



Illinois Wesleyan University
Digital Commons @ IWU

Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine,
2018-present

Office of Communications

Spring 2023

Volume 32, Number 1, Spring 2023

Office of Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University

Follow this and additional works at: https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/iwu_magazine



Part of the [Higher Education Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Office of Communications, Illinois Wesleyan University, "Volume 32, Number 1, Spring 2023" (2023). *Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine, 2018-present*. 16.
https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/iwu_magazine/16

This Article is protected by copyright and/or related rights. It has been brought to you by Digital Commons @ IWU with permission from the rights-holder(s). You are free to use this material in any way that is permitted by the copyright and related rights legislation that applies to your use. For other uses you need to obtain permission from the rights-holder(s) directly, unless additional rights are indicated by a Creative Commons license in the record and/ or on the work itself. This material has been accepted for inclusion by faculty at Illinois Wesleyan University. For more information, please contact digitalcommons@iwu.edu.

©Copyright is owned by the author of this document.

SPRING 2023

ILLINOIS WESLEYAN

UNIVERSITY MAGAZINE



Saving Damar

TIM PRITTS '91



[ALL IN FOR WESLEYAN]

A DECADE OF DIFFERENCE



SCAN ME

ALL IN TURNS 10

On April 11, **All In for Wesleyan** celebrates a milestone birthday!
Mark your calendar for the celebration of the decade.

For 24 hours, the IWU community will come together to raise funds for students' most urgent needs, scholarships, and the programs and initiatives that continue to transform future generations of Titans.

All In for Wesleyan has made a Decade of Difference. Together, we can make a Decade of Difference more! Visit iwu.edu/all-in or scan the QR code to learn more.



#ALLINFORWESLEYAN



INSIDE THIS ISSUE

VOLUME 32 | NUMBER 1 | SPRING 2023

ON OUR COVER:

Tim Pritts '91, as a senior trauma surgeon and the chief of general surgery at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center, helped save the life of Buffalo Bills safety Damar Hamlin.

FEATURES

14 Saving Damar

After Damar Hamlin, the Buffalo Bills' 24-year-old safety, suffered sudden cardiac arrest in the middle of a live-broadcast NFL football game, IWU alum **Tim Pritts '91** was in the operating room where Hamlin's life was saved.

18 A Life of Change

President **Georgia Nugent** is traveling the country to meet alums in 2023. She gave the IWU Magazine an opportunity to learn how her life story made her into the leader in higher education that she is today.

22 Caring for Our Ancestors

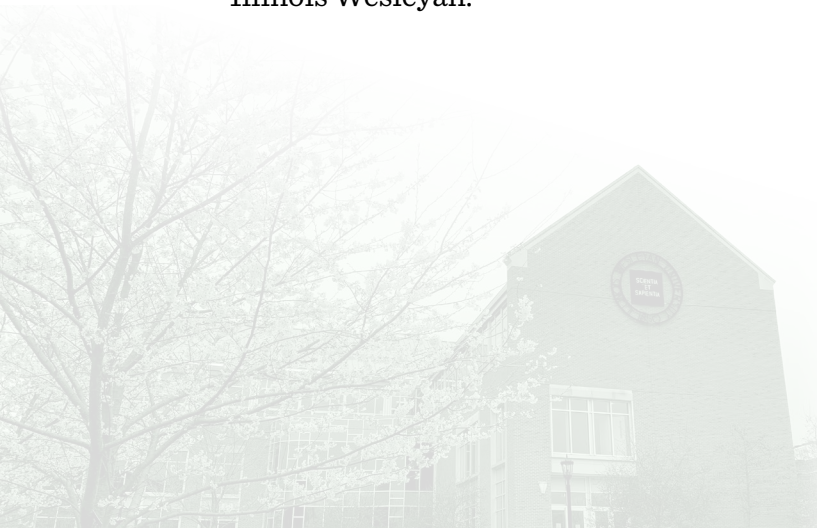
Shana (Bushyhead) Condill '99, as the director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, is giving new voice to a cultural conversation she first entered as a student at Illinois Wesleyan.



Page 18

DEPARTMENTS

- 2 *From the President's Desk*
- 3 *Inside IWU*
- 11 *Authors and the Arts*
- 26 *Alumni Update*
- 28 *Alumni Association News*
- 32 *Hart Career Center Happenings*
- 34 *Tiny Titans*
- 35 *Titan Celebrations*
- 36 *In Memory*



From the President's Desk

Spring is coming to the Illinois Wesleyan campus, slowly but surely. And there are exciting plans underway for the future. Before discussing those, though, I want to provide an update on recent events and activities since my last note from this desk.

December marked the welcome return of our traditional, in-person holiday gathering. We had to forego this popular event during the pandemic, but this academic year saw its return as an especially fun event. Faculty and staff shared a luncheon, followed by a great program MC'd by Associate Director of Athletics Tony Bankston and Professor Joanne Diaz of the English Department. This duo was a terrific stand-up comedy pair, leading to lots of laughter and holiday cheer — a welcome reminder of how much it means to come together as a community.

That all-campus event was followed by a second, just after the new semester began. I offered a State of the University report to faculty and staff, presenting specific plans for new programs in both academics and athletics in the coming years. You will no doubt be hearing more about these.

In particular, plans are underway to bring together our existing business-related studies (accounting, business, entrepreneurship, finance and marketing), as well as economics, into an accredited business school. This process began under the leadership of interim director Professor John Camey who came to us with considerable experience, both in the accreditation process and in leading business schools.

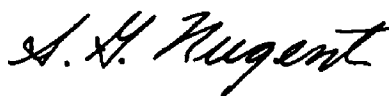
“It’s a great chance for me to experience IWU student life and for a student to learn about the university in a different way.”

— PRESIDENT S. GEORGIA NUGENT

As well, the School of Nursing is moving forward in its enhanced role as a School of Nursing and Health Sciences. With the departure of director Vickie Folse '86, to become president of Ripon College in Wisconsin, we carried out a search for the new director. I am extremely pleased to announce that our new director, Amber Kujath, has definitely hit the ground running and will be a great asset to the school. Dr. Kujath is a 1997 graduate of IWU, having completed degrees both in nursing and in business. She completed her doctoral work at the University of Illinois at Chicago and has come to us from the College of Nursing at Rush University in Chicago. Newly launched programs underway in the School of Nursing and Health Sciences include public health and kinesiology, with more to come (See news stories on pages 3-5).

Recent events on campus include my annual tradition of trading places with a student on Presidents Day, when I attend a student's classes and other activities, and he or she meets with senior staff members and the chair of the board of trustees. It's a great chance for me to experience IWU student life and for a student to learn about the university in a different way.

I'm also happy to note that our most recent Admitted Students Day was a great success, with more than 150 in attendance. That bodes well for a great start next year!



S. Georgia Nugent
Illinois Wesleyan University President



IWU MAGAZINE STAFF

EDITOR

Chris Francis '13

GRAPHICS EDITOR

Ellie Harman

CONTRIBUTORS

DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Ann Aubry

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Julia Perez

WEB CONTENT MANAGER

Kristen Buhrmann

ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR OF ENGAGEMENT

COMMUNICATIONS

John Lock

VIDEOGRAPHER/PHOTOGRAPHER

Adam Day

DIRECTOR OF ATHLETIC COMMUNICATIONS

Katie Gonzales

STUDENT WRITERS

Maria Harmon '23

MJ Soria '25

Office of Communications

(309) 556-3181

IWU Admissions Office

(800) 332-2498

www.iwu.edu

Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine

iwumag@iwu.edu

Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine

(ISSN 1071-7757) is published quarterly by:

Illinois Wesleyan University, P.O. Box 2900,
Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2900.

Periodical postage paid at Bloomington,
Illinois, Post Office, and at additional
mailing office.

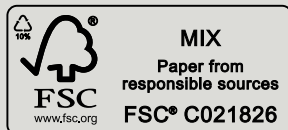
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to:

Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine

P.O. Box 2900

Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2900

Printed by Taylor, Bloomington, Ill.



Inside IWU

FEATURED NEWS, EVENTS AND VIEWS FROM THE IWU CAMPUS

Amber Kujath '97 to Lead IWU School of Nursing

Amber S. Kujath '97 has been selected as the new director of Illinois Wesleyan University's School of Nursing, effective January 3, 2023.

"Dr. Kujath has received numerous accolades for her excellence as a nurse, an educator and a leader, and we're fortunate to bring her considerable talents to Illinois Wesleyan University," said IWU Provost **Mark Brodl**. "Additionally, her passion to eliminate health disparities in all areas of nursing resonates with our University's commitment to social justice, and it also aligns with the interests of today's nursing students."

Kujath is currently an associate professor for the College of Nursing at Rush University in Chicago. She previously taught and served as a research specialist and research assistant at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Her clinical experience includes more than 15 years at medical centers in Bloomington and Chicago.

After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan University in 1997 with a bachelor of science in nursing and a bachelor's in business administration, Kujath earned a master of science in nursing and a doctorate of philosophy in nursing from University of Illinois at Chicago.

"I'm filled with gratitude that my 25 years of practice, education and teaching have led me back to Illinois Wesleyan where I started my nursing journey," said Kujath. "I'm excited to work with the faculty, staff and community to continue shaping the future of nursing and healthcare. Our graduates will impact the nursing profession and the health of our communities, country and world."

Her areas of expertise include orthopedics, diabetes and pathophysiology. She has been involved with the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses, currently serving as the National Executive Board President, and is on the editorial board for *Orthopaedic Nursing Journal*. She is also a past president of the Orthopaedic Nursing Certification Board. Kujath has served as an orthopaedic nursing legal consultant for firms across the country.

In 2019, Kujath was honored as the Rush University College of Nursing Education MVP and was recognized for Distinguished Service to the National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses. Previous honors include the 40 under 40 Emerging Nurse Leader Award from the Illinois Nurses Association, National Association of Orthopaedic Nurses Foundation Leadership Award, and the Nurse Educator Fellowship Award from the Illinois Board of Higher Education.

She succeeds **Victoria N. Folse '86**, who became president of Ripon College in Ripon, Wisconsin, in July 2022. **Jerry D. Durham**, who was director of the IWU School of Nursing from 1986-1990, served as interim director.



(Above) Amber S. Kujath '97

Illinois Wesleyan Expands School of Nursing to Include Health Sciences

Students seeking more pathways to the healthcare field will find opportunities at Illinois Wesleyan University, where the School of Nursing has expanded its offerings and will be renamed the School of Nursing and Health Sciences.

The school is providing several new programs of study, including kinesiology and allied health, and public health. Illinois Wesleyan has added new faculty members to provide instruction in the newly named school.

Amber S. Kujath '97 was selected to serve as the new director of the school beginning in January. Kujath said expanding the school to include health science programs is a great opportunity for Illinois Wesleyan students.

"While some students are firmly decided on becoming a nurse or physician, there are many who are interested in healthcare but remain unsure of their ultimate health career goals," said Kujath. "Majoring in kinesiology and allied health or public health can set students up for successful admission to graduate programs to become physical therapists, athletic trainers, occupational therapists, dietitians, audiologists, occupational therapists or for a career in public health or health services management."

A group of alumni and University supporters with broad experience as leaders in healthcare has been invited to serve on the School of Nursing and Health Sciences Advisory Council. Members of the council will provide perspective on the changing landscape of healthcare while identifying strategic opportunities for the University to prepare future leaders in new medical fields.

Advisory council member **Cheryl Reinking '87** is the chief nursing officer at El Camino Health in Mountain View, California. After spending 35 years as a nurse, Reinking said she hopes to share support and advice with the advisory board that will result in wise decision-making for the nursing and health science programs.

Reinking said her nursing education from Illinois Wesleyan has impacted her entire career.

"I credit IWU's comprehensive curriculum in nursing and its focus on leadership as the cornerstone of preparing me as a professional nurse and a future leader of a healthcare system," she said.

As the pandemic and other challenges have put stress on the healthcare workforce, Reinking said it is vital to prepare future generations of healthcare professionals for the ever-changing field.



(Above) Two Illinois Wesleyan University nursing students practice giving injections on a training model.

"We must examine closely the future of healthcare and those who will be providing care," she said. "[We should] design educational programs and learning opportunities that meet the learners' needs to ensure that our future caregivers are equipped to care for a U.S. population that is aging, while creating solutions for populations where health care disparities and inequities are rampant."

Stephen L. Ondra '80 also serves on the advisory council and is chief medical advisor of MITRE, a not-for-profit that operates federally funded research and development centers. He previously served as a senior healthcare advisor in the Obama administration at the Department of Veterans Affairs and then in the Executive Office of the President at the White House.

"It's a great time to establish a school that is forward-looking to meet the workforce needs of today, and the rapidly changing system of the future," said Ondra.

Every aspect of his liberal arts education at Illinois Wesleyan has laid the foundation for his career in healthcare, said Ondra, especially the desire to make meaningful contributions to society — something he believes current students are the most passionate about.

"Healthcare does not exist in isolation. It is deeply woven into the fabric of our lives, the economy, and indeed the nation," said Ondra. "In a similar way, the School of Nursing and Health Sciences should not exist in isolation, but should be a vibrant part of the IWU campus, interacting with other aspects of the University from business and the sciences, to sociology, the arts and philosophy. Doing so will enrich both the School of Nursing and Health Sciences and every aspect of the University ecosystem."

Illinois Wesleyan Announces New School of Business and Economics

Future business leaders will have the opportunity to study professional programs in a liberal arts setting under the auspices of the newly formed School of Business and Economics at Illinois Wesleyan University.

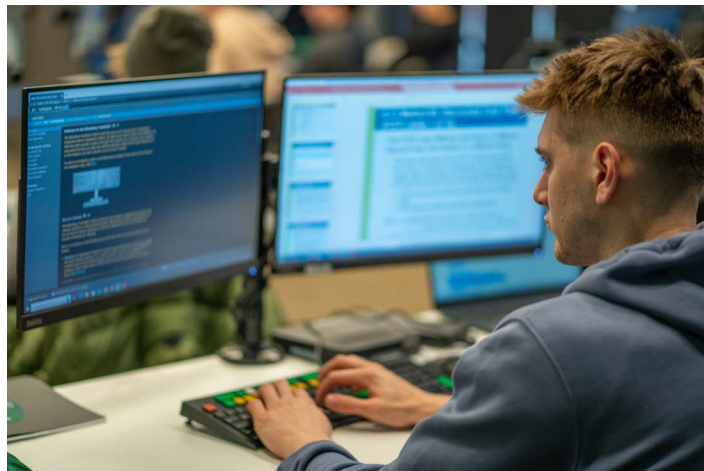
Several new programs, including professional sales, supply chain management, quantitative finance and financial planning will be housed under the school, joining existing majors such as accounting, business administration, economics, entrepreneurship, finance and marketing.

“The School of Business and Economics (SOBE) is building a platform for the specialized areas in business to work together to create new options for our students,” said SOBE Interim Director **John Camey**. “This program prepares students to become strong ethical leaders and excel in a diverse, ever-changing world and business climate. Every IWU student is a Titan — the SOBE students are preparing to be business titans.”

Illinois Wesleyan has added six faculty members in the last two years to provide instruction in the new school. **Bryan C. McCannon '98** has been selected to serve as the school director, beginning in July. McCannon studied economics and business administration at Illinois Wesleyan and earned a Ph.D. in economics from Pennsylvania State University. He currently serves as an associate professor of economics at West Virginia University, where he also directs the Center for Free Enterprise. He previously worked as a professor at Saint Bonaventure University, Wake Forest University and Elmira College.

Illinois Wesleyan's School of Business and Economics is also home to the **Greg Yess '82** Bloomberg Finance Lab, a professional resource that provides students access to state-of-the-art tools utilized by top financial institutions for investing, trading, risk management and research. Students have the opportunity to enroll in a portfolio management course that actually invests part of the University Endowment, developing real-world knowledge of investing and trading via cutting-edge market analysis, and the ability to complete Bloomberg Market Concepts certification.

A group of alumni with substantial experience in the field of business have been invited to serve on the School of Business and Economics advisory council. Members of the council provide perspective on market trends while identifying strategic opportunities for the Univer-



(Above) A student using a Bloomberg terminal in the Greg Yess '82 Bloomberg Finance Lab at Illinois Wesleyan University.

sity to prepare students on the path to become responsible and innovative business leaders.

Ed Rust — retired president, chairman of the board, and chief executive officer for State Farm Insurance — graduated from Illinois Wesleyan in 1972 with a degree in business administration. Rust serves as a member of the School of Business and Economics advisory council.

“I look forward to sharing the business perspectives and experiences gained over a 50-year career; helping to create a level of intellectual curiosity that energizes a rigor of lifelong learning for the next generation of leadership,” said Rust. “I often reflect on my time at Illinois Wesleyan and am a strong believer that a liberal [arts] education enhances one’s capacity to thoughtfully analyze and debate issues, reaching constructive responses.”

Another member of the School of Business and Economics advisory council is **Julie Fritz**, who graduated in 1984 from IWU with a degree in economics. As a treasury and corporate finance leader, Fritz has more than 30 years of experience at a leading automotive Fortune 500 company and her current role is senior business consultant for Fritz Ventures LLC.

Fritz said she still applies many of the lessons learned at Illinois Wesleyan in her career today, including the importance of connecting a big picture idea with the smaller details — a mindset she said was encouraged and exhibited through her professors.

“Illinois Wesleyan has always provided a robust business academic offering resulting in graduates who have had very successful business careers,” said Fritz. “Obtaining accreditation and expanding its offerings with an official School of Business and Economics will be a real competitive advantage for IWU.”

Munsell and Ferguson Residence Halls to Receive Major Renovations

With generous support from alumni donors, the Illinois Wesleyan University Board of Trustees has approved major renovations to Munsell and Ferguson Halls.

The on-campus housing for first-year students will receive these updates through support from the Ames family — the late **B. Charles “Chuck” Ames ’50** and **Joyce “Jay” Eichhorn Ames ’49** and their children, Dick Ames, Cindy Huffman and Paula Redman.

Renovations to Munsell are targeted for summer 2023, with completion before the start of classes in fall of 2023, with Ferguson renovations coming in summer 2024. The combined building capacity is 344 residents.

“Through this exciting renovation project, Munsell and Ferguson continue to serve Illinois Wesleyan’s newest students and are formative in the first impressions of our university. The spirit of this project will be to elevate the student life experience for those who reside in Munsell and Ferguson, and encourage a vibrancy of communal living — foundational to those enduring Titan connections that define Illinois Wesleyan,” said Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students **Karla Carney-Hall**.

The planned renovations include modernization of the first floor lobbies, reconfiguration of the skyway, remodeling to single-user bathrooms and a refresh to general finishes throughout hallways and resident rooms.

Other changes include new windows, HVAC upgrades in Ferguson, as well as mechanical, electrical, plumbing, fire protection and technology improvements throughout. The project site design will also include repair of existing concrete walks and stairs.

The Board of Trustees has authorized up to \$16.5 million for this project.



(Above) Architectural rendering of renovation plans for Munsell and Ferguson Residence Halls.

English Professor James Plath to Live and Work at Mark Twain’s Summer Home

While living at Mark Twain’s summer home, Illinois Wesleyan Professor and R. Forrest Colwell Endowed Chair of English James Plath will explore the potential connections between the works of American authors Mark Twain and John Updike as a 2023 Quarry Farm Fellow.

Located in Elmira, New York, Quarry Farm was owned by the family of Twain’s wife, Olivia Langdon. The Farm served as the backdrop for many milestones in Twain’s life — the births of three of his daughters and the compositions of several of his literary works, including “The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn.”

“In 2002, Updike wrote the foreword to the Hesperus Press publication of ‘The Diary of Adam and Eve,’ and what he said about Twain reveals much about himself and a connection with Twain that has yet to be explored,” Plath said. “Not so much as a literary influence as it is a literary kinship, a connection with a past literary figure who modeled attitudes and behaviors that spoke to Updike generations later.”

Plath is excited by the novelty of the opportunity — “the kismet of writing a comparative essay on Twain and Updike while getting to live and work at places where they both lived and worked.”

However, he is most excited by “the prospect of discovery and surprise.”

“Just poking around the house and the property, imagining Twain doing the same, and looking through the Quarry Farm Twain materials and nearby archives with the ever-present feeling that I could find something others may have overlooked. A book, a page, a small detail...,” said Plath.

Plath’s previous experience staying at the home of an author was in the early days of restoring the Updike house in Shillington, Pennsylvania.



(Above) Illinois Wesleyan Professor and R. Forrest Colwell Endowed Chair of English James Plath has been named a 2023 Quarry Farm Fellow.

Physics Department Awarded for Improving Undergraduate Physics Education

The Physics Department at Illinois Wesleyan University has earned an award from the American Physical Society (APS) for its excellence in improving the undergraduate experience for those studying physics.

According to the APS, this Improving Undergraduate Physics Education Award recognizes the work of the IWU Physics Department including the “continuing success of recruiting a high number of physics majors, the research opportunities provided by the faculty, the remarkable commitment to curricular development and strong and sustained efforts to increase diversity of majors.”

The letter delivered along with the APS Award adds, “Your department is a role model for other liberal arts colleges.”

“We celebrate all of the different ways to do physics: experimental, theoretical and computational,” said **Narendra Jaggi**, professor and chair of the Physics Department. “The bottom line is this: To us, welcoming and honoring all of our physics students is a high priority.”

At IWU, the Physics Department provides opportunities that include a concentration in optics and photonics as well as offerings in quantum information science engineering.

“We as a department work hard to see all of our students, regardless of their motivations to study physics, regardless of their previous background in physics,” said Jaggi. “We try to make them feel that they belong in the department.”

The Physics Department also provides a diverse range of clubs for the diverse interests of physics students and has substantially increased the number of offerings for upper level physics courses that have a laboratory component.

Jaggi will accept the award on behalf of the department at the American Physical Society meeting in April in Minneapolis, Minnesota.



(Above) Students work with equipment in an experimental physics class at IWU.

Ethics Bowl Team Advances to Nationals

Illinois Wesleyan University’s Ethics Bowl team advanced to the national competition in Portland, Oregon, after finishing second place at the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl competition on Nov. 12.

“The Ethics Bowl is an intercollegiate debate-style competition in which teams argue for positions on a number of contemporary moral and political issues,” said **Andy Engen**, IWU Ethics Bowl faculty advisor, associate professor and chair of the philosophy department.

Issues debated at the regional competition included the morality of zoos, content moderation and free speech on social media, as well as vaccine access for minors without parental consent.

IWU Ethics Bowl team members are **Jonas Maes ’23, Hailey Meneses ’24, Sage Shindler ’24, Liam Kilian ’25, MJ Soria ’25 and Anjali Malali ’26.**

This year’s team consists of students majoring in education, English, international studies, history, neuroscience, philosophy, political science, psychology and sociology. Students can register for an ethics bowl class at IWU; however, students who want to join the competitive team do not need to be in the class.

Junior team member Hailey Meneses said that while she has no prior experience with philosophy or ethics, “my teammates and professor Engen did an amazing job of teaching me so much this semester to prepare.”

A total of 36 teams across the nation advanced to the national competition. The top three teams at the Upper Midwest Regional Ethics Bowl competition were Macalester College, Illinois Wesleyan University and the University of Chicago.



(Above) Members of IWU Ethics Bowl team pose with a trophy after advancing to the national competition.

Growth of RSOs Boosts Sense of Community on Campus

Registered Student Organizations are thriving at Illinois Wesleyan University, with students registering at least seven new organizations with the Office of Student Involvement so far during the 2022-23 academic year.

New RSOs include Encounter, Debate Club, Women in Finance, Investments/Trading Club, International Student Organization, Muslim Student Association and Inside the Human Psyche.

"I love seeing new organizations form on campus," said Assistant Director of Student Involvement **Julie Henderson**. "When a student initially talks to me about starting a new group and what inspired them to do so, it really just goes to show the amount of leadership we have here. IWU simply wouldn't be IWU without our RSOs. I'm so grateful to work with students that increase our sense of community and belonging through their involvement and make our campus what it is."

The Office of Student Involvement serves as IWU headquarters for RSOs. The office is designed to stimulate an interchange of ideas, activities and opinions; to develop an appreciation of diversity; and to contribute to an enjoyable campus environment. More information about the dozens of organizations established on campus, steps to register a new student organization and more can be found on the office website.

"Our office prides itself on helping students at Illinois Wesleyan University find a sense of belonging and home," said Director of Student Involvement, **Tyler Manning**. "Student organizations provide a space for students to engage with one another, build community and enhance their knowledge and skills in areas that are important to their overall success on campus."

Several of the new organizations on campus were created to offer support, shared community and to provide representation for specific student groups at IWU, including the International Student Organization (ISO).

Bea Manlapaz '25, one of the founding members of ISO, noted that the number of international and exchange students enrolled at Illinois Wesleyan has nearly doubled since she first arrived on campus.

"We wanted to create a space to accommodate this growing community," said Manlapaz, who serves as the ISO public relations chair.

ISO's mission, according to their Instagram page, is "to celebrate and promote diversity within the inter-



(Above) Members of the IWU International Student Organization gather for food and fellowship. Courtesy of International Student Organization.

national student community and to encourage unity and intersectionality within the students. We strive to familiarize our campus with the richness of the diverse cultures the international students bring through our experiences and traditions."

According to Manlapaz, the most exciting part is that "the organization has the potential of making a huge cultural impact on campus and possibly getting more international students to attend IWU."

ISO members hope to partner with the Language Resource Center and other cultural RSOs in the near future. Those interested in attending future events should follow ISO's Instagram to stay updated.

IWU faculty and staff often identify opportunities for a new RSO and help guide its organization. In 2021, alumni volunteers and faculty members helped form a mentoring group to connect female students with women in finance industries. This year, Assistant Professor of Finance **Mikhail Munenzon** encouraged **Klaudia Wyszynski '23** to develop a Women in Finance RSO with similar support systems in place.

"Being a finance major since sophomore year, I and many others have recognized the unproportional representation of men over women within finance courses. After professor Munenzon asked to speak with me after class one day and offered an idea to start a club in hopes of providing mentorship and building confidence within the male-dominated field of finance, I was eager to bring this [idea back] to the IWU community," Wyszynski said.

Women in Finance is looking forward to co-sponsoring future events with the Investments and Trading RSO, which is also a recent addition at IWU. All events are advertised on the bulletin boards in State Farm Hall.

Football's Hamilton Named All-Region by D3football.com

Illinois Wesleyan finished with a 6-4 record, highlighted by a 5-1 record inside Tucci Stadium. IWU posted a three-win improvement from the 2021 season. **Charlie Hamilton '23** garnered Second Team All-Region honors from D3football.com to go along with First Team All-CCIW accolades after leading the conference in receiving. **Josh Hlavacek '25** and **Anthony Wachal Jr. '23** received Second Team All-CCIW selections.



Charlie Hamilton '23

Cross Country's Chudy Makes History by Becoming First Sophomore to Earn At-Large Bid for NCAA Championship Race

The Illinois Wesleyan Titans landed a trio of athletes on the All-CCIW team with the women earning fourth at the conference meet, while the men secured seventh. **Annalese Chudy '25**, **Adriana Crabtree '26**, and **Nick Fisch '25** were named to the All-CCIW team for their efforts. From there, Chudy went on to make history as she became the first sophomore to earn an individual at-large bid for the NCAA Championship race. At the championships, out of 292 runners, Chudy secured 96th with a time of 23:24.90 in the 6k.



Annalese Chudy '25

Women's Soccer Claims CCIW Regular Season & Tournament Titles

The Titans posted an 11-5-3 overall record and a 6-1-1 conference mark en route to sweeping the conference titles and advancing to the second round of the NCAA Tournament. IWU claimed its fifth regular season title in program history and first under head coach Oz Bakirdan. **Caelyn Steffens '22** was named the CCIW's Offensive Player of the Year for the third straight year, while **Sawyer White '26** was recognized as the league's Newcomer of the Year. Steffens and **Lauren Shanks '23** were All-CCIW First Team picks, with **Jenna Li '23**, **Rachel White '22**,



Oz Bakirdan

and **Kayla Borg '25** selected to the second team. In his first season at the helm, Bakirdan was voted the CCIW Coach of the Year and went on to be recognized as the NCAA Region VIII Staff of the Year by the United Soccer Coaches. Steffens, along with Rachel White, garnered all-region status, with Steffens also receiving Second Team All-America honors.



Caelyn Steffens '22



Head Coach Kyle Schauls Surpasses Program's All-Time Win Total with 68th Career Victory at IWU

The Green and White compiled a record of 6-8-2, with a conference record of 3-5. As a result, **Kalabi Kamau '26** earned All-CCIW Second Team honors. In Kamau's eight CCIW contests, he tallied a total of three points, with one goal and one assist.

Women's Volleyball Freshman Taylor French Earns AVCA All-America Honors

The Titans finished the 2022 season with a 17-12 record overall and 4-4 in CCIW action. Illinois Wesleyan saw a dominant freshman campaign from **Taylor French '26**, who was named to the American Volleyball Coaches Association Third Team, marking the fourth freshman in program history to garner All-American honors. French was also named to the AVCA All-Region 8 Team, a First Team All-CCIW honoree, and was named the CCIW Newcomer of the Year. **Faith Washko '24** joined French as an All-CCIW First Team selection, while **Abby Erdman '25** was named to the second team.



Taylor French '26



Faith Washko '24

Ron Rose '88 Earns 300th Career Win, Two Named All-CCIW

Cody Mitchell '23 and **Lucas Heflen '23** brought in All-CCIW recognition for the first time in their careers this season. Mitchell was a unanimous first team selection, with Heflen landing on the second team. IWU qualified for the CCIW Tournament with its sixth place regular season finish and completed the season with a 12-14 record.

Women's Basketball Posts Winning Record for Eighth Straight Season

The Titans concluded the season with a 16-11 overall record and a 10-6 CCIW mark, finishing fifth in the conference standings. IWU defeated Wheaton in the opening round of the CCIW Tournament before falling in the semifinals.

Lauren Huber '25 was a unanimous First Team All-CCIW honoree, while **Katelyn Heller '22** landed on the All-CCIW Second Team.

Swim & Dive Sees Nine Swimmers Finish With All-CCIW Honors

The men's and women's swim and dive team saw nine swimmers combine for 14 All-CCIW honors.

Lauren Feddersen '24 led the Titans with three top three finishes, as she won the 100 yard breaststroke, 200 yard breaststroke, and the 400 yard individual medley. **Hadley Fudge '25** captured gold in the 200 yard breaststroke and the 200 yard individual medley, breaking her own school record in the latter. **Ethan Lowder '24** led the men's team with two top-three finishes to garner All-CCIW awards. Lowder received the conference's Elite 26 award for the second straight year, which is given to the swimmer with the highest GPA that earned All-CCIW honors. Lowder was also a part of three school records that were broken at the CCIW Championship, as he set a



Cody Mitchell '23



Lauren Huber '25



Lauren Feddersen '24



Hadley Fudge '25

new 100 yard freestyle record, and was a member of the 200 yard freestyle relay and 400 yard freestyle relay that broke school records. **Jackie Rae Kelch '24**, **Henry Moore '24**, **Lane Wagner '24**, **Natalie Wajda '24**, **Alexa Starkey '25**, and **Kayleigh Kuschewski '26** also earned All-CCIW honors by securing a top-three finish in an individual event.

Men's Track & Field Posts Program-Best CCIW Indoor Finish, Five Titans Win Conference Titles

The CCIW Indoor Championships was the highlight of the men's and women's track and field indoor season as five different Titans claimed CCIW Indoor Championship titles. On the men's side, **Davis Nguy '23** won the heptathlon with a point total of 4351. **Evan Lowder '26** put an end to the 15-year drought as he claimed the 400 meter title with a time of 49.52 to mark IWU's first win in the event since 2008. Lowder's 18 total points puts him in a tie for fifth for most points scored at the CCIW Championships. In the pole vault, **Christian Gatsos '23** and **Isaac Whitaker '26** were named co-champions as both Titans' posted marks of 4.45 meters. For his tremendous efforts leading the team, coach Todd Lowder and staff were named the 2023 Coaching Staff of the Year after posting the program's best indoor finish, second place, as IWU posted 102 points. On the women's side, **Lauren Wong '24** took home the triple jump victory with her CCIW-best mark of 11.46 meters as Wong became the first Titan to win the event since 2016.



Davis Nguy '23



Evan Lowder '26



Christian Gatsos '23



Isaac Whitaker '26



Lauren Wong '24



Todd Lowder

BOOKS

Linda (Wilson) Stephens '68 is the author of *There Is No Backstage: An Actor's Life*, a memoir reflecting on her 50-year career performing in nearly every kind of theater venue, including on and off Broadway and regional theaters. She also appeared in TV series including *New York Undercover*, *Spin City*, *Law and Order SVU* and *Frasier*, and she narrated audiobooks. At IWU Linda studied music, rather than theater, but during her senior year the schools of music and drama did their first co-production of *My Fair Lady* in which Linda played Eliza, and in which she met her husband **Larry Shue '68** and began her acting career.

Roger Danchik '71 is the author of *Villa and the Doomsday Affair*, an absurdist fantasy adventure described by Kirkus as a "...raucously off-color novel [that] embeds bizarre characters in a satirical reimagining of Jewish religious traditions." The story follows a rabbi and his son as they and a group of odd supernatural creatures, including a vampire, demon, angel and the original cat, embark on a *Hitchhiker's Guide*-like quest to save the universe from its own destruction.

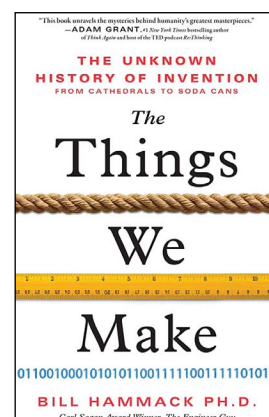
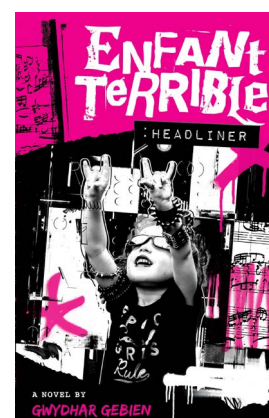
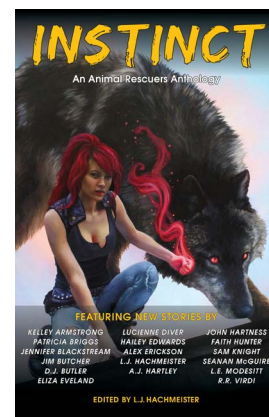
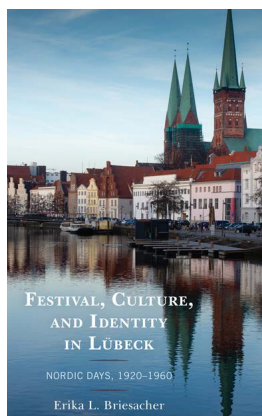
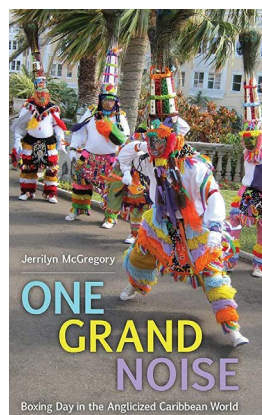
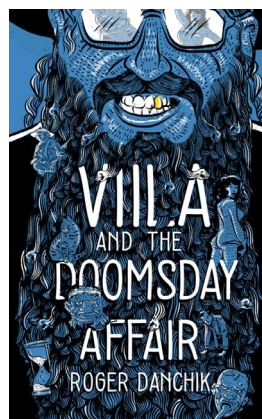
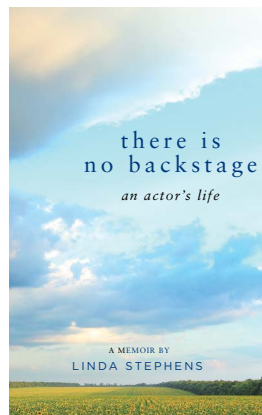
Jerrilyn McGregory '71 is the author of *One Grand Noise: Boxing Day in the Anglicized Caribbean World*, published by the University Press of Mississippi. It is the first comprehensive study of how Boxing Day is celebrated across The Caribbean and was the winner of the 2022 Chicago Prize in Folklore. The book is based on Jerrilyn's own ethnographic research of cultural "creolization" from the Atlantic slave trade to the modern Caribbean.

Marybeth (Mathison) Timmermann '93 wrote two book translations published in 2022. *Barzakh: The Land-In Between*, written by Mauritanian author Moussa Ould Ebnou, is a unique blend of science fiction and philosophy rooted in the complex Mauritanian culture. *Elfe, Seasons 1-6*, written by French author Gabrielle Dubois, is a six-book illustrated historical fiction romance series set in the 19th century. Marybeth is currently translating a novel by a French/Senegalese author and continues to contribute as a translator and editor to the Beauvoir Series, a multi-volume collection of the writings of Simone de Beauvoir in English translation published by the University of Illinois Press.

Beth (Ribble) Duhon '99 is the author of *Happier Music Teacher: 50 Days to Being a Happier Music Teacher at Home and at School*, in which she uses her personal experience from her career and her creation of the "Self-Care for the Music Educator" seminar to help music educators overcome stress and self-doubt. The book expands on her seminar, offering journaling exercises and micro-actions for restoring calm, confidence and happiness to an overworked music teacher's life.

Erika (Kamholz) Briesacher '02 is the author of *Festival, Culture, and Identity in Lübeck: Nordic Days, 1920-1960* published by Rowman & Littlefield imprint Lexington Books. Erika, an associate professor of history at Worcester State University, is a specialist in modern German history, economics and culture. In her first book, she demonstrates the economic, social and cultural factors that make for group identity formation in Germany in the post World War periods, specifically through the lens of the festivals in the northwestern town of Lübeck.

LJ Hachmeister '02 is the co-author and editor of *Instinct*. LJ, a prolific science fiction writer inspired by her English professors at Illinois Wesleyan, brings together an anthology of new stories by bestselling sci-fi/fantasy authors that celebrate the tradition of heroes and their



animal companions with the theme of “how animals oftentimes rescue the rescuer” in sci-fi/fantasy settings. Featuring authors like Jim Butcher, the author of the popular *Dresden Files* series, sales of the anthology will donate 65% of royalties to the nonprofit organization Lifeline Puppy Rescue in Brighton, Colorado.

Amanda (Hill) Donahue '03 is the author of *Tyler's Purple Arm*, a children's picture book featuring the story of a cheerful young boy named Tyler, inspired by Amanda's husband, who has a purple birthmark covering his arm and hand. When classmates react in varied ways to his different skin, he uses his positive attitude to convey that everyone has features that make us wonderfully unique. With painterly illustrations and a buoyant text, *Tyler's Purple Arm* is a joyful rhyming picture book showing readers it's what's inside us that counts.

Gwydhar Gebien '04 is the author of the second book in her *Enfant Terrible* series. *Enfant Terrible: Headliner* continues the story of Damen Warner, the washed-up front man for the metalcore band OBNXS, who is determined to do whatever it takes to wrench his career out of obscurity. In an effort to claw his way back to stardom, he teams up with a well-connected but underhanded investor to produce a new album, and his life quickly spirals into a widening gyre of depravity and mayhem. But when he is unexpectedly cast in the role of a father figure to his girlfriend's five-year-old daughter, he finds himself torn between fame and fatherhood as he continues his odyssey of self-destruction down the path of good intentions and bad behavior.

Chris Francis '13 is the editor of *The Things We Make: The Unknown History of Invention from Cathedrals to Soda Cans* written by University of Illinois professor and award-winning science communicator Bill Hammack and published by Sourcebooks. Developed by Chris and the author, it is the first commercial title exploring the engineering method. Where the scientific method creates knowledge, the engineering method creates solutions, and this radical philosophy of practical problem solving has been the engine behind human invention for our entire history. The book's ongoing companion video series is available on Hammack's YouTube channel, *engineerguy*. Chris is the editor of the Illinois Wesleyan University Magazine.

Tate Lewis-Carroll '19 is the author of *What's Left* published by Finishing Line Press. The collection of poems illustrates Tate's relationship with his father and his father's death in 2016. It recounts his last months in the hospital, their relationship before his illness and the years following his death through a blend of contemporary and surrealist writing styles.

ARTICLES, ESSAYS AND PAPERS

Tom Patterson '75 is the author of “Mastering the Senate Maze: Mr. Long Goes to Washington” published in the *Journal of the Louisiana Historical Association*. The article defends the legislative career of Huey Long, the famous Louisiana Governor and United States Senator of the early 20th century. Often described as unserious and self-serving during his time in the Senate, Tom references the Congressional Record and contemporary newspaper stories to show that Long's absences during his term were used to sell Louisiana bonds in a congested economy, vet potential Democratic presidential candidates for the election of 1932 and generally manage Louisiana politics after having just completed his term as governor.

Kevin Butler '19 is the author of “A Hypothesis of Reading Instruction as a Cause of Dyslexia,” published in the *Journal of Education and Learn-*

ing. While dyslexia is generally understood to have genetic causes, Kevin and other researchers are exploring the possibility that environmental factors might have a part in causing dyslexia. He hypothesizes that how a child is taught to read can be a significant factor in the emergence of dyslexia. Where previous researchers have hypothesized the same based on speculation and case studies, Kevin uses skill evaluation and fMRI measurements to show that faulty reading instruction can cause brain patterns matching those with dyslexia.

MUSIC AND PERFORMANCES

Nancy (Steele) Brokaw '71, Andy Kreiss '86, and Assistant Professor of Music **Bob Mangialardi** were all involved in the 21st Pantagraph Holiday Spectacular at the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts. The Pantagraph Holiday Spectacular is an annual Christmas-season performance with an entirely community-staffed cast and crew featuring classic Christmas music and an original script, which was written this year by Nancy. Andy and Bob each played Christmas elves in the program, being Walter and Gus the Elves, respectively.



Dawn Upshaw '82 starred in *Dido Reimagined* with the Brentano String Quartet. The performance is inspired by the aria “Dido's Lament” from composer Henry Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas*. According to composer Melinda Wagner, *Dido Reimagined* is “the emotional journey of a powerful woman who has, in spite of her strength of character, been broken by love... Dido discovers, confronts, and ultimately makes peace with her fate and with her place in the world.” Dawn discussed her career and newest performance in an article published by *San Francisco Classical Voice* available online.

Emily Meyer '04 performed violin and vocals for the production of Manual Cinema's adaptation of *A Christmas Carol* at Writers Theatre in Glencoe, Illinois. The unique production is inspired by the success the troupe had in taking its performances online during the pandemic, the new production used puppets and live musicians to create the new adaptation of Charles Dickens' most famous holiday classic.

Jonathan Cable '07 joined the cast of the Off-Broadway production of *Fiddler on the Roof* performed entirely in Yiddish with English supertitles at New World Stages in New York City. The production was directed by theater and film legend Joel Grey and won the National Yiddish Theatre Folksbiene's Drama Desk Award. Jonathan played Sasha, a Russian soldier.

Kate Jones '08, a classical bassist and a Suzuki Bass Teacher Trainer, recently performed a piece called "The Heart Knows No Borders" by Andres Martin with the Mesquite Symphony Orchestra. The performance featured 30 double bassists, with Kate as the soloist.

Bri Sarikcioglu '14 released her latest single, "Enough," which is the second installment of her debut EP, *Somewhere Else*. The song explores the complicated emotions of toxic and dysfunctional relationships, ending those relationships and the heartbreak that comes with it. Bri is a rising star in the Los Angeles music scene who writes and performs pop music.

Kenny Tran '17 is the voice of "Logs" on the Netflix show, *Dead End: Paranormal Park*, a British-American animated children's show based on the graphic novel series *DeadEndia* by Hamish Steele. The series features a pair of teenagers and their talking dog who work at a theme park haunted house over the summer. Logs is one of their coworkers.

PODCASTS

Demetria Kalodimos '81 and **Ally Daskalopoulos '18** created the true-crime podcast series *Carol's Last Christmas* in December 2022 with former Chicago Police Department detective George Seibel. The series spends nine episodes re-examining the death of Carol Rofstad, an Illinois State University student who was murdered in 1975 outside of the Delta Zeta sorority house and whose murder Seibel played a part in investigating. The hosts intend to uncover answers behind this cold case residing in Normal, Illinois. The series is produced by Kalodimos' podcast production company Genuine Human Productions and is available on all major podcast streaming platforms.



Alex (Salansky) Gohla '09 started a mental health podcast, *The Nest*, with other mental healthcare providers in the Chicagoland area. The podcast, available on Spotify, strives to normalize conversations around mental health and provide an opportunity for people to understand and explore different forms of available mental health assistance. Alex also started a mental health private practice called Bluebird Counseling Services in Naperville, Illinois.

ART

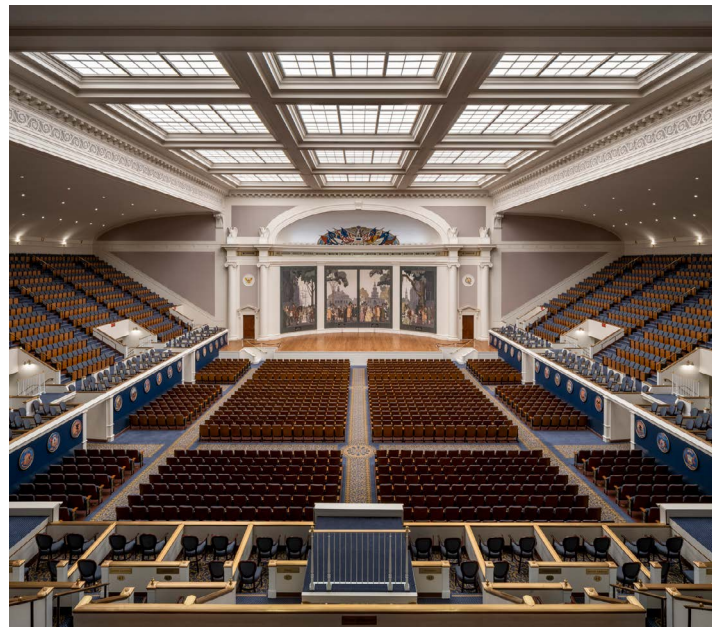
David Wixon '64 is beginning his 41st year as a church and residential glass artist and builder with his custom stained glass studio. Formerly operating nationwide out of suburban Chicago, Dave is now located in Peoria, Arizona. Before semi-retiring to Arizona, Dave was also the drummer in the Mad Monks Traditional Jazz Band for 40 years. The band traveled widely throughout the Midwest and Florida and was

known for bringing New Orleans funeral parade songs into Sunday church services.

Laura O'Connor '04 had her fiber art series "Embroidery as Dissent" featured at the Blue Moon Gallery in Grayslake, Illinois. Laura works primarily in the needlecrafts of embroidery and cross-stitch, appreciating their long history and ability to change to fit modern times, and she uses fiber arts as a vehicle for political expression and commentary on society. "Embroidery as Dissent" covers the overturning of *Roe v. Wade*, anti-fascism and society's views on women.



Anne Kopf '08 and her architectural firm, Quinn Evans, won four awards from the American Institute of Architects' Northern Virginia, Virginia and Maryland chapters and the DC Preservation League. This follows Anne's promotion to Associate this summer. The reveal of her firm's winning project, the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR) Constitution Hall Restoration, can be viewed on the DAR's YouTube channel.



All submitted content received by February 13, 2023. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2023 issue of IWU Magazine is May 22, 2023. Submissions may be edited, directed to other communications and/or preserved in IWU archives.



SAVING DAMAR

Story by CHRIS FRANCIS

PHOTO/ MADDIE MCGARVEY

After Damar Hamlin, the Buffalo Bills' 24-year-old safety, suffered sudden cardiac arrest in the middle of a live-broadcast NFL football game, IWU alum Tim Pritts '91 was in the operating room where Hamlin's life was saved.

As a senior trauma surgeon and the chief of general surgery at University of Cincinnati Medical Center, Tim Pritts '91 is used to helping people going through "the worst day of their lives," as he says.

What's less common is when that "worst day" is being viewed live on television by millions of football fans across the country, and circumstances make him both responsible for a young player's fate and for delivering the news to the entire nation.

When 24-year-old Damar Hamlin, a safety for the Buffalo Bills, delivered a tackle to Cincinnati Bengals wide receiver Tee Higgins on January 3, 2023, medical experts believe the impact might have led

to a freak onset of sudden cardiac arrest in Hamlin's heart, possibly by disrupting his heart's rhythm through blunt trauma. Moments after standing up after the play, he collapsed on the field.

Hamlin was effectively "dead" when he hit the ground, as Tim told *The New York Times*. The chances of surviving sudden cardiac arrest, distinct from a heart attack, vary depending on how quickly a patient can receive medical attention, but the odds are never better than a coin flip.

In his case, the first responders on site were able to restart Hamlin's heart, keeping him alive long enough to get him to the University of Cincinnati Medical Center where

he entered the Emergency Department, and the trauma team got ready to help someone else get through the worst day of his life.



As a high school student in Decatur, Illinois, IWU had long been a school in Tim's orbit. He first saw campus as a middle school track competitor visiting for a meet. During his high school career, he visited regularly for the annual jazz festival, being a baritone saxophone player whose family got to know professor Tom Streeter as the creator of IWU's jazz program.

Although he was an enthusiastic and dedicated sax player, Tim was aware that he was not particularly talented and might have to become a doctor instead. Still, when it came time to decide where he would go to college, he wanted somewhere that he could study biology and play in the jazz band. Illinois Wesleyan was his obvious choice as one of the handful of places he could

do so.

He also wanted to have a well-rounded education in a close-knit community.

"If you look at my transcript, I had almost as many history and philosophy classes as I did biology," Tim said. "I think I ended up one credit short of a philosophy minor."

He couldn't quite manage the capstone class to complete the minor, but he "had the exposure to history, the philosophy stuff, ethics, and I took a literature class with Dr. (James) Plath, one of the young faculty there at the time, working through Updike and some other novels. It was something that you don't get in a very hardcore science curriculum."

That's not to say that Tim's classes in the humanities did anything to take away from what would become his medical skills. The humanities gave him more opportunities to practice "working through problem solving, having to write about things as a team, and learning

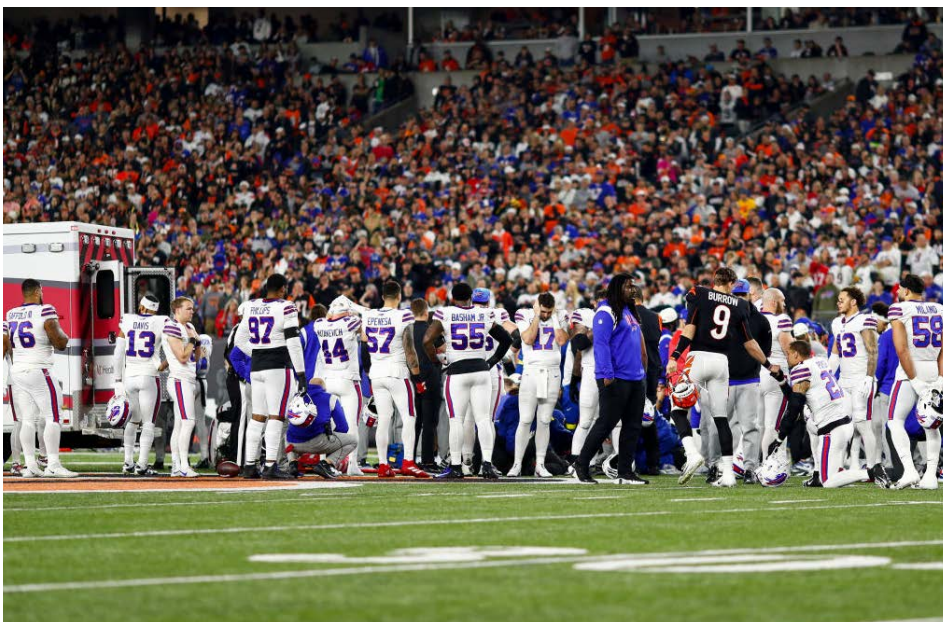
communication skills in a small college environment."

"I could not ask for a better education in biology or science. I just really couldn't," Tim continued. The professors at Illinois Wesleyan "teach you how to think and how to ask questions and approach questions. It goes beyond the science degree, and it goes deeply into all the other things that you get to experience at Wesleyan."

Today Tim puts his education at Illinois Wesleyan and the Northwestern University School of Medicine to use at UC Health and the UC College of Medicine where he both heals and teaches, and where Hamlin's life was saved.



The National Football League works directly with trauma centers stationed near the stadiums where their teams play, ensuring that there is a team of emergency medical professionals on-site at every game. Although Tim wasn't among them,



PHOTO/ GETTY IMAGES

(Above) Immediately after Hamlin collapsed, the on-site UC Medical first-responders rush to re-start his heart while his teammates anxiously watch. **(Opposite page) Tim Pritts '91** (right) with his colleague William Knight in the UC Medical Center.



PHOTO/ UC HEALTH

(Above) Tim had the happy opportunity to deliver the good news about Hamlin's prognosis in a press conference.

SAVING DAMAR

present at every Cincinnati Bengals home game are a team of seven doctors along with paramedics, respiratory therapists and an ambulance crew ready to immediately treat players who suffer traumatic injuries. For Hamlin, immediacy was paramount.

In the case of sudden cardiac arrest, blood flow immediately stops, and a crucial timer starts as oxygen-hungry brain cells begin to suffocate and die. In only minutes, irreversible brain damage sets in, and after minutes more, the patient dies.

“A few extra minutes or even a few extra seconds and it could have been a different outcome,” Dr. William Knight IV, an emergency medicine and trauma specialist at the medical center, told *The New York Times*.

Hamlin was lucky to have the UC Medical Center team only seconds away. Using CPR and defibrillation, they were able to restart Hamlin’s heart on the field, but that was only

“And we’re gratified by every patient who gets better, with our goal for every single patient to get them as close to their previous life as we can possibly get them.”

— DR. TIM PRITTS ‘91

the beginning of his treatment.

“For about 2.4 million people, we represent the end of the ambulance ride,” Tim said, referencing the total population in the hospital’s service area, so the UC Medical Center was Hamlin’s destination.

The details of Hamlin’s treatment are confidential, but the Mayo Clinic describes post-cardiac arrest treatment as a series of procedures to determine the cause of the heart failure, the damage done to the body as a result, and treatments to address the underlying causes and help the patient make as much of a recovery as possible from the trauma suffered to the brain and body.

Thanks to his team’s efforts, Tim had the opportunity to deliver the good news about Hamlin’s prognosis, with news media across the country turning their cameras on him and the many medical professionals involved in Hamlin’s care.

“It appears his neurological condition and function is intact,” Tim said in a press conference. “We are very proud to report that and very happy for him, and for his family and for the Buffalo Bills organization, that he is making improvement.”

Immediately following his treatment, Hamlin was able to move his limbs, but he was unable to speak. As



PHOTO/ UC HEALTH

(Above) The recently renovated main entrance of the UC Medical Center.



PHOTO/ TIM PRITTS

(Above) The NFL invited Tim and other members of the UC Medical Center staff to the Super Bowl in 2023, which Hamlin had recovered enough to attend.



(Above) The medical professionals who treated Hamlin, including Tim, were honored on the field before the Super Bowl, where they had a chance to catch up with Hamlin and the Buffalo Bills team.

described in the press conference, he was able to write a question by hand, asking who won the game. In fact, the game was canceled after he was taken off the field, but his caregivers provided an answer: He “won the game of life,” which became a quote widely reported by the media with credit given to Tim.

“A frustration with the media is that I relayed that story in the press conference and the quote was attributed to me,” Tim said. “But, if you listen to the press conference, I actually said it was one of my partners who said that.”

Still, while recovery from cardiac arrest generally takes many months, thanks to his treatment, Hamlin was able to give a full-length, in-depth interview to *Good Morning America* just six weeks after the episode.



In every other way, the story reflects the ongoing work and

experiences of Tim and his colleagues, as well as caregivers everywhere.

“In the ICU right now there are 23 patients who are just as sick as Mr. Hamlin was,” Tim said. “And we’re gratified by every patient who gets better, with our goal for every single patient being to get them as close to their previous life as we can possibly get them.”

As Tim sees it, “It’s the result of a very high-functioning system of a lot of people working hard doing their jobs,” but it also demands a level of caring intimacy unlike any other profession.

“My partners all work hard. We all have a great skill set. But, at the end of the day, it’s a great privilege to be able to care for people when they’re literally having the worst day of their lives,” Tim said. “The way I tell it to the families, when the patient moves up to the ICU after the initial injury, this is the hard way to make a lot of good

friends really fast.”

Hamlin and his family made at least 150 new friends among all of the UC Medical Center staff who played a part in caring for him — Team 3, or “Team Damar,” as they called themselves.

Tim was among the members of that team who were invited by the NFL to the Super Bowl on Feb. 12 where, remarkably, Damar was able to travel and watch the game himself. While there, he got a chance to reconnect with the first responders and surgeons who saved his life on the same field where the UC Medical Center staff was honored by the NFL.

“We got some time to talk to him and catch up on things and catch up with the Bills folks,” Tim said, reflecting the quality of Hamlin’s recovery so soon after he was unable to speak and barely able to move. “It’s gratifying to see our patients do well. This year just happened to be on a bigger stage.” ❖



A LIFE OF CHANGE

Story by CHRIS FRANCIS

President Georgia Nugent is traveling the country to meet alums in 2023. She gave the *IWU Magazine* an opportunity to learn how her life story made her into the leader in higher education that she is today.

In 2019, Georgia Nugent came to Illinois Wesleyan as an interim president, and by the end of the year, the Trustees had made it her permanent post. Normally, this would call for more ceremonial fanfare, including a full biographical feature telling our president's life story, but COVID-19 was not interested in having a normal year in 2020.

But now the pandemic is drawing to an end, and Georgia is hitting the road. She has and will be visiting alumni in nine states and the District of Columbia for her Presidential Tour between 2022 and 2023, making it the perfect time to meet our "new" president to find out where she came from and what made her who she is today.



Georgia was born in the American South. Her life began in New Orleans before her family set up a home base, of sorts, in Miami, but she is truly from just about everywhere in the country.

Previous generations of the Nugent family had been horse trainers raising mares and stallions to pull carriages. But when carriages began to be driven by internal combustion engines rather than beasts of burden, Georgia's grandfather needed to find a new way to make use of his generational skills. And, even if horses were out of a job on the roads, they still had a place on the race track.

Georgia, the only child of only children born well into her parents' 30s, was not destined to take on the family business. Her biological

“You constantly have to encounter new people, make new friends, leave some friends behind. I think it led to a lot of comfort with change.”

— PRESIDENT S. GEORGIA NUGENT

dice roll had a streak of irony as she ended up with a childhood allergy to horses. She could never work with the animals that her father moved around the country to train, bringing his family with him. Her parents weren’t concerned, though. They had other plans for her, as far as she understood.

Even though neither of her parents had gone to college, “it was always assumed that I would,” Georgia said, though it was never said at the time. “It was a kind of tacit understanding.”

The expectations perhaps came more from her mother.

“She cared that I did well in school,” Georgia said. “She was of that generation where women didn’t have a lot of opportunities, and I think that was hard for her. She experienced what I think a lot of women did as a kind of latent bitterness that they couldn’t do something on their own.”

But Georgia’s childhood was filled with the interesting opportunities of a life on the road.

“You follow a circuit” in the horse racing world, as Georgia explained. “You’re in Miami for the winter, then, as spring comes, there’s the short season at Churchill Downs in Louisville. Then you go up to Chicago and Detroit and back to Churchill Downs in the fall and come back to Miami.”

These circuits, both annual and daily, introduced Georgia to every strata of society. She attended both

well-funded and neglected schools, and her family befriended both stable cleaners and millionaires. In every situation, Georgia learned to adapt.

“You constantly have to encounter new people, make new friends, leave some friends behind. I think it led to a lot of comfort with change,” she said.

Her comfort is perhaps what drove her toward and prepared her for a life of dramatic change, both for herself and the world around her.



The most drastic change she found herself part of was at Princeton, Georgia’s alma mater, where

she was a member of the class of 1973 — the first to admit women to Princeton.

“There were about 150 of us women who were admitted to a school with about 4,000 male students, and I loved it,” Georgia said. “It was a kind of community I didn’t have as we were moving around, but it was essentially an all-male environment after I had already grown up in one.”

Not that Princeton had such an easy time adjusting. Impelled by its sense of mid-century propriety, the school installed curtains on the women’s dorm windows and locks on their doors where they had never existed in student housing before.

“We broke the locks,” Georgia said. “We didn’t want to be different, you know? We didn’t want to be protected.” The dorm floors became coed by her second year.

Georgia’s inconsistent schooling left her with conspicuous holes in the Western canon, but, even though she had never heard of Homer, Plato



(Above) President Georgia Nugent connects with Titan athletes.

(Opposite page) Georgia sits for a press interview in her presidential office.

A LIFE OF CHANGE

or Aristotle, she fell in love with them. She declared classics as her major, even as her major was still getting used to her.

“I was in a class with five students — two of us were women — and an older professor, and he would always start by saying ‘Gentlemen, we will begin at page so-and-so,’” Georgia said, though he seemed to be aware of the women present when the fact made him uncomfortable.

“We were studying Lucretius in that class, and there’s a part of one of his major poems that is quite sexually explicit,” which was scheduled for a class session, but, once that session was imminent, the professor balked. “I think” Georgia paused, mimicking the professor’s awkward reticence, “we won’t hold class for the next lecture.”

Still, she loved her time at Princeton, and the experience inspired her to pursue academia. She received her Ph.D. from Cornell University in 1979 and sought a career in teaching, but she initially wasn’t interested in her alma mater’s traditional peer institutions. Al-

“...always be seeking the good of the whole — not a particular person or interest but the whole institution.”

— PRESIDENT S. GEORGIA NUGENT

though she was a product of an Ivy, she didn’t think she would be a good fit as a faculty member at one.

She turned down tenure opportunities to first take a visiting position at Swarthmore College before returning to Princeton on a tenure track... where she didn’t achieve tenure.

“It was my own fault,” she said. “I got very involved in the university. I was on committees. I was an advisor to the president. I cared about the university, but I didn’t do my research and publishing.”

Fitting in with the Ivies still wasn’t easy for her as she returned to the job market.

“I was interviewing at Harvard,” Georgia remembers. “And one of the interview questions they asked me

was, ‘Who is one of the classicists that you most admire?’ And I said, ‘I really like the work of Charles Segal,’” a Harvard faculty member who Georgia described as a “breath of fresh air.”

But the committee didn’t see things that way. “They looked at me, sort of appalled, and I remember the person leading the interview said, ‘...we didn’t mean anyone living.’”

Harvard being out of the picture, Georgia became a faculty member at Brown University, where she ended up being a bit of a campus celebrity teaching a course on Latin translation with 400 students in attendance. She also, one semester, got regular rides on the back of a student’s motorcycle to get to a course she taught across the urban campus.



(Above) Since becoming president, Georgia has twice participated in “President for a Day” in which she swaps places with a student to take their classes.



(Above) Georgia regularly meets students and discovers their passions.

As for how she could get 400 students to take classes about translating Latin classics, the question itself pains Georgia.

The modern academic world has “neglected the energy, the excitement of classics. It’s gotten too technical and far too pedantic,” she said. “We became so esoteric in the use of theory and deconstruction.” She wanted the material to connect with students’ emotions and lived experience.

“Brown, like Illinois Wesleyan, has a lot of kids who participate in athletics. So instead of just teaching a course on Homer, I called it ‘The Intellectual and the Athlete,’” she said, with Odysseus and Achilles filling the roles, respectively.



At Brown, Georgia did the opposite of what she had at Princeton. With laser focus on publishing, she was ready to submit her tenure dossier when Princeton came back into her life, asking her to interview for a position as an assistant to the new president of the university, Harold Shapiro, in 1988. She wasn’t interested in the position, but she was interested in her alma mater, so she decided to go, if only to visit.

But she and the new president got along immediately, and she found herself seriously considering the job offer that followed.

“It was hard,” Georgia said. She loved teaching, she had received awards for teaching, but she, as well as her trusted colleagues and friends in whom she confided, knew that seeking and embracing change was how she had lived her entire life. This was the new place she could go and vocation she could do, so she joined the administration at Princeton.



(Above) Georgia took her lunch at Bertholf Commons with current IWU students as part of her “President for a Day” swap. This year, she traded places with **Liam Killian ‘25**, a history and political science double major. “I really loved having lunch with some of Liam’s roommates, going to the Ethics Bowl prep and brainstorming at the Philosophy Club table in Tommy’s,” Georgia told *The Argus*.

Back at Princeton, Georgia became fascinated with how universities work. She even found that she had almost unconsciously collected her own library of books about university administration without thinking that it was what she should do herself. But it wasn’t long into her new position that she told Shapiro, “You know, I think I’d like to be the president of a liberal arts college.”

To that end, Shapiro became a kind of mentor.

“He demonstrated how important it was to be fair. His top priority was to understand all sides of an issue,” Georgia said. “Whenever someone came to him with a problem, it would be easy to react by thinking ‘oh my, that’s terrible!’ But he knew how important it was to get the facts, not just one side of the story.”

Georgia also admired his commitment to “always be seeking the

good of the whole — not a particular person or interest but the whole institution.”

She would have her opportunity to exercise those values when she immediately fell in love with Kenyon College in an interview on the rural Ohio campus, and they reciprocated by appointing her as the college’s president in 2003.

“I thought, ‘This is a place where people really care about teaching,’” Georgia said. “The faculty were so engaged with their students and cared so much about them. I just loved it. And I helped raise about a quarter billion dollars.”

Georgia spent 10 years at Kenyon, and, since then, her career has been devoted to liberal arts colleges and universities, whether as a president or an advocate. Illinois Wesleyan is the next step in a life of always looking for opportunities to embrace change, doing what she loves and being great at doing it. ❖

Shana (Bushyhead) Condill '99, as the director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian, is giving new voice to a cultural conversation she first entered as a student at Illinois Wesleyan.

“The past is never dead. It isn’t even past,” wrote William Faulkner in 1951. But, for Shana (Bushyhead) Condill '99 and her profession, as the director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and a member of the Eastern Band Cherokee nation, the past is alive, and it is living with purpose.

One of Shana’s first projects since joining the Museum of the Cherokee Indian in 2021 has been overseeing the process of removing from display items that are sacred or funerary. For now, these items are being replaced with contemporary works of art created by Cherokee artists while the museum, and the

tribe as a whole, decide where they should go.

“It’s going to take years,” Shana said, but the project is attempting to answer a question that is emerging at the heart of Native American identity in the 21st century.

“For generations, being able to study things like history and archaeology and anthropology wasn’t possible for Native people, and, even when it became possible, these were disciplines that Native people distrusted because the archaeologists and anthropologists were the ones who took our history from us and disrespected it,” Shana said. “But now we’re starting to enter those

CARING FOR OUR ANCESTORS

Story by CHRIS FRANCIS

PHOTO/ MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN

fields and answer the question, ‘How do you run a museum for a living culture?’”



Shana was born in Montana, but her dad worked “all over Indian country,” first as a substance abuse counselor and later working for the United Methodist Church serving Native communities, bringing the family along with him to Oklahoma and Wisconsin. From her high school in Milwaukee, Shana was convinced to apply to Illinois Wesleyan by her alumnus pastor and decided to attend after an overnight visit to campus.

She came to IWU as a chemistry major interested in a career in environmental chemistry, but that didn’t last the first semester.

“I was kind of a weird over-achiever in high school doing band and sports and everything, and I came to Wesleyan thinking I would do the same thing,” so she immediately dove into chemistry, physics and calculus, which she flunked. Her first-semester GPA was 1.5.

But she was also taking a women’s history course as a “fun class,” until she realized that it didn’t just have to be for fun. It could be a career path. She ended up becoming a double major in English and history, with an enduring fondness for Professors Dan Terkla, Tom Lutze and April Schultz.

It was Terkla, now a professor emeritus of English, who turned her interest toward museums when he invited a scholar from the National Museum of the American Indian to speak on campus and encouraged Shana to attend.

“I was sitting in this lecture having my mind blown,” Shana remembers. “To hear her talk about a museum specifically for Native



PHOTO/ MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN

(Above) A visitor at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian observes a piece from the “Disruption” exhibit. (Opposite page) Shana (Bushyhead) Condill is the director of the Museum of the Cherokee Indian as of May 2021.

people, I was floored.”

Guided by Schultz, Shana interned at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian and the National Museum of the American Indian. On campus she completed an honors project on IWU’s John Wesley Powell collection of Southwestern pottery as a case study of Native representation in museums.

“He was the director of the Bureau of Ethnology at the Smithsonian, so I see John Wesley Powell’s name everywhere I go,” Shana said. “It’s kind of funny to start at a little Midwestern school working with his collection and have him follow me throughout my career.”

Still, “At that time very few universities, let alone a little one like Wesleyan, had a Native studies program, so building my own is something all my professors helped with,” Shana said. “And I spent the rest of my time at Wesleyan trying to make up for that 1.5.”



Shana met her husband, Buck Condill ’99, in one of Lutze’s class-

es during their senior year, and the two married when they moved for Shana’s master’s education at the University of Delaware. But the beginning of her career brought her back to Illinois where her husband’s family, for six generations, had and still owns a farm-turned-historical tourism business in Arthur, Illinois.

Between her short stint as a curator at a small Pennsylvania museum and over a decade at her husband’s family business, Shana was wearing every hat there was in directing an organization, even though she told herself in graduate school that she would never be a museum director. Shana wanted to be in the trenches, and when she was offered a job with the National Gallery of Art on Washington D.C.’s National Mall, she was ready to go back in.

But the experience was, at first, not what she expected.

“I got there and I thought, ‘Woah, this is pretty old-school’” Shana said. “It was based on a European idea of museums,” and its collection in 2017 was especially dismal in Native American representation.

CARING FOR OUR ANCESTORS

There were only 24 total pieces from Native artists, all of which were works on paper — pieces rarely able to be displayed publicly due to their sensitivity to light. Shana worried that she had made a mistake, until the museum's director retired, and his replacement was Shana's dream pick.

Kaywin Feldman, a leader in reimagining museums in an era of their decolonization and increased self-representation of American cultures, became the new director. Shana was ecstatic, especially when Feldman lived up to her expectations by acquiring a piece by the contemporary artist Jaune Quick-to-See Smith, a citizen of the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Nation.

Feldman became a role model for Shana, exemplifying what it could mean to be a director that moved a museum forward, not only by expanding a diverse collection from the past but the present as well. Shana decided that she had to stay.

“We believe that, when someone makes something — a tool, a bowl, a piece of art — they are putting a part of themselves into it. They’re giving it life.”

— SHANA (BUSHYHEAD) CONDILL'99

And she did stay, until she had no choice but to leave.



“It looks like we’re moving to North Carolina,” Shana’s husband said as he tossed a copy of *The Cherokee One Feather* newspaper at her. The Museum of the Cherokee Indian, nestled in the Great Smoky Mountains about 40 miles west of Asheville where Shana had interned as an Illinois Wesleyan student, was looking for a new director. But deciding to apply wasn’t a given.

“I had a sense of responsibility to my tribe, that I wanted to make sure that the person who got this job was the best person for the

job,” Shana said, and she had never wanted to be a director herself. But the sense of responsibility overwhelmed her to the point that whatever she wanted personally became indistinguishable from what she wanted for the tribe. If she applied, she could help the museum find the best person for the job, and they decided it was her.

In taking the job, Shana would be splitting her time between D.C. and North Carolina while her daughter was still in high school back at the capital, but she would return to the conversation that she had first entered with her honors project at Illinois Wesleyan.

“We’re rethinking what it is to tell a story of a living culture,” Shana said. A museum by and for the Cherokee people is in a unique position to lead that conversation, and it wasn’t

PHOTO/ MUSEUM OF THE CHEROKEE INDIAN



(Above left) Shana introduces museum visitors to the “Disruption” exhibit.
(Above right) New art pieces featured in the “Disruption” exhibit.



long before Shana was overseeing the project that would attempt to provide an answer.



To Shana, the museum and the Cherokee people, the objects on display are not inert, inanimate things.

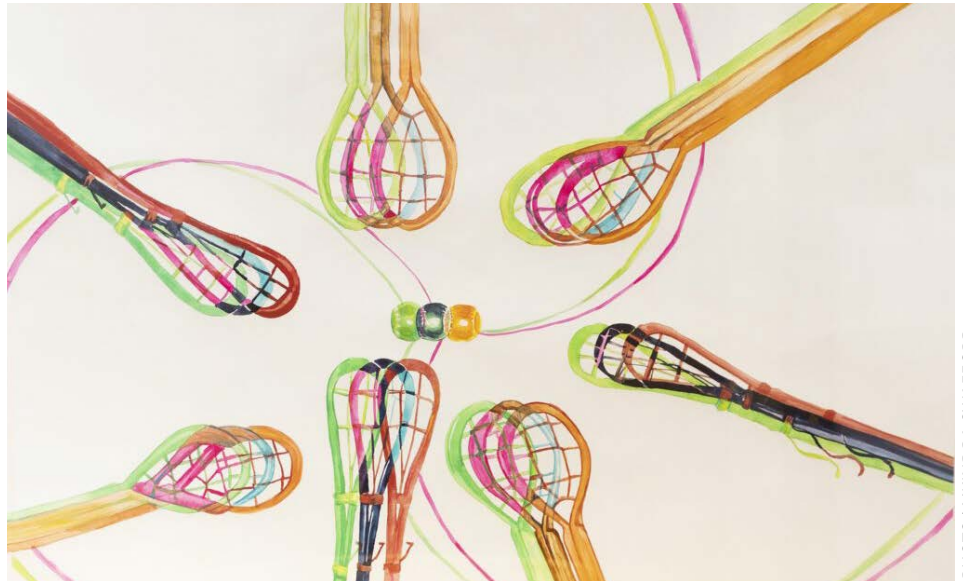
“We believe that, when someone makes something — a tool, a bowl, a piece of art — they are putting a part of themselves into it. They’re giving it life,” Shana said.

It’s even preferable to not call, or think of, the items in the museum’s collection as “objects” but as “ancestors.” They are a remaining piece of the person who made them that is imbued with that person’s life and purpose and is on a continuing journey. Shana only calls them “objects” to distinguish them from the bodily remains of tribal ancestors, begrudging the fact that English lacks a word for what the objects are.

And the living purpose of many, if not all, of these objects may not be as exhibits in a museum or even items in a collection. Certainly in the case of funerary objects, they have an originally intended place and purpose that still exists, the same as a stone over a grave in a cemetery, but they have been taken from that place by people who likely didn’t understand or respect their purpose. Their journey has been disrupted.

“Disruption” is the theme, and the name, of the new exhibit that is making this point at the Museum of the Cherokee Indian. Shana, along with the museum staff and board, decided to remove 122 objects from display, out of more than 500 total, until they can be reviewed.

Doing so is a scholarly exercise, determining the facts of an artifact’s history, but it’s also a spiritual one. The ultimate decision to be made is where the object is in its journey and



PHOTO/ MKINDRA SWAFFORD

(Above) The Cherokee artists producing art for the “Disruption” exhibit were given a broad mandate to create anything that evoked Native themes and styles. This often produced pieces that were vibrantly colorful and made use of unexpected artistic tools, like Sharpie markers.

where it should go next.

But the emptied display cases are also an opportunity for new objects with new journeys, because, as Shana wants visitors to know, “We aren’t still in the 1800s living in teepees. There are tons of Cherokee living today, creating a living culture that we can exhibit.”

So the removed objects have been replaced, for the time being, by newly made art that is conspicuously modern. It features fresh, bright colors — contrasting with the expected earth-tone exhibit, even “disrupting” it — with contemporary styles and artistic tools, including Sharpie markers. They exhibit modern Cherokee culture just as prominently as the previous objects exhibit ancestral Cherokee culture, but, crucially, the purpose and journey of these objects intentionally placed them in their displays.

In the meantime, the question of which and whether the ancestral objects should remain in the museum’s collection or return to their

original purpose is not straightforward, and there is immense weight in the decision.

The person who made an object might have intended it for a specific ceremony their people would perform, yes, but they didn’t know that there would be centuries of colonization and genocide of the people they made it for.

“If they were alive today, would they want its new purpose to be to teach their descendants about Cherokee history?” Shana asked.

The ancestors who made these objects can’t answer, which makes the duty that falls to Shana, the museum and the Cherokee people deeply humbling as they care for their elders who suffered generations of injustice — and the same elders care for them by continuing to serve the purposes they fulfilled in their creations.

“It’s a world of high highs and low lows,” Shana said. But the Disruption exhibit is the culmination of her own career’s purpose so far. ❖

Alumni Update

NEWS, WORKS AND CELEBRATIONS OF IWU ALUMNI & FRIENDS

1967

Alan Leahigh was recently presented with the Cord Blood Association's (CBA) 2022 Lifetime Achievement Award. The CBA is an international nonprofit organization that uses the stem cells from umbilical cord blood and birthing tissues to help with blood diseases, inherited genetic disorders, bone marrow failure and immune deficiency diseases. Alan was the CEO of the CBA from 2014 to 2022. He is currently, and has been since 2010, the president of The Rodda Foundation, which provides management consulting for nonprofit organizations and professional and trade associations.

1969

Richard Jenkins was nominated for a Golden Globe award in the category of best supporting

actor in a series for his performance in *Monster: The Jeffrey Dahmer Story*. Richard played Lionel Dahmer, Jeffrey Dahmer's father. Richard is an award-winning actor most famous for his performances in Guillermo del Toro's *The Shape of Water* and *The Visitor*. For both performances Richard was nominated for Academy Awards including Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor.

1971

Frankie Faison was profiled in an article published by the *Daily Press* in Norfolk, Virginia. The article details Frankie's nearly five-decade career as an actor since earning his BFA in drama from Illinois Wesleyan and an MFA from New York University, inspired by his hometown pastor and participation in church plays. Frankie has appeared

in Broadway shows including *Fences*, which earned him a Tony Award nomination, and has television and film credits including *Coming to America*, *Do the Right Thing* and *Silence of the Lambs*. His most recent performance was as the title character of *The Killing of Kenneth Chamberlain* — a historical film about the police shooting of a retired Black U.S. marine.

1972

Joan (Baeder) Alverzo was awarded with the Distinguished Alumna Award by the IWU School of Nursing in September 2022. Joan is an accomplished academic, researcher and practitioner whose articles have been published in numerous peer reviewed nursing and medical research journals, and she has been presenting her research at conferences for over 20 years.

Joan has also been a member of the editorial board for *Rehabilitation Nursing* since 2010 and senior vice president for clinical operations at Select Medical since 2013. From 2008 to 2014, she was an associate professor of nursing at Rutgers University, where she taught a course in economic and financial management in nursing. In her executive role, she has established a total of 23 rehabilitation hospitals, and in 2019 she established a patient safety organization with Select Medical Corporation, one of 77 federally sanctioned organizations recognizing 120 hospitals owned by Select Medical with federal designated status for excellence in patient safety.

1974

Jack Herrmann retired from his position at the University of Illinois as a clinical associate



Alan Leahigh '67



Meg (Priestly) McDonald '82

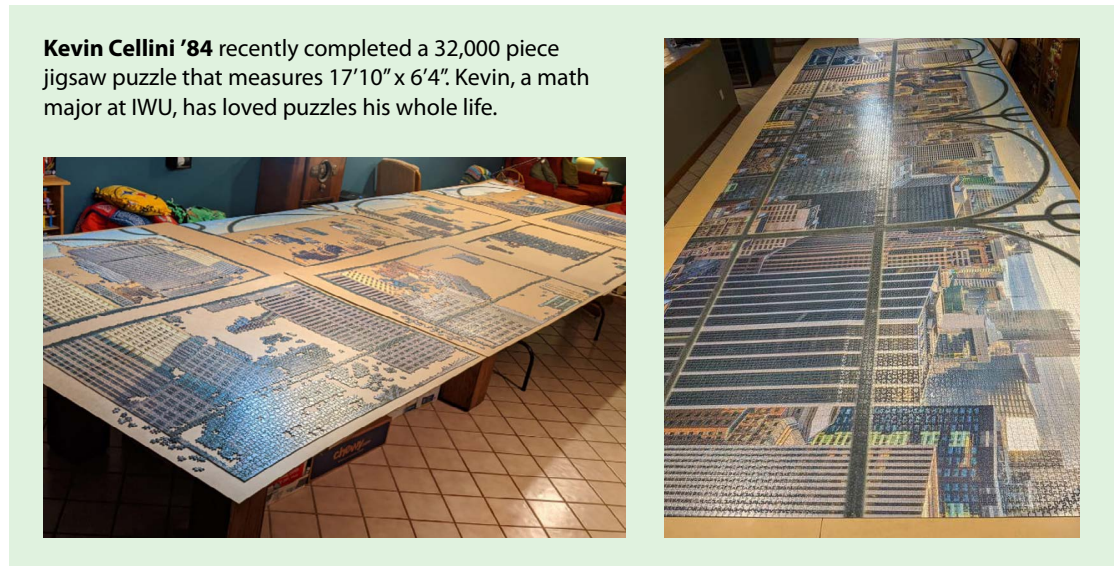
professor of veterinary medicine in 2021 and was awarded status as professor emeritus by the board of trustees. He still enjoys presenting as a guest lecturer on subjects from the health impacts of climate change to emerging infectious diseases. Additionally, Jack was recently re-elected as vice-chair of the Illinois State Board of Health.

Bruce Parrish, president of the board for Community Players Theatre in Bloomington, Illinois, celebrated the theater organization's 100th anniversary along with its volunteers. Bruce, who studied theater and elementary education at Illinois Wesleyan, was a local teacher who first performed with the group, unexpectedly, in 1975. Bruce's story, and the history of Community Players Theatre, was detailed in an article published online by WGLT.

1977

Rich McCoy and his wife Laurie were featured in an article published by the Jacksonville (Ill.) Journal-Courier. The article details their status as the "first family" of Jacksonville local theater having spent more than 40 years performing in town. Rich taught English and directed school plays at Jacksonville High School for 28 years, starting in 1985. His favorite shows to direct were *Big River* and *Fiddler on the Roof*.

Jack Sikma was profiled by Basketnews.com in an article detailing his career in the NBA, where he was a seven-time All-Star player, and his influence that helped shape modern basketball's style and strategy in fielding especially tall and large players. During his IWU days, he was known as the 7-foot tall "Witchert Wonder" from Kanka-



Kevin Cellini '84 recently completed a 32,000 piece jigsaw puzzle that measures 17'10" x 6'4". Kevin, a math major at IWU, has loved puzzles his whole life.

kee County, where he was also recently the keynote speaker at the annual meeting of The Hundred Club of Kankakee County.

1978

Tim Brown, a former Indiana state representative from Crawfordsville, received an honorary doctorate from Indiana State University during the school's winter commencement ceremony in December 2022. Tim had been a member of the state's House Ways and Means Committee from 2013 until his retirement in 2022, where he championed funding for construction at Indiana State. He is also a retired emergency room physician and was an assistant clinical professor of medicine at Indiana State.

Richard Potts retired in 2022 as the managing attorney for the Travelers Insurance Staff Counsel Offices in Phoenix, Arizona, and Albuquerque, New Mexico, after a 22 year career with Travelers. Rick attended the University of Arizona College of Law after graduating from IWU and practiced insurance defense litigation in Arizona for most of

his legal career. He now has a specialty law practice focused on alternative dispute resolution in Phoenix.

1980

Barb (Carlson) Nathan retired in February after spending 12 years as CEO of Westminster Village, the largest elder care facility in the Bloomington-Normal area, where she implemented a \$62 million expansion and renovation. Her career, from paramedic to vice president to CEO, was profiled in *The Pantagraph*. The new CEO is **Matt Riehle '97**.

1982

Meg (Priestley) McDonald retired in 2018 after 34 years at Northwestern University to join her Australian husband and family in relocating to Sydney. While at Northwestern, she served as assistant vice president for research and senior director of the Buffett Institute for Global Studies. Since moving to Australia, she has been a very active volunteer with Sydney Wildlife Rescue and the Animal Rescue Cooperative, both of which

rescue and rehabilitate native animals.

1983

Carolyn (Warnken) Jonasen Blackwell married her second husband in August of 2019 and retired in June 2020 after a 30-year teaching career. She is currently preparing to move onto a 44-foot yacht and live aboard full time. She plans to spend 2023 and 2024 living on Chesapeake Bay.

Marcia (Keown) Padden retired after 20 years of serving as a labor relations program manager for Metropolitan Council/Metro Transit in Saint Paul, Minnesota. She is looking forward to all kinds of retiree activities, like not setting an alarm clock.

1984

Tim Black recently retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections where he was the educational facility administrator at the East Moline Correctional Center. Before working for the state, Tim taught English, social studies and special education at schools in both Illinois and New Hampshire. In addition to his teaching, he was a reporter for the Galesburg Register Mail and Kewanee Star Courier where



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

ALUMNI ASSOCIATION NEWS

My Fellow Titans,

An Affinity to Give!

One of the most popular ways alumni give back to IWU is through the Alumni Association's Affinity Groups — Council for Women, International Alumni Network, Pride Alumni Community, Titan Alumni of Color Collective (formerly known as MAN/the Network) and Young Alumni Council. Each of these active alumni groups provide Titan Talks, networking opportunities, educational and inspirational summits, mentoring, pride in belonging to a greater community and philanthropy! Yes, "giving" back in the way of much needed scholarships.

In recent years, IWU affinity groups have awarded a record number of annual scholarships and several have created endowed scholarships to be given in perpetuity to students who have an affinity with the group. These were made possible by our generous alumni who gave during our All-In day of giving and throughout the year!

This year, building on the success of last year's Many Hands Challenge, I, along with the Alumni Association Board of Directors, created the Young Alum at Heart Challenge — when a young alum (who graduated in the last ten years; 2012-2022) gives a gift of \$20 or more, it will be matched dollar-for-dollar until we reach \$20,000. I am happy to announce that the \$20,000 match will go to support annual scholarships given by our affinity groups!

If you too have an affinity to give, there is a list of the several affinity related giving circles in this alumni section. Thank you for giving generously during All In or anytime throughout the year!

Go Titans!

Dirk L. Behrends

Dirk Behrends '87
President, Alumni Association
Board of Directors



2023 Giving Circles

- Alpha Gamma Delta Giving Circle Scholarship
- Esports Giving Circle Scholarship
- Give It Forward Titans Giving Circle Scholarship
- Hoss Giving Circle Scholarship
- International Diversity Giving Circle Scholarship
- IWU Accounting Giving Circle Scholarship
- Kappa Delta Giving Circle Scholarship
- Kappa Kappa Gamma Giving Circle Scholarship
- Linda (Karlovetz) Favero Memorial Giving Circle Scholarship
- Mighty Proud: Phi Gamma Delta Giving Circle Scholarship
- Monica Taylor Memorial Giving Circle Scholarship
- Pride Alumni Community Giving Circle Scholarship
- Professor Robert M. Leekley Memorial Giving Circle Scholarship
- Public Service Scholarship - In memory of Janice Catherine Bradley '74 and Beverly Ann Bowman-Lott '75
- Sigma Kappa, Eta Chapter Giving Circle Scholarship
- Tau Kappa Epsilon, Alpha Chapter Giving Circle Scholarship
- Theta Chi Giving Circle Scholarship
- Young Alumni Council Giving Circle Scholarship

SAVE THE DATE!

Make your plans to attend Illinois Wesleyan Homecoming and Family Weekend **October 6 - October 8, 2023!**

New to this year's events schedule is the 1850 Market. We are inviting all small business owners and makers to set up a booth at our 2023 vendor market. We hope this market will become a signature Illinois Wesleyan Homecoming event for years to come!

Visit iwu.edu/hcfw to sign up for a vendor booth, see a schedule of events, or find a hotel room.



Regional All In for Wesleyan Celebrations

You are invited to join us for a day when alumni, parents, and friends of the university come together and celebrate their common tie of being a Titan. This special year celebrates a decade of difference at IWU! Gather together on April 11 at:

Cafe Napoli | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
7754 Forsyth Blvd. | Clayton, MO 63105

Destihl Brewery & Beer Hall | 5 p.m. – 7 p.m.
1200 Greenbriar Drive | Normal, IL 61761

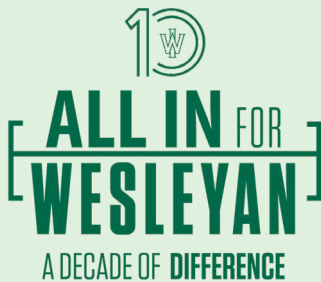
Old Town Pour House | 6 p.m. – 8 p.m.
1703 Freedom Dr. | Naperville, IL 60563

Thirsty Lion | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
2000 E Rio Salado Pkwy Suite 1041 | Tempe, AZ 85281

ViewHouse Centennial | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
7101 South Clinton St. | Centennial, CO 80112

Yard House | 5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
320 West Las Colinas Blvd. | Irving, TX 75039

Find out more at: iwu.edu/alumni/events



Is It Your Reunion Year?

Does your graduation year end in 3 or 8? Then we're celebrating **YOU** at Homecoming 2023! The Office of Alumni Engagement is looking for volunteers to help make their reunion year a success.

Find out more at: iwu.edu/reunion/



Charlene Aaron '94

he won back-to-back Illinois Associated Press Awards for public service writing. Tim is a trustee emeritus at Black Hawk College, where he also worked as an adjunct instructor.

Tim Brophy was reelected to a second term as the Treasurer of Will County, Illinois, in the 2022 midterm elections. Tim was born and raised in Joliet, where he began his career in banking and real estate and became a founding board member of the Joliet Area Historical Museum. Before being elected treasurer in 2018, he had also served as a Joliet City Councilman from 1995 to 2011.

1991

Jerilyn Morrissey was named the chief medical officer of CorroHealth, a medical industry services firm. Jerilyn is known throughout the medical industry as a leader in clinical revenue integrity and compliance who previously served as senior vice president of clinical and regulatory affairs at Versalus Health, which merged with CorroHealth in 2022.

1993

Dean Jukovich has been named CFO of First Bank Chicago where he will work with the CEO and board to track, forecast and communicate operational results and strategic performance. Dean has been with First Bank Chicago



Erik Hjerpe '01

since 2018 with a career in finance spanning 30 years. At IWU, he studied public accounting.

1994

Charlene Aaron has been appointed as president of Saint Francis Medical Center College of Nursing in Peoria, Illinois, and Saint Anthony College of Nursing in Rockford, Illinois. Charlene was chancellor and professor at St. John's College of Nursing for seven years before beginning her new position. She earned her nursing degree at Illinois Wesleyan after taking a break from education to have a family. Charlene went on to receive her masters degree from Illinois State University.

Shad Beaty partnered with Dr. Molly Lundy and Springfield Clinic to bring a new pediatric center to Bloomington, Illinois, and the first Springfield Clinic location in the Bloomington-Normal area. Shad previously practiced in the Morton, Illinois, area. He studied biology at IWU and received his medical degree from the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Peoria, Illinois. His pediatric residency was with OSF Health-care St. Francis Medical Center in Peoria.

Marc Talluto was honored as the IWU Alumni Entrepreneur of the Year on Nov. 3, 2022 at the Bloomington-Normal Entrepre-

neur of the Year Awards Recognition dinner. Marc is a prolific entrepreneur who has served as a consultant, executive and board member for nine different companies and is a member of the IWU Board of Trustees. He and his wife, Noel, are founding investors in the Petrick Idea Center promoting innovation and entrepreneurship on campus. He studied computer science and business administration at Illinois Wesleyan.

1996

Carla Vigue was named director of tribal relations at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. She is a member of the Oneida Nation of Wisconsin, and, in her role, she will lead efforts to implement projects and foster partnerships with the 12 First Nations of Wisconsin. She also serves as a director at the National Council of Urban Indian Health in Washington, D.C., and developed a state-wide strategy to assist

the Wisconsin Department of Veteran Affairs in reaching tribal veterans.

1997

Matt Riehle is the new CEO of Westminster Village retirement community in Bloomington, Illinois. Matt has spent nine years at Westminster Village as lieutenant to **Barb Nathan '80**, who ran Westminster Village for 12 years. Matt studied nursing at Illinois Wesleyan and has spent his career working in senior living.

Corey Schieler was chosen as the Chicago Bears Fan of the Year. Corey is a life-long Bears fan who has been to over 60 games with friends, family and coworkers, but he was nominated for his charitable work raising money for children with debilitating diseases, including helping to grant more than 30 wishes with the Make-a-Wish foundation.

1998

Dan Wasiolek was featured in an article in *The Wall Street Transcript* seeking his opinion about possible recession fears in 2023. Dan explained that he and Morningstar Research Services, the financial research firm for which he is a senior equity analyst, do not expect the US economy to enter a recession but do expect slow growth in 2023. Dan studied business administration and German at Illinois Wesleyan.

Annabelle Veerapaneni was featured in an article on the Kankakee (Ill.) *Daily Journal's* website for breast cancer awareness month in October 2022. Annabelle explains the importance of ordinary measures people can take to reduce their risk of developing cancer, including regular screenings and healthy lifestyle. Annabelle is the oncology medical director at Riverside Cancer Institute in Bourbonnais,

Illinois, where she has worked for 14 years.

2001

Erik Hjerpe was promoted from senior director, information technology to vice president, supply chain at TreeHouse Foods, a private label food manufacturer based in Oak Brook, Illinois, with facilities across the US. Erik is also running for a position on the Wheaton, Illinois, school board district 200. He has been with TreeHouse for 13 years and has spent his career working in the automotive, consumer product and food production industries as well as briefly living in Germany, Austria and China. Erik studied business administration at IWU where some of his favorite classes were with Professors Tari Renner and Fred Hoyt.

Erika (Rozinek) Holst has curated an exhibition at the Illinois State Museum, "Growing Up X," that explores the toys, technologies and cultural touchstones surrounding Generation X. The exhibition features items familiar to anyone who grew up in the '70s and '80s, including telephones with cords, record and cassette players and an Apple IIe computer. The exhibit also explores how growing up in the shadow of the Vietnam War, the Cold War, the AIDS crisis and the War on Drugs shaped Gen Xers as individuals and a

Scott Collins '02 is taking his biology students from Lemont (Ill.) High School to the Galapagos Islands and bringing **Kosha (Baxi) Carstens '02** along as a chaperone and "resident biologist" on the trip. Since 2017, Scott has been taking his students on class trips, usually lasting about one week, to engage in scientific field work and conservation. Previous trips have gone to places like the grasslands of Yellowstone National Park and scuba diving with sharks in Honduras, but the Galapagos Islands have long been his dream destination. Scott and Kosha have known each other since they were two years old and have been best friends since college. This will be the first of Scott's class trips that Kosha has been able to join.



Mark Ordonez '02



Alicia (Johnston) Joos '04

generation, including interactive screens to watch commercials and news broadcasts from the '70s and '80s. Erika is the curator of history at the Illinois State Museum.

2002

Mark Ordonez started his new job in September 2022 as the director of information systems & security with Honest Game, a consulting firm for educational institutions and student athletes. Mark has nearly 20 years of experience in education technology, having previously spent 19 years working in the Chicago suburbs with Township High School District 211 and Maine Township High School District 207, where he was director of information systems and chief technology officer for five years. At IWU, Mark majored in physics and computer science and was a member of The Society of Physics Students.

2004

Alicia (Johnston) Joos competed on the Food Network's *Christmas Cookie Challenge*. Alicia is a graphic designer and pastry artist in Park City, Utah, who posts photos of her cookie creations under the Instagram handle @ladysugarsparkles.

Abby Reel has expanded her business, The Barn III Dinner Theatre and Event Center, by adding The Barn Tree Farm — a sustainable Christmas tree farm in Goodfield, Illinois. The tree farm service includes delivering a potted Christmas tree to customers' homes during the holiday season and retrieval to return the tree to the farm to be cared for through the rest of the year. Abby, who studied sociology at Illinois Wesleyan, has owned and run The Barn III Dinner Theatre and Event Center, since 2018.



Catherine Espel-Logan '07

2007

Catherine Espel-Logan was selected for a 12-month position as leadership development associate at State Farm Insurance developing strategies for the company's Homeowner's Product Line Management team. Catherine has been at State Farm for 16 years where she has served in several roles, including as a technology product analyst. She and her spouse also created their own graphic design and custom apparel business, Beagle FX, in November 2019.

Myla Green completed her MA/MBA in Jewish professional leadership and social impact at Brandeis University's Heller School. She also started a new job as the executive director of Temple Reyim, a conservative synagogue in Newton, Massachusetts, where she will be a key leader in a Jewish campus collaboration between Temple Reyim, Hebrew College and a handful of small Jewish non-profits, in addition to overseeing synagogue operations.

Steve Groetsema was included in the Crain's Chicago Business 40 under 40 list for his accomplishments with real estate services company Bridge Industrial based in Chicago. Steve has been with Bridge since he graduated from IWU with a BA in economics and



Anna Behrmann '09

Hispanic studies in 2007 and has served as chief operating officer since 2019.

Jenifer (Becker) Horn has been appointed director of the heart center advanced practice and nursing at Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago. Jenifer was previously an advanced practice nurse at the heart center who treated adult patients born with congenital heart conditions that the heart center specializes in treating. Jenifer brings to her new position the unique expertise of learning about congenital heart conditions from treating adults to help children diagnosed with the same conditions.

Megan (Baranowski) Pearl was promoted to vice president of technology at Locus Bio-Energy Solutions and was honored as one of Hart Energy's 25 Influential Women in Energy. The industry news source published an article online detailing Megan's career turn from her degree in forensic science to optical engineering in the energy technology sector.

Abby (Csanda) Prescott was named executive director of marketing and communications at The Polsky Center for Entrepreneurship and Innovation at the University of Chicago. In the role, she will promote the entrepre-

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 or (309) 556-3095. Here's how others are getting involved.

Coding Interviewing Workshop

Dan George '09

Media/Communications Panel

Eric Rydell '17, Kyle Brigham '06, Tara Roak '15, Alex Johnson '14 and Dave Buesing '10

Careers in Software Engineering at Google

Alan Russian '15

Spring Internship/Job Fair

Anna Rossi '13, James Morris '02, Aneesh Sehgal '15, Tim Irvin '06, Vi Kakares '20, Emma Helferich '22, Ashley Mohr '22, Mateo Grajales '21, Sue Seibring '82, Aaron Simon '20, Breanna Walker '20 and Katie Vogler '22

Practice Interviews & Recruitment

Brian Rawlins '01, Zach Freeman '07, Lauren Rock '13, Erin Milligan '04, Lisa Powell Williams '88, Alexandria Gohla '09, Carole Liske '77, Alan Loy '99 and Jessica Shull '03

Pre-Health Programming

Kimberly Diller '15, CJ Marchi '20, Kyle Cole '22, Ria Patel '22, Dr. Mike Henry '12, Kami McVeigh '87, Dr. Dan Lau '03, Dr. David Aggen '05, Dr. Tyler Neal '05, Melissa Podrazik '16, Rachel Aron '16, Dr. Dino Mendez '07, Dr. Lindsay Brackney '06, Dr. Shawn Lapetino '01, Hannah Corley '13, Valerie Corwin '05, Dr. Tyler Neal '05, Dr. Bradley Grant '03, Nicole Bing '18, Maeghan Eaker '22, Jackson Rapala '22, Maggie Olson '10 and Samantha Ziomek '20



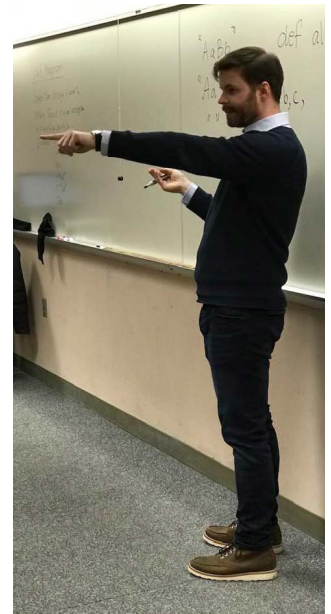
(Above) Erin Milligan '04, Alexandria Gohla '09 and sophomore Franchesca Smith at the Women's Council Practice Interviews.



(Above) Allan Russian '15, staff Software Engineer with Google, talking with computer science students.



(Above) Emma Helferich '22, Ashley Mohr '22 and Vi Kakares '20 at the Spring Internship Job Fair sharing information on careers with Access2Insight.



(Above) Dan George '09 Software Engineer with Microsoft, presenting to students during the Coding Interviewing Workshop.



Joey Pacione '14

neurship programs that the Polsky Center makes available to students, faculty, alumni, and other partners of the center. Abby previously spent nine years in multiple leadership positions at the nonprofit organization Urban Gateways in Chicago.

2008

Michael Wolf was appointed vice president of Farnsworth Group, Inc., a national engineering, architecture and survey firm in Bloomington, Illinois. Michael has been with Farnsworth Group since he graduated from IWU in 2008 and has held several management and executive positions there. He has also served on the boards of organizations including the Multicultural Leadership Institute, the Central Illinois Chapter of Healthcare Engineering and the Rupert Trust. Michael studied piano performance at Illinois Wesleyan and got his degree in electrical engineering from Marquette University.

2009

Anna Behrmann was promoted to counsel at the law firm Faegre Drinker in January 2023. Faegre Drinker is one of the top 50 largest full-service law firms in the US where Anna has been an antitrust attorney since 2014. Anna studied political science and economics at IWU.

Joe Carani was named the di-



Kevin Ryan '16

rector of operations at 3 Sheeps Brewing Company in Sheboygan, Wisconsin. Joe has worked in the brewing industry since leaving the finance world in 2012.

Alex (Salansky) Gohla started a mental health private practice, Bluebird Counseling Services, in Naperville, Illinois. Alex began her career as a mental health and trauma victim advocate in 2009 and is a licensed clinical social worker specializing in helping adults and adolescents with trauma, anxiety, depression, maternal mental health issues and other conditions.

Andrew Herrington-Gilmore and **Lauren Giannini '08** together founded The Gilmore Family Foundation in summer 2022. The foundation is raising money to support children diagnosed with rare diseases by funding diagnosis, treatment, research and awareness. Andrew and Lauren were inspired to create the foundation after their own two children were diagnosed with rare and debilitating diseases and were saved and rehabilitated by successful treatments. Their first event in April 2023 will raise money for Children Wisconsin's Undiagnosed and Rare Disease Program.

Bryce Pierson was awarded the 2022 Legal Innovator of the Year Award from the State Bar of



Jasmine Wright '17

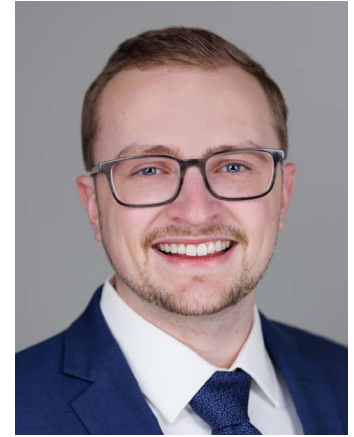
Wisconsin. The award recognized Bryce's work with Carol Hessler, a librarian and web developer at the Wisconsin State Law Library, creating an accessible database of free digital jury instructions. The database is designed to be useful to lawyers, judges and laypeople representing themselves in court.

2010

Brett Luy was named club president of Rhode Island Football Club in the United Soccer League. As president, Brett will take responsibility for the club's organizational operation and overall success as a soccer club for the state of Rhode Island. He was previously executive vice president of league operations for United Soccer League, North America's largest professional soccer organization. At IWU Brett played soccer and studied English. He received a master's degree in sports management from Florida State University.

2014

Joey Pacione was named the head track and field coach at Lake Park High School where, this fall, he also completed his first season as the head cross country coach. Joey has served as an assistant track coach at Minnesota State University Moorhead and Southern Illinois University Edwardsville, and this will be his fifth year at Lake Park.



Ross Burandt '20

He is now one year away from gaining his teaching credentials and intends to teach math at Lake Park as well. At IWU, Joey majored in psychology and enjoyed sports psychology with Professor Jason Themanson. Joey was a captain of the track team and earned 4 CCIW titles.

2016

Kevin Ryan was hired as an SEO manager at Reprise Digital after previously being a senior SEO associate at 360i. At both companies, he worked with Fortune 500 companies to improve their visibility for frequently searched keywords in search engines. At IWU, Kevin was a political science major who graduated with honors and interned with Professor Tari Renner's 2012 mayoral campaign.

2017

Jasmine Wright was promoted to SEO manager at Reprise Digital where she oversees major projects optimizing websites' visibility on search engines and helping to develop holistic marketing strategies for clients. Her current clients are businesses in the insurance and pharmaceutical industries. At IWU, Jasmine enjoyed spending time at the English House with her professors. She also minored in Hispanic studies, spent a semester abroad in Dublin and graduated with honors.



Haley Scheller '20 and family

2019

Veronica Torres Luna graduated from the Master of Public Administration program at the University of Illinois Chicago and is now working as a program associate at the Circle Of Service Foundation in Chicago. Veronica studied political science and psychology at Illinois Wesleyan.

2020

Ross Burandt's non-profit organization Med Ed Materials recently celebrated connecting 1,000 low-income and uninsured patients with free and accessible health education materials. Ross started the organization in 2021, during his second year in medical school, and has partnered with other medical students to expand the organization's capacity.

Haley Scheller underwent her white coat ceremony at Dominican University and received her degree as a master of medical science in physician assistant studies. She has begun her clinical rotations with a pediatric clinic in the Bridgeport neighborhood of Chicago. Haley studied neuroscience at IWU where she graduated cum laude.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

IWU physics department Instructor and Instrument Specialist **Marc Tiritilli** is running for a seat on the Normal Town Council. Marc has twice previously run for mayor of Normal and in 2017 lost the race by only 11 votes. The Normal Town Council election will be held on April 4, 2023.

Tiny Titans

Kyle Painter '01 and Emmi Felker-Quinn;
Iris Robin Painter, born Sept 7, 2022

Amy Frymark '04 and Leo Flores;
Caroline Jay Flores, born June 4, 2022

Travis '07 and **Bailee (Soltys) Myers '07**;
Thomas Chance Myers, born recently

Anthony '10 and **Jayne (Thomas) Gunnell '10**;
Lachlan Thomas Gunnell, born Oct 1, 2021

Jason '09 and **Karen (Solari) Lopez '12**;
Anthony John Lopez, born recently

Sean '11 and **Melissa (Seeborg) O'Connor '13**;
Abigail Mei O'Connor, born Oct 26, 2022

Scott '12 and **Kristen (Gattuso) Wenzel '12**;
Tate Joseph Wenzel, born Nov 19, 2022

Hannah (Smith) Phelps '14 and Neal;
Elanor Louise Phelps, born recently

Lia (Analitis) Gewargis '16 and Raymond;
Hermes Demetrios Gewargis, born Dec 17, 2022

Karolina (Sierzputowska) Sodici '16 and Michael;
Gabriella Anna Sodici, born recently

Hannah (Wolles) Denault '16 and Alex;
Camryn Denault, born April 2022

Mackenzie (Marquis) Hoekstra '18 and Kurtis;
Beckham Hoekstra, born July 20, 2022

Jillian (Runyon) Uhlman '19 and Blake;
Annie Blake Uhlman, born Sept 9, 2022

*All submitted content received by **February 13, 2023**. The submitted content deadline for the Summer/Fall 2023 issue of IWU Magazine is **May 22, 2023**. 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 iwu.edu/magazine, via email at iwumag@iwu.edu, or by mail at P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702. All submitted content received by **February 13, 2023**.



(Above) Hannah (Gallee) Downing '17 married ISU alumnus Ryan Downing on Oct 1, 2022. The couple met while they were both students in Bloomington-Normal.



(Above) James Gorrell '09 married Alina Pacheco in Tulum, Mexico on Nov 12, 2022 with family and friends, including several alumni in attendance.



(Above) Steven '15 and Gina (Franco) Losos '15 got married on July 23, 2022 at Ravisloe Country Club in Homewood, Illinois, with many IWU alumni in attendance. Front row (left to right) **Steven Losos '15, Gina (Franco) Losos '15, Erica Kucharski '15, Becca Brait '15**. Back row (left to right) **Gina Blaskie '17, Carlos Medina '17, Brady Hails '15, Luke Rossi '15, Joe Guerrero '18, Vincent Catania '17, Kyle Pollock '16, Alec Starr '14, Trey Rogers '15, Tom Tyrrell '14**.

David Petrick '67 died Dec. 2, 2022. A full obituary is forthcoming in the Summer/Fall 2023 issue of the *IWU Magazine*.

Faculty, Staff and Friends

Laima Gaigalas died Jan. 21, 2023. She was 93. Originally from Lithuania, Laima began her teaching career at University High School in Normal where she taught French before going on to become a French instructor at Illinois Wesleyan. Her Ph.D. was in French literature, which she obtained from the University of Grenoble in France. Even after retirement, she continued to teach French as a substitute teacher. Laima was also an avid ping pong player. She is survived by two children and one grandchild.

Glenn Swichtenberg died Jan. 9, 2023. He was 88. Glenn was the oldest of a family of 12 children in Chicago. Born to an impoverished family, he worked as a child in a grocery store to help pay for food, but his life was changed after a high school teacher helped him to get into Illinois State University and eventually earn his Ph.D. in education. He was the dean of student affairs at Illinois Wesleyan in the 80s and served on the board of many organizations, including The Baby Fold, United Way, the John M. Scott Health Care Center and the OSF St. Joseph Community Board.

Sam Glenn Scifres died Jan. 22, 2023. He was 86. Sam was born on a western Texas cotton farm and discovered his vocation of singing as a high school sophomore with the Men's Quartet at the First Baptist Church of Rule, Texas. He got his degree in music education from Hardin Simmons University in Abilene before being drafted into the army and assigned to a tour in post-war Italy. He came back to the U.S. to obtain his graduate degree and begin teaching at Illinois Wesleyan as a voice instructor, where he remained for 47 years. Sam is survived by a child, two grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Alumni

Iona Kingdon Davis '44 died Dec. 13, 2022. She was 99. Iona was a business major at Illinois Wesleyan as well as a member of Sigma Kappa Eta. She graduated to become a flight attendant for Trans World Airlines before marrying her husband, Roy, and settling in Bloomington. They were married for 49 years. Iona is survived by two children.

Robert Lee Pitsch '45 died Nov. 7, 2022. He was 102. After earning his bachelor's degree from Illinois Wesleyan, got his master's degree in divinity from Garrett Theological Seminary and became an ordained United Methodist pastor in 1949. He served in the Illinois Great Rivers Conference for 43 years. After retirement, he and his wife, Helen, moved to Kill Devil Hills, North Carolina where he was a member of the American Cancer Society, the North Dare (county) Ministerial Association and he was chaplain for the Kill Devil Hills fire department. Robert is survived by three children, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Norman "Norm" Erickson '50 died May 17, 2022. He was 95. Norm was born in Chicago to Swedish immigrants and became a star high school football player in Libertyville, Illinois, being inducted into the Lake County Hall of Fame in 2012 for both his athletic accomplishments and his 36-year career as a high school football and basketball official. Norm was a member of the U.S. Navy during the Second World War before returning to finish his degree. He is survived by three children, four grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Phillip Hunt '51 died Nov 20, 2022. He was 97. Phil enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1943 and served in the European theater of the Second World War for two years. He came home to Indiana after the war and earned his bachelor's degree in philosophy at Illinois Wesleyan. After graduation, Phil married his wife Carol and moved to Earlville, Illinois, to start his career as a teacher. He had a particular passion for all kinds of vehicles and had a life-long fondness for Ludington, Michigan, where he and his wife built their dream home after retirement. Phil is survived by four children, 10 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Janet (Weaver) Niewold '53 died Feb. 14, 2023. She was 91. Janet spent most of her life living on the farm her family had owned since 1868. She studied music at IWU and nursing at Bloomington's Menonite School of Nursing and primarily worked as a private nurse throughout her career. Janet was an active community member, being a Past Grand Matron of the Order of the Eastern Star and a member of the Abraham Shrine No. 100, the Paxton American Legion Auxiliary Prairie Unit No. 150, the Sigma Alpha Iota music sorority, the Wall Town 4-H Club and The Moffett Club. She is survived by three children, five grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren.

Phyllis Anne Ford '53 died Nov. 30, 2022. She was 90. Phyllis studied nursing at Illinois Wesleyan and led a successful career as a surgical nurse. She especially loved traveling with her husband of 66 years, Harold, to visit their children in their retirement, as well as going camping and perusing garage sales. She is survived by her husband, four children and five grandchildren.

Elmer Adair Dickson '53 died Dec. 28, 2022. He was 91. Growing up as an only child, Elmer was a life-long student earning degrees from Illinois Wesleyan, Drew University and Scarritt College. He also visited schools in Scotland, Israel and Australia, but he was especially proud of learning to fly single-engine aircraft. He was a United Methodist pastor serving the Chicago area and was a civil rights activist. He is survived by three children, three grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

John "Jack" Stockton '55 died Jan. 21, 2023. He was 90. Jack grew up in Wheaton, Illinois, from which he enlisted for a tour of duty with the U.S. Army. After serving, he earned his bachelor's degree in business administration from Illinois Wesleyan. He had a long career in the construction industry and was a member of St. Andrew Methodist Church in Plano, Illinois. He is survived by his wife, two children and a grandchild.



Sara Ann Davis '55 died Nov. 10, 2022. She was 90. Sara earned her degree from the University of Chicago before returning to school at Illinois Wesleyan on a scholarship to study art. At IWU, she was the treasurer for the Kappa Kappa Gamma sorority. She is survived by three children and six grandchildren.

Irwin Hobart Muncy '56 died Nov. 10, 2022. He was 87. Irwin was an active member of Cherry Hills Church in Springfield, Illinois. He was an avid reader, enjoyed spending time on the golf course and had a lifelong love affair with the St. Louis Cardinals. Irwin is survived by his wife, two children and eight grandchildren.

Patricia "Pat" Howard '58 died Nov. 23, 2022. She was 86. Pat was a Bloomington townie and attended University High School before going to Illinois Wesleyan and later to a school in Minnesota where she was first runner up in the Miss Minnesota Pageant. She enjoyed gardening, quilting, reading and fashion, and her family loved her potato salad and sugar cookies. She was also an active member of Second Presbyterian Church in Normal. Pat is survived by two children.

Carol Ann Fort '58 died Nov. 30, 2022. She was 86. Carol graduated from Illinois Wesleyan, where she was a member of the Alpha Gamma Delta sorority and Alpha Lambda Delta honor society, with a degree in business administration. She spent her career in various roles as Keystone Steel and Wire Co., Midwestern Wood Products and We Care. She was a member of the United Methodist Church wherever she lived and regularly took her grandchildren camping. Carol is survived by her husband, two children, five grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

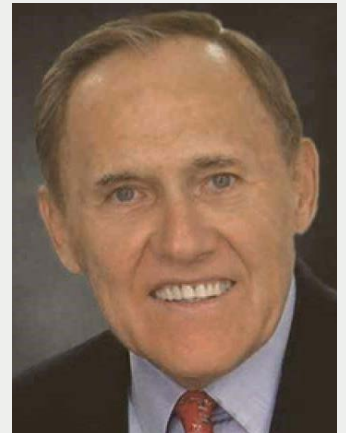
Mary Kate "Katie" Reeder Brandon Fraley '58 died November 1, 2022. She was 86. Born in Dewitt, Illinois, Katie was a dynamic elementary school teacher who influenced countless students over four decades in the classroom. She received her bachelor's degree in education from Illinois Wesleyan University and was a member of Sigma Kappa. As part of her lasting legacy, her grandson Samuel also graduated from Illinois Wesleyan University in 2020 with a bachelor's degree in history and secondary education. Katie is survived by her husband, four children and eight grandchildren.

John Fazzini '59 died February 1, 2023. He was 85. At Illinois Wesleyan, John was a member of the Theta Chi fraternity studying business who went on to receive his master's degree from Loyola University. He retired after 41 years at Calumet Steel Company in Chicago Heights where he finished his career as vice president of administration. He enjoyed traveling, golf and tennis. John is survived by his wife, two children and six grandchildren.

Jean Ruth (Powell) Christman '59 died July 25, 2022. Jean was an accomplished musician, playing piano and viola. She participated in various orchestras and string quartets throughout her adult life. For 35 years, Jean was a music teacher and guidance counselor in Seneca, Illinois. She received her master's degree from Columbia University in New York. Jean was a great asset to her husband's career as a pastor, planning and participating in the church's music program. Following her husband's death, Jean lived in Long Island, New York, and Florida before moving to Houston, Missouri, to be near her brother and extended family.

Patricia Maher Menzenberger '60 died recently. She was 84. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Patricia married her husband, Tom,

Garry Kinder '55 died in February 2023 after having been a member of the Illinois Wesleyan Board of Trustees from 1990 to 2007. He was 88. Garry's career in insurance began with his education at Illinois Wesleyan, where he studied philosophy and business administration. He was the youngest agent in Illinois to become a member of the Million Dollar Round Table in his first year in the industry. After five years as an agent, he was made the Equitable Life Insurance manager in Bloomington, Akron, and Detroit. He capped his career with Equitable by becoming the regional vice president in Dallas. Afterwards, Garry, along with his brother, founded the insurance consulting firm Kinder Brothers & Associates, which published eight best-selling books for the industry. He is personally the author of 11 books, including the *New York Times* bestseller *Winning Strategies in Selling*, written with his brother and with former Dallas Cowboys quarterback Roger Staubach. Beyond his board membership at Illinois Wesleyan, Garry was president of Texas Fellowship of Christian Athletes and the Kidney Foundation of Texas, and he played a role in founding the Baseball Chapel for major league baseball. He was also chairman of the board for the Bill Glass Evangelistic Association. Garry is survived by his wife, three children, six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



and settled in Western Springs, Illinois. The couple had annual season tickets for the Chicago Bears. Being especially social, Patricia hosted elaborate tailgates and dinner parties and joined a "gourmet group" with her husband. She was the host and the center of countless family gatherings, and she was a master gardener. She is survived by her husband, three children and four grandchildren.

Marilyn McCallum '60 died Nov. 6, 2022. Marilyn was raised in an antebellum-style house built by her father in the center of Fairbury, Illinois, where her family kept her horse, Ginger, on the farm outside of town. She was known as an especially warm and gracious host who loved family and playing music on several instruments, though her favorite was the piano. Marilyn is survived by three children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Dorothy "Dotty" Mitchell '61 died December 23, 2022. She was 83. Dotty graduated high school with national honors and became a Kappa Delta at Illinois Wesleyan. She took a break from school to start a family before completing her education at Illinois State University with a degree in education. Dotty was an active and accomplished community member who served as president of the Eugene Field PTA, McLean County Center for Human Services and Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals of McLean County, as well as holding executive positions in other organizations. Dotty is survived by her husband, four children, eleven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

Hannah "Betsy" Bird '62 died Feb. 18, 2023. She was 82. After graduating from Illinois Wesleyan, Betsy did post-graduate work with

Catholic Campus Ministry and began her 23-year career with Valparaiso University as a counselor. Upon her retirement, she was made an Honorary Alumnus by Valparaiso. Betsy is survived by two children and three grandchildren.

Charles “Chuck” Stephens ’62 died Jan. 29, 2023. He was 82. At IWU, Chuck played football and studied history and physical education. He became an officer with the Illinois State Police, from which he retired after 25 years as a master sergeant. He loved boating, fishing, owning dogs, butter pecan ice cream and being a father to his family. Chuck is survived by his wife, four children and four grandchildren.

Jim Joyce ’63 died Oct. 4, 2022. After service in the U.S. Army, Jim worked in Des Moines and Lincoln, Iowa, as a journalist and later as a legislative and gubernatorial assistant. At IWU, he majored in English and was one of the first members of the Acacia fraternity on campus.

Larry Knilands ’64 died Jan. 5, 2023. He was 81. After earning degrees in English from Illinois Wesleyan and the University of Illinois, Larry went into a career in teaching, journalism, photography and editing. His favorite work was his coverage of the Indianapolis 500. He also loved history, classical music and film. He served on the Ford County Republican Central Committee for 10 years as well as Ford Central School Board. Larry is survived by his wife, three children and two grandchildren.

Nancy (Segersten) Meeker ’64 died Oct. 20, 2022. While attending Illinois Wesleyan, Nancy was a member of Kappa Kappa Gamma and kept active with many Kappa alum activities and friends throughout her life. She is survived by her husband **Dave Meeker ’64**, two children, four grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

Bernard “John” Hopwood ’65 died Nov. 30, 2022. He was 79. John was a journeyman electrician for 43 years and spent 59 years married to his high school sweetheart Linda. John is remembered for his large bonfires, pumpkin patch, wagon rides and his expert gardening skills. He was also active in the community as a member of Cavalry Lutheran Church, where he was a trustee, and he was a Shabbona School District board member and the Milan Township Supervisor. John is survived by his wife, four children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

William “Bill” Van Plew ’66 died Dec. 6, 2022. He was 78. Bill’s career as an artist began with music as a member of his popular high school band Shakey Drake and the Rhythm Shakers. At Illinois Wesleyan he earned an art degree specializing in printmaking, and one of his original prints was featured in a gallery show in Washington D.C. Bill joined the U.S. Army where he was assigned to Vietnam as a military journalist. He also loved fishing, boating and spending time with his loved ones. He is survived by his fiancée, three children and six grandchildren.

Clair Hanson ’66 died March 27, 2022. He was 82. After serving four years in the United States Marine Corp, two of them aboard the USS Oriskany aircraft carrier, Clair graduated from Illinois Wesleyan with a bachelor’s degree in math. He went on to receive his master’s degree from the University of Chicago. He spent most of his career as a systems analyst for Yellow Freight System, working in Missouri, California and Kansas. He and his wife, Marla (married almost 50 years at his passing), loved traveling, and Clair traveled to all 50 states in his lifetime. Most of all, he was a devout Christian and loved spending time with his family. He is survived by his wife, two children and six grandchildren.

Linda Emily Paarlberg ’67 died Dec. 31, 2022. Linda was a member of the first class at the Illinois Wesleyan School of Nursing to earn BSN degrees, and she went on to work as an intensive care nurse for 40 years at hospitals between the Chicago area and Central Illinois. She was also a member of the first ICU team at Louis Weiss Hospital in Chicago. Beyond her career, Linda earned the Life Member Award from the Hoffman Estates (Ill.) PTA. She is survived by her husband, three children and six grandchildren.

Joseph “Joe” Anderson ’67 died Oct. 23, 2022. He was 78. Joe was an employee with State Farm Insurance for more than 40 years where he worked in the departments of The Refector Publication, Convention and Travel and Creative Services. He was also a member of the Lakeside Country Club and Crestwicke Country Club. He enjoyed reading, writing, golf, car restoration and travel. Joe is survived by his wife.

Leslie Ulm ’68 died Feb. 5, 2023. He was 76. After Illinois Wesleyan, Leslie earned his master’s degree from Wesley Theological Seminary in 1974. As an academic and theologian, Leslie was a member of the



United Methodist North Central Conference and worked for Onondaga and Elmcrest Children's Center. He wrote a thesis on the responsibility to care for God's earth. Leslie is survived by his wife and child.

Norman Lee "Norm" Michael '69 died Feb 17, 2023. He was 80. Originally from the nation's capital, Norm became a Methodist pastor in Central Illinois after graduating from Illinois Wesleyan. He was also a department manager at Farm & Fleet for more than 30 years. Norm is survived by his child and grandchild.

Kaye Lea Lindberg '69 died Feb. 5, 2023. She was 76. Kaye studied nursing at Illinois Wesleyan and her career as a nurse spanned over 30 years, but she was also a talented musician playing the guitar, piano, banjo and bassoon. She is survived by two children and two grandchildren.

Lloyd Conant '70 died Jan. 11, 2023. He was 76. Lloyd studied sociology at Illinois Wesleyan and had a career with the Illinois state government as a legislative printer. He loved sports, rooting for the University of Illinois and Chicago White Sox, and he was a practiced golfer, having hit a hole-in-one at Timberlake Golf Course in Sullivan, Illinois. He was an active member of multiple Methodist churches. Lloyd is survived by three children.

Elizabeth "Beth" Rice '71 died Jan. 30, 2023. She was 73. Beth devoted her career to the study and practice of law for the public good, having attended the Chicago Kent College of Law and earning her JD in 1980. She was a case worker and supervisor at the Illinois Department of Public Aid and the assistant state's attorney in LaSalle County before joining Cantlin Law Firm. She was also an active community member, joining the Illinois State Bar Association, the Order of the Eastern Star and the American Legion Auxiliary. Beth is survived by three children and nine grandchildren.

Randall Blaine Auker '72 died Jan. 22, 2023. He was 72. Randall was a student of economics and business administration at Illinois Wesleyan as well as a member of the Theta Chi fraternity. During his career, he worked as a financial advisor with several investment firms. He loved travel, history and classic rock music. Randall is survived by his wife, five children and three grandchildren.

Christine (Eik) Winick '73 died Nov. 5, 2022. She was 71. Christine was a passionate woman with strong points of view who loved fashion, style and conversations with friends and acquaintances. As a life-long public servant, she earned her graduate degrees and certificates in public administration and collective bargaining and labor relations and she was a certified hostage negotiator. In 2010, she was recognized as the Knox County (Ill.) Democratic Woman of the Year, and she was an elected delegate to the Democratic National Convention in 1984, 2008, 2016 and 2020. Christine is survived by her child.

William Carey '73 died Feb. 16, 2023. He was 72. William studied art at Illinois Wesleyan and was an accomplished painter, illustrator, photographer and haiku poet. Professionally, he taught painting and drawing at many organizations. He also practiced martial arts and rooted for the Chicago Bears. William is survived by two children.

Roscoe "Ross" Fraser '78 died Jan. 1, 2023. Ross always said that he found his people at Illinois Wesleyan, where he studied theater. He particularly cherished his role in Truman Capote's *Among the Paths to*



Eden and directed his own senior show performing *The Carpenters* by Seven Tesich. He became a regular staple in the Chicago theater scene throughout his career as an actor, which existed alongside his career as a communications and public relations expert.

Janet Lee Claus '81 died Nov. 13, 2022. She was 63. Janet was a life-long Bloomington-Normal townie attending University High School, Illinois Wesleyan and Illinois State University. Having passed from an undiagnosed neurological condition, Janet's final act of generosity was to donate her body to science to help those who might suffer the same disease.

Patsy Lou Askew '83 died Nov. 8, 2022. She was 81. Patsy was born as one of eight children who went on to earn nursing degrees from Illinois Wesleyan and Bradley University. She loved cooking for her family and hosting holiday events and had many crafting hobbies. Patsy is survived by her husband, two children and three grandchildren.

Cathy Carney '94 died Nov. 28, 2022. She was 50. Cathy was a talented musician, playing the piano and organ, who taught piano to students out of her home. She was a dedicated homemaker and mother known for her feisty personality and quick wit. Cathy is survived by her husband and four children.

Rebecca Meyers-Tomecki '96 died Nov. 29, 2022. She was 48. Rebecca was a lover of yoga and fitness who loved roller coasters and taking her family to theme parks. She married her college sweetheart, **George Tomecki '96** with whom she ran The Family Doctors clinic in Brookfield, Illinois. Rebecca is survived by her parents, husband and two children, Skyler and Chase, who will be attending IWU in 2023.

Michael Austin Clark '03 died Oct 19, 2022. He was 41. After earning his degrees from Illinois Wesleyan and Keller Graduate School, Michael became an account executive at Travelers Insurance. He was an active community leader, being president of NAACP Branch 3018 and a board member of The African American Business Association, Illinois State Police Merit Board and the Joliet Chamber of Commerce. He was also a Chicago Urban League fellow. Michael is survived by his mother and wife.

Editor's Note: *IWU Magazine* runs obituaries of alumni based on information received from our readers. Please include full name of deceased; IWU class year; date and place of death; essential biographical information; and survivors, including the names of relatives of the deceased who are IWU alumni. Send to *IWU Magazine*, P.O. Box 2900, Bloomington, IL 61702, iwumag@iwu.edu, or at www.iwu.edu/magazine.



WHAT DOES A DECADE OF DIFFERENCE MEAN TO YOU?

All In for Wesleyan turns 10 on April 11, and we have so much to celebrate. Over the past 10 years, our annual day of giving has raised over \$10.5 million from nearly 25,000 donors. That is truly a **Decade of Difference**.

We asked our alumni, students, and faculty what a Decade of Difference means to them. Here is what they said:

“I’m really appreciative of the efforts to continue to grow Illinois Wesleyan over the past decade and the decade to come to continue that growth pattern for other students.”

— ROBIN ROBINSON '94



“10 years can make such a difference in a person, a community, in the entire world, and the littlest gifts are able to provide so much for any change to happen.”

— JUSTIN MOJICA '24

“What I think of is progression and innovation — that’s what a decade of difference means to me.”

— AMANDA KEMP '03



Do you want to make a difference in the next decade? Visit iwu.edu/all-in or scan the QR code to learn more.

Springtime Aspirations

The Aspiration Fountain, given by the Egbers family, gleams in the spring sunlight.



PHOTO FINISH