

Nothing Like



The **Argus**
ILLINOIS WESLEYAN UNIVERSITY

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

Class of 1971—55th Year Reunion Newsletter

Vol. II, Issue 1, July 23, 2026

IWU Homecoming 2026, Oct. 2-4 -- Be There!

Let's all gather in Bloomington October 2, 3, & 4 to Celebrate our years at IWU and the (gasp) nearly SIX Decades since most of us first arrived on campus as students. If you have not been on Campus recently, or perhaps even if you have, you will be amazed at all the changes that have been made in the last 55 years.

Your Class of 1971 Reunion Committee has been working with the University Office of Alumni Engagement to plan special 55 Year Reunion Events to go along with the usual Homecoming festivities. The preliminary plans for our 1971 Reunion schedule include the activities listed below, specific timing and/or locations TBD or subject to change as the full Homecoming schedule is finalized. Your comments and suggestions for these and any other activities will be welcomed.

Friday, October 2

Homecoming Headquarters/Check In

Tour the new Petrick IDEA Center. See story below.

The President's Celebration Banquet

**Class of 1971 Informal Reunion Kick-off
Gathering**

Saturday, October 3

Class of 1971 Memorial Gathering

Titan Football vs Carthage

55th Class Reunion Dinner

Sunday October 4

**Class of 1971 Informal Farewell Brunch
(Tentative)**

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Your Reunion Committee

Judi (Kasper) Ballard
Nancy (Steele) Brokaw
Thersa Poullette (Britton) Gilbert
Tom Giller
Kerry (Galbreath) Kiphart
Karen (Smith) Portle
Judith Schulz
Sheldon Thompson
George Vinyard (Chair)
Richard Wray (Vice Chair)

Trigger Warning!!

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



After years of careful and inspired planning, and substantial funding commitments from many donors, construction on this latest addition to the Campus is finally nearing completion. It is expected to be open for use by students, faculty and others for the start of the Fall Term. Come take a look at the future of higher education.

The Petrick Idea Center (depicted in the rendering above) is named for the late David Petrick, IWU '67 and his wife, Ellen (Reid) Petrick, IWU '68. It will serve as an interdisciplinary hub for imagination, creativity, innovation, and entrepreneurship, featuring state-of-the-art facilities and tools to enable students from all areas of the University, from the fine arts, humanities and sciences, to business, to realize their dreams and plans.

Dave Petrick's vision is reflected in a comment to the architects in the early planning stages: "The most important thing is to make sure students from all disciplines are involved and feel welcome here. If they have an idea, they can create it at The Petrick Idea Center."

Under the leadership of its Director, Ben Hage, the Petrick Idea Center will continue and greatly enhance existing efforts at the University to promote cross-

disciplinary problem solving and entrepreneurship.

- Programming will purposefully bring together students from across all of the university's disciplines to think broadly about people's needs and creative, ethical ways to fulfill them.
- Mentoring programs will allow students to leverage one another's expertise, and the expertise of faculty, alumni, and community members, to innovate boldly and with the greatest chances of success.
- Facilities will promote innovation, collaboration, and creativity
 - Makerspaces and testing/prototyping facilities (e.g., 3D printers, laser cutter, CNC router, waterjet machining, sewing and embroidery machines, power tools, audio/video recording and editing equipment, piano, test kitchen).
 - Amphitheater
 - Meeting spaces
 - Teaching spaces
 - Offices for top student ventures

In addition to the Petricks, Marc Talluto IWU '94 and his wife Noel, and Ann (Marquis) Fisher IWU '82 and her husband Alan Fisher are leading donors who made The Petrick Idea Center possible

Meet President “Z”

Sheahon J. Zenger, Ph.D., became the 21st president of Illinois Wesleyan University, in July, 2024



Since coming to the University, Dr. Zenger has overseen several major initiatives and achievements, including the ongoing construction of the Petrick Idea Center, the launch of the Center for Humanities, the acceleration and growth of interdisciplinary quantum studies, the celebration of the University’s 175th anniversary year, and, in the fall of 2025, admission of the largest incoming class of new Titans in 15 years. Additionally, he has developed a dynamic leadership team as Illinois Wesleyan continues to evolve, adapt and innovate while navigating the ever-changing landscape and challenges facing higher education.

President Zenger draws guiding inspiration from John Wesley, a founder of Methodism, from whom Illinois Wesleyan derives its name:

"Do all the good you can, in all the ways you can, to all the souls you can, in every place you can, at all the times you can, with all the zeal you can, as long as ever you can." — John Wesley

Dr. Zenger has more than 30 years of experience in higher education leadership, including serving as the interim president at the University of New Haven, an

assistant to the chancellor at Texas Christian University, plus terms as director of athletics for the University of New Haven, University of Kansas and Illinois State University.

His leadership is marked by culture-building within each institution he served, focusing on students, faculty, staff and community outreach.

He holds a bachelor's degree in English and secondary education and a master's in journalism and mass communications, both from Kansas State University, and a Ph.D. in educational policy and leadership from the University of Kansas.

Your Reunion Plans – Things to Do Now

If you are planning to attend the Reunion or seriously considering it, and have not already done so, here are some steps to take:

1. **Check out the IWU Homecoming and Reunion Web pages**, and consider joining our **IWU Class of 1971 Facebook Group** for updates about Homecoming and Reunion events. *See list of on-line resources below for links*,
2. **Book your Homecoming stay early.** The University has arranged for blocks of rooms at the DoubleTree by Hilton Bloomington and the Bloomington/Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Center for Homecoming/Reunion Weekend. You can use the links on the University’s Homecoming Page to make reservations. The Reunion Committee suggests the Doubletree as a good site for gathering.
3. **Update your Contact Information.** Please make sure we have up-to-date contact information (telephone, Email and Postal addresses) for you to facilitate future communications about the Reunion.
4. **Connect with us, your Reunion Committee.** Your Committee is looking for ideas and help in making this Reunion a great experience for everyone. Please contact George Vinyard (call or text 630-877-3990), or any other member of the committee, or our designated IWU Staff Member, to let us know ASAP if you are planning to attend and to share your ideas.

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5. **Reach out to the Classmates you want to see at the Reunion.** Urge them to come back and make plans to get together with them on campus.
6. **Send us letters or Articles.** If you have any news or stories about your lives and experiences at any time since your IWU days to share with our classmates, please pass them along and we will do our best to publish these in future issues of this Newsletter.

Rembrandts in Your Attic?

Do you have treasure trove of documents, photos or other artifacts from Illinois Wesleyan? If so, are you, like many folks our age, coming to realize that your children or other heirs have zero interest in your treasured “keepsakes”, and somehow see them as a potential burden in their futures?

Please consider doing the following, for the sake of your heirs and your alma mater:

- A. Sift through your collection of IWU memorabilia;
- B. Make a list of any items that might be of historic significance or other nostalgic interest;
- C. Bring your list and selected items to the Reunion to share with our Classmates and other Alumni; and
- D. Share your list with the IWU Archivist, Liz Bloodworth (archives@iwu.edu), and offer to donate any items that are appropriate for preservation in the University Archives

What's Behind These Doors?

Can you remember what this is and where it is on campus?

Ask Judith Schulz or find the answer in the next issue



FRESHMAN 101 QUESTIONS FOR YOU!

(Your life at IWU!) From Judith D. Schulz

1. **Who was the first person you made friends with on campus?**

2. **Which dorm did you live in** your freshman year at IWU? Room number? Roommate's name?

3. **Do you remember the name of your house mother?**

4. **Did you have a work study/campus job?** What was it? What do you remember about it?

5. **Do you remember going** from table to table to register for classes, slowly building your class schedule, one class at a time? Wasn't that held in the room across from the Dug Out?

6. **What classes did you take your Freshman year? The professors/instructors?**

7. **Do you still have your typewriter** from college?

8. **Remember the beanies** we had to wear! Any stories to tell? Who still has theirs? (Bring it to the 55th Reunion)

9. **Why did you choose Illinois Wesleyan?**

We want to hear from YOU

Please share your answers to Judith's questions above, as well as any other personal news, stories, memories and/or photos via a letter or article to be published in an upcoming issue of this Reunion Newsletter.

Also, please let us know if there are other topics related to Our Class, our time at IWU, or the University as it is today that would be of particular interest to you.

If you Missed Our 50th . . .

The COVID 19 pandemic presented a number of challenges for our milestone 50- Year Reunion which was originally planned for Homecoming weekend in 2021. The University worked hard to keep students and staff safe through the worst of the crisis, while continuing to deliver classes and student services, but found it necessary to delay our in-person Reunion (as well as that of the Class of 1970), until Commencement Weekend in 2022.

We did have a virtual Reunion via Zoom on October 26, 2021 with several Classmates attending and enjoying the remote experience. It was wonderful to see everyone again and hear a brief update from each person on the Zoom! We got a preview sampling of the slide show that had been prepared for our in-person Reunion, plus enjoying trivia, music and smaller group chats.

Then, when we were able to get back and reunite in person, we were able to follow through on most of the previously announced Reunion plans, as follows:

Friday, April 29

Tate Archives Tour, Many of us gathered, along with members of the Class of '70 in the Ames Library where we met with the University Archivist and enjoyed displays of documents, photos and memorabilia from our student days,

Campus Tour, We had the opportunity to take a guided tour of the Campus, access several buildings and checkout the many changes since we were last on campus.

College Bowl Trivia Game Spirited Competition against our fellow Classmates and especially against the teams from the Class of '70.

Residence Hall & Greek House Cocktail Hour This event, held in the Main Lounge of Memorial Center Featured displays of photos and memorabilia from all residence halls and Greek houses.

1971 Kick Off – Dessert Reception We gathered in a room at Baxter's American Grill for after-dinner drinks, dessert and conversation, with a great soundtrack of our generation and displays of memorabilia from 1967-71.

Saturday, April 30

President's Brunch, Honoring Dr. William B. Farrar '71 and Kathy Larey Lewton '70, as the recipients of the 2021 Distinguished Alumni Award and Loyalty Award, respectively

"Back to College" Presentations at the Hansen Student Center (Old Memorial Gym). One of which featured a talk by our Classmate, Dr. Bill Farrar.

50th Reunion Dinner. We enjoyed drinks, conversation and dinner in a banquet Room at the Doubletree at which we shared more displays of memorabilia and photos, organized by Judith Schulz, a great slide show compiled by John Reinhardt, and danced to a wonderful soundtrack thanks to Judi Ballard. We also heard remarks from University President Georgia Nugent, and shared our unique "Claims", i.e., things in our lives (experiences, etc.), that we thought others would not know about or would not have experienced themselves. Finally, we had the opportunity to visit with members of the Class of '70 whose 50th Reunion Dinner was held in an adjoining Room.

Sunday, May 1

1971 Memorial Service. We held a brief Memorial Service in Evelyn Chapel to celebrate the lives of our deceased Classmates.

Class of 2022 Commencement. Those of us who could stay for it enjoyed the University's 172nd Commencement at which our esteemed Classmate, Dr. William Farrar, received an Honorary Doctorate and was the featured Commencement Speaker

Photos from our 50th



IN-PERSON REUNION --Reinhardt, Thompson, Ballard, Farrar, Portle, Wray, Moonen, Schulz, Vinyard, ?, Moore, McClure, Schlichman, Brokaw, S. Ketcham, Smith, L. Ketcham, ?, Nelson [apologies for missing names; please help us fill these in]

More Photos from the 50th



President Georgia Nugent Presenting Distinguished Alumni Award to Bill Farrar



Judith Schulz, Archivist Meg Miner, Dick Wray, Judi Kasper Ballard



Just a Part of Our Memorabilia Display

Help Us Find “Lost” Classmates

There are several of our Classmates for whom the University does not have any contact information. Obviously, these people will not be able to join us for the Reunion if they do not receive news about our plans. Please review the following names, and let us know if you have any contact information or suggestions as to how to obtain current contact information for any of them:

Casola, Ron L.
Clark, Patricia E. (Buhlig)
Cottle, Susan (Williams)
Dowler, Susan J.
Duncan, Lucinda J. (Vannice)
Flautt, Melissa (Nevin)
Goken, Lelah (Linda) S.
Gumbs, Una C.
Hessert, Alice (Strain)
Hildebrand, Michael W.
Junge, David L.
Kazmar, Peggy A. (MacLagan)
Koontz, Brenda R. (Longworth)
Lake, Scott R.
Learch, Lynn D.
Lebeau, Susan K.
Leonard, Karen J.

Lusis, Terrie L. (Hysell)
McConachie, Jill S. (Halley)
Rocke, Randall R.
Schleeter, Mary L. ((Blake)
Schultz, Martha (Petree)
Shank, John H.
Shifely, Susan G.
Spears, George B.
Street, Diane E. (Marks)
Street, James R.
Tietjen, Faithanne
Turney, Robert J.
Whitmore, Robert A.
Whyte, Cathy M.
Yeoh, Oon Tian
Zelada, Armando J.

On-Line Resources

IWU Homecoming Weekend Page

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

IWU Homecoming Week Schedule

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

IWU Reunion Weekend Page

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

IWU 1971 Reunion Page

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

Petrack Idea Center

<https://www.iwu.edu/petrack-idea-center/>

Campus Map (Printable)

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

Class of 1971 Facebook Page (please join)

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

October 2021 Virtual 50th Reunion on YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1MNoR9aUgLE>

Nothing Like the ARGUS Acknowledgements & Plans

MANY THANKS to Judith Schulz and Dick Wray for their assistance with this Issue of “Nothing Like the Argus.

We are planning at least two more issues between now and Homecoming. If you have ideas or suggestions for improving this Newsletter, please share them with your humble editor – me, George Vinyard, via E-mail at robogeov@gmail.com.

In particular, we would very much like to include letters and articles from and about our Classmates in these future issues and at the Reunion gathering. Please share your personal news, stories, memories and photos with your classmates, via a letter to the editor and/or send me any news or suggested topics for articles about others in our class that you would like to see.
