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## Volume 31, Number 2, Summer 2022

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SUMMER/FALL 2022

# ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE

Baked with Love

DR. NURMAN NOOR '08







# TITANS REUNITE

No matter the path taken after graduation, alumni remain Titans for life. Class Reunions give alumni the opportunity to reconnect with friends to relive memories every five years! We hope you join us on campus during Homecoming and Family Weekend to reunite, reminisce and celebrate with your classmates.



[iwu.edu/reunion](http://iwu.edu/reunion)

Celebrating grad years:

Class of 1972 | Class of 1977 | Class of 1982 | Class of 1987  
Class of 1992 | Class of 1997 | Class of 2002 | Class of 2007  
Class of 2012 | Class of 2017 | Class of 2022



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**Dr. Nurman Noor '08** showcased his culinary skills as an eventual runner-up in *The Great Australian Bake Off*. Photo courtesy of Foxtel Publicity.

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## From the President's Desk

It's great to be back in person! On May 1, we held Commencement on the quad for the first time in three years. Our gamble was that rain would not mar the ceremony for the Class of 2022. Happily, that proved true. But we hadn't quite anticipated the freezing wind! While the gathered crowd grabbed jackets, towels, beach blankets — anything they could find — to stave off the cold, the mood remained warm and spirits were high. This class was one of our largest recently; almost 400 happy grads walked across the stage.

Commencement does not mark a lull in activities on campus. May Term began on May 4. In addition, for the last two years, we have also been holding June and July terms. These offer opportunities for students to branch out, catch up, or move ahead in their studies, and summer enrollment has been growing each year.

In addition to summer classes, this year a number of faculty and staff members are involved in planning efforts for the future. The provost has established several working groups, focused on topics of significance for future planning, such as mental health policy, adult education, and transfer policies. Task forces are also advancing research on potential campaign initiatives to enhance our strengths, for example, in the areas of nursing and health sciences, business-related disciplines, and continuing development of The Petrick Idea Center.

*“Everywhere I find such pride in Illinois Wesleyan and appreciation, both of the fine education IWU has provided and the lifelong relationships the University has fostered. Our alumni have so much experience and expertise, and it's my hope to engage folks even more in the life of the University and of our current students.”*

— PRESIDENT S. GEORGIA NUGENT

The loosening of COVID restrictions has also brought the welcome opportunity for me to travel again, visiting alumni across the country. In a sense, this is the “presidential tour” that wasn't possible to have three years ago. IWU Connections have already taken place in Florida, Arizona, Champaign, Chicago, Springfield and Washington, D.C. — with more to follow this summer and fall in Denver, Seattle, St. Louis and Dallas. It has been wonderful to finally meet so many alumni in person. Everywhere I find such pride in Illinois Wesleyan and appreciation, both of the fine education IWU has provided and the lifelong relationships the University has fostered. Our alumni have so much experience and expertise, and it's my hope to engage folks even more in the life of the University and of our current students.

We're also already excited about the Homecoming that will be held on campus Sept. 23-25. As always, this will be preceded by the Scholarship Benefactor Dinner, a wonderful event when scholarship donors are able to meet the students they are supporting, to see firsthand what a difference their generosity makes. We're planning a great Homecoming weekend, after the forced hiatus of the pandemic, and we hope to see many alumni coming back to campus this fall.



**S. Georgia Nugent**  
*Illinois Wesleyan University President*



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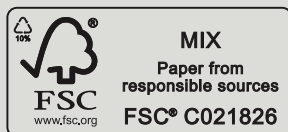
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# Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

## Greg Yess '82 Bloomberg Finance Lab Unveiled

A tool used by leading business, investment and finance professionals was unveiled in the form of a Bloomberg Finance Laboratory.

Located in Room 101 of State Farm Hall, the Bloomberg Lab includes 12 licensed terminals and two stock tickers. The facility was named The **Greg Yess '82** Bloomberg Finance Lab after the alumnus and his wife Kari whose generous donation made the installation possible.

Yess gave remarks — along with **President S. Georgia Nugent** and member of the IWU Portfolio Management Advisory Board **Corey Schieler '97** — during the dedication ceremony.

"The world of finance has grown dramatically over the past two decades," said Yess. "It is a part of everything we think, see and do. Illinois Wesleyan has a great reputation in all aspects of higher learning, and I wanted to make sure its students have access to the best financial tools available. I believe the Bloomberg Finance Lab will help provide those tools and be a real game-changer for their future careers."

Considered the gold standard in the finance industry, the Bloomberg Terminal is a computer software system that enables professionals in the financial service sector to monitor and analyze real-time data, news and research, powerful analytics, communication tools and electronic trading capabilities.

"Greg has certainly been a leader in his chosen career in the finance industry and he understands the need to develop outstanding talent, and that's of course what we do here at Illinois Wesleyan," said Nugent. "He also recognized what it would mean for our students to have access to Bloomberg terminals. That is truly going to be distinctive for us."

The lab offers space for instruction, training and research for students studying accounting, business, finance and economics — even nursing majors can use the lab to explore pharmaceutical industry information. Every finance major will receive training to earn a Bloomberg Certificate upon graduation, a distinctive achievement for their resume.

The Bloomberg Finance Lab will be particularly useful for students in Illinois Wesleyan's portfolio management class, who manage nearly \$4.5 million dollars of real money in consultation with the Alumni Portfolio Management Advisory Board.

"This Bloomberg Lab really will be an essential part of the business curriculum here at Illinois Wesleyan. It's going to add to the level of research and the depth of knowledge these students will have," said Schieler, who serves on the advisory board. "The practical skills they will be able to take into their internships and future careers are going to be really remarkable."



(Above) Greg Yess '82 speaks during the dedication of the Greg Yess Bloomberg Finance Lab on May 19, 2022.



## Survey Finds 97% of 2021 Grads Employed or Continuing Education

Nearly 97% of 2021 graduates were employed or enrolled in higher education programs within six months of graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University, according to the annual First Destination Survey from the Hart Career Center.

The First Destination Survey allows IWU's Hart Career Center to track the employment and graduate/professional school enrollment of graduating students. The survey is guided by principles from the National Association of Colleges and Employers.

Based on data obtained for 90.5% of 2021 graduates, the survey found that 74.8% were employed full-time with an average starting salary of \$51,386. The top three employment industries were healthcare (23.7%), K-12 education (8%) and accounting (7.2%). Meanwhile, 17.5% of respondents were enrolled in graduate or professional programs.

"We are pleased with the results of the survey and believe that it is the result of our students' preparation both inside and outside of the classroom, extracurricular and leadership involvement, and the relationships the Hart Career Center maintains with employers in a variety of fields," said **Warren Kistner '83**, director of the Hart Career Center. "Illinois Wesleyan has enjoyed a reputation for producing well-rounded graduates who possess background in their disciplines coupled with mastery of the soft skills that employers identify as essential."

The survey found 72.4% of Titans in the Class of 2021 prepared for post-graduate careers with an



(Above) Amy Gourley '21 (left), pictured with Assistant Professor of Psychology Marie Nebel-Schwalm (right), is among the 97% of Illinois Wesleyan's Class of 2021 employed or enrolled in graduate school within six months of graduation.

internship at Illinois Wesleyan, and 28.4% of students completed multiple internships.

Graduates reported employment in 25 states and the District of Columbia, and in four locations outside of the United States, including Austria, China, France and Japan. Class of 2021 graduates now in graduate or professional programs reported enrollment in 16 states and the District of Columbia.

Consistent with the First Destination Survey results, Illinois Wesleyan continues to be recognized nationally for graduate success. According to Zippia's most recent rankings from 2021, IWU ranks No. 1 in Illinois and No. 7 in the U.S. on the list of "Best Colleges for Getting a Job," based on Department of Education College Scorecard Data.

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WESLEYAN  
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3335 DONORS



56 STATES &  
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\$2,391,253 TOTAL

## Five Faculty Appointed as Endowed Professors

**F**ive Illinois Wesleyan University faculty members were honored as endowed professors during the 2022 Commencement ceremony.

The tradition of appointing faculty as endowed professors and chairs is reserved for IWU faculty who have distinguished themselves through exemplary teaching and active engagement of students, outstanding scholarship or artistic achievement, and service at the very highest levels of the University.

Professorships are named in honor of the generous donors who made the awards possible.

“The guiding principle in awarding an endowed professorship or chair is that the individual represents our highest aspirations for faculty members on this campus,” said **President S. Georgia Nugent** during the ceremony.

The endowed faculty and their professorships include: Professor of English **Joanne Diaz** was accorded Illinois Wesleyan University’s Isaac Funk Professorship; Professor of Biology **Edgar Lehr** was accorded Illinois Wesleyan University’s Robert Harrington Professorship; Professor of Physical Education and Head Men’s and Women’s Track Coach **Chris Schumacher** was named a Ben & Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice; Professor of Political Science **Jim Simeone** was also named a Ben & Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice; and Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities **Scott Ferguson** became the Rosetta Sherff Professor of Music.



(Above) A member of Illinois Wesleyan’s faculty since 1992, **Jim Simeone** (right) was named a Ben & Susan Rhodes Professor of Peace and Social Justice.

## Folse Named President at Ripon College

**V**ictoria Noltkamper **Folse ’86**, director

and Caroline F. Rupert Chair of the Illinois Wesleyan University School of Nursing, and executive director of Counseling and Health Services, was named the 14th president of Ripon College, a private liberal arts college in Ripon, Wisconsin, on May 24, 2022. Folse is the first woman president in the institution’s 170-year history.



Victoria Noltkamper Folse ’86

Folse’s unanimous selection by the Ripon College Board of Trustees followed a seven-month, nationwide search. Leaders said Folse stood out among a highly accomplished group of candidates with diverse backgrounds and experiences.

She will relocate to Ripon this summer with her husband, **Dick Folse ’85**, who will retire as IWU director of grants and foundation relations. Vickie Folse officially assumed the presidency on July 1, 2022.

“My interest in being a college president really has to do with building, growing and establishing a sense of community,” she said. “All the decisions I make are student-centered. I believe, as president, I can have an impact on the undergraduate student experience, and I want to be actively involved in the students’ lives.”

“Professor Folse has been an outstanding leader at Illinois Wesleyan,” said **President S. Georgia Nugent**. “IWU’s School of Nursing is among the top programs in the state, due in large part to the academic rigor and innovative thinking that she brought to the program.”

Folse joined Illinois Wesleyan’s faculty in 2002. She has served as the director and endowed chair of the School of Nursing since 2009, and executive director of Counseling and Health Services since 2019. Folse earned a bachelor’s degree in nursing from Illinois Wesleyan, a master’s degree in psychiatric nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago, and a doctorate in nursing with a concentration in research from Saint Louis University.

**Jerry Durham**, former IWU School of Nursing director, will provide interim leadership while a search for the next director of the School of Nursing is launched.



## Mohan Named 2023 Kemp Award Winner

**W**endell and Loretta Hess Professor of Chemistry **Ram Mohan** was named the 2023 recipient of Illinois Wesleyan University's Kemp Foundation Award for Teaching Excellence.

The ceremony was held April 13, 2022, in Presser Hall's Westbrook Auditorium. The award recognizes spirit, passion and scholarship, and is the University's top teaching honor.

Mohan has been a faculty member since 1996. "I am humbled by this honor. If you look at past recipients, it will be easy to see why," he said. "We have so many excellent faculty on our campus. It is also a recognition of my students who make teaching fun and exciting."

Associate Provost **Rebecca Roesner** said alumni recognize Mohan as "an exceptional life and career advisor who didn't shy away from asking hard questions and who cared individually about all of us, not just our careers, but also our happiness and sense of peace."

"Ram goes above most of us in our department to prepare his students for careers in postgraduate studies following their time at IWU," said Associate Professor of Chemistry & Biochemistry **Manori Perera**.

Professor of English **Joanne Diaz**, the 2022 Kemp Award recipient, was recognized by **Toni Jenkins**, daughter of emeritus IWU trustee **Parker Kemp**, on behalf of the Kemp family and Kemp Foundation.

In her address, "The Trouble with Literature," Diaz remarked, "Literature challenges and disturbs us, yes, but it also inspires us to reach out to one another and talk about the most urgent emotions and experiences that we have."

Also at the ceremony, retiring members of the IWU faculty were recognized: Professor of Sociology **Teddy Amoloza**; Miner Linnaeus Endowed Professor of Botany **David Bollivar**; Professor and Chair of History **Tom Lutze**; Professor of Anthropology **Rebecca Mafazy**; Dance Educator/Choreographer **Sheri Marley**; and McFee Professor of Religion and Director of Women's and Gender Studies **Carole Myscowski**.



Ram Mohan

## Nillas and Timan Honored with University Leadership Awards for Inclusive Excellence

**L**eah Nillas and **Mitzi Timan** were named the 2022 recipients of the fifth annual Illinois Wesleyan University Leadership Award for Inclusive Excellence. on April 8, 2022.

The winners were announced in a virtual address by **President S. Georgia Nugent**. They were nominated by members of the IWU community

and selected by the University Council for Diversity. The awards recognize faculty and staff members who have upheld the University's values of advocacy, education and community building.

Nillas is associate professor and chair of educational studies. According to a student nominator, she "brings unparalleled authenticity to the way she teaches and makes students of all backgrounds feel heard and seen."

Some of Nillas' recent contributions to championing diversity at IWU include chairing the Faculty Committee on Diversity, serving on the Inclusive Excellence Education Task Force, working with the Curriculum Council, and attending Posse+ retreats.

"Professor Nillas was a key member in reviewing course development grant proposals, providing feedback for departmental diversity action plans and encouraging diversity in the curriculum," said Nugent.

Timan is administrative specialist in the School of Nursing and a mentor to students. One nominating student said, "I wouldn't have applied for the palliative care internship if Mitzi Timan didn't tell me that she noticed I had an affinity for older adults. It's the best thing I've done and has guided my future career."

"Timan's attitude of care was essential to overcoming virtual obstacles to genuine connection and removing barriers to success during the COVID-19 pandemic," Nugent said.



(Above) Associate Professor and Chair of Educational Studies **Leah Nillas** (left) and Administrative Specialist in the School of Nursing **Mitzi Timan** (right) were the 2022 recipients of the Illinois Wesleyan Leadership Award for Inclusive Excellence.

## Digital Commons Surpasses Five Million Downloads

Illinois Wesleyan University's Digital Commons — an online repository for student work, faculty scholarship, University records and campus history — surpassed five million downloads in March 2022.

Digital Commons is a collection reflecting the intellectual, creative and scholarly culture of IWU's campus throughout the years. Since launching Digital Commons in 2007, The Ames Library staff has digitized backfiles of student journals and honors research as far back as the 1960s. "Digital Commons provides a space for student work to be featured and celebrated, and for us all to see the long history of achievement in scholarship and artistry at IWU," said University Librarian **Stephanie Davis-Kahl**.

**Emma Garcia '21** saw her senior honors project, "Blending the Gender Binary: The Machismo Dyad as a Coping Mechanism," uploaded to the Digital Commons site the same day she defended her thesis.

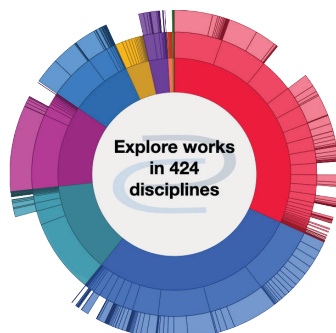
"I spent two semesters researching and writing this piece, and it felt worthwhile to see my work being shared and read by members of the community," Garcia said.

All students who complete honors research are encouraged to have their work uploaded to the Digital Commons. "The power of Digital Commons is in expanding your audience. Due to an arrangement with Google, Digital Commons content receives higher ranking in search results," said **Meg Miner**, University archivist and administrator of the Digital Commons site.

The reach of Digital Commons is impressive, said Miner, with an almost equal amount of downloads coming from external educational institutions, corporations or government agencies as from the IWU community.

Miner said this wide readership shows that "there is significant interest in the kinds of work we've been able to showcase from IWU for different audiences."

"For a small liberal arts institution, five million downloads is a significant milestone and indicator of the valuable research, scholarship and artistic work that is created on this campus, much of it mentored by IWU faculty," Davis-Kahl said.



## Three New Academic Programs Added for 2022-23

In an effort to continue preparing students for meaningful careers in diverse fields, Illinois Wesleyan University will offer three new academic programs in addition to more than 80 majors, minors and concentrations currently available.

Beginning this fall, students can study any of the following new academic programs:

### **Criminology minor**

Focused on equity in the criminal justice system, this interdisciplinary minor will appeal to students considering a wide variety of career paths, including law enforcement or other criminal justice work, politics, nonprofit work, political science and research. Classes will examine topics such as policing, eyewitness testimony, jury behavior, crime scene analysis, and inequity in the criminal justice system. Students will also gain firsthand experience by studying local legal cases, with opportunities to speak with those involved in criminal justice.

### **Public Health program**

Rooted in the scientific exploration of public health, this program will provide the knowledge and skills needed to contribute to local, state, national and global public health initiatives in multiple settings. The interdisciplinary program involves courses in health, chemistry, psychology, sociology, environmental studies and political science. Students in the public health program will have the opportunity to work directly with faculty who also serve as field clinicians, public policy makers and agents of change.

### **Data Science major**

In addition to the data science minor and data analysis certificate, this new major prepares students for a variety of data-related careers by providing in-depth and hands-on coursework in programming, applied statistics, data management, data visualization, ethics and machine learning. Students studying data science work with local nonprofits, government agencies and businesses of all sizes to develop data science projects that benefit the organizations and provide students with real-world experience.

For a full list of programs, visit [www.iwu.edu/majors](http://www.iwu.edu/majors).



## Men's Basketball Makes Elite Eight Run

The Illinois Wesleyan men's basketball team won the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin (CCIW) regular-season title and advanced to the Elite Eight of the NCAA Division III Tournament. The Titans went 24-6 with a 14-2 mark in CCIW play. **Matthew Leritz '22** was named the CCIW's Most Outstanding Player and garnered All-America First Team honors from D3hoops.com and the National Association of Basketball Coaches (NABC). Leritz was also a College Sports Information Directors of America (CoSIDA) First Team Academic All-American and CoSIDA's Division III Men's Basketball Academic All-American of the Year. Head Coach **Ron Rose '88** was named the NABC's District 8 Coach of the Year. Leritz and **Peter Lambesis '22** were named to the All-CCIW First Team. **Luke Yoder '23** and **Cory Noe '22** were second team selections.



Matthew Leritz '22



Ron Rose '88

## Women's Hoops Wins CCIW Tournament

The Titan women's basketball team went 20-9 and finished as CCIW regular-season co-champions with a 14-2 league record. IWU won its 10th CCIW Tournament championship before advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. **Brooke Lansford '22** and **Lauren Huber '25** were named D3hoops.com All-Region selections; the duo also landed on the All-CCIW First Team. **Kate Palmer '25**, who earlier in the season made ESPN SportsCenter's "Top Ten" for a

buzzer-beating halfcourt shot, sent IWU to the second round of the NCAA Tournament with a buzzer-beating game-winner against DePauw.

## Men's Golf Claims 10th-Straight CCIW Championship

Illinois Wesleyan's men's golf team tied for 12th at the NCAA Division III Men's Golf Championship, May 10-13, 2022, after winning its 10th-straight CCIW title. **Jimmy Morton '22** won the CCIW individual title, marking IWU's first medalist since 2019; **Carl Christiansen '22** and **Will Nummy '22** placed second and third, respectively, as all three earned All-CCIW honors. The trio also earned PING All-Region honors from the Golf Coaches Association of America. Morton was an Academic All-America Third Team selection.

## Softball Wins CCIW Tournament

Titan softball won the CCIW Tournament title as it finished the 2022 season with a 27-15 record. IWU made its 19th NCAA Tournament appearance. **Colleen Palczynski '22** was named the CCIW's Hitter of the Year for the second year in a row, becoming the second player in CCIW history to do so. **Hayley Earl '22** and **Bailey Turner '24** joined Palczynski on the All-CCIW First Team; **Jen Kuhn '25**, **Natalie Grubczak '23** and **Nina Mardjetko '23** were second team picks. **Madison Moore '23** earned the CCIW's Elite 25 Award for having the highest GPA of any player participating in the league's championship game. Palczynski was also voted to the National Fastpitch Coaches Association All-Region VIII team.



Colleen Palczynski '22

## Men's Lacrosse Secures CCIW Title

IWU's men's lacrosse team claimed its fourth-straight CCIW regular-season championship in 2022, posting a perfect 6-0 league record for the fourth-consecutive year. Nine Titans were named to All-CCIW



2021-22 Men's Basketball





teams. **Alex Oximana '24**, **Carson Kiichle '23**, **Rick Smith '22** and **Zac Taylor '22** were All-CCIW First Team honorees; **Michael Campagna '24**, **Gage Black '24**, **Trystan Seeley '24**, **Connor Kiichle '23** and **Paul Mucci '22** garnered second team accolades. Smith later earned All-America Honorable Mention status from the United States Intercollegiate Lacrosse Association for the second year in a row.

## Titan Athletics Roundup

Eight individual and three relay titles highlighted a second-place finish at the CCIW Championships for the IWU women's swimming and diving team. **Ellen Gilbert '22** qualified for the NCAA Championships and earned All-America status by placing sixth in the 200-yard fly. Gilbert was named the CCIW Swimming Student-Athlete of the Year, Most Valuable Swimming Student-Athlete, and the Elite 25 Award recipient. She was later named an Academic All-America First Team choice; she is a three-time Academic All-American. **Hadley Fudge '25** broke two school records and was named the CCIW Rookie of the Meet. ... The IWU men's swimming and diving team claimed six individual titles and one relay title while placing fourth at the CCIW Championships. **Lane Wagner '24** was named the CCIW Rookie of the Meet. **Ethan Lowder '24** won the Elite 25 Award. ... **Lexi Onsrud '24** and **Emma Thorman '24** represented the IWU women's golf team at the NCAA Division III National Championship, May 10-12, 2022, in Houston. IWU finished the year ranked No. 14 nationally. **Macy Ludwig '25**, Onsrud and Thorman were recognized as Women's Golf Coaches Association All-Region picks. Onsrud was an Academic All-America Third Team choice. ... **Rebekah Harden '22** and **Lauren Huber '25** won individual titles for the women's track and field

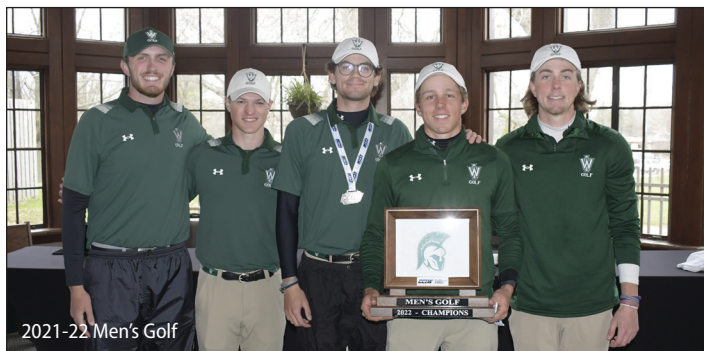


Ellen Gilbert '22



team. Harden claimed the mile title at the CCIW Indoor Championships, where the women placed fourth. Huber secured the heptathlon title in her first collegiate meet as the women finished in sixth place at the outdoor championships. IWU recorded 16 All-CCIW performances in all. ... **Cole Paraday '22** and **Keondre Schumacher '23** won individual CCIW titles as men's track and field placed seventh at the CCIW Outdoor Championships. Paraday won the javelin, while Schumacher crossed first in the 200-meter dash. The Titans produced 13 All-CCIW performances, four coming during the indoor season and nine during outdoor. ... **Landry Elliott '22** earned All-CCIW First Team honors as a member of the IWU women's lacrosse team. **Cassandra Jones '22** and **Kelly Carlson '23** were named to the second team. ... Baseball players **Dominic DiLello '22**, **Jacob Duffy '22**, **Cole Greer '22**, and **Evan Ranneklev '22** earned All-CCIW Second Team status. DiLello was named to the American Baseball Coaches Association All-Region 8 Third Team. ... Men's tennis' **Demetri Triantafel '22** was named to the All-CCIW Second Team for the third time in his career. ... **Shea Atkins '23** set a program record with a 188 game for the women's bowling team. ... The Titan men's volleyball team tallied a program-record eight wins.

*(Editor's note: Athletics news compiled on June 15, 2022.)*

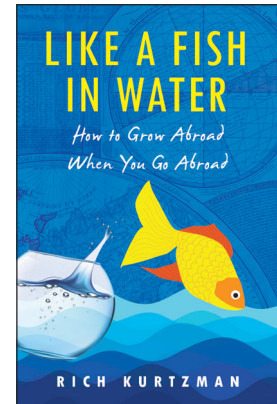
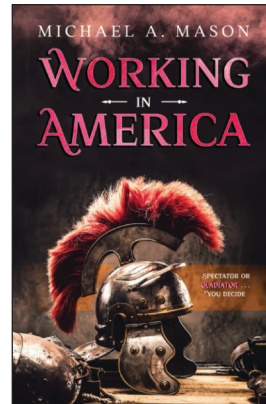
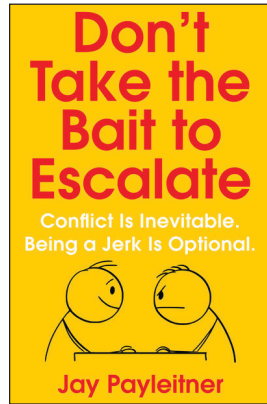
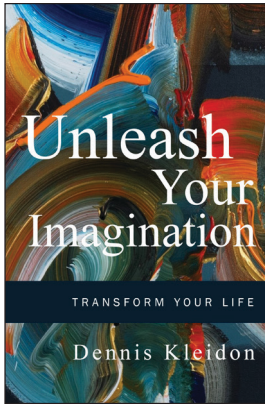


2021-22 Men's Golf



2022 Softball





## BOOKS

Acclaimed fine artist and designer **Dennis Kleidon '66** is the author of *Unleash Your Imagination: Transform Your Life*, a journey of self-discovery, showing you how innovation and optimism can transform your life. *Unleash Your Imagination* shows how to use design thinking to challenge your normal routines, increase the power of your imagination, and harness new sources of creativity. Dennis shares his decades of experience as a professor, entrepreneur, designer and artist to inspire his readers to open their minds, stretch their imaginations, and use their deepest desires and highest aspirations to shape their personal pursuit of happiness and excellence. Published by River Grove Books in April 2022, *Unleash Your Imagination* is available at Amazon, Barnes & Noble, and other booksellers worldwide.

**Jay Payleitner '79** is a national speaker and author of more than 25 books. His latest release is *Don't Take the Bait to Escalate: Conflict is Inevitable. Being a Jerk is Optional*. Printed by Salem Publishing in March 2022, the book illustrates how conflict is often good news. Conflict can be an opportunity for positive change, including deeper friendships, higher profits, stronger marriages, improved systems and products, fairer social justice, and more harmonious family gatherings. Rooted in scripture and exploring case studies, the book delves into the impact conflict has on relationships with family members, colleagues, friends, neighbors and social media followers — plus, tricks and tactics to de-escalate conflict before it does damage. *Don't Take the Bait to Escalate* is widely available.

**Mike Mason '80** is the author of *Working in America: Spectator or Gladiator ... You Decide*, a book about navigating the American workplace. It is also about living life with intentionality and never yielding to an existence as a human tumbleweed, blown from one position to another, lacking passion for any. A former winner of Illinois Wesleyan's Distinguished Alumni Award, Mike weaves his own professional experiences into the book, including roles with the Federal Bureau of Investigation and Verizon. *Working in America* is available at Amazon.

**Rich Kurtzman '98** is the author of *Like a Fish in Water: How to Grow Abroad When You Go Abroad*, a guide to studying and living abroad published in May 2022. *Like a Fish in Water* prepares readers to be comfortable, confident and ready to take on the world, even in unfamiliar territory. Shaped by his own study abroad experiences in St. Petersburg and Madrid, and an internship in Milan, Rich has spent more than 20 years living and working in Barcelona, overseeing study abroad programs and coaching multinational organizations. *Like a Fish in Water* is available at Amazon.

A book written by Illinois Wesleyan Professor of Anthropology **Chuck Springwood**, *Cooperstown to Dyersville: A Geography of Baseball Nostalgia*, originally published by Westview Press, was reprinted by Routledge Press. Originally published in 1996, *Cooperstown to Dyersville* unravels the mysteries of Cooperstown, New York — home of the Baseball Hall of Fame — and Dyersville, Iowa — filming location of the movie *Field of Dreams*.

## ARTICLE

Illinois Wesleyan Associate Professor of Nursing **Brenda Lessen Knoll '89** published a study in the *International Journal of Pediatric Otorhinolaryngology* with colleague Ehsan Naderifar on involving mothers in the assessment of their own preterm infant feeding skills while in the neonatal intensive care unit learning to feed. The research is the first part of a larger study assessing the effect of Brenda's Premature Infant Oral Motor Intervention (PIOMI) on early feeding skills scores.

## ART

**Emily Stedman '69 (A)** had two paintings, *Field Flowers* and *Winter Poinsettias*, selected for the 2022 Salmagundi Club Spring Auction on April 9, 2022. Emily is a New York-based watercolor artist whose work has been exhibited in Brooklyn (N.Y.) Museum, BRIC Rotunda Gallery in Brooklyn, and the Historic Northampton (Mass.) Museum and Education Center, and numerous other galleries, publications and collections.



**Stew Salowitz '76** (B) had his painting *When Winter Fades* accepted for exhibit in the McLean County Arts Center's 95th Annual Amateur Exhibition in March 2022. The retired Illinois Wesleyan sports information director won first prize in the adult painting category at the MCAC's Annual Amateur Exhibition in 2021.

## FILM AND TV

Illinois Wesleyan faculty members, including Associate Professor of Psychology **Ellen Furlong**, Associate Dean of Scholarly and Creative Work **Abbie Kerr** and Associate Professor of Philosophy **Mark Criley**, plus **Dirk Behrends '87**, are featured in a three-episode series from ABC TV Australia, *A Dog's World with Tony Armstrong*. The series explores the evolutionary journey of dogs, their amazing super senses, and the science behind their well-being.

## MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

**Michael Cooper '77** is the artistic director of the Alchemy Theatre in Austin, Texas. During pandemic downtime, he decided to write a play based on a story he had heard while attending Illinois Wesleyan, regarding Oscar Wilde's one-time visit to Bloomington, Illinois. The Alchemy Theatre produced a premiere reading of Michael's play, *The Sunflower Apostle*, on Oct. 29, 2021. Plans are in place to produce a full production in 2023.

Bass-baritone **William Powers '64** released a musical collection, Modest Petrovich Mussorgsky's vocal cycle *The Songs and Dances of Death*, under the Centaur Records label in December 2021. The work is based on four poems written by Arseny Golenishchev-Kutuzov, and put to music by Mussorgsky, each dealing with death in a personal, poetic way. William believes his recording of *The Songs and Dances of Death* is the first commercial presentation of the work in English. It is widely available on streaming platforms.

**Doris (Spencer) Sanders '91** presented a recital on Feb. 28, 2022, as part of the Quincy (Ill.) Sunday Music Series. The program, *Psalms, Hymns and Spiritual Songs*, included Hedy Rothfuss (piano), Sarah Boren (harp) and Sadie Brown (violin). Titles performed included: "On Eagle's Wings"; "Laude Dominum"; "Didn't My Lord Deliver"; "Daniel"; "Amazing Grace"; "His Eye is on the Sparrow"; "In Paradisum"; "Be Thou My Vision"; and several others. Doris will present another Sunday Music Series recital on Dec. 18, 2022, at 4 p.m., at Quincy's Unitarian Church. The recital, *The Songs of Christmas*, will include many familiar carols, as well as seasonal selections. The public is invited to attend.

**Shaun Baer '00** is among the voice cast for the animated preschool series *Bossy Bear*, slated for a 2023 premiere on the Nickelodeon family of networks. In the 30-episode series, Shaun plays Bossy's dad, the store manager of an electronics shop who has a Ph.D. in dad jokes, as the kids navigate silly childhood adventures in their Koreatown-inspired city of Pleasantburg. Shaun is a veteran actor of stage and screen, currently based in Los Angeles.

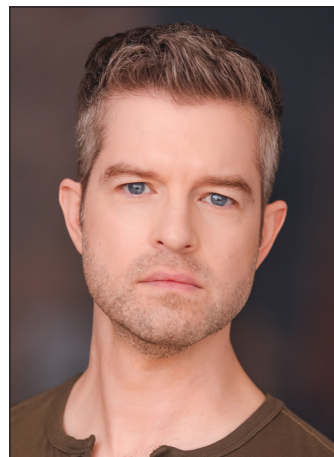
**Andrew Schneider '03** is the choreographer of *»remains«*, a show commissioned by Sasha Waltz & Guests, which premiered on March 12, 2020, at Radialsystem in Berlin. The show was only performed once before Berlin theatres were closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, but the show was remounted in August 2021 and March 2022. Based in Brooklyn, New York, Andrew is an award-winning performer, writer and interactive-electronics artist creating original works for theater, dance, sound, video and installation.

**Kate Tombaugh '07** was a featured guest artist in the New Philharmonic's season-ending concerts, April 9-10, 2022, at the McAninch Arts Center in Glen Ellyn, Illinois. The mezzo-soprano performed the role of Anita in the orchestra's presentation of *West Side Story in Concert*. Kate later performed the lead mezzo role in *Companionship* at the Virginia Arts Festival, in Norfolk, Virginia, June 3-5, 2022. Kate also coordinated Poco a Poco's sixth annual Summer Music Fest, a summer music festival and vocal training program for high school-aged musicians in her hometown of Streator, Illinois. Kate serves as executive director of the program, which also utilizes the talents of Illinois Wesleyan alumni, faculty and current students.

**Ian Coulter-Buford '12** is starring in the first national tour of the Tony Award-winning musical *Hadestown*. Ian is the Dance Captain, Fight Captain and Swing in the production. The tour began in 2021 and has dates running through 2023.

**Megan Koch '17** made her mainstage debut in April 2022 with Fort Worth (Texas) Opera, singing Annina in Giuseppe Verdi's *La Traviata*. Megan, who earned a master's degree in music and a graduate artist certificate in opera from North Texas University in 2019 and 2021, respectively, is a second year resident artist with Fort Worth Opera. She is also a private voice teacher, and a section leader at St. Andrew United Methodist Church in Plano, Texas.

The Prairie Fire Theatre/Illinois Wesleyan Opera filmed *Mozart's Day Out*, May 6-7, 2022, to be distributed to local schools. The performance marked the children's opera's 19th production. Filmed and distributed due to ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the company hopes to resume touring next year; prior to the pandemic, the company performed at as many as 50 schools during May Term. IWU Assistant Professor of Music **Bob Mangialardi** was both producer and a performer in *Mozart's Day Out*. The director was **Rhys Lovell '87**, the music director was IWU accompanist **Gretchen Church**, the book and libretto were written by **Nancy Steele Brokaw '71**, and props were managed by **Jeannie Breitweiser '72**. The cast included **Lidija Kutlesa '22**, **Cameron Kidd '22**, **Halee Hendel '24**, **Aiden Morris '24** and **James Owen '24**.



Shaun Baer '00



Ian Coulter-Buford '12

*All submitted content received by May 23, 2022. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.*



# COMMENCEMENT

## CLASS OF 2022



Illinois Wesleyan University celebrated more than 400 graduating members of the Class of 2022 on May 1, 2022, at Kemp Commencement Plaza on the Eckley Quadrangle. The outdoor, in-person ceremony marked the first of its kind since 2019.



**(Above)** Class President **Julia Hilt '22** delivers remarks to her classmates.



**(Above)** **Evan Hill '22** gives a thumbs up to his family in attendance.



**(Above)** Graduating seniors (from left) **Anjali Nimavat '22**, **Ivy Do '22** and **Bo "Betty" Yuan Shen '22** pause for a photo after the ceremony.



**(Above)** **Carlo Chavez '22** and **President S. Georgia Nugent** share a laugh during the conferring of degrees.

**(Below)** **Nicholas Harden '22** celebrates after receiving his diploma at Illinois Wesleyan's 172nd Commencement on May 1, 2022.





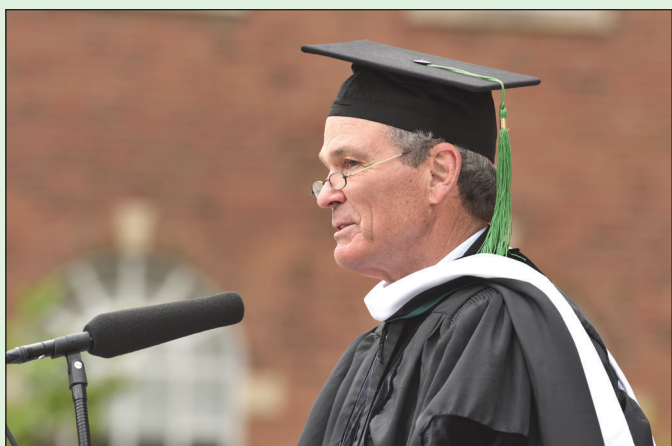
# REUNION CLASSES OF 1970 & 1971



(Above) **Amanda Bonavida '22** and other Class of 2022 graduates move their tassels to the left to signify their graduation.



(Above left) **Phillip Taylor '22** celebrates after receiving his diploma. (Above right) **Lesley Ortega '22** clutches her diploma with both hands.



(Above) Keynote speaker **Dr. William Farrar '71** offered advice to the graduating class in his speech, "The Power of Passion and Perseverance."



(Above) **President S. Georgia Nugent** addresses the Class of 1970 at its reunion dinner.



(Above) **Mark Sheldon '70** dons vintage Titan mascot headware.



(Above) Members of the classes of 1970 and 1971 pose for a group photo at their reunion dinner.



(Above) **Bill Devore '70** (left) and **Steve Ketchum '71** (right) chat during a campus tour.



(Above) **Marilyn (Wertz) Swanson '71** (left) and **Lynn (Walker) Johnson '70** (right) talk at the reunion dinner.





# BAKED WITH LOVE

Story by MATT WING

Dr. Nurman Noor '08 may be a general practitioner by trade, but a passion for baking earned him a spot in the TV series *The Great Australian Bake Off*, where he won scores of fans with his likable personality, raw vulnerability and mouth-watering creations.

When Dr. Nurman Noor '08 returns home from a long day of seeing patients at his general practice in Tasmania, Australia, he tosses his keys on a side table. He may slide into a comfortable chair, but only for a moment. He eventually finds his way to the kitchen, where he'll extend the index finger on his right hand to press the button on his oven to begin the preheating process.

This kitchen is his happy place.

After offering diagnoses and advice to patients as he has been trained to do through so many courses and clinicals, the rigidity of medicine often leaves Noor craving a creative space at the end of the day.

He finds it in the kitchen of his seaside home in southeastern Tasmania.

"Baking is a way for me to get to use that creative part of my brain, because I don't get to use it a lot in medicine," he says. "My brain is really full of ideas, and it's fun to try and think of the wackiest flavor combination, or a shape that is unusual, or something that's just completely different."

Noor was introduced to baking by his mother, who ran a catering business and restaurant while raising three children in Indonesia. The middle child, he quickly proved himself his mother's best helper. It was then and there in the family kitchen that he first learned the techniques and discovered a love of baking.

Noor later spent formative years in Hong Kong, as a student at an international high school, and the



United States, as a student at Illinois Wesleyan University, before finally landing in Australia.

He speaks nine languages — with varying fluency, he is quick to point out — and he has seen much of the world; he spent three months in Ecuador as an IWU student.

Those experiences greatly influenced his baking style. “Being in different cultures opened my eyes to different styles of cooking,” Noor said. “Different ideas, different flavors, just being able to push boundaries.”

Away from the person who introduced him to the culinary world, Noor briefly paused his passion for baking during educational pursuits. Seeking an American college experience and wanting distance between himself and his older sister studying on the East Coast and extended family on the West Coast, Noor looked for a college “somewhere in the middle.” He found it in Illinois Wesleyan, where he majored in biology and philosophy. Noor explored his interests with an eye on a career in medicine, but the experiences that stood out mostly happened outside of classrooms.

He sang in the choir. He studied abroad. He won a dodgeball tournament.

“The education was really important,” Noor said. “But there were things that went beyond it that I got out of it.”

Noor eventually found his way to medical school, at Australia’s Wollongong University, and it was there that his passion for baking was reignited. “I found it to be a nice way for me to relax,” he said. “And it was a nice way for me to connect to my mum.”

Noor finished med school in 2012 and began a residency in Sydney. He completed his specialization

in general practice and explored other special interests in pediatrics, dermatology, mental health and LGBTQIA+ health. He joined Cygnet Family Practice in Tasmania as a general practitioner in 2017. The job affords him a certain level of flexibility and the ability to pursue other interests of hiking, sketching and tending to his lush half-acre property.

And baking, of course.



(Above) Dr. Nurman Noor '08, who competed on the sixth season of *The Great Australian Bake Off*, won TasPride’s Great Cake Bake “Best in Show” Award in February 2022. (Opposite page) Noor celebrates being named “Star Baker” during the penultimate episode of *The Great Australian Bake Off*.

Noor was a fan of *The Great British Bake Off* long before its mainstream popularity. The BBC-produced show inspired him to dive deeper into his baking interest, not that he needed it.

When *The Great Australian Bake Off* premiered in 2013, he was watching.

By 2018, as the show was ramping up for its fifth season, Noor decided he was ready for the

toothpick test. He applied and was shortlisted. He went through several rounds of interviews and test bakes. Ultimately, he was among the final cuts and did not appear in that season.

The anticlimactic result of finishing “13th out of 12 contestants,” as he describes it, was disappointing. But Noor’s baking journey persisted anyway, and he spent much of his pandemic downtime the past two years like so many others, learning new skills and techniques in the kitchen.

When *The Great Australian Bake Off* announced it would return for a sixth season, to air in 2022, Noor was conflicted.

“I almost didn’t apply this time because I remember leaving that experience the first time feeling a bit deflated, losing that passion, and I was afraid of the same thing happening this time,” he said. “But somewhere in the back of my mind, there was this thought that kept telling me that if I didn’t apply, I might regret it.”

The casting, however, was unlike Noor’s previous experience, as the ongoing pandemic necessitated all rounds of the audition be virtual. He shared his Instagram account, which mostly serves as a baking diary. He recorded and shared videos of himself baking. He conducted a live bake over Zoom before a panel of judges and producers.

“I had to cut the cake for all of them and show them what it looked like,” Noor said, smiling. “That was an interesting one because I bake to feed people, and the fact that I baked this huge thing and I couldn’t really feed anyone was somewhat difficult.”

In conversation with the panel, Noor was bold. He told them he was “a bit of a rule-breaker” and “not one to be put in a box.”

## BAKED WITH LOVE

"I just told them if they picked me, I'm someone who's a bit different — actually, someone who's a lot different — and that comes across as me in a person, that comes across in my baking," he recalled saying. "I'm very adventurous, I'm very creative, and that's what they would get from me."

His courageousness paid off. A few weeks later, he got the call and learned he would be among the dozen contestants competing in the show's sixth season. Noor flew to Sydney in September 2021 to begin filming. The schedule was grueling; each episode was filmed over two days, with a first call at 5 a.m. every morning, and episodes were filmed back to back. That allowed advancing contestants a three-day break between each pair of episodes, but even those days were filled with recipe writing and testing bakes.

The conceptualization of dishes was fun for Noor, but submitting plans days in advance proved tricky for the instinctual baker.

**"For someone who enjoys baking, they're doing it for the love — whether it's the love of feeding people, love of the science of baking, love of the process, whatever love it is. But it has to be done with the act of love, whatever that direction of love is."**

— DR. NURMAN NOOR '08

"I'm not a recipe baker. I bake a lot of things by feel," he said. "I experimented a lot in terms of baking and even in recipes that I wrote. I adjusted a lot of those during the shows."

Noor established himself as one of the season's top bakers right away. He was named Star Baker — the judges' choice for top performer in each week's show — in the second of 10 episodes. He consistently earned high marks in the various challenges throughout the season, and was named Star Baker once again in the ninth episode, which earned him a spot in the season finale.

With his signature fedora and

handlebar mustache, Noor endeared himself to fans and competitors alike. His genuine, jovial personality was on full display — one show producer called him "the kindest, most joyous person" — but he also had moments of vulnerability and very openly shared personal struggles.

In the season's penultimate episode, the four remaining contestants were challenged to produce a piñata made of biscuits — what Americans would call cookies. Noor chose to create a likeness of himself, replete with said fedora and mustache. But, on the back of the piñata, he included, in words, challenges he's faced in his life: doubt, worry, self-worth and



**(Above)** Noor has gained a considerable following on social media, where he posts photos of his latest bakes.



**(Above)** In one of the series' defining moments, Noor smashes a piñata made in his own likeness. He was named "Star Baker" later in the episode.





**(Above left)** Noor is surrounded by his colleagues at a watch party for the season finale of *The Great Australian Bake Off*.

**(Above right)** Noor poses next to one of his creations on *The Great Australian Bake Off*.



body image.

"I see the action of hitting a piñata as a cathartic moment, and I want to beat down those personal battles," he told the show's judges, Matt Moran and Maggie Beer.

Moran described Noor's creation as "moving." Beer called it "brave and wonderful." They invited Noor to smash the piñata and later selected him as Star Baker for the week.

Perhaps the defining moment of Noor's *Bake Off* performance was just one of many instances during the season in which he wore his emotions on his sleeve.

"If I want to cry, I'll cry. If I want to laugh, I'll laugh," Noor said matter-of-factly. "There's this idea of gender expression and masculinity where you have to be tough, where you can't cry, where you can't really show emotion, and that's not me as a person.

"I want to be able to do whatever I want to do and be able to express myself however I choose to express myself."

Noor eventually finished as a runner-up to season winner Ella Rossanis — in unaired footage, Noor actually assisted Rossanis in the final challenge having already completed his bake — but winning was never the main aim, he explained.

"Most of us went into it wanting to be challenged and wanting to meet people," he said. "That was the beauty of *Bake Off*."

Noor proudly claims he has "found his baking family" through his participation in the show. He communicates with his fellow contestants on a daily basis and has traveled to visit some of them in recent months. "It's been really lovely to meet this group of friends," he said.

His family has also been captivated by his performance on the show. "My mum told me that she loved it," Noor reports with a smile.

Feedback from viewers and fans has been similarly positive.

"I've gotten so many messages through Instagram and Facebook,"

Noor said. "People have said I brought happiness to them because they thought I came across as genuine. A few of them sent me messages that they've gone through similar battles.

"And it's all great because I didn't intend in this competition to be anyone but me."

Noor is happy with how he represented himself on *Bake Off*. He's proud of the way his personality shined through in his interactions with fellow contestants, judges and hosts. He's proud of the way he served up dishes that were reflections of himself.

The best baking, after all, requires more than just a list of ingredients and technical savvy.

"For someone who enjoys baking, they're doing it for the love — whether it's the love of feeding people, love of the science of baking, love of the process, whatever love it is," he said. "But it has to be done with the act of love, whatever that direction of love is." ❖



Angela (Tomazin) Hesemann '09 found herself laid off at the outset of the COVID-19 pandemic, but co-founded a successful business to meet a new demand also created by the pandemic.

**I**t was early on a Sunday morning in March 2020 when Angela (Tomazin) Hesemann '09 saw her phone screen light up with a text message.

The senior event manager at Grand Hyatt Denver wiped the sleep from her eyes, certain she had misread the message, but she had not. A major business gathering slated to begin the very next day at the Grand Hyatt had been canceled.

"There were hundreds of people from all over the world, and they were already here in Denver when they canceled the conference," Hesemann said. "And that's how it started. Over the next week-and-a-

half, every other single event we had scheduled was canceled."

Concern over rising coronavirus cases effectively shut down the hotel and hospitality industries — as it did much of the world. Hesemann was furloughed for six weeks. Then four more. Then worse news: she was laid off.

"That was the toughest moment because it was like, 'Now what do I do?' It was very stressful," Hesemann recalled. "It was honestly a grieving process. I was grieving the loss of 10 years with a company I loved — a company I would have stayed with for my entire career."

Luckily, Hesemann had a sup-



# BREAKING THROUGH

Story by MATT WING



port system to lean on. She was offered encouragement from her husband, parents and siblings, as well as best friend Kim Carlson, whom Hesemann had met years earlier working in hotels in Chicago. The two had reconnected when Hesemann relocated to Denver — where Carlson had moved a couple years earlier — and they soon found themselves married to men who were also best friends.

When the couples gathered for a small Fourth of July gathering that served as a brief escape from months of quarantine, a mutual friend lamented the time he had spent the previous week attending a virtual conference. He cited all the symptoms of “Zoom fatigue” many have come to know over the past two years.

As he described his inability to focus and stay engaged through long sessions, Hesemann and Carlson locked eyes. Almost at once, the same idea dawned on them. Could they apply their event and hospitality knowledge to virtual meetings? Could they provide the same food and beverage experiences to attendees of virtual events, separated by hundreds, if not thousands, of miles? And, could they do it by themselves?

“When you have these long conferences, you have breakfast in the morning, coffee throughout the day, beverages to keep you energized and snacks to grab,” Hesemann explained. “You have little breaks built into your agenda so you can stretch your legs and network, and that’s what was missing from these virtual events.

“So we thought maybe we could find a way to send a package to people’s homes that included all the snacks and beverages they needed to stay energized, meeting materials — really anything they would



**(Above) Angela (Tomazin) Hesemann '09 (left)** launched BreakAway Meetings with best friend Kim Carlson (right) after both were laid off from jobs in the hospitality industry.

traditionally receive at an in-person conference.”

Hesemann and Carlson sketched out a business plan in an Excel document. They purchased a web domain and built a website. They came up with a name.

Just like that, BreakAway Meetings was born.



Angela Hesemann grew up in Chicago’s western suburbs, the oldest of five children. She excelled in school and her sport of choice: swimming.

A visit to Illinois Wesleyan to tour the campus and meet swimming and diving coach Teresa Fish helped make her college decision an easy one.

Hesemann majored in accounting upon advice from her accountant father. She excelled as a versatile member of the swim team. She learned lessons in athletics that she successfully applied to her academic pursuits. She used knowledge gained

from an IWU education to become a stronger swimmer.

The personal growth she experienced at Illinois Wesleyan was apparent to all.

“I was a little bit reserved, kind of a fly-on-the-wall type when I was in middle school and high school,” Hesemann admitted. “But I kind of found myself and my personality at Illinois Wesleyan. The experience helped me grow.”

Alas, when Hesemann walked across the stage to accept her IWU diploma on her Commencement day, she had no job to rush off to begin. At the height of the Great Recession, she and many of her classmates struggled to find employment. So she worked odd jobs here and there. She coached swimming. She eventually found work at a hotel just up the street from her childhood home in Warrenville, Illinois.

She fell in love with the work. “I loved to kind of welcome people into — well, it wasn’t my home, but it kind of felt like it,” she said with a



**(Above left)** Hesemann and Carlson share a laugh while fulfilling a client order. **(Above right)** BreakAway Meetings creates custom food and beverage packages for clients, shipped directly to virtual event attendees' locations.



burst of laughter. “I loved chatting with people from all over the world, people traveling, people in town for business.”

Hesemann eventually moved into a role at Hyatt’s corporate office in Chicago, and then to Hyatt’s McCormick Place location, where she worked for six years before relocating to Denver.

The move to Denver allowed her to reconnect with old friend Kim Carlson, whom she had hired a few years earlier at Hyatt Regency McCormick Place. Carlson was now working at another hotel in Downtown Denver, just a block from Hesemann’s new Hyatt location.

Working in nearly identical roles, Hesemann and Carlson shared the highs and lows of working in the fast-paced hospitality industry. Unfortunately, they also shared the fate of being furloughed on the same day — and ultimately, laid off — at the outset of the pandemic.

But their friendship grew during

the uncertain time. When one was down, the other picked them up. They encouraged each other. And, after that fateful moment on the Fourth of July, they added a new layer to their friendship.

They became business partners.

“Angela is the most incredible partner I could have ever dreamed of starting a business with,” Carlson said. “She’s an extremely hard worker, so creative, great with people, and unbelievably supportive.”

“It can be a risky move to start a business with a friend, but with her it hardly ever feels like work.”



Angela Hesemann and Kim Carlson stared at their Zoom screen listening intently, nodding together confidently despite perhaps not fully grasping their client’s vision.

“Doritos and soup, it is!” one of them said with Oscar-worthy enthusiasm.

The client call is the first step

in placing an order with BreakAway Meetings. Hesemann and Carlson want to know everything about your event: the attendees, theme, budget and more.

Like if your office staff has a weird inside joke about eating Doritos and canned soup.

“Sometimes it’s things like that, which we would never propose, but that’s why you have these conversations,” said Hesemann, who went with the Cool Ranch variety of Doritos paired with a bean chili to deliver on the client’s request. “That’s far more meaningful than just sending them a box of snacks.”

In addition to tailoring the contents of the box, BreakAway Meetings brands it with company logos and colors. Other items, like meeting materials or company swag, can also be included.

“It’s all about them. We’re just doing the hard work and the creative in the background,” Hesemann said. “That’s how we like to operate.”



**“We’re constantly trying to think a little bit differently and creatively, and planning ahead. Those are skills I absolutely learned and polished at Illinois Wesleyan.”**

— ANGELA (TOMAZIN) HESEMANN '09

After fulfilling its first order in September 2020, BreakAway Meetings slowly built a clientele.

Using Carlson’s three-car garage as a base of operations, the startup emphasized customer service. They went above and beyond, determined to earn additional orders. No order was too big or small. And if a big order required an all-nighter, that’s what they did. “We’ve had our fair share of marathon nights, when we just had to get it done,” Hesemann said.

They’ve learned plenty along the way: preferred shipping companies, food items with greater tendency to spoil, and the amount of inventory they can fit in Carlson’s garage. Things have occasionally gone wrong, of course, but a client can still have a positive experience even when things don’t go 100% according to plan.

“You have to be apologetic and empathetic, and find out how to make it right,” Hesemann said. “Those are the kinds of lessons we learned in the hospitality business.”

BreakAway Meetings transformed from hobby to legitimate business. The company’s biggest test to date came, however, when Hesemann and Carlson were asked to return to their hotel hospitality jobs, almost a year to the day after being laid off.

They talked it over amongst themselves and their best friend husbands.

“We made the decision that

we would go all in on BreakAway, and it’s been an excellent decision,” Hesemann proudly confirms. “We’ve never looked back.”



With so much sad and anxiety-inducing news born from the pandemic, the success of BreakAway Meetings is a welcome success story. Local media outlets seeking some positive news have jumped at the chance to tell the story of two entrepreneurial women who have turned lemons into lemonade.

With each wave of press, the business has surged. “BreakAway is growing so quickly,” Carlson said. “Every month we’re surpassing what we thought was possible.”

Hesemann and Carlson have declared 2022 a year for strategic planning. They are taking classes at a small business development center in Denver. They’ve had occasion to hire extra help to fill large orders, and they’re currently seeking interns to help them grow the business. They’ve branched out into offering virtual experiences, such as cooking, mixology and candle making; the early reviews have been positive.

Even with exponential growth, BreakAway Meetings still offers a personal touch.

“We hear from our clients that we’re providing exactly what they are looking for, exactly what they need,” Hesemann said. “I think we’re filling a little hole that other

companies haven’t yet.”

Being able to manage it all has been a challenge, but Hesemann credits her time at IWU for preparing her to do it. She puts her accounting degree to work as the company’s bookkeeper.

Her experience of balancing academics and athletics has proven invaluable.

“We’re constantly trying to think a little bit differently and creatively, and planning ahead,” she said. “Those are skills I absolutely learned and polished at Illinois Wesleyan.”

Hesemann and Carlson are determined to keep their success story going. Though the story of BreakAway Meetings started with a raincloud, they’re enjoying the rainbow that’s come from it.

“This is our livelihood now. We are so proud and really do love it. We’ve made this commitment to the business and we’re putting everything into it that we can,” Hesemann said. “It’s awesome seeing the results in real time, and it’s exciting to be a part of something like this that came out of such a tough situation.” ❖



**(Above)** Hesemann and Carlson work out of Carlson’s home, but are rapidly outgrowing the space and considering expanding their business.

## Drs. Roger '64 and Carol (Thompson) Sheldon '65

Distinguished Alumni Award

# COMMUNITY CENTERED

Stories by MATT WING

Despite working in different arenas — medicine, higher education, and the intersection of performance and activism — Illinois Wesleyan's 2022 Alumni Award winners share the common bond of serving their communities.

Many Illinois Wesleyan alumni claim to be “Titans for Life.” Drs. Roger '64 and Carol (Thompson) Sheldon '65 can certainly lay claim to that title. Especially Roger.

He attended his first college course at IWU at the ripe old age of three weeks old.

“I went to my first class at Illinois Wesleyan with my dad, who had me in a baby carrier, very shortly after I was born,” said Roger, whose parents both attended IWU. “I’ve been tied into Illinois Wesleyan my entire life.”

The Sheldons met as IWU students when the alphabetical seating chart employed by former German professor William Bettger placed “Sheldon” and “Thompson” in close proximity. They learned they shared many common interests. Both were

highly engaged on campus. Roger was president of Student Senate, and a member of the marching band, Collegiate Choir, Apollo Quartet, Blue Key and Phi Kappa Phi. Carol was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma leadership, IWU Dad’s Day, Student Senate, Beta Beta Beta, Alpha Lambda Delta, Green Medallion, Egas and Phi Kappa Phi.

They soon became a couple and married shortly after graduation. Illinois Wesleyan served as the setting for their story’s beginning. “We were both pretty happy there,” Roger said.

Roger and Carol Sheldon are Illinois Wesleyan’s 2022 Distinguished Alumni Award winners.

After IWU, Roger went on to Northwestern University Feinberg School of Medicine and a pediatric residency in Boston. Carol worked



“Women didn’t go to medical school in those days. But Roger was the one to say ‘Well, if you want to go to medical school, we’ll figure it out.’”

— CAROL (THOMPSON) SHELDON ’65

for Illinois Bell Telephone while her husband attended medical school. She worked at Boston Children’s Hospital in an administrative role during his residency. She served as a tutor and foster mother. The Sheldons’ plans were temporarily interrupted by the Vietnam War, when Roger served two years in the U.S. Army, stationed in El Paso, Texas. The family’s next move was to the University of Colorado in Denver, where Roger had landed a fellowship in pediatric pulmonology.

It was during this time, just as the youngest of their two children was graduating from diapers, Carol felt the itch to go back to work. But she didn’t want to go back to the types of jobs she had held before.

“I had always wanted to be a doctor,” she said.

Carol had shared that ambition with a former IWU dean when she was a senior and her husband was in his first year of med school. The dean very curtly responded that her duty was to support her husband. She never forgot the exchange.

“Women didn’t go to medical school in those days,” Carol said. “But Roger was the one to say ‘Well, if you want to go to medical school, we’ll figure it out.’”

And they did. Carol enrolled at CU-Denver while Roger went to work there. Seeking somewhere they could both practice, the Sheldons eventually landed in Oklahoma City.

They quickly established themselves as healthcare leaders there. Roger led the neonatal unit and

NICU at the University of Oklahoma Medical Center, before serving as the university’s assistant dean for continuing medical education. He additionally served as assistant medical director of Heartland Health Plan and medical director of the Children’s Hospital of Oklahoma. After completing a residency in diagnostic radiology at the University of Oklahoma, Carol joined Oklahoma City Clinic and Presbyterian Hospital, where she became the first woman to chair the radiology department, and served on both executive boards, and as president of the Central Oklahoma Radiological Society. She eventually co-founded Breast Imaging of Oklahoma, where she practiced until her retirement.

A desire to improve the health

and wellbeing of their communities drove the Sheldons throughout their careers, and it continues in retirement. Roger remains active supporting child advocacy, the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Earl E. Bakken Medical Devices Center at the University of Minnesota, and Doctors for Early Childhood. Carol has served as president of the Minneapolis branch of the American Association of University Women (AAUW), whose mission is equity for women and girls; it supports college scholarships to nine Minneapolis high school graduates each year, as well as providing food, clothing and transitional housing to surrounding neighborhoods.

The Sheldons also routinely give back and remain engaged with their alma mater. That connection stems back from the positive experiences they enjoyed on campus more than a half century ago.

“We have benefited greatly from Illinois Wesleyan,” Roger said. “And to whom much is given, much will be required.” ❖



(Above) Drs. Roger ’64 and Carol (Thompson) Sheldon ’65 are enjoying retirement after distinguished careers in the healthcare sector. (Opposite page) After living and working in Chicago, Boston, El Paso (Texas), Denver and Oklahoma City, the Sheldons have retired to Golden Valley, Minnesota.



## Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78 Loyalty Award

Assigned an essay on what she wanted to be when she grew up, sixth-grader Marsha Guenzler-Stevens '78 sharpened her pencil and pulled out a crisp sheet of paper.

"Dean of women," she wrote with the utmost confidence.

"I don't know where the hell I got that," Guenzler-Stevens says, laughing heartily. "People said the usual things, but that's what I wrote, and I'm sure it's because we had been to Wesleyan and had probably listened to some women speak."

Guenzler-Stevens comes from an Illinois Wesleyan family. Her parents are alumni who often brought their children along for return trips to campus. Her two sisters and other extended family members are alumni, too. Her connection to IWU, to a certain degree, is genetic.

Her parents were known to clip *Chicago Tribune* articles any time an alum was mentioned. They'd read the alumni magazine not only for updates on their classmates, but their classmates' children and extended families.

Guenzler-Stevens inherited that, too.

"You have this great sense of being entrusted with the stories of

people," she said. "You're entrusted with an institution that invested in you."

Guenzler-Stevens is Illinois Wesleyan's 2022 Loyalty Award winner.

When informed of the recognition, she felt a rush of emotions. There was gratitude. There was nostalgia. There were thoughts of her family — especially her late father, Robert Guenzler '53 '56, who had died just months earlier.

"He would have loved this," Guenzler-Stevens said. "That's where the tears came from."

Guenzler-Stevens selection for the award is based not on lineage — her parents were IWU's Loyalty Award recipients in 1998 — but on

offered a job as an admissions counselor. That job was the springboard to a long and distinguished career in higher education. Guenzler-Stevens will celebrate 40 years at the University of Maryland this summer.

She is currently the director of the Adele H. Stamp Student Union, a student center offering inclusive spaces and programming to a student body of more than 40,000.

Guenzler-Stevens loves the job. Working with young people keeps her young at heart. If those interactions weren't enough, she teaches three courses a year.

"My full-time job is an administrator, but I teach for free because each semester I get to know 20 students really well, and I carry their

*"My full-time job is an administrator, but I teach for free because each semester I get to know 20 students really well, and I carry their stories. That's the lesson of my dad and that's the lesson of Illinois Wesleyan."*

— MARSHA GUENZLER-STEVENS '78

devotion to her alma mater. She has served in leadership roles on the Board of Trustees, Alumni Association Board of Directors, and Council for IWU Women. Guenzler-Stevens has given her time, talent and treasure to Illinois Wesleyan with regularity. When IWU asks, the answer from Guenzler-Stevens is almost always an emphatic 'yes.'

That first ask came shortly after her IWU graduation, when she was

stories," she said. "That's the lesson of my dad and that's the lesson of Illinois Wesleyan."

It's a dream job for Guenzler-Stevens — one she actually dreamed of many years ago.

"I'm ever so grateful that little kids get to dream of who they want to be when they grow up," she said. "And I get to do what I thought I wanted to do when I was in the sixth grade." ❖





## Ianne Fields Stewart '15

Robert M. Montgomery Young Alumni Award

Everything Ianne Fields Stewart '15 does is done with purpose.

Whether it's the acting roles she accepts, or the organizations she supports, or the works she creates to provide a platform for others, she does it all with measured calculation of how it can positively impact their community.

"By holding to values that I believe in so strongly, the work will reveal itself to me," she said. "As long as I remain steadfast in what I believe, how I believe it, and what I believe is the most ethical way of going about doing it, that will lead me right."

Fields Stewart, who uses she/her/they/them pronouns, lives their purpose as a Black, queer, transfeminine, New York-based storyteller whose work spans the realms of performance and activism. She is an actress known for roles on Netflix's *Dash & Lily*, Hulu's *The Bold Type* and YouTube's *The Feels*. She is the founder of the Okra Project, a collective addressing food insecurity in the Black trans community. She's a cultural competency consultant who delivers training and facilitates conversations. She is also a teaching

artist, director, choreographer and playwright who strives to provide a platform for others.

Fields Stewart is Illinois Wesleyan's 2022 Robert M. Montgomery Young Alumni Award winner.

"I hope my presence allows someone who is young, Black and trans — who may not know it yet or who may just be coming into it — they can take that space in their own life and propel themselves forward in their own autonomy and wisdom in the way they see fit," Fields Stewart said. "Because we all have the right to do that."

Fields Stewart describes their

Fields Stewart also learned from experiences of racism, transphobia and queerphobia encountered during their time at IWU. "I think it was that interesting thing of being planted in unfriendly soil and still learning to bloom," she said.

Fields Stewart said she rarely feels like "that girl," but she does somehow manage to balance career, advocacy and personal life. She's preparing for acting roles. She remains active in community service. She's been commissioned to write a play for an off-Broadway theatre.

"I hope my presence allows someone who is young, Black and trans — who may not know it yet or who may just be coming into it — they can take that space in their own life and propel themselves forward in their own autonomy and wisdom in the way they see fit. Because we all have the right to do that."

— IANNE FIELDS STEWART '15

time at Illinois Wesleyan as "formative and important." She gained formal training as a music theatre major. She developed an artistic aesthetic and a voice — and not just onstage. "A lot of my general education courses helped inform my political foundation and built an awareness of social justice movements," she said.

And she's doing it all, as always, with the interests of their community as a guiding light.

"I'm making sure that my people are taken care of and doing my small part to be a part of a larger tapestry of people who are organizing on behalf of Black trans lives," she said. "Wherever the fight goes, I will remain in support of it." ❖

# HOMECOMING AND FAMILY WEEKEND



In the past two years we've witnessed the Titan community come together in new ways to share stories, expertise and friendship. We look forward to sharing a meal, a drink and a story with you all in person. **All Titans, near and far, are invited back to campus to celebrate Homecoming Sept. 23-25, 2022.**

## Reunion Weekend

Reconnect with your classmates through special class events. Classes honored this year are:

1972, 1977, 1982, 1987, 1992, 1997, 2002, 2007, 2012, 2017 and 2022. More information at [iwu.edu/reunion](http://iwu.edu/reunion).

## Alumni Awards Ceremony: Best of Illinois Wesleyan

Join the Alumni Association Board of Directors for a reception honoring our distinguished roster of 2022 Alumni Award winners, new Golden Titans from the Class of 1972 and others from the Titan community.

## TGOE Fest

Student organizations will participate in a pep rally at Tucci Stadium. All members of the Titan community are invited to attend the event. A fun, family-friendly surprise will fill the night sky at 8:45 p.m.







## Return to the Classroom

Enjoy multiple panels featuring alumni in the healthcare field, entrepreneurs, and former members of the Pembroke Program, as well as Back to College classes led by alumni award winners.

## Titan Tailgate & Athletic Contests

Celebrate your Titan spirit with friends and family before the football team takes on Carroll University on Saturday at 1 p.m. at Tucci Stadium. You can also cheer on the women's volleyball team as it hosts a tournament Friday and Saturday at the Shirk Center.

## Club Tommy

Club Tommy is the perfect place to meet up with friends and classmates before heading out for the rest of your evening. All IWU alumni, family, friends, faculty, staff and guests are welcome to enjoy a DJ, heavy hors d'oeuvres, beer and wine.

## Plan Ahead!

Plan your stay at our host hotel, DoubleTree by Hilton. Its staff will be ready to greet you in Titan Green. Hotel blocks are available at [iwu.edu/homecoming/plan-your-stay](https://iwu.edu/homecoming/plan-your-stay).

For a complete schedule of events and registration visit [iwu.edu/homecoming](https://iwu.edu/homecoming) or call (888) 498-2586 for more information.

#IWU\_HC22 #TGOE



# Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

## 1963

**Harvey Caldwell**, retired chief executive officer of the Brainerd (Minn.) Regional Human Services Center, was elected in January 2022 senior warden of the Vestry of St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church in White Bear Lake, Minnesota.

## 1971

**Dr. William Farrar** performed his final surgical procedure at the Ohio State University Comprehensive Cancer Center-James Cancer Hospital & Solove Research Institute on March 21, 2022. The final procedure came more than 46 years after he arrived at Ohio State, where he's performed more than 20,000 surgeries. When he exited the operating room that day, his colleagues lined the hallway to provide him with a standing ovation as he returned to the locker room where he would remove his scrubs one final time. William was named Illinois Wesleyan's

Distinguished Alumni Award winner in 2021 and provided the keynote address at IWU's 2022 Commencement.

## 1973

**Randall Ricklefs** is a senior engineer at Hexagon US Federal, contributing to the Global Geodetic Observing System, a collaborative effort of the global geodesy community to the observation and monitoring of the Earth system. Geodesy is the science of determining the shape of the Earth, its gravity field and its rotations, as well as its rotation variations. Randy is also a research associate at the University of Texas at Austin, where he has served in various capacities for the past 47 years.

## 1978

**Carol Brandt** was named to *Forbes'* 2022 lists of "America's Top Women Wealth Advisors" and "Best in State Top Advisors." A senior consultant for Merrill Lynch,

Carol has 40 years of experience providing personalized wealth management strategies to high net worth families. She has previously been recognized among *Barron's* "Top 100 Women Financial Advisors" and *Financial Times'* "Top 400 Financial Advisors."

## 1984

**Jeff Lockenvitz** retired as principal of Bloomington District 87's Washington Elementary School at the conclusion of the 2021-22 academic year. Jeff's retirement concluded a 37-year career in education, including the past 28 years as principal at Washington.

## 1986

**Brian Balestri** is the creator of "Who Said True?!" an online party game played on phones where players secretly answer fun true-or-false questions about themselves. Points are awarded for accurately guessing how many players answered "true." The game produces fun conversations and stories, and is perfect for nights out with friends, family get-togethers, and even Zoom team meetings. Brian left his position as chief technology officer at GrandPad in order to focus full-time on "Who Said True?!"



Richard Koenig '89

## 1987

**Rick Bakewell** was named chief financial officer of Modern Campus, a leading engagement platform for higher education, in March 2022. Rick will lead all Modern Campus' financial activities. He brings a wealth of experience to the role, including 25 years in the technology and services industries, where he specialized in financial organizational, operational efficiency, financing and capital raising initiatives, and mergers and acquisitions. Rick most recently served as chief financial officer at Benefitexpress, a cloud-based benefits administration technology and human resources services provider. Prior to that, he held senior finance positions at Fruition Partners, NTT Data Americas and the Revere Group.

## 1989

**Richard Koenig** was named to the American Institute of Certified Planners (AICP) College of Fellows, for his outstanding achievements in urban planning, in February 2022. Fellowship is granted to planners who have achieved certification through the American Planning Association's professional institute, the AICP, and have achieved excellence in professional practice, teaching and mentoring, research, public and community service, and leadership. Richard is the executive director for Housing Opportunity Development Corporation and has more than 30 years of planning experience focused on affordable housing development. He has created over 500 affordable housing units for low-income families, seniors and people with disabilities. He is also an adjunct faculty member for Southern New Hampshire University. Richard is one of 53 inductees into this year's College of Fellows, recognized during the American Planning Association's National Planning Conference in San Diego on May 1, 2022.



Dr. William Farrar '71





Julie Brown '93

## 1990

**Cheryl Delk-Le Good** won the Association of International Educators (NAFSA) 2022 Award for Outstanding Contributions to International Enrollment Management. Cheryl has been in international education for over 30 years and now serves as the executive director of EnglishUSA, a professional association of over 230 accredited, intensive English and pathway programs. She actively promotes and supports English language study in the U.S.; in 2019, she led a trade mission to Brazil and Colombia with the Department of Commerce, and is planning two more in the near future. She has authored two English as a second language textbooks and has conducted multiple program and curriculum reviews.

**Ric Underhile** became executive director of Artworks, a nonprofit serving the creative community in Mecosta County, Michigan. Ric is also the owner and operator of Six Dogs North Fine Arts, a gallery featuring work from artists expressing ideas through pencil drawings, sculptures and paintings. Ric previously served in multiple capacities at Aquinas College, including as associate vice president for advancement.



Becca (Gehring) Lamon '93

## 1993

**Julie Brown** was named senior vice president for human resources of WETA, the flagship public media station in the Washington, D.C. market, in May 2022. Julie will be responsible for all human resources activities across WETA. She will work closely with the WETA Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Council to further the organization's commitment to ensuring a fair and equitable workplace for all. Julie previously served as vice president for human resources for PBS Distribution, and as president of JBH Consulting, a firm she founded in 2010.

**Becca (Gehring) Lamon** was hired as superintendent of Ball-Chatham (Ill.) School District in February 2022. Becca will assume the position in August 2022. Becca previously served as assistant superintendent at East Noble School Corporation in Kendallville, Indiana, since 2013. Prior to that, she served as East Noble's curriculum director. She has also been an elementary school principal and an assistant principal/athletic director. She has also worked at the Indiana Department of Education. She began her teaching career in Mattoon, Illinois.



John Huber '94

## 1994

**Chris Fusco** joined the *Houston Chronicle* as managing editor in March 2022. Chris has three decades of journalism experience, highlighted by a 20-year tenure at the *Chicago Sun-Times*, where he served in a variety of leadership positions. He most recently helped launch the startup *Look-out Local* in Santa Cruz, California. Chris' journalism career was highlighted in the Spring 2019 edition of *IWU Magazine*.

**John Huber** joined law firm Brownstein Hyatt Farber Schreck, LLP, as its chief financial officer. John will provide executive leadership and direction for the firm's financial operations and asset management. He will be based in Brownstein's Denver office and serve as a member of the firm's Business Leadership Team. Prior to joining Brownstein, John served as chief financial officer for Michael Best & Friedrich LLP, where he led and managed a team of 80 finance, accounting and operations personnel, and oversaw all financial functions for the law firm and its lobbying affiliate, Michael Best Strategies.

**Rachel (Palencia) Harper** is the associate director of the Honors College and coordinator of the



John Baines '98

Honors Humanities Sequence at the University of Missouri-Columbia. Employed by the university for 18 years, Rachel also added the title of associate teaching professor, in MU's English department, in December 2021. She was recognized in the student publication *The Maneater*, in a story during Women's History Month in April 2022, highlighting "Five women making a difference at MU."

## 1996

**Ben Miller** was named to *Forbes'* "Best-In-State Wealth Advisors" in April 2022. Ben is a wealth management advisor for UBS Financial Services' branch in Barrington, Illinois. He has served in the role since 2009. He was previously a vice president with Merrill Lynch.

## 1998

**John Baines**, head coach of the Elmhurst University men's basketball team, was named the D3hoops.com Region 8 Coach of the Year after leading the Bluejays to a school-record 27 wins and the program's first-ever trip to the Final Four. John has been the Bluejays' head coach since 2013, posting an overall record of 148-84 in nine seasons at the helm. As a player at Illinois Wesleyan, John played in four NCAA Tournaments and won a national championship in 1997.



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

# ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

## *My Fellow Titans,*

April showers bring May flowers! This idiom held true at IWU this past spring. In April, the Illinois Wesleyan community “showered” IWU with \$2.3 million during our 10th annual All In for Wesleyan day of giving. We set a record in the number of donors and met a challenge to unlock an additional \$1 million. A huge thank you to all who made this year’s All In a success! And a special shoutout to the Alumni Association Board of Directors affinity group leaders of Young Alumni Council, Titan Alumni of Color Collective, Council for Women, Pride Alumni Community, and International Alumni Network — groups who over the past few years have initiated grassroots giving campaigns during All In. This year each set new records in the number of donors and dollars raised for affinity group scholarships!

On the first day of May, IWU produced our own “flowers” by way of the graduating class of 2022! Congratulations to our newest IWU alumni! As I welcomed the Class of 2022 to our Alumni Association at Commencement, it was hard for me to process that it had been 35 years since I had “walked” to collect my IWU diploma. As I shared with the graduating class, even though we may have graduated years apart, we still share a common experience of time at IWU. I know as our newest Titan alumni, each and every one of you will do well in your chosen career or graduate studies. It is my sincere hope that you will do good and give back with your time, talent and treasure, to our beloved alma mater.

Go Titans!

*Dirk L. Behrends*

**Dirk Behrends '87**  
*President, Alumni Association  
Board of Directors*



## Titan Talks: Innovation Series

The third installment of our quarterly Titan Talks: Innovation Series is set for Aug. 30, 2022, featuring Haden Kirkpatrick, vice president of innovation and venture capital at State Farm. The series features alumni and friends who are creating, changing and disrupting the products and services that will exist in the mid-21st century. Viewers can tune in live or watch on demand at [iwu.edu/titan-talks](http://iwu.edu/titan-talks).



## Entrepreneur of the Year Awards

The 2022 Bloomington-Normal Entrepreneur of the Year Awards, benefiting Illinois Wesleyan University’s Innovation and Entrepreneurship programs and The Petrick Idea Center, will be held Nov. 3, 2022, at 5:30 p.m., at Bloomington’s DoubleTree by Hilton Hotel. Savant Wealth Management (formerly Kingston Wealth Management) will serve as the presenting sponsor of the event. **Save the date!**



## Connections are Coming!

President S. Georgia Nugent’s summer tour is underway and we hope to see you soon! Visit [www.iwu.edu/alumni/events](http://www.iwu.edu/alumni/events) to see where we are heading next!



**Nate Knuffman**, vice chancellor for finance and operations and CFO for the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, was one of three individuals named to the Woodland Education Foundation's "Woodland Hall of Fame," in April 2022. Nate was the salutatorian at Woodland High School, in Streator, Illinois, in 1994. He addressed an all-school assembly on April 29, 2022.

**Elizabeth (Eberspacher) Nohren** was appointed by Illinois Governor JB Prizker in March 2022 to serve as public administrator and public guardian for Effingham, Fayette and Montgomery counties. Liz currently serves as public administrator and public guardian for Shelby County and will continue in that role. She is the owner and managing partner of Elizabeth Nohren Law PC, doing business as Dove & Dove Attorneys at Law.

## 2000

**Ryan Jumper**, an associate judge in Illinois' Third Judicial Circuit, announced his candidacy for circuit judge. He will seek to replace Circuit Judge William A. Mudge, who announced his retirement at the end of his term. Ryan currently presides over the Third Judicial District's probate, chancery and small claims divisions. Prior to joining the bench, he was an attorney at the Lance Callis Law Firm in Granite City, Illinois, and Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis.

**Meg McKeen** is a founding member of InsureWomen, a group providing support and resources for women in insurance sales as they support other women in the insurance-buying process. Meg is the founder and chief confidence builder of Adjunct Advisors, LLC, a business insurance education and consulting company she launched in 2018 to help those in insurance sales leverage their unique voices and find success.



Elizabeth (Eberspacher) Nohren '98

**Susanna Widicus Weaver** was named the 2022 recipient of Illinois Wesleyan's Chemistry/Biochemistry Alumni of the Year Award. Susanna is the Vozza Professor of Chemistry and Astronomy at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She leads the Widicus Weaver Research Group at UW-M. Susanna provided an address, "Reflections of an Alum," at the IWU Department of Chemistry and Biochemistry's awards night on April 18, 2022.

## 2001

**Suzy (Newberg) Brown** is the founder and CEO of The Newberg Group, a political campaign consulting company. Focused on regional and state-level campaigns, the Newberg Group provides services including: event planning; direct mail and email fundraising; compliance and bookkeeping; and fundraising training. The group has worked with over 50 Illinois campaigns, raising over \$7.5 million in donations. The company has grown since its inception and now employs a full-time staff of seven women. Suzy also serves on the Morris (Ill.) Community High School Board and the board of Elevate Illinois, a nonprofit dedicated to improving the state's public image. Suzy was profiled in the *Morris Herald-News* in February 2022.



Suzy (Newberg) Brown '01

## 2002

**Sarah (Rosen) Jennings** was named to the board of trustees at Olivet Nazarene University. Sarah is a principal at Maner Costerisan, a full-service public accounting, technology and business consulting firm. She leads the firm's fraud and forensics practice, and its nonprofit team. Sarah is an active volunteer and member of many professional and community organizations, including the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the Association of Certified Fraud Examiners and ATHENA International.

**Michael Lupo** announced in February 2022 his campaign for state representative in Illinois' 55th District, encompassing portions of Leyden, Maine, Northfield and Norwood Park townships, and precincts within the 41st Ward. Michael has owned and operated a food and beverage corporation for the past 20 years. Since then, he has added another company to his portfolio and established a local coffee brand in 2012. Michael was on the ballot for the June 28, 2022, primary election (results were unavailable at press time).

## 2003

**Mónica Medrano Enríquez** was promoted to the role of deputy director in the Strategic Planning and Reporting department of the



Mónica Medrano Enríquez '03

Illinois Housing Development Authority (IHDA), a state agency that works to fund and preserve affordable housing. Mónica joined the IHDA in 2008 and has filled several roles relating to the promotion and growth of safe, affordable housing.

**Dr. Jennifer (Gilliam) Foster**, an internist and primary care physician in Boca Raton, Florida, was recognized in *Boca Magazine's* "Top Doctors 2022" series. Jennifer provides patient care at the Florida Atlantic University Medicine facility in Boca Raton, and is also a member of the faculty at the Schmidt College of Medicine and FAU's Internal Medicine residency program.

**Sara Ingram**, an experienced toxic tort and product liability lawyer, joined law firm Vorys, Sater, Seymour and Pease LLP, as a partner and member of its litigation group, in February 2022. Sara brings experience in the management of high-volume and complex litigation to her new role. Throughout her career, she has implemented unique strategies to reduce large inventories of cases, reduce settlement values and defense costs, and limited the frequency of naming in new suits for some clients.

## 2004

**Van Miller** returned to Illinois Wesleyan in March 2022 to serve as associate director for advance-

ment. Van worked at Illinois State University for the past five years. He previously worked at IWU in roles in admissions, alumni engagement and annual giving.

## 2005

**Steven Lucas** was named athletic director at Plano (Ill.) High School. He previously served as dean of students at Plano and Batavia (Ill.) high schools. Prior to those roles, he taught at West Aurora (Ill.) High School for six years. He has a combined 11 years of coaching football and previously helped Plano to back-to-back state titles in 2006-07.

## 2006

**Marina Fomby** was hired as a director for Willis Towers Watson's Health & Benefits division. Marina joined the multinational risk management, insurance brokerage and advisory company after 15 years of progressive experience in benefits as a senior healthcare consultant.

**Ashley Keith-Phillips** delivered a presentation to the American Health Lawyers Association's (AHLA) Physicians and Hospitals Law Institute. She was later featured in the AHLA's magazine, *Health Law Connections*. Ashley serves as in-house corporate counsel at University Hospitals Health System, the second-largest private sector company



Marina Fomby '06

in Ohio, with more than 30,000 employees. She is currently serving her second term as a member of the board of directors for Pregnant With Possibilities Resource Center, a nonprofit dedicated to eliminating racial disparities in maternal and infant health outcomes in Cuyahoga County, Ohio.

## 2007

**Dr. Kristen Beversdorf-Safranski** was named a fellow of the American Laser Study Club (ALSC) in April 2022. ALSC fellow status indicates achievement of basic knowledge in the foundations of laser surgery and laser safety principles through successful completion of ALSC and Laser Institute of America courses and exams. Kristen is a dentist practicing at West Side Family Dentistry in Mendota, Illinois.

**Catherine Espel-Logan** relocated to Plano, Texas, in 2021, to pursue a new job opportunity with State Farm. Catherine is now a technology product analyst, working in State Farm's Labs Department and supporting

innovation. She celebrated her 15th year with the company in May 2022. Catherine and her husband also own and operate a small business, Beagle FX, creating custom art and apparel using customer photos.

**Zach Freeman** was named principal at Bloomington District 87's Washington Elementary School in March 2021. Zach served as a fifth-grade teacher at Washington from 2010-21. He most recently served as an instructional coach at Stevenson Elementary, another district school. He will succeed **Jeff Lockenvitz '84**, who is retiring as Washington's principal.

**Myla Green** completed an MA/MBA in Jewish professional leadership and social impact at the Heller School for Social Policy and Management at Brandeis University in August 2021. In May 2022, she became executive director of Temple Reyim, a Conservative synagogue in Newton, Massachusetts. In addition to running synagogue operations, she will be a leader in a Jewish campus collaboration between

Temple Reyim and Hebrew College, the New England rabbinical school, along with eight other Jewish nonprofit organizations. This 21st century "Beit Midrash," or house of study, received national attention in the Jewish communal sector and will be the first collaboration of its kind.

## 2008

**Taylor Paskell** joined the team at Arizona Advanced Therapy as an occupational therapist in 2018. Taylor has previously served in occupational therapy roles with The Foundation for Blind Children and Stepping Stones Pediatric Therapy. She has also served as a Pilates instructor for nearly 10 years.

**Caitlin (Ludwig) Pusateri** was named president of the Rockford (Ill.) Chamber of Commerce in April 2022. She previously served as the organization's executive vice president. In the new role, Caitlin will lead strategic initiatives, create and oversee implementation of regional connections, manage staff and day-to-day operations, and set a path for continued success.

## 2010

**Britnee (Ruscitti) Kenyon** is a finalist for the 2022 Golden Apple Award for Excellence in Teaching. Britnee has been the theatre director at Deerfield (Ill.) High School since 2019 after previous teaching roles at Rolling Meadows and Maine West high schools in Illinois. She has also served as a secondary school theatre representative for the Illinois Theatre Association. The Golden Apple Award is presented by the Golden Apple Foundation, the leading Illinois nonprofit committed to preparing, honoring and supporting educators who advance educational opportunities for students.

## 2012

**Hannah Johnson** was named executive director of Illinois Art Station, a nonprofit providing the



Zach Freeman '07 (left) and Jeff Lockenvitz '84 (right)



Bloomington-Normal community with transformative learning through hands-on experiences in the visual arts, in May 2022. Hannah previously served as the director of Youth & Family Education at the McLean County Museum of History.

**Olivia Lett**, head women's basketball coach at Millikin University, was named the College Conference of Illinois and Wisconsin's Beth Baker Coach of the Year. Olivia guided the Big Blue to a share of the league's regular-season title. The former Titan standout saw her team fall to her alma mater in the league's championship game, but Millikin earned an at-large selection to the NCAA Tournament and advanced to the Sweet Sixteen on the strength of victories over Wartburg College and the University of Wisconsin-Eau Claire. Olivia has been head women's coach at Millikin since 2018.

**Shavantay Thomas** was among the 2022 graduates of the Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) honored in a Facebook live event on April 2, 2022. Shavantay is a retention specialist in State Farm's Customer Care Center. MCLP is the flagship program of the Multicultural Leadership Institute, a nonprofit located on Illinois Wesleyan's campus and recognized among the University's affiliate programs.



Myla Green '07

### 2013

**Drew Bogen** was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps on March 14, 2022. First Lieutenant Bogen enlisted in the Marine Corps in 2015 and was commissioned as an officer in 2020. He was recently stationed in Okinawa, Japan, for a three-year tour of duty as a finance officer.

**Kevin Carey** was awarded the Tracy Davis Outstanding Emerging Research Award from the American College Personnel Association's Coalition on Men and Masculinities. Kevin is Illinois Wesleyan's associate dean of students. He conducted research while earning his doctorate at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Kevin's work focused



Britnee (Ruscitti) Kenyon '10

on the exploration of college men involved in masculinities programs (student success initiatives, sexual violence prevention and/or gender identity organizations/initiatives) and how the engagement impacted their gender identity development at small, private liberal arts institutions.

**Ryan Woodall** spoke to Illinois Wesleyan students about his language learning trajectory, travels and career path in a presentation on Feb. 18, 2022 at IWU's Center for Liberal Arts. An adjunct instructor and multilingual member of the IWU community, Ryan delivered the presentation in Spanish. The event was sponsored by the Language Resource Center and was part of its "World Voices" series.



Hannah Johnson '12

### 2015

**Samantha Sorenson** graduated from the University of Illinois College of Veterinary Medicine in May 2022. She has since joined the staff at The Anti-Cruelty Society in Chicago. Samantha serves as a shelter veterinarian for the comprehensive animal welfare organization whose mission is to build a community of caring by helping pets and educating people.

### 2018

**Cam and Haley (Lower) Loyet '17** are the co-founders of Honeymoon Chocolates, a growing business that opened a new factory and retail space in Clayton, Missouri, in February 2022. Cam and Haley founded the company during their time at Illinois Wesleyan, as Cam was the winner of IWU's Entrepreneurship Fellowship in 2016. Honeymoon Chocolates now offers "bean-to-bar" chocolates in over 100 retail stores nationwide. The company is driven by ideals of conservation, sustainability, eco-friendly business practices and quality products. In 2021, Honeymoon Chocolates was the recipient of an Arch Grant, equity-free funding awarded to selected entrepreneurs.

**Dr. Brock Taylor** graduated from the University of Illinois College of Medicine in Peoria, Illinois, in

**Morris Tammen '75** and **Linda (Brown) Tammen '76**, and two of their children, **Katrina (Tammen) Reber '05** and **Evan Tammen '09**, and their spouses, have opened a brewery on their family farm outside Thawville, Illinois. Artesia Brewing, named for the artesian spring upon which the farm sits, opened in 2021 and offers varieties of hard cider, mead and beer. All of Artesia's brews use water that springs from the ground and fruit grown on the farm. The efforts to convert the traditional monoculture farm has reignited the family's passion in the property. The operation spans three generations, who have planted hundreds of apple trees, cared for beehives and built the brewery from the ground up. The family's connection to Illinois Wesleyan is evident on the menu, with many of the top selling brews named for memorable events that took place during their time on campus.



## HART CAREER CENTER HAPPENINGS

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

### Spring Internship & Job Fair

Jordan Baker '20, Scott Black '10, Joel Castillo '01, Cheryl Gaines '77, Elizabeth Hancock '13, Matthew Hill '12, Roman Hunter '10, Vi Kakares '20, Isabel Michniak '21, Ben Miller '96, Heather (Deutsch) Miller '07, Ashley Mohr '22, Sundeep Mullangi '97, Esther Niedert '20, Dana Peterson '06, Jason Richards '96, Patrick Tata '20 and Arica Williams '16

### Financial Literacy Workshop

Ben Miller '96

### Never a Tumbleweed: Living Life Intentionally

Mike Mason '80

### Women in Business Mentoring Program

Tom Carlson '94, Christine (Rogers) Dierker '01, Amanda Glandon '11, Michelle Huls Rice '01, Sarah (Bull) Hunter '08, Kerri (Bandurski) Johnson '09, Jordan (Diehl) Mann '12, Elizabeth (Sowatzke) Schlicht '09 and Stacy (Kaeding) Smet '08

### Law School Admissions 101

Ryan Mellske '99

### Careers in Investment Banking

Marcus Dunlop '08

### Pre-Health Programming

Dr. Erik Haugland '04, Dr. Kim (Klomhaus) Ruffolo '89 and Dr. John Wilmas '96

### Additional Programming

Ryan Balogh '04, Will Jenkins '12, Sean Johnson '11, Jeff Lockenvitz '84 and Jake Robbins '18



(Left) Mike Mason '80 delivered a presentation, "Never a Tumbleweed: Living Life Intentionally," to the Illinois Wesleyan community on April 6, 2022, at Hansen Student Center.



Olivia Lett '12 (p. 33)

May 2022, Brock matched into the pediatrics residency program at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston and will work at Texas Children's Hospital, the largest children's hospital in the country, for the next three years.

**Taylor Williams** was appointed an assistant state's attorney in the McLean County (Ill.) State's Attorney's Office in May 2022. Taylor previously worked as an associate attorney with Kraft, Wood & Kelly, LLC, in Bloomington, Illinois.

### 2019

**Kelly Riordan** was awarded a Fulbright scholarship for the 2022-23 academic year to study in Vienna at the Exilarte Center for Banned Music and the Universität für Musik und darstellende Kunst Wien. Kelly will study and perform recitals of previously banned compositions of Jewish composer Robert Fürtenthal. A mezzo-soprano who majored in vocal performance at Illinois Wesleyan, Kelly completed work on a master's degree at the University of Colorado Boulder in 2021.

### 2021

**Erin Burnison** joined the Illinois Wesleyan staff in February 2022 as an administrative specialist serving the English, philosophy, and women's, gender and sexuality studies programs.



Dr. Brock Taylor '18 (p. 33)

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

Illinois Wesleyan staff members **Kristen Buhrmann** and **Claressa Kirkwood** were among the 2022 graduates of the Multicultural Leadership Program (MCLP) honored in a Facebook live event on April 2, 2022. Kristen is a digital content manager in IWU's Office of Communications. Claressa is a heating, ventilation and air conditioning technician. MCLP is the flagship program of the Multicultural Leadership Institute (MCLI), a nonprofit located on Illinois Wesleyan's campus and recognized among the University's affiliate programs.

Illinois Wesleyan University Librarian & University Copyright Officer **Stephanie Davis-Kahl** was elected to a three-year term as a member of the board of directors for the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois. She began her term on July 1, 2022. The consortium's mission is to empower academic and research libraries to create and sustain a rich, supportive and diverse knowledge environment that furthers excellence in teaching, learning, research and innovation in order to serve students, faculty and researchers.

Illinois Wesleyan Assistant Professor of the School of Nursing **Elaine Hardy** shared her path



to nursing and encouraged others to pursue the profession, in a profile that appeared in *The Pantagraph*. Elaine was among a group of individuals working in the nursing profession recognized in the series that ran during National Nurses Week, May 6-12, 2022.

Robert Harrington Professor of Biology **Edgar Lehr** was named a 2022-23 Fulbright scholar and will spend time teaching and conducting research in Lima, Peru, from March to June 2023. His Fulbright project is titled "Biodiversity in Megadiverse Country Peru. Opportunities for Teaching and Research."

Former Illinois Wesleyan University Librarian and Professor Emerita **Karen Schmidt** was awarded

the Grabill-Homan Community Peace Prize at the Illinois State University School of Communication's spring address on April 19, 2022. Karen is the lead organizer of the Book Bike, a community program distributing free books to Bloomington residents.

Illinois Wesleyan Recruitment Coordinator and Adjunct Instructor in the School of Theatre Arts **Lauren Warnecke** was awarded a Trillium Arts Residency. Lauren spent a week at Trillium's Firefly Creek Apartment, near Asheville, North Carolina, where she sifted through Mordine & Company Dance Theatre's archives as part of a project identifying and cataloging 50 years of artifacts, photographs, and print and digital media.

## Tiny Titans

**Sara (Rahim) Esquig '04** and Joel;

Maya Arundhati, born March 23, 2022

**Beth Dennis '07** and **Kevin Latman '06**;

Abigail "Abby" Jane, born April 23, 2022

**Loren Jones '07** and Danny Rudnick;

Zoe, born Oct. 17, 2021

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

Mara Lorraine, born Nov. 2, 2021

**Thure '09** and **Laura (Allen) Ross '09**;

Allison Shirley, born Feb. 21, 2022

**Ariana (Wilkey) Gladfelter '11** and Adam;

Nora Amalia, born March 29, 2021

**Jeff Grodecki '11** and Carianne;

Henry John, born Jan. 16, 2022

**Rachel (West) Seidel '12** and **Andrew Seidel '15**;

Isla Lynn, born June 14, 2021

*All submitted content received by **May 23, 2022**. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.*

## Titan Celebrations

*IWU Magazine* considers for publication photos of IWU people at celebrations and reunions of alumni. Please send your Titan Celebration photos to *IWU Magazine*, at [www.iwu.edu/magazine](http://www.iwu.edu/magazine), via email at [iwumag@iwu.edu](mailto:iwumag@iwu.edu), or by mail at P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702. All submitted content received by **May 23, 2022**.



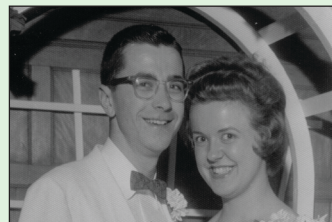
(Above) **Karolina Sierzputowska '16** married Michael Sodic on Oct. 10, 2020. A postponed wedding reception was held on Oct. 29, 2021, in Buffalo Grove, Illinois, with many Illinois Wesleyan classmates and friends in attendance.



(Above) **Helen Hoang '16** married Cameron Starr on Oct. 2, 2021, in Rock Island, Illinois, with many Illinois Wesleyan classmates and friends in attendance.



(Above) **Loren Jones '07** married Danny Rudnick on March 27, 2022, in Chicago, with many Illinois Wesleyan classmates and friends in attendance.



(Above) **Michael '62** and **Karen (Christiansen) Gibson '63** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 5, 2022. The couple met as Illinois Wesleyan students.



(Above) **Kate (Olmsted) Morris '04** (center) is the associate principal at Plainfield (Ill.) East High School. She took part in "Decision Day" at the school on May 2, 2022, and celebrated the decisions of future Titans **Peter Basta '26** (left) and **Taylor French '26** (right).

## Faculty, Staff and Friends

**Barbara Burroughs** of Normal, Illinois, died April 24, 2022. She was 95. Barbara worked in Illinois Wesleyan's Business Office. She graduated from Bloomington High School and completed coursework at Illinois State Normal University. She raised two children with her late husband. Barbara worked for State Farm Insurance Company before joining the staff at IWU. She worked at IWU from 1979 until her retirement in 1990. She is survived by two children and seven grandchildren.

**Robert Donalson** died Dec. 22, 2021. He was 87. Bob was a professor in Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music for 30 years; he retired in 1994 with emeritus status. Bob felt the call to become an educator while serving in the U.S. Army in a mobile army surgical hospital during the Korean War. He obtained a master's degree at San Jose State University and a doctorate at the University of Colorado Boulder. He began his teaching career at Pepperdine University before landing at IWU, where he taught 33 different courses over three decades, while redesigning musical history offerings and directing Collegiate Choir, student opera and musical theatre productions. He wrote his own classical music textbook and created a computer program to train young singers on foreign language pronunciations. Bob loved beauty in all its forms — nature, art and poetry among them — but music was his emotional home, and he inspired similar passions in his students. He was active in religious life and often shared his gift of music in the church. Bob was always learning and educating himself on subjects ranging from theology and philosophy, to computer science and financial investing, to home repair and carpentry. He enjoyed traveling, sports, his cats and, most of all, his family. He is survived by his wife **Carol (Schenk) Donalson '66**, five children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Mario Mancinelli** of Bloomington, Illinois, died March 15, 2022. He was 99. Mario served as a faculty member in Illinois Wesleyan's School of Music for 35 years. He was hired in 1948 to teach strings and chamber music, and conduct the student orchestra. He retired in 1983 with emeritus status. Mario attended Ohio State University, where he earned bachelor's and master's degrees. He was a member of the American String Teachers Association, American Federation of Musicians, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, and an honorary member of Phi Kappa Phi. Mario was an accomplished violinist and played regularly in Central Illinois orchestras. He enjoyed crossword puzzles, playing and listening to classical music, playing cards, and watching the Indianapolis 500, World Series and the Olympics. He was a longtime member of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Bloomington-Normal. He is survived by two children and a granddaughter.

**Maxie Scifres** of Normal, Illinois, died March 29, 2022. In her retirement, Maxie served as an accompanist at Illinois Wesleyan. She studied music education at Hardin-Simmons University and taught in Abilene, Texas, before living in Italy with her husband when he was deployed there by the U.S. Army. The couple later moved to Bloomington-Normal, and Maxie taught in District 87 and Unit 5 schools for 20 years before retirement. She was a talented pianist who touched many lives through her roles as an educator and performer. She is survived by her husband, daughter and two grandchildren.

**Sherryn Thorn** of Peoria, Illinois, died April 20, 2022. She was 75. Sherry held many professional positions throughout her career, including working the main desk in Illinois Wesleyan's Memorial

**Willie Brown** of Bloomington, Illinois, died March 5, 2022. He was 74. Willie was a leader in the Bloomington-Normal community, as a member of the board of trustees at Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State universities, the State Farm Foundation, and the United Way of McLean County. At IWU, Willie served on the board's Executive Committee. He was chair of the McLean County Associates, which raised millions of dollars to support local students through the McLean County Scholarship program. Willie enjoyed a 38-year career at State Farm, retiring as an executive vice president in 2009. He was a member of the Urban League, the 100 Black Men of Central Illinois, and a lifetime member of the NAACP. He was an ardent supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of Bloomington-Normal, the Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Gospel Festival, Multicultural Academic Achievement Recognition Ceremony and the Promise Council. He was the recipient of the Roy Wilkins Award for Lifetime Achievement from the NAACP, the William Watkins Jr. Founder's Award from the African American Hall of Fame Museum in Peoria, Illinois, and the Community Icon Award from the 100 Black Men of America. Willie was preceded in death by his wife and a daughter. He is survived by three children, his partner Judge Carla Barnes and her children, and seven grandchildren.



Center. She built lasting friendships with her student workers, many of whom she kept in contact with. She was the proud nanny of her four youngest grandchildren, and she was overjoyed by news that came at the end of her life that her first great-grandchild was on the way. She is survived by three daughters and five grandchildren.

**Evelyn Wantland** died Feb. 4, 2022, in Urbana, Illinois. She was 104. Evelyn served as a professor of mathematics at Illinois Wesleyan from 1964-76 and maintained emeritus status. Evelyn attended Hollins College, University of Chicago and University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. Evelyn enjoyed reading, crossword puzzles, playing bridge and Scrabble, and long walks in Urbana's Meadowbrook Park. She was a member of Urbana's First United Methodist Church. She is survived by her daughter and two grandchildren.

**Gary Wester** of Normal, Illinois, died March 15, 2022. He was 74. Gary taught computer science as a member of Illinois Wesleyan's faculty from 1985-87. He also taught at Waycross (Ga.) College. He earned a master's degree and doctorate from Western Michigan University. After his teaching career, Gary went on a long and distinguished career with State Farm, from which he retired in 2010 to pursue passions for watercolor and pastel painting. He is survived by his wife, three children, granddaughter, brother, and several nieces and nephews.

## Alumni

**Helen "Bee" (Schaeffer) Bennison '45** died Feb. 18, 2022, in Bloomington, Illinois. She was 98. Helen was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma and met future husband **Jacob Bennison '44** during her time at



Illinois Wesleyan. The Bennisons lived briefly in Park Forest, Illinois, and Lafayette, Indiana, before moving in 1954 to Bethesda, Maryland, where Helen worked for the National Institutes of Health in its grants division. In retirement, the Bennisons moved to Madison, Wisconsin. After Jake's death in 2014, Helen returned to her hometown of Bloomington. Helen was an excellent seamstress and enjoyed flower gardening. She was preceded in death by her husband and sister **Charlotte Schaeffer '44**. She is survived by three daughters, including **Charlotte (Bennison) Donat '70** and **Carol (Bennison) Nyweide '73**, six grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Elizabeth (Knecht) Hawks '45** of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 3, 2022, in Eureka, Illinois. She was 98. Elizabeth met her late husband **Allen Hawks '42** through Illinois Wesleyan friends. Together they raised three children. Elizabeth was a homemaker and a member of Wesley United Methodist Church in Bloomington. She was a member of BroMenn Service League, McLean County Historical Society, and IWU's chapter of Sigma Kappa Sorority. She is survived by three children, eight grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

**Norman Erickson '50** died May 17, 2022. He was 95. Norm served in the U.S. Navy during World War II before attending Illinois Wesleyan, where he was active in Tau Kappa Epsilon. Norm taught physical education and coached basketball for 36 years at Deer Path Junior High School in Lake Forest, Illinois; his legacy there is honored at the annual Norm Erickson Invitational Tournament. Norm also remained connected to athletics as an Illinois High School Association basketball and football official. Norm served for 19 years as a Libertyville (Ill.) Township trustee, and as waterfront director, camp director and owner of Camp Mishawaka in Grand Rapids, Minnesota. He loved his friends and family. He is survived by three sons, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Martha (Moushon) Tendall '51** died March 23, 2022, in Seneca, Illinois. She was 92. Martha earned a bachelor's degree in chemistry at Illinois Wesleyan while working her way through school. She began her career as a chemist at E.I. DuPont Company's location in Seneca, and her intellect, fortitude and experiences growing up with seven brothers helped her navigate a workplace where there were few women. She later served as a sixth-grade teacher at Seneca Grade School. Martha met her future husband while working at DuPont; they married in 1952 and soon began a family. Martha and her husband were active in many charitable organizations, including Seneca Food Pantry and American Legion Kasal Post 457. She was a fiercely devoted and protective wife, mother and grandmother. She is survived by two sons, a granddaughter and many extended family members.

**Dawn (Hite) Nylin '51** of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, died March 1, 2022. She was 92. Dawn studied psychology at Illinois Wesleyan. She married her late husband one year after her IWU graduation; they were married for 65 years. Dawn was a social worker for Cook County (Ill.) Department of Welfare and later a stay-at-home mother. She returned to school to become a preschool and early childhood special education teacher. She was a longtime member of the League of Women Voters, the U.N. Association and Lovely Lane United Methodist Church. She loved reading, doing handiwork and activities with and for children, teaching Sunday school, leading Scouts and 4-H groups, and promotion of UNICEF. Her happiest times were spent with family. She is survived by three children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Harold Bennett '52** of Lake Summerset, Illinois, died May 9, 2022. He was 91. Harold majored in physical education and served as a teacher and coach for 43 years. He taught and coached at schools in the Illinois communities of Earlville, Morris, Cary-Grove, Carmi, Newark, Bradley-Bourbonnais and Durand. He compiled more than 500 coaching wins as a basketball coach and was named to the Illinois Basketball Coaches Association Hall of Fame in 1987. He is survived by his wife, three children, four grandchildren, two great-grandchildren, a sister and many extended family members.

**Frank New '53** of Tempe, Arizona, died Mar 24, 2022. He was 91. Frank earned a bachelor's degree at Illinois Wesleyan University and a master's degree from Garrett Theological School. While at IWU, he met and married **Mary Lou (Doland) New '53**. Frank spent 44 years as a Methodist minister in Central Illinois. He and Mary Lou retired to Sun Lakes, Arizona, where he spent two years on staff at Sun Lakes United Methodist Church. In 2005, they moved to and became active residents of Life Care Retirement Community at Friendship Village of Tempe. Through his life and work, Frank touched many lives. He is survived by his wife, three children, including **Sherry New '79**, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Patricia (Hartman) Yoder '53** of Bloomington, Illinois, died May 13, 2022. She was 91. Pat majored in elementary education and was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma Sorority at Illinois Wesleyan. She met her late husband, **John Yoder '49**, during her time at IWU. The Yoders were dedicated fans of the Titans and returned to campus regularly. Pat taught at Jefferson School in Bloomington before she and John started a family. She was a fun, creative mom who loved to cook and entertain, especially when hosting family gatherings. Pat was a member of the Bloomington-Normal Symphony Orchestra Guild. She and John also loved spending time at their second home in Cambria, California, where she also enjoyed hosting family and friends. She is survived by five children, including **John Yoder '78**, 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

**Walter Moore '52** of Normal, Illinois, died March 21, 2022. He was 93. Walt served tours of duty in World War II and the Korean War, and attended Illinois Wesleyan on the GI Bill. He later earned his MBA from Temple University. Walt enjoyed a 41-year career with State Farm, retiring as assistant vice president for auto underwriting in 1991. He and his late wife **Joanne Moore** were avid supporters of IWU athletics, and the press box at Neis Field, the home of Titan soccer, bears their name. Walt and Jo maintained a connection with IWU throughout their lives, and Walt was named the recipient of the University's Loyalty Award in 2007. He is survived by five children, including **Deborah (Moore) Newman '81** and **Conni (Moore) Tipsord '82** (husband **Michael Tipsord '81**), 11 grandchildren, 14 great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews.



**Arthur E. Schnarre '57** of Lake Wales, Florida, died Feb. 27, 2022. He was 91. Art's studies at Illinois Wesleyan were interrupted by service in the U.S. Air Force during the Korean War, in Japan and briefly at the Pentagon. He earned a degree in business administration and met future wife **Elisabeth "Betsy" (Dufour) Schnarre '60** at IWU. He was an accountant and auditor throughout his career and retired from Polk County (Fla.) Community Development. He was a staunch supporter of his grandchildren's activities. He loved to travel by train, and his greatest delight was being known as "Grandpa Choo Choo" by his grandchildren because of his extensive model train layout. He is survived by his wife, four children and seven grandchildren.

**Walter J.F. Wadman '57** died Aug. 21, 2021, in Eagle, Idaho. He was 85. Walter earned a bachelor's degree in accounting and was a member of Theta Chi at Illinois Wesleyan. He worked as an accountant for Arthur Anderson and Associated Stationers in Chicago, and as controller and CFO of Boise Cascade and Trus Joist Corp. in Boise, Idaho. He enjoyed fishing, boating, hiking and skiing. He is survived by his wife, three children, six grandchildren and five great-grandchildren.

**Jimmie Wasem '57** of Patoka, Illinois, died April 2, 2022. He was 86. Jimmie was a standout student-athlete at Illinois Wesleyan, earning a combined 11 varsity letters in baseball, basketball, and track and field. After graduating from IWU, he earned a contract from the Chicago White Sox. He went on to a decorated career as a coach and educator, which included time at Kinmundy-Alma and Roxana high schools in Illinois, Illinois State University, Monmouth College, Northwest Missouri State University and Eastern Washington University. He has been inducted into several halls of fame and was recognized as the collegiate "Teacher of the Year" in the state of Washington. He has authored two books and numerous publications on baseball and basketball. He was preceded in death by his wife **Carolyn Jean (Rader) Wasem '56**. He is survived by two children, including **Deborah (Wasem) Foster '80**, four grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

**Stanley Barnes '58** of Zionsville, Indiana, died May 2, 2022. He was 85. Stan played basketball and was active in Sigma Chi at Illinois Wesleyan. He began his professional career at National Distillers and Chemical Company in Tuscola, Illinois. He later accepted a job with the company in New York City that allowed him to travel the world. He later made a career change and purchased TransCity Terminal Warehouse and Transfer Trucking, Inc. He retired in 1993. Stan loved to play golf and was a member at clubs in Indianapolis and Scottsdale, Arizona. He enjoyed sports, reading and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, four children, eight grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Robert Cushman '58** died April 3, 2022, in Tampa, Florida. He was 86. Bob majored in business management and was active in baseball and basketball at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, he served in the United States Army, and he became a member of the Rangers basketball squad that traveled Europe. Bob later joined General Telephone as a manager, supervising offices throughout Illinois. He moved with his family in 1971 to Tampa, where he joined GTE Data Services, where he finished his career working on phone billing systems. Bob loved the Chicago Cubs and Bears, and spending time with his family. He liked to stay active and, after his wife's death, enjoyed working out with his YMCA Silver Sneakers class and taking long walks. He was well known for his memory and fondness for storytelling. He is survived by three children, six grandchildren and two siblings.

**Alice Ann (Frederick) Redding '58** of Sturgeon Bay, Wisconsin, died April 6, 2020. She was 84. Alice majored in nursing and met her future husband while attending Illinois Wesleyan. Together, they raised four children in Illinois and Indiana. After her husband died, Alice returned to nursing; she spent the final years of her career as a hospice nurse at St. Vincent's Hospital in Indianapolis. She moved to Sturgeon Bay in 2017 to be closer to two of her daughters. Alice loved gardening, reading, and volunteering in her community. She is survived by four children, seven grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

**Mary Houden '61** died Jan. 21, 2022, in Glendale, Arizona. She was 82. Mary earned a bachelor's degree in nursing at Illinois Wesleyan. She first worked in maternity at the University of Chicago Hospitals and Clinics. While working there, she earned a master's degree in nursing. After moving to Arizona, Mary spent many years improving the health of mothers and babies. She was active with the Native American population, taught future nurses, and served as president of the Arizona Nurses Association from 1973-77. The Arizona March of Dimes honored Mary with the designation of "Nurse of the Year." She also became a reiki master. Later, Mary worked with elderly people in need, often taking them into her own home. She enjoyed music, traveling, and hiking in Arizona and Colorado.

**Paul Grady '62** died May 15, 2022, in Peoria, Arizona. He was 81. Paul lived in Mt. Prospect, Illinois, and spent his career as a high school math teacher and basketball coach in Illinois School District No. 214. In those roles, he mentored many students to best prepare them to achieve their potential. He is survived by his wife, **Cherris (DeWolf) Grady '64**, two children, including **Bill Grady '94**, five grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

**Judith Filley '63** of Holland, Michigan, died Jan. 8, 2022. She was 80. Judy studied elementary education at Illinois Wesleyan and went on to a teaching career in Chicago and New York City. She later returned to her hometown of Holland and worked as a computer programmer for 20 years. She was a talented photographer and gardener. Judy was known for her generosity, and her ability to share her love and wisdom with those around her. She is survived by two siblings, five nieces and nephews, and many extended family members.

**Bruce Imig '63** of Springfield, Illinois, died March 20, 2022. He was 81. Bruce was active in Phi Gamma Delta during his time at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, he worked for Franklin Life Insurance Company as an area chief underwriter. Bruce also served in the U.S. Army Reserves. He met his future wife in 1966. Bruce cherished time at family condominiums in Door County, Wisconsin, and Naples, Florida. He was passionate about his faith, travel, model trains and motor scooters. In retirement, he enjoyed connecting with his Phi Gamma Delta brothers and former coworkers, and spending time with family. He is survived by his wife, three children and eight grandchildren.

**A. Phillip Borkenhagen '64** of Milton, Wisconsin, died April 6, 2022. He was 84. Phil earned a bachelor's degree at Milton College before graduating with a master's degree in mathematics from Illinois Wesleyan. He also earned postgraduate credits at Northern Illinois University and completed predoctoral work at Marquette University. Phil went on to a career as a math and chemistry teacher, a contract negotiator for teachers and support staff, and an executive director for Capital Area Uniserv North in Madison, Wisconsin. Phil also officiated high school and college basketball. He served on Milton College's



alumni association board of directors, including three years as its president. He was a supporter of the Boys & Girls Club of Janesville (Wis.), Special Olympics of Wisconsin, and St. Paul's Lutheran Church and School in Janesville. He was an active golfer and worked part-time in retirement at Glen Erin Golf Club in Rock County, Wisconsin. He also taught undergraduate classes at Concordia University Wisconsin in retirement. He is survived by four children, five grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

**Dr. Jim Cook '64** of Portland, Oregon, died Dec. 4, 2021. He was 79. Jim pursued his dream of becoming a physician from an early age. After attending Illinois Wesleyan, he graduated from Chicago College of Osteopathic Medicine and interned in Tulsa, Oklahoma. He served in the U.S. Army as a battalion surgeon during the Vietnam War, earning a medical badge, for rescuing troops while under fire, and commendation medals. Upon his return, Jim was stationed at the Presidio of Monterey (Calif.), where he completed his residency in dermatology at Letterman Army Medical Center. He continued to serve in the Army Reserves, with a four-month interruption of his practice for stateside service during Operation Desert Storm. Jim maintained a private practice in Portland from 1981 until his retirement in 2014. During his practice, he became a fellow of the American Academy of Dermatology and a diplomate of the American Board of Dermatology. He was a clinical assistant professor of dermatology at Oregon Health & Science University, and had privileges at several hospitals. Jim belonged to the Oregon Airedale Terrier Society of Willamette Valley and the Airedale Club of America; his Airedales (Eloise, Ruby, Diva, Raven and Della) played an important role in his life. In retirement, Jim pursued companion dog training and competition. He was also a member of the Multnomah Athletic Club. He was an excellent chef and many friends were the recipients of his famous pear bread and biscotti. He is survived by many friends.

**Robert Lawry '64** of Peoria, Illinois, died March 2, 2022. He was 79. Bob majored in religion and served as the kicker for Illinois Wesleyan's football team. He began working part-time at Ebenezer Methodist Church, near Funks Grove, Illinois, during his freshman year. He was appointed student pastor of that church the next year. He later earned a master's degree from Garrett Theological Seminary and was ordained as an elder in the United Methodist Church. He served churches in Illinois, in the Great Rivers Annual Conference, in the communities of: Ebenezer; Woodland and Crescent City; Herscher and Buckingham; Cambridge; East Moline; Quincy; Effingham; and Peoria. He retired in 2008, but served part-time on staff at Crossroads United Methodist in Washington, Illinois, until 2013. Bob was happiest when he was making pens in his workshop, relaxing by the pool, or traveling with his wife. He is survived by his wife, three children, two stepchildren, six granddaughters and two siblings.

**Holly (Schultz) DeFrancisco '64** died April 17, 2022, in Fairport, New York. She was 81. Holly majored in art and was active in Sigma Kappa. She went on to a career as a graphic artist at Eastman Kodak company, and was among the first generation to use computers in graphic design. She later owned her own graphic art business, and most recently worked in information technology in the Pittsford (N.Y.) Central School. Holly loved ironing clothes, swimming, boating, dirt biking and organizing things. Her favorite meal was a grilled cheese sandwich with a bowl of Campbell's tomato soup. Her favorite snack was animal crackers. She loved her pets, her friends and her home. She is survived by two ex-husbands and many extended family members.

**Richard Raab '65** of Vero Beach, Florida, died April 17, 2022. He was 80. Richard was a standout athlete who was committed to attend Memphis State University on a football scholarship, but a serious injury changed those plans. Richard's perseverance allowed him to excel in both baseball and football at Illinois Wesleyan, where he was active in student government and Sigma Chi. He joined the U.S. Army Reserves before embarking on a career in the cement industry. Richard served as vice president of sales for both Martin Marietta Materials, Inc., and Southdown, Inc. An outdoorsman and avid sportsman, Richard enjoyed spending time with friends and family golfing, hunting, fishing and attending sporting events. Richard and his wife enjoyed hosting family and friends for dinners often followed by a bourbon, cigars and lively conversation. He is survived by many Titan family members.

**Joseph Rabe '65** died April 21, 2022, in South Pasadena, Florida. Joe majored in speech at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, he took a job with Sears, Roebuck & Co., where he held a variety of positions at stores in Illinois, Wisconsin and Iowa. Joe developed a love of automobiles early in life, a passion he shared with his father. Joe made that passion his profession when he became co-owner of a Dodge-Chrysler-Plymouth dealership in Sauk City, Wisconsin. In retirement, he traveled between East Moline, Illinois, and South Pasadena, where he continued to be active in car clubs. Joe had a knack for storytelling and was happiest when he had the chance to regale friends with his tales into the wee hours of the morning. He is survived by two children, four grandchildren, and many extended family members.

**Dr. Timmothy Holt '70** of Chicago died May 1, 2022. He was 73. Timm was a physician, entrepreneur, novelist, poet, playwright, activist, globetrotter, deacon and father. He majored in sociology at Illinois Wesleyan, and went on to earn a master's degree at Roosevelt University and a doctorate at Loyola University School of Medicine. As a physician of geriatric medicine, Timm developed a new philosophy for care, and he supported many families through their loved ones' final days. After retiring from practice, Timm explored creative and spiritual interests. He wrote and published a novel, a book of poetry, and he authored multiple plays performed at the Marigny Theatre in New Orleans. He most recently celebrated ordination into the Sacred Order of Deacons in the Episcopal Diocese of Chicago; he served as a deacon at Saint Martin's Episcopal Church in Chicago. Timm was a proud father who shared his love of genealogy, theatre, travel and adventure with his children. He is survived by his friend and mother of his children **Nancy (Heisterberg) Lewis '70**, two children, including **Jennifer Holt '97**, and many extended family members.

**Nancy (Waterman) Price '70** of Coos Bay, Oregon, died March 12, 2022. She was 73. Nancy studied art at Illinois Wesleyan, and she later earned a master's degree in art history from Penn State University. After college, Nancy taught art history and served as a research assistant at Cleveland State University. Nancy met her future husband at Penn State, and they relocated to Coos Bay after marrying. Nancy worked for the Coos History Museum, *The Coquille Valley Sentinel* and Harvest Book Shop before beginning a long career with Coos Bay Public Library, where she worked her way up from library assistant to database administrator. Nancy was a longtime volunteer and past president of the Oregon Coast Music Association. She enjoyed music, travel, literature, history, art, feeding birds in her yard, and her beloved rescue cats. She is survived by her husband, and several nieces and nephews.

**Larry Ballard '72** of Plymouth, Michigan, died Feb. 11, 2022. He was 71. Larry earned a bachelor's degree in business administration and was active in Sigma Pi at Illinois Wesleyan. He was also the first student assistant employed by longtime IWU Sports Information Director **Ed Alsene**. Larry met his wife, **Judith (Kasper) Ballard '71**, during his time at IWU; they were married in 1973 by two of Larry's Sigma Pi fraternity brothers. Larry went to work at Ford Motor Credit Company just two weeks after his IWU graduation. His career as a financial analyst took him all over the country: suburban Chicago, Atlanta and Boston, before finally moving to the Detroit area in 1992 to work at Ford World Headquarters. He retired from Ford in 2003, and enjoyed spending time with family and following IWU basketball. Larry and Judi traveled many miles to attend Titan basketball games, including six trips to the Division III Final Four in Salem, Virginia. Larry is survived by his wife, son, four grandchildren, mother and two brothers, including **Gary Ballard '73**.

**John McGowan '74** of Tamworth, New Hampshire, died April 4, 2022. He was 70. John studied elementary education at Illinois Wesleyan and taught third grade at schools in Wisconsin and Pennsylvania before embarking on a career in the travel industry. John worked as a guide at Independence Hall, the Alamo, the LBJ Ranch, and for a touring company. In 1986, he fulfilled a lifelong dream by becoming a flight attendant for TWA, and later, American Airlines and Chautauqua Airlines. He maintained homes in St. Louis and San Antonio for many years. He moved in 2012 to Tamworth, where he resided with his beloved Shih Tzu. John was most proud of his recovery from alcohol addition, and he remained involved with Alcoholics Anonymous until the end of his life. He was a devoted member of St. Andrew-in-the-Valley Episcopal Church. He is survived by two sisters, and many nieces, nephews and extended family members.

**John Riehecky '75** of Elgin, Illinois, died March 18, 2022. He was 69. John earned a bachelor's degree in psychology at Illinois Wesleyan and a master's degree in behavioral psychology from Illinois State University. John spent his career helping people. He was recruited by the Human Resources Development Institute in Chicago and worked there 17 years, eventually becoming a vice president. He later worked with troubled teens at Central High School in School District U-46 for 14 years. He was an active member of First Baptist Church of Elgin. He and his wife **Janet (Polsgrove) Riehecky '75** met at IWU when they were first-year students. They enjoyed traveling the country together, visiting national parks and dinosaur museums, and once discovered a new dinosaur species on a dig in western Colorado. John enjoyed playing cards and reading books. He is survived by his wife and son **Patrick Riehecky '05** (wife **Deanna (Clifford) Riehecky '03**).

**Joan DeMuth '76** of Steger, Illinois, died June 16, 2021. She was 67. Joan studied music and German at Illinois Wesleyan. After her IWU graduation, she worked as a travel agent and later as an accountant until life led her to explore other avenues. She is survived by a son, four grandchildren, two siblings and many extended family members.

**Ann (Miceli) Trombino '80** of Delray Beach, Florida, and Gurnee, Illinois, died Nov. 12, 2021. She was 63. Ann studied history and was active in Kappa Kappa Gamma at Illinois Wesleyan. She began a career at Abbott Laboratories, which afforded her the opportunity to travel the country. Later in life, she left her career to become a full-time mother to two children. She also acquired a family business started by her parents with the goal of handing it over to her son, and she

successfully fulfilled that lifelong dream. She spent her most recent days with her grandchildren in Aiken, South Carolina. She is survived by her partner, two children, two grandchildren, three stepchildren, two brothers, and many nieces and nephews.

**Madeline Daly Leterman '14** of Chicago died May 17, 2022. She was 29. Maddie majored in psychology at Illinois Wesleyan. She went on to earn master's and doctoral degrees at Ball State University before beginning her career as a school psychologist, first at Niles North High School in Skokie, Illinois, and most recently in Chicago Public Schools. Maddie loved cheerleading, reading, traveling to the beach and Disney parks, and spending time with her family and friends. She is survived by her husband **Julius Leterman '14**, parents, and many extended family members and friends.

## Deaths Reported

**Lucile (Bower) Theobald '44**; Aug. 12, 2021

**Richard Taylor '48**; Jan. 28, 2022

**George Stanley '50**; Jan. 1, 2022

**Walter Byerly '53**; Sept. 9, 2021

**Charles Peyla '54**; March 21, 2022

**Maybeth (Dremann) Graham '58**; March 23, 2022

**Dale McKown '58**; Feb. 22, 2022

**George Nafziger '58**; Nov. 21, 2021

**Willard "Bill" Curtis '60**; Feb. 16, 2022

**Lois (Strobel) Bailey '61**; March 19, 2022

**Edwin Harbke '61**; Feb. 3, 2022

**Nancy (Burns) Wylder '61**; Jan. 27, 2022

**Robert Wolf '62**; Dec. 13, 2021

**Diane (Wearing) McConaghy '63**; Feb. 5, 2022

**John Naylor '63**; March 31, 2022

**James Grier '64**; April 25, 2021

**David Schertz '64**; April 1, 2021

**Robin Rubenaker '65**; Jan. 4, 2021

**James Stoller '68**; March 4, 2022

**George McClure '70**; March 4, 2022

**Lenna Strompolos '71**; Feb. 14, 2018

**Debra (Siedentop) Bucek '72**; April 19, 2019

**Brian Benske '76**; March 27, 2022

**Rev. Wesley Osborn '82**; Feb. 16, 2021

**Jo Lynne (Miller) Hofer '91**; April 22, 2022

**Taylor McCafferty '11**; March 23, 2022

**Margie Shuman**; April 13, 2022

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



# REMEMBERING YESTERDAY, BUILDING TOMORROW



**Before his passing in December, Dr. Jim Cook '64 saw his vision for Illinois Wesleyan come to life.**

Jim grew up less than 30 miles from Bloomington, Illinois, and developed a deep love of the Illinois Wesleyan campus and mission. After developing lifelong friendships at IWU through Greek life and other campus activities, Jim went on to a life spent in service to others. An Army veteran and a medical doctor, he earned the Combat Medical Badge for rescuing troops while under fire in Vietnam and also served during Desert Storm. After his military service, he was a private practice doctor until his retirement in 2014.

In retirement, Jim developed a dream for Illinois Wesleyan — to make a difference in the lives of current and future IWU students while honoring the people who have made the University special to so many. Jim's dream came true when the "Remembering Yesterday, Building Tomorrow" tribute site launched in 2021.

**MAKE A GIFT. LEAVE A LEGACY.** When you make a gift to Illinois Wesleyan, you can make it in honor or in memory of someone and have their name and your personal note appear on our "Remembering Yesterday, Building Tomorrow" tribute site. If you have someone who has had a positive impact on your IWU experience, please consider making a gift in their honor. You'll not only help them leave a legacy, you'll help Dr. Cook's legacy live on.

[\*\*iwu.edu/tribute\*\*](https://iwu.edu/tribute)





### *serene summer*

Illinois Wesleyan's campus is a little bit calmer during the summer months, but Hansen Student Center will be bustling once again when students return in August 2022.

PHOTO FINISH