

**I ILLINOIS**

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MAILING PANEL

No. 4

DISCOVER THE ILLINOIS STORIES THAT MOVE US FORWARD.

**STORIED.**

STORIED.

No. 4



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## STORIED.

Welcome to this latest issue of *STORIED* from Illinois. If the wonderful cover illustration didn't tip you off, this edition is heavily influenced by the upcoming centennial anniversary of Memorial Stadium. I know most people immediately connect this iconic building with our illustrious football program and with Illini legends like Red Grange. And it will be exciting to be back at the tailgates and singing the "Alma Mater" in the stands for the fall season. But that building, like so many special places on this campus, has grown into something far more than its original purpose.

For one hundred years now, students, faculty, staff, alumni, and visitors from around the world have gathered together in that place and shared moments that link them to Illinois for the rest of their lives. Whether it is celebrating one of the biggest and most exuberant university Commencement ceremonies in the nation or standing quietly alone among the names of those who have lost their lives in war, this is a place where new Illinois stories—big and small—are created every day.

Memorial Stadium's days of being simply a football field ended the moment its gates opened for the first time. It truly is one of those touchstones at Illinois that has come to embody the spirit of the people who have been a part of our university.

Enjoy reading *STORIED*. And next time you come to campus, I hope you visit some of the places here that hold special meaning for you.



**ROBERT J. JONES, CHANCELLOR**

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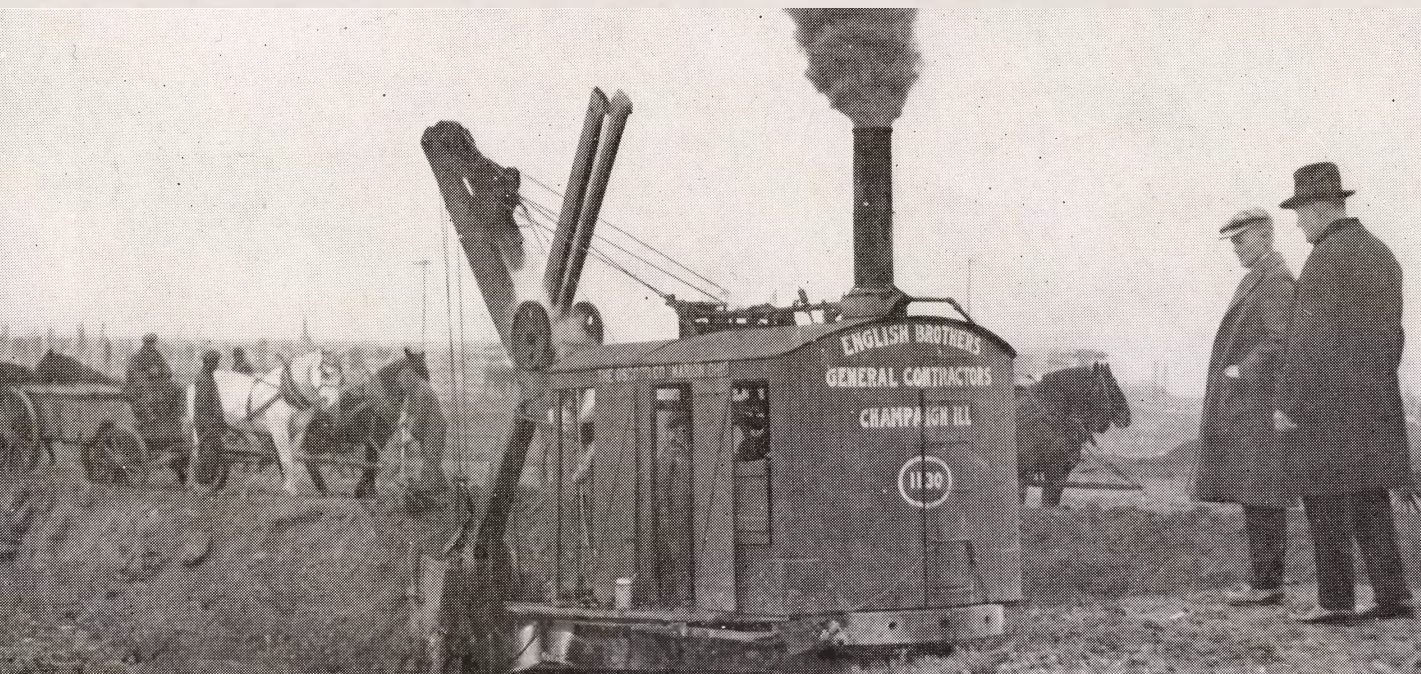
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Memorial Stadium holds a century full of stories—many of which happened off the field. Go behind the scenes of George Huff and Robert Zuppke’s fundraising tour, meet Mr. and Mrs. Stadium, and learn more about who called the stadium home for thirteen years.

# 100 Ψ YEARS

M E M O R I A L S T A D I U M





George Huff and Robert Zuppke stand next to the English Brothers General Contractors' steam shovel during construction of Memorial Stadium. Notice the horse-drawn cart in the background.

## THE MOST FAMOUS ILLINOIS SPEECH YOU'VE NEVER HEARD

IN THE SPRING OF 1921, two iconic Illini packed their bags and embarked on an epic series of trips across the country seeking support for a new stadium. Athletics Director George Huff (LAS 1892) and famed coach Robert Zuppke (known affectionately as “Zup”) visited dozens of cities to extol the benefits of a massive new stadium to throngs of eager alumni. Not only would the stadium stand as a monument to the Illinois men and women who served in World War I, it would also be home to many sports beyond football, including track and field, tennis, baseball, soccer, and more.

An indisputable highlight of this tour was the speech Zuppke gave to each gathering, “The Camel, the Boneyard, and the Rock-ribbed Coast.” Audiences were awed and enthusiastically wrote in to the *Alumni Quarterly and Fortnightly Notes (AQFN)*, excited about the stadium and commenting on Zup’s speech.

Some said it was as “vitally a part of Illinois as ‘Oskee-Wow-Wow.’” Others predicted it would be as famous. Repeatedly, alumni wrote in to say how moving, energizing, and motivating Zuppke’s speech was.

So beloved was this speech that recordings were made of it on vinyl and made available through the Alumni Association.

One hundred years later, we have no idea what he said.

Plenty of references to the speech exist in our archives, but what we haven’t been able to find is a recording or transcription of the actual text. What was supposed to be as famous as “Oskee-Wow-Wow” has seemingly disappeared. The only remnant we could find was part of the speech quoted within an article in the *AQFN*:

*“The white gleaming vision of the stadium, vivid, brilliant, on the muddy banks of the boneyard, somewhere in the great state of Illinois between the rock-ribbed coast of Maine and the gold of the Sacramento, flowing into the Wabash, which empties into the Mississippi, which in turn flows into the Gulf of Mexico, and then to the salty Caribbean sea, will stand forever as the silent sentinel over the great prairies of the middle west.”*

From that excerpt, it seems to have been a grand elocution, given by a man known for his broad vocabulary and dramatic delivery. More importantly, it was the speech that garnered the support to make the stadium a reality.



It is hard to overstate how massive an undertaking it was to raise money for the stadium, especially since the goal was to fully fund the construction through donations. The expected cost was \$2.5 million, equivalent to more than \$40 million in today’s dollars.

It was an enormous ask, and thousands of men and women worked behind the scenes to solicit and process donations, create promotional materials, plan events, and so on. This well-oiled machine worked tirelessly to share the stadium’s story with the student body as well as alumni.

Huff and Zuppke, however, were the most public faces of the campaign. These powerful, charismatic men motivated audiences at dozens of stops across the country. Huff spoke first and, in his slow and measured voice, provided a clear vision for the stadium. Huff was followed by Zuppke, whose words “zig-zagged across the room like lightning.” He spoke to the crowd with the same zeal he used with his champion team, inspiring the audience to reach for their checkbooks.

The Detroit alumni club reported that 125 members came to hear the stadium plea. “Delivered with all the fiery, clenched-teeth earnestness and ardent arm-swinging of a true apostle of athletics for all,” the club said, “Zup’s curiously titled speech, ‘The Camel, the Boneyard, and the Rock-ribbed Coast,’ made the rafters rumble.”

In Minneapolis, Huff and Zuppke were joined by their wives. When the scheduled musician didn’t show up, the foursome took it upon themselves to sing “Fight, Illini!” the prize-winning song submission composed by student Rose Oltusky (LAS 1922).

“None of us had ever heard the new stadium song,” wrote one of the event organizers. “G’ volunteered to sing it for us, assisted by Mrs. Huff, Mrs. Zuppke, and Zup. The quartet rendered the piece in fine shape until they hit the high notes toward the end and ‘G’s voice broke—the crowd went wild.”

Boston was the only city, it seems, that didn’t ignite as raucous a response. As recounted in an interview, Zup

said (with a knowing smile), “It was the only city in which my speech was quiet and easy. It was in keeping with the dignity and literary culture of Boston and New England.”



Their trips followed the famous mass meeting in the gym annex where Huff and Zuppke, joined by university president David Kinley and campaign co-director Elmer Ekblaw (LAS 1910), delivered the message of the stadium to more than 4,000 students who crowded the rafters and cheered. As the sound of rain hit the roof, the band played and the Glee Club premiered “Fight, Illinois!” Remarkably, students pledged more than \$700,000 that day toward construction.

In the months to come, there was continued pressure on students to contribute. Names of those who donated were listed publicly, and rosters were checked to see who had not yet given. Donors wore a “stadium builder” button. A student without the button, according to the *Daily Illini*, was “brought to the stadium office that they may subscribe.”

Zuppke’s words may have been lost, but the spirit with which he delivered them remains as strong as ever.



Building Memorial Stadium was a shared goal around which our students and alumni rallied, stoking the fires of loyalty that still burn today. Before the stadium campaign began, only a handful of alumni clubs existed, but after the campaign launched, more than one hundred clubs were formed. Every state (forty-eight at the time) had a campaign chair and executive council responsible for fundraising. It was a time of growing connection and pride-building among alumni of the then fifty-year-old institution.

The vision for Memorial Stadium was ambitious and looked to our future as much as it honored our past, a vision which has endured for over a century. Today the stadium brings people together with the same excitement as it did when it was merely a dream and a muddy field.



Fundraisers come together from across the state for a stadium dinner.



This temporary monument on campus made it easy for students and faculty to see how much money was raised for the stadium.



## MR. AND MRS. STADIUM

**SENIORS REUBEN CARLSON (ACES 1921) AND ANN COOLLEY (GIES 1921)** oversaw student fundraising, leading 2,500 students in the effort. In writing about them in the alumni newsletter, Sampson Raphaelson (LAS 1917) said, “These two, more than any other agency in the whole amazingly efficient movement, were responsible for the success of the undergraduate stadium campaign.”

When the stadium was dedicated in 1924 (ahead of the historic Michigan game), Ann was asked to raise the flag. Reuben and Ann married shortly after graduation, and each year when their season tickets came in the mail, the envelope read “Mr. and Mrs. Stadium.”



## THE STADIUM'S FIRST FAMILY

**SETTLING A BABY DOWN FOR A NAP** can't have been easy with thousands of Illini fans stomping and cheering overhead. Still, despite the rumbling coming from above, Margaret Crackel spent many Saturdays shushing and rocking her baby boy to sleep in the Memorial Stadium apartment she shared with her husband, Ben, the stadium's caretaker.

The ten-room apartment was built into the northwest side of the stadium near the student section, with windows that looked out upon thousands of scrambling feet as they excitedly made their way to their seats.

The Crackel family lived at the stadium for thirteen years, and, in 1925, Ben Crackel Jr. had the distinction of being the only baby born on the hallowed grounds.

Ben Jr. spent many happy years playing in his backyard that was the stadium. And with arguably the best house in town, it is easy to imagine how many of his classmates wanted an invitation to come over and play.

In a 2008 documentary, *Memorial Stadium: True Illini Spirit*, Tom Porter, former marketing director for Illinois Athletics, remembers his conversations with Ben Jr. about his childhood. “The stadium was his playground,” Porter said. “He talked about it so fondly. He talked about Red Grange all the time.”

Jane Crackel, Ben Jr.'s widow, also shared a memory in the documentary. “Before they had the elevator in the stadium, the reporters would have to carry their typewriters up to the press box,” she said. “So, Ben and some of his friends would carry the typewriters up for a dollar.



**OPPOSITE-PAGE:** Ann Coolley Carlson raises the flag at the 1924 Michigan game.

**LEFT:** Born January 22, 1925, Ben Crackel Jr. is the only person known to have been born in Memorial Stadium. His proud father, Ben Crackel Sr., served as the custodian to the entirety of Illinois Athletics for twenty years.

The kids would bring their bikes over and ride down the ramps.”

While Ben Jr. could certainly claim a magical childhood home, it was really Ben Sr. whose legacy is most directly tied to the stadium.

In the early twentieth century, Ben Crackel Sr.'s name was uttered with the same reverence as his contemporaries, Huff and Zuppke and Grange. A familiar site in his army boots and fatigues, Crackel oversaw all the athletics grounds at Illinois—from football to basketball, ice hockey to baseball. The *Daily Illini* called him “the efficiency man of a million tasks.”

To many, he stood among the greats who built Illinois athletics.

The well-oiled machine that Crackel created was born from his time on the battlefields of World War I. He joined the army when he was just fifteen, and his military career took him from the Illinois National Guard to the trenches embedded in the rolling hills of France and Germany.

Crackel was injured a remarkable thirteen times serving his country. In one instance, he was the sole survivor of an attack on an ambulance carrying him to the hospital. For two days, he lay covered in dirt amongst his dead comrades before he was rescued. The explosion broke his back, and he was told he'd never walk again.

Of course, Crackel proved the doctors wrong, and after his discharge from the army, he worked his way up from storekeeper to overseeing every athletics event in his twenty-year career on campus.

“The military precision and organization Mr. Crackel injected into his work, especially in maintaining the Stadium, had been remarkable,” noted the *Daily Illini* in reporting his death. “With complete cooperation of his staff, Crackel clung to any job until it was finished, even though it required getting up before dawn and working until after dark.”

Even university presidents didn't escape Crackel's rules. In 1930, President David Kinley visited the stadium on a Sunday, and despite the “No Automobiles Allowed” sign, his chauffeur drove right in.

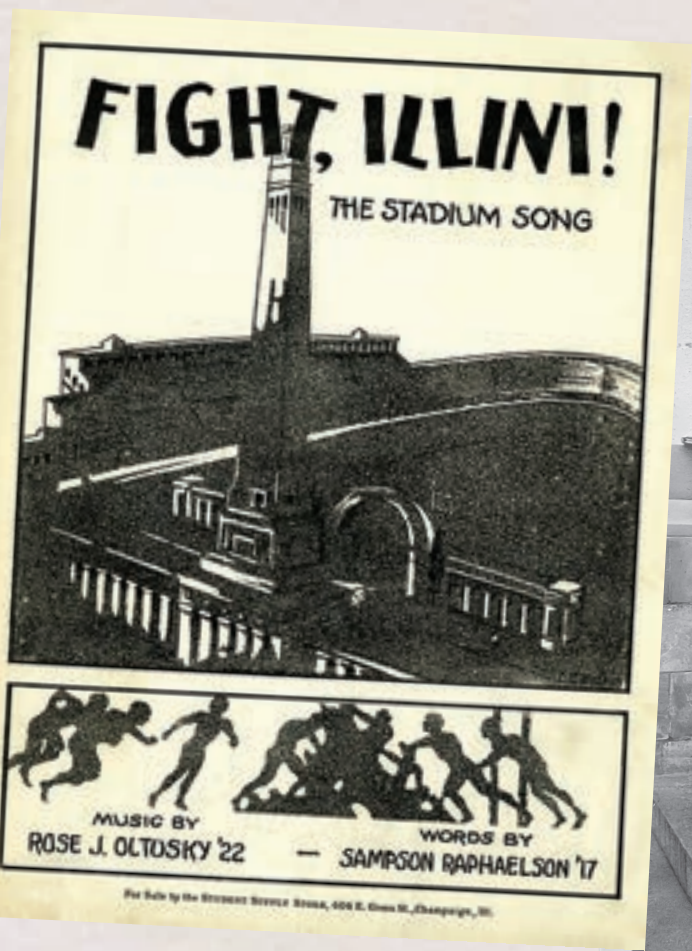
As reported in the Urbana *Daily Courier*, President Kinley humorously recounted this story at a banquet, and he told the crowd that Crackel, “came striding out and talked to my driver in a traffic cop voice. Although I was hidden in the recesses of the back seat, I could easily hear Ben crackle!”

Today the opposing team's locker rooms occupy the space where the stadium apartment once was. After Crackel's sudden passing in 1938, the family moved out, and there is no record of anyone using the apartment after that.

His name doesn't adorn a building, and no statue has been erected to honor him, but Crackel was a vital player in athletics between the two world wars. His legacy lives in the meticulously manicured fields and courts, along with the achievements of thousands of athletes who have donned the orange and blue.



These images were taken during the construction of Memorial Stadium between 1922 and 1924. Also pictured is the Marching Illini in formation and Red Grange playing in the 1924 Michigan game.



ROE (L) Sampson Raphaelson (R)



## “Fight, Illini!”

In 1921, a *Daily Illini* songwriting contest helped raise funds to build Memorial Stadium. For the first time in one hundred years, the sounds of the winning song will fill the stadium again.

- TOP-LEFT:** The cover of the sheet music to “Fight, Illini!”
- TOP-CENTER:** Oltusky and Sampson Raphaelson pictured on campus in this undated photo.
- TOP-RIGHT:** Oltusky, while a student at Illinois, stands on a table, holding a tambourine above her head.
- BOTTOM-LEFT:** Oltusky smiles alongside her peers at the May Fête in 1919.
- OPPOSITE-PAGE:** Oltusky, circled in white, attends a football game at Illinois Field.

**ROSE OLTUSKY’S (LAS 1922)** prize-winning fight song resonates like a theatrical score, reminiscent of ones she would play to accompany the silent movies in her hometown.

Yet, these fierce notes and patriotic melodies, punctuated by dramatic pauses, were to be played by A.A. Harding’s Illini marching band at the Memorial Stadium dedication in 1924.

Oltusky shared the \$50 prize with Sampson Raphaelson (LAS 1917), who wrote the lyrics, and the proceeds from sales of the sheet music raised money for the stadium.

“Fight, Illini!,” sometimes called the stadium song, was a creation of its time, meant to rally the players on the field and evoke memories of University of Illinois’ fallen in World War I. America and her allies had won, the Roaring Twenties were in full swing, and Illinois’ new stadium was poised to change the school’s—and state’s—fortunes.

Oltusky’s passion for the stadium went beyond just writing the song. Since the project was to be funded through donations from students and alumni, Oltusky devoted countless hours to promoting and fundraising for the stadium. Her efforts did not go unnoticed.

“Miss Oltusky has given more to the stadium than it would be possible for any person to do with mere money,” Elmer Ekblaw (LAS 1910), one of the organizers of the stadium fund drive, said in the *Daily Illini* in 1921.

The condensed version of Oltusky’s story at Illinois often begins and ends with the march she wrote for a band that, as a woman, she was not allowed to join.

But, of course, there is so much more.

Only twelve years before she enrolled at Illinois, she made her way west across the Atlantic aboard the hulking German steamship, *SS Kaiser Wilhelm II*, with her mother and younger sister, Lena (GIES 1924).

The trio, from the Russian Empire-occupied Warsaw (now the capital of Poland), arrived at Ellis Island in

1906 with \$50. They continued to Waukegan, Illinois reuniting with Oltusky’s father, Joseph, a business owner. The Oltusky family left behind an area beset by unrest and oppression in search of stability and promise in the United States.

By her senior year at Waukegan Township High School in 1918, Oltusky was the class president.

Oltusky, or Romeo to her friends and perhaps to her many gentleman callers, had an ambitious spirit throughout her time at Illinois. The *Daily Illini* is replete with mentions of the activities Oltusky either led, was a part of, or founded—the Mu Chapter of the Alpha Epsilon Phi sorority, chairman of the dance committee, participant in theatrical performances, founding member of Delta Alpha Omega Jewish Sorority, hockey player, *Daily Illini* society personal editor, member of the Mortar Board, honor society, and an inaugural female member of the debate team.

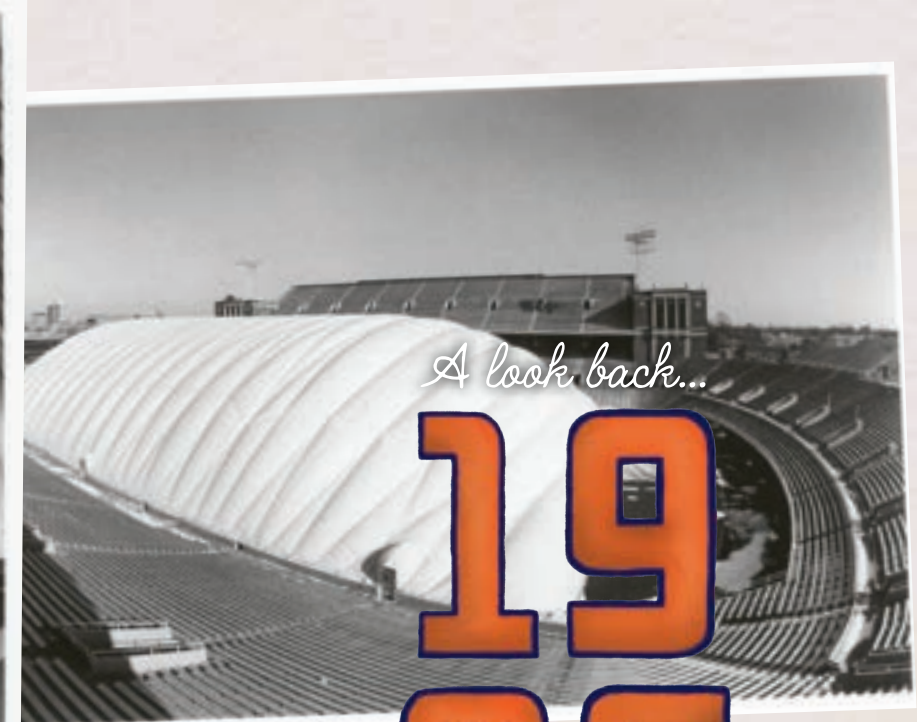
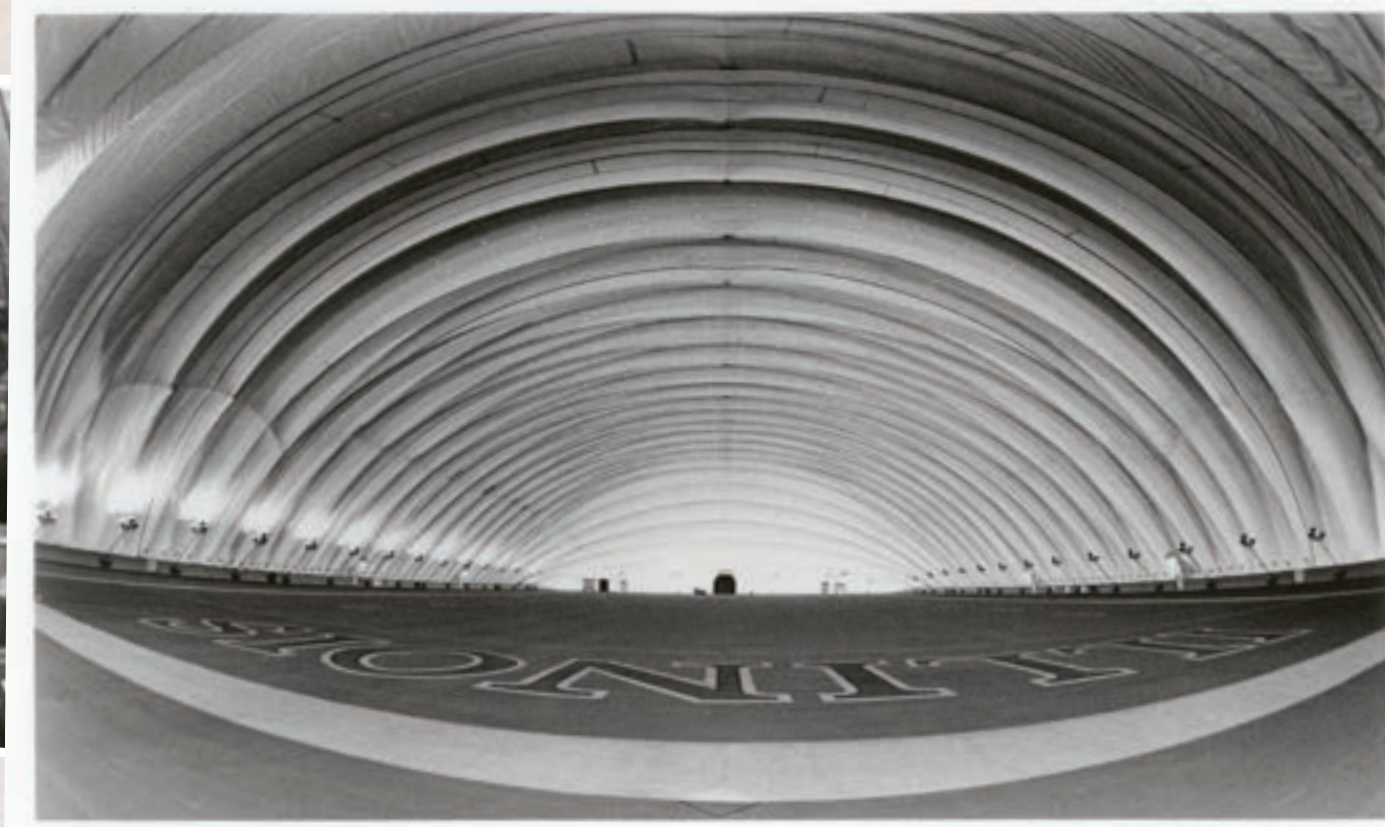
In her senior year, anticipating graduation, Oltusky wrote a tongue-in-cheek farewell to her colleagues in the *Daily Illini*. Well-known and admired on campus, Oltusky was now embarking on her next adventure.



“Life is divided into hopeful aspirations, philosophical contemporaries, and melancholy has-beens,” she started. She continued outlining the “indignities” of her outgoing student status and ended with, “I was thrust into the third class without warning or sympathy. My only consolation is the presence of other has-beens and membership in a fraternity that ever increases. Where’s my hat? I’m going back to Waukegan.”

Of course, Illinois has never regarded Oltusky in that way, and one hundred years after her song was first performed in the then brand-new Memorial Stadium, the band will once again bring the song to life at the anniversary celebration in October. Marching Illini men and women will perform it at the Michigan game, and it will serve as a reminder that a pioneering, dedicated person like Rose never goes out of style.





# Bear Hunting

Illinois Athletics historian **Kent Brown** (MEDIA '87, AHS '89) remembers when the Chicago Bears practiced at Memorial Stadium on the way to Super Bowl XX.

**WE DON'T REALLY HAVE A BEAR SEASON** in central Illinois, but in January 1986, we came close.

I count myself among the Chicago Bears fans who consider the 1985 team to be the greatest football team of our lifetimes. The squad was full of superstars and huge personalities, and they played a nearly perfect season with only one loss to the Miami Dolphins.

After shutting out the New York Giants (21-0) and Los Angeles Rams (24-0) to win the NFC title, the Bears were headed to their first Super Bowl, and the fans were thrilled.

Much of the nation fell in love with a punky QB named Jim McMahon; the game's greatest running back, Walter Payton; and a ferocious defense that devoured just about everything in its path. The Bears' "Super Bowl Shuffle" song and dance became a sensation.

At the time, I was a junior majoring in journalism at Illinois. While I watched that phenomenal season from afar, I could not have predicted that the Bears



Author Kent Brown in the 1980s. Photograph courtesy Kent Brown

would Super Bowl Shuffle on my own campus streets!

Before heading to New Orleans for the game, the Bears were looking for an indoor practice facility to escape Chicago's snow and freezing temperatures.

Just a month earlier, the university had installed an air-supported bubble over the playing surface at Memorial Stadium, allowing the Fighting Illini a

place to practice for bowl games and work out during the offseason. It was just what the Bears needed.

The team chose Jumer's Castle Lodge in Urbana as its headquarters and arrived on January 15 with hundreds of fans surrounding the hotel and flooding the adjacent Lincoln Square Mall, hoping to catch a glimpse of the players. Security at the hotel was especially tight, with players and staff being the only people allowed through the doors.

I jumped at the chance to sneak into two press conferences with my little tape recorder just to witness the activity with the more than one hundred media members who followed the team to Champaign-Urbana.

Evenings were clear on the team's schedule, so the players took full advantage of staying in a college town. Since this was before cell phones and social media, the community shared information by word of mouth, and soon enough, the hunt was on. It seemed like everyone spent those four days on continual "Bear Hunts" at the area watering holes and restaurants.

When folks found out that McMahon was on campus or Dan Hampton and Steve McMichael were in downtown Urbana, stampedes of fans trying to get

a glimpse of one of the stars soon followed.

My roommate and I ran into William "The Fridge" Perry, who was out on a walk in Urbana. He was cordial but didn't seem to want to talk. (It was an actual "Bear Encounter!") We saw several other players in the bars, but it was enough just to watch and let them enjoy an evening out.

I'm not sure any of the Bears players had to buy a drink the nights they were in Champaign before leaving on January 18. It was a locked-in crew who were chasing history, and they must have gotten in some good practices, since the team went on to crush the New England Patriots 46-10 in the Super Bowl about a week later.

I can't believe there has been a more exciting three-night period in the history of Champaign-Urbana than the time we were all on Bear Patrol.

**TOP-LEFT:** The media welcomes Bears players as they arrive at Memorial Stadium. Photographs courtesy of Champaign County Historical Archives, The Urbana Free Library, Urbana, Illinois

**TOP-CENTER & TOP-RIGHT:** An airtight vacuum dome, commonly known as "The Bubble," completely covered the field and was inflated for the first time in December 1985 for the purpose of practicing during the winter months. Photographs courtesy of Illinois Facilities and Services



A look back...

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# Sentinels of the Stadium

To the descendants of **Private Dean Memmen**, a casualty of World War I, Memorial Stadium has always been about more than just football.

## AT 5:48 ON A CHILLY OCTOBER MORNING IN 1918

Private Dean Memmen stood in anticipation alongside his fellow United States Marines, gripping his rifle and waiting for the command. Through the morning fog, he looked out on a landscape cratered by repeated shelling, trees reduced to trunks and tinder, the ground strewn with the bodies of French soldiers who died before him trying to take the hill. Two years ago, he was an engineering student at Illinois and the war was "Over There." Now, he was 4,000 miles from home in the Champagne region of France—not his beloved Champaign, Illinois.

The call sounded at 6:00 a.m., and it was time. The young Marines charged the chalky Blanc Mont Ridge, heading straight into German machine-gun fire. Memmen's government-issued boots kicked up the dry soil of the hillside as he pushed through the gun smoke toward the warren of trenches the enemy had built in the ridge.



Private Dean Memmen, photographed when he entered the army.

Just three months earlier, Memmen had survived two bullets to his left foot and leg in the Battle of Château-Thierry. But Memmen would not survive the Battle of Blanc Mont Ridge. He was injured on the ridge and

died of his wounds the next day. He was 23.

Memmen was among the Illini who lost their lives during World War I, "the war to end all wars." Memorial Stadium was conceived as a way to honor those lost while also accommodating Illinois' growing football program. Of the 200 columns that support the east and west sides of the stadium, 189 are inscribed

with the names of those who died. Memmen's name is among those etched in limestone.

Five years after he died in France, Memmen's cousins were some of the first fans to hold season tickets and attend the first football game in the stadium. In fact, the family has maintained that tradition continuously from 1923 until today, including Dean Messinger (GIES '90), who was named for his distant relative. Messinger remembers visiting Memmen's column as a child when he attended games with his grandfather. As a teenager, Messinger joined the family business, Champaign Ice Cream Company, and sold ice cream in the stands.

The stadium has always been about more than football to him.

"The stadium is classic, a piece of art," said Messinger. "I've been to most of the other Big Ten stadiums, as well as other football stadiums and

arenas, and they're just an arena. They have no character or ambiance. In Memorial Stadium, I feel a part of something and uniquely connected to something special."

Not only has the family passed down tickets, but they've also passed down Memmen's name. At least one member of the family is named for Dean Memmen in every generation. As one of his namesakes, Messinger has passed on the name to his daughter, and she on to her son.

Over 14,000 white marble crosses punctuate the green grass in the Meuse-Argonne American



Messinger stands next to Memmen's pillar at Memorial Stadium. Photograph by Kaitlin Southworth



Messinger sits in his office surrounded by Fighting Illini memorabilia. Photograph by Kaitlin Southworth

Cemetery, the largest American cemetery in Europe. The headstones are spaced evenly apart and create row after row of straight white lines. Their precise placement and calming visual repetition bring order to this land in the French countryside that was once witness to chaos and bloodshed. Memmen was laid to rest here, not far from where he died.

Though his life was cut short, Memmen's memory lives on in his namesakes and in the stadium, where he can watch over every game and every generation that fills the stands.



# Breathing Room

PHOTOGRAPH BY FRED ZWICKY

During an initial exam, Dr. Heidi Phillips uses a stethoscope to determine if any air is making it through a bulldog's obstructed nostrils. Phillips, a professor of veterinary clinical medicine at Illinois and expert in the treatment of short-skulled dog and cat breeds, is one of only three veterinarians in the world to perform laser-assisted turbinectomy, an endoscopic procedure that uses a laser to open pathways for air in the otherwise obstructed nasal passages of bulldogs and other flat-faced dogs.

The demand for bulldogs and other flat-faced pets is at an all-time high. But as the popularity of these pets increases, so do the serious respiratory ailments that often afflict them. "I tell my students to plug their noses while attempting to take a breath with their mouth closed. What they feel is the increased negative pressure required to breathe against an obstruction of the upper airway, something brachycephalic dogs and cats feel with almost every breath every day of their lives," Phillips said.



Excerpt from *Veterinary Expert: Spare Flat-Faced Pets the Respiratory Distress* written by Diana Yates

SCAN TO READ MORE



Josh Whitman looks on at the Illini women's basketball game against Alcorn State in 2022.



# Running Home



Director of Athletics **Josh Whitman** (GIES '01, LAW '08) answers the Proust Questionnaire.

	<b>Josh Whitman, Director of Athletics</b>
	<b>Born in West Lafayette, Indiana</b>
	<b>B.S. in Finance, J.D. University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b>
	<b>Fighting Illini Tight End and Academic All-American</b>
	<b>Former Professional Football Player</b>

**HAVING HAD THE DISTINCT HONOR OF BEING AN ATHLETE AT ILLINOIS**, I have seen Josh Whitman in a lot of settings. The Zoom screen was a first though. Josh Whitman understands the magnitude of his role. In 2016, Whitman returned to his alma mater to take over one of the most prominent, pressure-filled, and exciting positions in college sports. Under Whitman's leadership, the athletic campus landscape has been transformed. He has overseen major facilities upgrades for sports such as softball, baseball, football, basketball, soccer, and track and field which have led to a whopping 92 NCAA postseason appearances, 14 Big Ten Conference titles, and 9 individual national championships.

Many of the questions Whitman is rightfully asked in his countless press conferences revolve around sports—numbers, records, and expectations. He is judged on the wins and losses of the twenty-one varsity sports at Illinois. With so much sports talk day in and day out, I wanted to know what goes on outside the lines, when he gets to unplug and just be Josh.

When I sat down to chat with him for the Proust Questionnaire, I started by sharing my first memory of him.

It was in his first few weeks in his role as Illinois' director of athletics. I was a junior, and Whitman attended our weekly student-athlete meeting. Dressed in a tailored shirt, tie, and suit pants, he sat casually with one of his legs dangling off a cafeteria table. The room was silent as our small group of student-athletes sat waiting to see what he'd say to us—what new expectations would come. Once everyone had filed in, he instructed us to pull out our cell phones and proceeded to rattle off ten digits. He said, "that's my phone number; please save it." A minute went by, and his phone started to ring. One of the football players in the room had called the number. It was not Whitman's office phone—he had given us his genuine personal phone number. He wanted to know us and wanted us to know he was at the University of Illinois to be there for us.

Even if you have not been a student-athlete for the Illini, you can see and feel

Whitman's respect for his alma mater. He is in a job that is anything but nine-to-five. He is always tuned in to what is happening with the Illinois programs—flying across the country to give one of his bear hugs to the men's basketball team after a big win or quietly appearing in the stands of one of our sports arenas in support of a senior whose athletic career is coming to an end. In the limited time he does get to disconnect from the orange and blue, he devotes his time to family and—what many athletes look forward to never doing again—running.

Whitman won't call himself a runner, but I'm not sure what else you'd call someone who has run hundreds of miles in places all over the world. Despite having been an elite athlete, getting into running was no small feat for

Whitman. "I tried my first mile and just felt awful, awful, and it took me six months to just get to a point where I could run even three miles. Then, I was nervous to run outside because I thought I'd get stuck somewhere," he said, laughing.

Whitman now finds himself leading, at times, over forty people on a four-mile run before home football

games. For him, running is a cathartic experience. It frees his mind and provides "some semblance of equilibrium" for his life. Just as when he played football, maintaining his physical fitness is important for him to perform at his highest level.

But even more than running, his family keeps him grounded.

The Whitmans recently moved to a home in the country. Surrounded by nature, the family of four gets to enjoy the hours away from the courts, fields, and gyms they often find themselves in. "We've got a little land and some quiet and solitude," he

said. "I've really come to appreciate that setting and realize that I needed that. It's a kind of a sanctuary for me and our family."

Even though he's moved to the country, Whitman fully understands the magic of what it is for his children to grow up and be embedded in the community. In fact, he grew up outside of another Big Ten Conference school—Purdue. He appreciates the diversity his children are experiencing and learning from in a town filled with people from around the world.

When Whitman reflects on Urbana-Champaign—it's more than just a campus for him. "This is absolutely my home and I'm just really grateful to be here and to be able to have our family here."

We're thankful you're here, too, Josh Whitman.



***"This is absolutely my home, and I'm just really grateful to be here and to be able to have our family here."***



**OPPOSITE-PAGE:** Josh and Hope Whitman with their children, Will and Tate, along with their cat Dreamsicle. Josh Whitman spent four seasons in the National Football League. Hope Whitman is an All-American basketball player and was inducted into the Drury University Hall of Fame in 2006.

**RIGHT:** The Whitmans take on the Grand Canyon in May 2023.

**What is your idea of perfect happiness?**

A day that includes a good sleep, a good workout, a good meal, and good times with my family and friends.

**What is your idea of misery?**

Hopelessness.

**Which talent would you most like to have?**

I would love to be a musician—either the guitar or the fiddle.

**What is the quality you admire most in a person?**

Grit.

**Who are your heroes in real life?**

I am amazed every day at the toughness, resiliency, discipline, hard work, and leadership displayed by our student-athletes.

**Who are your heroes throughout history?**

Jackie Robinson, Abraham Lincoln.

**What is your most treasured possession?**

My wedding band.

**What is your motto?**

Find an opportunity to do work that matters with people you care about.

**What motivates you?**

Making a difference.

**Which words or phrases do you most overuse?**

All of them. I continually work on talking less and listening more.

**What do you consider your greatest achievement?**

Professionally, being in a position to provide leadership and influence to my alma mater during a time of great consequence. Personally, finding a partner in life whom I trust, respect, and admire, and creating two special children with her who teach me new things—about them, about me, and about the world—each and every day.

**If you were to die and come back as a person or thing, what would it be?**

A successful fiction writer.  
What could be cooler than that?

**Who is your favorite musician? Writer? Artist?**

Musician: Eric Church. Writer: John Grisham.  
Artist: My kids.

**Where is your favorite spot in the world?**

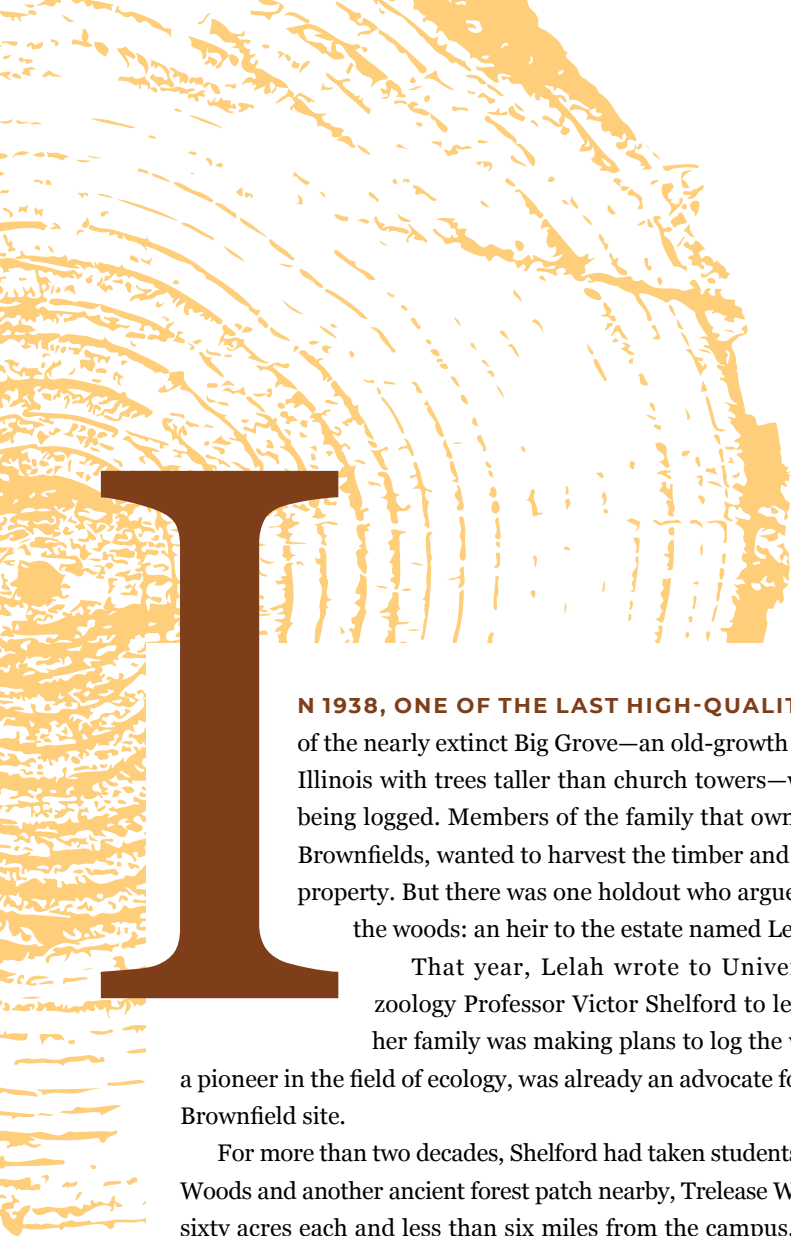
Our house.

A G E M  
THAT WAS  
NEARLY  
L O S T

*For nearly a century,  
Illinois scientists have  
protected Brownfield Woods,  
a treasured outdoor ecological  
laboratory.*

WRITTEN BY DIANA YATES

PHOTOGRAPHS BY FRED ZWICKY  
AND THE ILLINOIS ARCHIVES



**I****N 1938, ONE OF THE LAST HIGH-QUALITY REMNANTS** of the nearly extinct Big Grove—an old-growth forest in Central Illinois with trees taller than church towers—was in danger of being logged. Members of the family that owned the land, the Brownfields, wanted to harvest the timber and sell the valuable property. But there was one holdout who argued for preserving the woods: an heir to the estate named Lelah Brownfield.

That year, Lelah wrote to University of Illinois zoology Professor Victor Shelford to let him know that her family was making plans to log the woods. Shelford, a pioneer in the field of ecology, was already an advocate for preserving the Brownfield site.

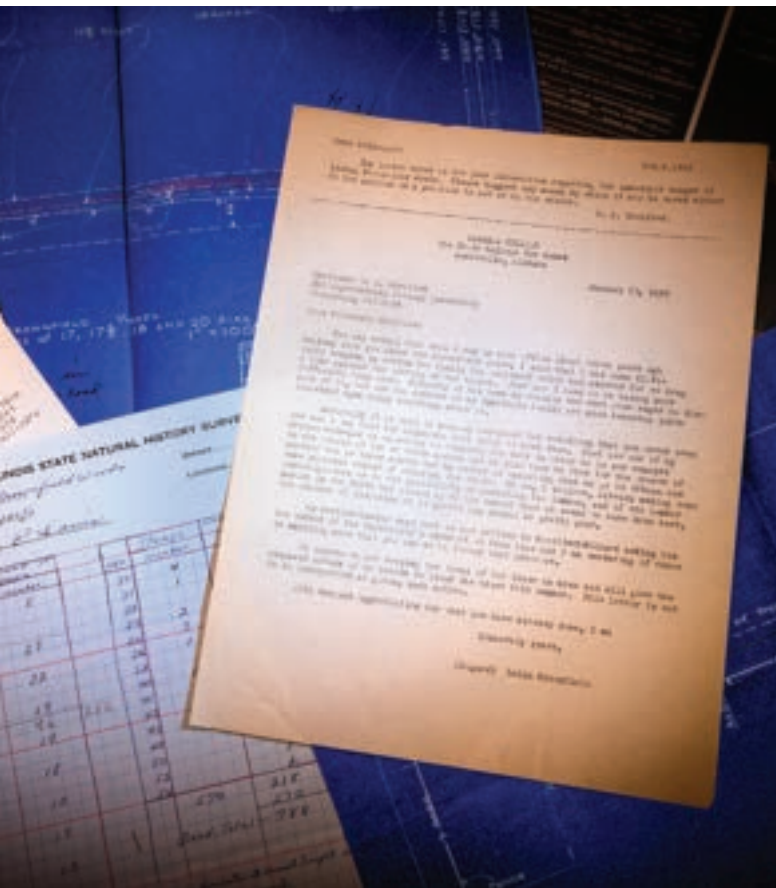
For more than two decades, Shelford had taken students into Brownfield Woods and another ancient forest patch nearby, Trelease Woods. At roughly sixty acres each and less than six miles from the campus, Brownfield and Trelease were ideal sites for ecological study. They were some of the last remnants of a vast deciduous woodland that once encompassed more than six thousand acres in Central Illinois. The university had purchased Trelease Woods in 1917-18, but in 1938, the Brownfield site was unprotected.

For another year, the Brownfield family and the university debated the value of the land. In January 1939, the university's Committee on Natural Areas and Uncultivated Lands, which Shelford chaired, sent a letter to university President A.C. Willard urging him to purchase Brownfield Woods for \$15,000, a sum significantly higher than its appraised value. The letter described the woods as "an area of irreplaceable forest of great value for instruction and research in biology and soil science." The university finally agreed, securing the site for future generations of research and learning.

**RIGHT:** This tree, a northern red oak, fell in March 2019. It was 46.1 inches in diameter.



*“What falls in the woods  
**stays** in the woods.”*



## IF A TREE FALLS

From their workshop near the woods, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign natural areas coordinator Jamie Ellis and natural areas research specialist Nathan Hudson, both of the Illinois Natural History Survey, sometimes hear massive tree branches or whole trees crashing to earth during a rain or windstorm. Some of the trees get snagged on their way down and, unless they pose a risk to traffic at the borders of the property, remain in their half-fallen condition until another storm brings them down. The trees are left where they lie.

“What falls in the woods stays in the woods,” Ellis likes to say.

Brownfield Woods today feels like an anachronism, an island of towering trees in a sea of corn, soybeans, and houses. The woods are not open to the public, but professors regularly bring their classes to see and study the unique ecology of the site. While several giant trees have fallen in the eight-plus decades since the purchase of Brownfield Woods, dozens of the ancient “monarchs” remain. Over the decades, tens of thousands of Illinois students have walked among the giants of Brownfield Woods. This unparalleled outdoor laboratory is home to lessons in biology, entomology, forestry, soil science, and plant biology.

Leaving the fallen trees in place has yielded a treasure trove of opportunities for study as the decaying trees contribute to the natural ecology and evolution of the woods. Brownfield Woods used to be dominated by fire-adapted hardwood species like oaks and hickory, but maple trees now make up 65 percent of the woods. Ellis muses that reintroducing fire to Brownfield Woods could help maintain its historic character while interrupting the ascent of the maples. However, the university has traditionally left the Brownfield and Trelease Woods alone, allowing natural processes (other than fire) to occur within their boundaries without interference.

On a recent walk in Brownfield Woods, Ellis, Hudson, and Illinois entomology Professor Brian Allan, the current chair of the now named Committee on Natural Areas, pointed to a carpet of maple seedlings on the forest floor. Unlike young oaks, which need ample sunlight, young maples can flourish in sunny and shady areas as well as shade out other species. The number of oak trees has dwindled in Brownfield because deer, squirrels, and mice eat most of the acorns on the forest floor. All these circumstances have led to this gradual change in forest composition.

## THE NATURE OF CHANGE

Several other factors have changed the nature of Brownfield and Trelease Woods. Tree deaths, including those caused by Dutch elm disease in the 1950s, increased the light in which sugar maples flourished while rarer species declined. More recently, the emerald ash borer has killed most of the ash trees.

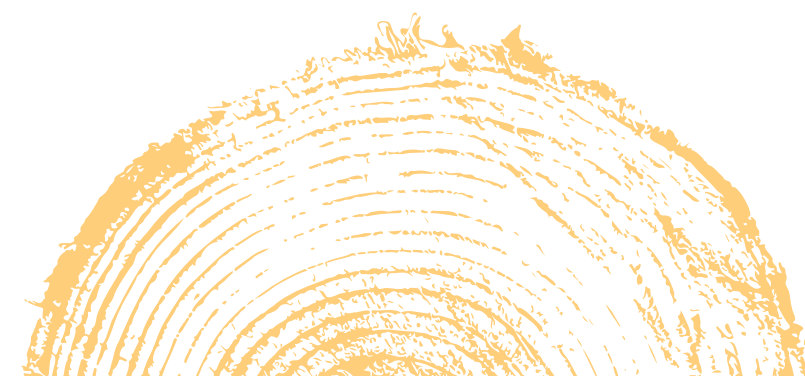
Browsing deer also damage the emerging life on the forest floor, eating wildflowers and young oak trees. Plant biology professors James Dalling and Carol Augspurger see the large numbers of white-tailed deer as a primary threat to the quality of the woods and suggest deer management, including deer-proof fencing.

The forest edges are subject to tree-toppling winds and invasive plants. Ellis and Hudson combat the invasives at the forest’s edges, cutting back the large stems of bush honeysuckle, spraying the stumps with an herbicide in fall and winter when other plants are dormant, and uprooting smaller plants.

A less natural, but no less challenging, threat to Brownfield Woods and Trelease Woods comes from land the university doesn’t own. Property owners nearby sometimes put their holdings up for sale. The prospect of development just at their edges would likely degrade

**LEFT:** Metal tags, like this one imprinted with 443, are used to reference an “obituary” for each fallen tree. A purple flower and fungal growth thrive in Brownfield Woods.

**ABOVE:** Portrait of Lelah Brownfield and documents from the Illinois Archives. The letter, from her to Victor Shelford, tells the story of the purchase of Brownfield Woods.



these ancient woodlands and, unless substantial barriers are erected around them, open them up to trespassers.

Allan and the other Illinois scientists actively teaching and researching in the woods say they would like to see large prairie or woodland buffers around Brownfield and Trelease so that the woods can continue sharing their riches with Illinois faculty, staff, and students.

“There is enough open land to the west of Brownfield Woods to bring back a thriving prairie grassland and even build an education research center there,” Allan said. That property is currently used to grow corn and soybeans.

“Most universities and other top-tier research institutions have a field station where faculty and students do ecological research,” Dalling said. “We don’t have one. We have Trelease Woods, and about a mile away we have Brownfield Woods. These are some of the only high-value protected forest areas that are under the control of the university within a short travel time from campus.”

**OPPOSITE PAGE**

**TOP:** Stewart Berlocher, professor emeritus, and Jamie Ellis, natural areas coordinator with the Illinois Natural History Survey, walk an access area next to the woods.

**BOTTOM-LEFT:** In a historical photo, Clarence Telford, a forester with the Illinois Natural History Survey, stands next to an oak tree.

**BOTTOM-RIGHT:** Ellis stands with an old-growth oak tree at Brownfield Woods in 2021.

## A CENTURY OF SCIENCE

More than a hundred years after Shelford first saw the academic promise of Brownfield Woods, numerous ecological studies have been conducted and published. These include investigations of forest-dwelling bats, birds, foxes, mollusks, squirrels, and invertebrates such as beetles, centipedes, millipedes, and mosquitoes. The proximity of the woods to restored prairie also allows studies of the animals, plants, and fungi that live at the forest edges and rely on both habitats for their survival. For example, many species of wild bees nest and overwinter in forests but feed on prairie flowers.

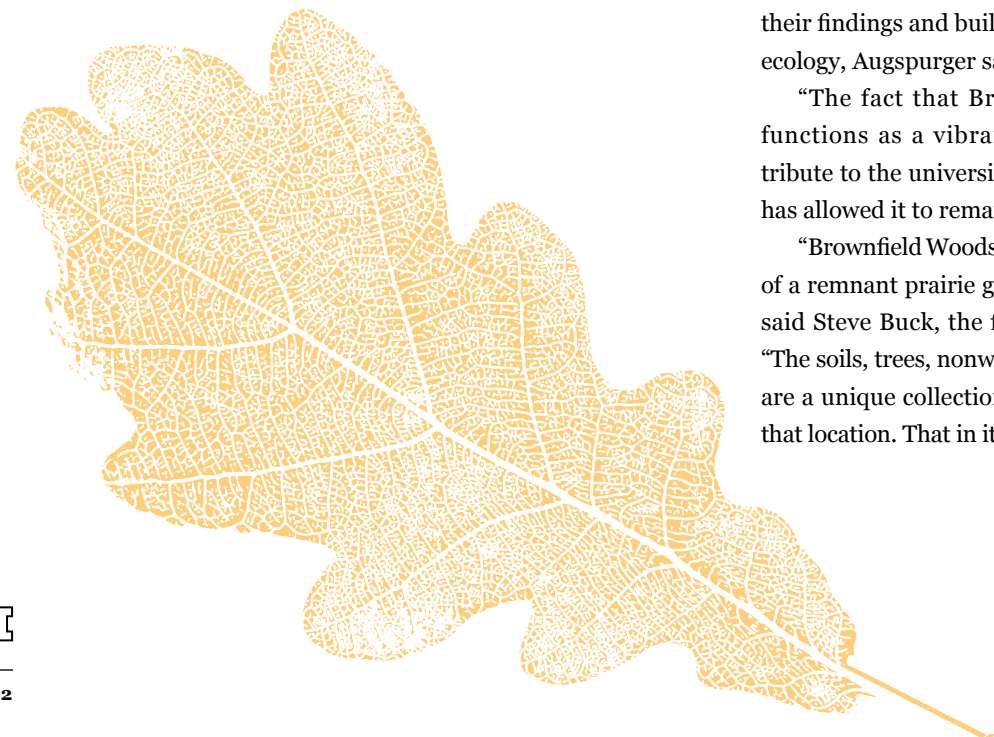
Perhaps the greatest gift the woods offer, however, is to the ecological education of university students, said Augspurger, who has probably brought more students to the woods than any other professor in recent decades.

Visits to the forest laboratories “often awaken or reawaken younger students to the beauty and complexity of our native, old-growth forests,” Augspurger said. “Many have not been in nature often or not recently and realize how important it is to visit and protect these woods. They become comfortable in this new habitat and say how much they love being there. They also learn introductory scientific methods of how to test hypotheses explaining their observations, analyze data, write scientific manuscripts, and give oral presentations about their research.”

The more advanced students come up with their own testable hypotheses, gather data in the woods, analyze their findings and build their confidence in the science of ecology, Augspurger said.

“The fact that Brownfield Woods still exists and functions as a vibrant forest community island is a tribute to the university and the human community that has allowed it to remain,” she said.

“Brownfield Woods represents one of the best examples of a remnant prairie grove stand in east-central Illinois,” said Steve Buck, the former natural areas coordinator. “The soils, trees, nonwoody flora, insects, fungi, and so on are a unique collection that developed over centuries in that location. That in itself is a remarkable feat.”





Victor E. Shelford, Illinois professor of zoology, in 1935

### ***Professor Victor Shelford***

In 1915, Shelford was elected the first president of the Ecological Society of America. An activist and a scientist, Shelford formed the Committee for the Preservation of Natural Conditions for Ecological Study two years later. In the 1940s, Shelford and his colleagues split from the Society to focus on preservation and “direct action.” The group he formed ultimately became the Nature Conservancy, which continues to play a critical role in preserving and fighting the effects of climate change.

### ***Professor Brian Allan, Entomology***

Studies of forests worldwide find that insect diversity is greatest in those with “relict” trees—dead or fallen trees that are allowed to rot in place. Allan points out that Brownfield provides a hospitable environment for fungi, microbes, and insects that feast on rotting wood and the predators that feed on them. Because the forest provides so many types of habitat, the insect life there

is also quite diverse. “You have the decomposers in the woody debris,” he said. “And then you have arboreal species distinct from your ground-level insects, which are distinct from those that live in the soil.”

### ***Professor Emerita Carol Augspurger, Plant Biology***

Augspurger has tracked the abundance of herbaceous plants on the forest floor of Trelease Woods and the timing of their emergence, flowering, and senescence over thirty-plus years. She also records changes in the community of woody species. Her study of herbaceous woodland plants found significant shifts in the timing of flowering that correspond to climate-related temperature shifts. These changes may disrupt the life cycle of pollinating insects that rely on the emergence of early flowering plants as a primary food source in the spring.

### ***Steve Buck, Former Natural Areas Coordinator***

Buck recorded every treefall in these parcels over a period of twenty-five years, starting in 1994. He wrote “obituaries” for the fallen trees, detailing the date they fell, their diameter, and notes about their condition and the probable cause of their fall. He and his team also tagged the fallen trees with metal disks numbered to correspond to locations on a grid established in Brownfield and Trelease woods in 1939. Ellis and Hudson continue the tradition of tagging and recording the treefalls.

### ***Professor James Dalling, Plant Biology***

Dalling turned to Brownfield and Trelease Woods to learn how deciduous trees contribute to a forest’s carbon-storage capacity. Buck’s earlier work in recording every treefall informed Dalling’s research. Dalling and his colleagues found that fallen oaks rot much more slowly than other trees in the forest, storing carbon for well over a century. Sugar maples and buckeyes disappear completely within decades.



Snow blankets Brownfield Woods.



Larry Smarr stands next to the CRAY supercomputers that revolutionized research.

# A Visionary Leader

**Larry Smarr**, founder of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications at Illinois, recently returned to campus to accept an honorary PhD in computer science and talk about his journey from establishing the Center to his work with the National Research Platform.

**W**HEN LARRY SMARR visited West Germany in 1981 to use one of its supercomputers, fellow astrophysicist Karl Heinz Winkler asked why America, a nation that was arguably a leader in supercomputing development, didn't have these machines available among its elite academic institutions.

"Winkler essentially shamed the U.S. and that it was 'mooching off Germany' for supercomputer access," Smarr said at the time. "For me, this was an existential moment. I felt there was something terribly wrong with the country, and I resolved to not give up on having open academic access to supercomputing in the U.S."

Spurred into action in 1982, Smarr surveyed colleagues at Illinois, asking them what computer power would be beneficial and, in some cases, necessary to their work. The information he gathered was used to write a paper with the attention-grabbing title, "The Supercomputing Famine in American Universities."

In the paper, Smarr made a compelling argument for why supercomputers were important to researchers and an essential component of their research.

"The current distribution of supercomputers . . . virtually excludes American universities," Smarr wrote. He said that other countries, like Japan, would soon eclipse the United States in scientific research if the problem wasn't remedied quickly.

"Clearly, it would be much better to have the supercomputer (or access to one) at the home institution of the scientist," he wrote. "Then he could spend all year in 'compute, think, read, talk, recompute' mode."

Not long afterward, Smarr worked on an unsolicited proposal for the National Science Foundation (NSF). Called "A Center for Scientific and Engineering Supercomputing," it was more commonly known as the "Black Proposal" because of the color of the cover.

The proposal started a flurry of activity, and Smarr's work eventually yielded results. The NSF decided to fund and support five supercomputing centers on campuses nationwide. Illinois was chosen as one of the sites, and in 1985, Smarr was appointed the first director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA). The creation of academic supercomputing centers was the first step to catching up with the world.



Larry Smarr and Joseph Hardin, head of the NCSA's Software Development Group. They put NCSA's full resources behind Mosaic, the first graphical web browser. *Photograph by Steve Kagan*

Vice President Al Gore speaks during a 1988 United States presidential campaign stop at NCSA. Larry Smarr is on the left.

## LEADING THE CENTER'S INNOVATIVE WORK

Smarr served as NCSA's director for fifteen years, during which time he helped spearhead several influential technologies and ideas. By 1988, more than 2,000 researchers from 120 universities coast to coast had used NCSA supercomputers, accessed through modems, satellites, and high-speed landlines.

Jay Alameda, a senior technical program manager at NCSA, remembers Smarr's focus on testing out the limitations of these massive computers.

"I arrived at NCSA in 1990," Alameda said. "Although NCSA started with CRAY vector computers, Larry was not content to rest there—we went through an array of systems. [He] helped us continue to lead the charge in high-performance computing."

Smarr was also deeply supportive of and passionate about the field of scientific visualization. Supercomputing amassed large datasets and had the capacity to better translate that data graphically. Scientific visualization became a major innovation out of early NCSA. Smarr

enabled this by investing in young faculty and industry professionals and establishing several research and Hollywood-style production visualization groups.

Donna Cox, a professor emerita at Illinois, worked closely with Smarr. "Larry has the uncanny ability to discover creative people and technological trends," said Cox. "My 36-year tenure at NCSA, helping to lead scientific visualization and develop the field, was made possible through Larry. He could foresee the future and how the nascent '90s visualization and virtual-reality technologies pioneered at NCSA heralded the future. Many of these technologies were so ahead of their time, they are only now coming to market."

NCSA staff who worked with Smarr often describe him as a source of inspiration and vision. "We had so much innovation in the early '90s," recalled Alaina Kanfer, assistant director for strategic partnership development at NCSA.

"People always talk about the innovations, but that was just part of it. All these projects were emerging, but it was Larry who understood their immense potential for

social impact. He invested significant personal energy into making sure innovations like NCSA Mosaic, the first graphical web browser, were recognized and adopted internationally. He started small, setting up meetings with community leaders to share his vision and bring in support. I remember him saying during one of these presentations, "Imagine going online and booking your tickets to the Assembly Hall in real time," Kanfer explained. "That was Larry. He sees all these pieces and has this vision, but even more than that, he's able to communicate it in a way that also helped everyone listening understand the potential. It wasn't just the innovation itself that brought success to NCSA. It was Larry's understanding of that innovation and how it could be used in every sector of society."

## FROM INNOVATION TO APPLICATION

Scientific innovation was important, but Smarr knew society needed useful applications of the science. "Larry recognized from the beginning that applications—using

computing to solve problems that couldn't be solved in any other way—were the reason the nation needed to invest in supercomputing," said NCSA Director Bill Gropp. "Larry's vision set NCSA on the course that we are still following."

Developing software became a hallmark of NCSA's work. One of these innovations was Mosaic. Smarr's ability to create an environment that encouraged and supported innovation led to not only a reliable and intuitive web browser but also expanded to showing novel ways to use the internet.

Not enough credit goes to those who design the software we use, but Smarr knew that user design and experience were just as essential to get right as the programming. He made sure top talent was involved to achieve a look and feel that would draw people in.

Colleen Bushell, director of health care innovation at NCSA, recalls using what she'd learned through her work in visualization to help design what browsers and websites would look like for a long time. "I was able to apply visualization concepts to the design of the first

Mosaic interface,” explained Bushell. “One of my early projects was to create a virtual office space for Al Gore’s performance review team. Our goal was to show how a website could be more than an online brochure, which was the predominant type of website in the very early days. When Larry first brought the idea to me, he said it was for the vice president. I just assumed it was a vice president of one of our industry partners ... until I saw one of the emails was from albert.gore. I should have known he meant *the* vice president. Larry always had grand visions and knew how to make them happen.”

Vice President Al Gore had a long history of being supportive of computing and networking. This was part of the reason he chose NCSA as a stop during his 1988 campaign for president of the United States. During his visit, he talked about the importance of connecting supercomputers with networking and his ideas about the information superhighway, a term that Gore used quite frequently and one that preceded the internet and the World Wide Web.

## A LEGACY REMEMBERED

Smarr is a distinguished professor emeritus of the University of California, San Diego, and continues to innovate and explore the limitless possibilities of supercomputers. He’s been featured several times for his work using supercomputers to monitor his health and his efforts to increase cross-disciplinary collaboration. He continues to build and support the infrastructure researchers need to optimize their output through endeavors like the National Research Platform (NRP), a partnership of over fifty institutions led by researchers and cyberinfrastructure professionals at UC San Diego that supports data-intensive science and engineering research.

But for many at NCSA, he is recalled foremost as the founding mentor of the center, and his ideas remain the guiding principles that it strives to uphold, bringing people, computing, and data together to benefit society.

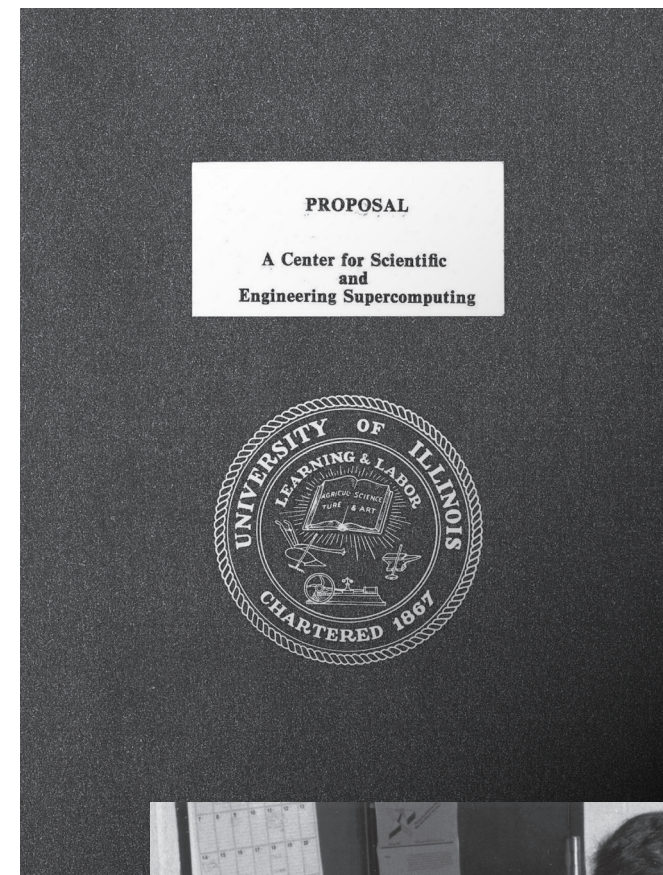
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*This story has been condensed and edited for clarity and space. To read the complete original story, visit [ncsa.illinois.edu/homecoming](http://ncsa.illinois.edu/homecoming).*

*By 1988, more than 2,000 researchers from 120 universities coast to coast had used NCSA supercomputers, accessed through modems, satellites, and high-speed landlines.*

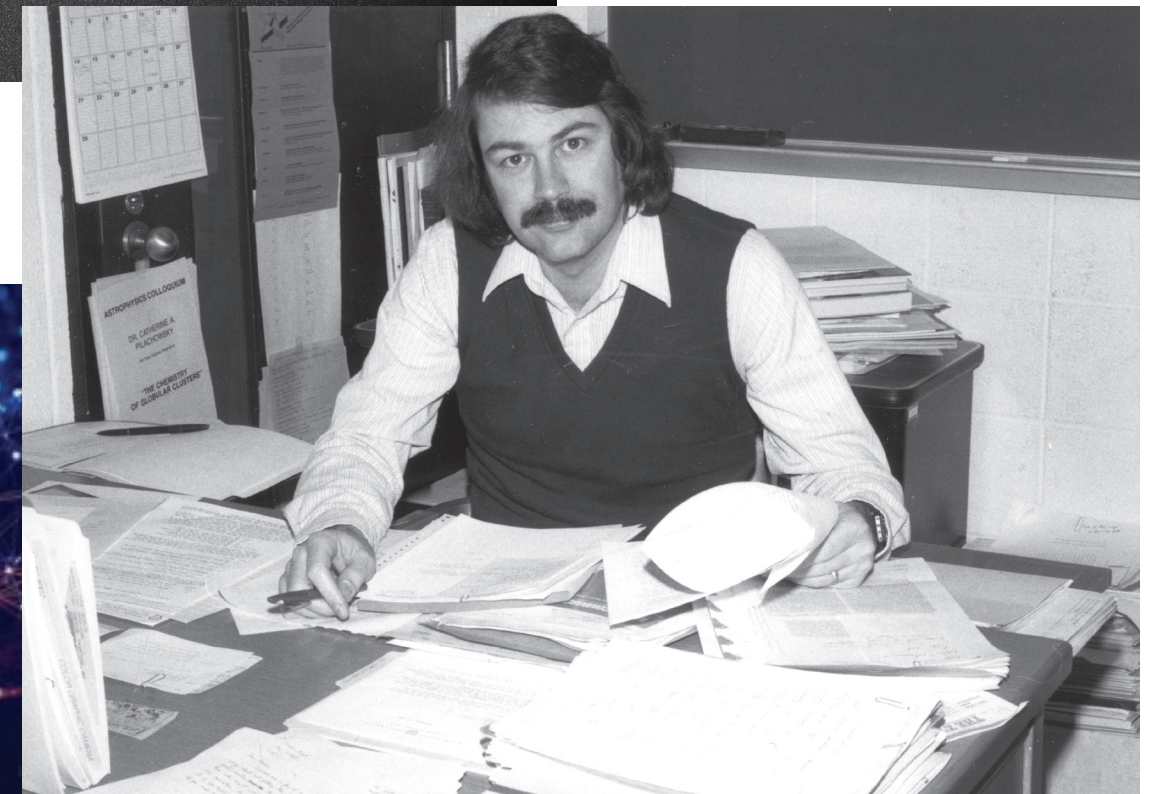


Larry Smarr



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In his proposal, Smarr expressed concern that, “Important segments of the research and defense communities lack effective access to supercomputers; and students are neither familiar with their special capabilities nor trained in their use.” He also worried that “The capacity of today’s supercomputers is several orders of magnitude too small for problems of current urgency in science, engineering, and technology.”



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Larry Smarr, working at his desk in the physics department at Illinois. Photograph courtesy of the University of Illinois Department of Physics





Elaine and Tom on their wedding day

# Mrs. Smith and the Mob

When a Chicago mobster was ready to talk, FBI agent **Elaine Corbitt Smith** (LAS '67) was ready to listen.

**O**N FEBRUARY 10, 1983, FBI Special Agent Elaine Corbitt Smith received a call in the middle of the night. On the other end was her boss explaining that Ken Eto, a high-ranking member of the Chicago Outfit, had been shot three times in the head while sitting in his 1976 Ford Torino in a deserted parking lot on the Northwest side. The poorly packed bullets ricocheted off his skull, and the sixty-four-year-old Eto survived the assassination attempt. As he recovered in his hospital bed, he said he was ready to talk, but only to Smith.

Eto, a.k.a. Tokyo Joe, had been running Asian gambling operations for the Mob for decades by the time Smith, new to the force, received the case in 1980.

Once she was handed the twenty-year-old file—often derided as an “old dog case”—she spent countless hours scrutinizing this “gambler [and] associate of well-known hoodlums,” according to documents filed with the FBI. Smith spared nothing to get to the bottom of Eto’s involvement in the machinations of Chicago’s organized crime scene.

“I wasn’t just in the stacks; I was out on the street,” Smith said in a recent interview. “I was surveilling him. I was talking to many of his supposed associates. I did all this research, and then, when it broke, I was ready.”

At the time of the shooting, Eto was awaiting a sentencing after being convicted of a numbers scheme.



Smith's FBI credentials



Elaine and Tom at an Illinois fraternity party

Paranoid that Eto would snitch, the Outfit sent two mobsters to finish him off, guaranteeing Eto's silence. The failed assassination attempt left Eto with few choices. He was a marked man, and the Mob would never walk away from unfinished business.

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"Good afternoon. Thank you so much for agreeing to chat," I said when I first spoke with the Smiths about this story. "Are you OK with me recording this conversation?"

As I posed this question to Elaine and Tom (AHS '67), her husband of 57 years, I wondered how often they had asked questions and pressed "record" during their careers. I was, after all, talking to two expert interrogators.

"Sure," said Elaine, who was sharing the line with Tom. "It would be a pleasure."

I reached them at their home in Carmel, a tony suburb of Indianapolis, many miles and lifetimes from their middle-class Northwest Chicago upbringings.

The Schurz High School sweethearts each batted away offers from other colleges before choosing

Illinois. After graduating in 1967, they married, and Tom became a physical education teacher and Elaine an elementary-school reading instructor.

The clean-cut Mr. and Mrs. Smith were on an unassuming trajectory until Tom decided to join the FBI. Besides taking on a career consorting with the nation's criminal underbelly, Tom found the job required longer hours and more frequent moves.

Initially, the FBI lifestyle threw a wrench into Elaine and Tom's once-predictable family life as two teachers and parents to a young daughter. However, circumstances changed for Smith when FBI director J. Edgar Hoover died, and women were accepted as agents; Smith saw an opportunity to leave teaching and build her own career in law enforcement.

With two FBI agents working long hours and unpredictable schedules, Tom's mother stepped in to help care for their young daughter.

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By the time Smith received Eto's phone call, she had been an agent for three years. While the FBI had opened the door for women in the 1970s, not many



Smith receiving her FBI credential from Tom in 1979

had yet walked through. Smith was still one of only a few females on the force, and she grappled with feeling like an outsider among her male peers.

She recognized that feeling in Eto, too. The Chicago Outfit, after all, was still the same largely Italian American Mob that rose to infamy in the 1920s with boss Al Capone.

While Eto had been navigating the Windy City organized crime scene since arriving shortly after World War II, as an Asian American he knew that some of the Mob would never fully accept him.

And this wasn't the first time he had felt that way. As a child of Japanese immigrants growing up in California, he experienced an increasing distance between him and his father, whose Christian faith began to feel oppressive. Eto left home at thirteen, was picked up in Idaho, and placed in an internment camp during World War II. There, he acquired the gambling and hustling skills that readied him for his future in Chicago.

Eto was content to shield the Mob from Smith until the attempt on his life. He knew immediately that he wanted to cooperate with the FBI—and specifically with Smith.

“They had their chance, and now I’ve gone to the other side,” he told Smith. “I’m now property of the FBI.”

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Eto provided information to the agency, including the names and roles of eighty-five active members or associates of the Mob. Smith referred to the list as “the ‘Rosetta Stone’ of how the Syndicate worked in Chicago.” Eto testified against some of them, supplying enough damning information to send fifteen mobsters to prison.

The tradeoff, however, was steep.

He left behind friends and family and assumed a new identity; his whereabouts were known only to Smith and the Witness Protection Program.



Elaine Corbitt Smith. *Read more about Smith's story at [aguninmygucci.com](http://aguninmygucci.com).*



Ken Eto in a mug shot from August 5, 1982

Over the years, Eto, now named Joe Tanaka, lived in obscurity in several locations in the U.S. while Smith took on additional cases, finishing her career at the FBI as part of a special team of agents researching the money that funded the 9/11 hijackers.

Smith and Eto remained close until he died in 2004 at 84. His family invited Smith to speak at his memorial service in California by the ocean, where they scattered his ashes.

“Few people realize or recognize the determination and bravery it takes a man to turn his back on his wife, home, friends, way of life, and the city in which he lived and worked for forty years,” Smith said in her speech. “It is a rare person who can sustain a pledge he made;

that he would testify against former friends and associates each and every time he was asked—whether it was one year or seventeen years later.”

In the end, Smith's gender, which set her apart in the early days, made her the only person Eto could rely on to protect him as he turned against the Mob.

“He told me that the only people he had trusted were women—never any men,” Smith said as she was remarking on Eto's complicated legacy. “He said I touched a soft spot in his heart.”

Ultimately, this unlikely duo of outsiders—on opposite sides of the law—found a way to take the Mob down from the inside.

# Tools of the Trade

The instruments we use to conserve Illinois' collections are often as fascinating as the artifacts themselves.



This Sony U-matic recorder and player was a popular video cassette format in the 1970s and 1980s.



**T**HE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS' PRESERVATION SERVICES has come a long way since its initial creation in 1934 when grant money distributed during the Great Depression was used to create what was then called the Library Mending Division.

Ninety years later, three distinct labs—the Conservation Lab, Media Preservation Lab, and Born Digital Lab—care for our special collections and circulating materials, combining age-old methods with modern technology.

“Our collections are invaluable and irreplaceable,” said Jennifer Teper, Velde Professor and head of Preservation Services. “It’s our job to take care of them no matter what format they are in.” In this Curiosities, we are looking at the machines and devices our experts use to clean, repair, decode, and digitize the objects as they journey through Illinois’ Preservation Services before becoming widely available.



**OPPOSITE PAGE**

**TOP-LEFT:** This cast-iron blade from a paper guillotine made at the turn of the twentieth century is used to cut stacks of paper or to cut the spine off a newer book that was bound with adhesive.

**TOP-RIGHT:** The humidification chamber relaxes rolled-up or folded paper objects. Once the paper is softened, the items are ready to be flattened under weights.

**BOTTOM-LEFT:** In the wet lab, this fume hood controls the air flow when handling noxious fumes from preservation processes.

**BOTTOM-RIGHT:** Nipping presses line the counter in the Conservation Lab. They are used for gluing something in a small book and are mostly for circulating collections. The lab also uses them for conservation classes.



This CO<sub>2</sub> dispenser, commonly found in most stores, is used to prepare a wash that helps neutralize existing acids found in paper and is used explicitly for documents with Iron gall ink printing. This ink has been used since the fifth century through the twentieth century. The blender beside it is used to mix gel and liquid adhesives and create paper pulp.



Books waiting for treatment in the Oak Street facility

**EXTENDING LIFE**

Like an emergency room with lifesaving equipment, the Conservation Lab has devices and techniques available to tend to the fragile and worn “patients” that come through their doors.

“We do call it triage when materials come in,” Jody Suzanne Waitzman (ACES ’07, iSCHOOL ’13), conservator for the Conservation Lab, said. “We get a sense of what they need, what we want to prioritize, and why, and that all happens before an item is tested or a treatment is proposed.”

Located on the second floor of the Oak Street Library Facility, the lab is dedicated to preserving physical objects, primarily paper and books, created by craftsmen, artisans, and scholars from antiquity to today. This space most closely resembles the original intent of the Library Mending Room and handles the oldest items in our collection.

Fraying tomes or torn maps often require steady hands, patience, and twenty-first-century technology.

“There’s a sense of the life that this object has lived before it got to you,” Waitzman said. “And there is a consideration of the life it will live when it leaves here.”



Conservators in Illinois regularly use this kind of bookbinding sewing frame to repair damaged spines and bindings. The tool itself traces its roots to the Middle Ages.



1. These sections of film will be preserved, stabilized, and wound on new cores. 2. The Media Preservation Lab values the importance of preserving metadata, including the information written on these boxes. 3. This incubator is used to dry out damaged film, video, and audio tape that has become sticky over time. 4. A collection of analog audio equipment, including record players, cassette, and reel-to-reel audio players. 5. Several Sony Betacam and U-matic players/recorders line the shelves in the Media Lab. 6. Analog film editing was done on Steenbeck editing tables. The Media Lab uses it to review the content and condition of historic films.

## RACING AGAINST TIME

The Media Preservation Labs handle audiovisual items, and the tools they use to see and hear the tapes, movies, and records are also used to preserve them. Otherwise, a spool of acetate film in a canister is nothing more than a pile of plastic in a tin can.

Sometimes, it's a race against time for both the media and the machine. Maintaining the tools we use to make items accessible can be just as challenging as preserving images and sounds themselves.

"While digitization is a goal, it's not always necessarily the only goal we're looking at," Josh Harris, head of the Media Preservation Lab, said. "We are racing against

time not only to get items digitized but also to account for the machines that are not made anymore. A lot of what I do is the preservation of the machine."

Many of a certain age will surely recognize the VHS, Betamax players, reel-to-reel recorders, and movie projectors lining the walls. These analog oldies are the key to accessing immortality in a digital space.

## CODE BREAKING

The essence of the items in the Born Digital Lab is a unique sequence of numbers and languages stored on a data carrier. These bits and bytes rely entirely on a capable computer to interpret them.



1. 8x8-inch IBM Memory Excellence floppy disk. 2. Apple IIe was released in 1983. 3. The Macintosh SE/30 was released in 1989. 4. A collection of 5 1/4 floppy disks was donated to the Born Digital Lab recently. 5. FRED, or forensic recovery of evidence device, is an essential workstation for securing, saving, and analyzing data from hard drives and other media carriers.

The preservationist's role is to preserve the data and migrate it forward in the ways we currently know in preparation for the future platforms we have yet to encounter. Just like in the Media Preservation Lab, the preservationists in the Born Digital Lab are beholden to machines and programs of varying sophistication to read and decode any of the 6,000 languages used to create them digitally.

"Born digital is kind of like the Wild West," said the digital preservation coordinator Tracy Marie Popp (iSCHOOL '09).

Popp wrangles data housed on various disk formats using the lab's "ancient" computers, some dating back to the 1980s.

To help preserve data that have existed only online, the university subscribes to the Internet Archive, which serves as a research source and a place to store and easily retrieve website data.

The volume of continuously created data feels infinite, but the resources to preserve the information are finite.

"Everybody's kind of grappling with this idea of, 'Wow, there's so much stuff, we can't save it all,'" Popp said. "So, in working with collections managers, it's often about making difficult choices around what you have to prioritize."

Former Illinois running back Rashard Mendenhall visits the Henry Dale and Betty Smith Football Performance Center during his visit to campus on November 24, 2023. Photograph by STORIED

ILLINOIS  
*Storytellers*

# Rashard Mendenhall

The famed running back, Super Bowl champion, and Illini Hall of Famer recalls his journey to Illinois and how his alma mater has impacted his life beyond football.

**M**Y LOVE AFFAIR with Illinois started the moment I saw the field. Green grass and stark white lines are the norm, but the distinction of a brightly colored orange end zone which spelled out the name “Illinois?” As a kid born in the state, that word just read home. When I saw the team wearing orange and blue playing my favorite sport, I wasn’t too young to realize this was the home team. This was “my” team.

My devotion intensified when I witnessed a man defying the laws of gravity, soaring through the air, football in both hands held high to the sky. As if a prayer to the football gods were being asked and answered, he landed in the end zone, striking victory for Illinois.

When I was in high school, I remember a small but mighty man wearing No. 23, Rocky Harvey, who, by my recollection, led the Illinois upset over a tough Michigan team featuring a much lesser-known Tom Brady. This was one of many moments that led the Illini to a Big Ten championship and Sugar Bowl berth. They were one of the greatest teams in the modern era, led by Coach Ron Turner and a host of dawgs along the orange-and-blue sidelines.

I’m not ashamed to admit most of my knowledge of sports at the time came from PlayStation ratings and

stats on the back of twenty-five-cent football cards. My passion for video games and real-life football finally crossed paths one night at The Ribeye restaurant in Champaign. I was the plus-one on my older brother’s recruiting trip, and this was the first dinner my brother Walter and I attended with the Illini. Sitting across from fifteen-year-old me was none other than free safety extraordinaire, No. 28 Travis Williams.

I think he humored me when I admitted I loved playing as him in the NCAA Football PlayStation Game. As Williams, I used to intercept the ball against frustrated competitors or the game itself. It meant the world to me that I was having my first steak with one of my heroes.

When we first arrived in Champaign, my family and I were greeted by a huge billboard of No. 30 Pierre Thomas. Seeing the excitement the town held for its football team was awesome. Not only that, but seeing Pierre toting the rock on that billboard was a reminder of how much the running back position meant to the University of Illinois. The sign from above was not lost on me. I knew I’d become a part of the traditions of the orange and blue.

While this was my brother’s recruiting trip, I had this growing feeling of wanting to be a part of it.

WRITTEN BY RASHARD MENDENHALL



Honorary Captain Rashard Mendenhall and Illinois Linebacker Tarique Barnes (No. 8) before the 2023 home football game against the Northwestern Wildcats. Photograph by Kevin Snyder

When I finally stepped on campus in 2005, I was ready to help change our program. We worked hard. Beyond hard. From the moment Ron Zook took over as head coach, we knew we wouldn't be the same Illinois football program. Coach Zook, Conditioning Coach Lou Hernandez, and company did all they could to make sure of it. Every day we worked our asses off, and every night, each of us wondered . . . would it pay off?

Our 2005 season was marked by tough losses. We went into that postseason summer a lot hungrier and a lot tougher, daring Coach Lou to throw whatever he had at us. We already felt like we'd been through worse and knew we could handle it. We had a much better team, though our record still did not reflect it. But we were out to show the Big Ten who we were.

The 2006 game against Michigan State was our first Big Ten win in the Ron Zook era and our first taste of revenge, having dropped a game to the Spartans the year before. That win was the energy we needed to establish ourselves as an eventual Big Ten power.

Though our team was starting to gain traction, I was not sure I could continue with the politics of college football. Shortly before my junior year, I was ready to

walk away from the sport, finish school, get my degree, find a job, and start a regular life away from the fame and stardom that I knew awaited me. In college football, like any highly driven, highly competitive environment, sometimes tensions arise—not only between opposing teams but sometimes within a team or between players and coaches.

In complete honesty, there was a time when I believed I was being treated unfairly. I knew I had a chance to be something special in the game, but I reached a point when I realized that if this is what college football is, then I don't want any part of it. I momentarily thought that the potential to make it to the NFL wasn't worth the sacrifice of my humanity.

In God's timing, the day I decided this might be the end, there was a person, a force, that wouldn't let me go. It was none other than my roommate and best friend, my brother, No. 34 Walter Mendenhall. After a game, as I grabbed my bag and walked out of the building, Walter grabbed me by my shirt and said, "This thing is much bigger than you. What you do affects all of us. So many people are waiting on you to step into your calling, and if you don't do it, you let all of us down."

Rashard Mendenhall making an explosive play during the 2007 Rose Bowl in Pasadena, California. Photograph by Mark Cowan

“ . . . my journey wasn't a singular one but one that would affect many more lives than my own.”

Damn.

He reminded me that my journey wasn't a singular one but one that would affect many more lives than my own. His message stuck. I couldn't veer from the course God had set for me. This was the summer right before the historic 2007 football season. Walter reignited our team with one of the biggest saves in Illinois history.

That 2007 season was a blur. We were in the zone the entire year. After a tough loss to Missouri, we had reason to be encouraged. It was clear we were more than capable as a team. Our presumption was correct, and we wouldn't taste defeat for another six weeks until we fell short to Iowa, the week after that to Michigan.

We were able to get back on the winning course against Ball State. There was an unforgettable moment that season during the Minnesota game when I came out of the game and let my brother play. After all he'd sacrificed and done for me, not just this year but throughout my life, of course, I'd have his back.

To finish senior day with a win against Northwestern was a major milestone for our guys. It was the first time we'd beaten them in our college careers. We finished the season 9-3. After all the work we'd put in over the summers, spring ball, and winter workouts, we'd finally arrived, finishing in the top three in the Big Ten.

Our grace was solidified when The Ohio State University went to the National Championship, and we got the bid to play University of Southern California in the Rose Bowl. After years of toil and faith, it felt like the football gods held us in their favor to go to southern California to play the game of our lives.



We had a time in Pasadena. From the comedy show to the Rose Parade, ESPN Zone to the famous Beef Bowl, our guys homed in on the experience of a lifetime that was a result of our hard work and foreshadowed the tough contest that awaited us at the end of the trip. It was this week and the Rose Bowl game that summed up our seniors' careers and mine as well.

That evening, as I showered and dressed, I knew my college career was over. If there was any desire for me to stay, that was certainly demolished after wise words from an admired coach. In a meeting after the game, the coach told me to look at what I had done to defenses all year. They said there was no reason for me to be in school anymore; not only was I ready for the league, but if I stayed in school, they'd personally be upset. Forty-five minutes of praise later, I had no choice but to declare for the draft.

It wasn't long before the Pittsburgh Steelers drafted me. It was the first time in my life I would live outside the state of Illinois.



I often draw on my experiences from Illinois, as this was the place where I spent the pivotal years of development in my life.

If you're smart in life, you can learn to draw lessons from anything. For example, we had some tough losses in 2005, getting blown out by Penn State and Michigan State by ungodly margins. Both were on television, the Penn State game even being prime time, which was really embarrassing.

Many years later, on a fully decked set in Miami for *Ballers*, the writers and I missed a major dialogue continuity. When the director, Seith Mann, asked which of the writers or producers would assist him in telling the actors they had been saying the wrong line for the last two and a half hours, making the scene useless, there were crickets.

Since no one hopped up, I figured I'd been through more embarrassing things than this. So, I broke the news to actors Omar Benson Miller and John David Washington, to which they rightfully scathed us, "All of y'all back there, and nobody caught that?"

"Yes," I replied, "we fouled up."

I took a deep breath and realized it wasn't the end of the world. In fact, I believe that the director and I became a little closer. He knew I'd be willing to push our car out of the mud if need be.

I've had a lot of success, from being named Chicago's fastest teen to Illinois' top recruit to the *Chicago Tribune's* Silver Football award winner to Super Bowl champion to writer and producer for *Ballers*, a husband and a father to four lovely children, and a business- and homeowner with a living will and estate to manage. My highest honor, however, remains being a member of Illinois' Hall of Fame Class of 2023. From a hundred years of Memorial Stadium to a thousand more, I hope my legacy and our stories will remain integral parts of Illinois history for many years.

I-L-L !

**“From a hundred years of Memorial Stadium to a thousand more, I hope my legacy and our stories will remain integral parts of Illinois history for many years.”**



Rashard Mendenhall greets the crowd at the 2023 Illini game against Penn State, where he was recognized for his induction into the Illinois Hall of Fame. Photograph by Kevin Snyder

**TOP:** Left to Right: Dwayne 'The Rock' Johnson, Jazmyin Simon, Bret Slater, Rashard Mendenhall, John David Washington

**LEFT:** Rashard Mendenhall on the set of *Ballers*

**RIGHT:** Mendenhall with actor Omar Benson Miller

Photographs courtesy of Rashard Mendenhall



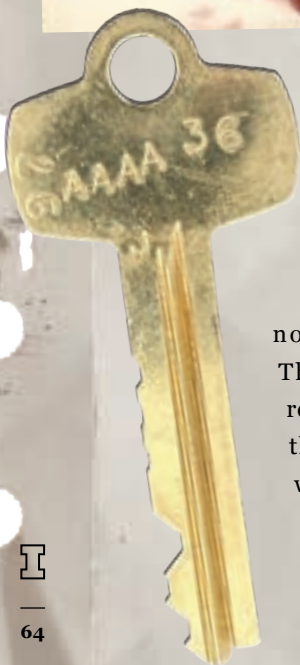
## Flashback: 1984

Being a student in 1984 meant midnight movies at the Co-Ed and browsing vinyl at Record Service. Let's travel back in time for a look at life on campus in the eighties.

The Florida Avenue Residence Halls have witnessed for decades the frenetic energy first-year students bring on move-in day.



# home away from home



## WELCOME HOME

**M**OVE-IN DAY for first-year students is an unforgettable milestone, no matter what decade it occurred. The anticipation builds as students receive their room assignment notice in the mail, and for months they picture what life as a college student will be like. In 1984, that meant rolling into

campus, possibly in your parents' Country Squire station wagon, taking you to your residence hall with all your belongings. Move-in carts were loaded up with black-and-white televisions, stereo systems, posters, and crates—sometimes even a carton or two of cigarettes.

Now, students descend, possibly in a hybrid vehicle, onto a smoke-free campus with their laptops safely tucked into backpacks. Some are headed toward the familiar cinder-block-walled residence halls

that have housed thousands over the decades. Others arrive to newly built spaces, but wherever they live, all students have heard the stampede down the hall of those returning from late nights.



Garner Hall, Forbes Hall, and the Orange are only memories, but the southwest corner of campus is still home to thousands of students. You might still recognize the mid-century architecture of Snyder, Scott, Hopkins, and Weston, but they are now surrounded by modern, taller dorms like Nugent, Wassaja, and Bousfield. All of these together make up the shiny new Ikenberry Commons, where convenience is king.

Proud and often exhausted parents and guardians arrive at Illinois each year ready to move in their loved ones. The suitcases, what's packed in them, and maybe a few fashion choices have changed, but the thrill of arriving at your first-year residence hall remains.



# RESIDENCE HALL 1984

**Courses Catalog**  
AT THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN



**SIGN ME UP!**

Registration is always stressful, whether in 1984 or today. Forty years ago, signing up for classes or making schedule changes was done in person. Sweaty and red-faced students stood in the swampy August heat at the Armory with no way to know if room in the class was available until they got to the table. If they were unlucky and stuck without a class, it was time to negotiate with the students around them. In an Alumni Association magazine article from 2012, Becky Wauthier (LAS '82) remembers that “people tried to [trade] class cards.” Among the chaos, she recalls hearing students yelling out, “I have an 8 a.m. English; does anybody have a 9 a.m.?”

Registration of years past saw students lined up in the sweltering Armory resignedly waiting to secure a spot in their desired class.

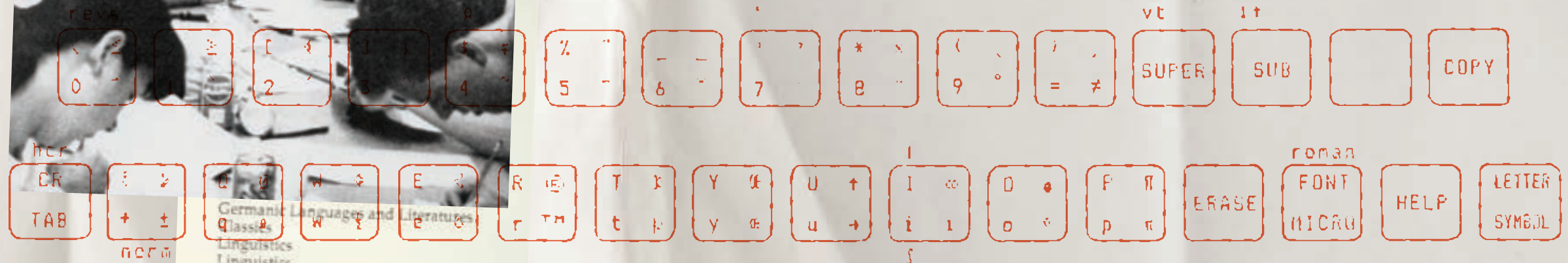
LAS  
LAT  
LAW  
LEIS  
LING  
LIR  
LIS  
MAT  
MBC  
ME  
MED  
MET  
MFG  
MIL  
MUS

Unit responsible for the language  
Linguistics  
Linguistics  
Slavic Languages and Literatures



While it may seem as if students today have it easy because they register from the luxury of their laptops, they are still sweating and red-faced while registering for classes. Students must log on at their precise time ticket—even one second of lagging wi-fi could mean someone else has grabbed the last seat in the class you need.

Students were guided through the registration process, reviewed the course catalog, and each student's schedule was recorded.



**Technology**

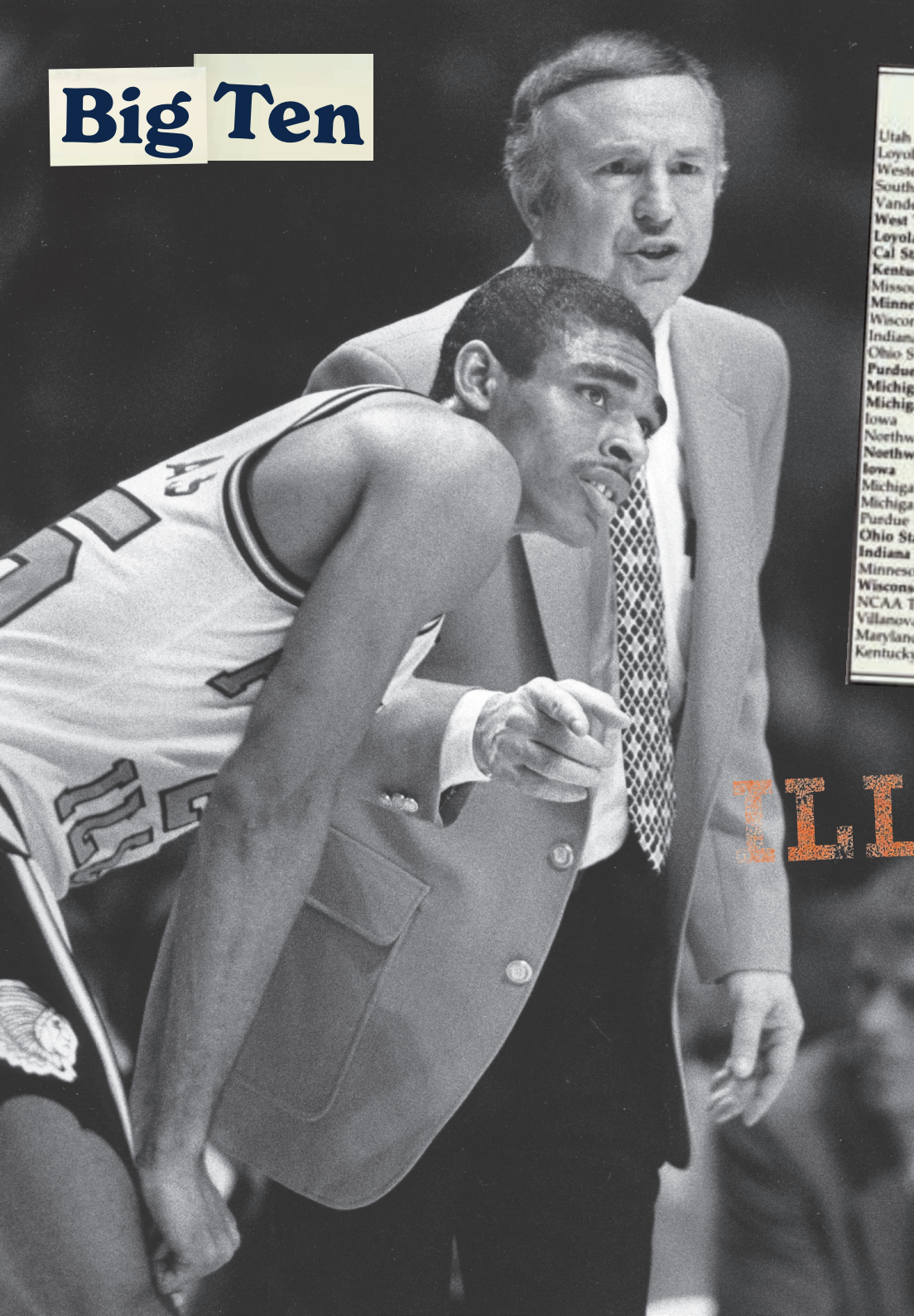
An Illinois education has always been sought after. In 1984, there were 26,112 undergrads. Today Illinois can boast 35,467 undergrads, with the largest first-year class ever of 8,325 students entering in fall of 2023.

While students still rub Lincoln's nose for luck and pack into Foellinger for a lecture, today they might also attend class in their pajamas over Zoom or bug their TA with questions over chat.

In the last forty years, technology has changed dramatically. Floppy disks, Walkmans, VHS, and the boxy, bulky computers of the eighties are ancient artifacts to a first-year student in 2024. And while computers were a staple for getting work done in the eighties, students still had to make the trek

across campus to an actual computer lab and save their work on floppy disks. Others click-clacked all night on electric typewriters in their rooms. And for those procrastinating on a big assignment, they may have plugged in the Atari and played a game of Pole Position, Jungle Hunt, or Ms. Pac Man.

Today, it is easy for students to sneak a game on their phone when sitting in class and hand in their paper online, forgoing the computer lab altogether.



Hall of Fame Coach Lou Henson and Co-Big Ten Player of the Year Bruce Douglas led their 1984 team to the Sweet Sixteen.

	Won	Lost	UI	OP
Utah	99	65		
Loyola	70	53		
Western Illinois	65	49		
Southern Mississippi	78	47		
Vanderbilt	69	55		
West Texas State	69	58		
Loyola	74	69		
Cal State-North	78	57		
Kentucky	54	56		
Missouri	66	60		
Minnesota	80	53		
Wisconsin	63	62		
Indiana	68	73		
Ohio State	55	53		
Purdue	76	52		
Michigan State	46	40		
Michigan	75	66		
Iowa	54	52		
Northwestern	71	52		
Northwestern	73	49		
Iowa	73	53		
Michigan	60	62		
Michigan State	70	53		
Purdue	55	59		
Ohio State	73	58		
Indiana	70	53		
Minnesota	53	41		
Wisconsin	81	57		
NCAA Tournament				
Villanova	64	56		
Maryland	72	70		
Kentucky	51	54		

## ILLINI

### WINNING SEASONS

Our 1984 and 2024 men's basketball teams have something in common: a big, shiny trophy and a strong postseason run. As Illini fans know well, 2024 saw a quirky, big, and talented team win the Big Ten Tournament and go on to the NCAA Sweet Sixteen in a season characterized by a team of "Every Day Guys." Coach Brad Underwood encourages players to live by this principle, to put forth the maximum effort every day. The 1984 team could relate. Under the Illini great

## A bright future

coach Lou Henson, those Every Day Guys had their first twenty-win season since the 1950s, brought the twelfth Big Ten Championship to Champaign, and made a stellar postseason run.

Illini gymnast Karen Brems Kurreck (GRAINGER '84) also made history during the 1984 season. She was the first female athlete to simultaneously earn the Big Ten Medal of Honor and Illinois Athlete of the Year. One male and one female student-athlete are selected from each Big Ten school to receive the Medal of Honor, the conference's most prestigious award, which celebrates their success both on and off the field. Though the accolade has been awarded since 1915, it was only in 1982 that women began to be recognized. The Illinois Athlete of the Year, now known as the Dike Eddleman Illinois Athlete of the Year award, is granted to students who distinguish themselves in athletic achievement.

The group of student-athletes who have been awarded both honors in the same year comprise an elite club. Only ten male athletes and five female athletes in

The accolades won by Karen Brems Kurreck marked a new era in women's sports at Illinois. Garnering the Big Ten Medal of Honor and Illinois Athlete of the Year in 1984, she kicked off an elite dual honor, one that only four additional female Fighting Illini athletes can tout to this day.

## highly acclaimed

Illinois history can claim membership.

After graduation, Kurreck built a career in software development while remaining a dedicated and award-winning athlete. She switched sports and went on to compete in the 2000 Olympics in cycling.

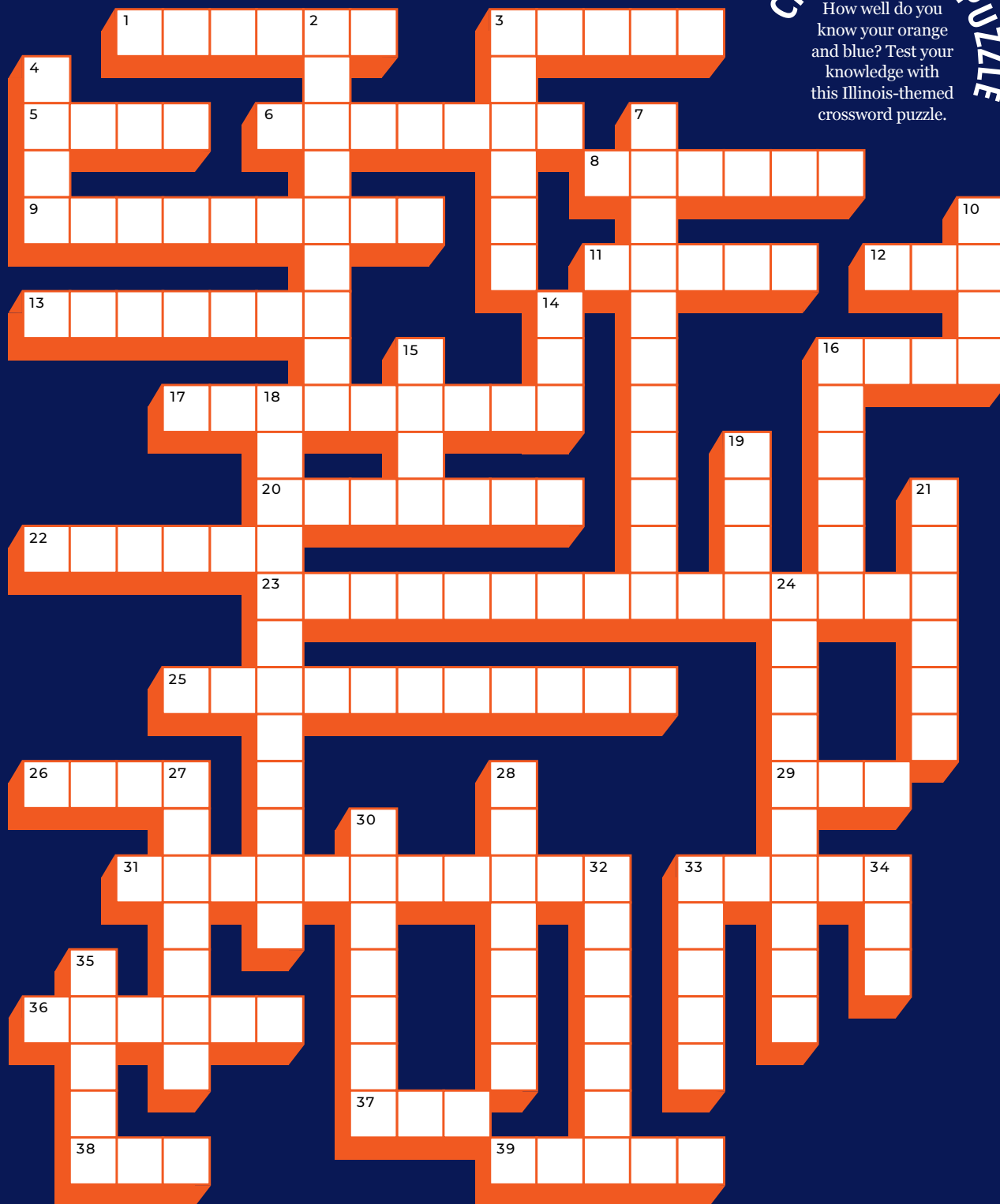


# Illini

## Winning influence

# CROSSWORD PUZZLE

How well do you know your orange and blue? Test your knowledge with this Illinois-themed crossword puzzle.



## ACROSS

1. Statewide, saliva-based PCR assay
3. Ancient philosopher or proto-internet?
5. *Ferris Bueller's Day Off* actor Alan
6. Longtime campus watering hole
8. Graphical web browser credited with popularizing the internet
9. Bushy-tailed and thriving on campus
11. Street synonymous with Campustown
12. Illinois' Speedwagon
13. Where Sean Evans (MEDIA '08) turns up the heat
16. Predecessor to the ARC
17. KAM and KCPA are named for this couple
20. Ripped abs or a place to sleep
22. Illinois icon underground at the 50-yard line
23. Where the pillars stand for someone
25. Picture it: four roommates on the lanai
26. Fast-growing plant or occasional pet?
29. Where business gets done (abbr.)
31. First African American in the United States to obtain a PhD in chemistry
33. Unique identifier for students, faculty, and staff used for online services
36. Beginning of the university's fight song, followed by "the Orange"
37. Nick Holonyak's illuminating discovery

38. Nickname for legendary Illini athlete Harold
39. He was all thumbs

## DOWN

2. Pilot to the Flying Illini
3. A buddy that makes it easy to move money
4. A 75-year legacy of accessibility
7. Oldest in the U.S. and still growing
10. A bowl for coach Ray Eliot
14. 1990s college book purveyor
15. A site where opinions are welcome
16. A familiar call and response
18. State Farm Center pre-2013
19. \_\_\_\_\_ Mater
21. Autism advocate Grandin
24. Linebacker with trademark mustache
27. Governor and building namesake
28. It can refer to four, but only happens once a year
30. Act signed into law in 1862 that led to the creation of the University of Illinois
32. Find me at the zoo here
33. 1977 prize co-won by Rosalyn Sussman Yalow (GRAINGER '45)
34. Journalist and founder of the *Catholic Worker* Dorothy
35. According to Alma, there would be no learning without this.

ANSWERS ON THE NEXT PAGE ▶



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