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***The Contact* - Fall 2001 Newsletter of the Geology Program**

Message from the Chair

Greetings from the Department of Geography-Geology! I am pleased to introduce a new newsletter format. The Geology Newsletter has now been formally named *Contact*. With luck, our newsletter will be published at the end of each semester at least once per year. This new format will include photographs that will give you a hand look at the new faces and facilities here at the Department. I hope that you will enjoy it.

I am now in my second year as chair and my eighth overall at ISU. What am most proud of is that suddenly I am no longer the new kid on the block. I seem to have evolved to a mid-career administrator. I now believe more strongly than ever in the concept of punctuated equilibrium! Rest assured that I am doing my best to impersonate a faculty member, and that working with students is still my priority. Illinois State University, our Department, and the Geology program have all changed considerably since I began my career here in 1994. These changes have been for the better. In the past several years, we have made a number of important changes to our General Education and Program curricula. Our general education courses are popular and our participation level in General Education is among the highest of all departments. Our major has been strengthened as well. We have established a weekly colloquium series, so our students regularly have the opportunity to learn what is going on in the discipline out side of ISU. Our teaching and research facilities have improved substantially since we moved to Felmley Hall. We have obtained new field, and computational equipment.

The single most important challenge that our department will face over the next few years is to successfully navigate this turnover to our faculty. The synergy that exists among our faculty and students has always been one of the greatest strengths of our department. At full strength, the Geology and hydrogeology programs support seven tenure-track faculty. During the past two years, four of these seven lines have changed hands. In 2000, Jim Kirchner retired and Bill Anderson resigned to join the faculty at Radford College in Virginia. This past summer, Bob Corbett joined Jim Kirchner in retirement, and Sam Boateng resigned to take a position at Northern Kentucky University. On behalf of the Department, I wish each of them the best of luck in their new years to come.

Aside from working with students, recruiting and retaining new faculty is what I must devote the lion's share of my effort this year. This past year, we added two new colleagues to our Department. Liz King is our new Mineralogist/Petrologist, and Steve Van der Hoven is our new Hydrogeologist. Both Liz and Steve were by far the best candidates in their respective searches. Liz is originally from the Boston area and earned her BS from Carlton College in Minnesota, and her MS and PhD from the University of Wisconsin. An introduction to Liz is included in a later section. Steve served our department as a Visiting Assistant Professor last year. His background was highlighted in last year's newsletter. I am excited that we were able to attract such talented individuals. Searches to replace Bob and Sam are in progress, and with luck we will continue to be able to attract excellent new faculty members.

I invite you to visit the Department the next time that you are in town so you

some of our new colleagues. I also encourage your feedback about the hal the Geology program. Please feel free to contact me at dhmalon@ilstu.edu 309.438.2692. I will be on sabbatical leave this coming spring, and I may n responsive as I normally am. I will get back to you as my schedule permits. holiday season!

Geology Program Update

The Geology program had a very favorable program review last year. The activities of our alumni and students, field experiences, and our faculty student interactions are our greatest strengths. Our only weakness is our comparatively small number of majors. We have been unable to consistently recruit a large number of students since General Education replaced University Studies a few years ago. We now have about thirty majors. While our numbers are low, the quality of our students is still quite high. During the next few years, we will work hard to bring our major enrollment up to about 50.

We have revised the soft rock curriculum a bit this year. We will still require two geology courses, but the names Sedimentology and Stratigraphy will be dropped. The two courses are going to be called Sedimentary Geology I & II. The content will be the same as in the past, but the organization will be different. I'll teach the fall semester course and it will include weathering, fluid mechanics, textures, structures, siliciclastic lithostratigraphy, geophysical applications, and the Barnes Hill field trip. The spring course will be taught by Jed and it will include, carbonate geochemistry, clastic sediments and rocks, depositional environments, diagenesis, sequence stratigraphy, biostratigraphy, chemical stratigraphy, other chemical and biochemical rock basin analysis. The intent of this new arrangement will be to draw out each of our strengths more so than before.

We have changed field camp extensively for the first time since its inception thirty years ago. The focus on geologic mapping has not changed, the regional geology is still the same, and the field camp experience is still the same. There are a number of reasons for the decision to modify this camp experience.

1. Access is getting tougher all of the time in the Black Hills
2. The diversity of the former Black Hills projects was minimal
3. The expertise of the current faculty who teach field camp lie further to the west
4. The faculty were getting a little stale in doing the same projects over and over again (I have spent more than a month of my life now at Whitewood Peak and Round Bay)
5. Student request
6. Cost

From now on we will spend equal time in Wyoming and South Dakota. Here is a synopsis of this past year's schedule. Skip taught the entire six weeks. I taught the first three weeks; Steve Van der Hoven taught the final three weeks. Mark Fiscella taught the first three weeks with Skip and me. Paul Stoddard joined Skip and Steve for the remainder of camp. We drove to Chamberlain, SD the first day. We did the loop and Wall Drug the next morning and arrived in Sheridan the second day. The first field day consisted of a loop around the Bighorn Range and then three days of measuring and describing the local Paleozoic and Mesozoic section. The second field day consisted of two mapping projects that exemplify the structure of the east flank of the Black Hills.

Big Horn Range. The first was near Dayton and consists of a monocline of Paleozoic and Mesozoic strata. It is all on public land. The second was the Clear Creek Thrust mapping project west of Buffalo. Confusion Hill is still a well. Week three consisted of a tour of the Big Horn Basin, Absaroka Rang Uplift and Heart Mountain Detachment. We stayed in our mapping area (nc a field station run by the Powell Junior College on the top of Dead Indian H is within the Heart Mountain Detachment area. The lower plate consists of dipping Pennsylvanian-Triassic Strata that are cut by a number of normal f upper plate consists of the Madison formation and Absaroka Volcanic rock our students encountered a grizzly bear cub. The final three days of the firs camp was a tour of Yellowstone, Tetons, Wind River Basin, Devils Tower, , Hills. We stayed a night each at Old Faithful and Thermopolis to cleanse oi and souls in the therapeutic waters of the Hot Springs. The last three week the Black Hills. We stayed at the School of Mines as usual. The focus of th three weeks were the traditional Rochford, Crook City, and Whitewood Pea projects with appropriate recon at the beginning of each week.

We also have implemented a spring break field trip as a formal part of the (Similar trips have been run from time to time by the Geology Club. They ar under the course number GEO 306: Regional and Area Studies. This past break, Skip and I led a group of 21 students on a trip to the Davis Mountair Bend area of West Texas. We were gone a total of eight days and logged . We stayed in a Super 8 in Wichita Falls coming and going. We camped at State Park for two nights, and at the Arenosa camp site along the Rio Grar restrooms or plumbing!) at Big Bend Ranch State Park for two nights. The this region is spectacularly exposed, and the climate is perfect this time of : of this trip we studied the Tertiary volcanic/plutonic geology of the Davis Mi Paleozoic stratigraphy and deformation of the Marathon fold and thrust belt Mesozoic and Cenozoic stratigraphy, structure, and volcanic geology of Big National Park. A trip to the Guadalupe and Sacramento Mountains is planr spring break.

Geology Club News

The Geology Club is now in its third year of affiliation with the AAPG. The / provides important financial resources to the Geology Club. The officers fo Geology club are June Clevy-President, Lizz Pigg-Treasurer, and Diane La Secretary. The spring's activities consisted mainly of meeting with faculty c and helping run the GSA meeting. This past September, Skip and I took ei students to visit the Precambrian and glacial geology of north-central Wisc

hydrogeology Program Update

The hydrogeology MS program is finally beginning to come into its own. Th has struggled since its inception in 1993 because of poor funding, understa turnover in the graduate faculty. The program underwent its first program l review was fairly critical and the Central Administration has given us three make the necessary improvements to maintain the program. The greatest i pertained to our low graduation rate and insufficient scholarly productivity f graduate faculty. The College Office has committed \$150,000 over a three as an investment in the program. The first installment of \$50,000 came last was used to purchase fundamental field and laboratory equipment and cor instructional well field south of Bloomington (see story below). The final ins will come in the form of start-up funding for our new faculty. Steve Van der part of his start-up package to purchase a new gas chromatograph for the Geochemistry Laboratory.

In an effort to increase our graduation rate, the 0.5-time assistantship was

~35% to \$1067/month and a tuition waiver (anyone interested in coming back to school!). Our assistantships are now nearly in line with our peer institutions and we hope to be able to compete more effectively in attracting a large number of qualified students. The core curriculum has remained essentially the same but we have added a non-thesis option. I was surprised to learn that we were one of the few programs that does not have such an option. This new option is intended to be a net rather than common practice. All of our students will be encouraged to choose the Thesis option, if at all possible. The non-thesis option will afford those students who are unable to complete the thesis a viable means of completing their degree requirements.

Currently, nine students are in residence, and each are employed as a Teaching Assistant. Ideally, five students will enter the program, and five will graduate. Please let me know if you would like additional information about this program.

New Well Field will Serve as an Important Facility for Instruction and Research

by Steve Van der Hoven

In May, 2001, the Department installed its own groundwater well field. The well field is located on the banks of Little Kickapoo Creek on property owned by the Bloomington Normal Water Reclamation District (BNWRD). It was designed primarily as a teaching facility and is used for classes from the freshmen to graduate level.

The aquifer in which the well field is constructed is composed of materials of glacial and fluvial origin. The base of the aquifer, at a depth of 8-10 meters below the surface, is defined by the low permeability till of the Wedron Formation. The Wedron Formation consists of clay-rich lodgement tills deposited during the most recent advance of continental glaciers during the Wisconsin period of the Pleistocene. Overlying the till are several meters of sand, gravel, and cobbles of the Henry Formation. These sediments are of outwash origin and form a long, sinuous body that follows the course of Little Kickapoo Creek. Capping this sedimentary sequence are silty Holocene fluvial sediments of the Cahokia Alluvium.

The well field was designed to accommodate as many teaching needs as possible. It has a central pumping well that is screened over the entire length of the outcrop. Three sets of nested piezometers surround the pumping well in a triangular pattern. Each piezometer nest consists of three wells: one screened at the water table, one screened in the center of the aquifer, and the third screened at the base of the aquifer. An additional four drive point piezometers screened at the water table allow for high resolution spatial sampling.

The primary purpose of the well field is as a teaching facility. Although it is owned and maintained by Illinois State and BNWRD, it is available for use by any faculty member. Regular activities that are conducted include hydraulic head measurement (both instantaneous and continuous), field water quality measurement, water sampling, field chemical analysis, aquifer testing, slug testing, injected tracer testing, and collection of meteorological data. Data from this facility will also be used as examples in the classroom.

Welcome to Elizabeth King

I will take this opportunity to introduce myself to the ISU geology alums. My research interests fall in the realm of mineralogy/petrology/geochemistry. I have been interested in granites ever since I was an undergrad. Maybe it is my youth on the New England coast looking at beautiful, glaciated granites. I am, however, looking forward to diversifying my research areas in the future.

I haven't been in Normal very long, but it has been a busy few months. After my Ph.D. in May in Madison, we loaded up the family car with husband, 2 dog, and cat, and moved south to Bloomington-Normal. We are all settling into the environs well. I spent the summer trying to get ready for teaching in the fall. Preparing to teach mineralogy for the first time is no small task. I am also teaching an honors section of Principals of Geology. I was also able to get out in the field over the summer. My research areas include igneous and metamorphic petrology, mineralogy, and stable isotope geochemistry. I was in western Idaho sampling for two different research projects. Both are studying different aspects of the evolution of the granitic magma with the crust into which it was intruded. I already have several mineralogy students helping me with research this semester as part of the program. I am traveling to Boston for the Geological Society of America annual meeting, where I will attend a Mineralogy Society of America short course on stable isotopes as well as present a paper. Since my arrival at ISU I have had two papers published that were part of my Ph.D. research. One is a stable isotope calibration on the mineral titanite (sphene) in *Geochimica et Cosmochimica Acta*. The other is a stable isotope study of the evolution of magmas in the Idaho Batholith, which appeared in *Contributions to Mineralogy and Petrology*. I am having a great first year here and I am just hoping to reach the end of the year with my head spinning too fast. It is a great group of faculty and students here, and I am having a lot of fun.

Geology/hydrogeology Picnic

Beginning in May 2002, the Department will host an annual Geology Alumni Picnic. Next year, the picnic will be held at the Davis Lodge at Lake Bloomington on May 4, 2001 from 11:00am-5:00 pm. Lunch will be at noon. Please mark your calendars. The event will be informal, and you are free to come and go as long as you like. Current faculty and students and retired faculty also will be invited. A map will be posted on our web site early next spring. The picnic will be a potluck. Please bring a dish to pass.

We Host Meetings of the Geological Society of America

by Robert Corbett

We welcomed 534 registrants to the 35th Annual Meetings of the North-Central Division of the Geological Society of America for activities from April 20-24, 2001. They participated in field trips, workshops, receptions, a banquet, technical section meetings, breakfast and luncheon meetings, and visit with 31 exhibitors. These events took place in the Bone Student Center, Felmley Hall and the Bowling and Billiards Center. In terms of accounts, this meeting was a glowing success.

Many people assisted. Skip and I were General Chairs of the Meetings. I recruited sponsors and exhibitors, set up the Monday evening address by Birdsall-Davis Lecturer Steve Ingebritsen, and arranged for lodging and bus transportation. I was the "chief financial officer," overseeing all revenues, expenditures, and closing accounts. Skip was arranged for workshops, rental of meeting space, catering, and a myriad of other details. Jim was the technical program chairman. His responsibilities were to review abstracts and set up the symposia and other technical sessions. Jed organized the field trips and edited the field trip guidebook. Jed coordinated the projection equipment and speaker ready room. Steve was our representative to the exhibit hall. Jill Freund Thomas did the artwork. Jo Kimler, Gail Corbett, and I provided important help at the registration desk.

Others provided critical support. Most of our students worked in several capacities ranging from set up and take down, running projection equipment, and driv-

trips. Professionals from the ISGS were heavily involved in workshops, field presentations. Sponsors provided financial support for the meetings. The Illinois State Farm Insurance, John Wiley and Sons, the Illinois Environmental Protection Agency, and the Illinois Department of Transportation. Many thanks to all v

Powell Fund Update

The Powell fund has continued to grow. At the end of October, the balance just over \$13,000. Your generous contributions are appreciated. The state higher education has been quite healthy over the past few years. Our program capitalized on this good fortune. As the economy softens, our prospects for funding at such a comfortable level become poorer. In tight years, I will rely heavily on the Powell Fund to maintain our commitments to the Geology program. Powell Fund this past year was used to help support field trips, student research projects, and field camp.

The Powell Fund was used to support the Spring Break Field trip to Big Bear Park. The cost of a large van for one week is now more than \$400. Three vans taken on this trip and the travel costs amounted to more than \$1000. I use Powell Fund to subsidize the cost of this trip so that the costs for students would be less. The total fee for students was only \$50, which amounted to the cost of rooms in route. It is important to me to keep student fees at a minimum. Your support will help me meet this goal.

This past year, the following individuals contributed to the Powell Fund. I thank you for their generosity.

Edward Benson

Gary Carnaghi

Conoco Inc.

David Elbow

Shannon Fulton

Paula Garcia

John Grabs

Russell Hagen

James Jipp

James Mackey

Bret Naugle

Harold Orndorff

Shell Oil Co Foundation

Edward Smith

Nancy Taylor

John Taylor

John Traub

Charles Wiles

Emeritus Faculty News

Bob Corbett is the newest Professor Emeritus for the Geology program. He ranks of Dick Hart, Tom Searight, and Jim Kirchner. Like most of his colleagues not fully retire in May. Bob will continue to be around the Department over several years. This fall, he is teaching two sections of Foundations of Inquiry. In spring, he will teach Natural Disasters. He is now serving as the National Vice President for the AIPG and Associate Editor for the Journal of Geoscience Education. He plans to keep active in research and other service activities as well.

Jim Kirchner has eased a little more into retirement this year. Last year, he taught Mineralogy and Petrology for the final time and helped out with the GSA meeting. He retired in May, and they spent the summer and fall at their Michigan cottage. They have decided to sell their home in Illinois and move to Michigan permanently this summer. Jim plans to spend this winter making some overdue repairs. They decided to demolish the existing cottage and put up a new Kirchner-design cottage instead.

Tom and Jeanie Searight are in their second year in Lawrence, Kansas. They purchased a town house near the bottom of a hill overlooking a small undeveloped area. They enjoy the relaxing community and the Kansas climate, as well as being near their children and grandchildren. Tom has been active in a Kansas University organization of retired professors and he has taken continuing education courses in the geology and people of Kansas.

Dick Hart still lives in Normal and stops by the Department from time to time.

Jo Kimler Retires, Karen Dunton Arrives

Jo Kimler, our long-serving administrative clerk, retired in May after 18 years to our Department. Our faculty and students are fortunate to have received her help and guidance that she has provided. Jo's work ethic and dedication are unmatched. She will be missed. Jo plans to remain in Normal and spend time with her 10 grandkids.

Karen Dunton took over for Jo in July. Some of you may know Karen. Before coming to our Department, she worked as ISU's Transportation Clerk at the motorpool. She was the top choice of all of us for Jo's successor. She has settled into this new job nicely and is doing an excellent job.

Bill Shields

Bill Shields joined the staff of the Department of Geography-Geology this year. He will provide us with much needed faculty support. Bill grew up in LaSalle, Illinois. He completed his BS in Geology from our program in 1999, and he will complete his MS in hydrogeology this fall. Last year, Bill worked as a geologist for the Illinois Department of Transportation in Ottawa.

Bill will have a number of responsibilities, and because this is a new position will undoubtedly evolve in the future. This year his responsibilities are two-fold: our General Education Laboratory Coordinator. In this capacity, he teaches and manages two laboratories of Principles of Geology. He is also responsible for supervising our Teaching Assistants and lab set up and take down. His other responsibilities include managing our department's teaching, research, and computation laboratory. I am certainly glad to have him on board.

Alumni News

As an alumnus of this program, this is by far my favorite section of the *Contact*. As you can see, my perspective is biased, and most of the folks mentioned here were at ISU while I was a student or faculty member. This situation is not unusual. When Jim Kirchner retired last year, the level of contact with alumni from the 1970s and 1980s was reduced. Your whereabouts and activities are important to us, and we encourage each of you to drop a line to any of our current faculty or staff to let us know what you are up to. As space permits, I will include short blurbs of your activities in the next future edition of the *Contact*.

Tim Adams (BS 1988) now works as a Professional Geologist for ENSR Inc. in Warrenville Illinois.

Brian Hacker (BS 1990, MS 2000) has joined **Brian Kimple** (BS 1988) at the Freeport, Illinois office of Leggette, Brasheers, and Graham, Inc. **Selena Harkness** (BS 2001) works there part time as well. The fate of becoming Freeport Pretzel dissuaded the Hackers from making this career move.

Chris Haring (BS 1994) has left Jo Davies County and has accepted a position with the Army Corps of Engineers Office in Rock Island, Illinois.

Kevin Deichmueller (BS 1995, MS 1998) was recently promoted to project manager for Maas and Son in the Quad Cities.

John Hubeny (BS 1995) is working as an Engineering Technician for the International Professional Group, Inc. in Westmont, Illinois. John has a new baby girl named Adrienne Riley, and he is in the early stages of pursuing an MS degree in Civil Engineering at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

Chilyere Anglin (BS 1995) is now Chilyere Smith. She was married in March and is still working for the Tennessee Department of Transportation in Nashville.

Jeff Menken (BS 1996) visited the Department in October and presented the paper "Post-Eocene Deformation in the San Juan Islands and Skagit Delta Region, Washington" at our colloquium. This presentation is based on the results of his work in structural geology at the University of Idaho. Jeff now works as an environmental geologist for a consulting firm in Portland, Oregon.

Pat Taha (BS 1996) has begun his PhD program in Geophysics at Rice University in Houston.

Ed Wagner (BS 1997) and **Alan Furman** (BS 1997) are each now working for the Illinois EPA in the groundwater section of the public water supplies division.

Beau Harp (BS 1997) has left Patrick Engineering, but has remained in Springfield. He has recently accepted a position at Andrews Engineering.

Alan Brown (BS 1997) has taken a job as an Environmental Geologist at EMI in Nashville, Tennessee. Al is in the latter stages in completing his MS hydrogeology here at ISU.

Candice Kloss (BS 1998) now works as an environmental geologist for W and Gordon Inc. in Chicago.

Ryan Christianson (BS 1998) has completed his MS in Structural Geology (Ryan!) at Northern Illinois University. He has accepted the position of Geos Software Support with Technoguide LLC in Houston.

Jennifer Obrad (BS 1999) and **Heidi Dowd** (BS 2000) are now each pursuing degrees in Sedimentology/Stratigraphy at the University of Iowa under the Phil Heckel.

Charles Ince (BS 1999) is working for Pacific Soils Engineering in San Diego as an Engineering Geologist.

Pat McLaughlin (BS 1999) is about to finish his MS degree in Sedimentology/Stratigraphy at the University of Cincinnati. Pat has been accepted into a PhD program at Virginia Tech, and he will begin there next fall. On June 11 he married to **Susie Taha** (BS 1999). Susie is completing a Thesis in Stratigraphy/Paleontology at the University of Kentucky.

Landon Kelly (BS 2000) is now in his second year of his MS program at the University of Alaska-Fairbanks. His project involves developing a high-resolution sequential stratigraphic model for oil-bearing strata in northern Alaska.

Jason Thomason (MS 2000) and **Joan Jach** (BS 1999) each have enrolled in the Graduate Program at the Iowa State University in Ames. Jason is pursuing a MS in Glacial Geology/Hydrogeology. Joan is pursuing a BS in Geoscience Education.

Ed Washburn (BS 2000) worked this past summer as an intern for Phillips Petroleum in Odessa, Texas. He is now in his second year in the graduate program at the University of Kansas.

Jason Lowery (MS 2001) has left State Farm for a position with Terracon in Wisconsin. I am certainly jealous of his proximity to several first class steelhead streams. Go Jason!

Jamie Kennealy (MS 2001) now works for Daniel B Steven's in Austin, Texas.

Andy Maas (BS 2001) has moved down to Cajun country and is now pursuing a MS degree in Petrology at Louisiana State University. That's cool.

Cooperative Projects between Illinois State University and the Illinois Geological Survey

During the last 10 years, geology faculty and students at ISU have collaborated with geologists at the Illinois State Geological Survey in Champaign-Urbana on different projects. Initially, our collaboration mainly was with the Education Extension Office. The Education Extension Office runs four field trips for the Geology Department each year. Historically, these trips have attracted as many as 400 people. I helped with six trips during the last ten years. The results of ISU faculty and research projects incorporated into the field trip guidebooks. Currently, Skiff designed GEO 203 (the replacement for GEO 109 which is now the gateway

advanced courses) around the Spring Valley field trip. The students are applying traditional and modern geologic field methodologies to prepare a thorough report on one of the localities that will be visited on this trip. A second locality is in the area of senior Bryce Willems and recent alumna Connie Holverson. Please let me know if you would like for information about these trips.

Geologists from ISU and the ISGS have collaborated on four geologic map projects in central Illinois. The projects are funded by grants from the U.S. Geological Survey EDMAP program. The EDMAP projects are one component of the initiatives advanced by the ISGS. The ultimate goal is to map the entire state by quadrangle at a scale of 1:24,000. Presently, only 50 of the quadrangles in Illinois are mapped in sufficient Detail. The results of our EDMAP projects have served as a basis for the field trips that we lead for our Geology Education courses.

Two projects this year will initiate a new phase in the cooperative relations between the ISGS and ISU. These projects will involve four geology faculty members and 20 students from the Geology, hydrogeology, and Geography programs. These students and faculty will work with ISGS geologists and geophysicists in the laboratory and in the field. Our students will be involved with data collection and interpretation and they will gain experience with a number of modern technologies. Collectively, these two projects will be funded at a level of \$57,000.

The larger project involves a shallow seismic reflection study across the Bushyfork Mahomet bedrock valley near Fisher, Illinois. This project will be headed-up by me. The objective is to help delineate in detail the geometry of rock units that comprise the principal aquifer in central Illinois. This project will be the subject of one thesis project. Twelve undergraduates and 3 graduate students will participate. Bill Shields, the new geology technician, will oversee the day-day aspects of the project. The second project involves a geochemical reconnaissance of stream sediments in central Illinois. This project will be administered by Steve and information will become part of Federal NURE database. Copies of these projects are attached. One graduate student and six undergraduates will participate.

These projects will enhance the educational experience for a great many of our students. They will advance the educational mission of the ISGS, and the results will be available to the general public. I hope that these projects will be successful, and that we will have the opportunity to develop additional projects like these in the coming year.

A message from Illinois State President Victor John Boschini Jr.

Dear Alumni,

Trying to verbally capture the essence of Illinois State University is indeed difficult. It is difficult to give a definition that encompasses the experiences of graduates and areas of study, and yet reflects the energy and excellence of the University community as it daily engages in teaching and learning.

The best answer I can give when I am asked to describe the University is that so many alumni tell me they recall and appreciate about the institution: Illinois provides a small-college experience with large-university opportunities.

Already a strength of the University, this attribute is the foundation upon which Illinois State has built an aggressive and exciting strategic plan that is now being implemented. Titled *Educating Illinois*, the plan provides 15 goals and near-specific actions that will be completed by the University's sesquicentennial

Premised on the core values that have always made Illinois State distinctive, *Illinois* underscores the University's long-standing commitment to individual attention, public opportunity, active pursuit of learning, diversity, and creativity to change.

I encourage you to visit www.IllinoisState.edu/educatingillinois to carefully review each of the goals and outcomes identified. Check back often to monitor our progress. Once accomplished, the initiatives tied to *Educating Illinois* will make Illinois State the first-choice public university in Illinois for high-achieving, motivated students seeking an individualized educational experience combined with the resources Illinois State provides.

By strengthening our traditional areas of excellence and redefining our mission, *Educating Illinois* will allow Illinois State to fill a unique niche in the state. Equally important to me is the fact that *Educating Illinois* offers students a guaranteed quality education. Illinois State promises the same range of opportunity and personal attention that has long been experienced and now recognized as Illinois State's competitive advantage.

-Victor John Boschini Jr.

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Updated: 01-02-06