What an amazing year for Illinois State University Black Colleagues Association (ISUBCA)! We have worked as a team to bring a number of projects from our wish list to fruition. At our annual Meet and Greet breakfast for prospective students and parents, we featured a video highlighting our scholarship program and the ongoing support our scholarship students receive from faculty and staff. ISUBCA offers alums the chance to interact with students and their parents during this event, sharing experiences and alleviating their concerns.

We also launched a conference call and a polling tool, allowing alumni to volunteer for the many opportunities offered through ISUBCA. The conference call was a chance for alumni to learn about activities and ask questions about upcoming events. Stay tuned as we continue to develop and implement new programs geared toward our scholarship students and alumni. This is an excellent organization for you to participate in and offer your support.

We are on the go! Our board members participate on student panels around campus to provide information on how to make the transition from academia to the post-graduate life. We have representation on the Black Graduation Committee, the Illinois State University Attorney Advisory Board, an honored member of the NAACP and the Illinois State University Alumni Board of Directors. In each scenario, we are interacting with key staff to relay questions from our membership.

I would like to leave you with the following quote by Gandhi, “The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.”

Much success and warm regards to all of our alumni and friends! I look forward to seeing you this year at Homecoming October 19–October 25.

With Redbird Pride,
Alice M. Spann ’78
President
From desk of the Homecoming chair

What time is it? It’s time to Back the Birds! Please mark your calendars for ISUBCA Homecoming 2015 weekend activities from Thursday, October 22, through Sunday, October 25. The ISUBCA Homecoming Committee has worked diligently to plan an exciting weekend. I am encouraging you to make it your intention to return to Illinois State for Homecoming 2015.

Homecoming will not be successful without your support. Please reach out to fellow alumni and friends and invite them to join us. Be sure to take advantage of the Early Redbird Weekend Package special pricing. The package must be purchased in order to reserve a room at the host hotel, the Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center. Availability is limited.

Also, remember your financial gift allows us to continue providing scholarships. We look forward to seeing you at Homecoming 2015.

NiCole Higginbothan ’95, ’14
Homecoming 2015 Chair

Thursday, October 22
Throwback Thursday Skate Jam
7–9 p.m.
Skate ‘N’ Place, 1704 S. Morris Ave., Bloomington
Dust off your skates and join us as ISUBCA kicks off the weekend Throwback Thursday style at the renovated Skate ‘N’ Place! Music from the 70s, 80s and 90s will be played all night long. This event is not a part of the Homecoming weekend package. Admission is $7 and skate rentals are $3 for new skates and $1 for old skates.

Friday, October 23
Mix and Mingle with the Birds
7–10 p.m.
Grand Ballroom, Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center
Cost: Free
Join us for an amazing night filled with networking, music, dancing, drinks, and appetizers. The Parke Hotel is hosting the event with an open bar and appetizers from 8:30-9:30 p.m. Cash bar available before and after the hosted time.

New School Party
10 p.m.–2 a.m.
Grand Ballroom, Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center
Homecoming pricing

**Weekend Package** includes Friday’s New School Party, Saturday’s Concert and After Party, and Sunday’s Scholarship Brunch

- Early Redbird Weekend Package $100 (before August 31)
- Regular Weekend Package $130 (September 1 and after)

**Individual pricing**

- New School Party: $30 before August 31; $40 after
- Concert and After Party: $50 before August 31; $60 after
- Scholarship Brunch: $25 before August 31; $30 after, $10/children age 13 and under

After October 12, only onsite registration will be available. Pricing will be per event.

Register now! Visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ISUBCAHC or call Alumni Relations at (800) 366-4478 or (309) 438-2586.

Accommodations—All of ISUBCA’s events will be held at our host hotel, the Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center in Bloomington. ISUBCA has a block of rooms available at the Parke. Room rates are $72 plus tax. Availability is limited and a two night stay is required.

In order to register for the discounted room rate at the Parke Regency Hotel, you must purchase a BCA Homecoming Weekend Package!

You will be able to make a room reservation the next business day after you’ve registered for ISUBCA Homecoming events through Alumni Relations. Room availability will be on a first-come, first-served basis as space allows.

Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center
1413 Leslie Drive
Bloomington, IL 61704
(309) 662-4300

For a complete listing of additional Illinois State alumni blocks at area hotels, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu. Rooms are going fast so make your reservation today!

Homecoming 2015 apparel

Official Illinois State University Homecoming apparel will be available at Barnes & Noble, Illinois State’s Official Bookstore.

Updates—For additional information regarding all of the University’s Homecoming festivities, please visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu. For more on ISUBCA activities, visit Alumni.IllinoisState.edu/ISUBCA, like us on Facebook at “Black Colleagues Association-Illinois State University,” or join our Facebook event page “ISUBCA Homecoming 2015 Weekend.”

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Saturday, October 24

**Homecoming Parade**
10 a.m.

Join ISUBCA in the parade. Parade steps off at the corner of College Avenue and University Street.

**Football Tailgate**
11 a.m.

Connect with old friends and make new ones while enjoying food and fun at the annual tailgate. Location to be determined. More information coming soon.

**Illinois State Redbirds vs. Western Illinois University Leathernecks**
2 p.m.

Hancock Stadium

Please visit GoRedbirds.com or contact the Redbird Ticket Office at (309) 438-8000. Tickets are limited and are available on a first-come, first-serve basis.

**Concert and After Party, featuring Marwan Soulflow**
8 p.m.-2 a.m.

Grand Ballroom, Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Our live concert is sure to be a hit! Marwan Soulflow is an R&B, neo-soul rising star based out of Chicago and has performed in shows featuring artists such as Maze, K’Jon, and Jeremih. Don’t miss his performance at 10 p.m.! Admission includes appetizers until exhausted, and a two hour open bar.

Sunday, October 25

**ISUBCA Scholarship Brunch**
10 a.m.–noon

Grand Ballroom, Parke Regency Hotel and Conference Center

Wrap up Homecoming 2015 by showing you care! Attend the annual brunch to recognize our 2015-16 scholarship recipients and to hear updates from Illinois State University’s 19th President, Dr. Larry Dietz.
ISUBCA Dinner

Each year the Office of the President has hosted a dinner for ISUBCA members and friends. This has been a time to gather for updates and recognize accomplishments that we are making in the lives of African-American students at Illinois State University. As we began the evening with cocktails, I was engulfed with a sense of warmth as I looked across the room reconnecting with familiar faces. Although backgrounds varied, we shared a unified purpose in coming together.

Larry Dietz, Illinois State University’s 19th president, enthusiastically reported progress with freshman enrollment and offered encouraging words about the continued commitment from the University. He was proud to report an increase in applications, GPAs, and ACT scores. President Dietz praised ISUBCA for the work the group has done to fundraise and bring awareness for scholarships as well as future efforts. Alice Spann, ISUBCA president, also spoke with excitement about how proud she was with the accomplishments we have made and all of the wonderful events and initiatives to come.

As the evening came to a close I asked myself, “Am I contributing enough to this important work? How can I, a proud ISU Redbird alumna, contribute to the generation that follows?” It’s our continued charge to help pave the way for those who follow. In the end, there’s no greater service we can provide. After all, we are our brother’s and sister’s keepers.

Shelly Booker ’85

Highlighting ISU alumni

Michelle Porter Norman ’90
As a history major walking the quad, attending classes in Schroeder Hall, and studying at Milner Library, this young coed with energy and enthusiasm had great expectations during spring 1987. Who would have imagined that after nearly eight weeks of participating in the initiation process, she would become a member of Zeta Phi Beta Sorority Inc., and yet her journey had just begun.

Norman is the sorority’s Great Lakes regional director and a member of the National Executive Board. Last July, she became chairman of the eight regional directors, a position few have held in the sorority’s nearly 95-year history. For the past 23 years she’s been a sworn supervisor with the Adult Probation Department of Cook County in Illinois. She is married and has two sons, ages 17 and 14. When asked what she enjoys most about sorority life, she quickly said, “The sisterhood is like no other—awesome, electrifying, great, magnificent, phenomenal, unconquerable, mighty, and second to none!”

Judge Walter Brandon Jr. ’82, M.S. ’84
The Honorable Judge Walter Brandon Jr. received a bachelor’s in political science and a master’s in criminal justice at Illinois State University. In 1988, he earned a juris doctor from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge, Louisiana. Brandon’s career experiences include his service as assistant state’s attorney, assistant public defender, principal in a major medical malpractice law firm in southern Illinois, founder of his own private law practice, corporate council for the City of Centreville, and municipal attorney for the City of East St. Louis. In May 1997, he was appointed associate judge of the Twentieth Judicial Circuit Court in St. Clair County, where he serves as the presiding juvenile court judge. Brandon is an active member of the Nu Chi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Inc., where he chairs the “Adopt a Highway” project and serves in various other capacities. In 2008, Brandon was appointed by the Illinois governor to serve as a member of the Illinois Department of Juvenile Justice Advisory Board, where he continues to serve.

Joletta Gladney Martin ’87
Martin graduated from Illinois State University in 1987 with a bachelor of science in economics. She also completed an executive MBA program in energy finance at Texas Southern University in 2013. Martin is a senior treasury analyst at BP America, Inc. She is excited to serve as treasurer for ISUBCA and looks forward to contributing to the continued success of the association.

Ariana Taylor ’13
Taylor graduated from Illinois State University in 2013 with a bachelor of arts in English. She earned her MBA in marketing and information systems from the University of Illinois at Chicago in spring 2015. She is an executive team lead at Target and looks forward to expanding her career. She is also the communications coordinator for the ISUBCA newsletter and is excited about gaining connections with ISU alumni.
Your generosity is important

ISUBCA continues the tradition of assisting students and their families when they need it most. Our scholarships are awarded to the best, brightest, and most promising students. Thank you to all of our donors for your generosity. You continue to not only create opportunities, but build a foundation and legacy for our students and ISUBCA.

2015–2016 scholarship recipients

ISUBCA’s Scholarship Committee and Executive Board are proud to announce this year’s scholarship recipients:

**Renewable Judge Russell DeBow Scholarship current Illinois State students who maintained a GPA of 3.0 or higher**
- Steven Dunning, sophomore from Round Lake, majoring in business marketing
- Daniel Jackson, sophomore from Chicago, majoring in elementary education
- Tyrianna Jones, senior from Chicago, majoring in journalism
- Totiana Sudduth, sophomore from Bellwood, majoring in legal studies
- Lechers Walls, sophomore from Lansing, majoring in graphic design-studio drawing

**Judge Russell DeBow Scholarships funded by gifts to ISUBCA**
- Ashley Holmes, sophomore from Country Club Hills, majoring in accounting
- Té’yona Miller, transfer student from Peoria, majoring in mass media

**President’s Book Scholarship funded by the Office of the President**
- Natalie Cota, sophomore from Springfield, majoring in finance

**Vice President for Student Affairs Book Scholarships funded by the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs**
- Jeremy Carlisle, freshman from Broadview, graduate of Fenwick High School
- Paris Claiborne, freshman from Oak Park, graduate of Oak Park & River Forest High School
- Kelsey Franklin, incoming freshman from Aurora, graduate of Metea Valley High School
- Tiana Little, freshman from Broadview, graduate of St. Joseph High School
- Mariah Moran, freshman from Park Forest, graduate of Rich East High School

**Vincent Lionel Davis Scholarship funded by the Davis Family**
- Jaylon Joyner, junior from Decatur, majoring in athletic training

**Commemorative Public Service Scholarships—funded by members of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc., family, and friends of Carol Johnson**
- Nicholas Moody, freshman from Park Forest, graduate of Rich East High School
- Reyna Sparks, freshman from Bloomington, majoring in communication studies

**Lewis and Mills Endowed Scholarship – funded by the Lewis and Mills families**
- Delane McLurkin, junior from Chicago, majoring in accounting & finance

A special note of gratitude is expressed to the ISUBCA Scholarship Committee members who have a tremendous interest in and awareness of the importance of scholarships. Our campaign to increase application submissions was extremely successful. We received 115 applications, an increase of 150 percent over last year. Thank you to the committee members who went above and beyond to serve in this capacity. We couldn’t have done it without you!

**Eyvonna Hemphill ’80**
ISUBCA Scholarship Chair

Redbird Receptions

Each year at the Office of Admissions’ Redbird Receptions, I have the pleasure of seeing people I grew up with who are now sending their students to college. It gives me a great sense of pride to share information about ISU with people I know. Everyone who walked into the banquet hall was full of excitement! Families had the opportunity to walk around and visit the different colleges and programs that students can utilize as a resource and get involved in.

The formal program provides critical information about admissions and enrollment deadlines, financial aid, and University College who focuses on orientation, advisement and academic support services. At the end, a Q&A session allows prospective students and parents to ask questions not yet answered. This is another great opportunity for ISUBCA to connect with future Redbirds and their parents.

**Krissie Harris ’92, M.S. ’93**
Prospective Student Meet and Greet

BCA Meet and Greets are a great way to find out what Illinois State offers. At a Meet and Greet, admitted students get a chance to connect with current and former Redbirds, as well as faculty and staff. It is important to attend this gathering because family and students are able to receive beneficial information before they arrive on campus.

At this year’s event, I wanted to make sure students understood the amount of support the University provides. I emphasized the importance of speaking with professors at least twice a semester, visiting the Julia N. Visor Academic Center, and making connections with peers in their courses. Illinois State truly gives students a bang for their buck with quality education, service, opportunity, and support. Faculty and staff are available to give advice regarding career options, financial aid, admission procedures, housing information, and genuine offerings of encouragement to assure prospective Redbirds that they will have a pleasant and rewarding career at Illinois State University.

Daniel Jackson, student

The Lewis and Mills Endowed Scholarship

The Lewis and Mills Endowed Scholarship was established in 2014 by Alfred Lewis ’90 and Stephen Mills ’90. The $1,000 scholarship honors the memory of their wives, Airree Lewis ’91 and Tara Mills ’91, who both succumbed to battles with cancer. This scholarship will support students with a major in the College of Business or College of Arts and Sciences. Preference will be given to African Americans and students diagnosed with cancer or those who have parents who have survived or died from the disease. ISUBCA is extremely proud to be able to administer and present this newly established scholarship.

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is ‘What are you doing for others?’”
– Martin Luther King, Jr.
BCA Donor roll July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015

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