


 iwil

 Illinois women
in leadership

together we will

IWIL CALENDAR 2006

MAY

Date: Thursday, May 18
Time: 5:30 – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Secret Recipes, Inc.,
Reception Center
Program: "A Look Back...See
How We've Soared"
IWIL Annual Meeting and
Social

JUNE

Date: Thursday, June 15
Time: Lunch (11:30 a.m.)
Location: Inn at 835
Program: "Soaring to New
Heights While Your
Wings Are Being
Tested" with Jan Wright
Vergon, publisher of
Peoria Women and
Intercity Business Issues

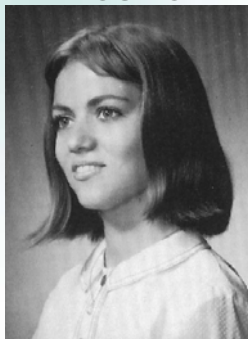
WELCOME NEW MEMBER!

Vicki Megginson

Associate Chancellor for
Development, University of Illinois

GUESS WHO FROM THE CLASS OF 1969?

FIND OUT ON PAGE 4!



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Reach Out! And Reap the Rewards of Joining an IWIL Committee or SIG

Val Yazell, IWIL President

Bell bottoms, mini-skirts, Chanel suits or grunge? What was the style the year you graduated from high school? Come join us at the Annual Meeting and see if you can guess the year your fellow members were in high school. The Hospitality Committee has been busy planning a wonderful party. The Annual Meeting will be held at A Secret Recipe Reception Center on Normandy Road, May 18 from 5:30 – 8:30 p.m. There is no cost for this event but you **MUST** register in advance.

As always, the April membership meeting left me inspired and in awe of the dreams and aspirations of the high school scholarship recipients. It was also a wonderful addition this year to honor our first Chrysalis Scholarship winner. A heartfelt thanks to **Dr. Diane Hillard-Sembell** and her committee for all their time and efforts to this job.

The GEM Awards served to round out this meeting as we honor those in our membership. I want to thank **Rachel Broughton** and her committee for their work. Special congratulations to **Linda Castor**, our Emerald Award winner and **Diane Rutledge**, our Ruby Award winner.

The friends I have made within this organization are some of my most treasured. The meetings only allow for a small amount of time each month. I suggest that if you want to truly connect with others that you join a committee or a SIG (Special Interest Group). Better yet, start a SIG if you can't find one that appeals to you. The support of the friends I have made by being on a committee or being in a SIG is by far the strongest. Reach out, take that first step...we are not meant to be alone!

Final After Hours/Meet the Board

The final After Hours/Meet the Board for the 2005-2006 year will be held Thursday, May 11, at the Inn at 835 from 5:15 p.m. to ? (The Inn hosts Jazz Night on Thursday nights so you can stay as long as you like.)

Take this opportunity to invite someone you have been wanting to get to know better and join the board as we toast another successful year. No reservations needed; just come ready to enjoy yourself.

CASTOR AND RUTLEDGE HONORED IWIL SHINES THE LIGHT ON ITS VERY OWN GEMS

The 2nd annual IWIL GEM Awards were presented on April 20 to two members who have demonstrated extraordinary standards of professional excellence, vision and dedication.

The Ruby Award was presented to **Dr. Diane Rutledge**, Superintendent of District 186, a woman who stands in the forefront with great influence in a chosen endeavor. Dr. Rutledge's career spans over 30 years. As superintendent she has had the opportunity to impact over 300,000 students and their families. Her policy of inclusion, collaboration, fairness and doing what is right has earned her a stellar reputation. She has worked hard to build long-term alliances with the City of Springfield and the Chamber of Commerce, making those relationships the rule instead of the exception, thus building a stronger education system in her district (and doing it all with a smile!).

Linda Castor was presented the Emerald Award, honoring a woman who is inventing or reinventing herself. Linda took a situation that caused her pain (a life experience), identified the need for change (education), implemented a course of action (putting herself through school and studying the issue), and now witnesses meaningful and life-changing outcomes in others (seeing current clients healing in therapy). She also writes a monthly column for *The State Journal-Register* called "Living Smart" that addresses the crucial connection between emotional and physical health; joined other leaders on the first Childhood Obesity Health Initiative; and used her involvement in the performing arts to earn money for Katrina victims.

— Rachel Broughton, IWIL Vice President and GEM Awards Chair

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

IWIL— Helping Young Women Soar!

Three Area High School Seniors Receive \$1,000 IWIL Scholarships at the April Meeting

The IWIL credo affirms "I will encourage others, educate the world, mentor, give back to the community" and many more. The IWIL Scholarship Program is perhaps the best example of this organization's commitment to its mission.

The blessing of working with this scholarship program is a chance to meet outstanding young people from our community. Young people who are bright, talented, enthusiastic and goal-oriented. The young women you are about to meet as you read their essays are already exceptional young ladies, already leaders and I know they will be successful in their future endeavors. At the awards program on April 20, IWIL also recognized the parents who accompanied these young ladies and thanked them for the job they have done in nurturing, challenging and supporting these outstanding young women to be all that they can be.

— Dr. Diane Hillard-Sembell, Chair, IWIL Scholarship Committee

Lauren Althoff is a student at Rochester High School. *Lauren plans to attend Southeast Missouri State University. She is an Illinois State Scholar, Vice President of the Student Council, class secretary and has been a member of the volleyball and soccer teams. She is very active in poms and dance as well as active in the school musicals.*

"Throughout high school, I have had quite a few leadership experiences through different clubs and activities. It is through these experiences that I have acquired qualities that will assist me in my future plans.

In the next four years, I would like to graduate with a major in architecture and a minor in business or Spanish, possibly both. After college, I would like to start out working with an architectural company or firm for a couple of years to gain the experience I will need to eventually start my own business. I would like to own an architectural business that focuses mainly on housing.

When I think of the future, I think of the dreams I have of success in all aspects of life. I see myself taking my three lovely children to school and then stopping at the office to review my designs for the county building. I don't think this type of life is unrealistic, if planned correctly. In my future, I would like to be able to find a strong balance between family and work. I feel that family can be put first without losing focus of one's career. Along with my family, I would like to maintain a strong role in the community. Whether this is by helping with my children's school activities or by sponsoring a sports team through my business, I hope to contribute my time and talent in as many ways as possible.

I have chosen architecture as a career for many reasons. My two favorite subjects in school would have to be mathematics and art. Architecture, to me, is the perfect balance between the two. I feel that I have the creativity and mathematical skills to do that type of job very well. The reason I have chosen a path of entrepreneurship is because I believe that I have the ability and confidence to be a strong leader. I have always jumped at new ideas and opportunities. I am interested in being able to speak Spanish mostly for my own personal achievement. I have always thought that being able to speak another language is a challenging and admirable quality to possess. I believe that Spanish is most important due to the increasing population of Spanish-speaking Americans. In the near future, I think that being able to speak Spanish will be very helpful, especially when starting a new business. With this

(continued on page 3)

IWIL AWARDS THREE \$250 HONORARARIUMS TO TOP SEMI-FINALISTS

As a result of the generosity of you, the membership of the Illinois Women in Leadership, via our scholarship donations and fundraiser, we were able again to award each of the three semifinalists with a \$250 honorarium as well as our top three winners the \$1,000 awards.

Congratulations to the IWIL Scholarship Semi-finalists!

Lexie Behnen, Pawnee High School

Megan Murphy, Divernon High School

Carly Rakes, Auburn High School

THE DREAM IS ALMOST A REALITY! MAY 3 AT SOUTHEAST HIGH SCHOOL

Thanks to the hard work of the Mentoring Committee as well as over 30 additional IWIL members, Dream the Dream will be a reality on May 3rd at Southeast High School from 3:15 to 5 p.m. Thirty of our members will be available to discuss their careers with 150 eager female high school students and their moms.

The highlight of the afternoon will be the "What Not To Wear To An Interview" fashion show during which four students will be introduced wearing the clothes they wore to school. At the end of the session, they will model appropriate clothing. Our thanks to **Paris Ervin** from Channel 20 for serving as the emcee and **Bergner's** for the clothes.

We are still seeking donations for the raffle. Please contact **Connie Anderson Dicenso**, 529-9300, if you can help out.

Please feel free to drop in if you are not already participating. Contact **Nora Hoover, Kay Fisher** or **Karen Westbrook** for more information.

—Karen Westbrook, IWIL Mentoring Chair

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

(Lauren Althoff essay continued from page 2)

skill, I will not only have pride in my own achievement, but also in being able to provide better services to members of the surrounding communities.

As of right now, I feel very confident in the plans I have for my future. I have worked very hard for my accomplishments in high school the same way I plan to achieve great things in my future. I feel that the career and life I plan to lead will be very fulfilling as long as I can take pride in the work I am doing. Architecture will allow me to provide for my family and give back to growing communities in many different ways. I know that my plans seem much easier on paper, but I am prepared for the hard work ahead of me and as I always have, I plan to do my best at everything I attempt. Thank you for this opportunity.

Emily DeLong is a student at Williamsville High School who plans to attend Maryville University in St. Louis. Emily is a member of the National Honor Society and received the DAR Award. She has been a class officer each year, and is an accomplished soccer player. Her community activities include fund raising for St. Jude's and church activities.

"How many miles did you run today?" the young boy in the wheelchair asked me.

"Twenty-two," I answered, trying to avoid looking at the leg I noticed he was missing.

"Wow," he replied with a huge smile on his face. "You ran enough for the both of us. Great job!"

I turned quickly to walk away in the other direction, not wanting him to notice the tears welling up in my eyes. My legs were heavy, my body ached, but I had never felt stronger.

I had participated in another St. Jude Run that day. Once a year, I, along with some of my friends, meet at 5:30 in the morning and run from the Springfield Airport to the Peoria Convention Center to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital in Memphis, Tennessee. It is one of the most difficult days of my year, yet I look forward to it all year long.

Seeing children with smiles on their face such as the boy I met that day is what makes me sure of my dreams. I want to see those smiles every day. I want to make a difference by saving lives.

I guess you could say that I am a dreamer. I have always known exactly what I want to do with my life. I want to be a pediatric nurse. However, I do not want to be a nurse at any hospital. I want to be a nurse who helps save lives without putting a family into debt for life. It sounds impossible, I know. However, St. Jude never asks a family for any money for treatments that insurance does not cover. I want to be part of the organization where no child is turned away.

When people ask me what I want to be, I get the same response: "What a sad job that would be!" Such reactions reassure me that being part of St. Jude is where I need to be. My outlook on such a job is completely different than the norm. I am an optimist. Yes, I will have to see children suffering and some children even pass away. There will be very tragic days. However, I think about how many children I am going to see go into remission, and the positive moment are going to outweigh the negative ones. Being a nurse is not just about being there to give children treatment; it is about making their days more cheerful, being compassionate, and most importantly, making children smile.

Since my freshman year, I have participated in four St. Jude Run's from Springfield to Peoria and my most recent accomplishment in December 2005 was finishing my first half-marathon, which took place in Memphis, Tenn., as a fundraiser for St. Jude. I had only been released from a broken leg a couple months before the half-marathon, so several

(continued on page 4)



IWIL HIGH SCHOOL REUNION & ANNUAL MEETING

"A LOOK BACK...See How We've Soared!"

You are all invited to the IWIL High School Reunion on May 18, 5:30 to 8:30 p.m., at the Secret Recipes Reception Center, 3086 Normandy Road (off Stevenson Drive behind the Rock 'n Roll Hardees). Come dressed as you were the year you graduated from high school!

A complimentary dinner will be served at 6:15 p.m., followed by a brief business meeting announcing the board for next year. A DJ will be playing favorite dance tunes and other surprises are planned throughout the evening.

We need your senior picture! **Please send a copy of your senior yearbook picture with graduation year to [Amee Lee](mailto:Amee.Lee@LLCC.Edu) by May 5**, 565-1912 or Amee.Lee@LLCC.Edu.

Reservations received by 5 p.m. on Monday May 1, 2006, will be eligible for a special early-bird prizes. [Link to the registration form](#). We MUST have a form to confirm your meal choice and graduation year. *If you gave a verbal response to Annette Piper at the last monthly meeting, please confirm with a written form.* **Must register to attend! No Walk-ins allowed!** —Annette Piper, IWIL Hospitality Chair

GUESS WHO ON PAGE 1?

IWIL'S THERESA BOLEY, class of 1969 from Chillicothe, Mo. Met her sweetheart, Gary, when he visited the high school one lunch hour. Where is she now? Assistant Professor and Nurse Practitioner at SIU School of Medicine specializing in caring for patients with lung and heart disease and conducting research aimed at improving care of patients with these diseases.

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

(Emily DeLong essay continued from page 3)

people seemed to question my strength and ability to finish. I was determined to finish without stopping, which I did in two hours and seven minutes. My half-marathon was unquestionably the most difficult race I have ever ran, but as I passed the St. Jude Hospital during my run, I imagined all of those children who couldn't be outside running with me on that cold December day. I felt my legs speed up and a smile creep onto my face, remembering the boy I had met on August 3, 2004, and knowing that I was, once again, "[running] enough for both of us."

Katie Fulginiti is a student at Williamsville High School and plans to attend Augustana College. Katie is an Illinois State Scholar and a member of the National Honor Society. She is currently class Vice President. She has been on the varsity golf and softball teams all four years, serving as captain of both teams her senior year.

I did not have to strain to hear what was approaching. As my friends and I stood on the curb of the movie theater, I too did not have to guess who was approaching. I only had to hear the Frank Sinatra tunes blaring from the window of my father's car to know our ride was here. As we climbed into the car, my dad asked, "Anyone up for listening to Ole' Blue Eyes?"

My dad was 50 years old when I was born. I am not sure how many teenagers my age can say their dad has seen Frank Sinatra live or remember the iceman delivering blocks of ice for their refrigeration. When I was younger, my parent's age used to bother me. I disliked going out to eat because servers would invariably comment about my date with "grandpa." I could never understand why my dad had less hair than most dads either. However, I have now realized that the age of my parents has been one of my greatest blessings. They grew up in a time where there was a tremendous amount of emphasis on family values, hard work, discipline and respect. They have applied those same values while raising me. My mom and dad also had the time earlier in their lives to finish their educations, establish successful careers, travel and accomplish many of their goals. Their age provided them with the opportunity to focus more on raising our family.

Along with their strong personal characteristics, I have been exposed to a family-owned business my entire life. My grandparents, parents, aunts and uncles have all owned their own businesses. Their motivation and success is inspirational. The foundation has been set with the basic fundamentals, and now it is time for me to move on and continue to apply them. Even though I have been raised in a faster, more selfish world, I plan to carry on some of my "old-fashion" values into the next generation.

When I enter college in September, I will major in either entrepreneurship or business management. My dream is to some day own my own business. Whether I am a wedding planner, restaurant owner or financial advisor, I am going to let my ambition, charisma and entrepreneurial spirit guide me. I understand how important a college education is, and I am completely prepared for my future educational endeavors. My college education will definitely enhance my future, but I truly believe that the person I will end up becoming is already inside of me. My instinctive motivation and desire to succeed will ultimately help me transition from college into the professional arena.

According to Webster's dictionary, a legacy is defined as "something left to a person." My parents left me with the morals and values that I have today. Legacies live because people pass them on. My desire is to ensure that their legacy lives on in what I do. Sharing what I have been taught will hopefully inspire and make a difference in the lives of other people. ■

SPECIAL INTEREST GROUPS (SIGs)

Want to network more with other IWIL members by sharing a more personal side of yourself?

Volunteers have started small special interest groups (SIGs) that meet outside the time constraints of our monthly meetings. If you want to join or start a group, contact **Rachel Broughton** at 793-0262.

Book Club

Val Yazell, 546-3860
See IWIL online calendar for schedule and current reading selection.

Gardening

JoAnn Abrams, 546-2249
jabrams@rmc-bigenc.com

Golf

Pam Seppelt, 899-4992, or Kate Weidner, 309-826-1555,
kate.weidner@ironmountain.com

Gourmet

Susan Wilcockson, 483-2774

Hiking & Fitness

Viv Bennett, 622-8976
e-mail viv@springnet1.com

Scrapbooking

Julie Krehbiel, 546-6112 (work) or 546-0576 (home)

Support Group for Members with Aging Parents - LOVE

Marianne Jackson, 498-8962

The Underwires

Kate Hein, 498-8077
e-mail hein535@springnet1.com

Watercolor Painting

Shirley Caldwell Smith, 529-6959
e-mail caldwellsmith@sbcglobal.net

IWIL'S NEW CHRYSALIS SCHOLARSHIP

Meet IWIL'S First Chrysalis Award Winner!

The Chrysalis Scholarship is aimed at a woman who is evolving and transforming her life and who—for a variety of reasons—did not pursue a college education in the traditional path. The award will be available to any woman who is either returning to or entering college for the first time to pursue a first baccalaureate degree. We thank IWIL members and the following businesses for their direct contributions to the award: **Michael Von Behren Builders, AIG American General, Thumbs Up Design, Bank of Springfield and Monique's Travel & Tours.**

— Dr. Diane Hillard-Sembell, Chair, IWIL Scholarship Committee

Melissa Austin is a 2001 graduate of Pawnee High School. She initially went to Lincoln Land and obtained her Associate's Degree. She worked as a file clerk in legal offices for the last five years and one of her reference letters stated what a vital role she plays in helping the firm operate on a daily basis. She plans to pursue a paralegal degree and she shared "there is a possibility of law school."

"Soaring to New Heights" isn't exactly how I envisioned my plan to return to college. I guess I never saw my choice as anything all that special in the grand scheme of life. Since I've waited so long to return to college, I think I may reconsider my opinion. My decision to finish my college education will undoubtedly change my life forever and I realize that now more than ever.

I grew up in a single parent household. I learned early on that to survive in life, you have to work hard. My mom worked two jobs through most of my childhood to make sure we had everything we needed. I have decided to seek the educational opportunities laid before me because I don't want to struggle like she did. I was so excited when I graduated from Lincoln Land because I wanted to have a break from school. Now that I've been absent so long, I realize I actually miss it. I'm ready to get back to the classroom.

It was quite a culture shock those first few weeks at Heyl, Royster, Voelker & Allen. My high school job had been at the local grocery store and was a very relaxed atmosphere and then I entered a very professional setting. I bought my first suit the day before I started work, and I fell in love with the professionalism from day one. I now know this is the field I want to continue working in because I really enjoy—to be immature here—the "grown up" atmosphere I'm in daily. Even in a more relaxed office like Koepke & Hiltabrand, I still get a sense of pride when I'm asked to do something that can potentially affect a cause.

I don't know how effective I can be in "changing the world," but I hope I can make at least one change and influence one person. I don't know if it's because of all the natural disasters that have been plaguing the world lately or because I've become more sensitive over the years, but I've noticed I feel so compelled as of late to want to get involved in more volunteer work. My specific degree won't help me accomplish this goal, but a college education will give me the financial security and stability to volunteer more. I would like to be able to open my home through the Humane Society as a foster parent for dogs. I read constantly how people take mentally and physically injured animals and teach them to become beloved family pets. The Red Cross is another organization I'd like to contribute more to. Not only financially, but I would also like to volunteer in any way possible.

I don't aspire to be wealthy. I just want to look back someday and say I accomplished something and lived up to my potential. I don't know if I'll leave a legacy that will be remembered by the masses for centuries to come, but I hope I can help someone else like me achieve greatness.

P.O. Box 5612
Springfield, IL 62705-5612
info@iwil.biz
www.iwil.biz

EXECUTIVE BOARD

President - Val Yazell

Immediate Past President -

Kathleen Stevens

President Elect - Rachel Broughton

Secretary - JoDeen Roley

Treasurer - Sally Quinn

COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications - Ann Londrigan

Directory - Mary Kay Allison

Hospitality - Annette Piper

Membership - Susan Wilcockson

Mentoring - Karen Westbrook

Program - Kate Hein

Public Relations - Cheryl Snyder

Registration/Nametags -

Sally Sevenser

Scholarship - Diane Hillard-Sembell

Website - Stephanie Sapetti

Newsletter design by IWIL member

Sharon Hewitt, Hewitt Graphic Design



"Soaring to New Heights"

Send your **IWIL news** to
info@iwil.biz!

If you wish to opt-out of future e-mail communications, please let us know by sending a message to info@iwil.biz and you will be added to the snail mail list.

SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

Linda Waldron has been named president of **Integrity Relocation, Inc.** She will work with local companies coordinating their relocation activities. Waldron has been assisting employers and employees with their real estate relocation needs for more than 11 years. Her services are customized for each company client who has incoming or outgoing staff moves, and the service is free to the company. Reach her at 217/787-4506 or integrity.relocation@insightbb.com.

Eileen Kluckman, vice president of fundraising for **Springfield Air Rendezvous**, invites you to the 1st Annual Golf Outing, Rendezvous at the Rail on Saturday, April 29. Get your four-person team together and join us for golf, fun, lunch and dinner @ \$75 per person. The Springfield Air Rendezvous will be held June 24-25 in Springfield. Contact Eileen if you are interested in sponsoring or volunteering.

Sharon Thornton Knop announces the opening of **Chrysalis Professional Development Service** with classes designed specifically for your staff. Training topics include time management, assertive communication skills, stress management and professional image.

Karola Beahringer invites you to the **Springfield Parks Foundation's** 2nd Annual Bocce Ball Tournament at Centennial Park on Saturday, May 13, 10 a.m. Witness for yourself what Italians have loved for centuries! Register your four-person team by calling Karola, 793-3207, fraubeahr@aol.com or www.springfieldparksfoundation.org. Cost is \$35 per person or \$140 per team. Corporate sponsorships of \$250 or \$300 available.

Here are some powerful questions from **Life Coach Jill Kennedy-Broughton**. If a miracle occurred overnight and you had the changes you've been wanting, what would you be doing? What would be so perfect about your life? How did it get that way? Jill specializes in coming along side women like you to help you get where you've been wanting to go. Call 217-698-8585 or visit www.itsallaboutchange.com.

Do you want a fabulous spring garden? The **Temple B'rith Sholom Sisterhood** is selling spring bulbs for fall planting. Please contact **Karen Westbrook**, 546-9366 or k.westbrook@insightbb.com.

IWIL Hiking SIG Dates

The IWIL Hiking SIG has been renamed the "Hiking and Fitness SIG" with a new fitness dimension. If this is something you want, be sure to come out and support it!

Every Wednesday in May at 6:15 a.m. — Working Women's Walk in Washington Park! We'll be power walking for one hour in the beautiful early morning hours of MAY. Start your day off with the extra energy that exercise gives you. Your non-member girlfriends are welcome to come also! Contact Jill Kennedy-Broughton, 698-8505, CoachJill88@msn.com.

Saturday, June 3, 8 a.m. — Biking the Wabash and Chatham Bike Trail for fitness, fun, & fellowship (brisk speed). Meeting at Parkway Pointe Theater parking lot. If you plan to come, contact Jill Kennedy-Broughton, 698-8505, CoachJill88@msn.com.

Sunday, June 25 — Missouri Botanical Gardens and Supper "On the Hill." We are combining the Hiking & Fitness, Gardening, and Gourmet SIGs for an adventure of lots of fun, horticulture, hiking, and Italian eating all in just one day. Feel free to invite your friends or family. Admission is \$8 to the Gardens. Wear casual comfy clothes, good walking shoes and a hat, and don't forget your sunscreen. Call JoAnn Abrams, 546-2249, or Mary Schaefer, 529-2600.