

Nothing Like



The **Argus**
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

**Nostalgia – But Not
Like it Used to Be**

IWU Class of 1971--55 Year Reunion Newsletter

Vol. II, Issue 2, August, 2026

Homecoming 2026, Oct. 2-4 --- Register Sept. 1!

In this Issue

Read on to learn more about how plans for various Reunion events are developing and how you can contribute, as well as recalling some things from the old days and sharing in the experiences of some of our classmates.

Topics include:

- *Homecoming Schedule – Key Events*
- *The long History and Future of Buck Memorial Library*
- *Mid-Century Modern Seats (in the Dug Out)*
- *Your Claims to Fame, Infamy, or Uniqueness*
- *Planning for Our Reunion Dinner*
- *Plans to Memorialize our Dear Departed Classmates*
- *And More*

There will be one more issue of this Newsletter before we gather in October. If you have items to submit or suggestions for stories you would like to see in the next issue, please send them to Newsletter Editor, George Vinyard at Robogeov@gmail.com.

It is Later than You Think

We are now less than two months away from our Reunion Weekend. No more procrastination!

We are told that Registration for Homecoming will be open on the University Website at the end of this Month. In addition to writing to us with your intentions to attend as requested in the E-Mail message that accompanies this Issue, check the website on September 1 and sign up. [Homecoming Weekend](#)

Finally, remember that we are competing with Parents of current students, ISU football, the Sugar Creek Arts Festival, and many other events and businesses for hotel space, so it is important for those of you who are coming from out of town and have not already done so to make your reservations ASAP. See the Homecoming weekend Web Page for links to discounted rooms and related deadlines. [Homecoming Weekend](#).

Trigger Warning!

To Readers who suffer with gerascophobia (fear of aging) -- the following stories may bring back ancient memories that are disturbing reminders of the passage of time since your glorious youth.

Homecoming 2026 Schedule – Key Events

The University has published the action-packed schedule of activities for Homecoming week and Weekend. See below for some of the many scheduled events, including those that are specific to our Reunion. Check out the University web page for ALL the details. [Homecoming Weekend Schedule](#)

FRIDAY, October 2

12 - 5 PM — Homecoming Headquarters

Hansen Student Center

Make Homecoming Headquarters your first stop this weekend! Pick up Titan swag, get the final schedule, grab your name tag and get the answers to all your Homecoming questions.

3:30 - 4:30 PM — Center for the Humanities Ribbon Cutting and Reception

Center for Liberal Arts, Center for the Humanities

3:30 - 4:30 PM — School of Nursing & Health Sciences Distinguished Alumni Ceremony

Hansen Student Center, Center Court

All alumni, students, families and supporters of the School of Nursing & Health Sciences are invited to attend this Homecoming ceremony and reception.

4 - 5 PM — Council for IWU Women Reception

Petrick Idea Center, Talluto Center for Applied Entrepreneurship

Join us for a reception celebrating the 20th anniversary of the Council for IWU Women. Enjoy light refreshments as we celebrate the Council's legacy and future. All are welcome!

5 - 7:30 PM — The President's Celebration Banquet

Memorial Center, Young Main Lounge

We have something extraordinary planned for this year's President's Celebration Banquet, and while most of the details are staying secret for now, it's a reveal you'll want to experience in person. Part of the programming will include honoring our reunion groups, Golden Titans, and Alumni Award winners. All Titan community members are invited to this event to kick off Homecoming Weekend! Cocktail attire is encouraged.

7:30 - 10 PM — 55th Reunion Gathering

Memorial Center, Vinyard Room

Join your 1971 classmates for a chance to catch up, reminisce, and kick off our Reunion Weekend together. More detailed Plans to follow.

SATURDAY, October 3

9 - 10 AM — Fraternity & Sorority Open Houses

9 - 11 AM — Art Exhibition/Reception -- "Wish You Were Here: A postcard show from IWU's Art Alumni"

Joyce Eichhorn Ames Art Building, Wakeley Gallery

Come view the art (including pieces from one or more of our Classmates), and enjoy a morning reception with coffee, tea, and light snacks at the gallery.

11 AM - 1 PM — Titan Tailgates

Shirk Center, Parking Lot

Celebrate before the Football Game at tailgates sponsored by various groups. See the details on the University Website.

11:30 AM - 12:15 PM — Class of 1971 Memorial Service

Evelyn Chapel

The Class of 1971 will gather to honor the memories of those classmates who have passed away.

1 - 3:45 PM — Titan Football vs. Carthage

Tucci Stadium

4 - 6 PM — School of Music Alumni Recital and Reception

Presser Hall, Westbrook Auditorium

All Titan alumni, students, families, and supporters of the School of Music are invited to this annual alumnus showcase, followed by a special reception.

6 - 9 PM — Class of 1971 55th Reunion Dinner

Join the Class of 1971 for an evening of memories and friendship. More Details to follow.

SUNDAY, October 4

10 - 11 AM — Chapel Service with Collegiate Choir Performance

Evelyn Chapel

Nic Showalter, Class of 1983, Wesley United Methodist Church minister, will lead a campus service with a performance by the University Collegiate Choir.

The Buck Does Not Stop Here

The building that started out in 1922 as Buck Memorial Library still stands proudly on the same spot at the Illinois Wesleyan University campus more than a century later. Uses of the building have evolved over time, but its stately Gothic exterior remains a constant, gracing IWU's quadrangle.

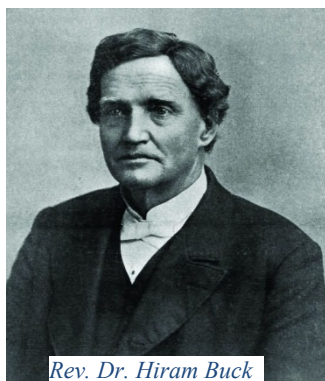


Depiction of the building in a 1927 post card.

The building is named for Hiram and Martha Buck, who donated to the University for years, starting in 1890. Their initial donation was farmland, leading to Rev. Dr. Buck becoming a University trustee. After he died in 1892, Mrs. Buck was named the first woman trustee at Illinois Wesleyan. With no children of their own, her will included a bequest to the University designating that the gift be used for a library and world cultural center. From 1923 until 1968 the Buck Memorial Library served as IWU's first free-standing library. [\n.1, 2.](#)



Martha Buck



Rev. Dr. Hiram Buck

The 1922 library was one of three buildings erected at IWU in the years following rumors in late 1918 that the trustees were considering moving the university to Springfield. Then, as today with cities facing sports teams threatening departure, community leaders stepped up with plans to provide a solution. The McLean County Wesleyan Association was formed in 1919, and it led a campaign to fund the construction of three buildings. In addition to the Buck Memorial Library, the Memorial Gymnasium (now the Hansen Student Center), and Presser Hall were all completed in the 1920s. [\n. 3.](#)

In the fall of 1968, our Class sophomore year, Buck's function as the University's main library was taken over by the "New Library" (named Sheehan Library several years later). Perhaps you recall studying in the great reading room at Buck during your freshman year, or even had a hand with many other students moving the books across the quad to their new home. With that move, Buck Memorial became a less central part of University life, but it has proven to be a beautiful and lasting structure adaptable for many uses that meet the needs of modern

students. In fact, it has now served the University for more than three times as long as its “replacement”, which functioned as the main library for only 33 years, and was ultimately razed in 2011.

In the 1970s Buck was put to various uses, housing some professors’ offices and the foreign language lab. Thus, the building served as a “world cultural center” of sorts. In fact, announcing plans for the building during our freshman year, *The Argus* quoted University President Lloyd Bertholf describing the intended use as a “World Cultural Center.” n. 4.

Also, in the 1970s, the main floor was converted to a large auditorium used for lectures and to show films. Buck also became the home of journalism classes taught by Professor Harvey Beutner, beloved *Argus* advisor. During our senior year, Buck hosted experimental theater presentations, including Dean Hill’s *Incident at Vichy*.



The Main Reading Room of Buck when it served as the Library

In 1974 workers in the building discovered that not all of the books had been moved out of Buck in 1968. Behind what appeared to be a solid wall, they discovered cases of books, some of which dated back to the 19th century, that had apparently remained hidden since the 1940s

Eventually, a full renovation of the building was announced in February 1990. n. 5, 6. As part of that work, and additional second floor was constructed inside the great reading room and Buck became an “interactive learning center, with computer labs and modern communications facilities



Class of '71 Members at a preserved Buck Library Table in the Tate Archives at Ames Library for our 50th (courtesy of Judith Schulz)

Today, with the addition of the nearby Petrick Idea Center, IWU’s plans continue to include the old Buck Memorial Library. As the Buildings and Grounds Committee of the Board of Trustees assesses the various structures on campus and their roles in meeting the current and future needs of the University, his historic building is high on the list. Stay tuned for the next phase in the life of this IWU campus landmark.

Notes

1. M. Miner, *Named Places: Buck Memorial Library* (2019), <https://blogs.iwu.edu/asc/2019/04/>.
2. W. Wilder, *An Historical Sketch of the Illinois Wesleyan University, Together with a Record of Alumni: 1857-1895* (1895), https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/iwu_histph/id/2412. pp. 52-54.
3. L. Bloodworth, *IWU Celebrates 175 Years of Life in, Support from Community*, *The Pantagraph* (9/21/2025), https://pantagraph.com/news/local/history/article_05d4c192-669d-4c40-a081-119671d4e593.html.
4. *Buck Takes Fourth Position on Expansion Waiting List*, *The Argus*, (11/3/1967) https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/iwu_argus/id/11471/rec/217, p. 3.
5. J. Bidle, *Buck Memorial Library Kept Pace with Times*, (2/13/1990) <https://digitalcommons.iwu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=8926&context=news>
6. *Scavenger Hunt Begins Homecoming*, *The Argus*, (10/16/1970) https://collections.carli.illinois.edu/digital/collection/iwu_argus/id/10788/rec/1, p. 3.

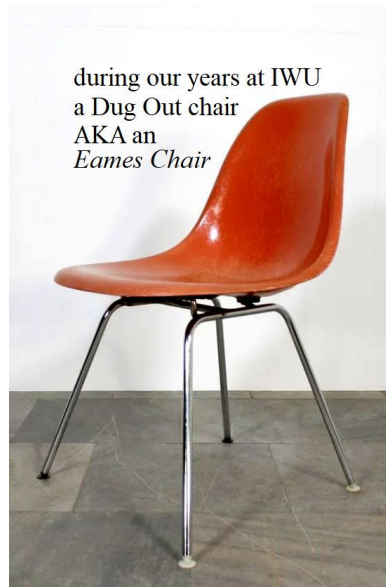
Coffee and Tables and [Eames] Chairs – OH MY!

RECOGNIZE THIS CHAIR?

We sat in them in the Dug Out, every day! They were many different colors, movable, stackable, and comfortable.

We sat in them:

spending hours talking with friends, listening to a Dug Out debate, eating a burger made on the grill, listening to songs on the juke box, listening to the EARTH DAY lectures, resting between songs at a Friday night dance in the Dug Out, and maybe sat in them while finishing up an essay due the next hour!



Students in the Dug Out Circa 1966-67

LITTLE DID WE KNOW:

- these chairs had a name: *Eames Chairs*! named after the furniture designers: Charles & Ray Eames, who also designed items for the US Navy!
- the chairs are called “shell” chairs, “stacking chairs”
- these chairs were a ground breaking, modern concept at the time, called mid-century-modern design
- one is in the *permanent collection* of the **Museum of Modern Art** in New York
- originals now sell for \$400-\$600
- they were made from plastic and fiberglass, materials that hadn’t been used for furniture before

Those of us who worked in the Dug Out remember washing the chairs, moving them back, stacking them. They were just functional chairs to us, back then. We probably never noticed the Eames seal underneath.



The Eames designed modern furniture was so renowned that in 2008, the United States Postal System issued a series of stamps of many of the Eames chair designs. One stamp featured “*our Dug Out chairs!*” -Chairs that we sat on every day *and took for granted* are featured on a USA stamp!



YOU CAN SIT ON AN ORIGINAL DUG OUT “EAMES” CHAIR AGAIN! at our 55th Reunion, take a selfie to show your friends and post on Facebook! Who knows! You may have even sat in this very chair!

~Judith D. Schulz

P.S. The Eames also collected spinning tops & made an artistic film of tops spinning which we show at the Spinning Top & Yo-Yo Museum (which is my top collection.) Stamps featuring their tops were also issued in 2008.

What are Your Unique Claims?

TELL YOUR STORY! CLAIMS!

Even if you cannot attend!

At past IWU reunions we have shared a few “Claims” and they were *so interesting!* Examples: one of our classmates: “I sang at Carnegie Hall in 1998 to an audience of more than 2000.” Another: “I worked with the Israeli police.” Another: “I climbed a 60-foot pole to change one lightbulb!”

You are invited to submit 1-5 “claims” that can be shared in our newsletter and/or at the reunion. Claims are experiences & accomplishments that are unique to you! – 25 words or less per claim, one or two sentence statements are best, with a few intriguing details please. Examples:

---I survived...

---I created...

---I won/lost...

---I was honored/fortunate to ...

---I witnessed...

---A coincidence or serendipity in your life:

---Unique or surprising accomplishment(s) of yours:

---Worked or talked with a famous person/people: name(s) how/why?

---My name has appeared in _____ or on _____ because ...

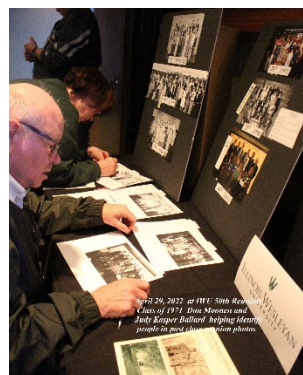
---A unique opportunity at IWU that found you! What was it?

This is a perfect chance to make known a few of your best or most unusual stories of your IWU years or the decades since!

Please email your 1-5 claims with your name & the claims to Judith Schulz [judithdschulz@gmail.com] or George Vinyard [robogeov@gmail.com] by Friday, September 18.

Thank-you~

IWU 2026 55th Reunion Committee



Don Moonen and Judi Kasper Ballard at our 50th, helping to identify the people in photos from our earlier Reunions.

Reunion Dinner Plans

Your Reunion Committee is still considering options for our Saturday evening Dinner. We have a tentative plan to have the dinner at the Parkview Inn Restaurant in Bloomington, near Miller Park. This is where the Class of 1970 had their 55th Reunion Dinner.

However, that facility has some limitations (no private room for us), so we are still looking at a variety of options that might better meet our needs, depending on how large or small our turnout may be. Hence, the request in the E-mail cover message transmitting this Newsletter for an early indication of your intentions.

We would also like to know your preferences. For example, would you prefer an off-campus restaurant, or a room on campus, if one with catering is even available at this point? Casual or fancier? More or less pricey (unlike our 50th, this dinner will not be paid for by the University)?

Please let us know your thoughts and suggestions, ASAP

Speaking of “Claims”

As noted above, at past Reunions, inspired by Judith Schulz, many of us shared experiences or events in our lives that we believed others would not have experienced or known about us. For those who could not attend the 50th (or may have forgotten), we will reproduce some of these in this and future issues and challenge the readers to guess the sources.

Here is the first challenge –Guess Who made each of the following Claim(s) for our 50th:

- A. *I am proficient in Donald Duck voice*
- B. *I had the first Jewelry Design Senior show in the IWU Library in 1971.*
- C. *I have consulted for Sesame Street, Christie's Auction House of London, American Girls, MGM, Antiques Road Show and the Library of Congress!*
- D. *I have been chased by a black rhino in South Africa.*
- E. *I worked on a project connecting a Main Frame computer to the ARPANET.*

A key with the answers can be found on the last page of this issue.

Remembering Those Who are Gone

One of the Reunion Events at Homecoming 2026 that will be planned by and primarily for the members of our Class is the Memorial Service in honor of our dear, departed Classmates. Your Reunion Committee hopes you will join us in Evelyn Chapel on Saturday Morning to memorialize the ever-growing roster of those who have left us too soon, as we did for our 50-year Reunion. More details about the service will be forthcoming in the next Issue of this Newsletter.

In the meantime, we will be in the process of updating the Memorial Book containing copies of obituaries and/or memorial essays we compiled for our 50th with information related to the individuals who have been added to the list below (in Bold). Our intention is to

publish this updated book (most likely in electronic form) to all surviving members of our Class, whether or not they are able to attend the Reunion or the Memorial Service. Please help us in this effort by reviewing (and correcting or supplementing) the list below, and by sending, or directing us to, copies of obituaries, eulogies, or your own original memorial essays for any of our late Classmates for whom you have such information or with whom you had a close connection.

Also, please provide the names and contact information for any survivors of these Classmates who you think would want to know about and perhaps attend or submit information for the Memorial Service.

Please contact Reunion Committee Co-Chair Richard Wray at rkwray4@gmail.com with any information or suggestions for the Memorial Book.

In Memoriam

Terry E. Anspach
 Fred E. Bastion
 Catherine A. Bean
Phillip Bear
 Keith M. Bjers
Thomas E. Brokaw
 Robert J. Bunn
 Gary E. Carlson
 Timothy C. Carlson
 Michael P. Conrad
John E. Cribbet, Hon DL '71
 Richard A. Dallefield
Roger Danchik
 Howard R. Elliott, Jr
 Teryl Y. (Kalbacken) Engel
Jon W. Etcheson
 Jack C. Fields
 Wayne P. Forbes
 Denner A. Gage
 Thomas M. Gigante
 Adam Isaacs

Elizabeth (Rice) Jackson
 Elizabeth (Coates) Jaffe
 Gary S. Johnson
Steven Kallstrom
 Judith A. King
 Linda S. Koenigsberg-Holmer
Duane T. Kooi
Rebecca L. (Szerlong) Kuehl
 Diane K. (Schwegler) Kuleck
 David H. Lamb
Christine G. LaRue
John C. Lewton
 Stephen T. Lurain
Dorothy (Alice Olsen) Mann
 Peter C. Matson
 Kenneth E. Mayes
Jerrilyn M. McGregory
Ronald J. Miller
 William H. ("Red") Miller
 Kenneth E. Nelson
 David R Mauch

Roger W. Pearson
 Kent E. Peters
 John A. Prosser
 Richard A. Reinert
James E. Richter
Mary E. (Hutton) Roberts
 Linda S. (Orloff) Ruddy
 James F. Scott
 John R. Scott
 Kathleen R. (Lower) Shaulis
 Linda K. (Fisher) Shearin
 Adlai E. Stevenson III, Hon DL '71
Richard L. Stolp, Hon DD '71
Eleni K. ("Lenna") Strompolos
 Carol S. Stuart
 Larry A. Subbert
Barbara J. (Thompson) Trees
 Burton J. Vincent
 David W. Wilhelms
 Claire E. (Lodal) Wilson
 Dan M. Zora

ANSWER to PHOTO question in last issue [V II, Issue # 1, July, 2026]



TWO NARROW DOORS in Pfeiffer Hall, first floor. Each was a telephone booth! with a pay-with-coins, black dial phone inside and an angled wood board for a seat. A light came on when you opened the door. There were no phones in the dorm rooms in the early days. (ha! No cell phones yet, either, lol) But then, you know this story!

I remember using the phones in these booths to call home to let my parents know I had arrived back on campus after a holiday vacation, and to call friends in other cities. All was long distance prices, and you had to drop coins in the box, and be ready to add more when the operator told you to do so. Dorm Room wall phones were installed around 1968, I think.

The booths are now janitor closets (I looked when I was there at our 50th Reunion!) ~Judith D. Schulz

More “Lost” Classmates

We are still looking for contact information for the “Lost” Classmates listed in the last issue of the Newsletter. Please go back and check and let us know if you have any information about them or ideas for how to contact them.

Also, based on returned mail sent via the US Postal Service, we need to add the following Classmates to the list of the “lost”:

Barkulis, Thomas G.

Freeberg, Sheryl G.

Guess Who Claims

Answer Key

- A. Frankie Faison
- B. Betsy Bauer
- C. Judith Schulz
- D. Nancy Hutson
- E. Karen (Smith) Portle

On-Line Resources

Homecoming Weekend

<https://www.iwu.edu/homecoming/>

Homecoming Schedule

<https://www.iwu.edu/homecoming/schedule.html>

IWU Reunion Weekend Page

<https://www.iwu.edu/reunion/>

1971 Reunion <https://www.iwu.edu/reunion/55th-reunion.html>

Class of 1971 Facebook Page (please join)

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/438362743826227>

Prior Issue of Newsletter [Microsoft Word - 1971 55th Newsletter - Issue 1 Final.2 26-07-23](#)

Campus Map (Printable)

<https://www.iwu.edu/about/printable-campus-map.pdf>

Acknowledgements

MANY THANKS to Judith Schulz, and Dick Wray, for their many contributions to this issue.

We are planning at least one more issue before the Reunion and may also publish one after the event. We need your help to make future issues of this *Nothing Like the Argus* newsletter better. Please send your personal stories, memories, and photos to George Vinyard (your humble newsletter editor) at Robogeov@gmail.com.