


 iwil

 Illinois women
in leadership

together we will

IWIL CALENDAR 2007

MAY

Date: Thursday, May 17th
Time: 5:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.
Location: Firefighters Club
 940 West Lake Drive
 Springfield, IL
Program: IWIL Annual Meeting &
 "Twilight Ball"

JUNE

Date: Thursday, June 21st
Time: Lunch (11:30 a.m.)
Location: Inn at 835
Program: "Candlelight Dinners to Twinkies:
 Food Writing for a Daily
 Newspaper" with Kathryn Rem

IWIL ANNUAL MEETING & "TWILIGHT BALL" THURSDAY, MAY 17TH

Please join us for the **IWIL Annual Meeting "The Twilight Ball"** on Thursday, May 17th from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. at the Firefighters Club located at 940 West Lake Drive in Springfield, Illinois. **Black or White attire please**, dancing shoes recommended.

There will be a short business meeting along with an introduction of the 2007-2008 IWIL Board followed by entertainment.

Reservations are due to our Registration Chair, **Sally Sevenser** by **Monday, May 7th**.

No walk-ins or guests please.

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE



"LIGHTING THE WAY" RACHEL BROUGHTON IWIL PRESIDENT

At the Sangamo Club on an April 1997 morning, my daughter and I were seated with another scholarship recipient, her mother and a gracious scholarship chairman. Ten years have passed since that morning when two scholarships in the amount of \$750.00 each were awarded. Our organization has since experienced restructuring and through the generosity of our members currently grants **four** \$1,000 scholarships. The caliber of these poised, intelligent and accomplished young women continues to be amazing! Each year I personally look forward to this meeting with great anticipation, not because my daughter will be a recipient but because I've always felt that Sarah's scholarship was twofold ... it served as my venue to this group as well as a special encouragement to her. For the past 10 years it's been a privilege to unite with each of YOU in our continued support of young women's educational endeavors preparing them for the day when it's time to pass the torch. At the April meeting, after the reading of the first essay, the woman seated next to me sighed, "WOW." I smiled and said, "There's more to come!" and WOW moments continued with each presentation. A special thanks to **Sharon Thorton Knop** and her committee; they did a superb job implementing this year's **IWIL Scholarship Program**.

The applause momentarily ceased while **IWIL Gem Awards Chair, Karen Westbrook**, announced the following: a **Ruby** to **Theresa Boley**, an **Emerald** to **Desiree Logsdon** and a **Sapphire** to **Sharon Thornton Knop**. The standing ovations continued. Determination, courage, and accomplishments cast a special radiance on each woman's story. It was a marvelous day when we paused to honor our own which personified Edith Wharton's quote: "There are two ways to provide light; to be the light or to be the mirror that reflects it." We were bathed in both kinds of light at the April meeting.

Shine on,
Rachel

PRESIDENT'S CHALLENGE

Don't hesitate... Circle the date... Send Sally your registration, too. The **IWIL Annual Meeting** has been prepared especially for YOU! Dress yourself in black and white, slip on your ballroom shoes. Dancing for the sheer joy if it will have us showing our classy moves. The instructors will give some pointers, at our efforts we'll laugh a lot, Please join IWIL's membership in the fun ...'cause no one can fill **your** spot!



IWIL AWARDS THREE \$250 HONORARIAMS 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 again able to award each of the semi-finalists with a \$250 honorarium as well as our top three winners with \$1,000 awards.

Congratulations to the IWIL Scholarship Semi-Finalists!

Trisha Faulker, Springfield High School

Allison LaBelle, Springfield High School

Rebecca Jo Luke, Divernon High School

IWIL CREDO

"I WILL..."

- make things happen
 - promote professionalism
 - seek educational opportunities
 - mentor
 - participate
 - encourage others
 - climb the ladder
 - empower others
 - educate the world
 - make a difference
 - do more than my part
 - provide the initiative
 - take action
 - implement ideas
 - be involved in the process
 - give back to the community
 - leave a legacy
-

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP – HELPING YOUNG WOMEN “LIGHT THE WAY”

THREE AREA HIGH SCHOOL SENIOR WOMEN RECEIVE \$1,000 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 young women you are about to meet as you read their essays excel academically, perform community service, take leadership roles, and are involved in numerous extracurricular activities. At the awards ceremony on April 19th, **IWIL** also recognized the parents who accompanied these young ladies and thanked them for the job they have done nurturing, challenging and supporting these outstanding young women.

Anna Dowling is a student at Rochester High School.

Anna plans to attend the University of Illinois at Champaign in the fall. She is a member of the National Honor Society, the Spanish Club, and the Chemistry Club. She is also involved in Band (Jazz & Marching). She plays the violin, piano, and oboe as well as performs vocally. Anna enjoys working with animals and teaching children with disabilities.

The manner in which I came to America to live my life has transformed and shaped my view of the world immeasurably. My parents set out on an odyssey of perseverance, love, and dedication to bring me home from mainland China when I was just three months old. My moral fiber and view of the world have been influenced by the opportunities that come to someone and the resulting responsibilities such good fortune holds. A keen awareness of people that have far less and endure the most difficult of circumstances in their everyday lives through the world has formed my foundation. I have developed an intense consciousness of my responsibility to do more than my part in fulfilling my place in this world as I endeavor to make a positive difference with my life.

I have always felt a desire to do my best, to extend good deeds to others, and to offer my knowledge and talents to people that have less as a way to give back to my community. It is my responsibility to learn about civilizations throughout the world in order to better understand humanity and to develop the determination to formulate a means to bring about a change. Through actions, words and music, I offer my willingness to reach out to others, to understand, to learn, to accept, to show compassion, and to provide the initiative to take action to help others. To live in America is the ultimate gift that bears with it a demand for empathy, determination, dedication to goals, a willingness to serve others, and a genuine concern about the people in our own community as well as throughout the world.

During my volunteer experiences with the United Cerebral Palsy Therapeutic Horseback Riding Program “Saddle Up!” I have learned much about my own character as well as the nature of children with disabilities. While working with and encouraging young riders, I am able to interact in ways I never imagined possible. I will admit to being apprehensive about working with some children who could barely utter sounds. I soon learned that laughing when the horse’s tail swishes, singing the alphabet together or simply counting to ten are motivational to the handicapped children. I work with individuals who take nothing for granted and work extremely hard in their attempt to lead a normal life. As a result of their positive attitudes, I experience the true meaning of patience, passion, and perseverance. Participating in the therapeutic horseback riding program for handicapped children has afforded me endless opportunities to encourage others, to serve as a mentor, and to empower children to

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SOMETHING TO TALK ABOUT

IWIL ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Congratulations to **Shirley Caldwell Smith** and her husband for celebrating their 50th wedding anniversary in April.
- Congratulations to **Marianne Jackson** who is off on her next quest to finish another fun, fabulous marathon as she joins Team in Training.

For more information on the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society's Team in Training, call (309) 451-1692 or visit www.teamintraining.org/ilp.

- Congratulations to **Kathy Maslouski** for becoming the new Marketing Manager for the LPGA State Farm Classic. As one of her first endeavors, she is looking for your help. The tournament is only a few months away and as leaders Kathy is seeking our support for this event and charity.

For more information contact Kathy at kmaz10@sbcglobal.net.

- The **Springfield Golf Classic** to benefit the **American Lung Association** will be held on Monday, June 4th at Panther Creek Golf Club in Springfield. **Julie Zara** is selling raffle tickets on behalf of the American Lung Association of Illinois. Prizes include a Chicago Get-A-Way with tickets to a sporting event, \$1,000 in cash and a 42" DLP Projection HDTV. Ticket price is \$25.

Contact Julie at jzara3@gcctv.com for more information.

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS (continued)

(Anna Dowling essay continued from Page 2)

strive for unimaginable goals. I have learned the true meaning of miracles which can come to pass if one is truly and completely dedicated to making things happen, or "Lighting the Way" for those we strive to help.

Gabrielle Gee is a student at Sacred Heart-Griffin High School. *Gabrielle is planning on attending Eastern Illinois University. Gabrielle is a writer for the "Voice" teen section of the State Journal-Register. She is a member of the National Honor Society, Spanish National Honor Society, and a Golden Laurel Recipient. Gabrielle is an Illinois State Scholar. She enjoys writing fictional novels and acting.*

I have never undergone a heart transplant, experienced a gastric bypass, overcome gender barriers, or been physically assaulted. But, I have written about these people. As a volunteer journalist for the teen section of our city newspaper, I often have the chance to highlight the outstanding accomplishments of our local teenagers. Many of these teens have overcome almost impossible obstacles and their strength and tenacity has become an inspiration for the thousands of readers that get to share in their experience through the world of media communications.

Each story I write takes on a life of its own. I have often had to immerse myself into the situations about which I am writing by taking classes, conducting thorough interviews and spending time observing and experiencing the subject in my articles. This experience has opened up my world to the diversity of talents and knowledge that each human being has to offer. In addition, I write and edit articles, lead staff meetings and mentor new writers. I was chosen last year to serve on the re-design board for the "Voice" section's 10th anniversary. I was able to actively take part in the content, layout and design of this portion of the newspaper and its corresponding web page. Last June, I was chosen as one of only thirteen teen journalists in the nation to receive a full teen fellowship for the National Conference of the Youth Editorial Alliance in St. Louis, Missouri. Here, I took part in a conference in which newspaper editors from across the United States looked to us for advice on how to improve their products and enhance the quality of their programs. I conducted presentations and networked with some of the most important media figures in the nation. This opportunity has made me realize that I want to be a part of this industry. I want to use my talents to inform the public and to provide a platform for needed social change. In our home, we have a plaque that reads "What I am is God's gift to me. What I become is my gift to God." My experiences thus far have made me realize that I can make a difference in our world with the talents that I have been given. With my talents, I will strive to lift the way of injustices and illustrate to the masses that there is a basic goodness in the human heart and together, good will outweigh evil.

Because of my involvement in this activity, I now know that I want to become a successful and motivated advocate for change. I plan to obtain a degree in Communications/Public Relations and a minor in Spanish. I hope to incorporate a semester of study abroad in a Latin American country as well. I believe that becoming bilingual will aid me in my career and life goals. I want to use my gifts to make the world a better place. My education and collegiate experiences will be the first step in realizing this dream. Communication is the key to unifying the masses. Together, humanity can accomplish great things. As the Georgetown basketball coach, John Thompson, once said, "You can communicate without motivation, but it is impossible to motivate without communicating." This shall be the motto for my future; a future where I will grow into a productive member of society while still holding on to the Christian values in which I have been raised. When all is said and done, I hope that I will be looked upon as an individual that gave back to society more than I took from it. This is the legacy I want to leave the world.



IWIL SIGs

UPCOMING SIG EVENTS

- The **IWIL Book Club** will be meeting to discuss *The Road* by Cormac McCarthy on Saturday, May 26th at Java Express located at 1827 North Peoria Road (about two blocks south of Sangamon Avenue) in Springfield, Illinois from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m.

For more information, contact **Marianne Jackson** at (217) 498-8962.

- The **IWIL Golf SIG** is under new leadership this year. Anyone interested in hitting the greens this Spring should contact **Sharon Thornton Knop** at (217) 496-3050 or **Mallorie Teubner** at (217) 496-3119 for more information.

- The **IWIL Scrapbooking SIG** will be meeting at Westside Christian Church on May 4th from 6:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m. in Centennial Hall 3. The only fee to attend is to bring a dish to share and/or a one liter bottle of your favorite drink. Spread the word and invite your friends!

If you are interested in going, contact **Viv Bennett** via e-mail at viv8976@insightbb.com or call her at (217) 622-8976.

IWIL TAX STATUS

The IRS has granted IWIL 501(c) (3) tax exempt status. Membership dues, contributions, and donations are tax deductible.



"Lighting the Way"

IWIL SCHOLARSHIP NEWS

Madeline Mier is a student at Pawnee High School.

Madeline also plans on attending the University of Illinois at Champaign. Madeline is a member of the National Honor Society, Scholastic Bowl Team, and a member of Pawnee High School Student Council. She is also an Illinois State Scholar. For fun Madeline enjoys playing soccer and softball, reading, and watching anything related to medicine.

Nineteenth century American journalist and soldier Albert Pike once observed that "what we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others and for the world is and remains immortal." Throughout the course of my young life I have come to understand how important and essential it is to make a difference in our world and meaningfully touch the lives of others. It is only through our beliefs, our actions, and our connections with others that we can hope to leave a legacy which extends beyond our own time and which lights the way for future generations. And while there are countless careers in which one can influence and shape lives, I feel that by embarking upon a profession as an emergency room physician I can make a lasting impact on the lives of both my patients and their families. Doctors are allowed the very rare privilege of being instrumental in each stage of life: bringing new lives into the world, saving lives in perilous danger, and even restoring dignity and peace to those whose lives are at an end.

To further illustrate my sincerity in pursuing a career in medicine, I would like to share an experience that has profoundly influenced my life. Last summer I had the privilege of spending ten days in Chicago studying under one of the most prestigious student leadership organizations in the nation, the National Youth Leadership Forum on Medicine. While in Chicago, I spent time with both physicians in a variety of fields and their patients, who most graciously allowed my peers and me to ask probing questions and delve into their personal encounters within the medical community. I also had the priceless opportunity of spending an entire day in the emergency room of the La Rubida Children's Hospital. During this time, I observed the doctors and nurses treating children with a variety of chronic illnesses and was allowed continual patient interaction, something I had never before experienced. The events of this single day managed to seal my fate as a future physician and left me yearning to spend the rest of my life caring for others and creating life-changing impacts on those I will be fortunate enough to touch.

Since I was young, I've always dreamt of saving lives and being a part of something bigger than myself. Medicine provides the perfect balance between the art of compassion and empathy and the precision of meticulous procedure and cutting-edge technology. But for all the ways medicine can be described, for me it all comes down to this: medicine seems as natural to me as breathing in and out each day. I simply can not imagine myself doing anything else. And I can only hope that, one day, when my career has come to an end, I will be content knowing that I have lit the way for at least one young woman, in the same manner that countless people have helped to light my way.

IWIL CHRYSALIS SCHOLARSHIP

MEET IWIL's 2007 CHRYSALIS \$1,000 AWARD WINNER

The **Chrysalis Scholarship** is awarded to a woman who is evolving and transforming her life. This is an award that is very important to many of us, who ourselves were non-traditional college students. It is presented to a woman who for a variety of reasons did not pursue a college education in the traditional path. This award is available to any woman who has been out of high school at least 5 years and is either returning to or entering college for the first time to pursue a first Baccalaureate degree.

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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 **Karen Westbrook** at (217) 787-1059.

Book Club

Marianne Jackson, (217) 498-8962
See the [IWIL online calendar](#) for schedule and current reading selection.

Gardening

JoAnn Abrams, (217) 546-2249
e-mail jabrams@rmc-bigcnc.com

Golf

Sharon Thornton Knop,
(217) 496-3050 or
Mallorie Teubner, (217) 496-3119

Gourmet

Susan Fulks, (217) 483-2774

Hiking

Viv Bennett, (217) 622-8976
e-mail viv8976@insightbb.com

Scrapbooking

Viv Bennett, (217) 622-8976
e-mail viv8976@insightbb.com

Support Group for Members with Aging Parents - LOVE

Marianne Jackson, (217) 498-8962

The Underwires

Mary Mann, (217) 525-3000
e-mail mary.mann@rsmi.com



<http://www.iwil.biz/JoinIWIL.htm>

IWIL CHRYSALIS AWARD (continued)

Our 2007, IWIL Chrysalis Scholarship winner is Nicole Calcagno of Springfield. *Nicole is a radio personality with Mid-West Family Broadcasting. She loves her job and is anxious to pursue her college education in Communications at the University of Illinois at Springfield. Nicole has been involved in a variety of community outreach efforts such as Relay for Life, Bowl for Kids Sake, and food drives. Nicole is interested in politics and is involved with the Model Illinois Government.*

A college education is something that I have wanted since I was a little kid. At the age of 9 years old, I had my high school, college, and career picked out. The day I walked into my community college, was one of the greatest days of my life.

Growing up I was lucky enough to have wonderful parents. My dad, a union man for over 30 years, worked in painting and wallpaper hanging. My mom has been a homemaker most of my life. She had part time jobs off and on growing up, but pretty much, she was always a homemaker. I have one younger sister as well. We were never "rich" or "well off" but I always had dinner on the table, and the things I needed. I have been working since the age of 16 and it was instilled in me that hard work is how you will get anywhere in life, so that attitude has stayed with me.

I went to a Catholic all girls' high school. Although it was a great education, it was very pricey. It was a struggle for my parents to send me there, but they wanted me to get a quality education. Due to the cost of my high school, there was not much money for my college education. I was on my own; with whatever little help my parents could give me, so I decided to go to Triton College to save money.

My first semester at Triton, my parents and I paid for half and half. I immediately got involved in school activities such as the radio station, student government, and also had a job on campus, as well as off campus. I received my first scholarship my second semester for \$250, which paid for half my semester. At this point, I was actively involved as a Senator in my Student Government, had two shows on my college radio station, was a part of Model Illinois Government, had a job on campus for 15 hours a week, and also had a job outside of campus at Apple Vacations three days a week. After my second semester began, I got a lead on a scholarship for the following year that would pay for a whole year that was based on student involvement and of course, GPA. I won that scholarship two years in a row, as well as an elected spot as the Vice President of the Triton College Student Association. I was able to attend several leadership conferences throughout the country, achieved leadership roles in Model Illinois Government and won awards, as well as maintaining both jobs, and both radio shows.

My graduation for Triton was a huge deal for my family and me. I'm the first one in the family to obtain any kind of degree, and I did it all on my own. The next step was a University. It was always my dream to go to Columbia College in Chicago. The path of choice for me is Radio Broadcasting and this was hands down the best school for it. I got accepted, enrolled, and attended the school for one year. I got some loans that paid for a portion of my year there, but not nearly enough. After a year there, I was unable to get the rest of the money I needed to continue my education at Columbia College. This was heartbreaking to me considering I only have one year left till I get my BA. I promised myself that I would not give up, and I would strive to finish my education.

With my leadership skills I have gained throughout my involvement in school activities, conferences, and personal experience, they will help me "light the way" for other people who may need motivation or a positive role model. I can mentor those who may be less fortunate or need guidance on how to get money for school, get started, or just give that extra push. As I move forward with my education and career, I will know in my heart that with hard work, motivation, and dedication, anything is possible.



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Mallorie Wamsley Teubner

Send your **IWIL news** to our
Communications Chair,
Eileen Kluckman at info@iwil.biz!

IWIL GEM AWARDS

BOLEY, KNOP AND LOGSDON HONORED IWIL "LIGHTS THE WAY" FOR ITS VERY OWN GEMS by Karen Westbrook, IWIL GEM Award Chair

The 2007 GEM Awards were presented on April 19th at the IWIL monthly meeting. To be eligible for a GEM Award, an applicant must be a member in good standing with IWIL for one year. Applicants are nominated by their peers and judged by women outside of IWIL. There are three awards: Ruby, Emerald, and Sapphire.

IWIL would like to thank this year's judges for volunteering their time.

Sandy Arnold, Vice President of Enterprise Services, State Farm Insurance
Julie Kaiser, Freelance Writer for the State Journal-Register and Springfieldmoms.org
Meredith Knitter, Director of Systems, State Farm Insurance
Nancy Sage, Office Operations Manager, Ashley Furniture & Home Store

A special thank you also goes to the **IWIL GEM Award Committee** members: **Linda Nickerson**; **Sharon Thornton Knop**; and, **Nora Sansone Hoover**.

This year's three winners all "Light the Way". They radiate confidence, enthusiasm and caring. They represent the "best of the best".

Ruby Award – A Woman of Excellence

Theresa Boley has always been interested in the caring professions. As a young mother with a two year-old son, she took a position as a part-time nurse's aide and commuted to community college. She soon obtained an associate degree in nursing which resulted in her becoming a registered nurse. The rest is history. Theresa is currently conducting research, continuing clinical practice, participating in administration and teaching. When asked about how her legacy will endure, Theresa noted that her research provided the greatest opportunity for an enduring legacy.

Emerald Award – A Woman to Watch

Desiree Logsdon, by her own admission, has had a rough year. The company she had worked for 20 years was sold. Desiree found herself, quite unexpectedly, seeking employment. Like many of us, she faced the challenge of recognizing that the position she had held for so long and enjoyed so much was "what she did" not "who she was". Desiree recognized that, while painful, she was presented with the opportunity to find a career that would capitalize on her strengths, provide her with the same passion for work and allow her to fulfill her personal and professional goals. Once she began her reinvention, Desiree immediately focused her efforts on others within the company by assisting them in dealing with their fears and aiding them in their quest to move forward.

Sapphire Award – A Woman who Mentors and Encourages

Sharon Thornton Knop has a passion for mentoring and helping others. She mentors and encourages at work, as part of her own small business, and at home. Sharon believes that the keys to being a good mentor and encouraging others include: listening; dealing with each person as an individual with specific strengths, weaknesses, wants and needs; paying attention; showing respect; providing directions as necessary, and serving as a monitor and/or coach. She has learned that people have to want to move toward their goals. Listening is better than talking. Guidance and direction are different. And, that a good mentor goes at the rate the person is comfortable with.