus retailer in North America, to manage the University’s bookstore, bringing new products, savings and support to the IWU community.

Customers can shop online through a new bookstore website (www.iwu.edu/bookstore) or visit the updated retail space which remains within the Hansen Student Center. Merchandise is being added daily.

“We are excited to welcome Follett as a strategic partner,” said Illinois Wesleyan Vice President for Business and Finance **Matt Bierman**. “Illinois Wesleyan continues to innovate in order to offer the highest quality academic experience. Follett has a long history and strong presence in higher education and will assist in moving IWU forward. We invite students, alumni and friends of the University to visit the store in person or virtually.”

With the new partnership, Illinois Wesleyan students and faculty will have access to Follett’s expansive inventory of course material choices. Cost-saving print options include used books, as well as Follett’s text rental program that saves students up to 80% compared to purchasing new. Follett also delivers a varied selection of digital learning technologies that help promote anywhere, anytime access to needed materials.

Beyond course materials, Follett will refresh general merchandise offerings to be a one-stop shop for class and campus life essentials. Customers can expect a custom merchandise assortment that reflects local interests, as well as national trends in supplies, technology, clothing, gifts and more. The full breadth of Follett’s products and services will be available to explore both in-store and online.

BOOKS

Gayle (Bruch) Rein '62 penned *Artist Edwin Willard Deming, A Biography (1860-1942): From Childhood, a Passion to Paint Native American Traditions*. Growing up in Geneseo, Illinois, Deming became acquainted with Winnebago children whose families came down from Wisconsin to hunt and fish near the Deming farm each winter. Deming's experiences led him to focus his art on Native American traditions. After retiring from a 30-year teaching career, Gayle began a new career of researching, writing and presenting local history. She wrote a chapter in the 2004 history book *Grand Excursions on the Upper Mississippi River*, about 19th century logging in Wisconsin and the rafting of logs to Upper Mississippi River sawmills.

Katherine James '73 wrote *Harvesting Witnesses' Stories: How To Get Your Client The Second-Best Life In The World by Maximizing Human Damages*, published by American Association for Justice Press in July 2020. Katherine, cofounder of ACT of Communication, has been enabling witnesses to tell their stories for more than four decades. She has consulted with lawyers on more than 2,000 cases, and more than 40,000 lawyers have attended her workshops. With insight gained from a background in theatre and from working closely with lawyers and witnesses, Katherine has developed a method of finding and communicating the stories that convey what she calls "human damages." Injured clients may never be able to regain the life they once had — "the first-best life in the world," as one client put it — but maximizing those noneconomic damages is the only way to get them the "second-best life in the world." *Harvesting Witnesses' Stories* is a how-to guide for witness preparation for lawyers that incorporates Katherine's theatre background. It is available at the AAJ Press website.

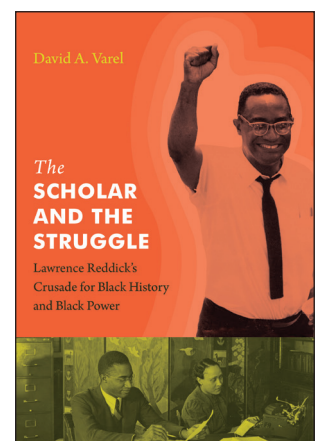
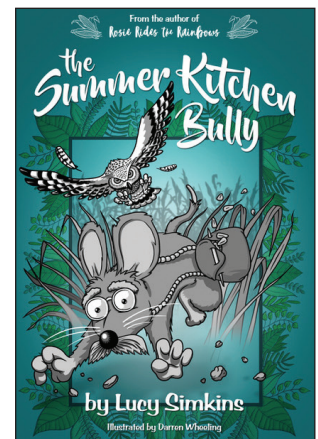
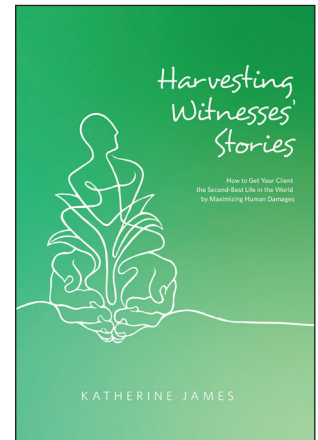
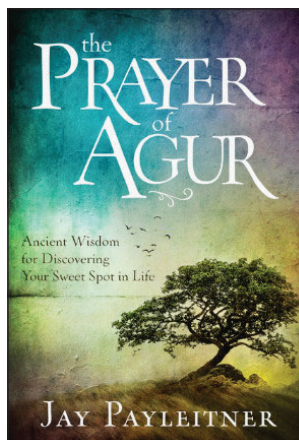
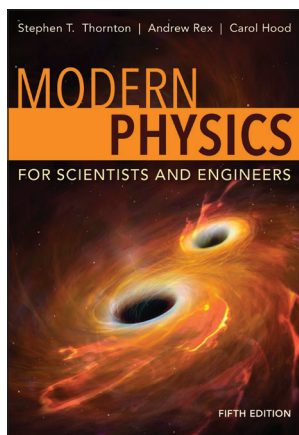
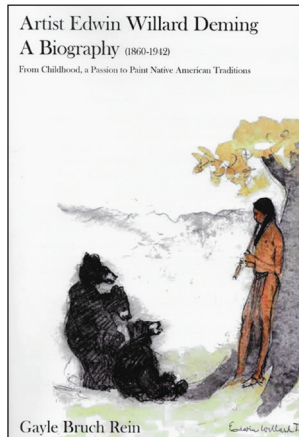
Andrew Rex '77 has published the fifth edition of his textbook, *Modern Physics for Scientists and Engineers*, co-authored by Stephen T. Thornton and Carol Hood. *Modern Physics* has been in publication for nearly 30 years and is widely used at colleges and universities domestically and abroad. The new edition includes updates that reflect some of the latest theories and discoveries in physics, including: the Higgs boson, gravitational waves, neutrino oscillations and dark energy. Andrew is a professor of physics at the University of Puget Sound.

Lucy (Carmody) Simkins '77 penned the children's book *The Summer Kitchen Bully*, published by Wynwidyn Press in 2019. *The Summer Kitchen Bully* is a chapter book for young readers which addresses bullying and provides examples of countering and diffusing bullying, as a fierce bully transforms into a caring friend as he learns to like himself for the first time. Lucy previously published *Rosie Rides the Rainbows* and is currently working on her third book. Her first two books are available on Amazon and from Wynwidyn Press.

Jay Payleitner '79 published his 13th book earlier this year with Penguin Random House. *The Prayer of Agur* ponders and unpacks the only prayer in the Bible's Book of Proverbs. The unexpected prayer by an overlooked minor prophet reads in part, "Give me neither poverty nor riches, but give me only my daily bread" (Proverbs 30:8). With total sales of more than half a million copies, Jay's earlier books tackled family and life issues from a Christian perspective. All his books are available on Amazon and jaypayleitner.com.

David A. Varel '05 tells the story of one of the most notable African American intellectuals of his generation in *The Scholar and the Struggle*:

Authors and the Arts



All submitted content received by Oct. 12, 2020. The submitted content deadline for the Spring 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is Jan. 25, 2021. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

Lawrence Reddick's *Crusade for Black History and Black Power*, scheduled to be published by the University of North Carolina Press in December 2020. The biography reveals the many essential but under-appreciated roles played by intellectuals in the Black freedom struggle and connects the past to the present in powerful, unforgettable ways. David, an affiliate faculty member at Metropolitan State University-Denver, previously published *The Lost Black Scholar: Resurrecting Allison Davis in American Social Thought*.

Jacob Taitel '18 penned four scale method books for brass instruments titled *Beyond the Scale*. Each book is intended to help players polish their skills and reach new levels of technical mastery. The work marked the culmination of a project for which Jacob earned research honors his senior year at Illinois Wesleyan. All four books are available on Amazon.

PAPERS, ESSAYS AND BLOGS

Miner Linnaeus Sherff Endowed Professor of Botany **David Bollivar '89** co-authored "Aerobic Barley Mg-protoporphyrin IX Monomethyl Ester Cyclase is Powered by Electrons from Ferredoxin," in the journal *Plants*, in August 2020. He also co-authored "Genomic diversity of bacteriophages infecting *Microbacterium* spp.," in *PLOS One*, in June 2020.

Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Nursing **Brenda Lessen Knoll '89** published, with colleagues from Zahedan University of Medical Science in Iran, the article "Comparing the Effect of Breast Milk Odor and Incubator Cover on Nutritional Adequacy of Premature Infants: A Quasi-Experimental Study," in *Medical-Surgical Nursing Journal*.

Genevieve "Jinny" Alexander '14, Illinois Wesleyan faculty members **Aaron Wilson**, **Given Harper** and **Manori Perera**, and local veterinarian Matt Fraker, co-authored "Lead Contamination in Ground Venison from Shotgun-Harvested White-Tailed Deer (*Odocoileus virginianus*) in Illinois," in the *Bulletin of Environmental Contamination and Toxicology*. Jinny also co-authored a paper, "Predicting the Presence of Invasive Earthworms in Sugar Maple-Basswood Forests of the Chippewa National Forest," earlier this year in *The American Midland Naturalist*.

Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Anthropology **Rebecca Gearhart Mafazy** published "Teaching Self-Representation through Collaborative Visual Ethnography," highlighting work by IWU students, as part of the Embodying Reciprocity Series on the anthropology blog *Footnotes*.

Illinois Wesleyan Writing Center Director **Anna Scanlon** co-authored "Everyday Reflective Writing: What Conference Records Tell Us About Building a

Culture of Reflection," in *The Writing Center Journal*.

An essay by Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Anthropology **Chuck Springwood**, "Gun Concealment, Display, and Other Magical Habits of the Body," was reprinted in a new volume, *Sociocultural Anthropology: Critical and Primary Sources: Foundations, Fundamentals and Frontiers*. Chuck also published "A Japanese Sea Spirit Battles COVID-19" in the anthropology e-magazine *Sapiens*, in September 2020.

PERFORMANCES

Queenie Li '11 is a music production coordinator/producer for Remote Control Productions, a film score company run by acclaimed composers and producers Hans Zimmer and Lorne Balfé, based in Santa Monica, California. Queenie's latest credits include the television series *His Dark Materials*, video game *FIFA19*, and the feature film *Ad Astra*, which was nominated for an Academy Award for sound mixing. Queenie's upcoming projects include the feature films *Black Widow*, *Top Gun: Maverick*, *Mission: Impossible 7* and *Mission: Impossible 8*.

David Getz '12 produced and shared a video recording of the world premiere of *Ruth: The Musical*, as well as a 60-minute Q&A session, to benefit the Midwest Food Bank (MFB). The performance was shared on YouTube and available free for a weekend in September 2020. The "composer's Q&A" took place on Sept. 12, 2020, and offered MFB donors the opportunity to talk with David and lead performers from the production via Zoom. David teaches orchestra at Morton (Ill.) High School and is conductor of the Central Illinois Concert Orchestra.

Sammi Grant '12 and **Josh Levinson '13** collaborated with students performing in Illinois Wesleyan's production of *Chess* in October 2020. Sammi, a highly sought after dialect and vocal coach, met with the cast virtually to provide dialect coaching. Josh, an accomplished actor of stage and screen, returned to campus to provide choreography for the musical.

Kayla V. White '14 was promoted to co-artistic director of Ghostlight Ensemble, a nonprofit storefront theatre company in Chicago. Kayla, a Black queer female artist, was promoted to the role ahead of the company's upcoming season, which will focus on lifting up BIPOC, LGBTQ+ and women voices, and navigating the unprecedented arts landscape that has resulted from the COVID-19 pandemic. Kayla joined Ghostlight Ensemble last year after working as an actress with the company on several productions and readings.



Sammi Grant '12



Josh Levinson '13



Kayla V. White '14

COMMENCEMENT 2020

Illinois Wesleyan University celebrated more than 380 graduating members of the Class of 2020 during a virtual Commencement exercise on Aug. 2, 2020. Originally scheduled for May 3, 2020, the annual celebration of graduates was moved to a virtual format due to the COVID-19 pandemic. All Class of 2020 graduates are invited to participate in Illinois Wesleyan's next in-person Commencement exercise.



(Above) President **S. Georgia Nugent** welcomes viewers to the virtual Commencement, which was viewed live around the world from more than 1,400 unique connections.



(Above) The ceremonial pineapple took its usual position in the **Glenn '22 and Rozanne Parker Kemp '27** Commencement Plaza in front of State Farm Hall.



(Above) University Chaplain **Elyse Nelson Winger** delivered the invocation for Illinois Wesleyan's first-ever virtual Commencement exercise.



(Above) **Claire Challacombe '20** performs "America the Beautiful" to begin Illinois Wesleyan's 170th Commencement.



(Above) Associate Professor of Theatre Arts and Director of School of Theatre Arts **Jean Kerr** (right) dons a face covering.



(Above) Class of 2020 graduates shared photos of themselves for inclusion in the Commencement live stream.

VIRTUAL Homecoming

October 5-11, 2020

iwu.edu/homecoming

Homecoming 2020 looked a little different, but it didn't keep Titans from celebrating the annual tradition. A mix of digital and in-person events, where social distancing was practiced, made Homecoming 2020 one of IWU's most memorable yet.



(Above) A virtual cooking demonstration with **David "Saga Dave" Nicholson**, former general manager of Sodexo Residential Dining, was sponsored by Pride Alumni Community and co-hosted by its co-president, **Paige Buschman '17**.



(Above) A "Fire Up for the 50th" virtual celebration of the Class of 1970 featured remarks from **President S. Georgia Nugent**, 1960s-themed trivia, a class toast and more.



(Above) On-campus Homecoming events included a pizza tasting event and the announcement of Homecoming royalty. Harvest-fest featured pumpkin and rock painting, music and more.



(Above) A special Titan Talks presentation, "From Rehearsal to Red Carpet: A Theatrical Conversation with **Richard '69** and **Sharon Jenkins '69**," was hosted by IWU Director of Marketing **Andy Kreiss '86**.



(Above) Alumni awards were presented to (clockwise from top left): **Gilbert "Gil" Dorsey '62**, Loyalty Award; **Raymond "Pete" Davis '80**, Distinguished Alumni Award; **Ramona Cheek '81**, Distinguished Alumni Award for Excellence in Nursing; and **Sara T. Ghadiri '11**, Robert M. Montgomery Young Alumni Award.



(Above) **Taylor Robinson '21** (right) and **AJ Monken '21** (left) were named Homecoming king and queen.



COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Recent events in our country have required us to look introspectively at what we are doing to be the people and the community we want to be. We asked members of the Illinois Wesleyan community questions that many Americans are grappling with at this critical point in our history.


This issue of *IWU Magazine* reflects on the deep, race-based inequities in our society and our University. We have not lived up to our espoused ideals, and this time of reckoning and action is long overdue. As a university, we recognize both that action is needed now and that only unwavering commitment, sustained over time, to fostering a diverse and inclusive community will bring about the change we want to see. We must act to bring a more diverse population to our campus, and we must work together to ensure that we offer a more welcoming and supportive environment.

In 2019, only 12% of our faculty were people of color. Last year, with focused attention from the president's office, we hired five new faculty members, four of whom are faculty of color. That change is small, but it is progress that reflects intentional commitment. This year, we are again focusing on our search practices with an explicit goal of increasing faculty diversity, and we have joined the Consortium for Faculty Diversity at Liberal Arts Colleges, an organization that provides fellowships to young scholars of color. We know that increasing the diversity of our faculty and staff is critical to providing an outstanding education for all students.

We must also demonstrate a commitment to recruiting — and retaining — a diverse student body. As a predominantly white institution, we are often the least diverse environment our students have experienced for their education and as their home community. Creating an inclusive community requires not only that we have a more diverse student body, but also that we provide a more supportive campus climate.

Alumni and student groups, The Alliance (a group of faculty and staff members of color) and community organizations like the NAACP have been generous in joining me for listening sessions, as I seek their guidance in prioritizing steps that will enable us to make the most significant, substantive and sustainable progress. We will continue in this work together.

In addition to the feature stories in the issue, we wanted to include a broader range of voices, by inviting members of the IWU community to reflect upon their own experience and to offer their thoughts and aspirations for the future. I am pleased to introduce their contributions.



S. Georgia Nugent
Illinois Wesleyan University President

How have the most recent events in our nation's long history of racial injustice and systemic racism impacted you?

"The recent events and ensuing discussions have helped to formalize a vocabulary that I can utilize to define the negative experiences I have suffered throughout my life. For me, the murder of George Floyd so painfully exposed the callous disregard for Black life that I feel has been 'baked' into policing in America since the end of slavery."

- **Phyllis Barker '73**



"These events have left me exhausted and heartbroken. Unfortunately, the recent incidents of racial injustice and violence aren't new, but they are finally coming to light for the majority of Americans to see. We can no longer turn a blind eye. Our children deserve a better world. We all do."

- **Sharla Brown-Ajayi,**
Administrative Specialist, Office of the Provost and Dean of the Faculty

"The continued loss of life and inconsistent concern and response has been exhausting in many ways — physically, emotionally, even spiritually; however, that exhaustion is not without hope! Hope in the coming together of diverse people, calling out the trauma caused, and pledging with words and resources to make change."

- **Derrick L. Tillman-Kelly '09**



How do we inspire the change we want to see in the world?



“We model it in action and create opportunities for dialogue, then we moderate ourselves in conversation, especially among those opposed, indifferent or ignorant to these truths.”

- **Bruce Clark '97**

“It’s the golden rule: treat others like how you would like to be treated. We inspire change by calling out injustice whenever it arises and working to dismantle systems that sustain inequity and injustice. We should want to leave the world better than we found it.”

- **Deon Hornsby '97**

“Stay honest and keep people honest. Know that you can only ever be the expert of your own lived experience, and honor when people of marginalized communities tell you they are in pain or feeling like they’re not a priority. Then make it a priority to support those folks who are too often silenced or pushed into the corner of ‘politics’ out of convenience for the status quo. It takes courage admitting that we are working in an unfair system and that most of us benefit from anti-Blackness and transphobia on a daily basis. You don’t have to feel bad about being born with privilege, but you do have to use your privilege to help others. It’s just the right thing to do.”

- **Hannah Mesouani**, Director of Diversity and Inclusion



“People have to drop their assumptions and be comfortable with being uncomfortable. So many people do not want to talk about race or social injustice because it makes them uncomfortable. It makes me uncomfortable to experience racism and microaggressions in my life, but I really don’t have a choice. I would encourage people to step outside of their comfort zones, engage with people who don’t look like you, read books/articles and listen to talks on bias and privilege. You must turn your positive thoughts into actions that promote an inclusive society.”

- **André Quizon-Colquitt '88**

What resources would you suggest for topics of diversity, inclusion and social justice?



“The *Anti-Racism Daily* newsletter by Nicole Cardoza (antiracismdaily.com) and *A People’s History of the United States* by Howard Zinn.”

- **Meg Miner**,
University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian,
Associate Professor

“Read inspiring books such as *The Other Side of Freedom* and *Between the World and Me*. Seek experiential learning for self-discovery and understanding that racism goes far beyond the surface of Black and white. Actively seek opportunities to take part in challenging discussions and be willing to be vulnerable.”

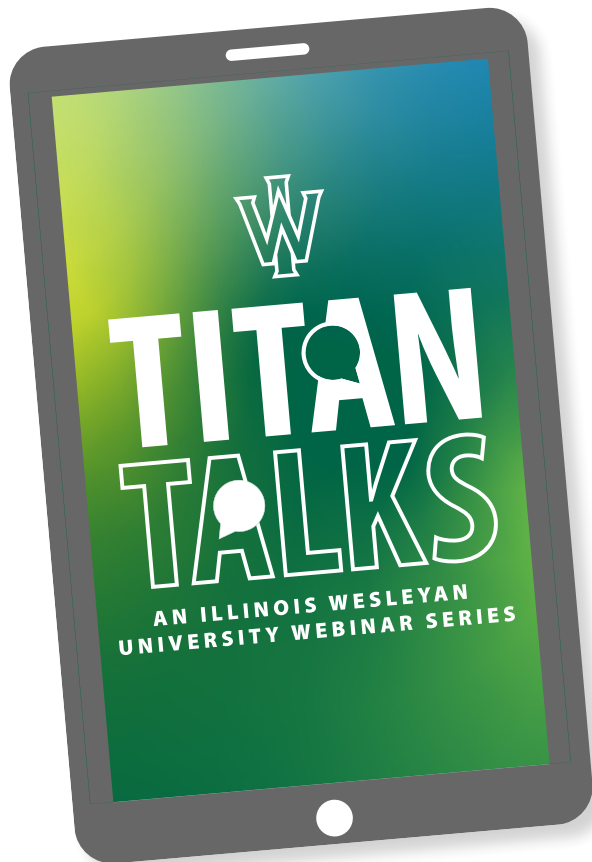
- **Chris Schumacher**, Head Track and Field Coach, Professor



“The writings of Langston Hughes, Gwendolyn Brooks, Maya Angelou, Frederick Douglass, James Baldwin, Thurgood Marshall, Martin Luther King, Jr., Eldridge Cleaver, and countless others; *Caste* by Isabel Wilkerson; the excellent Titan Talks webinars on the subject available on the IWU website and the resources cited therein.”

- **George A. Vinyard ’71**, IWU trustee





In the midst of a global health crisis that has largely kept us apart, a transformative social justice movement brought us together and sparked a long-overdue national reckoning on race, equity, privilege and justice.

Important discussions took place in both virtual and in-person settings far and wide. At Illinois Wesleyan, such conversations took place through Titan Talks, a webinar series featuring IWU alumni speakers for the benefit of the entire Titan community.

Launched in April 2020, the Titan Talks series initially featured alumni on the front lines in the global response to COVID-19. But when horrific acts of racial injustice brought renewed attention to deeply rooted systemic inequality, Titan Talks pivoted to offering a forum to discuss the critical issues of our time.



How We Got Here: Racism + Higher Education

Derrick Tillman-Kelly '09

The director of the UIA Fellows Program and Network Engagement for the University Innovation Alliance, Tillman-Kelly offered a history of race within the context of higher education and the troubled history many colleges and universities have with marginalized groups.

"When we talk about history, if issues of race and racism, sex and sexism, homophobia, aren't raised and contextualized in the normal understanding of history, it makes it sound like it's a one-off thing that's about a particular group of people," Tillman-Kelly said. "But Black history is American history. LGBTQ+ history is American history. So we have to recognize that it's been a part of history, it's a part of today, and it has to be considered, held and wrestled with, to move us forward."

White Allyship and Solidarity: How to Be Part of the Solution Against Anti-Black Racism

Jessica (Meyer) Bondalapati '11, Kevin Carey '13, Libby Haywood, moderated by Nicole Chlebek '16

Framed by an understanding of privilege and systemic racism, panelists shared their commitment to action and active denouncement and dismantling of racist policies. Panelists also shared perspectives on how best to be an ally to the Black community and support other allies.

"Most of us are good people. That's why we're here. Most of us genuinely really, really care about other people," Chlebek said. "We just grew up as white and did not have to think about how our race allowed us to walk through life with privilege. Because we're white, we did not have to think about race."



Father and Son: An Introspective Dialogue of Life as Black Men

David Wilkins '74, Nate Wilkins '17,
moderated by Brandon Common

Father and son David Wilkins '74 and Nate Wilkins '17 discussed their life experiences and perspectives as Black men in an intergenerational conversation highlighting the similarities and differences of navigating issues surrounding race and the perception of Black men in our society. The conversation focused not only on how race has affected their lives, but how they have been able to achieve success. They also shared lessons learned and offered insight for progress.

Among other topics, the Wilkinses described when they had "the talk" that Black parents often have with their children. "The talk was an ever-present conversation about being young Black people in a nation that treats young Black people — whether they are in a predominantly white, middle-class community or they are in the inner city — often with utter disregard," David Wilkins said.



Activism and Advocacy in the Latinx Community

Citlalli Gonzalez '18, Tristan Gunn '04, Melissa Ramirez '14, moderated by Yesenia Martinez Calderon '20

Panelists discussed, entirely in Spanish, activism within the Latinx community, challenging anti-Blackness both inside and beyond their communities. Discussion included ways in which Black and brown people can stand together against racism.

"A successful allyship needs to begin with one's own acknowledgment of our failures. It's important to acknowledge our privileges, but also knowing our failures in terms of which groups do we make racist comments to or assign certain prejudices to," Ramirez said. "It's important to recognize those failures to be able to say 'OK, I have made mistakes, but I've also learned lessons.'"

Invisibility of Black Women in Leadership

Monica (Cheek) Hall '90, Jazmyne Kellogg '16, Ade Olayinka '11, Alani Sweezy '19, Amanda Toney-Logan '74, Lois (Bright) Wilkins '75, moderated by Rosetta Clay

An abundance of research has shown that Black women, living at the intersection between two other marginalized groups — Black men and white women — are one of the most likely racial and gender groups to go unrecognized and unheard. Panelists shared their experiences as leaders in their respective fields, what they've learned on their journey, and steps they see for progress.

"If we as Black women don't show up and speak for ourselves, our stories and our issues are, in a way, often overlooked," Sweezy said. "And when our stories are told, if they are told by other people, they are often diminished."



Did you miss a Titan Talk? Want to learn more? Go to: www.iwu.edu/titan-talks.





SAFE SPACE

Story by MATT WING

Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, led by Hannah Mesouani and Veronica Torres Luna '19, provides services and programming for underrepresented students while fostering a welcoming and inclusive campus community.

Hannah Mesouani has a career goal that most of us would consider at the very least a bad day at the office.

"My dream is to work myself out of a job," she says with both a smile and a matter-of-fact tone.

Mesouani is the director of Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, which promotes a campus community that appreciates, encourages and celebrates diversity through programming and services available to the entire campus. Mesouani and ODI outreach coordinator Veronica Torres Luna '19 form a team that supports underrepresented and marginalized students while also providing educational opportunities to help members of the greater IWU community understand and appreci-

ate the diversity around them.

It's hard work with no finish line in sight, but that doesn't discourage Mesouani from maintaining a desire to live in a world where such services are no longer needed.

"It will never happen, but I like the idea that one day we might not need this office," she said. "I think it's a good aspiration."

There is still work to be done, of course, and Mesouani and Torres Luna do it guided by their own experiences. Mesouani spent her first 19 years growing up in Morocco before attending a private liberal arts college where she was among just a handful of international students. Torres Luna was born in Mexico and moved to Chicago when she was 10 years old before eventually enrolling at Illinois Wesleyan.

Both full-time members of IWU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion had higher education experiences similar to many of the IWU students they serve today. Mesouani and Torres Luna can recall instances as college students where they felt alone and lost in a sea of classmates who didn't look like them, talk like

didn't fit in.

"And I think we underestimate the physical heaviness that comes with being *the only*. It can be traumatic and isolating, and what we provide at ODI is a space where those folks get to feel at home."

The ODI space, which recently moved to the upper level of Hansen

"... I think we underestimate the physical heaviness that comes with being *the only*. It can be traumatic and isolating, and what we provide at ODI is a space where those folks get to feel at home."

— HANNAH MESOUANI

them or come from the same places as them. They remember fleeting moments of belonging and acceptance. They longed for an environment where those feelings were more common.

That's why, Mesouani says, Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Diversity and Inclusion is so important.

"Have you ever gone into a space where you were *the only*?" she asks, rhetorically. "Maybe you were the only guy, or maybe you were the only person under 60, or maybe the only person over 60, and you felt like you

Student Center, offers an informal "living room" atmosphere. There are comfy couches and TVs with Netflix and Hulu subscriptions. Snacks are available in abundance. But, most of all, ODI offers a safe space where students can be themselves.

"At least for our Latinx students, they can come in here and speak Spanish, and sometimes just hearing that language that you speak at home with your parents is just something that makes you feel good, makes you feel at home," said Torres Luna. "And, to some extent, it makes

you forget about everything else, and you can just feel good."

Many of the exchanges between the ODI staff and current students take place through these informal interactions. But more formal programming is designed to offer engagement opportunities for IWU students from the day they step foot on campus to the day they walk across the stage to receive a diploma.

Incoming students of color can enroll in the IMPACT (Influencing and Maximizing Positive Academic and Campus Transitions) pre-orientation program that offers multicultural students a preview of campus life. Throughout each semester, the ODI staff hosts a series of "3D discussions" to foster conversations centered on diversity, dialogue and dignity. There's also a multitude of other workshops, presentations and events, such as the annual Unity Gala, a formal, black-tie event celebrating diversity on Illinois Wesleyan's campus. At the end of students' IWU journey, ODI hosts a Multicultural Graduation to celebrate graduating students of color and a Lavender Graduation to celebrate the accomplishments of LGBTQIA+ graduates.

Mesouani and Torres Luna also counsel members of the Illinois Wesleyan community wishing to educate themselves on topics of diversity and inclusion. The ODI staff responds to bias incidents and microaggressions, and advocates for identity-based student organizations.

"We do a lot, but we love it," Mesouani said. "The way I see Veronica and myself is sort of as backup dancers to whatever journey our students are on, whatever stories they want to tell. We're here to do a lot of the legwork, a lot of the research, and support them in feel-



(Above) The Office of Diversity and Inclusion moved to Hansen Student Center in 2020.

(Opposite page) Hannah Mesouani, director of IWU's Office of Diversity and Inclusion, visits with students and staff.

SAFE SPACE

ing like they can make this as much of a home as any other student can.”

During the summer months, ODI keeps busy by hosting the Summer Enrichment Program (SEP), a 10-week cohort-based program open to students of color and international students, focused on academic, personal and professional growth. “It’s my favorite time of the year,” Mesouani said.

The Office of Diversity and Inclusion also supports a peer mentoring program, Succeeding Through Empowerment and Proactiveness (STEP), which connects new students with returning students who were once in the same shoes as them.

Torres Luna manages all aspects of the program, beginning with the pairing of the students, which she readily admits is her favorite part of the job. She uses a detailed survey to match the students, and has learned that first-year students most often want a mentor in the same or a similar major. She then provides ideas and materials for mentors to use in their weekly check-ins with mentees, and conducts routine progress meetings with all involved in the program.

“Hannah and I can’t always be there for the students,” Torres Luna said. “So having that extra layer of support, and a person that looks like you and has been through that same experience being there for you, is something that I know both mentees and mentors appreciate.”

Torres Luna can cite countless STEP success stories. She has found the program is often just as beneficial to the mentors as it is for the first-year students they advise.

“Earlier this year, one of our mentors got (a meal) for her mentees, and they were all sitting out on the quad eating together, and it

was just such a wholesome moment for her,” Torres Luna recalled. “She was almost crying when she was telling me because she was so happy about it. They were all getting along so well, and two of the students who live in the same building were talking about how they were going to use the leftovers for breakfast, and it just made her feel so good.

“It was just so nice for her to see

jokes that it’s 80% of each — which keep their days pretty full.

“I try to stop by the space as often as I can and just hang out with everyone. It is always so fulfilling anytime I stop by because I know it is a safe space and everyone has a mutual understanding,” said Wah Chook ’22. “I get lunch and catch up with Hannah and Veronica. They are a huge part of my support system

“The community that ODI creates embodies everyone, no matter what identity you hold, where you come from or what you believe in. It is a big melting pot of harmonious happiness and sustainable inclusivity.”

— SEAN LY '21

how she was making a difference.”

Mesouani and Torres Luna split their time between formal programming like SEP and STEP and the less formal, “walk-in” interactions with students pretty evenly — Mesouani

on campus. I know I can always go to them with whatever it is and be 100% honest whether it’s about my classes, social justice stuff on campus or anything in my personal life.

“They are mentors but very



(Above) Students and members of the Office and Diversity staff visit in October 2020.



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Diversity and Inclusion hosts a Multicultural Graduation to celebrate graduating students of color.



(Above) A Lavender Graduation ceremony hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion celebrates graduating LGBTQIA+ students.



(Above) The Unity Gala, an annual black-tie event celebrating campus diversity is co-hosted by the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, The Alliance and student senate.

much so my friends as well.”

Many students who engage with the Office of Diversity and Inclusion in their first year stay connected with ODI throughout their time at IWU. That's especially true for Sean Ly '21, a former IMPACT pre-orientation mentor, ODI ambassador and SEP intern. He, like Chook, regularly drops into the office just to relax and see friends.

But Ly and others can tell you the space is more than just a spot to hang out with Netflix and snacks.

“The community that ODI creates embodies everyone, no matter what identity you hold, where you come from or what you believe in,” he said. “It is a big melting pot of harmonious happiness and sustain-

able inclusivity.”

Mesouani and Torres Luna often hear that ODI is the place some students feel most welcome on campus. Sometimes they hear it's *the only* place some students feel welcome. Mesouani says it's “heartbreaking” to hear that, although it's a good reminder of the importance of her work.

Progress is being made. The most recent university data shows retention rates of Illinois Wesleyan students of color are higher than those of the entire student body. But the personal success stories Mesouani and Torres Luna see and hear about firsthand are the most powerful indicators of success.

“Students come to ODI and make friends, and these are friends

they have for the rest of their lives,” Torres Luna said. “Students go through a lot here and having this space and having these relationships, these friendships, they really help.”

Mesouani and Torres Luna haven't worked themselves out of jobs just yet. But they are making a difference and empowering students.

“Just today, I had two students here and they were encouraging each other. I was just sitting back and listening, because they were basically doing my job,” Torres Luna says with a wide smile. “They were really encouraging each other, saying things like, ‘Oh, you're gonna be so great’ and ‘Oh, you're going to do so good,’ and it was just amazing to see that.” ♦

Diversity of faculty, students and curriculum are essential to the future of Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music under the direction of Franklin Larey.

Franklin Larey always had the music in him.

He grew up in a musical family. His father was a teacher and choral director. His mother was a self-taught pianist. Classical music played on a radio in the Larey home nearly every day.

But growing up in apartheid-era South Africa, in the rural town of Malmesbury, the young Larey (pronounced luh-RAY) did not have the access to music education that whites did. Though surrounded by social injustice and poverty, he and six siblings enjoyed a childhood where the main rule was to be home before dark.

He loved music and longed for the day he could channel the notes dancing in his head into an original composition. But in the meantime,

he listened. He befriended a librarian who ordered records from the much larger library in Cape Town. He tagged along to hear his mother play piano. He listened intently to the music played in church.

Every opportunity he was presented to engage in music, Larey jumped at the chance.

So when a new neighbor with a piano moved in next door, Larey spent hours listening as the music wafting through an open window filled his ears.

"I just sat outside and listened," Larey remembers fondly.

Recognizing their son's interest in music, Larey's parents decided on a special gift for their son's 16th birthday: piano lessons with the new neighbor.

So began Franklin Larey's career

VISION FOR THE FUTURE

Story by MATT WING



in music. He flew through beginner's books and his new teacher's lesson plans. The music in his head flowed easily through his fingertips and over the piano keys.

"It all just came very naturally to me," Larey said.

Within six months, Larey's teacher sensed his pupil was progressing at a rate he couldn't match. A new teacher was sought and, fortuitously, a new classically trained music teacher moved to Malmesbury to begin teaching. Larey became one of his first students.

Larey poured himself into his music. He spent his days thinking about music. He spent his evenings practicing.

"We didn't have a piano at home at that time, so I had to walk down the street to a neighbor's house. They had an old, upright piano, so I used to go immediately after school and they let me practice there," Larey said. "I would practice from the moment school was out until I had to go, but I often wished I could stay longer."

"I would practice from the moment school was out until I had to go, but I often wished I could stay longer."

Though music wasn't part of his formal education, Larey excelled academically. He was especially proficient in science. As he neared completion of his secondary education, his teachers and principal encouraged him to attend medical school as South Africa had just begun allowing Black students to study medicine at white universities.

Larey had other plans.

"I remember making the deci-



(Above left) Franklin Larey (center) was named a gold medalist at the 1991 Young Chang International Piano Competition. **(Above right)** Larey works in his office at the University of Cape Town, where he served as director of UCT's South African College of Music. **(Opposite page)** Larey poses in his Presser Hall office in September 2020.

sion that I did not want to do that. I wanted to study music," he said. "It resulted in a lot of very tense conversations with the principal, who told me that I was making a big mistake. But I spoke to my parents, and they were very supportive."

Larey enrolled at the University of the Western Cape, a school founded in response to the segregationist policies of apartheid. Larey enjoyed living and learning in an

environment alongside individuals with whom he could identify. He had influential professors who encouraged him.

But Larey's time at UWC was not without challenges.

"I was at a Black university during a very tense political time. When I got there, in the '70s and '80s, there were lots of disruptions, lots of protests," he said. "There was also the pressure on all of us to not



participate in musical activities. There are horror stories of how theatres and managers kept Black musicians out of and away from the main stages of the country."

Larey majored in music and psychology and earned a bachelor's degree from UWC in 1981. And, like so many young college graduates, he found himself at a crossroads, unsure of what to do next.

But, "out of nowhere," as Larey recalls, UWC offered him a position as a junior lecturer in the same department where he had been a student just weeks before.

The appointment allowed Larey to begin his teaching career while also performing professionally and continuing his studies. He took classes part-time at the University of Cape Town, which offered a much less welcoming environment than he had experienced at UWC.

Larey liked working with the students at UWC, especially students of color who had transferred in from UCT. Many had struggled to adapt and perform at a high level academically in UCT's hostile environment, but many became top students at the more supportive UWC.



(Above) Larey met with students at schools in China as part of a recruiting trip in 2019, which included stops at (from left) Zhongshan International School in Beijing, Shen Wai International School in Shenzhen, and Houde School in Shenzhen.

“I enjoyed my teaching at the University of the Western Cape,” Larey said. “I dealt with a lot of students who came to us after studying at white institutions but couldn’t cope in those environments, and so I got to see firsthand the terrible effects those situations had on young people.”

After five years of teaching at UWC, Larey applied for and was granted a Fulbright Scholarship in 1986 to continue his studies at the University of Cincinnati, where he completed his doctoral degree and joined the faculty of the school’s preparatory program. Larey found the environment on an American college campus a breath of fresh air.

“I was astonished at how people of all nationalities lived and worked together,” Larey said. “It boggled my mind because I came from a country where we were very cocooned, and you only ever interacted with people like yourself.”

Larey spent 10 years stateside but eventually felt the pull to return to his home country, which had undergone dramatic changes during

his time away. Apartheid ended in 1994 and, when Larey joined the faculty at UCT in 1997, he returned to a much different place than he had left.

“It was one of the most exhilarating moments of my life because I had been out of the country for almost 10 years and returned to a space where I could walk in neighborhoods where previously I could not even be seen. I could buy property in neighborhoods where we were not allowed to be,” Larey said. “I saw the wonderful interaction between young people of all races, all religions, and Cape Town is in many ways still like that.”

Larey climbed the academic ranks at UCT and within five years became the first Black director of the university’s South African College of Music. He was charged with transforming the school’s faculty, staff and curriculum. He appointed a number of Black musicians and academics. He introduced a program to recruit talented, underprivileged Black students.

“It was an important time, and it was a big responsibility,” Larey

said. “But it was something that I also enjoyed because I could see the positive effects it had not only on the students, but on the entire university environment.”

Larey returned to the United States frequently during his tenure at UCT, including an annual return to serve as the summer director of the Adamant Music School in Vermont, beginning in 2004. But Larey and his husband, an American he met at the University of Cincinnati, decided to return to the U.S. full time in 2018, after 22 years in South Africa.

He served on the faculties at St. Joseph’s School of Music in St. Paul, Minnesota, and Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota, before he became intrigued by a job posting at Illinois Wesleyan University.

“I started reading about the school’s liberal arts curriculum, its commitment to Jeffersonian ideals and what an education should be about, and I found it very attractive,” Larey said. “I was in Cape Town for the December holidays when I had a

video interview with the panel, and I really liked the conversation we had and felt very good about the nature of the conversation and the kind of questions they asked.”

Larey was named the director of Illinois Wesleyan’s School of Music in July 2019 and tasked with leading a transformation similar to the one he orchestrated at UCT. Larey’s vision for the future of IWU’s School of Music centers on “restoring the school to its former glory” by engaging alumni, increasing visibility off campus, and fostering diversity in its students, faculty and programming. (Larey provided a Titan Talks webinar in August 2020, titled “The Future of the School of Music,” available on YouTube.)

Larey’s ability to implement his vision right away has not been easy. The COVID-19 pandemic that has necessitated online instruction and distance learning has been particularly difficult for music education.

Perhaps a greater challenge to Larey’s vision came with Illinois Wesleyan’s internal academic program review conducted by the Program Evaluation Task Force (PETF), a committee of elected faculty members informed by departmental reports, data and higher education trends, which recommended the closure of IWU’s School of Music.

Illinois Wesleyan’s Board of Trustees announced plans instead for a transformation of the School of Music when it took action on program review recommendations in July 2020.

“It would be less than frank of me not to admit that the past three months or so have been trying and difficult,” Larey told attendees of his Titan Talks webinar. “I am deeply thankful for the Board of Trustees’ decision to reject the recommen-

dation of the PETF to close the School of Music. I am also grateful for the support I received from my colleagues in the School of Music in developing a counterproposal to keep the school open, and also the

to Larey’s vision for IWU’s School of Music, as is communication, collaboration, and a commitment to a community rich with diverse people and ideas.

His experience in music educa-

“I think my experience and understanding of how much better life is when there is diversity has helped me because I’ve seen it myself.”

— FRANKLIN LAREY

support from colleagues across the broader university.”

Larey drew strength from an outpouring of support from School of Music alumni who called and wrote to tell him what the School of Music meant to them.

“Your commitment to and your advocacy for the School of Music deeply moved me,” Larey told alumni in his Titan Talk. “I will cherish each and every email and telephone call in which you so thoughtfully conveyed your passion and your love for the School of Music and for Illinois Wesleyan University.”

Alumni involvement is central

tion, after all, is a testament to the power of diversity.

“I think my experience and understanding of how much better life is when there is diversity has helped me because I’ve seen it myself,” he said. “I’ve experienced it myself. I’ve been enriched by it.”

Larey admits that transforming the School of Music will be a long and laborious process, but he is up to the task.

“It will require collaboration, recruitment and a strong sense of community in the School of Music,” he said. “It will take a lot of work, but we are all going to roll up our sleeves and get going.” ♦



(Above) Larey plays the piano in his Presser Hall office.

Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1942

Art Leach was among several local veterans included in a story in *The Pantagraph* recognizing the 75th anniversary of "V-J Day" and the end of World War II. Art, who turned 100 years old in May 2020, was a U.S. Navy fighter pilot stationed in the Pacific at the end of the war. He was drafted near the end of his time at Illinois Wesleyan and was in uniform two days after his IWU graduation.

1960

Ralph Sackett was the guest of honor at a surprise celebration organized by his former players on Aug. 8, 2020, in Bloomington, Illinois. Ralph coached at Illinois high schools in Bloomington, Octavia, Reddick and Granite City, Washington (Mo.) University, and for Bloomington's American Legion Post 56. Ralph left coaching at age 34 to embark on a successful career in banking and finance. But his impact on student-athletes during his coaching tenure was evident at the surprise celebration, which was chronicled by Randy Kindred in *The Pantagraph*.

1966

Denny Matthews' 52nd year of calling games for the Kansas City Royals was unlike any previous season broadcasting for the Major League Baseball club. In the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, the Hall of Fame broadcaster provided play-by-play commentary from the comfort of his kitchen as he worked from home. Denny's unique work-from-home arrangement was highlighted in Bill Flick's weekly column in *The Pantagraph* in August 2020.

1967

Josephine (Chiza) Gurira earned the University of Wisconsin-Platteville's Outstanding Woman of Color Award in March 2020. Josephine is the reference services librarian at UW-Platteville's Karrmann Library. The award recognizes female faculty, staff and students of color at UW-Platteville, as well as women of color in the Platteville community.

1970

Arlene "Rose" Schilt volunteered to help found a nonprofit to perpetuate the Amy B.H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. Rose, who served as the garden's second director in the 1980s, has worked on archaeological and public health projects throughout the islands. The garden has reopened to the public with COVID-19 precautions, and serves as a cultural and educational center for a sustainable future.

1975

Janet (Manley) Griego recently retired after a career in health-care spanning more than 45 years. The Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing alum worked in population health and health-care information technology, most recently as an account manager with Health Current, Arizona's health information exchange.

1977

Mathew Timm, a mathematics professor at Bradley University, received a Fulbright scholarship to conduct research in Croatia during the spring

2021 semester. Mathew will conduct research at the University of Split as part of the project "Inverse Systems and the Topology of Generalized Baumslag-Solitar Complexes." The intent of the project is to expand understanding of a class of geometric objects, known as generalized Baumslag-Solitar complexes, through a collaboration with members of the mathematics faculty at the University of Split, several of whom are experts in inverse systems-based approaches to the study of geometric topology.

1981

Maggie (Houlihan) Andersen was promoted to senior director of AMITA Health's human resources department on Aug. 12, 2020. Maggie, who served in the role on an interim basis for several months, originally joined AMITA as a system director in human resources in June 2019. Maggie was responsible for leading the human resources business partner function for AMITA's corporate operations and AMITA's medical group, and played a key role in organizational development and process improvement initiatives.

Jeff Poltawsky is leading efforts to build a \$300 million, state-of-the-art children's hospital in Tacoma, Washington. Jeff is president of Mary Bridge Children's Hospital and Health Network, which is part of the MultiCare Health System. The current 82-bed children's hospital shares operating rooms and imaging suites with Tacoma General Hospital, but the new, freestanding facility will be dedicated just to kids. It will have operating rooms, intensive care

and medical surgical care units, as well as a pediatric trauma center, emergency department, mental health crisis center, heart program, cancer center and more. The children's hospital is currently being developed using lean-led design with groundbreaking slated for early 2022. The new Mary Bridge Children's Hospital will open in the fall of 2024.

1983

Chris Hewitt is a movie and theater critic for *The (Minneapolis) Star Tribune* who shared insight into his job, and how it's changed during the COVID-19 pandemic, in a recent *Star Tribune* Q&A section. Chris, who previously worked at *The St. Paul (Minn.) Pioneer Press*, also maintains a blog and occasionally reviews books.

1984

Matt Drat was named executive director of the Multicultural Leadership Institute on Aug. 27, 2020. Located in the IWU Theatre Annex, the Multicultural Leadership Institute operates in the community as MCLP (the Multicultural Leadership Program). Applicants are selected to undergo a nine-month intensive leadership journey that culminates in completing a project for a local nonprofit. This year, the program will be conducted online with a renewed focus on COVID-19 recovery and racial justice. Matt has extensive nonprofit leadership experience, most recently serving as the membership and special events coordinator for the Peoria (Ill.) Riverfront Museum.

Brad McMillan announced his campaign for a seat on the Normal (Ill.) Town Council in August 2020, to be decided in the April 2021 municipal election. Brad is a professor at Bradley University where he also serves as the



Jerry Chang '96 (p. 29)



Faizal Chaudhury '96 (p. 29)



Esther Franco-Payne '96 (p. 29)



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executive director of the Institute for Principled Leadership in Public Services. He also co-chairs the Coalition for Honest and New Government Ethics (CHANGE) Illinois Board of Directors, which advocates for government and election reforms. Brad practiced law in Central Illinois for a decade before serving as district chief of staff to former Illinois congressman and U.S. Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood from 2009-13.

1987

Martin McLaughlin won the Illinois House of Representatives 52nd District seat in the Nov. 3, 2020, general election. Martin is the village president of Barrington Hills, Illinois, and the owner of an investment management business specializing in pension management.

Frank Vlastnik participated in an Illinois Valley Community College Fine Arts interview series recognizing local entertainers on June 14, 2020. Frank is a native of Peru, Illinois, a published author, and veteran actor of stage and screen. In the interview, conducted via Zoom video meeting,

Frank discussed his craft and most recent project, *The Art of Bob Mackie*, a coffee table book celebrating the work of the legendary costumer of Carol Burnett, Cher, and many others, to be published by Simon & Schuster in 2021.

1989

Andy Jones and his wife Robyn Jones were honored as the basketball court at Ridgeview Junior High School, in Colfax, Illinois, was named "Coach Jones' Court," in recognition of their dedication and service to the school and its basketball programs. The Joneses have nearly 60 years of combined coaching experience at Ridgeview. Andy has coached high school boys and girls at Ridgeview for over 30 years, and coached two years of women's basketball at Illinois Wesleyan. He is a fifth-grade teacher at Bloomington's Washington School.

Susy (Jenkins) Marcum was named the 2020 School Nurse of the Year by the Illinois Association of School Nurses. Susy has been a nurse in McLean County

Unit 5 for 25 years. She currently works at Grove Elementary and Field Special Services. She is also the curriculum chair for the nursing department.

1991

Randall Fletcher was named vice president for academic and student affairs and chief learning officer at Eastern Florida State College in June 2020. Randall most recently served as vice president for academic affairs at Joliet (Ill.) Junior College.

1992

Thomas Welge was named president and chief executive officer of Gilster-Mary Lee Corp. by the company's board of directors in July 2020. Tom succeeds his father, who died in April 2020, as head of the company. Tom has been with Gilster-Mary Lee since 1995, most recently serving as vice president of technical sales and general counsel.

1994

Chris Fusco was named the

founder executive editor of *Lookout Local*, a startup network of news and information websites launching this fall, first in Santa Cruz, California. Chris will lead an editorial team of 10 with planned expansion in California and other states. He has worked at the *Chicago Sun-Times* for the past 20 years, serving most recently as executive editor.

Erin (Ready) Patton joined the Bloomington, Illinois, accounting firm Striegel Knobloch & Co. in July 2020. Erin has been in the retirement plan industry for over 20 years, including the past 15 as senior vice president of plan services for Alliance Benefit Group in Peoria, Illinois, where she managed the administration and client-facing teams, while also serving as senior design consultant. Erin is a certified pension consultant with the American Society of Pension Professionals and Actuaries, a sister organization to the American Retirement Association, and an enrolled retirement plan agent licensed to practice before the Internal Revenue Service.

1995

Shannon Zenk was selected to be the director of the National Institutes of Health's National Institute of Nursing Research. A registered nurse and leading population health researcher, Dr. Zenk was previously Nursing Collegiate Professor at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Nursing and a fellow at the UIC Institute for Health Research and Policy. She will oversee NINR's annual budget of nearly \$170 million, the majority of which supports extramural research at institutions across the country. She started in the new role early this fall.

1996

Kim (Norton) Bankston was one of five finalists in the "Best

Hello Titans!

I hope this note finds you all well. As with most activities this year, IWU's Homecoming was a different experience than previous years. Fortunately, technology allows us to see one another and be together even though we're apart. Hopefully you attended some events and saw your classmates. Kudos to the Alumni Engagement staff for doing their best to make it enjoyable!

As the year comes to a close, we can reflect on the many issues dominating our lives and our alma mater, including a global pandemic, an economic crisis and social justice. We should all ponder the questions being asked in this issue. The administration, faculty and staff are working hard to make Illinois Wesleyan the best place for students to thrive in an inclusive community. Over the past few months, I was saddened to hear from fellow alumni that their experience at IWU was not as great as mine. I believe as alumni, it is our responsibility to do what we can to support the University in the efforts to become better for current and future students. I encourage you to get involved with the Alumni Association, join an affinity group or committee, assist in recruiting students, offer internships and/or jobs, share your expertise in the classroom and/or give a gift to the area that means the most to you. Check out the engagement opportunities and determine the best way(s) for you to do your part. I know we can achieve even greater with more alumni involvement and working together.



Molly Rollings '99
President, Alumni Association
Board of Directors



Alumni Engagement Opportunities

Alumni enrich and bring great value to the Illinois Wesleyan University experience. There are so many ways to get involved, including sharing your expertise with current students in the classroom, telling prospective students about your Titan journey and/or giving to the areas you are passionate about and love so much. Wherever and whenever you have time and talent to share, there is a way for you to contribute.

The Office of Alumni Engagement strives to connect alumni with one another, students and the University. The Alumni Association has various affinity groups and committees that enable opportunities for you to remain connected. Now is a great time to continue or recommit your service to your alma mater. **Titans Support Titans!**

Learn more at www.iwu.edu/alumni and let us know how you want to be involved with any of these entities that support the goals and mission of Illinois Wesleyan:

Council for IWU Women (CFW) offers programming for alumnae and women students through networking and educational activities.

International Alumni Network (IAN) keeps our global Titans connected through mentoring, networking and internship opportunities.

Pride Alumni Community (PAC) connects members of the LGBTQ-TGNC community through educational programming for students, and professional development and networking among alumni.

Titan Alumni of Color Collective (TACC) collaborates on matters impacting students and alumni of color while offering programs, events and discussions for their respective communities.

Titan Alumni Ambassadors assist in recruiting by sharing their IWU experience with prospective students.

Young Alumni Council (YAC) develops opportunities for philanthropy, social and professional networking, and student engagement for graduates of the past decade.

Giving Circles allow individuals to combine their gifts with fellow Titans to annually fund a scholarship at \$2,500 or more.

Tune in for Titan Talks

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

Visit www.iwu.edu/titan-talks for upcoming and archived Titan Talks.

Update Your Info

The goal of the Alumni Association is simple: to connect our alumni, students, faculty and staff.

To accomplish this, we need up-to-date contact information for our alumni. This will allow us to inform you about upcoming alumni events, as well as other opportunities to connect and stay informed. Secondly, let us know about your recent job promotion, professional recognition or career change. This is the ideal time to boast, brag and share your good news. Your success is our success, and we want to celebrate with you! Visit www.iwu.edu/update-info to update your contact information.



Primary Care Provider" category in *The Pantagraph's* "Best of Readers' Choice Awards." Kim is a family nurse practitioner at Bloomington (Ill.) Primary Care.

Jerry Chang, owner and managing partner at Samaritan Biologics, is a member of Prisma Health's Rapid Innovation Task Force producing personal protective equipment (PPE) for frontline healthcare workers and community members. The task force has helped design, produce and distribute origami style masks, developed an injection molded nasal swab, produced face shields and worked on sterilization of used N95 masks. In addition to Prisma Health, a South Carolina healthcare system, much of the PPE produced by the group has been distributed to nursing homes, schools and other community groups.

Faizal Chaudhury joined the advisory board of the Council on American-Islamic Relations Philadelphia Chapter. The CAIR is the largest Muslim civil rights and advocacy organization in the nation. Faizal is the vice president of customer centrality with Sallie Mae, where he is responsible for leading the organization-wide initiative to improve customer experience, loyalty and advocacy. In addition to his service at CAIR-Philadelphia, Faizal serves as a member of the Board of Directors of the Islamic Society of Delaware and the Delaware Interfaith Power and Light.

Esther Franco-Payne was appointed by Illinois Governor JB Pritzker to the Adult Use Cannabis Health Advisory Committee. Esther is the executive director of Cabrini Green Legal Aid and previously served as deputy director of the Illinois Justice Project.

JJ Wilczewski was elevated to head of client coverage Ameri-

cas and global head of institutional clients and consultants by DWS, one of the world's leading asset managers. JJ will lead client coverage for the Americas, which includes responsibility for wealth, advisory, and institutional and consultant relationships. He will also lead coverage for institutional clients and consultants globally, ensuring local and global collaboration to satisfy and solve evolving client needs. He previously led coverage of the institutional client business for DWS in the Americas.

1997

Justin Zamirowski was named chief commercial officer at Better Therapeutics, a San Francisco-based prescription digital therapeutics company, where he will commercialize its portfolio of prescription digital therapeutics products. Justin's immediate focus will be to lead the organization's commercial operations to prepare for the upcoming launch of BT-001, a prescription digital therapeutic delivering nutritional cognitive behavior therapy via a smartphone app powered by predictive analytics, for patients with Type 2 diabetes and other cardiometabolic diseases.

1998

Nate Knuffman was named interim vice chancellor for Finance and Operations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in August 2020. An expert in financial and administrative management, Nate has served as senior associate (deputy) vice chancellor for Finance and Operations since October 2018, overseeing the division's strategic planning and data analysis functions to align priorities with the university's strategic plan, advising the vice chancellor, and managing various operational and



Nate Knuffman '98 (p. 29)

administrative components of the Division of Finance and Operations, including the Service Center of Excellence.

Karl Pierburg is vice president for data, analytics and technology for the National Football League's Atlanta Falcons, and AMB Sports and Entertainment, which includes the Atlanta United of the MLS and Mercedes-Benz Stadium. Karl is in his 15th season with the Falcons and 18th overall in the NFL after spending three years with the Chicago Bears. He was profiled in *The Pantagraph* in September 2020.

Andrea (Armour) Trudeau was the recipient of the American Library Association's 2020 Frances Henne Award, recognizing a school librarian with less than five years experience who demonstrates leadership. Andrea is a longtime educator in her 23rd year in Deerfield (Ill.) District 109, and changed roles to become the school's library information specialist in 2015. In the new role, Andrea has transformed the traditional school library into an active learning commons where wonder, creativity, collaboration and fun are emphasized. She contributes to her field through her involvement with the statewide librarians' organization, the Association for Illinois School



Andrea (Armour) Trudeau '98

Library Educators, and she was recently sent to Sharjah, United Arab Emirates, by the American Library Association to represent American school libraries at the Sharjah International Library Conference. There, she presented to Emirati librarians about transforming school libraries and harnessing the power of virtual reality to promote understanding and empathy among students.

Jim Ulrich accepted a new position as quality assurance coordinator at Argonne National Laboratory, one of the U.S. Department of Energy's national laboratories for science and engineering research, in Lemont, Illinois, in April 2020. Jim previously served as senior analytical chemist and head of quality assurance at Clarke, a global public health company specializing in mosquito and aquatic services.

1999

Ethan Schrum was promoted to associate professor of history at Azusa Pacific University and served on the university's strategic planning leadership team in 2019-20. He received a fellowship from the James Madison Program in American Ideals and Institutions at Princeton University, and is spending the 2020-21 academic year in

residence there as a visiting research scholar.

2001

Jeffrey Becker was named to *Billboard Magazine's* 2020 Top Music Lawyers list. Jeffrey, partner and chair of Swanson, Martin & Bell, LLP's Entertainment and Media Law Practice Group, earned the honor for the second-consecutive year. He was recognized for helping client Curtis Roach turn his song "Bored in the House" into a COVID-19 anthem. He also represents the estate of house music pioneer Frankie Knuckles and has worked to secure Knuckles' creative legacy.

Tonya (Poindexter) Horn is president of Rogards, an office supply and furniture business in Champaign, Illinois. She was a "Central Illinois Business 40 Under 40" honoree in 2014, and Rogards was named Champaign County Chamber's Small Business of the Year in 2015. Tonya was featured in a series spotlighting local readers in *The (Champaign) News-Gazette* in June 2020.

2002

Michael Torman appeared on an episode of *Jeopardy!* that aired on April 22, 2020. Michael



Jeffrey Becker '01

is the village president of Paw Paw, Illinois, and the fourth-generation operator of Torman Funeral Home in Paw Paw. He was profiled in a June 2020 story in the *(La Salle, Ill.) News Tribune*.

2003

Amanda (Hofer) Kemp joined Illinois Wesleyan's School of Nursing as a Nursing Interventions Lab simulation coordinator in August 2020.

2004

Abby Reel is the owner of The Barn III, a dinner theatre and event center in Goodfield, Illinois, which has been forced to adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic. Though the company is not allowed to perform under Illinois' Phase 4 guidelines, The Barn III has begun offering dining service, which will include holiday-themed menus beginning in November 2020. Also coming to The Barn III is a "Festival of Trees," promoting local businesses and organizations impacted by COVID-19, and a sequenced Christmas light show every night during dining hours. The Barn III employs several Illinois Wesleyan alumni and was featured in the Spring 2019 issue of *IWU Magazine*.



Todd Kumler '07



Vijeta Pamudurthy '10

2005

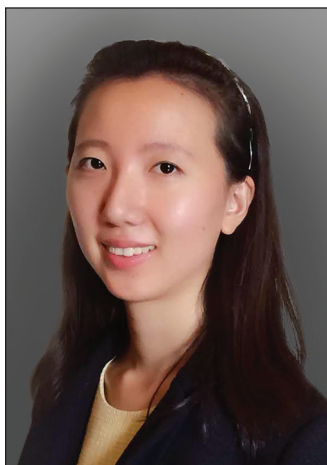
David Hartley joined the Lyons (Ill.) Township High School faculty as a music teacher ahead of the 2020-21 school year. David began teaching choir at the school in 2014.

2006

Sarah Mysiewicz Gill graduated as valedictorian of her class earlier this year at The Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. She recently began a new job as an associate at Groom Law Group in Washington, D.C., as a tax and retirement attorney. Sarah previously spent nine years with AARP as the private sector retirement lead for the association's state government affairs team.

2007

Todd Kumler was promoted to principal at Cornerstone Research, a leading economic and financial consulting firm. Todd consults on economic matters related to antitrust and competition, life sciences, employment and labor, and consumer fraud and product liability. Todd has conducted economic analyses for firms in the technology, pharmaceutical, telecommunications and automobile industries.



Qingfan Jiang '12

2008

John Caywood, a State Farm agent in Champaign, Illinois, directed a grant of \$10,000 to Champaign's Don Moyer Boys & Girls Club. The grant allowed State Farm to serve as the title sponsor of Don Moyer's golf outing fundraiser, which raised \$47,000 for an academic enrichment program. Kids enrolled in the program receive academic support and two meals a day.

2010

Coco Bassey is a digital and product marketing professional, and was recently featured in an H&M advertisement for its fall line. She is the founder and editor-in-chief of the digital lifestyle and fashion publication *Millennielle*.

Vijeta Pamudurthy was recognized by the American Gastroenterological Association as one of "25 fellows making huge strides in GI patient care." Dr. Pamudurthy is a gastroenterology fellow at Riverside Medical Center in Kankakee, Illinois, who has been published in several medical journals, presented at international conferences and won research awards. Her recent quality improvement project, titled "In-Service Education and

Charlene Carruthers '07

was among the 2020 Freedom Scholars announced by the Marguerite Casey Foundation and Group Health Foundation. Recognizing scholars standing at the forefront of movements for economic and social justice, and creating the catalytic ideas for transformative change, the foundations are placing power in the hands of changemakers through new Freedom Scholars Awards, \$250,000 grants that give leaders greater freedom to build a truly representative economy that works for working families and people. Charlene is a political strategist, cultural worker and Ph.D. student in the Department of African American Studies at Northwestern University. Her research includes Black feminist political economies, abolition of patriarchal and carceral systems, and the role of cultural work within the Black radical tradition. Her work spans more than 15 years of community organizing across racial, gender and economic justice movements. She is the author of *Unapologetic: A Black, Queer, and Feminist Mandate for Radical Movements*, and received Illinois Wesleyan's Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumni Award in 2017.



PHOTO/JRS MANN

Changes to the Electronic Health Record System Improve Intravenous Fluid Hydration in the Emergency Department in Patients With a Diagnosis of Acute Pancreatitis," was selected to be presented at a Digestive Disease Week medical conference, and her abstract was published in the August 2020 issue of *Gastroenterology*. Dr. Pamudurthy also maintains an Instagram account where she shares lifestyle and gastroenterology related information.

2011

Monica (Simonin) Bullington was among 26 McLean County women nominated for a YWCA McLean County Woman of Distinction Award, held online on Oct. 15, 2020. Winners were selected in six categories: business/education; community leadership (as a

volunteer); human services; mission impact (working to eliminate racism and empower women); STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts and math); and promise (for a woman in her career for five years or less). Monica is a realtor with RE/MAX Rising.

2012

Mike Firth was named head coach of the boys' and girls' swimming teams at United Township High School in East Moline, Illinois. A standout swimmer at Illinois Wesleyan, Mike takes over the swimming team at his former high school, where he still holds team records. Mike is also head coach of the East Moline Swim Club and aquatics manager for the City of East Moline.

Qingfan Jiang was awarded an Alvin H. Johnson American Mu-

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, via email at iwumag@iwu.edu, or by mail at P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702. All submitted content received by **Oct. 12, 2020**.

The submitted content deadline for the Spring 2021 issue of *IWU Magazine* is **Jan. 25, 2021**.



(Above) A group of Kappa Kappa Gamma sisters met at New York's Lake George in August 2019. They included, (from left): **Barbara (Bruder) Rogotzke '78**, **Jeri (Bidle) Collins '77**, **Sue (Casurella) Michels '77**, **Lucy (Carmody) Simkins '77**, **Cory (Mooney) McCoy '77**, **Sarah (Plumb) Beck '77** and **Barbara (Short) Brown '77**.



(Above) **Kyle Brigham '06** married **Logan (Deane) Brigham** on Sept. 7, 2019, in Freeport, Maine, with many Illinois Wesleyan alumni in attendance, including (from left): **Joel Brigham '04**, **Amy (Reeley) Brigham '06**, **Kyle Brigham**, **Logan (Deane) Brigham**, **Laurel (Hennenfent) Bingaman '06** and **Craig Bingaman '07**.



PHOTO/LAUREN ANDERSON PHOTOGRAPHY

(Above) **Maddison Zimmer '17** and **Trevor Seibring '17** were married July 18, 2020, at Calvary Methodist Church in Normal, Illinois. The reception was held at Reality on Monroe in Bloomington, Illinois. The couple visited Illinois Wesleyan's campus for wedding photos.



(Above) **Kathryn (Bauer) Johnson '13** and **Stefan Johnson '13** were married May 27, 2017, at the Deer Path Inn, in Lake Forest, Illinois, with many classmates and friends in attendance, including many Sigma Chi and Kappa Kappa Gamma members.



(Above) **Beth (White) Schaller '11** and **Evan Schaller** were married on June 27, 2020. The couple's parents and siblings joined them in person, with many family and friends joining virtually. **Hannah (Jones) Heinzl '11** and **Sara (Thome) Nader '11** served as bridesmaids and assisted in the planning of the wedding. Beth's Sigma Alpha Iota sisters surprised her with a video serenade.



PHOTO/EVA ANN PHOTOGRAPHY

(Above) **Rebekah Ehresman '18** married **Michael Mounce** on Aug. 8, 2020, in Gridley, Illinois.

sicological Society 50 Fellowship for "Toward a Global Enlightenment: Music, Missionaries, and the Construction of a Universal History in Seventeenth- and Eighteenth-Century China and Europe." Qingfan earned a master's degree at Rice University and is currently pursuing a doctorate at Columbia University.

Erin Vogel is a social psychologist and postdoctoral fellow at Stanford University, where her research centers on the roles social media and other digital tools play in health and well-being. Erin has received several grants aimed at understanding and preventing teen vaping. She regularly speaks to community organizations about vaping, other substance use and social media. Erin has been quoted in news outlets such as *National Geographic*, *CNN*, *Salon Magazine* and the *Wall Street Journal*.

2013

Jensin (Roberts) Clark began her appointment as an adjunct professor in the music department at Lake Superior College in Duluth, Minnesota, in August 2020. In addition to teaching, Jensin also maintains an active schedule as a Minnesota Music Teachers Association endorsed adjudicator, as well as being the recently appointed president of the Arrowhead Music Teachers Association.

Stephanie Coccaro joined Oswego Wellness, soon to expand to Plainfield Wellness, as a private practice therapist in June 2019. She was previously a therapist for a community mental health and methadone outpatient facility assisting those struggling with substance use and legal issues in the Will County (Ill.) area. She also previously completed mental health assessments with inmates in the Will County jail to connect those in need with mental

health services. In January 2020, Stephanie transitioned from work in the community mental health arena to the fast-paced hospital setting, completing assessments for those coming in with emergency psychiatric concerns and connecting them with the treatment and services needed. In her current position at Oswego Wellness, her role as a therapist includes assisting those experiencing psychological struggle and working together to help individuals make changes for living a fulfilling life.

Andrew Villaseñor received a Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine degree from Lincoln Memorial University-DeBusk College of Osteopathic Medicine, in Harrogate, Tennessee, in May 2020. He will continue his medical training in an internal medicine-preliminary residency at the University of Louisville School of Medicine. While studying at LMU-DCOM, Andrew received the Sherry R. Arnstein Minority Scholarship.

2014

Alexa Baltes will clerk for U.S. Supreme Court Justice Brett Kavanaugh during the 2021-22 term. A former standout basketball player and member of Illinois Wesleyan's 2012 national championship team, Alexa attended law school at Notre Dame, where she was executive editor of the *Notre Dame Law Review* and graduated *summa cum laude*. She is now an associate at Consovoy McCarthy in Arlington, Virginia.

2016

Jeremy Gruner earned a master's degree in music performance at Butler University this spring while also completing coursework as an unofficial undergraduate dance major. A music composition major at Illinois Wesleyan, Jeremy has



Erin Vogel '12



Trevor Seibring '16 (p. 34)

Tiny Titans

Ethan Schrum '99 and Kara;

Summer Zion, born July 25, 2019

Cindy (Thorson) Nourie '01 and Michael;

Dylan Michael, born June 19, 2019

Laura (Sahn) Cover '04 and Ross;

Charles "Charlie" Robert, born June 8, 2020

David Zohfeld '04 and Vanessa;

Lucy Patricia, born July 22, 2020

Lisa (Hoelle) Portilla '05 and Ben;

Isaac Carlos, born Aug. 22, 2020

Abby (Csanda) Prescott '07 and Hayden;

Isaac Thor, born May 14, 2020

Jessica (Seils) Busse '08 and Joe;

Rogan Joseph, born June 11, 2020

Elizabeth (Taylor) Dornik '08 and Nick;

Ryan James, born March 14, 2020

Megan (Lee) Bennett '09 and Edward;

Joseph Eli, born Aug. 7, 2020

Shannon Stephenson '09 and **Tom Kirn '09**;

Ari Oliver, born Aug. 20, 2020

Mary (Roznovsky) Swearingen '09 and Andrew;

Caleb Andrew, born July 10, 2020

Chelsea (Werries) Alarcon '13 and Xavier;

Lydia Esperanza, born June 3, 2020

Stephanie (Polich) Borkovec '13 and Kyle;

Cooper James, born April 21, 2020

Kathryn (Bauer) Johnson '13 and **Stefan '13**;

Heidi Silje Louise, born June 18, 2020

All submitted content received by Oct. 12, 2020. The submitted content deadline for the Spring 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is Jan. 25, 2021.

often found ways to blend his interests together, including a dance production set to his own music.

2017

Avery Amerson earned a master's degree in philosophy from California State University, Long Beach, in 2020.

Keith Carter, a registered nurse at Rush University Medical Center, was selected for the SAMHSA Minority Fellowship Program, which offers various educational opportunities. The program supports minority nurses in attaining a doctoral degree, with certification in mental health and substance-abuse disorders prevention, treatment and recovery. The knowledge acquired through the fellowship prepares nurses to address SAMHSA's purpose and goals of eliminating behavioral health disparities among racial/ethnic minority populations as an expert who can expand culturally competent, evidenced-based services to underserved ethnic minority populations with mental health and substance use issues.

Katie Caulfield recently earned a master's degree in speech pathology from Midwestern University. She began a new job as a speech language pathologist clinical fellow at Chicago's Concord Therapy, LLC, in June 2020.

Trevor Seibring was promoted to commercial lender, serving the Bloomington-Normal area, by Heartland Bank and Trust Company. Having worked in the bank's asset management and trust services division during his time at Illinois Wesleyan, then moving to a full-time role as a credit analyst, Trevor has been with the bank for three years. He is a member



Keith Carter '17

of the Bloomington-Normal Young Professionals and a volunteer assistant basketball coach at (Downs, Ill.) Tri-Valley High School.

2018

Kyleigh Block was hired as an assistant volleyball coach at Hope College in July 2020. Kyleigh, a former standout member of Illinois Wesleyan's volleyball team, was a graduate assistant coach for the past two seasons at the University of Wisconsin-Parkside, where she earned a master's degree in health and wellness management.

2019

Jessica Esparza joined Illinois Wesleyan's Office of Admissions as an admissions counselor in August 2020.

Payton Letko returned to Techno College in Tokyo for her second year as an English-language assistant in 2020-21.

Brady Rose has returned to Europe for a second season of professional basketball. Brady is playing for BC Beroe in Bulgaria's National Basketball League. BC Beroe is based in



Kyleigh Block '18

Stara Zagora, the sixth-largest city in Bulgaria. Brady played his first professional season in 2019-20 in Germany.

Jessica Sheetz joined Illinois Wesleyan's Hart Career Center as an administrative specialist in August 2020. Jessica coordinates career fairs and the graduate survey, manages a career services system, monitors student workers, tracks the department budget and plans career discovery trips. Jessica previously served as a full-time band and choir director, and plans to pursue a master's degree in performing arts administration.

2020

Jordan Baker ran for a seat on the McLean (Ill.) County Board, decided in the Nov. 3, 2020, general election. Jordan ran for the District 8 seat, representing Bloomington's downtown area and west side.

Minzhao Henryken Liu and **Nico Lopez '21** presented their work on implementing artificial intelligence to improve free-space communications at the international digital conference Emerging Topics in Artificial Intelligence.



Sydni McStravick '20

Their presentation was titled "Experimental implementation of wavefront sensorless real-time adaptive optics aberration correction control loop with a neural network," and was co-authored by B. Charles and Joyce Eichhorn Ames Professor of Physics **Gabe Spalding**.

Nick Milcik began a position as a research technician in the geriatrics department at Johns Hopkins University in September 2020.

Eva Nautiyal was profiled in *The Lily*, a publication of *The Washington Post*, in a story highlighting the challenges faced by recent graduates caused by a pandemic, high unemployment rates, a looming recession, and systemic inequalities, including sexism and racism. A native of India, Eva has the additional challenge of securing employment to support an H-1B work visa. A computer science major, she hopes to find a job in UI/UX engineering.

Sydni McStravick began her nursing career as a pediatric hematology/oncology/stem cell transplant nurse at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

HART CAREER CENTER HAPPENINGS

Illinois Wesleyan's Hart Career Center continues to engage alumni and connect them with current students in virtual ways during the COVID-19 pandemic. In recent months, the alumni and friends below have played leading roles. 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 or (309) 556-3095.*

Virtual Career Fair

Joe Alberts '20, Jessica Allhands '16, Rich Berthold '04, Jessica Freiburg '04, Tim Irvin '06, Will Jenkins '12, Ben Johnson '19, Rachel Jones '19, Yolanda Juarez '17, Vi Kakares '20, Nicolas Kruchko '18, Angela Kupper-Smith '10, Cameron McGlynn '15, Esther Niedert '20, Mi Pham '17, EJ Schiller '12, Aneesh Sehgal '15, Brian Skowronski '16 and Michael Wilson '09

Virtual Practice Interviews

Stan Allen '92, Kristina Dakis '11, Mike Henry '12, Julie Krause '08, Meg McKeen '00 and Mahesh Raju '01

Virtual Recruitment

Hussain Hasan '91, Matt Hill '12, Scott Searles '95 and Jonathan Vlk '17

Virtual Programming

Sydney Alery '20, Zoe Bouras '18, Katie Coleman '04, Kris Condon '84, Dan DeWeert '11, Anna Funk '11, Sara Ghadiri '11, Jennifer Gill '97, Caleb Green '20, Tristan Gunn '04, Rachel Halfpap '08, Hussain Hasan '91, Matt Hill '12, Todd Kumler '07, Kevin Latman '06, Mike Mason '80, Leslie Morrison '08, Tera Peplow, Kayley Rettberg '20, Chris Seips '07, Amanda Solliday '06 and Amber Spiewak '11

Pre-Health Programming

Emilee Bocker Henkel '07, Sarah (Albarran) Brooks '08, Nick Burge '07, Brian Emm '99, Kelsey (Finch) Forbringer '13, Erick Henderson '12, Nick Liberatore '14, Jason Murphy '14, Kemi Onajin '09 and Katie Rothas '14

Titans Helping Titans

The COVID-19 pandemic has dramatically impacted the 2020-21 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, and virtual practice interviews, please let us know by contacting us at ccenter@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3095.

In Memory

Faculty and Staff

Thaddeus Sutter of Normal, Illinois, died May 31, 2020. He was 51. Thad was the bookstore manager at Illinois Wesleyan for nearly 20 years after previously serving in similar roles at Illinois State University and Northwestern University. He attended the University of Illinois and was a devoted fan of Illini basketball. He was a voracious reader and loved history, classic rock and 1970s TV shows. But, most of all, he enjoyed time spent with family. He is survived by his parents, four siblings, several nieces and nephews, and his beloved dogs.

Olga Young of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 28, 2020. She was 98. Olga worked in Illinois Wesleyan's Financial Aid office before retiring in 1986. She previously worked at Carthage College, the Central Illinois Methodist Conference office, and as a school teacher in Adams (Ill.) County. She and her late husband were active in the many churches they served. She was a member and past worthy matron of both Empire Chapter (LeRoy, Ill.) and Felicity Chapter (Normal, Ill.) Order of Eastern Star. She was a member of the Illinois Women's Business Association, United Methodist Women, Bloomington/Normal Federated Women's Club, Illinois Wesleyan Alumni Association, Retired Ministers Association, American Passion Play door staff, and ushered at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. She enjoyed Illinois Wesleyan basketball games and dining out with her Retired Old Methodists Eating Out Group. She is survived by three sons, seven grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Alumni

Mary (Thompson) Healy '42 died June 26, 2020, in Charlotte, North Carolina. She was 100. Mary earned a bachelor's degree and was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan. She raised four children with her late husband **Edward Healy '43** during 68 years of marriage. She constantly cared for her family and always put others before herself. Mary was active at Ridgewood (N.J.) United Methodist Church for over 50 years, and was involved in many aspects of the church's ministry, including Women's Circle, Bible studies and working in economically distressed communities. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, 10 great-grandchildren and a niece.

Virginia (Belyea) Langellier '45 of Lincoln, Illinois, died April 4, 2020. She was 95. Virginia earned a bachelor's degree in music at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree in education from the University of Illinois. She went on to become the music supervisor for Lincoln Elementary School District 27. She was a member of the Women's Business Association, Retired Teachers Association of Logan and DeWitt counties, Daughters of the American Revolution, various committees at the First United Methodist Church, and the Delta Kappa Gamma Teachers Society. She was preceded in death by her husband and a brother, **Al Belyea '47**. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and four siblings, including **Dana Belyea '50**.

John Simshauser '45 died July 28, 2020, in Pompano Beach, Florida. He was 96. John served in the U.S. Army during World War II as an infantry rifleman in Germany and France. He studied business and met his first wife, the late **Louise Tonigan '49**, at Illinois Wesleyan. He later earned

an MBA at The Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania and a law degree from John Marshall Law School. John began his legal practice in Springfield, Illinois, but moved to Macomb, Illinois, in 1961 to become a partner in the firm Berry, Leighty and Simshauser, where he practiced until his retirement. John served on the boards of the Macomb YMCA and public library, and was civically engaged throughout his life. John married his second wife in 1976 in Bushnell, Illinois. In 2000, they retired to Florida. Together, they enjoyed dancing, golfing and social outings. John was preceded in death by his second wife. He is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and a nephew.

Margaret (Finley) Higgins '47 died July 8, 2020. She was 94. Margaret studied business and was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan, where she met and later married **Allen Higgins '44**. Margaret and Allen raised their family in Berwyn, Illinois. They later retired to Markesan, Michigan, where they had been longtime summer residents of the White Lake area. Margaret was a member and past president of P.E.O. Chapter AV (in Berwyn) and Chapter EL (in Whitehall, Mich.). She was a member of White Lake United Methodist Church. Margaret was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by four children, 13 grandchildren, five great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

Joan (Straight) Willis '47 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Oct. 1, 2020. She was 95. Joan earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and worked for the Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church for many years before finishing her career at the Illinois office of the Disciples of Christ Church. She married **Maurice Willis '46**, a professor in IWU's School of Music, in 1985. Joan was a patroness for the Sigma Alpha Chapter of Sigma Alpha Iota at IWU for over 50 years. She often attended concerts at the SAI House and on campus, as well as other venues in the Bloomington-Normal area. She remained connected to her alma mater and was active in Kappa Delta Sorority and its alumni group for many years. She was a founding member of P.E.O. Chapter LO, and was a lifelong member of Second Presbyterian Church in Bloomington. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by many cousins and friends.

Ray Andrews '49 of Helena, Montana, died July 22, 2020. He was 92. Ray studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and went on to teach band before joining the U.S. Air Force. During his early years in the military, he was in the Air Force Band at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base. Later, while stationed in San Marcos, Texas, he started a jazz band that "gigged" locally. This is when he met his wife, whom he married shortly thereafter. The Andrewses had three daughters and lived all over the United States, and in Japan, during Ray's service. Ray was a decorated veteran, earning the National Defense Service Medal, Small Arms Expert Marksmanship Ribbon, Armed Forces Reserve Medal, Air Forces Longevity Service Award, and Meritorious Service Medal. Upon retirement from the Air Force, Ray taught Junior Reserve Officers' Training Corps at Jersey Village High School in suburban Houston. He also opened his own business, Ray's Flying Service, where he brokered private aircraft and provided all levels of instruction. Ray was also active in his church and active in civic organizations. He is survived by his wife, three daughters, seven grandchildren, five step-grandchildren, one great-grandchild and two step-great-grandchildren, two sisters and a stepsister.

Nadine (Callahan) Simpson '49 died June 15, 2020. She was 91. Nadine received a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's

degree at Syracuse University. She spent the majority of her career in journalism, in roles at the United Methodist Information Center in Chicago, United Methodist publications and, later, the *Oberlin (Kansas) Herald*. Nadine and her husband dutifully served as missionaries in Liberia and Mozambique, where they touched countless lives. She spent her life in service to the United Methodist Church, her community and her family. She is survived by her husband, four children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marilyn "Lynn" (Stine) Flavin '50 died April 24, 2020, in Minneapolis. She was 91. Lynn majored in music at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in Sigma Alpha Iota. Lynn was an educator, musician and artist. Faith played a large role in her life, and she was a dedicated member of Prairie Community Church. Later in life, she and her late husband traveled to Nigeria, where they served as missionaries for two years. Lynn also spent many summers on short-term mission trips to rural areas of Mexico. She was preceded in death by her husband **James Flavin '49**. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, 15 great-grandchildren and a brother.

Rev. James William "Bill" Jones '51 of North Fort Myers, Florida, died July 20, 2020. He was 90. Bill dedicated his life to Christ at a summer church camp in 1945 and became the youngest preacher in the Central Illinois Conference of the United Methodist Church. He was a recognized leader as president of both his high school class and Illinois Wesleyan's student union. He later graduated from Garrett-Evangelical Theological Seminary while serving as a student pastor. Bill was an inspiring preacher who served on many UMC boards and agencies, and was a delegate to the Jurisdictional Conference and the World Methodist Council on Evangelism. He served congregations big and small, and touched countless lives through his ministry. He loved traveling and frequently led mission trips. He is survived by his wife **Anne (Snyder) Jones '53**, three daughters, four grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Jane (Pettit) Archer '52 died Sept. 17, 2020, in Normal, Illinois. She was 90. Jane was active in Sigma Kappa and earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan. Jane and her late husband **Gene "Bud" Archer '52** lived most of their married life in Normal. Jane spent her years as a homemaker and enjoyed gardening, painting, sewing and raising her children. She was a member of First United Methodist Church of Normal and a former member of P.E.O. Chapter JV. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two daughters, six grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and a sister, **Frances (Pettit) Harris '54**.

William Anderson '54 of Morton, Illinois, died June 11, 2020. He was 89. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, he went to work for Commercial National Bank in Peoria, Illinois, and often worked multiple jobs early in his professional career as he and his late wife raised four sons. He finished his career at Morton Community Bank. Bill was director of the board of St. Francis Community Clinic for over 20 years — and active with the clinic for 32 years overall — where he helped serve sick, poor and underprivileged populations in greater Peoria. Bill enjoyed his work and community service, but nothing brought him greater joy than seeing his children and family thrive and be happy. He is survived by four sons, 11 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren.

Rev. Dale Kooi '56 of Kewanee, Illinois, died Aug. 3, 2020. He was 86. Dale studied philosophy at Illinois Wesleyan before earning a master's

of divinity from Union Theological Seminary in New York City. After ordination as an elder in the Methodist Church, Dale served over 40 years in ministry in Central Illinois. Both before ordination and after his retirement, he ministered part-time in churches of several denominations. He took a sabbatical leave in 1974-75 in order to study at King's College in London, where he was interim pastor at Chelsea United Reformed Church. Dale was a longtime blood donor and volunteer. His carpentry skills were employed when he helped build houses with Habitat for Humanity. He was a member of Phi Kappa Phi and many community and service organizations. He enjoyed gardening, photography and classical music. He is survived by his wife **Carol (Palmer) Kooi '72**, two children, three grandchildren, a great-grandson and a sister.

Dorothy (Fridlund) Harrison '57 of St. Louis died June 30, 2020. She was 84. "Doady," as she was affectionately known, studied music education at Illinois Wesleyan and later earned a master's degree from Wisconsin State College-Whitewater. Doady taught elementary music in Beloit (Wis.) Public Schools for 33 years and was an oboist in the Beloit-Janesville Symphony Orchestra for over 25 years. She was active in Sigma Alpha Iota, Delta Kappa Gamma, P.E.O. Chapter BB in Beloit and P.E.O. Chapter MD in Clayton, Missouri. She was a member of the First Church of Christ Scientist in Boston, Beloit and Creve Coeur, Missouri. After retiring from teaching, she and her late husband moved to St. Louis, where she remained active in church, music, and civic and philanthropic organizations. She loved spending time with family, attending her grandchildren's activities and sporting events, and traveling. She is survived by four children, nine grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

Robert Reilly '57 of Fayetteville, Arkansas, died Aug. 3, 2020. He was 84. Bob majored in music and formed a small jazz group called the "King's Men" at Illinois Wesleyan. He was also a member of the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra along with another IWU music major, **Mary Anne (Cubin) Reilly '58**, a cellist who later became his wife. Bob was a member of Phi Mu Alpha and the Blue Key Honor Society. After graduation, Bob began teaching in Homer, Illinois. He later took part in a three-year graduate fellowship program offered through the National Defense Education Act to pursue master's and doctoral degrees in the psychology of classroom learning. His career as a college professor started at the State University of Wisconsin in Oshkosh, in the educational psychology department. He later taught at the State University of New York in Oswego, Shippensburg State College and, eventually, the University of Arkansas, where he worked for 30 years. Bob often presented and published his work, including an educational psychology textbook. He stayed connected to music throughout his life, playing clarinet and saxophone in bands in all the places he lived. He and Mary Anne also enjoyed hiking, camping and visiting national parks. He is survived by his wife, two children, 11 grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and three siblings.

Darrel Tate '57 died May 9, 2020, in Gainesville, Florida. He was 84. Darrel joined the U.S. Army after his time at Illinois Wesleyan. He later built an insurance agency in Glenview, Illinois, before moving to Florida. Darrel played tennis, pingpong, pickleball and cards with friends. He was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan who relished in the team's World Series victory in 2016. Darrel was active in his daughters' sports and activities growing up, and that continued with his grandsons. He loved spending time and sharing laughs with his family. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and five grandsons.

All submitted content received by Oct. 12, 2020. The submitted content deadline for the Spring 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is Jan. 25, 2021. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

Deaths Reported

Elizabeth (Morgan) Morgenthaler '37; Aug. 19, 2020

Grace (Kleinsteinber) Dumond '46; Oct. 11, 2018

June (Atherton) Ranich '47; June 18, 2020

Jack Heiken '49; Nov. 4, 2017

Charlotte (Geske) Beeler '50; Sept. 16, 2020

Loretta (Harder) Gebraski '50; July 26, 2017

Martha (Wyckoff) Hager '51; Sept. 17, 2020

Gilbert Mitchell '51; June 1, 2020

Robert Klings '56; July 16, 2020

John Reinhard '57; July 15, 2020

Joe Strow '58; May 24, 2020

Joan (Kearnaghan) Heddens '60; Sept. 3, 2020

Dwayne Foote '62; June 13, 2020

Louise (Sudkamp) Terrell '62; Sept. 16, 2020

Nancy (Ransdell) Monfiletto '63; Sept. 8, 2020

Grace (Groves) Oldham '67; May 28, 2019

Bret Bortner '69; Dec. 16, 2019

Richard Tibbitts '69; Sept. 16, 2020

David Wilhelms '71; June 2, 2020

John Branch '79; July 29, 2020

Rosemary (Weed) Hall; June 6, 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, or via our website, at www.iwu.edu/magazine.

John Talbot '58 of Pflugerville, Texas, died July 16, 2020. He was 90. John served in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War and was stationed in England. Upon his return, he earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree at Illinois State University. He was a devoted educator, first as a teacher and later as guidance counselor and school psychologist. John was an avid reader and passed his love of reading onto his children, grandchildren and great-

grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his first wife. He is survived by his second wife, three children, one stepchild, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Eris (Gustoff) Vidoni '58 of Pekin, Illinois, died Aug. 10, 2020. She was 83. Eris had a lifelong love of music. She studied music at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in Sigma Kappa and many vocal groups. She trained professionally in New York after her graduation from IWU. She was a longtime teacher who also provided piano and voice lessons from her home. She and her late husband were snowbirds who spent six months a year in Tucson, Arizona. Eris was a lifelong member of Grace United Methodist Church, and was active in Pekin Hospital League, Pekin Civic Chorus and Pekin Education Association. She is survived by three daughters and three grandsons.

Janet (Thompson) Andrews '59 died May 18, 2020, in Chillicothe, Illinois. She was 82. Janet earned a bachelor's degree in biology at Illinois Wesleyan and later an associate's degree in business at Illinois Central College. She taught at Pearce Community Center in Chillicothe before moving on to a career in banking. She worked as a loan officer with CEFCU until her retirement. Janet was a member of Plymouth Congregational Church, where she sang in the choir, and played piano and organ. She served on the Chillicothe Library Board and the Illinois Valley Central High School School Board. She was later an active member of Westminster Presbyterian Church. She is survived by her husband, two children, two step-children and two grandchildren.

Phyllis (Owen) Naccarato '59 of Hinsdale, Illinois, died July 24, 2020. She was 82. Phyllis studied sociology, psychology and English literature at Illinois Wesleyan. She was also active in Kappa Kappa Gamma. She spent her career in social work and touched the lives of many children. Aside from being a fan of her grandchildren's athletic teams, she was an avid Chicago sports fan. She was known for her dry humor and wit, along with her grace and style. She is survived by her husband, two children and five grandchildren.

Ardith (Coultas) Stewardson '59 of Adrian, Michigan, died Sept. 11, 2020. She was 83. Ardith graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with a degree in business administration and later worked as a secretary at EB Films, and for several years as secretary to the registrar at Northwestern University. After accompanying her husband as he studied abroad in Germany and Switzerland, she worked part-time at Adrian College in the alumni office and home economics department while she raised her two children. She is survived by her husband **Jerry Stewardson '59**, two children, three grandchildren and a sister.

Robert Hix '60 of Pine Grove, California, died June 5, 2020. He was 87. Bob's college studies were interrupted by the Korean War as he served in the U.S. Army's 36th Engineers Group. He earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education from Illinois Wesleyan upon his return and, later, a master's degree from the University of Northern Colorado. Bob and his wife were teachers at an elementary school at Roanoke-Benson (Ill.) for 31 years. He served his community as a volunteer firefighter, a Boy Scouts scoutmaster, and in civil defense and emergency services. He was also a tenor in his church choir. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and two grandchildren.

John Brownfield '62 of Redlands, California, died April 28, 2020. He was 79. John studied art and was active in Theta Chi at Illinois Wesley-



an. He subsequently earned a master's degree at the School of Fine Arts of Chicago before a nearly 40-year teaching career at University of Redlands. He is survived by two daughters, three grandchildren and a sister, **Margaret (Brownfield) Galivan '65**.

Barbara (Pinks) Dalton '62 of Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, died July 12, 2020. She was 79. Barbara studied history at Illinois Wesleyan and later earned a master's degree in library science from the University of Illinois, where she met her husband. Barbara worked as a membership secretary for Westminster Presbyterian Church, and she was later a member and financial secretary for Bethany Presbyterian Church. She enjoyed helping others, baking for her grandchildren and traveling to Paris with her husband. She is survived by her husband, son, two grandchildren and a brother.

Jeannette (Cramer) Hills '62 of Jacksonville, Illinois, died Aug. 28, 2020. She was 79. Jeannette studied at Cottey College before transferring to Illinois Wesleyan, where she met future husband **Steven Hills '61**. Jeannette taught in South Jacksonville, Illinois, before starting her family. After her children were raised, she attended and graduated from Passavant Hospital's licensed practical nurse program. Jeannette was a member of Centenary United Methodist Church and participated in the handbell choir at Central Christian Church. She was a member of P.E.O. Chapter IO, for over 50 years, and was a member of the Christian Women's Club Bible Study. She also volunteered at Barton W. Stone Christian Home. She enjoyed traveling and spending time with friends and family. She was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two children.

Judith (Gilmore) Kirby '62 of Frankfort, Illinois, died Aug. 7, 2020. She was 80. Judy earned a bachelor's degree in music education at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was also active in Sigma Kappa, Delta Omicron and other musical groups. She went on to a 35-year career as a music teacher at Western Avenue Elementary School in Flossmoor, Illinois, where she led musicals, Christmas concerts and variety shows. She also directed choir at Flossmoor Community Church. In her final days at a care facility, her former students sang for her — mostly through virtual means, over cell phones and laptop computers — from outside her window. Judy's former students' tribute to their elementary school teacher was featured in a segment on Chicago's *WGN Evening News*.

Martha "Marti" Perry '62 of Phoenix died June 1, 2020. She was 79. Marti earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and later a master's degree at Wayne State University. She had a long career in social work. Marti was a member of Cross in the Desert United Methodist Church in Phoenix, where she sang in the choir. She loved music, art and animals. She sponsored children from other countries. She is survived by two nieces, three grandnieces and grandnephews, and four great-grandnieces and great-grandnephews.

Ole Pace '63 died June 2, 2020. He was 81. Ole began his collegiate studies at Dartmouth College but left after two years to join the U.S. Army, where he earned the rank of captain. He later returned to the Midwest to attend Illinois Wesleyan, where he met his future wife **Sheryl (Snow) Pace '63**. Ole earned his law degree at the University of Illinois Law School and practiced in Sterling, Illinois, at Ward, Murray, Pace and Johnson, P.C. He was four-time chairman of the Allerton House Conference on Improving the System of Justice, and he was the 1989 winner of the Board of Governors Award. He served as special assistant attorney general for two Illinois attorney generals and was law clerk to a highly regarded appellate court justice. A highlight of his career was the presidency of the Illinois State Bar Association. Ole valued family above all else. His children and grandchildren were loved unconditionally, challenged, supported and celebrated. He is survived by his wife, three children, seven grandchildren, sister and many extended family members and friends.

Marion (Parbs) Atten '66 of DeWitt, Illinois, died July 19, 2020. She was 76. Marion worked as a substitute teacher after her time at Illinois Wesleyan. She enjoyed art and traveling the United States, often in search of antiques. She especially enjoyed time with her family and doting on her children and grandchildren. She is survived by two children and five grandchildren.

Michael Daubs '66 of Sun Prairie, Wisconsin, died July 29, 2020. He was 77. Michael earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree at Illinois State University. He started his career as an analyst and commercial mortgage officer for Country Companies in Bloomington, Illinois. He later joined Lutheran Mutual Life in Waverly, Iowa, where he became senior vice president of investments. He led the creation and served as president of Members Capital Advisors. He later was named chief investment officer and senior vice president of investments for CUNA Mutual Group after its merger with Century Companies. When he wasn't playing tennis or golf, Michael could be found in nature, hunting, fishing or bird watching. He was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls. He is survived by his wife, three children, four siblings and 15 grandchildren.

Wayne Dohrmann '66 of Manson, Iowa, died Aug. 25, 2020. He was 83. Wayne earned a bachelor's degree at Wartburg College and a master's degree at Illinois Wesleyan. He taught and was long-time junior sponsor at Manson Community Schools. He became an agent with Farm Bureau Insurance of Iowa and advanced to become agency manager at five Farm Bureau county offices. He later owned and operated his own insurance and realty office. He served in the Iowa National Guard, on the Manson Community School Board, and church council at St. Paul Lutheran in Manson, where he was a member for nearly 60 years. Wayne was an avid musician who enjoyed singing and playing guitar. He is survived by his wife, two sons, three grandchildren and a brother.

Robert Fred Kern '67 died Aug. 14, 2020. He was 75. Fred was a renowned music educator, scholar, composer and author. He earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois State University, master's degrees at Illinois Wesleyan and Northwestern University, and a doctorate from Northern Colorado University. Fred was a professor of music and specialist in piano education at the University of North Texas for over 30 years. He previously taught at William Rainey Harper College and Northwestern. In 2014, he was inducted into the Illinois State University Woonsok Kim College of Fine Arts Hall of Fame. Fred traveled

the world as a clinician and frequently gave presentations for the Hal Leonard Publishing Company, and at the Music Teachers' National Association, the National Conference on Keyboard Pedagogy and the Texas Music Educators' Association. He is survived by many cousins, an uncle, many friends and his beloved dog.

Keith Zimmerman '67 of Washington, Illinois, died June 13, 2020. He was 74. Keith studied music at Illinois Wesleyan and later completed graduate work at Ball State University. He was a well-known saxophonist. In addition to hundreds of performances, both domestically and abroad, Keith provided workshops and taught at many schools, including IWU. He was additionally a founding member of the World Saxophone Congress and the North American Saxophone Alliance. An avid fisherman, he spent several weeks each summer in northern Minnesota and, in 2015, became a partner in Maple Ridge Resort in Bigfork, Minnesota. In 2013, he and his father gave the Washington Police Department funds to begin its canine program, and purchase and train the community's first canine officer. Keith was a lifelong member of St. Mark's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Washington, where he served on the church council and shared his musical talents.

William Rickert '68 of Bellbrook, Ohio, died June 3, 2020. He was 73. After his time at Illinois Wesleyan, Bill went on to earn a graduate degree at Central Michigan University. He was drafted to serve in the U.S. Army before he could continue his studies at the University of Michigan. After earning his doctorate, he moved to Dayton, Ohio, and began a 45-year career at Wright State University, where he served as acting dean, associate dean and associate provost. Bill was active in religious life, serving as an elder at Fearless Church in Dayton. He was known by his family, friends and co-workers for his objectiveness, patience, honesty, humility and kind heart. His competitive spirit was evident when he played chess, pool or pingpong. He was also thoughtful and meticulous, as evidenced by his woodworking and building skills. He is survived by his wife, four children, 11 grandchildren and a brother.

Anne (Loyd) Kovalcik '69 died July 21, 2020, in Decatur, Illinois. She was 73. Anne majored in religion at Illinois Wesleyan, where she met and later married **Rev. John Kovalcik '70**. Anne and John served United Methodist Church congregations in many churches in Central Illinois. She was co-founder of Epworth Spring Athletic Camp and was the principal architect of its organization. The Kovalciks moved in 1983 to Eureka Springs, Arkansas, where they built Kairos Retreat Center. They ministered there together, teaching and touching many lives. She led dozens of Walk to Emmaus and Hearts Ablaze retreats. She also managed SonShine Bookstore and the Great Passion Play gift shop. She loved reading, cross-stitching and her family. Anne was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by two sons, four grandchildren and two siblings.

Karen Zander '70 died Aug. 30, 2020. She was 72. Karen earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in Sigma Kappa. Karen later earned IWU's Robert M. Montgomery Outstanding Young Alumni award in 1980 and the IWU School of Nursing Distinguished Alumni Award in 1996. Karen was a longtime supporter of IWU's School of Nursing, and the recruitment coordinator's office in Stevenson Hall is named in her honor. The Class of 1970 reunion committee created a special lifetime achievement award for Karen, which it planned to present to her at IWU's 2020 Homecoming, but was instead presented posthumously to her husband in a virtual

reunion. Karen was the principal and one of the original founders of the Center for Case Management, a woman-owned company and industry leader in the custom development of tools, roles and systems for managing outcome-driven care. Karen authored articles and provided presentations as a highly regarded individual in the healthcare community. She was also a certified psychotherapist and held faculty positions at several universities. Even when she became paralyzed in 2007 after complications from surgery, and was confined to a wheelchair for the rest of her life, she continued to travel the world to assist clients and present at meetings, working consistently until selling her company. Karen felt deeply connected to the people and the world around her and often said that it was her relationships with others that made her happiest. She is survived by her husband and two daughters.

Dan Zora '71 of Cypress, Texas, died July 15, 2020. He was 71. Dan was a member of Sigma Chi and earned a bachelor's degree in mathematics at Illinois Wesleyan. He also met at IWU his future wife **Barbara (Barth) Zora '71**; the two were married in 1974. The day after graduation, Dan went to work for State Farm Insurance Company in Bloomington, Illinois. He and his family later moved to Austin, Texas, where Dan continued a 35-year career with the insurance company. In retirement, he started a realty company. Dan loved playing golf, and was an avid fan of the St. Louis Cardinals, Chicago Bears and Chicago Bulls. He was very active in his children's lives, especially as a youth sports coach, and enjoyed attending his granddaughter's sporting events. Dan also served as a scorekeeper for volleyball teams coached by his daughter. He is survived by his wife, two children, granddaughter, three siblings, including **William Zora '68**, and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

Carl Mowery '77 died May 30, 2020, in Chicago. He was 64. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University and John Marshall Law School, Carl went on to specialize in compensation, benefits and human resources. He served most recently as managing director and leader of the Chicago Human Capital Services practice at Grant Thornton LLP. Carl was an active alumnus of IWU, serving on the University's Chicago Leadership Council. He is survived by two children, a friend and former spouse, and a brother.

Lora Weliky '81 died Sept. 14, 2020, in Kansas City. She was 60. Lora earned a bachelor's degree in English at Illinois Wesleyan. She worked for the Larimer (Colo.) County Clerk and Recorder. She later worked for IBM, which allowed her to teach and educate while traveling throughout the United States, Europe and Asia. She performed as a soprano and sang semi-professionally, and in a choir that performed at Carnegie Hall. She was also active in community theatre and particularly enjoyed her role as Mother Superior in a production of *Nunsense*. She was also passionate about cooking and game shows. She is survived by her son, three siblings, and many extended family members and friends.

Anthony Kelley '93 of Ames, Iowa, died July 11, 2020. He was 49. Tony studied risk management and financial services at Illinois Wesleyan. He went on to a career in banking and finance, most recently serving as the vice president in charge of compliance for Varo Money. Tony enjoyed going to the gym, running and golfing. He was an avid sports fan and loved the Iowa Hawkeyes. He is survived by two children, his parents, two siblings, grandmother, and several nieces and nephews.

Jeremy Brunner '04 of Skokie, Illinois, died July 12, 2020. He was 37.

Jeffrey Jones '75 of Palm Beach, Florida, died Sept. 18, 2020, in Chicago. He was 67. Jeff majored in chemistry, was active in Tau Kappa Epsilon and met future wife **Maribeth "Marb" (Oltmann) Jones '74** at Illinois Wesleyan. Jeff later earned an MBA from Loyola University Chicago. He started at Sun Chemical in 1981 and worked his way through the management ranks. He earned four patents during his 34 years in the ink industry, including improvements for manufacturing processes and run ability on press. After retiring in 2015, Jeff used his knowledge and experience while serving on the Northwestern University Institutional Review Board for three years, where he analyzed biological clinical research protocols to ensure the safety and ethical treatment of participants. Jeff and Marb founded a scholarship at Illinois Wesleyan for students from southern Illinois. He loved traveling, whitewater rafting and kayaking. He was known for his sense of humor, kindness and generosity. He is survived by his wife, three sisters, including **Joyce Jones '78**, and many nieces and nephews.



Jeremy studied political science and was active in Acacia. He later earned his juris doctorate and master's of law with honors from John Marshall Law School and the Center for Taxation and Employee Benefits. Jeremy was a member of the Illinois Bar Association and the social fraternities Top Men and Tater Tots. He was employed by Orenstein Associates, where he litigated on behalf of clients in front of the Illinois Workers' Compensation Commission, and appeals in circuit court; his career was cut short just as he was starting his own practice. Jeremy loved music, the Chicago Bears, trivia, cooking and time with family. He is survived by his wife, three children, parents, siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

Josh Immke '19 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Aug. 23, 2020. He was 23. Josh graduated *magna cum laude* from Illinois Wesleyan with a bachelor's degree in chemistry. He was awarded the Laura Hart Burdick Promise Scholarship and the Charles Kulier '57 and Beatrice Kulier Endowed Scholarship. In IWU's Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry, Josh participated in research, and served as a teaching assistant and president of the Chemistry Club. Josh was recognized as a Collegiate Scholar by the Illinois Heartland section of the American Chemical Society (ACS) and received the ACS Organic Division Undergraduate Award. He was additionally selected by his chemistry classmates to receive the 2019 Mortimer Award. Josh worked in IWU's Office of Alumni Engagement and was active as a member of IWU's track and field team. Josh was enrolled at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where he was pursuing a doctorate in organic chemistry. He is survived by his parents, two siblings, maternal grandparents, and many aunts, uncles and cousins.

Beyond Diversity

There are many ways to engage with Illinois Wesleyan University in efforts to go beyond diversity in becoming an inclusive community. Giving in support of annual scholarships for inclusivity moves toward progress.

George “Gus” A. Hill Scholarship for Inclusion

International Diversity Scholarship

Monica Taylor Memorial Scholarship

Public Service Scholarship

In memory of Janice Catherine Bradley '74
and Beverly Ann Bowman-Lott '75

Pride Alumni Community Scholarship

Minor Myers, jr. Memorial Scholarship

For more information on how to support these and other inclusion scholarships visit iwu.edu/diversity-scholarships or contact Elizabeth Chambers-Klatt at echamber@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3849.



(309) 556-3092 // iwu.edu/give // P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702



a mural with meaning

Yovana Milosevic '21 (left) and **Bruce Clark '97** (right) collaborated on a mural with the West Bloomington Revitalization Project and the Boys and Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal.

PHOTO FINISH