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SPRING 2021

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Angel in Adoption

DR. JUDITH ECKERLE '98



Kelly Kitahata '22
Majors: Sociology and Business

J.D. Barrett '23
Major: Business

APRIL 8, 2021

Illinois Wesleyan's annual day of giving, All In for Wesleyan, is taking place on Thursday, April 8, 2021. Save the date and encourage fellow alumni and friends to support our students and campus community.

Last year, All In for Wesleyan saw **2,122 donors** make **1,848 gifts** to collectively raise \$645,055, plus \$362,500 from pacesetter challenge donors, for a record-breaking total of **\$1,007,555**.

**Can we make All In for Wesleyan 2021
another million dollar day?**

Make your gift, show your pride, and spread the word!

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#ALLINFORWESLEYAN





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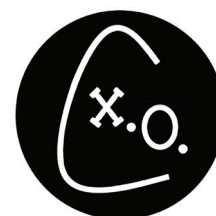
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From the President's Desk

As I write for this spring edition of the alumni magazine, I am buoyed by the sense of renewal that this season always brings. And there are many signs of renewal on the Illinois Wesleyan campus. If “unprecedented” was the word for 2020, I propose “resilient” as the watchword for 2021. Our students, faculty and staff have demonstrated great resilience as they confronted the many challenges, uncertainties and fears posed by the global pandemic.

As you know, one year ago in March, the emergence of COVID-19 led us to suddenly develop online learning in the course of a week’s turnaround time. Both faculty and students demonstrated flexibility and good will as they adjusted to an unfamiliar and unexpected learning environment. Overall, the outcome was remarkably positive.

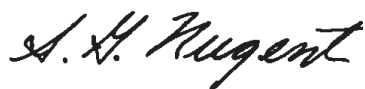
But our faculty was not satisfied with that. Over the summer, faculty members normally have a respite to prepare courses for the fall and devote time to their own research, reflection and writing. But last summer many faculty members, instead, became students themselves, enrolling in virtual courses to improve their own skills in online teaching. At this point, more than 50% of our faculty have chosen to complete such a course.

In confronting the challenges of the pandemic, the Illinois Wesleyan community has proven itself, over and over, to be adaptable, creative and resilient. As we look forward and adapt to an ever-changing environment, there are many more signs of innovation and resilience. A number of academic programs are revamping their offerings and reaching out to build enhanced relationships across disciplines.

For example, the School of Music has developed exciting plans to revise and streamline its curriculum, while also collaborating more with other programs across campus and inviting more students who are not music majors to participate in the School. Jazz and world music will become a regular part of curricular offerings. Students will have the opportunity, through the new entrepreneurship major, to recognize the importance of entrepreneurial skills for professional musicians. The very successful music education major will collaborate more with our education studies program. Additional plans include increased outreach to the Bloomington-Normal music community, for example, by offering conducting instruction to local teachers.

Faculty in the sciences are reconfiguring laboratory experiences, in light of new findings in science pedagogy. A new “immersion experience” is being planned for pre-med students. Our program in international studies is modifying requirements, in response to an external review and in consideration of demonstrated student interests. The School of Nursing will be expanding more into the field of public health — so evidently critical, as we have learned through the experience of the pandemic. Plans are developing to offer a new major in communications. And these are just a few examples of innovations underway.

In short, all across campus, the resilience amply demonstrated over the past year is blossoming, in this spring season, into renewal for the future. It’s an exciting time for Illinois Wesleyan.



S. Georgia Nugent
Illinois Wesleyan University President



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Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

Illinois Wesleyan Maintains Vigilance Against COVID-19 Following Successful Fall Semester

Illinois Wesleyan kicked off the spring semester after celebrating a successful fall, with zero cases of COVID-19 linked to classroom or co-curricular activities, and zero cases linked to sponsored athletic activities. However, with the emergence of new coronavirus variants and a prolonged wait for vaccines, the campus community was urged to continue its vigilance in following protocols.

The spring academic calendar was adjusted to start a week later than usual. This allowed time to complete baseline testing, which was required of all students before they could resume any on-campus activities. Students also were required to sign an enhanced Titan Pledge to uphold behaviors protecting the health of the community.

IWU was ahead of the curve in setting its schedule to exclude a spring break, to protect against risks of spreading the virus through travel.

Classes continued to be delivered in four modes: in person, hybrid, HyFlex and online. During the winter break, technology enhancements were made to further improve students' virtual classroom experiences. These included upgrades to the projector in Hansen Student Center — one of several spaces converted for classroom use in the fall to accommodate social distancing.

In a nearly "all hands on deck" endeavor, staff in Information Technology Services pulled together to complete significant network improvements to improve the campus wireless environment.

The NCAA in early February announced a decision not to hold national championships for Division III athletics, but the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin staged a delayed, shortened season for winter sports. COVID protocols included surveillance testing and no in-person spectators — while viewership of live-streamed Titan athletic events nearly doubled.

While the state of Illinois advanced in its reopening phases as public health thresholds improved, capacities for campus events were kept to limited numbers or conducted virtually in consideration of the residential campus environment. Throughout the fall and spring, Student Affairs saw participation enhanced by virtual options.

Commencement planning was still underway at press time, with a decision to conduct the ceremony in person to celebrate the triumphant Class of 2021.



(Above) IWU students walk across campus at the start of the spring semester in January 2021.

Illinois Wesleyan Announces Diversity Action Plan

Illinois Wesleyan University **President S. Georgia Nugent** announced a Diversity Action Plan on Nov. 20, 2020. The plan includes steps to increase the diversity of IWU's student body, faculty, and staff, and create a healthier, more welcoming environment across the campus.

"The voices of many students and alumni of color have been clearly heard. Their urgent calls for greater equity and inclusion, for an Illinois Wesleyan that is truly welcoming to and supportive of all, have been top of mind for me on a daily basis," Nugent wrote in a campus communication. "In response, I have been working with others — on campus and beyond — to identify especially needed and effective ways to make change in our University environment."

Recognizing that intentional work is necessary to create a more equitable campus community, IWU is partnering with **Derrick L. Tillman-Kelly '09**, an expert on issues of systemic racism in higher education. Tillman-Kelly will undertake a review of the University's structure, policies and practices with respect to diversity, equity and inclusion. He will engage with students, faculty, staff and administrators to develop actionable recommendations, including the hiring of a cabinet-level administrator to guide diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts.

The Diversity Action Plan includes the following:

- IWU has joined The Consortium for Faculty Diversity in Liberal Arts Colleges to bring promising young scholars of color to the University. Efforts also continue to hire more senior scholars of color.
- Beginning in the 2019-20 academic year, the president and provost met with every department searching for faculty to make clear that diversifying our faculty is a top priority. This past year, five new faculty members were hired, and owing to the success of concerted recruitment efforts, four are faculty of color.
- Every hiring process at IWU now includes a search advocate. Advocates are trained as experts to assist search committees in identifying and minimizing unconscious bias in the search process, beginning with the position description. Advocacy training will be repeated and renewed this year.
- IWU will partner with McLean County's Multicultural Leadership Program to assist in identifying diverse candidates for leadership roles at the University.



(Above) **President S. Georgia Nugent**, seen here at an event in 2019, announced a Diversity Action Plan in November 2020.

- Students have advocated for a Black counselor in Counseling and Consultation Services, and we have addressed that need.
- In addition to broad and proactive outreach by the Admissions Office to identify a diverse group of prospective students, IWU is revising financial aid policies and adding a new scholarship to assist in recruiting and retaining a more diverse student body.
- IWU has reached out to the NAACP, Boys and Girls Club, and multiple other community-based organizations to build relationships, seeking to encourage more young people of color in our community to come to IWU.
- IWU will relaunch the Center for Human Rights and Social Justice to be a more active and visible force on campus. Resources will be made available to support this enhanced role, and a group of faculty and students are already planning for a future which engages the Office of Diversity and Inclusion, registered student organizations, and others.
- The current Diversity Initiatives Committee of IWU's Board of Trustees is being restructured to include student, faculty and staff representation, so that Board members can be more directly informed about the current campus environment and can further support diversity in the IWU community.

Nugent emphasized that these steps "are only a beginning. We will need to work together to listen, to learn, and to strive toward building a community in which all are seen, heard and valued."

Dr. Stephanie A. Whyte '91 Delivers Founders' Day Keynote, MLK Teach-In Talk

Dr. **Stephanie A. Whyte**, a 1991 Illinois Wesleyan University graduate and 2015 recipient of the University's Distinguished Alumni Award, presented the 2021 Founders' Day Convocation keynote address, "COVID-19: The great disruptor."

Due to restrictions caused by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, the Founders' Day Convocation — including prelude music, an invocation, remarks by **President S. Georgia Nugent**, Whyte's address, "Alma Wesleyana" performed by **Elena Gjata '23**, and postlude music by organist Kevin Chunko — was prerecorded and made available to stream on-demand beginning Jan. 20, 2021.

In addition to Whyte's address, she also led a live, virtual talk during Professor of Political Science **Greg Shaw's** "American Healthcare Policy" class. Whyte later delivered a live, virtual presentation and Q&A session for the Martin Luther King Jr. Teach-In on the topic of the intersection of Blackness and U.S. healthcare.

Whyte is a senior clinical solutions medical director for Aetna Medicaid, overseeing the medical director team serving Florida, Kentucky and Louisiana. While at Aetna, she has participated in the Health Care Equity Committee, and National Pharmacy and Therapeutics Committee, and served as the interim chief medical officer for the Aetna Better Health of Illinois plan.

Prior to joining Aetna in 2015, Whyte was the first chief health officer for Chicago Public Schools (CPS), the third largest school district in the nation. She established a new office to focus on student health and wellness policy and programming, with an emphasis on removing barriers to learning. During her tenure, CPS became the first large urban school district to put undesignated epinephrine auto-injectors in each school for emergency use and, as a result, saved 70 lives. Before CPS, Whyte served as the medical director of Mobile Care Chicago, where she spent over a decade caring for children with asthma in Chicago's most underserved neighborhoods.

Whyte is a board-certified pediatrician. She received a bachelor's degree in biology from Illinois Wesleyan, an M.D. from the Chicago Medical School (now Rosalind Franklin University of Medicine and Science) and completed her pediatric residency at Louisiana State University Medical Center in New Orleans. Whyte also holds an MBA in public and nonprofit management



(Above) **Dr. Stephanie A. Whyte '91** provided the 2021 Founders' Day Convocation keynote address and a virtual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Teach-In talk.

from Saint Xavier University, is a certified healthcare insurance executive, and is board-certified in health-care and quality management. Whyte has been honored with the "Distinguished Alumnus Award" from both the Chicago Medical School (2013) and Illinois Wesleyan (2015). She is a published author, lecturer, media spokesperson, and has served on various local, regional and national advisory boards.

Whyte's Founders' Day Convocation keynote and Martin Luther King Jr. Teach-In address complement Illinois Wesleyan's annual theme, "Health, Healing and Humanity." The Martin Luther King Jr. Teach-In, held annually at IWU, coincided with this year's Founders' Day, which honors the 30 civic and religious leaders who came together in 1850 to establish "an Institution of learning of Collegiate grade."

Formerly held on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, the MLK Teach-In was moved to later in January, beginning in 2020, to include students who do not have classes during the national holiday. Meanwhile, faculty and staff participated in a day of celebration during the national holiday, with a professional development objective to listen, reflect, cultivate deeper levels of awareness, learn and practice what it means to hold space individually, and collectively to begin the essential expansion required for anti-racism action and racial justice.

Illinois Wesleyan Announces Legends Endowment for Athletic Excellence

The Illinois Wesleyan University Athletics Department will be made even stronger with the establishment of The Legends Endowment for Athletic Excellence, Athletic Director **Mike Wagner** announced on Dec. 1, 2020. The six-figure endowment was made possible through the generosity of **Jeff '74** and **Janet (Galli) Solberg '74**, **Kris** and **Dr. Cal Atwell '73**, **Michelle Zeller** and **Pat Busch '73**, **Vicky** and **Doug Stewart '73**, and **Steve '73** and **Deb (Newberg) Wannemacher '74**.

"We are so excited to announce The Legends Endowment for Athletic Excellence to the greater IWU community," Wagner said. "This new endowment will forever enhance the student-athlete experience at IWU, while providing our coaches with the tools they need to develop future leaders."

The endowment is named in honor of IWU athletics legends who made a lasting impact on the lives of countless student-athletes, while also laying the foundation for the success IWU athletics enjoys today: **Jack Horenberger '36**, athletic director, and baseball and basketball coach; **Bob Keck**, track and field and football



many other departmental needs. It is a fitting legacy to their love of and commitment to Illinois Wesleyan."

Illinois Wesleyan athletics has a national reputation for excellence in competition, academics and service to the community. The Titans have won eight team NCAA national championships, 24 individual NCAA national championships, and 160 College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin titles.

"We are so excited to announce The Legends Endowment for Athletic Excellence to the greater IWU community. This new endowment will forever enhance the student-athlete experience at IWU, while providing our coaches with the tools they need to develop future leaders."

— MIKE WAGNER

coach; **Don Larson '50**, football and golf coach; **Dennie Bridges '61**, basketball coach and athletic director; **Barb Cothren**, softball, tennis, and volleyball coach and administrator; and **Edgar Alsene**, IWU's first sports information director.

"I would personally like to recognize and thank Jeff and Janet Solberg for their support, generosity and leadership in envisioning and providing the lead gift for this endowment," added Wagner. "The Solbergs and all the initial donors have laid the foundation for a fund that will provide perpetual enhancements to our athletic programs that would otherwise be impossible. Every year, funds from the endowment will have an impact on capital improvements, equipment and technology upgrades, student-athlete travel and nutrition, and

Academically, IWU ranks in the top-30 nationally among all NCAA divisions with 133 CoSIDA Academic All-Americans and has seen seven College Division Academic All-Americans of the Year recipients. Furthermore, six Titan student-athletes have earned the NCAA's "Elite 90" award, which is presented to the student-athlete with the highest cumulative grade-point average participating at an NCAA championship finals site.

More than one-third of Illinois Wesleyan students participate in Titan Athletics. In the Bloomington-Normal community, IWU student-athletes, coaches and staff have donated more than \$450,000 and completed roughly 35,000 community service hours over the past decade.

Illinois Wesleyan Awarded Hosting Duties for 2025 NCAA Division III Softball and Women's Volleyball Championships

Illinois Wesleyan was picked to host the 2025 NCAA Division III Softball Championships and Women's Volleyball Championships, the NCAA announced on Oct. 14, 2020.

"We are honored and humbled that the NCAA has selected Illinois Wesleyan to host these prestigious events," said IWU Athletic Director **Mike Wagner**. "The opportunity to represent the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin, IWU, and the Bloomington-Normal community is something we take great pride in. We have been so fortunate to host many different levels of NCAA Championship play and have always strived to create a first-class experience for the student-athletes and teams involved as they visit our campus and the greater Bloomington-Normal community."

Inspiration Field at Carol Willis Park will serve as the venue for the NCAA Division III Softball Championships in May 2025. The Shirk Center will serve as the venue for the NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championships in November 2025.

Inspiration Field, the home of the IWU softball team, has a long tradition of hosting NCAA Tournament regional and super regional competitions. The Titans first hosted an eight-team regional in 2002, followed by others in 2003, 2009 and 2012. In 2014, IWU served as host of regional and super regional play. IWU was also selected to host regionals in 2015, 2016, 2018 and 2019, and super regionals in 2018 and 2019.

"I am ecstatic for this tremendous opportunity to showcase our incredible facilities and beautiful campus," IWU Head Softball Coach **Tiffany Prager** said. "We have a rich history of community support and look forward to providing them the opportunity to watch our sport at the highest level. Our goal year in and year out is to compete for a national championship, and now we are even more excited to play for the chance to accomplish that goal on our home field."

The Shirk Center was previously the site of the 2007 and 2008 NCAA Division III Women's Volleyball Championships, as well as a regional host in 2017.

"I am thrilled that we will have the opportunity to host the NCAA Championships again," IWU Head Volleyball Coach **Kim Nelson-Brown** said. "We're excited to have the event back for the first time since 2008 and show off our campus and community. Peers who competed in the event when we hosted in 2007 and 2008 spoke highly of the experience and environment at the Shirk Center. We look forward to once again offering a first-class student-athlete experience and hope to compete in the championship in 2025."

Criteria for selecting host sites include creating exceptional experiences for student-athletes and adherence to NCAA bid specifications. Specifications include: providing optimal facilities; ease of travel to the location and ample lodging; and adherence to NCAA principles, which include providing an atmosphere that is safe and respects the dignity of all attendees.



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan was selected to host 2025 NCAA Championships in softball and women's volleyball, at Inspiration Field at Carol Willis Park (left) and the Shirk Center (right), respectively.

Illinois Wesleyan Lands Bee Campus USA Certification

In keeping with Illinois Wesleyan University's commitment to sustainability, a coalition of students, faculty and Bloomington residents have transformed the IWU Peace Garden into a nationally recognized safe haven for bees and other native pollinators, earning the University certification as an affiliate of Bee Campus USA.

As bee populations continue to decline globally, Bee Campus USA endorses colleges and universities that create well-maintained pollinator habitats and promote bee conservation efforts within the local community, among other criteria. Over one hundred campuses currently participate in this initiative. Illinois Wesleyan is one of five colleges in Illinois to receive the designation.

"Earning this certification is a big step forward," said Professor of Political Science **Jim Simeone**, faculty advisor of the Peace Garden and the IWU Beekeepers Club. "It shows how a few committed students can make a difference in shaping our sustainability curriculum. The certification would not have happened without their work."

Economics and political science major **David Werner '21** planted the idea of constructing an on-campus apiary — a place to house bees — and applying for Bee Campus USA certification at a Peace Garden meeting, and from there, the idea quickly grew. Student Senate Sustainability Commissioner and biology major **Ankush Kecht '23** helped secure funding, and with assistance from the Acacia Fraternity, students assembled the apiary, created a wildflower garden to attract pollinators and purchased the bees themselves. Additionally, Peace Garden intern and environmental studies major **Janna Fitzgerald '20** drafted apiary signage.

"We decided to name the apiary after IWU

President Lloyd Bertholf who was an entomologist and bee researcher," Simeone said. "Janna inspected President Bertholf's papers in the IWU archive and found a number of quotations related directly to bees."

Kecht is now working with the GREENetwork on campus to raise funds for the signs. The students' dedication to seeing the project through, from taking beekeeping classes at Heartland Community College to raising funds for the necessary equipment, demonstrates the kind of work ethic that will further their careers, Simeone said.

"IWU students are able to pick up a project and run with it — as David did with the Bee Campus initiative. They learn to navigate the University's authority structure and work cooperatively with multiple constituencies. They reach out into the larger community as all our Action Research Center students do," Simeone said. "These kinds of project management skills make our students very attractive to employers and effective citizens."

Though beekeeping may sound like a niche hobby, the initiative has touched every branch of the Illinois Wesleyan community, from collaboration with RSOs and Greek Life to outreach programs with local elementary school students. Over 30 students are currently involved with the RSO's honey harvest, with the assistance of several Bloomington beekeepers. George C. and Ella Beach Lewis Endowed Chair of Biology **Given Harper** also uses the honey bee colonies as a teaching tool in his environmental studies courses.



(Above) David Werner '21 tends to the Peace Garden apiary.



DECEMBER GRADUATES

(Left) Illinois Wesleyan celebrated 35 students who completed work on bachelor's degrees in December 2020 with a virtual celebration on Dec. 10, 2020.

Summer Term Courses Offered to Students, Alumni, Community

Current Illinois Wesleyan University students, high school juniors and seniors, alumni, community members and others are invited to enroll in the University's Summer Term courses.

This year's offerings are significantly expanded relative to last year's, and the University will be using both a June and July session. At present, more than 20 summer courses are listed, and it is possible that a few additional courses will be added between now and summer. Taught by Illinois Wesleyan faculty, courses cover a wide range of topics and disciplines — from Spanish to calculus to dog psychology.

Many of the courses will be offered online and can be taken remotely, but some will be delivered as in-person, HyFlex or hybrid course options for those who would like to study in Bloomington-Normal this summer. HyFlex courses allow students to fully participate either in person or remotely and switch modes as needed, while hybrid courses implement a mixture of in-person and online activities.

Associate Provost **Becky Roesner**, who is among those organizing the Summer Term, remarked that she is, "delighted to see some of the University's most creative and well-subscribed courses making their summer debut. In addition to serving the needs of current students, the online summer offerings provide new opportunities for alumni to reconnect with their alma mater and for prospective students to experience our outstanding faculty."

For more information about Summer Term, including course descriptions and a link to register, visit: www.iwu.edu/summer-term.



Illinois Wesleyan Wins "BloNo Campus Voter Registration Challenge"



(Above) A total of 695 Illinois Wesleyan students — 42% of the student body — registered to vote during the "BloNo Campus Voter Registration Challenge."

Illinois Wesleyan University topped Illinois State University and Heartland Community College to win the "BloNo Campus Voter Registration Challenge," a friendly competition between the three campuses to encourage voter engagement.

Altogether, 695 Illinois Wesleyan students — 42% of the student body — registered to vote by Oct. 18, 2020, ahead of the Nov. 3 election.

Several initiatives encouraged IWU students to register, including the "Titan Votes" campaign, organized by IWU's Student Senate in partnership with the Athletics Department. Additionally, Illinois Wesleyan Athletics hosted several Zoom calls to help educate student-athletes about the voter registration process.

"The IWU Athletics Department is largely to thank for our excellent registration numbers, as they've worked hard to ensure all 550+ of our student-athletes are registered and ready to vote," said Illinois Wesleyan Action Research Center Coordinator **Bevin Choban '10**. "We're so excited that together with our ISU and HCC colleagues, we were able to support nearly 1,400 students in exercising their right to vote."

Launched on National Voter Registration Day, the "BloNo Campus Voter Registration Challenge" ran from Sept. 22 through Oct. 18, 2020, the last day to register to vote online in Illinois.

Bloomington Tops National Survey

Bloomington, Illinois, has been named the “happiest city” in the United States, according to Zippia’s 2020 list of the 10 “Happiest Cities” in the country.

Zippia, a career advice website, analyzed more than 600 cities across the country and ranked them according to five criteria to measure overall happiness, including: being well educated (population with at least a bachelor’s degree); percent of households earning above \$75,000; median home prices; a short commute to work; and having a family.

According to data from the most recent American Community Survey, Zippia cited that 43% of Bloomington residents earn \$75,000 or more annually, and the average Bloomington resident drives only 16 minutes to work. As a college town, Bloomington is home to a well-educated population and offers affordable housing. “It’s easy to see the city has a lot going for it,” Zippia commented.

In addition to Zippia’s ranking, Bloomington was recently recognized as one of “America’s Best Small Cities,” ranking 23rd on the 2020 list compiled by Best Cities. A division of Resonance Consultancy, Best Cities recognized Bloomington for being “a safe (ranked No. 30 for Safety) and vibrant community that embodies Midwest hospitality and ambition.”

Bloomington was also recently featured among Best Choice Schools’ 2020 list of “30 Small College Towns with Great Quality of Life.” As home to Illinois Wesleyan University and a close neighbor to Illinois State University in Normal, Best Choice Schools touted local businesses that “cater to the student population,” and cited the combination of a low cost-of-living combined with several big employers that make Bloomington “a great location to both attend college and start a life.”



(Above) Bloomington, Illinois, was named the “happiest city” in the United States, according to Zippia’s 2020 list of the 10 “Happiest Cities.”

Campus Activities Board Recognized for Outstanding Programming

The National Association of Campus Activities (NACA) has awarded the Programming Organization of the Year Award for the Mid-America Region to Illinois Wesleyan’s Campus Activities Board (CAB), a student-led organization committed to creating a vibrant campus life at IWU.

CAB received the honor, along with a marketing award for its fall 2020 calendar poster, during NACA programming awards announced virtually on Feb. 18, 2021. NACA recognizes students and organizations which transform college communities through inclusive learning, meaningful connections and engaging entertainment.

“I think winning this award shows us that we’ve been bringing programming that the IWU community enjoys,” said CAB Director **Junaid Ali ’21**. “We would have never won this award if it wasn’t for the students, faculty and staff at IWU — they supported us from the start and are just helping us make it better.”

This marks the second time that CAB, formerly named the Office of Student Activities Programming Team, has won this award in the Mid-America Region, which encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky and Michigan.

IWU Director of Student Involvement and Regional Leadership Team Chair for the NACA Mid-America Region **Kevin Carey ’13** praised the accomplishments of CAB executive teams during a tumultuous year.

“This is such an achievement in a time where much transition has happened around us globally and also internally as the group navigated a new board structure, virtual/hybrid/in-person programming, and continued to find new ways to engage students through different types of programs,” Carey said.

CAB is responsible for pitching, organizing and marketing a range of events for IWU students to connect and have fun together, from relaxing arts and crafts to live comedy and musical performances — all while following necessary COVID-19 protocols throughout the past year.



The Ames Library Partners to Digitize Medieval Manuscripts

The Ames Library has partnered with Indiana University Bloomington and a consortium of higher-learning institutions in a three-year grant for “The Peripheral Manuscripts Project: Digitizing Medieval Manuscript Collections in the Midwest.” The project will create a digital repository and catalog of medieval manuscripts across Midwestern collections.

The project involves digitizing and cataloging 78 codices (books) and 406 medieval manuscript fragments from a consortium of 22 Midwestern institutions, including contributions from The Ames Library. The project focuses on distinct collections that have not been economically feasible for holding institutions to digitize and catalog on their own. The Council on Library and Information Resources (CLIR) awarded \$281,936.10 for the project, and IU Bloomington will serve as host for the grant.

Elizabeth Hebbard, the project’s primary principal investigator and assistant professor of French and Italian in the College of Arts and Sciences at IU Bloomington said: “Every surviving medieval book and fragment has the potential to tell us more about medieval book arts, textual traditions, individuals’ lives and libraries, and even, through their physical qualities and materials, things like animal husbandry and commerce. This is why it is so important to continue to locate and describe unstudied and understudied manuscripts.”

Illinois Wesleyan initially proposed contributing 12 single manuscript leaves, dating from 1220-1450, and one complete 16th century codex. IWU University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor **Meg Miner** said, “During a recent planning meeting I was excited to learn we will be able to add three books that contain six fragments of manuscripts. These were used by book binders in the 15th-17th centuries to support the structures of these printed books. The experts on medieval manuscripts for this CLIR project will examine them and provide us with more information that I can share with our community.”

University Librarian **Stephanie Davis-Kahl** said “We are grateful for the efforts of the IU Bloomington libraries and CLIR to include a variety of institutions in the project, and I am especially appreciative of Meg Miner’s efforts to share the gems in our special collections with an appreciative audience.”

IU libraries will scan or photograph the manuscripts, and researchers at IU Bloomington,



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor **Meg Miner** showcases a book that will be included in the medieval manuscript digitizing project.

Loyola University Chicago and Saint Mary’s College, with assistance from partner librarians and subject specialists, will catalog these objects, including many manuscripts unrecorded in previous bibliographical surveys.

As a result, “The Peripheral Manuscripts Project: Digitizing Medieval Manuscript Collections in the Midwest” will bring a wealth of previously inaccessible and uncataloged medieval material to scholarly consciousness.

All of the data generated by the grant team will be made freely available through digital library repository services developed and maintained by IU libraries. This data includes manuscript descriptions and high-resolution images that meet International Image Interoperability Framework (IIIF) compliance standards.

This new material will be aggregated with existing digitized collections to yield a more comprehensive understanding of North American manuscript holdings.

“The benefit of participating in a project like this is our small collection will join with the other partners in the Midwest in this virtual space,” said Miner, “and ultimately become part of a network for North American repositories. Researchers worldwide will be able to consult and compare across collections.”

BOOKS

Dave Kindred '63 published *Leave Out the Tragic Parts: A Grandfather's Search for a Boy Lost to Addiction*, a heartbreaking and eye-opening memoir about the devastating impacts of alcoholism, the indomitable spirit of a boy born to wander, and the ways love both blinds and allows unconditional understanding. Dave is an award-winning sports writer and a former recipient of Illinois Wesleyan's Distinguished Alumni Award who, in *Leave Out the Tragic Parts*, pieces together his late grandson's life as a train-hopper battling alcoholism. It is available in hardcover, e-book and audiobook.

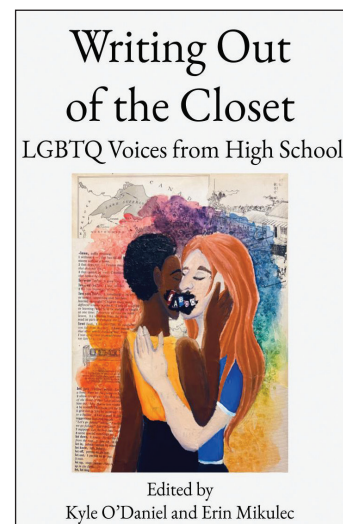
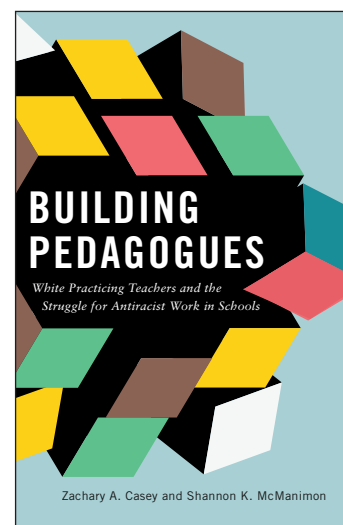
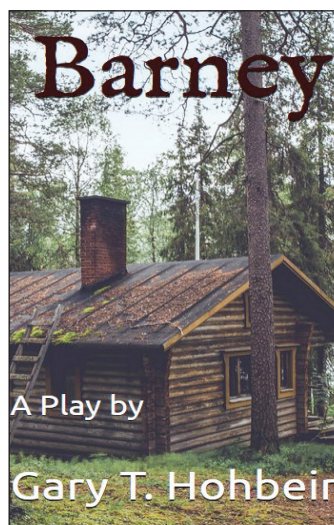
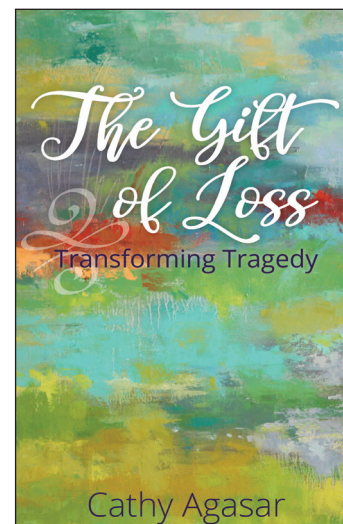
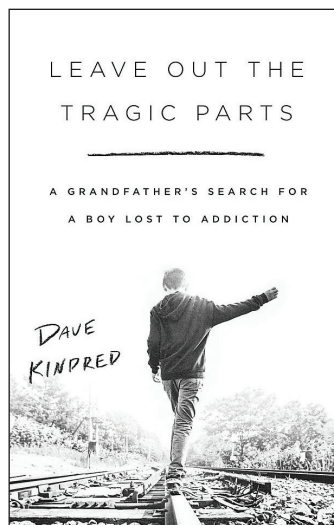
Hal Graff '69 penned *Remember, Remember The 5th Of November: A Davis Finn Mystery Volume 42, A Trilogy – Book 3*. The political espionage thriller follows Hal's protagonist, President Davis Finn, through a fraudulent election and scandals woven together by a series of plot twists and turns. Hal's latest work and many other novels are available on Amazon, in both Kindle and paperback versions.

Cathy (Coons) Agasar '85 published *The Gift of Loss: Transforming Tragedy* in March 2020. Faced with the unexpected death of her husband, Cathy was left to raise their three children alone, grieving along with them. When she finally took stock of her life, she realized everyone else's needs came first. That lifestyle zapped her emotional, physical and spiritual reserves — exactly what she desperately needed when her world turned upside down. Her memoir inspires us to take stock and to live the best version of ourselves. It chronicles her journey from unfathomable heartbreak and suppression of emotions to the incredible gifts of the healing process. At times poignant enough to provoke misty eyes, the message is ultimately about hope and transformation from within. Cathy said, "As I continue on my journey, I am aware that my actions have impact, so if someone is watching me, I hope that I am leading by example and leaving a legacy of hope and courage to live life as the best version of oneself." *The Gift of Loss* is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble and from independent book sellers.

Gary Hohbein '98 penned *Barney*, a story about the philosophy of technology and the arrival of robots in our homes. Uncle John, who lives a hermit-like lifestyle in his log cabin with only his dog Barney, becomes the subject of a technology experiment one day when a first-generation social robot mysteriously appears in his backyard. His indifference turns philosophical as he realizes its capabilities as not only a replacement for performing daily activities but as a threat to reflective thought and what makes him human. As the experimenters become impatient, John's reflections turn to rage and a plot for revenge. *Barney* is available on Amazon.

Shannon K. McManimon '98 has published two books on the topic of anti-racism. *Building Pedagogues: White Practicing Teachers and the Struggle for Antiracist Work in Schools* details a two-year critical teacher learning seminar called "RaceWork," facilitated by Shannon and co-author Zachary A. Casey. Both authors are white teacher educators working with K-12 teachers committed to advancing anti-racism in their classrooms, schools and communities. *Building Pedagogues* details the program's theoretical and pedagogical foundations: a unique tripartite approach to race and racism at personal, local and structural levels; learnings, strategies and practical interventions that emerged from the work; and the challenges and resistance the teachers faced. Shannon also co-edited *Whiteness at the Table*, an examination of

Authors and the Arts



whiteness in the lived experiences of young children, family members, students, teachers and school administrators. It focuses on racism and anti-racism within the context of relationships. Its authors argue that we cannot read or understand whiteness as a phenomenon without attending to the everyday complexities and conflicts of white people's lives. *Whiteness at the Table* encourages white people to consider their moral and political responsibility to bring whiteness — as an explicit topic, as perhaps the most important problem to be solved at this historical moment — to the table. *Building Pedagogues* is available at the SUNY Press website. *Whiteness at the Table* can be purchased at the website of publisher Rowman and Littlefield.

Kyle O'Daniel '15 co-edited *Writing Out of the Closet: LGBTQ Voices from High School*, an anthology of writing and art exclusively by LGBTQ teens. Their works provide a unique insight into the experiences of modern LGBTQ youth and are a poignant reminder for LGBTQ students that there are others like them across the country and around the globe, and that their voices and stories have meaning and value. *Writing Out of the Closet* is available at the DIO Press website.

Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Psychology **Ellen Furlong** answers questions dog owners often ponder in the audiobook *Decoding Dogs: Inside the Canine Mind*. Ellen, who leads the IWU Dog Scientists team, was approached by The Great Courses series to produce an audiobook about dog cognition for Audible, an online audiobook and podcast platform. While she previously published dog psychology research in several academic journals along with authoring a few book chapters, this is her first project geared toward a popular audience. *Decoding Dogs* is available for download at Audible.

R. Forrest Colwell Endowed Chair and Professor of English **James Plath's** edited volume *Critical Insights: Conspiracies* was published by Salem Press in April 2020. The volume explores touchstone moments in conspiracy fiction — in film as well as in classic and popular works — and delves into the socio-political aspects of conspiracies while examining them at the heart of some of the most beloved canonical literature in English. *Critical Insights: Conspiracies* is available at the Salem Press website.

ESSAYS & PAPERS

Josefina Bañales '14, Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Sociology and Chair of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology **Meghan Burke** and former IWU professor **Kira Hudson Banks** published "The impact of a diversity intervention on White college students' colour-blind racial attitudes," in the journal *Whiteness and Education*. Josefina is an assistant professor in Developmental Psychology and the Learning Research and Development Center at the University of Pittsburgh.

An essay by Issac Funk Endowed Professor of Philosophy **Robert Erlewine**, "Resolving Contradictions: Samuel Hirsch and the Stakes of Modern Jewish Thought," was published in the November 2020 issue of the *AJS Review*.

Earl and Marian A. Beling Professor of Natural Sciences **Tian-Xiao He** authored or co-authored the following eight journal publications in 2020: "Half Riordan array sequences," *Linear Algebra and its Applications*; "A-sequences, Z-sequence, and B-sequences of Riordan

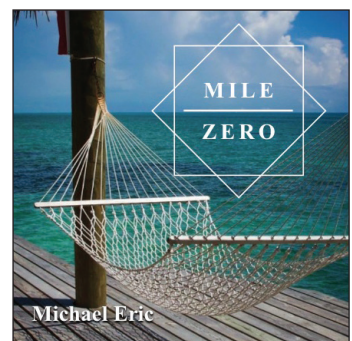
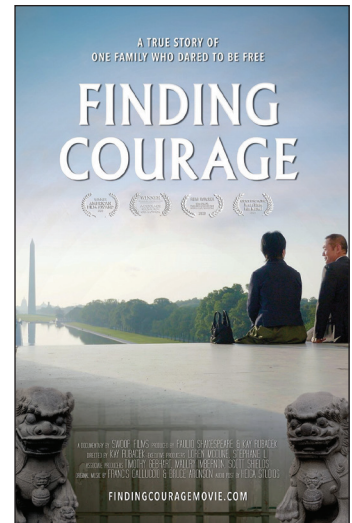
matrices," *Discrete Mathematics*; "Recursive sequences and Girard-Waring identities with applications in sequence transformation," *Electronic Research Archive*; "Computation of Fermat's Pseudoprimes," *Journal of Discrete Mathematical Sciences & Cryptography*; "A note on Eulerian numbers and Toeplitz matrices," *Special Matrices*; "Palindromes and pseudo-involution multiplication," *Linear Algebra and its Applications*; "Generalized Schröder matrices arising from enumeration of lattice paths," *Czechoslovak Mathematical Journal*; and "On the applications of the Girard-Waring identities," *Journal of Computational Analysis and Applications*. He also delivered a talk, "Expression and Computation of Generalization of Stirling Numbers and Stirling Functions," at the Discrete Mathematics Seminar at Illinois State University in March 2020.

DOCUMENTARY

Scott Shields '83 is an associate producer of *Finding Courage*, a documentary detailing one family's struggle to be free. *Finding Courage* tells the story of Yifei Wang, a former Chinese Communist Party journalist living in exile in San Francisco and seeking justice for her family. Already the winner of multiple awards on the film festival circuit, *Finding Courage* is available for streaming at SwoopFilms.com.

MUSIC

Mike Baltz '87 released *Mile Zero*, an album of "TropRock" songs, in June 2020 under his stage name Michael Eric. Mike started writing and recording the songs in 2016 and describes the sound as "Jimmy Buffett meets Jerry Jeff Walker." Mike's music career follows work as a conservationist, and as a personal trainer and bodybuilder; his conservation work was featured in a 2009 issue of *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine*. Mike currently coordinates a regional oak ecosystem restoration partnership in southern Illinois. He also writes weekly and monthly conservation columns for two local newspapers, and writes and voices a monthly conservation feature on a local NPR station.



Wayne Messmer '72 released “Doesn’t Seem Like Christmas Without You” in October 2020, just in time for the holiday season. Billed as a “new Christmas classic that speaks to the heart of all of us during this emotionally charged period of our history,” the song was written by popular nightclub and piano bar singer Joy Smith, and performed by Wayne, a Chicago singer, broadcaster, author and actor. “The production was a monumental undertaking, delayed for months by the COVID-19 outbreak,” Wayne recalled. “It was an amazing challenge, but well worth the work. It is one of the proudest accomplishments of my musical career.” The song is available digitally on Apple Music, iTunes, Amazon and Spotify. Wayne was named Illinois Wesleyan’s Distinguished Alumni Award winner in 2017.

Amy McCabe '01 performed at the inauguration of President Joseph R. Biden on Jan. 20, 2021, in Washington, D.C., as a member of “The President’s Own” United States Marine Band. Gunnery Sergeant McCabe is a trumpeter/cornetist who has been a member of the band since 2006. Prior to joining “The President’s Own,” she was a featured soloist in the Tony and Emmy Award winning musical *Blast!*, and a member of MusiCorps, a music education and advocacy program designed to promote music awareness, appreciation and training in Chicago Public Schools.

Kate Tombaugh '07 won the 10th annual Mildred C. Miller International Vocal Competition and a \$3,000 prize at an all-mezzo-soprano competition hosted by the Pittsburgh Festival Opera. The competition began with 155 applicants before it was narrowed to 13 finalists who performed an online concert that premiered Nov. 6, 2020; the winners concert and announcement took place Nov. 8, 2020. Kate has performed professionally for a decade throughout the U.S. in works that range the gamut of classical and musical theatre repertoire.

ART

Bob Riseling '59 (A) had three paintings accepted for the Square Foot Show, hosted at Westland Gallery in London, Ontario, Nov. 18 through Dec. 24, 2020. One of the paintings, an alcohol ink on wood panel, was selected for the 2021 Square Foot Show calendar.

Judy (Johnson) Riseling '59 (B) is a ceramist who teaches pottery to children at the London (Ontario) Clay Arts Centre. She has shown and sold many pieces at the London Potters Guild and Clay Arts Centre.

Dennis Kleidon '66 (C) was the featured artist in a virtual solo art show hosted by New York City’s Walter Wickiser Gallery, which ran from Jan. 2 through Feb. 8, 2021. The exhibit included select abstract paintings, including pieces from Dennis’ *Unleashed*, *Taliesin* and *Transformation* series, and can still be viewed at the gallery’s online archive at www.walterwickisergallery.com. “Unleashing Your Imagination” is a theme in Dennis’ artwork and of his soon-to-be-published book of the same title. Dennis is a professor of art emeritus at the University of Akron and the CEO of Kleidon & Associates, a marketing communications firm.

A collaborative text and image installation by Illinois Wesleyan Professor and Chair of English **Joanne Diaz** and former IWU Photographer/Videographer **Jason Reblando** was on exhibit in late 2020 at the Arts + Literature Laboratory in Madison, Wisconsin, and from Feb. 15 through March 11, 2021, at IWU’s Wakeley Gallery. *La Ruta: Walter Benjamin’s Last Passage* centered around the arduous trek Benjamin made across the Pyrenees in hopes of eluding Nazis set on

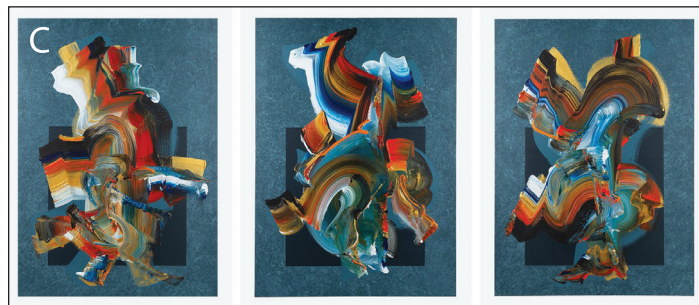
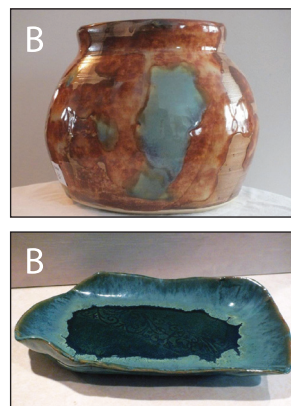
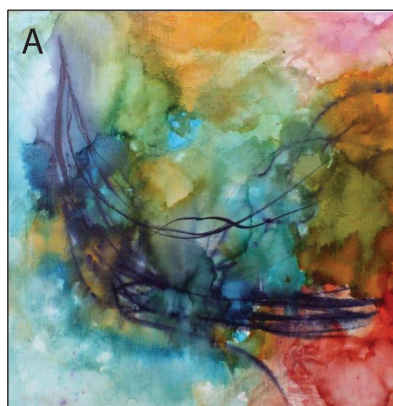
persecuting him. Pairing photography and poetry, Joanne and Jason drew upon and engaged with Benjamin’s own interests — the commonplace, the ephemeral, and the fragmentary — while also exploring the intersections of landscape, exile and migration.

PERFORMANCES

Ianne Fields Stewart '15 stars in the Netflix series *Dash & Lily*, based on the young adult series *Dash & Lily’s Book of Dares* by David Levithan and Rachel Cohn. Ianne plays Roberta in the romantic comedy, which debuted on Netflix in November 2020 and scored a 100% approval rating on Rotten Tomatoes.

Tim Foszcz '18 was a featured performer, or “new face,” in the first virtual installment of Porchlight Music Theatre’s popular *New Faces Sing Broadway* series. *New Faces Sing Broadway 1987* was filmed on-site at Chicago’s historic Studebaker Theatre and was available for streaming Nov. 6-29, 2020. The series features Chicago’s newest talents performing unforgettable songs from the hit shows *Les Misérables*, *Into the Woods*, *Me and My Girl* and more.

Retired IWU Director of Alumni Relations **Ann Harding** and her husband made an appearance in the critically acclaimed film *One Night in Miami*, executive produced by their son Chris Harding. The Hardings have previously appeared in their son’s films and the family was highlighted in a Bill Flick column in *The Pantagraph* spotlighting local Hollywood connections.



All submitted content received by Jan. 25, 2021. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is May 10, 2021. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

More than 1K Campus Art Pieces Cataloged Through Multiyear Project

A five-year endeavor to catalog the art of Illinois Wesleyan has culminated in an online collection of more than 1,000 pieces, immortalizing the numerous paintings, sculptures and other artworks that call IWU's campus home.

Beginning in January 2016 at the request of former Provost **Jonathan Green**, the goal of the project was to create an easily accessible collection for research and classroom use, as well as highlight the students, faculty and donors who have contributed art to the University.

The project, led by Library Technology & Resources Director **Suzanne Wilson**, required scouring the campus for pieces that were either on display or in storage. As pieces were located, the team, which included campus photographers and other library staff, reviewed their condition and created a digital catalog that would be easily searchable for students and scholars.

The team made several surprising discoveries in their search, such as a collection of 19th century Japanese woodblock prints by Utagawa Hiroshige, recently on display at the Wakeley Gallery in the Ames School of Art.

"I don't think we expected the sheer volume of art at the beginning," remarked University Librarian **Stephanie Davis-Kahl**. "The team worked to be as precise as possible in describing the art, researching the correct terminology and information about artists throughout the whole process. Photographing the art was also a meticulous process — we were very lucky to have staff support to create images that communicate the visual impact of each piece. It was immensely satisfying to see the different parts of the project come together at the end."

"Creating this collection is a wonderful contribution to our history of supporting the arts on campus, and honors the donors who have gifted us artwork in the past."

— STEPHANIE DAVIS-KAHL

While many universities have extensive art collections, it is distinctive for a small liberal arts institution like Illinois Wesleyan to have one so well-documented



(Above) A five-year endeavor to catalog the art of Illinois Wesleyan, including *Buscando Mi Color* by **Lucero Sanchez '17**, culminated in the publishing of an online database.

and accessible. Now, faculty and staff can request pieces for their office spaces, and students can explore the vast range of artwork available to them on campus.

At the catalog's completion, University Archivist & Special Collections Librarian and Associate Professor **Meg Miner** assumed curatorial responsibilities for the collection. "As with all of IWU's curricular and co-curricular offerings, special collections materials support student growth through the long-standing IWU tradition of cultivating a spirit of inquiry," said Miner.

The next step will be to assess the preservation needs of these items, ensuring the work of past artists will be available for generations of students to come. Any new additions to the campus collection will be photographed and added to the catalog.

Davis-Kahl said, "Creating this collection is a wonderful contribution to our history of supporting the arts on campus, and honors the donors who have gifted us artwork in the past. I'm glad we could bring our unique skills and strengths to the project."

Key contributors to the multiyear project included: **Stephanie Davis-Kahl, Tod Eagleton, Trey Frank III '14, Nick Helten, Elizabeth Jensen, Jason Reblando, Karen Schmidt, Scott Walter and Julie Wood.**



ANGEL IN ADOPTION

Story by MATT WING

Guided by her own adoption experience, Dr. Judith Eckerle '98 serves as director of the University of Minnesota's Adoption Medicine Clinic.

Raising biological and adopted children together under the same roof can present unique challenges for families, but the parents of Dr. Judith Eckerle '98 took an approach that would be lauded by experts today.

"They were really progressive for the '70s and '80s," Eckerle said. "They did all the things we tell adoptive parents to do now."

Raised in Minneapolis-St. Paul and allowed to pursue interests ranging from horseback riding to musical theatre to synchronized swimming, Eckerle was also encouraged by her adoptive parents to explore her Korean heritage.

"I went to Korean culture camp every summer, and so did my three siblings, who were almost always

"It wasn't until I got there and smelled the smells and tasted the food and was immersed in Korean culture that I understood how important it was to me. It really was a life-changing trip."

the only white kids there," Eckerle remembered. "My mom was like, 'We are a family, and Judy is Korean, so we are all going to go.'"

"And my brother hated it! — I mean, I didn't even love it — but we



(Above) Dr. Judith Eckerle '98 (bottom center) poses for a family portrait with her adopted family. (Opposite page) Eckerle poses at M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.

all went every year."

Eckerle enjoyed a childhood where she was showered with unconditional love in an idyllic upbringing that may have seemed unlikely after a precarious beginning to her life.

When she was one week old, Eckerle was found abandoned in an alley in Seoul, South Korea, outside a police station. She was taken to an orphanage, where she stayed for about five weeks. She then spent

excelled in school. While many of her classmates looked forward to recess and after-school activities, she loved being in the classroom. She was drawn to science, among many other subjects, and when her stay-at-home mother decided to go back to school to become a nurse after her children entered school, the young Eckerle often tagged along to classes or thumbed through her mother's course materials.

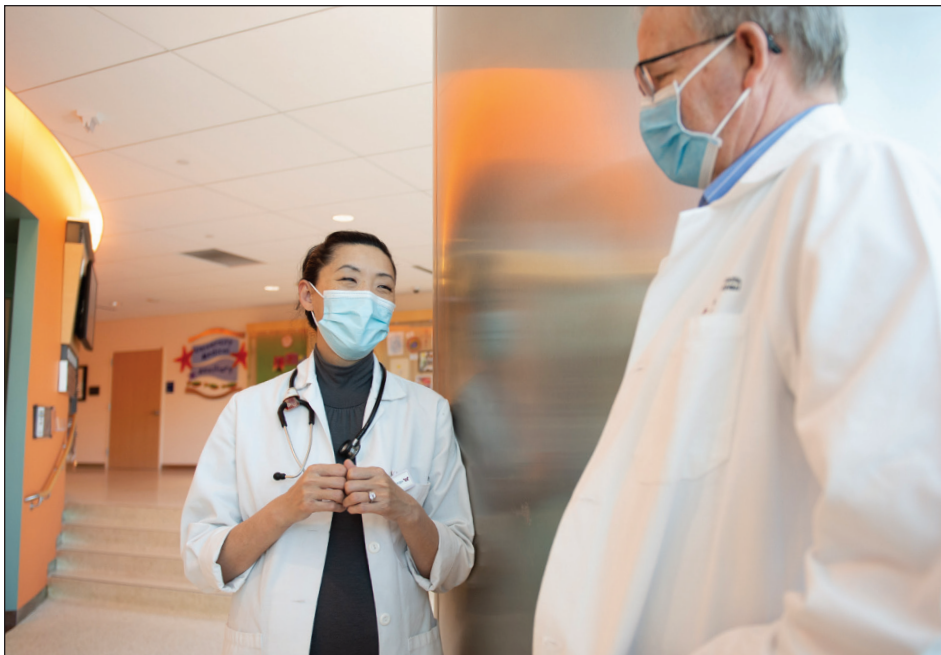
"I just loved science and I always loved children, so I was always going to be a pediatrician," she said.

Eckerle's dream of becoming a doctor guided her during high school. As a senior, she spent 20 hours a week shadowing Dr. Dana Johnson, the head of a neonatal intensive care unit at the University of Minnesota (UMN). As a student at Illinois Wesleyan, she was encouraged by the late IWU President Minor Myers jr. to pursue her many interests in addition to pediatrics; Eckerle double-majored in biology (pre-med) and music (flute

— JUDITH ECKERLE '98

nearly six months in a foster home before she was adopted by a couple in Minnesota.

The loving and supportive home allowed her to flourish. A self-described "big nerd," Eckerle



(Above) Eckerle (left) talks with Dr. Dana Johnson (right) outside offices at the M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Masonic Children's Hospital.

performance), while also active in orchestra and cheerleading.

"Everyone was so supportive of my goal to become a doctor and be pre-med — it was such a big focus — yet they encouraged all the different activities as well," Eckerle said.

"Being internationally adopted, it was such an easy fit for me. I knew I'd understand the kids and the families and the issues that they go through, and serving them just felt so natural."

— JUDITH ECKERLE '98

"I met great people, and I just had a really well-rounded liberal arts education, and I was able to fit in all the classes and experiences that I wanted, both scholastically and extracurricularly."

On the day of her IWU Commencement, Eckerle's parents gave her an all-expenses paid trip to South Korea as a graduation present. Eckerle was more excited about traveling — she had never traveled

abroad before — than the prospect of returning to her birth country.

But that changed a few days into the trip. For the first time she felt a connection to her birth country she had never felt before.

"It wasn't until I got there and

smelled the smells and tasted the food and was immersed in Korean culture that I understood how important it was to me," Eckerle said. "It really was a life-changing trip."

The experience motivated Eckerle to begin a birth parent search. She moved to the West Coast and worked as a nanny and waitress to earn money to fund a return trip to South Korea. She repeated the cycle every few

months over the next two years, as she took a gap year and a deferral year before entering medical school.

With the internet still in its infancy, Eckerle conducted dozens of newspaper, radio and TV interviews to aid in her search. A Korean TV producer made a documentary about her search for her birth parents. For better or worse, she gained a certain degree of notoriety in South Korea.

"I couldn't walk into a restaurant without little old ladies recognizing me and patting me on the head, and then somebody started stalking me from prison, writing me these long letters," she said. "It was pretty intense for a while, but there was almost no one in Korea who had not heard my story."

Unsuccessful in her search to that point, Eckerle returned stateside and enrolled in the Medical College of Wisconsin in Milwaukee. The work was difficult. The hours were long. She needed an escape from the rigor of med school. On a whim, she Googled information about pageants and soon signed up for her first.

The experience of competing in pageants was precisely the diversion she had sought. Eckerle competed and won on the Miss America circuit at the local level, earning a chance to represent Wisconsin and vie for a spot in the national pageant. It was later determined Eckerle was one week too old to be eligible — a mistake born from outdated website information — and she had to give up the crown.

But Eckerle was undeterred. She next competed in the Miss USA system, where she won the title of Miss Wisconsin, USA, and earned

the opportunity to compete at the Miss USA pageant in San Antonio. Her Miss USA pageant journey was chronicled in an *IWU Magazine* story in 2003.

“Pageants were a really fun

pageant did provide more leads for Eckerle in her birth parent search, but none were fruitful. She still has never made a connection with her birth parents or blood relatives. She is no longer actively searching,

“I’m challenged every day by my patients, my families and my colleagues. ... Being in that kind of environment where I’m constantly learning is super exciting.” — JUDITH ECKERLE '98

diversion from the seriousness of medical school, and they did buy me a lot of publicity and additional attention back in Korea for my birth parent search,” Eckerle said. “Pageants have been a fun way to connect with young adults, and I still volunteer to do interview training and try to serve as a role model. I want to teach them they can have fun and still have a brain and use it to forward whatever causes are important to them.”

Competing in the Miss USA

but is hopeful DNA technology — namely, direct-to-consumer genetic testing and public DNA databases — may one day provide answers.

After an “intense” two weeks in San Antonio vying for Miss USA, Eckerle returned to Milwaukee as a third-year med school student to refocus on her schooling, upcoming residency and job search.

A pair of phone calls changed everything.

“One of my cousins adopted a child from Korea, and she called

and said, ‘Hey, did you know about this adoption clinic here at the University of Minnesota?’ And I didn’t,” Eckerle recalled. “So I called to learn more and the person that answered the call was my mentor, Dr. Dana Johnson, the doctor I shadowed when I was in high school.”

Eckerle was surprised to hear his voice on the other end of the line but soon learned that Johnson founded the clinic after adopting a son himself. Johnson’s involvement in the clinic made it even more intriguing to Eckerle.

“He said, ‘Why don’t you come and see what we do?’ So I came and rotated with him,” Eckerle said. “And three days after starting that rotation, I walked into his office and told him that this was what I was going to do for the rest of my life.”

Johnson didn’t have a job to offer Eckerle right away, though he promised he would see what he could do. Eckerle left for her residency in New York City and Johnson obtained National Institutes of Health funding for Eckerle to work with him directly, after her residency, in an innovative adoption medicine fellowship.

Eckerle had landed her dream job.

“Being internationally adopted, it was such an easy fit for me,” she said. “I knew I’d understand the kids and the families and the issues that they go through, and serving them just felt so natural.”

Eckerle has been part of the University of Minnesota’s Adoption Medicine Clinic ever since. She currently serves as its director, as well as an associate professor in UMN’s Department of Pediatrics, and a faculty member in the Division of General Pediatrics and Adolescent Health, and Center for



PHOTO/TREAT & COMPANY

(Above) Eckerle works with a patient at UMN’s Adoption Medicine Clinic, which offers services to 400-500 families annually. (Note: Photo was taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.)



PHOTO/JONATHAN CHAPMAN

(Above) Eckerle gives a high-five to a young patient at the Adoption Medicine Clinic. *(Note: Photo was taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

NeuroBehavioral Development.

She splits time between her clinical and academic duties, both of which serve the adoption clinic. No day is ever the same. The confluence of disciplines within adoption medicine keeps the work interesting and satisfies Eckerle's curious nature.

"I'm challenged every day by

of pediatrics together in the same room on clinic days.

The clinic's ability to help patients was boosted by a grant through the Minnesota Department of Human Services. "I think we are probably the only ones in the world doing this," Eckerle said. "To have instantaneous feedback and know exactly what direction you need to

"It kind of felt like therapy every day, working with families and kids and figuring out how I could better help other people, but also learn about myself."

— JUDITH ECKERLE '98

my patients, my families and my colleagues," she said. "Being in an academic setting at a university, I can call a colleague and say, 'Hey, what do you think of this rare disease?' And being in that kind of environment where I'm constantly learning is super exciting."

The gamut of adoption medicine is perhaps never on display as fully as it is in the center's Comprehensive Child Well-being Assessments, which bring experts in all subfields

go in is really amazing, both for the child and for the family."

Eckerle and her colleagues spend a fair amount of time fundraising, teaching, grant-writing and generally "spreading the word." The clinic doesn't make money on the services it provides. Nor can it offer services to families unaware of its existence. Though the clinic provides services to 400-500 families and another couple hundred in the pre-adoption process annually,

Eckerle knows that with more than 7,000 kids in the foster care system in Minnesota, the clinic could be doing more.

"One of our biggest challenges is that some people just don't know that we are here or what we do," she said.

The focus of Eckerle's work, however, is and always has been kids and families. She meets with families during the pre-adoption process to discuss adoption terms. She goes through an extensive checklist to gauge the comfort level of an adoptive family — asking if they would be willing to adopt a child with a developmental delay, or a child exposed to alcohol or drugs in utero, or a child with a cleft palate — with the goal of placing children with families possessing the skills and resources to provide for it. Consultations with pediatric psychologists, occupational therapists and other specialists have become part of the comprehensive assessment that all children receive, and clinic staff in many instances offer support both before and after a child's placement with a family.

The success stories are many. There was the young boy who screamed for an hour straight during his first appointment, but returned six months later — after a myriad of therapies and interventions — and calmly greeted Eckerle and asked her about a picture of Jupiter hanging on the wall.

Sometimes, Eckerle says, success can be as simple as physical growth. She recalls an 18-month-old girl who was overdue to start cutting her first tooth but, three months after her first clinic visit, returned with a mouth full of teeth.

"They all came in at once because her body could finally focus

on using nutrition for the normal things like growth,” Eckerle said. “Everything grew. Her hair grew. Her feet grew. And it all happened within just the first couple months because she didn’t have to spend her energy and resources on being stressed or hypervigilant or hungry or neglected.

“It’s amazing how some of these kids literally transform within a few months of being in a stable household. The turnaround and the change can be absolutely monumental.”

The job can be incredibly rewarding, but also therapeutic. Eckerle recalls a time when she first started working at the clinic when she would get emotional in discussing adoption issues.

“It kind of felt like therapy every day, working with families and kids and figuring out how I could better help other people, but also learn about myself,” she said.

Eckerle’s work has been recognized in Minnesota and beyond. She has earned UMN’s Department of Pediatrics Excellence in Child Health Advocacy Award. She’s been named one of *Minneapolis-St. Paul Magazine’s* “Top Doctors, Rising Stars” three years in a row. Her work on pediatric tuberculosis has been recognized by the Centers for Disease Control. She has twice been an invited editor for the leading pediatric infectious disease reference *The Red Book*. She is considered an internationally recognized voice in the study of fetal alcohol spectrum disorders.

In 2018, Eckerle was nominated as a Congressional Coalition on Adoption Institute Angels in Adoption honoree by Minnesota Senator Amy Klobuchar. Eckerle was presented the award at the U.S. Capitol

by Klobuchar and, along with other honorees, afforded the opportunity to meet with government leaders to advocate for children who have been adopted or are in the foster care system.

“It’s so exciting to see how far these kids come despite the struggles they have been through, and the services we are able to provide them in order to help them reach their potential.”

— JUDITH ECKERLE '98

“Judy’s impact is not limited to Minnesota. She is a passionate advocate for permanence within the child protection system, speaking with representatives from dozens of countries and traveling to Korea and Honduras to educate policy-makers on why family care is preferable to institutional care,” said Dana Johnson, Eckerle’s mentor, in the UMN announcement of the honor. “As an adopted person, her own story has an energizing effect on all those who hope to improve the lives of children who have experienced adversity.”

adoption experience, now reinforced by her parenting experience, guides her in making a difference in the lives of children and families who have experienced adoption or foster care.

“It’s so exciting to see how far these kids come despite the struggles they have been through, and the services we are able to provide them in order to help them reach their potential,” Eckerle said. “Hopefully we can keep using our knowledge and experience to help these families grow and come together.” ♦



(Above) Eckerle (left) talks with her longtime mentor Johnson (right) in his office at M Health Fairview University of Minnesota Masonic Children’s Hospital.



UP FOR AN ADVENTURE

Story by MATT WING

The tallest mountain in North America beckoned Andrew Baldock '99 to Alaska and set in motion a quest to climb the world's highest peaks.

On his first serious mountaineering adventure, Andrew Baldock '99 thought he saw someone die.

While scaling Mount Hood in 2015, Baldock heard a commotion below him on the mountain. He turned to see a fellow mountaineer sliding out of control down the face of Mount Hood, an active stratovolcano and the highest peak in Oregon. Screaming for help and desperately attempting to plunge an ice ax into the glacial surface as he careened down the mountain, the helpless mountaineer disappeared from Baldock's sight in mere seconds.

It was a sudden and stark reminder of the danger involved in mountaineering.

"There are these holes in the glacier where all the sulfuric gases come out, and he was heading in that direction and could have easily fallen into one," Baldock said. "And if that happened, it would have been game over."

Baldock later encountered the shaken climber on his descent of Mount Hood. The rookie mountaineer had escaped the near-death experience with only minor injuries, mainly in the form of friction burns. The interaction validated for Baldock — himself a rookie then,

too — the time, training and money he had spent in carefully planning his summit of Mount Hood.

Baldock took courses to learn the skills needed to climb the world's tallest peaks. He purchased the best, most trusted equipment. He familiarized himself with the many dangers inherent to mountain climbing, everything from avalanches, to physical ailments brought on by altitude and extreme weather, to the phenomenon of "summit fever," the compulsion to reach the peak of a mountain at all costs, famously chronicled in Jon Krakauer's *Into Thin Air*.

"I think most climbers are risk takers and they get a high off of doing something that's risky," Baldock said. "But the good ones are very careful and manage that risk."

Baldock's interest in mountain climbing — and all things outdoors — began long before his summit of Mount Hood. He grew up in Pana, Illinois, a typical Midwestern town of about 5,000 residents. He was active in youth sports, Boy Scouts, and anything else that kept him

outside. He eventually became an Eagle Scout, learning many of the basic skills essential to mountaineering. His first climbing experiences came on annual trips to Giant City State Park in southern Illinois.

A desire to continue his track and field career at a school with a strong academic reputation led Baldock to Illinois Wesleyan. While competing in the pole vault and short-distance events for the Titan track team, he majored in political science with an eye on a legal career, inspired by, of all things, an Academy Award-nominated legal drama.

"A lot of people have asked me why (I wanted to become an attorney), and I don't exactly know the answer," Baldock said. "But I really wanted to go to law school — and I know this kind of sounds kind of ridiculous — but it was after watching *A Few Good Men* with Tom Cruise and Jack Nicholson.

"So if there was any single motivation to become an attorney, I think that was it."

Baldock earned a Juris Doctor at

the prestigious George Washington University Law School and went to work, first as an assistant district attorney in St. Clair (Ill.) County, just across the Mississippi River from St. Louis. Five years later, he became an ADA in Fairbanks, Alaska. In 2019, he was promoted to supervisor of the special victims unit for the district attorney's office there, which oversees the largest prosecutorial district by area in the United States.

The move to Alaska was made possible by a job opportunity, but the motivation to relocate to America's most remote state was for altogether different reasons.

"Really, it was wanting to climb. Denali is kind of what drew me here," Baldock said, referencing the tallest peak in North America, formerly known as Mount McKinley. "(Alaska) has the glaciers and the highest mountains in North America, rivers with salmon swimming in them and bears and moose and the northern lights.

"You see all these TV shows about Alaska, and there's a reason



(Above left) **Andrew Baldock '99** poses at Denali's 11,000-foot base camp in 2019. (Above right) Members of Baldock's climbing group work together on their ascent of Mount Elbrus, the highest peak in Europe, in 2017. (Opposite page) Baldock poses for a photo at "The Edge of the World" on Denali's West Buttress route.

UP FOR AN ADVENTURE

for that. It's truly a remarkable and amazing place."

Baldock's work is a sharp contrast to that beauty. He oversees trials of individuals charged with

"Somebody once said that if you live life at the edge, you can see things that people can't see when you live in the middle, and there's some certain truth to that." — ANDREW BALDOCK '99

the most horrific of crimes: murder, rape and crimes against children among them. He sees things that you can't unsee. At the end of a long day, he struggles as many do to disconnect from his work.

Mountaineering and physical training help accomplish that aim. Baldock's weekly routine includes four trips to a local gym, weightlifting, and a Saturday afternoon climb in Denali National Park and

Preserve that can last eight hours or longer.

The training keeps the former Titan track athlete in peak physical condition, although his athletic

strengths have shifted over the years.

"I was not an endurance person back then — I hated endurance training — but now I'm in the best shape of my life as far as endurance goes," said Baldock, now 44 years old. "If I met Andrew Baldock at Illinois Wesleyan and we had to race a mile, I'd kick his ass."

Baldock's training, of course, is all done with an eye on his next mountaineering conquest. His immersion in the sport has deepened over the years. He reads about mountaineering. He shops for the best gear. Vacations are often planned around his next mountain climbing adventure.

So it's no surprise that when his local newspaper runs a story about the happenings on Denali, he reads it. One such story detailed a man attempting to climb the tallest peaks in all 50 states who had died of a heart attack on Denali's summit.

And while it was yet another reminder of the danger involved in mountaineering, it did get Baldock thinking.

"I just thought it would be a really cool thing to do, to climb the highest point in every state," he said. "So I started doing it."

The points range from Florida's Britton Hill, at a mere 345 feet above sea level, to Alaska's Denali, at a daunting 20,310 feet. Baldock

started with Hawaii's Mauna Kea in 2012 and has since chipped away at the list, slowly checking states off over the past nine years. Some states have required a dedicated trip. Others have been completed in small batches. He once summited five states' highest points on the same day, climbing the tallest peaks in Pennsylvania, Maryland, West Virginia, Kentucky and Tennessee on one marathon day in May 2019.

A month later, Baldock climbed Denali, the crown jewel of North American mountaineering that had beckoned him to Alaska.

"It's a monstrous, monstrous mountain," Baldock said. "And being so far north, you get some of the most extreme weather in the world."

Now a longtime resident of central Alaska, Baldock is accustomed to bitterly cold temperatures. He's experienced cold that most individuals haven't and can quite clearly remember enduring the very specific temperature of minus-59 degrees.

But it wasn't the cold that hampered him as he scaled Denali.

"It was the heat," he said matter-of-factly. "Most people don't think about that, but when you're that high the sun just radiates off of everything, especially all that ice and snow. It can get really hot, really quick, and when you're hauling up to 120 pounds while the sun is just bearing down on you, it can zap you pretty quick."

Denali has been the most arduous climb in Baldock's quest to join the 50-state completers of the "Highpointers Club," the exclusive group of individuals who have climbed each state's highest peak, which counts just over 300 among its ranks. Baldock's summit of Denali also counted as his second



(Above) Baldock summited Russia's Mount Elbrus, one of the famed Seven Summits, in 2017.



(Above) Baldock has scaled the highest point in 46 of 50 states, including Oregon's Mount Hood (left) in 2015, Illinois' Charles Mound (center) in 2019 and Colorado's Mount Elbert (right) in 2020.

ascent of one of the "Seven Summits," the tallest peaks on each of the seven continents, after previously summiting Russia's Mount Elbrus in July 2017. (Though a less technically challenging climb, Mount Elbrus presented a different set of challenges for Baldock and his climbing team; located in a region plagued by terrorism, Baldock's group had to pass through several Russian checkpoints manned by soldiers wielding automatic weapons to access the mountain.)

Baldock has now climbed 46 of the 50 states' highest peaks. His only real challenge remaining is Montana's Granite Peak (elev. 12,807 feet), and he hopes to complete the climbing project by next year.

He also plans to continue his Seven Summits quest. Next up will be South America's Aconcagua, hopefully in 2022. After that, in some order, will be Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro, Antarctica's Mount Vinson and Australia's Mount Kosciuszko. Baldock wants to finish the challenge with Mount Everest,

often considered the most difficult of the seven. He jokes that he'll need his wife's permission for that final climb, though quickly corrects himself. "She worries like any spouse would," he said. "But she's fully supportive of this."

Baldock hopes to be joined on future climbs by friends he has made along the way. There is a certain bond forged by the shared suffering that comes from the treacherous conditions endured and the great physical exertion that is required to scale the world's tallest peaks. Baldock has climbed with individuals from all over the world and from all sorts of backgrounds. On his summit of Mount Elbrus, he became close with the son of a Belgian baron who had served as an ambassador to the former Soviet Union.

"You never know who you're going to meet," Baldock said with a wide smile. "Part of what interests me is meeting people from all over the world who do this. Everybody's got a story to tell, and that's part of the draw."

In the same breath, however, Baldock describes high-altitude

mountaineering as anything but a pleasurable experience. The endeavor requires extensive training. The required equipment, travel and climbing guides are expensive. The dangers are too many to count.

But he keeps climbing.

"Somebody once said that if you live life at the edge, you can see things that people can't see when you live in the middle, and there's some certain truth to that," Baldock said. "I don't believe in living your life on the edge every single day, and I would never take a risk that I didn't think was worth it, or was an irresponsible risk, but I think most climbers are risk takers who like to live at the edge."

And the view from there?

"Climbing a mountain is a pretty miserable experience, but the sacrifices that you make, not only in the preparation, but the pain that you go through to get to the top, make it a total high beyond description.

"That exhilaration of standing there and all the work that you've put in to get there make it all worth it." ❖



COOKIES FOR A CAUSE

Story by MATT WING

A love of baking and a transformative volunteer experience led Katherine Slevin '10 to found C. Love Cookie Project, a bakery that supports the local immigrant community in Portland, Maine.

It all started with an Easy-Bake Oven.

A love for baking was born the moment a young Katherine Slevin '10 unwrapped the classic children's toy on a Christmas morning at her family home in Peru, Illinois. As one of eight children in the family — five of whom later attended and graduated from Illinois Wesleyan — there was always someone around to taste test her latest creation.

"My parents always gave us these Christmas presents that encouraged us to find our own path and explore our own interests," Slevin said. "A big part of my story is that they encouraged us to do

what we wanted, to do what we loved to do.

"And for me, it was always all about baking and pastry."

The ding of the Easy-Bake Oven signaled to Slevin's brothers and sisters that a new treat was ready for sampling. She eventually graduated to making desserts from scratch, including chocolate chip cookies the size of a dinner plate and Sunday morning cinnamon rolls, both of which became family favorites. It was in her dessert trials and family dinners that she first learned how food could bring people together. That fostering of a communal atmosphere around food

and creating memories in the kitchen has always stuck with her. She felt it when she shared her kitchen creations with family and friends. She felt it at extended family gatherings when the smell of traditional Lebanese cuisine hit her nose the moment she walked in the door. She felt it in the way everyone gathered in the kitchen, no matter the occasion.

She feels it now as the owner and operator of C. Love Cookie Project, a Portland, Maine, bakery cooking up tasty treats for its customers while supporting its community by donating 21% of sales to organizations benefiting the local immigrant population.

“It’s so cliché, but it’s true what they say about loving what you do,” Slevin said. “And I’m super grateful to be able to do it.”

Slevin never aspired to own a business. She just wanted to bake and create pastry. She applied to Illinois Wesleyan “in case the pastry thing didn’t work out,” and because she had seen how IWU had positively impacted her siblings. She enrolled undecided but later declared a French major and history minor. The one thing she did know was that she wanted to study abroad; she got that chance her junior year when she studied in France.

But a career as a pastry chef never strayed too far from her focus. She baked often for family and friends. She spent summers seeking any and all experience she could find.

“I would literally pack a suitcase and crash on my sister’s couch in Chicago and work pastry jobs every

summer,” she said. “So when I graduated, I actually had some professional experience under my belt.”

With a diploma in hand, Slevin found work in kitchens in downtown Chicago hotels where she perfected her craft. Perhaps more importantly, she became part of a tight-knit pastry chef community



(Above) Katherine Slevin '10 smiles next to a rack of cookies in the C. Love Cookie Project kitchen. *(Note: Photo was taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.)*

that shared recipes, techniques and work opportunities. Members of that community helped Slevin land an internship with renowned French pastry chef and chocolatier Pierre Hermé, one of her baking idols.

“It was so crazy because I read about him back when I was in grade school and had always loved his creative brain,” Slevin said. “So going back to France and working there for a summer really allowed me to elevate my pastry game.”

Slevin eventually returned to her hometown of Peru. She helped open a local cake shop and did other work here and there. Her restless nature spurred her to seek a new adventure. She applied to a handful of bakeries across the country, many in places she had never been before.

She got a call from the owner of the Standard Bakery Co. in Portland.

“I had never been to Maine, and I didn’t really know anything about Maine, but it was a situation where everything kind of fell into place,” Slevin said. “I got an interview over the phone where I talked with the owner for a couple hours, and a few weeks later I flew to Maine with a couple suitcases, and that’s how it started.”

Slevin didn’t know anyone when she moved to Portland, but was quickly accepted into the baking circle there. She also engaged in the local faith community and joined a Bible study group. She met a friend there who had recently returned from working with refugees in Egypt and Lebanon.

Slevin felt compelled to do something similar. She and her friend signed up to volunteer with Eurorelief, a nongovernmental organization providing assistance during the European migrant crisis. The organization, described by Slevin as “small but mighty,” dispatched the pair to the Greek island of Lesbos, an epicenter of the refugee crisis.

They were quickly assigned to the Moria Refugee Camp, the largest and most overcrowded camp. Slevin was assigned a role in clothing distribution.

“My job was essentially to

COOKIES FOR A CAUSE



(Above) Receiving an Easy-Bake Oven as a Christmas present helped set Slevin on her path.

welcome and give warm clothes to refugees coming off of the rafts,” she said. “People would show up in the middle of the night — huge families, so scared, not knowing what was going on and freezing — and we would have to get them clothes as quickly as possible.

“It showed me how small things can make a big difference, and I think I’ve carried that with me.”

Slevin eventually returned to

“It’s so cliché, but it’s true what they say about loving what you do. And I’m super grateful to be able to do it.”

— KATHERINE SLEVIN '10

Portland and her job at the Standard Bakery six months later, but admittedly left a part of herself at the Moria camp.

“When I first got back from Greece, I just felt really empty. I don’t know how else to describe it,” she said. “I was just rolling croissants as I had always done, but this time it felt aimless, because I was so changed by my experience serving in Greece. It had such an impact on my worldview and my person and the way that I view others.”

Slevin was compelled to do more.

“I felt like I had been given so much, just in kindness and being shown a different way to see the world,” she said. “My eyes had kind of been opened up to the beauty of humanity.”

C. Love Cookie Project was soon born. Though the vision wasn’t clear right away, Slevin spent her

days planning a business that both fostered and supported a community. Between rolling trays of croissants, she scribbled down ideas on paper towels and napkins and stuffed them into the pockets of her chef pants. At the end of the day, she emptied her pockets with what would become C. Love’s founding charter.

The bakery opened in 2017.

A seldom-used kitchen at the Root Cellar, a Portland nonprofit that was one of C. Love’s initial beneficiaries, was secured as a base of operations. A kitchen staff, which Slevin would also characterize as “small but mighty,” was assembled. Every detail of the business was carefully considered, and Slevin’s deep faith often served as a guiding force. Cookies would be baked in triangles — a nod to the Holy Trinity — and three nonprofit beneficiaries would split 21% of the bakery’s sales



(Above) All the treats produced by C. Love Cookie Project are baked from scratch and packaged by hand, including Lebanese shortbread cookies, an homage to the Slevin family’s Lebanese roots.



(Above left) Slevin (right) and Amber Shahzad (left) bake cakes in the C. Love Cookie Project kitchen. (Above right) Ange Bonheur smiles as she works in the C. Love kitchen. (Note: Photo was taken before the COVID-19 pandemic.)

with each receiving 7%, seven being a Biblical number of completion. The “C.” in “C. Love” stands for many things, Slevin says — community, cookie and coffee among them — but, for her, it stands for Christ.

Twenty-one percent also held significance. “It’s just my favorite number,” Slevin said, laughing. “I realize that’s going to make me sound silly, but it’s true.”

C. Love started small, serving mostly as a wholesaler to local shops and cafes. Slevin opened up for online holiday sales in 2018 and 2019. The experience gained from processing and fulfilling online orders proved handy as the COVID-19 pandemic required such a shift in 2020.

“Opening up shipping was a good call because that’s honestly what got us through this past year,” Slevin said.

C. Love has raised more than \$20,000 to support Portland’s immigrant population to date. It’s far more than Slevin ever thought possible — “when we first started, I just wanted to give back \$5,” she said, most humbly — and plans are underway to expand the business and its philanthropy.

Slevin and her staff will soon launch C. Love Baking Academy to “continue C. Love’s mission by offering women the skills needed to thrive in a professional pastry kitchen and lift immigrant women to the level they deserve.” Enrolled students will receive training in the kitchen, as well as in the front of the house, in C. Love’s new retail space. (Slevin has temporarily suspended online ordering as she and her team prepares for the launch of the academy, but will begin accepting online orders again no later than the 2021 holiday season.)

“It’s C. Love’s future,” Slevin said of the academy, the excitement audible in her voice. “I love having women in the kitchen, and we’re really looking forward to getting started.”

Expansion to other cities may someday be part of C. Love’s future, too. Slevin has looked at other cities with large immigrant populations as possibilities. “It’s a model that can be easily replicated and, because it’s such a special mission, it would be cool to see in other cities,” she said.

Slevin, however, is focused on the present. Her growing business

“It’s those simple moments that make this whole thing worth it. I don’t always notice them, but sometimes they’ll spring up and I step back and realize that this is such a beautiful thing.”

— KATHERINE SLEVIN '10

keeps her plenty busy. The day-to-day grind of running a small business can sometimes cause her to lose sight of the reason she got started in the first place.

But when she sees a woman empowered by skills learned working in the C. Love kitchen, or the good being done in her community by the bakery’s nonprofit beneficiaries, she is quickly reminded of her purpose.

“It’s those simple moments that make this whole thing worth it,” Slevin said. “I don’t always notice them, but sometimes they’ll spring up and I step back and realize that this is such a beautiful thing.” ❖

Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1967

Rick King was recognized by the Florida State University College of Social Work among its 2020 Distinguished Alumni Award recipients at a virtual event on Nov. 5, 2020. Rick, who earned a Master of Social Work from Florida State in 1969, has 50 years of nonprofit leadership experience and is a nationally known executive search consultant and chairman of Kittleman & Associates, LLC, a national executive recruiting firm headquartered in Chicago. Prior to leading Kittleman, Rick served as chief executive officer of three public charities, including a national network of primary care facilities, a statewide association for youth development and a youth addiction treatment agency. He is also the founding member of the National Network of Non-profit Search Consultants. Rick established the Richard M. King Scholarship in Social Work and Business Administration at FSU to encourage graduate students toward a dual degree in social work and business administration through the FSU College of Business.

1968

Dr. Jon Suzuki was appointed

to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) Immunology Devices Panel and Medical Advisory Committee, which is evaluating COVID-19 vaccine applications, interpreting clinical trial data and, ultimately, approving vaccines for use. Dr. Suzuki holds clinical professorships at the University of Maryland, University of Washington and Nova Southeastern University. He is also on the faculty of the U.S. Navy Walter Reed National Military Medical Center, and is currently providing seminars for the U.S. Navy, Army and Air Force on COVID-19 immunology. A faculty member of the Misch Implant Institute for over 20 years, Dr. Suzuki is a world renowned periodontist and immunologist. He also serves as chairman of the FDA's Dental Products Advisory Panel.

1978

Carol Brandt was recognized by *Forbes* as one of its 2020 Top Women Wealth Advisors. Advisors are selected on industry experience, assets, revenue and compliance. A wealth management advisor with Merrill and certified financial planner, Carol has 36 years of experience providing personalized wealth management strategies to high-net-worth families. She has also

been recognized among *Baron's* Top 100 Women Financial Advisors and *Financial Times* Top 400 Financial Advisors.

Gale Strenger Wayne carries on her family's long tradition of civic duty through her role as vice chair of the Lake County (Ill.) Community Foundation. Established in 2003 by a group of county residents, the foundation's mission is to improve the quality of life of the most vulnerable residents of Lake County by providing civic leadership, promoting collective philanthropy and partnering with grant recipients. It has been particularly crucial during the COVID-19 pandemic. A fifth-generation resident of the Lake Forest and Lake Bluff area, Gale was profiled in *The (Highwood, Ill.) Daily North Shore* in October 2020.

1979

Robin Roberts was presented the Heart of Illinois Conference 2020 Athletic Legacy Award on Feb. 14, 2020, at Illinois State University's Braden Auditorium, before a crowd representing the league's member schools. The award recognizes a teacher, coach, athletic director or staff member from one of the league's 13 schools with

demonstrated contributions to working with students, athletes, parents and other member schools. Robin was a seventh grade geography teacher at (Downs, Ill.) Tri-Valley Middle School, with additional duties as a bus driver, track and field and cross country coach, history fair coordinator and Civil War Daze sponsor. He also officiated basketball and football at the high school varsity level in the conference. Robin retired from teaching in 2016 and coaching in 2019.

1984

Paul Nolte is a partner and wealth manager at investment advisory firm Kingsview Partners who can often be heard on Chicago radio stations WGN-AM and WBBM-AM providing financial advice. With a keen interest in analytics, Paul manages clients' portfolios with strategies that help them plan for the future. Paul is a chartered financial analyst and a member of the CFA Society of Chicago. He has served on the boards of the Elmhurst YMCA, DuPage Easter Seals, Elmhurst swim team, Elmhurst Police Pension and Elmhurst Fire Pension. He has also volunteered his time to Illinois Wesleyan's Hart Career Center, where he shared his



Rick King '67



Dr. Jon Suzuki '68



Robin Roberts '79 (right, with wife Cindy Roberts)



Gretchen Cepek '90

experience and advice with IWU students.

1985

Jill (Misener) York was named to the board of directors of Old Second Bancorp, the holding company for Old Second National Bank, in October 2020. Jill served most recently as president and head of equipment finance and leasing solutions for Fifth Third Bank. She previously held various executive-level positions with MB Financial. Jill was appointed a Class III director for a term expiring in 2022 and will serve on Old Second's audit committee and on the IT steering committee of the bank's board of directors. She is a member of the Illinois CPA Society and serves on Illinois Wesleyan's Board of Trustees, chairing the audit committee.

1986

Dr. Ray Gensinger, the chief information officer for Hospital Sisters Health System, appeared on the Becker's Healthcare Podcast on Dec. 31, 2020, to share his perspective on: the role of CIOs now and in the future; COVID-19 prevention, treatment and vaccination; technology and telehealth; and more.

1989

Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Nursing **Brenda (Deckert) Lessen Knoll '89** presented a PIOMI (Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention) "Train the Trainer" webinar on Nov. 11, 2020, for four Turkish colleagues who plan to train other providers on how to implement Brenda's oral motor therapy program to preterm infants across Turkey. This was the second formal international PIOMI Launch, preceded by one in Genoa, Italy, last year. The webinar followed two others during the pandemic for the University of Southern California and a professional group of therapists in Oklahoma. Brenda uses www.piomi.com to disseminate the research and training materials for her oral motor program.

1990

Gretchen Cepek, senior vice president and general counsel for Allianz Life Insurance Company of North America, was among individuals recognized in Law.com's "Women, Influence & Power in Law 2020" series. The series recognized women who have demonstrated a commitment to advancing the empowerment of women in law.

1993

Kristy (Heuter) Chipman was appointed chief financial officer of Ruth's Hospitality Group, Inc., in November 2020. Kristy is a well-rounded finance leader with more than 25 years of experience in consumer and restaurant companies. She previously served as chief financial officer for Orangetheory Fitness, where she led the finance and accounting team of the global fitness franchise with over 1,300 locations in the United States

and abroad. Kristy also previously served as vice president of finance and treasurer at Domino's Pizza, Inc., and has held various finance leadership positions at McDonald's Corporation.

1997

Bob Gulino was appointed by The Hartford as head of its central division for middle and large commercial insurance business. Bob now leads sales and underwriting operations for the company's independent agents, brokers and customers across 13 Midwestern states. Bob joined The Hartford in 1999 as a middle market underwriter and has held a number of leadership positions, most recently serving as regional vice president.

Cliff Nellis and Jennifer Gill serve the Lawndale Christian Legal Center in Chicago, a community-based restorative justice program serving juvenile and emerging adults in under-resourced Chicago neighborhoods. Cliff is LCLC's executive director. Jennifer, a Cook County public defender, is a volunteer and member of LCLC's Young Professionals Council. Cliff and Jennifer worked together on LCLC's ninth annual Fundraising Gala, held virtually on Nov. 13, 2020.

1999

Scott DeGraff is an assistant athletic trainer for the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who won Super Bowl LV on Feb. 7, 2021, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida. A former member of Illinois Wesleyan's football and track and field teams, Scott has served on the Buccaneers' athletic training staff since 2014.

2000

Matt Hilding joined leading asset manager DWS as its U.S. head of wealth in October 2020. Matt is responsible for setting and executing the wholesale distribution strategy domestically. He reports to **JJ Wilczewski '96**, head of client coverage Americas. Matt rejoined DWS from BlackRock, where he most recently served as a divisional director.

2001

Kimberly M. (Hammond) Beckstrom was named the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences Nurse Practitioner Program Primary Care Preceptor of the Year in April 2020. Kimberly was later promoted to assistant program director for the Mayo Clinic School of Health Sciences Nurse Practitioner Program, supporting primary care and women's health, in October 2020.

Todd McCannon, a fifth-grade teacher at Booker T. Washington STEM Academy in Champaign, Illinois, used his artistic skills to creatively engage students when the COVID-19 pandemic prompted remote instruction this fall. In anticipation of virtual learning, Todd painted an entire wall in his home with chalkboard paint to serve as his Zoom background. An art major at Illinois Wesleyan, Todd then updated it each week with new imagery based on student requests. Todd and his virtual classroom were featured in a story in *The (Champaign, Ill.) News-Gazette*.

2002

Margaret "Maggie" Chorazy was named associate dean for academic affairs in the University of Iowa College of Public Health in October 2020. She previously served as director of undergraduate programs for the college and a clinical associate professor of epidemiology.



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

My Fellow Titans,

We made it through 2020, which was not an easy feat. With a new year, comes hope for 2021 being better. We can all choose to embrace growth and new possibilities for the coming year that can bring about a greater future.

In May, we will have new alumni joining our ranks with the graduating Class of 2021. They will need the power of our network to fuel their success as they face many challenges with the residual effects of the ongoing societal issues. If you can assist with employment opportunities, graduate school applications, offer advice of ways to navigate this new market, and/or provide general support, that would be greatly appreciated.

Be sure to save the date for All in for Wesleyan. We want to build on last year's success. Whether you would like to offer a challenge or support the University with a gift, I urge you to be "All In, All Day" and join us on April 8, 2021, in a day of giving for IWU.

As always, I ask you to get involved at IWU. Our alma mater needs us to support students, faculty and staff more than ever — and in new ways. If you want to help make Wesleyan the best it can be, please reach out. May you all be safe and healthy.

Go Titans,

Molly Rollings '99

*President, Alumni Association
Board of Directors*



Ways to Get Involved

To assist the Class of 2021 with employment, including full-time and internship opportunities, graduate school applications, and/or other professional development, contact the Hart Career Center at ccenter@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3095.

Homecoming Weekend is October 1-3, 2021.

Be sure to save the date and participate in the festivities. Reunion classes ending in 1 and 6 will be celebrated, along with a redo for the classes ending in 0 and 5 as well. Contact **Kaylee Kurtz** at kkurtz@iwu.edu or (309) 556-3482 to assist your class committee in reunion planning.



ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

Homecoming

Your Story Starts Here

October 1-3

2021

Get involved with the Alumni Association by joining an affinity group, working with a regional committee, or other committees in support of the University. For more information, email iwualum@iwu.edu.

Make an impact and give a gift to the area you are most passionate about at IWU. Learn more at www.iwu.edu/give.

Her research interests include infectious disease epidemiology and scholarship of teaching and learning in public health education. As associate dean for academic affairs, Maggie will be responsible for providing leadership and support in all areas related to student success.

Tom Howard launched Cannabis Industry Lawyer, a law blog on the cannabis industry for his law and consulting firm, the Collateral Base. Tom, who graduated from Marquette University Law School after his time at Illinois Wesleyan, has actively researched and served the cannabis industry's legal needs since 2010. He has published on various issues the industry faces, and has represented financial and cannabis institutions in the new and legally complicated industry. He also maintains a YouTube channel with over 10,000 subscribers where he dispenses cannabis legalization updates. Tom additionally serves on the Illinois State Bar Association's Commercial Banking, Immigration and Cannabis section councils, and has been recognized both as a "Rising Star" by Super Lawyers and an "Emerging Lawyer" by Leading Lawyers.

Christina (Hemrich) Mohler was promoted to vice president of human resources with McCarthy Building Companies, Inc.,



Christina (Hemrich) Mohler '02

in St. Louis, in August 2020.

2004

Gianina (Taylor) Baker headed *Central Illinois Business Magazine's* "Forty Under 40" class as its Woman of the Year, *The (Champaign, Ill.) News-Gazette* publication announced in October 2020. Gianina is the assistant director of the National Institute for Learning Outcomes Assessment and vice president of the Champaign Community Unit School District 4 school board who helped pass a resolution declaring racism a public health crisis.

Dr. Robyn (Heins) Zehr was named Estes Park (Colo.) Health's chief of staff in January 2021. Dr. Zehr has served as a family doctor for Estes Park Health since 2014. In her new role, she will serve as a liaison between providers and administrators to ensure patients' needs are being met.

2007

Christopher Seeps was one of six attorneys named partners at Ulmer & Berne LLP on Jan. 1, 2021. Chris is a financial services litigator in Ulmer's Chicago office who focuses his practice on complex litigation and arbitration in the securities and commodities industries. He represents broker-dealers and registered representatives in customer and industry disputes



Gianina (Taylor) Baker '04

and regulatory matters, and litigates matters in a variety of forums including Financial Industry Regulatory Authority (FINRA) arbitrations and enforcement proceedings, National Futures Association arbitrations, and Commodity Futures Trading Commission reparations proceedings. He also litigates expungement cases on behalf of both registered representatives and broker-dealers, and he has successfully obtained numerous FINRA awards recommending expungement of registered representatives' Central Registration Depository records. Recognized for his talent, Chris has been named to the Illinois Super Lawyers list of "Rising Stars."

2009

Katie (Whalley) Banville and her husband Bryan were featured in *The San Diego Union-Tribune* as two of the many theatre artists impacted by shutdowns during the COVID-19 pandemic. Both have been actively involved in the San Diego theatre scene for the past 10 years, with Katie recently focusing on her work as a choreographer and director, and Bryan expanding the scope of his work as a performer. They had planned for a busy year that was washed out by the widespread theatre shutdown. The silver lining for the couple: having more time at home to spend with their newborn daughter, Juniper.

Elizabeth (Sowatzke) Schlicht, a certified association executive and executive director at Association Acumen, received the Young Professional award from the Wisconsin Society of Association Executives (WSAE). The award, presented virtually at the group's annual business meeting and awards presentation on Oct. 27, 2020, honors a young professional who has made a difference through contributions to WSAE and the

association community.

2012

Erika (Olsen) Ohlendorf finished work on a dual MSN/MBA degree at Indiana Wesleyan University and began work as a clinical nurse educator at Riverside Healthcare in 2020. Erika has worked with Riverside Healthcare, in Kankakee, Illinois, since 2014, as a registered nurse and team leader in the hospital's intensive care and intermediate care units.

2013

Raven Stubbs was named the program director for PlayMakers Laboratory, a Chicago nonprofit offering educational programming focused on storytelling, theatre and social-emotional skills. Raven is responsible for overseeing all of PML's educational activities, including in-school programming, after-school programming, professional development and training new teaching artists.

Sara Vore joined electric vehicle manufacturer Rivian at its Normal, Illinois, facility as the workplace operations and hospitality coordinator in December 2020. She had previously served as the events coordinator in the Alumni Engagement Office at Illinois Wesleyan since 2016.

2014

Sean Conley is in his third year as a scouting assistant with the National Football League's Tampa Bay Buccaneers, who were victorious in Super Bowl LV on Feb. 7, 2021, at Raymond James Stadium in Tampa, Florida. Sean is a former captain and four-year letterman of the Illinois Wesleyan football team.

2018

Zoe Bouras, an adjunct political science professor at Illinois Wesleyan, recounted her experience as a Rotary Youth Exchange student in Peru in a story in the *(Mattoon, Ill.) Journal Gazette &*

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 **Jan. 25, 2021**. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2021 issue of *IWU Magazine* is **May 10, 2021**.



Zoe Gross '13 married **Wade Self** on Sept. 12, 2020, in Hawthorn Woods, Illinois. Among the guests at the intimate wedding were (from left): **Katie (Brown) Krob '13**, **Zoe Gross**, **Wade Self** and **Joe Krob '14**. A larger celebration with more alumni and friends is scheduled for September 2021 in San Luis Obispo, California.



Chloe Christine Bluml '14 married **Antonio M. Gracias '12** in Palos Park, Illinois, on Nov. 5, 2020. With their immediate families in attendance, the couple was married by **Ainsley Klug '15** in a small ceremony that concentrated not on the pandemic, but their nine-year commitment to each other. On their one-year anniversary, the couple plans to renew their vows before family, friends and IWU companions.



Loren Jones '07 married **Danny Rudnick** at the Cook County Courthouse on Nov. 21, 2020. Because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the couple plans to host a wedding celebration on Nov. 21, 2021, with many IWU friends and classmates as guests and members of the wedding party.



Helen (Brandt) Litavec '14 married **Nick Litavec** on Aug. 1, 2020, in Erie, Pennsylvania. Those in attendance included (from left): **Janna Strain '13**, **Nick Litavec**, **Helen (Brandt) Litavec**, **Scott Maguire '13** and **Sarah Takushi '13**.



Briana Carter '16 married **Devonte Davenport** on Oct. 24, 2020, at Astoria Banquets & Events in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, after COVID-19 postponed their initial wedding date.



Becky (Kiverts) Richter '09 married **Rich Richter** on March 14, 2020, at the Cook County Courthouse, the day before it was shut down due to the COVID-19 pandemic.



Taylor Williams '18

Times-Courier. The experience helped steer Zoe to a career with The Immigration Project, a nonprofit working with immigrants in downstate Illinois. Zoe plans to begin law school this fall with a goal to continue her work with The Immigration Project in a legal capacity. "I attribute so much to my Rotary Youth Exchange year," she said. "I learned how to love people who are different from me." Zoe also appeared on the *Mid-*



Mike Plecki '18 (left, with father Bob Plecki)

Americana podcast in November 2020, where she shared her experiences as an immigrant, an IWU student, traveling abroad, and her work with The Immigration Project.

Mike Plecki and his father Bob won the inaugural Khan Cup at Urbana (Ill.) Country Club. Team Plecki bested 31 other duos in the yearlong tournament hosted at the golf course owned by Shahid Khan. By win-

ning the tournament, the Pleckis received an all-expenses-paid trip to a game hosted by the Jacksonville Jaguars, the NFL team owned by Khan, and the Pleckis chose the Dec. 27, 2020, game between the Jaguars and the Chicago Bears. A former member of Illinois Wesleyan's baseball team, Mike is an accountant at Martin Hood LLC, in Champaign, Illinois.

Taylor Williams graduated from Southern Illinois University

School of Law on Dec. 12, 2020, a full semester early. Taylor, who earned the McLean County Bar Association Scholarship in December 2020, plans to return to the Bloomington-Normal area and work for a local law firm.

Muyi Yang has played a leading role in establishing a nonprofit school for marginalized children in Syria. Inspired by experiences at Uppsala University, Illinois Wesleyan University, Rotary International, and previous business background, Muyi has leveraged his extensive engagements of working with high-risk youth in different countries and founded Champion School in a post-conflict Syrian village for children facing risks like drug addiction, gang violence and sexual exploitation. Despite daunting challenges, Champion School fosters a sense of public service in its students to empower them to become future leaders in their communities.

2019

Jordan Koehler was named head golf coach at St. Mary's (Ind.) College in January 2021. A former member of the Illinois Wesleyan women's golf team, Jordan previously served as a graduate assistant coach at the University of Dubuque. She will continue her pursuit of a master's degree in management, with a focus in sport management, at the University of Dubuque, with an anticipated graduation date later this year.

2020

Mark Mathison began work as an English-language assistant at Hang Seng University of Hong Kong in November 2020. Mark leads Hang Seng University's English Learning Centre, organizing and leading English-related events, offering English consultations to students, and helping them prepare for English language exams. He also works as a residential tutor, planning and leading events to

Tiny Titans

Jeff Millies '96 and Ashleigh; Henry, born June 20, 2020

Robert Rave '96; Georgia, born Nov. 30, 2020

Rebecca "Stolie" Stoelinga '00 and Sergio; Emmeline Tereann, born Oct. 21, 2020

Ryan Eyer '01 and Ashley; Emery Grace, born Sept. 29, 2020

Sheena (Selvey) Watterson '04 and Adam; Camden Leigh, born Nov. 2, 2020

Stefan Mustain '06 and Elizabeth; Henry Huddleston, born Aug. 25, 2019

Heather (Deutsch) Miller '07 and Bryce; Winston James, born Dec. 1, 2020

Elizabeth (Taylor) Dornik '08 and Nick; Ryan James, born March 14, 2020

Abby (Sullivan) Schill '08 and Mike; Claire Elizabeth, born Oct. 17, 2020

Monica (Urban) Holmes '09 and Joe '09; Sydney Ann, born July 24, 2020

Becky (Kiverts) Richter '09; Richard John, born July 10, 2020

Katie (Wolski) Jefferson '11 and Kyle; Russell, born Oct. 10, 2020

Ashley (Beadle) Styx '11 and **Matthew '11**; Levi Anthony, born Nov. 4, 2020

Nicholas Mark '15 and Sabrina Mark; Beauden Wyatt Mark, born Aug. 14, 2020

All submitted content received by Jan. 25, 2021. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is May 10, 2021. All submitted content may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.

promote English language culture in one of the university residence halls.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Illinois Wesleyan Assistant Professor of Theatre Arts **Julie E. Ballard** was among the participants in the Chicago Dance History Project's Interview Marathon on Jan. 31, 2021. The live-streamed, seven-hour event, conducted from Chicago's historic Auditorium Theatre, included interviews with 40 artistic directors, choreographers, performers, presenters, administrators and others who have worked and/or continue to work in Chicago. Julie was also quoted in LiveDesign's "31 Days of Plot" series, offering lighting design details of IWU's production of *The Last Days of Judas Iscariot*. In March 2021, she helped present a workshop, "Breaking the Shoulds, Lighting the Story," for the Southeastern Theatre Conference.

Illinois Wesleyan Assistant Professor of Nursing **Amy Funk** was selected as a member of the U.S.-Russia Social Expertise Exchange COVID-19 Response Public Health Working Group. Four Americans and four Russians were selected for participation in the initiative. The goal of the group is to develop ideas for a bilateral project aimed at addressing the following health priorities in the U.S. and Russia: promoting safety and self-care among at-risk populations in both countries; developing innovative solutions for disease detection and case management; and providing health-related services to vulnerable populations.

B. Charles and Joyce Eichhorn Ames Professor of Physics **Gabriel Spalding** was re-elected vice president of the Jonathan F. Reichert Foundation, an ambitious nonprofit working to establish programs and grants for hands-on instructional laboratories in physics beyond the first year of university. This marked the 14th consecutive year that Gabe has held an elected position in a national educational group, ranging from his service as president of the Advanced Physics Laboratory Association to his current role as director-at-large at the American Association of Physics Teachers. Gabe delivered a talk, "Shaping Light in Time & Space," at the winter meeting of the American Association of Physics Teachers.

Illinois Wesleyan Information Literacy Librarian and Associate Professor **Chris Sweet** completed the Open Education Network's Certificate in Open Educational Resources (OER) Librarianship. The highly competitive program aims to develop leaders within academic librarianship to aid in the creation and implementation of OERs at participants' institutions. Chris has also been appointed to the OER Committee of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries of Illinois, which will create a plan for supporting OERs across the consortium.

Former IWU men's basketball coach **Scott Trost** was among the inductees into the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame's Class of 2021, announced in December 2020. Scott has been the head men's basketball coach at Lewis University for the past 15 years.

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 Practice Interviews

Amy (Sipovic) Boyles '08, Scott Dotson '81, Tim Hegwood '13, Julie Krause '08, Meg McKeen '00, Tera Peplow, Megan Vitale '96 and Maureen Willett

Virtual Programming

Hussain Hasan '91, Will Jenkins '12 and Dr. Henry Moore '97

Talking about Inclusivity in the Workplace | Oct. 20, 2020

Moyo Ajayi '16, Loreto Delgado '16, Vanessa (Rodriguez) Macias '14, Keila Magafas '18 and Aaron Massey '10

Career in Marketing | Nov. 17, 2020

Emily Diehl '16

Personal Branding Workshop | Dec. 9, 2020

Jessica Shull '03

LinkedIn Workshops | Dec. 22, 2020

Kris Condon '84

LinkedIn Profile Review Sessions |

Jan. 5-7, 2021

Kris Condon '84

Post Grad-Life: Starting Your Career |

Jan. 26, 2021

Taylor Marvin '19, Eva Nautiyal '20, Esther Niedert '20, Angela Roman '20 and Chris Sawicki '20

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.

Faculty and Staff

Travis Ball of Newport, Tennessee, died Nov. 20, 2020. He was 78. Travis was a lifelong educator who taught English at Illinois Wesleyan; Brewster Academy in Wolfeboro, New Hampshire; Park Tudor School in Indianapolis; and Verde Valley School in Sedona, Arizona. He earned a bachelor's degree from Carson-Newman College and a master's degree from Purdue University. Travis moved to Newport to care for his aging parents, and he served as a consultant to the Newport City and Cocke County school systems, helping to facilitate the accreditation process for both. He was active in church life, where he led both men's and women's Sunday school classes, and shared his gift of music as a talented pianist. He is survived by two siblings, three nieces and nephews, and many friends and extended family members.

Linda Biehl of McLean, Illinois, died Dec. 12, 2020. She was 67. Linda worked at Illinois Wesleyan for 41 years as a telecommunications specialist before retiring in 2019. She was a member of the McLean United Methodist Church, where she was the pianist for over 30 years. She also served on multiple boards for her church. She was president of the Sunshine Daycare board for many years. Linda was strong, brave, kind, loving, caring and funny. Her door was open to everyone. She loved spending time with her family, especially her grandchildren. She also enjoyed traveling to Branson, Missouri, which she considered her home away from home. She is survived by her husband, mother, four children, 11 grandchildren, two sisters, and many nieces and nephews.

Alumni

Mary (McCarthy) Migielicz '42 of Savoy, Illinois, died Nov. 11, 2020. She was 99. Mary earned degrees at both Lincoln College and Illinois Wesleyan; she studied vocal music and joined Sigma Alpha Iota at IWU. Mary taught music and English at high schools in the Illinois communities of Divernon, Wood River, Charleston and Lincoln. She married a fellow teacher in 1951 and soon left teaching to raise four daughters. But she remained active in music, directing a women's choral group, singing and directing music at Holy Family Catholic Church in Lincoln, and organizing community concert series. She continued to work as a substitute teacher until she was nearly 80 years old. After her husband's death, Mary moved into a senior living facility, where she continued to engage in music as a member of the Windsor Singers and the Windsor Bell Choir. She is survived by four daughters and three grandchildren.

Aline (Rosendahl) Henerberg '47 died Nov. 7, 2020, in Bourbonnais, Illinois. She was 94. Aline studied nursing at Illinois Wesleyan and Olivet Nazarene universities. She later earned a master's degree from Governors State University. Aline was employed for 33 years at Manteno (Ill.) State Hospital as a nurse and hospital administrator. She was also a nursing professor for 20 years at Kankakee Community College. She is survived by her husband and four children, including **James Bourland '74**, three stepdaughters, 20 grandchildren, 23 great-grandchildren and three great-great-grandchildren.

Patricia (Clothier) Schumm '48 of Normal, Illinois, died Jan. 4, 2021. She was 94. Pat was active in Kappa Delta, sports and choir at Illinois Wesleyan. She was the backbone to her late husband's many businesses and shared with him a love of NASCAR, fishing and farming. She was a past president of Towanda (Ill.) PTA, IWU's Kappa Delta Alumni Association and Hudson (Ill.) Education Association. She was

John Wroan '51 died Jan. 22, 2021. He was 93. John enlisted in the United States Navy Seabees Construction Division, at age 17, during World War II. He later attended Iowa State University before enrolling and graduating from Illinois Wesleyan. He joined his father at J.L. Wroan and Sons, Inc., helping build the commercial general construction company into one of the largest in downstate Illinois. Among the buildings he was most proud of were University High School and Illinois State University's Bone Student Center, Horton Fieldhouse and Hancock Stadium. John served as president of the company until his retirement in 1984. John was civically engaged. He was instrumental in the creation of the Carle BroMenn Community Cancer Center; donated funds necessary for the founding of the Wroan Engineering and Technology Center at University High School; very generously provided an endowed scholarship at Illinois Wesleyan that will make an IWU education possible for generations of Titans; served on the boards of three banks; and was an active member of the Normal (Ill.) Rotary Club. John served on many other boards, but what he enjoyed most was helping individuals quietly and anonymously. John loved golf, billiards and gin. He was a former semi-professional basketball player who once played against the Harlem Globetrotters. His greatest joy was time spent with family, where he served as a model of honesty, integrity, loyalty, devotion, stability, unconditional love and support, humility, charity and wisdom. John was preceded in death by his first wife. He is survived by his second wife Jeanne, two children, four stepdaughters, 11 grandchildren, 11 great-grandchildren and a brother.



active in Second Presbyterian Church and a women's farming group known as the Towanda Busy Bees. She enjoyed bird-watching, gardening and all things recycling. She is survived by four children, six grandchildren and 16 great-grandchildren, three stepchildren and five step-great-grandchildren.

John Kahle '50 died Nov. 26, 2020, in Lynchburg, Virginia. He was 92. John earned a bachelor's degree in physics at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree in nuclear engineering from the University of Cincinnati. He spent four years in the U.S. Air Force as a nuclear radiation specialist. John worked in a variety of roles: at General Electric's aircraft nuclear propulsion facility in Cincinnati; at GE's nuclear fuel fabrication facility in Wilmington, North Carolina; as a senior health physicist at Monsanto Research Corporation in Miamisburg, Ohio; and at the Atomic Energy Commission/Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspection and Enforcement Department in Atlanta. John was a member of the American Health Physics Society, American Nuclear Society, American Industrial Hygiene Association, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, and Quaker Memorial Presbyterian Church. He enjoyed hunting and participating in the National

Susan (Hoose) Jefferson '54

died Dec. 26, 2020. She was 88. Susie earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was also active in Kappa Kappa Gamma. Susie was a strong supporter of her husband **Thomas Jefferson '52** in the founding of Heritage Enterprises (now known as Heritage Health) in 1961. Susie was passionate about serving the elderly, and she served on Heritage's board of directors from 2004 until her passing.

Susie was strong, generous and smart. She was a member of Second Presbyterian Church and P.E.O. Chapter CL, where she had served as president. She was also an active supporter of the Baby Fold. She loved knitting and needlepointing, and opened a needlepoint shop with Georgette Shupe in 1981. She also enjoyed cooking, crossword puzzles, Bridge Club, tennis, golf and socializing with her many friends. She was preceded in death by her husband, sister **Nancy (Hoose) Froelich '52**, and many other family members and friends. She is survived by two sons, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.



Cornhusking Association's annual contest held every October in various Midwest locations. He is survived by two children.

Ruth (Taylor) Warburton Tate '50 of Metamora, Illinois, died Nov. 5, 2020. She was 92. Ruth studied home economics at Illinois Wesleyan and was a homemaker for many years before later working in the dietary department at OSF St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria, Illinois. Ruth was a member of Crossroads United Methodist Church in Washington, Illinois. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Carolyn (Roney) Oltman '52 of St. Michael, Minnesota, died Nov. 15, 2020. She was 90. Carolyn earned a degree in music, and she was active in singing groups and Sigma Alpha Iota at Illinois Wesleyan. She remained engaged with music her entire life as an educator. She engaged her family in music, teaching them songs and harmonies. Carolyn also appeared for a time on the TV show *Romper Room* in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, as "Miss Carolyn." She loved sports and was an avid fan of Illinois teams, especially the Chicago White Sox. She also enjoyed sewing and quilting. Carolyn was known for her smile, laughter and kind heart. She cared not for things; she cared more about people. She is survived by many family members and friends.

Marlin TenBoer '52 of Highlands Ranch, Colorado, died Nov. 21, 2020. Marlin, or "Muggs" as he was known by his classmates, majored in music at Illinois Wesleyan and was active in Phi Mu Alpha, the Apollo Quartet, and IWU's concert and marching bands. He married **Sara (Watson) TenBoer '52** shortly after their IWU graduation. He enlisted in the U.S. Army and was a playing member of the 5th Army Band, stationed at Fort Sheridan, Illinois. He later served as an admissions counselor at Illinois Wesleyan before earning a doctorate at Indiana University. He was a longtime employee of Northern

Illinois University, and he and Sara were longtime residents of DeKalb, Illinois. He was known for his wit and humor, and was a friend to all who knew him. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by two children and several grandchildren.

Sybil (Wyle) Young '52 of Arlington Heights, Illinois, died Sept. 24, 2020. She was 90. Sybil studied foreign languages, music, English literature and creative writing at Illinois Wesleyan. She spent 38 years in education as an elementary and high school teacher, and English as a second language instructor. During her years of teaching, she pursued graduate studies at Boulder State University, Northeastern University and the National College of Education. She retired from teaching in 1989. Sybil was an ardent believer in giving and was a volunteer at Northwest Community Hospital, where she co-chaired the hospital's fashion show charity luncheons in 1991 and 1992. She tutored Japanese adults in reading and ESL, volunteered at the Arlington Heights Senior Center, and was a member of First Presbyterian Church of Arlington Heights, where she sang in the choir. Sybil is survived by many friends and acquaintances.

James Bavester '53 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Nov. 7, 2020. He was 92. Jim majored in biology at Illinois Wesleyan. He served with the 307th Airborne Medical Battalion, 82nd Airborne Division, in the U.S. Army. Jim retired from Pfizer and later owned and operated Novak Flowers with his wife. After retirement, he enjoyed volunteering with the St. Vincent de Paul Society, golf and travel. He was a longtime member of Bloomington Country Club and Holy Trinity Catholic Church. He is survived by his wife, four daughters, 10 grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Carl Litt '53 died Nov. 24, 2020, in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. He was 90. Carl majored in business administration and was active in Tau Kappa Epsilon at Illinois Wesleyan. He was a U.S. Navy veteran who served during the Korean War. Upon learning that he had worked part-time at a clothing and shoe store during his time at IWU, Carl's Naval recruiter assigned him the job of buying and delivering clothing and footwear to sailors. After the war, he worked in menswear as a manufacturing representative, eventually becoming president of the Men's & Boys Wear Trade Group of Illinois. Carl met his wife, who was working at a clothing store in Wilmette, Illinois, and together they raised four children. Carl was very proud of his offices in Chicago's Merchandise Mart and the many friends and acquaintances he made there. He was an avid golfer, youth basketball coach, and a fan of the Chicago Bears and Duke University men's basketball team. He served as president of the Mills Investors Club of Oak Park, Illinois, and was a member of the Golf Collectors Society. He is survived by four children and four grandchildren.

Marguerite (Nigro) Flanigan '54 died Nov. 9, 2020, in St. Paul, Minnesota. She was 89. Marguerite earned a bachelor's degree in music at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in Sigma Alpha Iota. She later met her husband while pursuing a master's degree at Northern Illinois University. Together they raised five children in Champaign, Illinois, and New Lenox, Illinois. Marguerite was a gifted mezzo-soprano and pianist who regularly performed in church. She taught private piano lessons for many years and was an elementary school music and classroom teacher who retired from Goodings Grove School in Homer Glen, Illinois. In her later years, she moved to Minneapolis-St. Paul, where she made many friends. Her family was of the utmost importance to her, and her home was always open to family, friends, or anyone else who came to her door. She is survived by two sisters, five children, eight grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.

John "Jack" Poust '54 of Silvis, Illinois, died Oct. 12, 2020. He was 89. Jack majored in business administration and met his future wife **Nancy (Roberts) Poust '54** at Illinois Wesleyan. Jack was a longtime member of Orion (Ill.) United Methodist Church, where he served as chair of the board, a trustee, and on the memorial committee. He also attended Riverside United Methodist Church. Jack served on the Orion athletic booster club and was honored in its sports hall of fame. He was a member of the Blackhawk Shrine, Coal Valley Sunrise Rotary and Western Township Library Board. Jack and his wife enjoyed playing cards, camping, traveling, and visiting family and friends. Jack was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by two sons, three grandsons, two step-grandchildren and many nephews, nieces and other relatives.

Angela "Ann" (Kreider) Proctor '57 died Jan. 10, 2021, in Milan, Ohio. Ann majored in music and was active in Sigma Alpha Iota at Illinois Wesleyan. She was a Rotarian, and was active in the Lakeside Symphony Orchestra, Firelands Symphony Orchestra and Northern Ohio Youth Orchestra Board. She played in many quartets over the years. She loved "gadding" around town, watching sports, needlepoint, sewing, reading and listening to books on tape. Her greatest joy was spending time with her grandchildren and family. She is survived by three children, six grandchildren, a brother, **Stanley Kreider '53**, and many nieces, nephews and cousins.

Charles Doxey '58 of Valparaiso, Indiana, died Nov. 18, 2020. He was 84. Charles served in the United States Air Force Reserves. He graduated from Illinois Wesleyan, where he was active in Sigma Chi and met his future wife, **Diana (Davis) Doxey '60**. Charles worked as a certified public accountant. His work took him all over the Midwest, and he eventually ran his own business in Crown Point, Indiana, for 30 years. He was active in the Rotary Club and enjoyed playing bridge and golf, working on puzzles, and gardening with his wife. He was a lifelong Chicago Cubs fan and deemed the team's World Series win in 2016 as one of the highlights of his life. He also enjoyed traveling with his family, particularly to Hilton Head Island in South Carolina and Door County in Wisconsin. He was preceded in death by his wife. He is survived by three children, his AFS daughter and her children, and four grandchildren.

Ted H. Funk '61 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Nov. 28, 2020. He was 81. Ted discovered a passion for photography while working on Illinois Wesleyan yearbooks and local press stories, and he transferred to the University of Missouri to enroll in its highly ranked photojournalism program. Ted earned both bachelor's and master's degrees at Mizzou and embarked on a lifelong career as a travel photographer. His first overseas assignment came from *National Geographic*, and others followed from diverse outlets such as *Paris Match*, *Palm Beach Life*, *Travel & Leisure*, *London Sunday Times*, *Burda*, *Palm Beach Life*, *Fortune* and the UNICEF annual calendar. Ted's work took him all over the globe and, for a travel photographer, he ironically held a deep fear of flying, and became a "Cunard Mariner," having racked up more than 50 trans-Atlantic voyages on the Queen Elizabeth II alone. He loved big band music and classic movies. He privately was an active philanthropist, supporting diverse causes and institutions throughout the world, including animal shelters and an annual agriculture scholarship in his father's name at the University of Illinois. Although his career took him far and wide, Ted never lost sight of his roots and was always eager to return to Funk Farms, Funk's Grove and his family home in Central Illinois. He is survived by his son, two grandchildren and ex-wife.

Delmar Smith '61 of Morton, Illinois, died Nov. 25, 2020. He was 86. Delmar earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan before earning master's and doctoral degrees in divinity and ministry, respectively. He served 39-and-a-half years as an ordained clergyman in the United Methodist Church, including the final 19 years at Canton (Ill.) Wesley United Methodist Church. He is survived by two children, six grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, a sister and a nephew.

David M. Diehl '62 of Decatur, Illinois, died Dec. 16, 2020. He was 84. David studied accounting and business administration at Illinois Wesleyan, and he went on to earn his certified public accountant's license in 1967. He practiced for 51 years, first with his father at Gaugher and Diehl accounting firm, and later started his own CPA practice. David was a U.S. Army veteran, having served before his time at IWU. He was a past commander of the Decatur Power Squadron, past president of the Decatur Noon Lions Club, and a lifelong member of Tau Kappa Epsilon fraternity and First United Methodist Church of Decatur. He is survived by his wife, two children and five grandchildren.

Dianne (Smith) Williamson '62 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Oct. 16, 2020. She was 80. Dianne majored in theatre at Illinois Wesleyan. She worked as publisher and editor of *Bloomington-Normal Magazine*, was a copywriter for WJBC and WBNQ radio stations, and retired from Illinois State University as events coordinator. Dianne was honored as the League of Women Voters of McLean County's "Leaguer of the Year," was named McLean County United Way "Volunteer of the Year" and was a McLean County YWCA Women of Distinction nominee. She was active in all three organizations for many years. Dianne and her husband had a passion for travel that began when they lived in Ireland for a year. Dianne was many things to many people, but a friend to all. She is survived by her husband, two daughters, six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Marybeth (Solberg) Stull '64 of Minnetonka, Minnesota, died Jan. 4, 2021. She was 78. Marybeth majored in music and English at Illinois Wesleyan, where she graduated *cum laude*. One of her greatest joys in life was playing the violin; she also studied violin performance at Indiana University. She played professionally as a soloist and in quartets in many Minneapolis-St. Paul area orchestras. She was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma, where she gained many lifelong friendships. Throughout her professional career, she served in many administrative roles, with the Minnesota and St. Paul chamber orchestras, and most recently as a sales and marketing assistant for Wells Fargo International Trust. She also served as an interim instructor of Hardanger fiddle at St. Olaf College. She was proud of her Norwegian heritage, and she studied Norwegian language and the Hardanger fiddle for many years. Her faith, family and friends were always dear to her. She is survived by her husband, four children, three grandchildren, three siblings, and many nieces, nephews and friends.

Jean (Smith) Ward '65 of Creve Coeur, Missouri, died Oct. 20, 2020. She was 78. Jean earned a bachelor's degree in elementary education and was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan. She married her husband during her time at IWU and the Wards relocated to Monroe, Louisiana, shortly after Jean's graduation, and they soon had two children. Jean was a passionate educator who spent the majority of her career as a teacher at Georgia Tucker Elementary in Monroe. Jean and her husband divorced in 1993, and she began a new life as a retired, independent woman. She developed an incredible circle of friends, many from her church community at Jesus the Good Shepherd Catholic Church in Monroe. She is survived by her two children, three grandchildren and two nephews.

Kevin Kyes '75 died Dec. 23, 2020, in Birmingham, Alabama. He was 67. Kevin was active in Sigma Chi and a member of the baseball and basketball teams at Illinois Wesleyan. Kevin began a teaching and coaching career at Williamsville (Ill.) High School in 1975, and started a 40-year career at Bunn-O-Matic, in his hometown of Springfield, Illinois, in 1981. The job took Kevin and his wife to White Lake, Michigan, and eventually, Birmingham. Kevin lived an active lifestyle and loved coaching, especially his grandchildren's baseball teams. In 2011, he was inducted into the Springfield Sports Hall of Fame. Kevin was active in his faith as a member of the Church of the Highlands Greystone in Birmingham. He is survived by his wife, two children, six grandchildren, his mother and two siblings.

Bill Dunbar '78 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Dec. 11, 2020. He was 64. Bill studied insurance at Illinois Wesleyan, where he was an active

member of the tennis team and Sigma Chi. More importantly, he met his future wife **Julie (Parsons) Dunbar '80** at IWU. Shortly after graduation, Bill began a 35-year career with State Farm Insurance. He started at the company's home office in Bloomington but quickly transferred to Arlington, Texas, where he and Julie lived for 18 years. They returned to Bloomington in 2000 when Bill accepted a new job in education and training, and Bill thoroughly enjoyed his time in the classroom. After retiring in 2015, Bill volunteered at Midwest Food Bank, led outreach efforts at Calvary United Methodist Church, built Habitat for Humanity homes, and served on a variety of committees in support of his neighborhood homeowners association. Bill loved traveling and being outside. He ran four marathons and enjoyed bass fishing, golfing, walking, hiking and biking. He loved his family and being a dad, and will be remembered for his gentle spirit, generous heart, twinkling blue eyes, remarkably full head of silver hair, and outstanding sense of humor. He is survived by his wife, two daughters and a sister.

Carol (Claus) Barnes Schmedake '78 died Nov. 8, 2020, in Normal, Illinois. She was 64. Carol earned a bachelor's degree in accounting at Illinois Wesleyan, where she was active in professional organizations Phi Gamma Nu, Green Medallion and Alpha Lambda Delta. She worked as a certified public accountant. Carol loved traveling, especially to national parks and Hard Rock Cafe locations in the cities she visited. She is survived by her husband, son **Eric Barnes '07**, sister **Janet Claus '81**, and two aunts.

Aaron Fleming '80 died Dec. 12, 2020, in Rio Rancho, New Mexico. He was 63. Aaron earned a bachelor's degree in music education at Illinois Wesleyan and an MBA from the University of Phoenix. He met his wife in a graduate music class at the University of New Mexico, and together they raised a son. Aaron was an innovative and inspiring music teacher and volunteer to school, community and professional music and community organizations. He taught junior high and high school music for 25 years before retiring in 2012. He is survived by his wife, son, four siblings, and many nieces and nephews.

Cynthia "Cindy" (Daughenbaugh) Perkins '81 of Bloomington, Illinois, died Dec. 26, 2020. She was 60. Cindy graduated *cum laude* with a bachelor's degree in music from Illinois Wesleyan, *magna cum laude* with a master's degree in religious education from Southern Methodist University, and *summa cum laude* with a master's degree in clinical psychology from Southern Illinois University Edwardsville. Cindy was a consecrated deacon in Christian education in the United Methodist Church, and an adult psychologist. She was a loving wife, sister and aunt, and had a passion for horses. She is survived by her husband, parents, two siblings, and many extended family members.

Jeffrey Jerome '15 of Tempe, Arizona, died Jan. 8, 2021. He was 28. Jeffrey served as a captain of the football team and was active in Sigma Chi at Illinois Wesleyan. He worked as a claim representative for State Farm. He loved sports and enjoyed being outside. He especially enjoyed hiking and golfing. He was known for having a big heart and being a friend to many. He is survived by his parents, brother, grandmother, a special friend, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

Deaths Reported

Elaine (Lambert) Ford '46; Oct. 15, 2020

Marion "Mary Lou" (Hamann) Price '48; Dec. 19, 2020

Helen (Nichols) Gribbons '51; Aug. 2, 2020

Jane (Hasse) Devore '52; Nov. 27, 2020

William Gross '52; Jan. 21, 2021

Phyllis (Krug) Harper '52; Jan. 5, 2021

Shirley (Potter) Carroll '53; Nov. 26, 2020

Joycelyn "Joy" (Hitter) Nordberg '56; Jan. 8, 2021

Richard H. Philpott '57; Sept. 9, 2020

Kenneth Helms '58; Dec. 12, 2020

Edward Johnson '61; Dec. 5, 2020

V. Stephen King '61; Nov. 20, 2020

Joan (Richardson) McGraw '61; Dec. 2, 2020

Gloria (Mapes) Schwartz '61; Oct. 11, 2020

William Slavik '61; Dec. 7, 2020

Richard Watrous '61; June 14, 2020

Christine (Peterson) Blair '68; Oct. 27, 2020

Gary Gearhart '69; Dec. 1, 2020

Gerald Greim '69; Dec. 11, 2020

William Leppin '69; Nov. 15, 2020

Jimmy Edwards '80; April 11, 2019

Kurt Saksa '84; Dec. 22, 2020

Lucinda Shair '00; Jan. 6, 2021

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 the 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.

All submitted content received by Jan. 25, 2021. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2021 issue of IWU Magazine is May 10, 2021. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.



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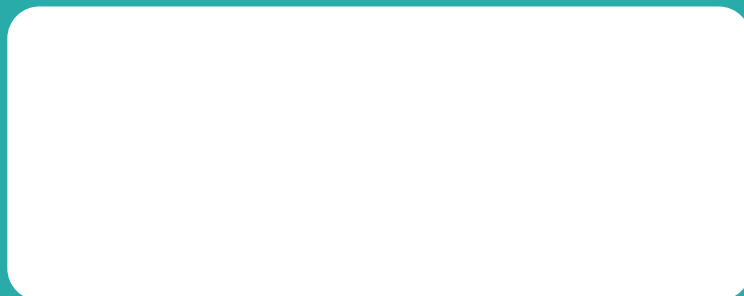
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creative collection

A five-year endeavor to catalog the art of Illinois Wesleyan, including *Buscando Mi Color* by **Lucero Sanchez '17**, culminated in the publishing of an online database.



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