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Springfield business journal

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Coming to America

UIS increases focus on international students

By Zach Baliva Page 10 Photo courtesy of UIS via flickr.com

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Meet Dr. Jerry Kruse

Dean and provost, Southern Illinois University School of Medicine

By Shannon O’Brien

When Dr. Jerry Kruse began his career at the Southern Illinois University (SIU) School of Medicine over 30 years ago he had no plan to move through the ranks to become its primary leader. His focus was simply to do good work. However, earlier this year, he was rewarded for that work when the SIU board of trustees named him the medical school’s dean and provost. There was no search to fill the position – administrators offered the job directly to him.

Kruse reached this point in his career by doing his job well and allowing the doors to open. “I became a family physician because I liked so many things in medicine,” he said. “I was often asked to move into these positions of leadership, and I liked the duties I found there even while missing the teaching and the patients.”

He especially enjoyed teaching, often working with small groups of students and offering career advice to residents. “To get to know those people and get to know their capabilities was quite an exciting thing,” he said.

Though his administrative duties have forced his focus to become more institutional, one element hasn’t changed. He is still

“focused on making the experience for the students top-notch.”

This includes understanding new technologies and finding ways to use them to help improve health care and health care education. Kruse has consistently embraced new technologies and appreciated their effect on the medical industry. He said SIU has always been a leader in the innovation and delivery of curriculum.

He recognizes that new students are better versed in technology than ever before. The school is working to adapt curricula with a variety of technologies for students to access via apps or other cutting edge methods. “They aren’t satisfied with standard traditions of curriculum delivery modes,” he said.

Kruse also pointed to the school’s surgical skills lab at the Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation and the school’s use of standardized patients – people whose job it is to portray patients so medical students can practice particular skills while progressing through the program – as further evidence that the university offers an innovative medical education to its students.

Regarding his colleagues, Kruse noted the importance of having people to turn to for

alternative perspectives on a variety of issues. “You need some people who can come in and question your decisions...not only affirming decisions, but also questioning. Giving a real, direct opinion,” he said.

He has the good fortune of being surrounded by many people he trusts. One person he turns to regularly is Wendy Cox-Largent, the school’s chief financial officer. “She has a different set of capabilities and a different background,” he explained. “She’s a good leader and she’s very balanced.”

At home, he finds great support from his wife, Lois, who trained as a medical technologist and currently mentors middle school girls along with instructing spin and pilates courses. She understands medicine, he said. “I’ll be gone for a few days, and she’ll note everything in the newspapers that people are reading and leave it out for me. That camaraderie is really great.”

When Kruse is not ensconced in work at SIU he may be found playing a round of golf, working through logic puzzles called KenKen, or penning humorous poems in the style of Dr. Suess, using his nom de plume, Dr. Kruess.

He wrote a poem in this style called “The Saga of Michael Klein” to tell the story

of a colleague whose research was initially snubbed by medical journals, though eventually accepted and published:

Now Michael was proud,
and really excited.
With his results he was
very delighted.
He wanted to spread the
good news he had found.
He wanted to broadcast
this stuff all around.
But a funny thing happened.
He couldn’t believe it.
No one would listen, they
couldn’t perceive it.

Asked how frequently he writes, he said, “you write when you’re inspired, and when there’s time.”

Kruse appears to be a man who finds inspiration everywhere. Finding the time for all of it may prove a little trickier with his new role. □

Shannon O’Brien is a writer and photographer at the University of Illinois Springfield.

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BUSINESS PROFILE



Claudette Hayes, Mike Pendry and Ronice Pace are employees of Gone for Good.

PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

Gone for Good

Business employs adults with disabilities

By Teresa Paul

Gone for Good Secure Document Destruction, located at 1411 East Jefferson St., supports the community both through recycling and by employing people with disabilities. "Gone for Good provides NAID (National Association for Information Destruction) AAA-certified security, the highest certification available for secure document destruction businesses," said Jenny Niebrugge, chief employment and business services officer for United Cerebral Palsy (UCP) Land of Lincoln, which administers Gone for Good.

"We provide a high quality service to the community and other local businesses," Niebrugge said. "Our business customers represent a wide variety of public and private sector businesses throughout central Illinois and the metro St. Louis area."

As a program developed with the purpose of creating jobs for adults with severe disabilities, Gone for Good is unique. In addition, all of the revenue generated from the document destruction services helps support other programs at United Cerebral Palsy Land of Lincoln such as summer camps and the Saddle Up horse therapy program.

Gone for Good first opened here in 2009 with the help of SourceAmerica, a nonprofit agency supporting other agencies which provide employment opportunities for people who are severely disabled. SourceAmerica provided UCP Land of Lincoln an interest-free loan to help them with the startup costs for Gone for Good.

"We have two big pieces of equipment, the sorting conveyor line and the shredder and baler," Niebrugge said.

From 2009 until 2014, Gone for Good was located at 1617 Groth St. When the UCP Enterprises building at 1411 E.

Jefferson St. in Springfield opened a block away from their main headquarters at 101 N. 16th St., it relocated to the new property, which also houses White Glove Professionals, a janitorial and custodial business also administered by UCP.

UCP Gone for Good affiliates also exist in Birmingham, Alabama and Little Rock, Arkansas. The Springfield location was modeled on the example of the Birmingham facility, which has been in operation since 2006.

According to data supplied by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, every 1,000 pounds of paper records securely destroyed and then recycled, conserves eight trees, 190 gallons of oil, 3,500 gallons of water, 2,400 kilowatts of electricity and 50 cubic yards of landfill.

"Our mission at UCP is to provide innovative strategies to connect people with disabilities to the community."

"People with disabilities are much like everyone else," says Niebrugge. "They want to work, make money, buy things that they like. And they want to feel like part of their community. Our mission at UCP is to provide innovative strategies to connect people with disabilities to the community. Gone for Good goes hand-in-hand with our mission."

Currently, the location employs nine individuals with disabilities and Niebrugge hopes to see that number grow. "They have been trained to do the job and love coming to work," Niebrugge said. "They especially like the paycheck they receive."

"I would like to show others what people with disabilities can do," said Claudette Hayes, a Gone for Good employee. "If you have it in your mind that you can do it, then you will." □

Teresa Paul can be reached at teresadawn1970@yahoo.com.

Searching for increased online presence

SCORE and Google work together for small businesses

By Gabe House

The Service Corps of Retired Executives (SCORE) has partnered with Google to help “put Springfield on the map.”

The initiative’s goal is to help small businesses in Springfield claim their Google for Business pages and update them with accurate, current information. It benefits the business – according to Google, businesses that are online grow 40 percent faster than those that aren’t – but it’s a boon for Google as well.

“Their motive is they want to have the most relevant results when people do a search,” explained John Bury, Springfield’s SCORE chapter chair. “That’s how Google makes money, so they’re willing to give local businesses their own pages filled with up-to-date information.”

It’s completely free for a business owner to claim and then update their Google for Business page with photos, hours of operation and, perhaps most importantly, a correct phone number.

Bury, who lives in Jacksonville, had already come to the aid of his hometown in February when the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce business expo event housed a number of SCORE volunteers to help business owners claim their Google pages. Bury will also be on hand on April 28 at the Springfield Chamber’s Business Connections event.

“We have a grant from the SCORE Association ... to put on these workshops and this ‘Put Your Town on the Map’ workshop,” Bury said. “But this is in partnership with SCORE and Google and they have a basic promotion to get your business online, including this effort to get Springfield on the map.”

“They’re trying to encourage small businesses to get listed on Google Maps and Google search, to make sure the information coming up is accurate and timely.”

It would seem that the benefits of a free online presence would be an easy sell to small business owners, but Bury said they’ve been struggling a bit to get the word out. There was a decent amount of interest in Jacksonville and Bury expects a boost this month in Springfield.

Surprisingly, he said, discussions with business owners are necessary to drive home the point – and virtues – of Google for Business pages.

“It’s a somewhat difficult concept...so it takes a lot of one-on-one to explain it and its benefits,” Bury said. “We are gaining traction. We’re having more workshops, we hope to have a major push at this event and do some follow-ups, perhaps monthly, with more workshops to get businesses to sign up for Google for Business.”

SCORE will have a two-pronged presence

at the Springfield chamber event. They will host small business-oriented workshops (these require a \$10 preregistration fee) and they will also be working with small business owners to claim their respective Google pages. This service will be completely free, and volunteers will be on hand throughout the day to work directly with owners.

“They say 60 to 70 percent of people that are looking for a business do so with an online search, so if a business searched themselves, it might be interesting and informative for them to see what comes up,” Bury said. “Does it come up at all? Do their competitors come up instead? Is their own information accurate?”

It can be eye-opening for small business owners to see their online presence – or lack thereof. And today, more than ever, it’s vital to reach potential customers in as many ways as possible and as immediately as possible. Nobody carries a phone book with them everywhere they go, but smartphones are nearly ubiquitous.

“In this day and age ... this is like the old yellow pages,” Bury said. “Now, people find you with a Google search and you don’t even have to pay for an advertisement.” □

Gabe House is a freelance writer from Springfield.



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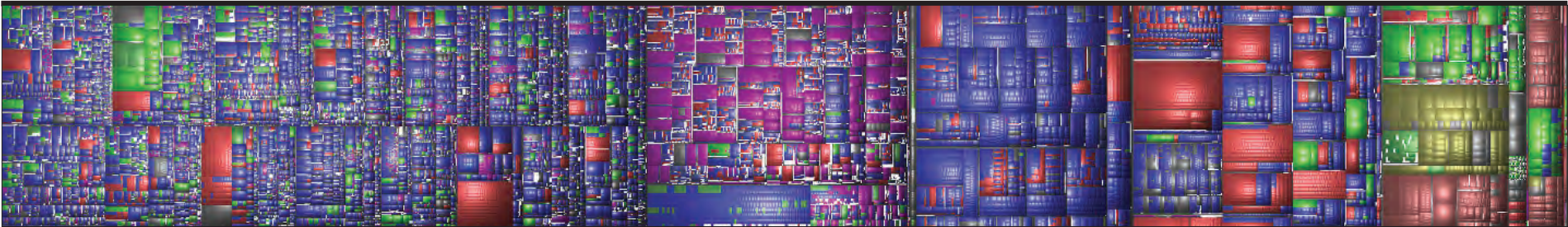


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Attack of the ransomware

How a sneaky virus (could have) ruined the Springfield Business Journal

By Pat Yeagle

We were lucky to catch it early. It could have been much worse.

On March 7, the computer server containing pretty much all of the digital information we use to print the *Springfield Business Journal* and *Illinois Times* sustained an attack from a type of virus known as ransomware. Despite the panic it caused, the experience forced us to learn some very valuable lessons.

Ransomware is a particularly insidious type of computer virus which encodes all of the files stored on an infected hard drive using a very strong encryption method. Once data is encrypted, it can only be decrypted with a “key,” and the only way to get that key is to pay ransom through an anonymous Internet portal that prevents the perpetrators from being tracked.

Ransomware usually spreads through the age-old con of social engineering. Essentially, it exploits trust by tricking users into infecting themselves. The “Locky” virus that infected our server usually comes in an innocuous-looking email with a subject like “ATTN: Invoice J-12345678.” When a user tries to open the attached Microsoft Word document, the text appears garbled, and the user is prompted to enable macros, a form of miniature program that automates frequently used tasks within another program.

Enabling the macro in that corrupt Word document allows the virus to spread through your internal computer network, looking for hard drives to encrypt. Fortunately, the version that infected our server seems to ignore personal computers, instead seeking out backup devices known as “network-attached storage.”

Special Agent Stephanie Cassiopi with the Springfield field office of the FBI says this type of malware originates from eastern Europe. However, she says the actual group or person responsible for a given attack is hard to pinpoint because some groups write ransomware and sell it online to other groups all over the world. Cassiopi says her office receives three or four reports of ransomware each week.

By the time we discovered the infection on March 7 and turned off our server around 5 p.m., the Locky virus had already encrypted 35 gigabytes of data spread across several folders. Heart Technologies of Springfield worked through the night to find and purge the infection. The next morning, our server was safe and back online, but hundreds of files were unusable, including several photos, graphics, and documents for upcoming publications.

Next to each encrypted Locky file on the server was a ransom note demanding

payment in the form of 0.5 bitcoin, a digital currency allowing the perpetrators to collect payment without exposing their identities. The value of one bitcoin currently hovers around \$418, meaning we would have had to pay roughly \$209 per file to decrypt our data. That may not seem like much money, but the risk increases when you consider that paying the ransom doesn’t guarantee you’ll actually receive the decryption key.

Cassiopi says the FBI’s official position is to let each organization decide whether to pay up, because the bureau recognizes that some organizations need their data back.

“How badly do you need your information?” she said. “Can you afford an hour or day’s worth of loss?”

We at *Illinois Times* and the *Springfield Business Journal* didn’t pay up, but not necessarily as a moral stand. It was really because we had multiple backup systems in place. However, the incident exposed the fact that only one of our three backup systems was working as it should have, which made this a valuable learning experience.

Cassiopi says she has heard of hospitals, schools, department stores, restaurants and even police departments getting hit with ransomware. So far, she hasn’t seen a case of someone paying up and not receiving their

decryption key.

“It sounds weird, but it would actually be bad business for them not to give you the key after you pay, because then no one would pay,” she said.

However, Cassiopi also says the FBI has also seen organizations get targeted by new attacks after paying.

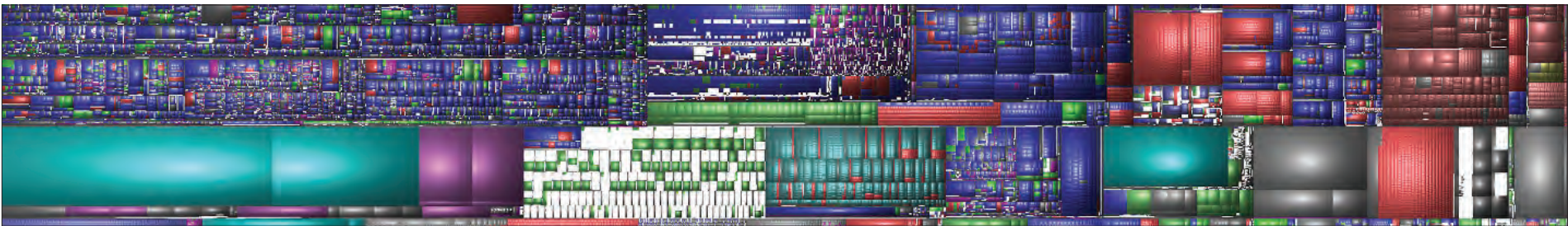
It’s not a matter of “if” any given organization will face a ransomware attack, according to Cassiopi; it’s only a matter of “when.” She says the attacks are often crafted to trick a specific target, and antivirus software is only about 60 percent effective at catching such attacks.

“That’s really quite low,” she said. “It’s better to have it than not, but to believe you’re safe because of an antivirus is naïve. ... We tend to want you to be a bit paranoid.”

Because the attacks are so common, Cassiopi says it’s important to keep backups and have a recovery plan in place before anything goes wrong. Such a plan should include what actions to take immediately, how to restore lost data and contact information for tech support.

“Know your system,” she said, “and have a plan in place for when it does occur.” □

Pat Yeagle is a staff writer and photographer for *Illinois Times*.



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Droning on and on...but in a good way

By Colin Patrick Brady



The Decatur Areocommanders R/C Club had a booth at the expo. The group builds and pilots radio-controlled model planes and drones and is a member of the Academy of Model Aeronautics.

PHOTOS BY COLIN PATRICK BRADY

For two days in late January, dozens of drones descended upon the Decatur Conference Center and Hotel for the Midwest Drone Conference & Expo. The event featured pilots, developers and sellers detailing the latest developments in drones – also known as unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) – as used in agriculture and diagnostics for those with either a casual or professional interest in the technology. The conference was sponsored by ADM Crop Risk Services.

Sessions were held in various conference rooms throughout the center and most were presented by representatives of either the FAA or insurance firms specializing in drone coverage.

Keynote speaker Mark Foisy – a pilot for the United States Air Force as well as a commercial pilot – has served as an unmanned aircraft systems specialist since 2013 in the Great Lakes Region of Flight Standards for the FAA. His advice to attendees was blunt: “To all you new drone pilots out there, get a couple hundred hours under your belt.” Those are wise words for

anyone wishing to pilot a device capable of generating such great speed, height and momentum, not to mention the possibility of having its controls hacked. Damage caused by drones is unpredictable. Foisy recommended that the drone user “check to see if they are in a no-drone zone before you embark upon a flight.”

Lorie Graham, American Agricultural Insurance Company’s senior manager for enterprise risk and insurance services, gave a talk entitled “General Drone Liability.” Graham is a specialist for the use of UAVs in precision agriculture and consults on ways the industry at large might develop risk management solutions. In Graham’s words, “within the insurance industry, drones represent a new trend.” She went on to detail instructions on what to do should your drone cause accidents or infringements, a process she said is still under development.

Brenda Niederbrach of Arlington Roe Insurance led a session on the subject of liability policies for commercial drones. Niederbrach assists Illinois independent

insurance agents in acquiring market and coverage solutions. Niederbrach has previously spoken to the city of Springfield about banning the use of drones/UAVs in public parks.

Niederbrach also spoke to the dearth of insurance companies currently underwriting claims for farmers who utilize drones for agricultural purposes. Imagery and telemetry provided by drones may be utilized at every stage of crop development. Details of damages to crops and fields along with how efficiently a particular field is developing are data that a UAV can provide a farmer. However, with the use of a UAV comes the possibility of damage. For instance, Niederbrach said that “personal liability and commercial general liability are often not covered under aircraft liability policies.” Some aircraft liability coverages that are available include “property damage and single limit bodily injury which can be amended into policies.” She also spoke of pilot warranty conditions. “Even though these vehicles are unmanned, the underwriter of an insurance policy may designate a specific pilot for use of the UAV or it may indicate the

usage of the vehicle by any pilot.” Physical damage coverage is available for UAVs as well. “This is not unlike the comp and collision you might find on your automobile insurance policy,” Niederbrach said.

Vendors and insurance providers from around the country were set up throughout the main conference hall. Wares on display ranged from drones no larger than a honeybee to a custom carbon fiber unit built in part by Stan Miskiewicz, owner of 312UAV of Chicago, who proudly exclaimed that it could “easily lift a 90-pound payload.”

Confounding the legitimate use of drones for processes such as agricultural enrichment and aerial mapping, Graham described “a general distrust of drones among the public. Many perceive that they may be used for acts of terrorism.” With any luck, the Midwest Drone Conference & Expo has done its part to help dispel such short-sighted notions. □

Colin Patrick Brady is a freelance writer in Decatur.



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Home Expo 2016

Photos by Patrick Yeagle

On Feb. 27, the Prairie Capital Convention Center hosted the 2016 Home Expo of the Springfield Area Home Builders Association. The expo offers an annual opportunity for regional home builders, interior designers, roofers, landscapers and other exhibitors to strut their stuff. This year's crop, offering eclectic, innovative and just plain practical amenities, did not disappoint.



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Coming to America

UIS increases focus on international students

By Zach Baliva



Fernando Planas, director of admissions at UIS.

Drive around the University of Illinois Springfield (UIS) campus on a warm day, and you're likely to notice a student bowling to a batsman on the cricket pitch. Step into a campus building, and you may find a meeting of the Asian student organization. International students are flocking to the United States in record numbers – 974,926 arrived in the 2014-2015 school year – and many are finding their way to central Illinois. UIS is embracing the trend and university officials say international enrollment numbers have jumped from 242 in 2012 to 1044 in 2015.

What's driving the increase? According to an annual report released by the Institute of International Education and the U.S. State Department, the United States remains the largest English-speaking destination for

international secondary and post-secondary students because the country has a large, accessible and renowned education sector. Additionally, the U.S. has vibrant immigrant communities that ease the global student's transition to a new land.

In 2015, Illinois hosted the fifth most international students with 46,574 – a 9.5 percent increase over the previous academic year. With 11,223 in 2015, the University of Illinois' Urbana campus became just one of five U.S. institutions to welcome more than 11,000 international students annually.

Fernando Planas, director of admissions at the Springfield campus, says foreign-born students come to Sangamon county for the school's competitive tuition, personal attention and robust offerings. "Many of our international students choose UIS because

we are in the U of I system but remain smaller than many other public universities," he explains.

The international population first grew at UIS thanks to men's soccer and other athletic programs, but officials have worked to increase enrollment by nurturing relationships with universities in China, Vietnam, and elsewhere. After several years, those efforts are paying off. In 2015, most of UIS' international class came from India (784) and China (130), but the university has students from at least 38 other lands including Burma, Iran, Jordan, New Zealand, Vietnam, Spain, and Saudi Arabia.

An international admissions counselor, Ashley Edge, travels overseas between three and four times each year in order to recruit prospective learners and build relationships

with high schools, partner institutions and third party organizations. Many foreign schools that partner with UIS do so through "2+2" programs in which students complete two years in their homeland and finish at UIS. On those trips, Edge touts the features of many majors including those offered by the UIS college of business and management, one of just 755 business schools (about 5 percent) accredited by the prestigious the Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business (AACSB) International.

In the fall of 2015, the most sought-after UIS majors among international students were computer science and management information systems. The university also has between 60 and 70 students enrolled in an intensive, non-degree English program.

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UIS hosted its 38th international festival called World at a Glance in November 2015. Students and community members provided performances and informational booths and local restaurants offered a variety of food.

PHOTOS COURTESY OF UIS VIA FLICKR.COM

UIS enriches the experience of foreign and domestic students alike. “We’re all connected in the modern world and diverse interactions benefit us all,” says Planas. Additionally, the students have an economic impact. NAFSA: Association of International Educators found that during the 2014-2015 sessions, foreign learners contributed \$30.5 billion to the U.S. economy and supported 373,000 jobs. In Illinois’ 13th congressional district, 12,796 international students have an economic impact of \$380,117,199 and 6,421 jobs.

UIS officials say the school is deeply committed to serving this growing demographic. “We’ve sent our head chef to China, and we’ve adjusted our menu to include more traditional meals from different places around the world,” Edge says, adding

that her colleagues at UIS want the campus to feel like a home away from home.

Overseas students arriving on campus interact with the UIS office of international student services, through which they may attend a welcome party, access workshops on visa status, legal issues and employment, as well as connect with student organizations and social events. Perhaps the office’s most well-known event is its annual International Festival, which debuted in 1977 when the school was still known as Sangamon State University. Held each fall, the festival celebrates cultural diversity at UIS through games, music, performances, cuisine and exhibits from around the world. In recent years, the event has been free of charge and open to the public.

While the academic experience has

benefits for all parties, what happens after graduation has some critics questioning American policy. A quarterly report from the U.S. immigration and customs enforcement’s Homeland Securities Investigations says that 35 percent of international students study in STEM sectors. But while American employers need STEM talent, tight visa restrictions make it difficult for foreign-born and American-educated graduates to stay in the United States. When these students leave, their skills and innovations leave along with any investment an American university has made.

According to NAFSA, while international enrollment totals have climbed in the United States, the percentage of global students as a whole has not risen at the same rate because other competing countries have loosened

immigration policies and made it easier for students to land jobs.

Some students stay through an F-1 Optical Practical Training visa that permits 12 months of employment in a graduate’s direct field of study if accepted within 60 days of graduation. Advisors encourage students to chart their post-graduate life at least a year in advance, as they must graduate, apply, accept a job in their field and start work within a five month period or risk being forced out of the country. When the F-1 expires, individuals must successfully transition to another visa. Other options include the employer-sponsored (three year) H-1B visa or graduate school. □

Zach Baliva is a media producer and writer living in Springfield.



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By Eric Woods

PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF



Diane Lyddon and Mark Thoma.

PHOTO BY TIM MURPHY

Meow Mobile

By Tim Murphy

Among the many people packed downtown for Springfield's annual St. Patrick's Day parade were six cats riding in style in the Meow Mobile, a converted 28-foot 1983 Jayco travel-trailer, with a mission to find them homes.

The parade was the latest event for the creators of the Meow Mobile, Diane Lyddon and Mark Thoma. Most Saturdays since their debut in May 2015, one can find them camped outside a store somewhere in the county, often times at Petco in Springfield.

The mobile cat adoption unit's mission is to advocate on behalf of the cats and kittens at Sangamon County Animal Control to help find them forever homes. The Meow Mobile is a registered 501(c)3 nonprofit in Illinois.

"It really was a build-it-and-they-will-come project, a labor of love," said Thoma. "This is all about convenience. This is all about taking the cats to where the people are."

Lyddon and Thoma first came up with the idea for the Meow Mobile in the fall of 2014 after buying a motorhome to take a trip to Oregon with their two dogs. Not planning to use the motorhome again for their own personal travels, they put it to use at an outdoor event at Scheels.

With Lyddon involved in cat adoptions at Sangamon County Animal Control, they decided to fill the motorhome with adoptable cats and carriers. It was a big success – every cat was adopted! From there they took the idea to the next level.

They started by buying the travel-trailer which would become the Meow Mobile. It had the added benefit of having two doors, unlike the motorhome's single door, making foot traffic easier to accommodate as prospective adopters check out the cats. Thoma said it took three months and many hours to gut the trailer and completely remodel it into the Meow Mobile.

Lyddon, who does graphic design work, put together the logo and gave the Meow Mobile its cute and memorable look, complete with decals on the outside of the trailer.

"We considered calling it the Whisker Wagon, but then we went back to Meow Mobile because it really says what it is," said Lyddon.

Thoma said before they started the Meow Mobile they wanted to find out if it would be popular. They only found a couple other organizations in the country doing a mobile cat adoption unit.

"The beauty of the Meow Mobile is we can go out in any weather," said Thoma. He estimates that they get an average of 110 visitors each Saturday to see between 8 and 15 cats and kittens displayed in the Meow Mobile's 12 carriers. (Sometimes kittens share a carrier.) That's about 4,000 visitors through the Meow Mobile so far. Since their debut last year, he says there have been 125 cat adoptions, "which is huge."

"You do what you do to move these cats along because you know what the alternative is," Thoma said.

Lyddon remembers the days of carrying heavy cages and carriers into stores for adoption days.

"It was a lot of work for very little payoff," she said. Now everyone who walks into the Meow Mobile says "Oh my god, this is so cool!" We aim to welcome everyone who comes in, and we'll get the cats out for them."

Thoma and Lyddon are the Meow Mobile's only full-time volunteers but there are about 10 other volunteers who help make the project a reality.

"Whenever you're doing a nonprofit, money is huge. Number one is getting the cats adopted. Number two is raising money," Thoma said.

To help raise funds they sell T-shirts, magnets, calendars and even host paint nights. A list of upcoming events can be found at meowmobile.org, as well as information on how to donate. The Meow Mobile will be rolling into a cat show at the Illinois State Fairgrounds on April 23-24 and will appear at Remarkable Resale in Rochester on April 30. □

Tim Murphy is a freelance writer and photographer from central Illinois.

what's your strategy?

an AWC social media event

The Association for Women in Communications' Springfield chapter is holding a half-day conference about social media! This event will raise money for the chapter's scholarship fund. The speakers:



Nathan Carpenter
assistant director
of convergent media,
Illinois State University



Katie Eades
digital marketer,
COUNTRY Financial



Stephen Hunt
professor, executive director,
School of Communication,
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COMMUNITY SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: The individual Service Organizations.+ - Junior League of Springfield's meeting location varies month to month, address listed is for their office. * - Location of Altrusa's first Tuesday dinner/speaker meetings vary.
(Ranked by numbers of members)

	ORGANIZATION NAME MEETING LOCATION ADDRESS OF MEETING	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) / E-MAIL	MEETING TIME(S)	NUMBER OF MEMBERS	CONTACT	DUES	MISSION STATEMENT	YEAR EST'D
1	American Business Club of Springfield Sangamo Club 227 E. Adams St., Springfield, IL 62701	217-415-0922 abcspringfield.com rkbappraisal@comcast.net	First & Third Thursdays, Noon	200	Robert Witner	\$180/annually	Creating opportunities for independence for people with disabilities. Help disabled individuals and children achieve greatness. Charitable causes include: UCP, SPARC, Boys & Girls Club, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, YMCA, and about 75 other local charities.	1925
2	Junior League of Springfield Varies + 420 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701 (Main office)	217-544-5557 jlsil.org admin@jlsil.org	Second Tuesday of the Month, Sept. - May	141	Caitlin Simhauser	\$115/annually for Active, \$100/ annually for Sustainers	The Junior League of Springfield is an organization of women committed to promoting voluntarism, developing the potential of women and improving communities through the effective action and leadership of trained volunteers. Its purpose is exclusively educational and charitable.	1939
3	Springfield Noon Lions Club Golden Corral 1038 Le June Drive, Springfield, IL 62703	lionsclubs.org springfieldnoonlionsclub@gmail.com	Tuesdays, Noon	75	Limey Nargelenas	\$100/annually, plus meals	Mary Bryant Home, Vision Clinic, Club Lions, Heartland Lions Eye Bank	1920
4	Rotary Club of Springfield Maldaner's Restaurant (2nd Floor) 222 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701	217-502-9969 springfieldilrotary.org bonstyles@yahoo.com	Mondays, 5:30 pm	67	Bonnie Styles	\$360/annually	Service Above Self - Projects that promote literacy and combat hunger in our community, including volunteering with Ridgely School, Central Illinois Food Bank, and Salvation Army; working with Rutledge Youth and sponsoring student participation in the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards program; and providing grants to numerous nonprofits; and international projects to pack food with Stop Hunger Now, provide disaster relief in Nepal and clean water for schools in Mexico, and eradicate polio across the globe.	1913
5	Springfield Jaycees P. O. Box 662, Springfield, IL 62711	217-638-5131 springfieldJaycees.org springfieldjaycees@yahoo.com	Third Wed., 6:30 pm	47	Amanda Long	\$58/annually	The Springfield Jaycees is a young leadership organization ideally for individuals between the ages of 18 and 41. The organization is designed to provide development opportunities that empower young active citizens to create positive change focusing on five different areas of opportunity including: individual development, community development, business development, international development and management development.	1939
6	Rotary Club of Springfield - South Engrained Brewing Co. 1120 W. Lincolnshire, Springfield, IL 62711	217-370-4677 rotarysouth-spi.org dop.ehrhardt@gmail.com	Thursdays, noon	36	Brian Schutz	\$140/annually, plus meals	Service Above Self - Youth Literacy and Health	1966
7	Sertoma Club of Springfield Hibachi Grill Town & Country Shopping Center Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-2782 www.sertoma.org album1@aol.com	First & Third Mondays, Noon	33	Cheryl Pence	\$160/annually plus meals	SERTOMA = SERVICE TO Mankind. Areas of service: annual "Celebrate Sound" walk for hearing health; Boys & Girls Club; national heritage projects, Golden Laurel Awards, and a close relationship with Sister Cities Assn.	1954
8	Rotary Club of Springfield - Sunrise Hoogland Center for the Arts 420 S. Sixth St., Springfield, IL 62701	217-299-4011 rotarydistrict6460.org chris.berger@countryfinancial.com	Wednesdays, 7 am	32	Chris Berger	\$160/annually	Service Above Self - Projects with Grant Middle School, Mathematics Camps, helping young people around the world, water wells in Cambodia, Rotary Reader, "This I Believe"	1987
9	Springfield Frontiers International Chesapeake Seafood House 3045 E. Clearlake Ave, Springfield, IL 62702	217-414-1047 springfieldfrontiers.com donald.ross49@gmail.com	Fridays, Noon	27	Don Ross	\$160/annually, plus meals	PYD (Positive Youth Development) - middle school age males, Jr. Frontiers (high school age males)	1953
10	Rotary Club of Springfield - Midtown Inn at 835 835 S. Second St., Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-8822 midtown.clubexpress.com mkokal@heyloyster.com	Tuesdays, Noon	26	Michael Kokal	\$140/annually	Service Above Self - Partner with Washington Middle School	2003
11	Kiwanis Club of Springfield - Downtown Bernie & Bettys Pizza 1101 S. Spring, Springfield, IL 62704	217- 553-4710 kiwanis.org provest@aol.com	Wednesdays, Noon	25	Ron Provart	\$140/annually, plus meals	Playground for All Kids at Southwind Park, Key Clubs in High Schools, Builders Clubs in Middle Schools, Kiwanis Kids in Elementary Schools	1922
11	Altrusa International Club of Springfield Laurel United Methodist Church 631 South Grand Ave. W. Springfield, IL 62704	217-622-5597 altrusa.org nancydogs3@yahoo.com	First and third Tuesday, 6pm*	25	Nancy Easum	\$90/annually	Altrusa International provides community service, develops leadership, fosters international understanding and encourages fellowship by an international network of executives and professionals in diverse career classifications	1948
11	The Zonta Club of Springfield Illini Country Club 1601 S. Illini Road, Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-8680 zonta.org	Second Wednesday, 5:30 pm, August-June	25	Carol Borecky	\$125/annually, plus meals	Zonta International works to advance the status of women worldwide through service and advocacy; local projects reflect that mission	1939
12	Springfield Luncheon Optimist Club MCL Restaurant, 2151 West Wabash Avenue Springfield, IL 62704	217-836-8691 springfieldoptimistclub@yahoo.com	11:45 am.on the 2nd Monday & 6 p.m. on the third Monday	24	Joyce Stoelting	\$106 a year, \$53 twice a year	Friend of Youth. By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.	1956
13	Rotary Club of Springfield - Westside Brickhouse Grill & Pub 3136 Iles Ave., Springfield, IL 62704	217-553-0830 springfield-rotary.org facebook.com/SpringfieldWest- sideRotary apaoni@sikich.com	Wednesdays, Noon	22	Andrew Paoni	\$155/quarterly, includes meals	Service above self - focusing on children and literacy.	2008
14	Springfield Breakfast Optimist Club Atonement Lutheran Church 2800 W. Jefferson, Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-5021 hrm1935@aol.com	Fridays, 7 am	16	Dick McLane	\$30/semi- annually	Friend of Youth. By providing hope and positive vision, Optimists bring out the best in kids.	1960

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– William Legge, executive director of
Boys & Girls Clubs of Central Illinois

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Directing sibling partnerships

By Eric Woods

Lisa Rakey has lived all around, spending a couple of years in Boston as well as residing in both Chicago and St. Louis. She has been in Springfield since 2011 and enjoys the big city feel of a smaller town. “We get the best of both worlds here. There are a number of cultural events, festivals, and restaurants, so there is no excuse for being bored,” said Rakey. She is active in the community as a member of Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL), West Side Christian Church, and is herself a volunteer for Big Brothers Big Sisters. “I really want to get more involved and get out more in the community.”

Although she admittedly gets frustrated by the one-way streets downtown, Rakey notes that the fiasco involving the state budget is the biggest issue currently facing the city. “It is affecting everyone, no matter what sector. They are all losing business,” she said. “It is a scary time for all nonprofits. The communities are not getting the services they need.”

Rakey wanted to be a veterinarian when she was younger but found the science involved too challenging. She did, however, begin working at Don Pedro’s Restaurant when she was 15 years old. “My mom would drive me there and pick me up,” said Rakey. Her least pleasant job experience was at

a factory in Rock Falls. “We were in a giant metal building people were not meant to be in. It was 100 degrees at 6 a.m., and it was miserable.”

Rakey has been with Big Brothers Big Sisters since 2006 when she was hired to get the program running in Montgomery County. She came to Springfield in 2011 as the program manager and director of community relations and moved into the executive director position in August of 2014. Currently she has human resources and fiscal responsibilities, oversees the staff and programs, and even works as chief executive and chief financial officer. Rakey is the face of the organization and enjoys being out in the community. “I love telling people what we do and why it is important,” said Rakey. “I want to make sure we follow our standards and meet the goals of our strategic plan.” The big summer raffle is coming up, and Rakey feels it will be more exciting than normal as this year there will be a big community event.

Rakey learned a number of life lessons from her parents. “They taught work before play, be simple and appreciate things, be a lady and be respectful,” she said. “They were hard-working people who were happy with what they had.” Rakey has lived those life

lessons for years. She considers graduating from college to be one of her greatest achievements, as she was part of the first generation in her family to go to college. As an adult, she does not feel as if she has hit her highest accomplishment just yet.

In the nonprofit industry, keeping an open mind is very important, according to Rakey. “This is not for the weak,” she said. “Get as much volunteer experience as you can so you can see different areas and the different sides of life.” Mentoring is also valuable, as Rakey advises everyone hoping to get into the nonprofit world should get a mentor.

Advances in science and technology are a couple of topics that intrigue Rakey about the future. “It is interesting and scary at the same time to see where we will be,” she said. In 10 years, Rakey hopes to be close to retirement. “My husband is retiring this year. We are making travel plans, and by then I hope to be enjoying grandkids and doing more volunteer work. We may also move somewhere warmer.” Rakey truly just wants to see her family healthy, happy and safe. □

Eric Woods can be reached at ericw93@aol.com.



PHOTO BY MARANDA POTTERF

Lisa Rakey

Title: Executive Director, Big Brothers Big Sisters
Address: 928 South Spring Street
Education: B.A. in psychology from Southern Illinois University-Carbondale
Family: Husband – Gary Frasco; Children – T.J., Grace, and Nolan

Favorites –
Hobby: Cycling
Movie: *Secondhand Lions*
Restaurant: Cooper’s Hawk

Tidbits –
Won a county spelling bee as a child
Enjoys reading biographies
Son is in the navy and stationed in San Diego

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Professional Women's Calendar of Events

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Association for Women in Communications (AWC)

AWC will hold a half-day event to help hone social media skills related to corporate branding, personal branding and the latest strategies for social media listening and crisis communication. “Social Media...What’s Your Strategy?” will be held on Wednesday, April 20 from 8:30 a.m.-12 p.m. at the University of Illinois Springfield. Learn from industry leaders who understand local communicators’ unique challenges, yet model nationwide trends and best practices for social strategy and brand management. Cost is \$39 for members, \$49 for non-members, or \$18 for students. Online registration is required, visit www.awcspringfield.org for more information.

Women Entrepreneurs of Central Illinois (WE-CI)

WE-CI will hold its April meeting on Wednesday, April 13th from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at Sangamo Club. The topic will be “Is Woman Owned Certification Right for You?” Mary Turner of PTAC will address certification for large prime contractor diversity programs. The cost for the meeting is \$15 for members, \$10 for guests, and \$20 for walk-ins. Make reservations at www.we-ci.org.

Illinois Women in Leadership (IWIL)

IWIL will hold its April meeting on Thursday, April 21 from 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. at the Sangamo Club. Gemma Long, owner of GM PR and Media, will offer a guide to social media for businesses: what and what not to post and the latest techniques, trends and tips for acquiring successful reach, and interaction with your audience. Reservations are available at www.iwil.biz.

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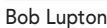
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FDIC

By Colin Patrick Brady



his Focused Community Strategies nonprofit. When he first began assisting impoverished inner city populations, he did so by taking on referrals from the Atlanta juvenile court system. Early on, Lupton realized that returning troubled youths to the environment from which they came had a negative impact, including increased recidivism and the risk of backsliding into a pattern of habitual crime.

"I view neighborhood transformation as a long-term commitment – in order to turn a neighborhood into a healthy place for families to flourish, it is going to take time and effort," Lupton explains. Several years ago, Lupton began work on his book, *Toxic Charity* (2012, HarperOne), and its sequel, *Charity Detox*.

This issue is not without a solution. “I want to suggest ways to change the paradigm of service, and allow people in need to work reciprocally,” Lupton says. “A thrift store is better and more favorable than a give-away clothing outlet.” Likewise, Lupton contends that food pantries would be of greater service to their communities in the form of food co-ops, as both a co-op and a thrift store are less likely to produce dependency. “In both cases” he says, “the persons in need can pay nominal dues for membership into a food co-op and can have the option to purchase clothing. Both processes are empowering and there is no loss of dignity.”

Lupton says his definition of a toxic charity is one which “does for others what they have the capacity to do for themselves.” The notion of toxic charities, according to Lupton, first occurred to him during his service in the Vietnam War. “In Vietnam, I worked alongside a lot of servicemen who were themselves from an inner city environment. Many of the GIs were high school dropouts who got themselves hooked on drugs while in the war.” When he returned stateside and went back to his job in the private sector, something would

Lupton's two-day conference on "Toxic Charity" will be held Friday, April 8 and Saturday, April 9 at South Side Christian Church, located at 2600 S. MacArthur Blvd. For more information on the local event or to register, visit www.ToxicCharity.EventBrite.com. His website can be found at www.fcsministries.org. □

Colin Patrick Brady is a writer in Decatur.

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HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org.
N/A - Not Available. (Ranked by net assets)

	ORGANIZATION NAME MEETING LOCATION ADDRESS OF MEETING	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) EMAIL	REPORTED NET ASSETS	ANNUAL TOTAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	BASE COMPENSATION OF PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
1	The Hope Institute for Children and Families 15 East Hazel Dell Lane Springfield, IL 62712	217-585-5437 217-786=3356 thehopeinstitute.us	\$26,655,350	\$42,384,748	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Clint W. Paul, President / CEO	N/A	Serves children with developmental disabilities and mental illnesses and their families by providing homes in which to grow, schools in which to learn, clinics in which to become healthier, research into emerging practices, and training for providers and parents.	1957
2	Girl Scouts of Central Illinois 3020 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-8159 217-523=8321 getyourgirlpower.org	\$18,240,132	\$8,280,636	10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	Pam Kovacevich, Chief Executive Officer	\$156,827	Builds girls of courage, confidence, and character who make the world a better place.	1956
3	St. Joseph's Home of Springfield 3306 S. Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-5596 217-529=8590 saintjosephshome.org lhighland@saintjosephshome.org	\$16,027,362	\$5,875,553	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Sister M. Lenore Highland, Administrator	\$0	Elderly residential and medical services for, but not limited to, needy and low income individuals.	1903
4	YMCA of Springfield PO Box 155 Springfield, IL 62705	217-544-9846 217-544=0004 springfieldymca.org	\$11,974,862	\$5,877,553	1/1/2014- 12/31/2014	Angie Sowle, CEO	\$102,900	To serve the community by reaching out to everyone in a spirit of inclusion and fellowship. YMCA programs focus on four core values- caring, honesty, respect and responsibility. We serve men, women and children of all ages, races, abilities, incomes.	1874
5	Central Counties Health Centers, Inc. 2239 E. Cook St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-788-2300 217-788=2340 centralcounties.org info@centralcounties.org	\$8,895,693	\$7,524,948	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Heather Burton, President and CEO	\$120,000	To provide access to quality, cost-effective health and oral (dental) care to the community, especially where there is a shortage, through the development and implementation of programs without regard to age, race, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, religion, political beliefs or ability to pay.	1999
6	Brother James Court 2508 Saint James Road Springfield, IL 62707	217-544-4876 217-747=5971 brotherjamescourt.com administrator@brotherjamescourt.com	\$5,356,313	\$4,478,469	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Glenda Beatty, RN BSN, Administrator	\$73,555	To serve, regardless of race, ethnic origin, creed, or ability, developmentally disabled men in need of intermediate care.	1975
7	Ronald McDonald House Charities of Central Illinois 610 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-3314 217-528=6084 rmhc-centralillinois.org kthompson@rmhc-centralillinois.org	\$5,324,231	\$1,294,736	1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	Kelly Thompson, Executive Director	\$87,725	To create, find and support programs that directly improve the health and well being of children. Its primary mission is to provide temporary housing for families of children seeking medical treatment.	1986
8	Central Illinois Foodbank 1937 E. Cook Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-4022 217-522=6418 centralilfoodbank.org foodlist@centralilfoodbank.org	\$5,312,906	\$19,363,617	6/1/2013 - 5/31/2014	Pam Molitoris, Executive Director	\$96,524	Collects donated food and grocery items from growers, manufacturers, processors, wholesalers and retailers for distribution to charitable agencies serving people in need.	1982
9	Abraham Lincoln Council, Inc., Boy Scouts of America 5231 Sixth St. Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-2727 217-529=5786 alincolnbsa.org askabe@scouting.org	\$3,583,058	\$1,101,281	1/1/2014- 12/31/2014	Daniel A. O'Brien, Scout Executive and CEO	\$118,644	To prepare young people to make ethical choices over their lifetime by instilling in them the values of the Scout Oath and Law.	1920
10	Land of Lincoln Goodwill Industries, Inc. 1220 Outer Park Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0400 217-391-7624 llgi.org info@llgi.org	\$3,190,842	\$24,829,657	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Sharon Durbin, Chief Executive Officer	\$134,912	To place people in productive and competitive jobs.	1938
11	United Cerebral Palsy of the Land of Lincoln 130 N. 16th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-6522 217-525=9017 ucpll.org ucp@ucpll.org	\$2,822,518	\$6,181,403	7/1/2013- 6/30/2014	Brenda L. Yarnell, Ph.D., President	\$107,875	To serve individuals with cerebral palsy.	1968
12	Midwest Mission Distribution Center 1022 New City Road Chatham, IL 62629	217-483-7911 217-483=7981 midwestmissiondc.org office@midwestmissiondc.org	\$2,477,547	\$477,581	1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	Pat Wright, Executive Director	\$42,500	To compassionately help God's people in need locally, nationally, and around the world, and to offer a center to fulfill the call for service to our neighbors in Christ's name.	1999
13	Animal Protective League of Springfield and Sangamon County 1001 E. Taintor Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7387 217-525=5896 apl-shelter.org admin@apl-shelter.org	\$2,133,069	\$1,627,324	1/1/2013 - 12/31/2013	Deana Corbin, Executive Director	N/A	Caring for ill, injured and abused homeless animals and coordinating the adoption of those animals by responsible pet owners.	1954
14	Senior Services of Central Illinois Inc. 701 W. Mason St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-528-4035 217-528=4537 ssoci.org	\$1,779,194	\$3,301,255	10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	Karen Schainker, Executive Director	\$52,500	Services to the elderly.	1976
15	Fifth Street Renaissance PO Box 5181 Springfield, IL 62705	217-544-5040 217-544=5045 fsr-sara.org	\$1,623,032	\$1,464,969	7/1/2013- 6/30/2014	Penny Harris, Executive Director	\$71,802	Assists individuals and families in difficult situations by providing transitional housing and opportunities to acquire education, employment, and housing.	1979
16	Jewish Federation of Springfield, Illinois 1045 Outer Park Drive, Suite 320 Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-7223 217-787=7470 shalomspringfield.org sjf@shalomspringfield.org	\$1,584,753	\$367,914	1/1/2014 - 12/31/14	Nancy Sage, Executive Director	\$55,000	To serve the Jewish people locally, in Israel, and throughout the world through coordinated fundraising, community-wide programming, services and educational activities.	1941
17	Sojourn Shelter & Services, Inc. 1800 Westchester Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-726-5100 217-726=8664 sojournshelter.org sojdirector@gmail.com	\$1,493,992	\$1,169,966	7/1/14- 6/30/15	Angela Bertoni, Chief Executive Officer	\$82,070	Services to adults and children who are victims of domestic violence.	1975
18	Contact Ministries 1100 E. Adams Springfield, IL 62703	217-753-3939 217-753=8643 contactministries.com	\$1,070,730	\$945,203	7/1/14- 6/30/15	Cindy Drum, Executive Director	\$58,394	To provide service and assistance to the poor and disadvantaged of the community, making a difference for those among us who are less fortunate, to serve people in crisis by providing assistance and/or referral to other community resources.	1979
19	Springfield Urban League, Inc. 100 N. 11th St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-789-0830 217-789=9838 springfieldul.org	\$1,067,420	\$13,423,671	7/1/2013- 6/30/2014	Nina Harris, Chief Executive Officer	\$181,499	To help African Americans and others secure economic reliance.	1959
20	Sparc 232 Bruns Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-2100 217-793=2127 spfldsparc.org info@thearc.org	\$1,067,203	\$8,039,256	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Greg O'Connor, CEO	\$98,744	To help individuals with developmental disabilities improve the quality of their lives.	1951

HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICE NONPROFIT ORGANIZATIONS

Sources: IRS Form 990, Return of Organization Exempt From Income Tax. Forms provided by Guidestar.org.
N/A - Not Available. (Ranked by Net Assets)

	ORGANIZATION NAME MEETING LOCATION ADDRESS OF MEETING	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.) EMAIL	REPORTED NET ASSETS	ANNUAL TOTAL REVENUE	CALENDAR/ TAX YEAR	PRINCIPAL	BASE COMPENSATION OF PRINCIPAL	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
21	Habitat for Humanity of Sangamon County 2744 S. Sixth Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-2710 217-523=2790 habitatsangamon.com director@habitatsangamon.com	\$975,201	\$1,559,620	7/1/2014- 6/30/2015	Colleen Stone, Executive Director	\$78,000	A nonprofit, ecumenical Christian housing ministry dedicated to eliminating substandard housing and homelessness worldwide and to making adequate, affordable shelter a matter of conscience and action.	1987
22	M.E.R.C.Y. Communities, Inc. 1344 N. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-753-1358 217-753=1360 mercyclcommunities.org info@mercyclcommunities.org	\$708,109	\$717,701	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Joan Hysler, Executive Director	\$60,000	M.E.R.C.Y. (Mentors, Empowerment and Resources for Change in Young families) Communities provides housing and supportive services to foster the independence of homeless and at-risk families.	1999
23	Springfield Center for Independent Living Inc. 330 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-2587	\$678,079	\$686,605	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Pete Roberts, Executive Director	\$54,286	Provides independent living services and support to individuals with disabilities, trains and refers personal assistants.	1985
24	Mini O'Beirne Crisis Nursery 1011 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-6800 miniobeirne.org	\$673,657	\$523,802	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Karen Cox, Executive Director	\$68,842	Prevention of child abuse and neglect by providing emergency respite care free of charge to children and their families involved in a crisis situation.	1988
25	Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland Inc. 3100 Montvale Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-9234 aginglinc.org	\$630,092	\$4,340,176	10/1/2013 - 9/30/2014	Julie Hubbard, Executive Director	\$68,500	Funding for services for the elderly.	1974
26	Helping Hands of Springfield Inc. 1023 E Washington Springfield, IL 62703	217-522-0048 helpinghandsofspringfield.org	\$524,972	\$920,302	7/1/2014 - 6/30/2015	Rod Lane, Executive Director	\$64,896	To identify problems facing the poor and homeless in Springfield, IL and to implement and coordinate services to help address those problems.	1989
27	Big Brothers Big Sisters of the Illinois Capital Region, Inc. 928 S. Spring Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-1216 bbbscapitalregion.org	\$503,361	\$832,540	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	Lisa Rakey, Executive Director	\$85,000	To help children reach their full potential through life-changing, professionally supported one-to-one mentoring relationships.	1972
28	The Parent Place 314 South Grand Ave. West Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-8730	\$469,253	\$308,092	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Bridgett Burke, Executive Director	\$53,560	To provide programs for parent support and education to the community.	1979
29	Community Connection Point 901 South Spring Street, Suite B Springfield, IL 62704	217-525-2805 ccpoint.org	\$464,075	\$1,750,504	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Tiffany Simmons, Executive Director	\$73,939	Child care education.	1994
30	Family Service Center of Sangamon County 730 E. Vine St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-8406 service2families.com fsc@service2families.com	\$413,763	\$1,781,682	7/1/14- 6/30/15	Christine Lindsey, Executive Director	\$63,000	To provide counseling, guidance, foster care and adoption to low-income families.	1863
31	Rutledge Youth Foundation Inc. 931 N. Rutledge Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-7757 rutledgeyouthfoundation.com	\$425,317	\$2,165,623	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Martin Michelson, Executive Director	\$82,456	To assist abused and neglected youth in becoming productive, independent members of society.	1953
32	Youth Service Bureau 2901 Normandy Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-8300 ysbi.com	\$394,104	\$1,175,466	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Kathleen M. Wright, Executive Director	\$85,000	Provides services to at risk youth who are, or are at risk of becoming, runaway, abused, neglected and/or homeless services are also available to their family members.	1977
33	Camp Care A Lot P. O. Box 9407 Springfield, IL 62791	217-622-3668 campcarealot.org campcarealot2@gmail.com	\$304,453	\$48,887	1/1/14 - 12/31/14	Carissa Calloway, Executive Director	\$0	To have a positive impact on the life of a child through a camping experience.	1994
34	Prairie Center Against Sexual Assault 3 West Old State Capitol Plaza, Ste. 206 Springfield, IL 62701	217-744-2560 prairiecasa.org	\$189,005	\$558,010	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Catherine M. Walters, Executive Director	\$67,170	To alleviate the suffering of sexual assault victims and to prevent sexual violence against men, women, children and families by providing emergency room response, medical advocacy and trauma counseling.	1978
35	Inner City Mission Inc. 714 N. Seventh St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-3940 innercitymission.net	\$173,324	\$683,926	1/1/2014- 12/31/2014	Scott Payne, Executive Director	\$60,000	Provides assistance to the homeless.	1984
36	Phoenix Center 109 East Lawrence Avenue Springfield IL 62704	217-528-5253 217-528-5260 phoenixcenterspringfield.org springfieldpride.org	\$173,056	\$265,433	1/1/2014 - 12/31/14	Jonna J Cooley PhD, Executive Director	\$73,598	To serve as Springfield's LGBTQ Community Center and provide the highest quality of HIV/AIDS prevention and education to the community as a whole.	2003
37	NAMI Illinois, Inc. 218 W. Lawrence Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-1403 namiillinois.org namiil@sbcglobal.net	\$134,057	\$340,923	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Suzanne Spears, Interim Executive Director	\$0	Dedicated to the eradication of mental illness and improving the lives of persons with mental illness and their families.	1984
38	Coalition of Citizens with Disabilities in Illinois 3 W. Old State Capitol Plaza. Ste. 1 Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-7016 ccdionline.org	\$120,997	\$232,470	7/1/2013 - 6/30/2014	Melody Norton, Executive Director	N/A	Education regarding citizens with disabilities	1998
39	Computer Banc 1617 Groth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-528-9506 computerbanc.org	\$81,795	\$285,462	1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	David Fowler, Executive Director	\$53,053	Provides computers to children who do not have computer access at home and are most at-risk academically.	1999
40	Elizabeth Ann Seton Program 700 N. 7th St Suite C Springfield, IL. 62702	217-757-6025 elizabethannsetonprogram.org info@elizabethannsetonprogram.org	\$22,868	\$117,745	1/1/2014 - 12/31/2014	Dawn Morris, Executive Director	\$0	To embrace the sanctity and dignity of life by nurturing pregnant and parenting women. EAS partners with multi-faith congregations and community organizations to provide support, education, and practical assistance to women and their children.	1996

Golf outings



May

- 14 – Bergners 7th Annual St. Jude Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Crystal (217) 494-1529 or Mel (217) 725-6100.
- 20 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, The Links, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 245-2174, Scramble.
- 21 – Greenview Athletics Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 9 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242, Scramble.
- 26 – Mini O’Beirne Crisis Nursery Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217)786-4111.

June

- 2 – STARS Club Golf Outing to support UIS student athletes, Piper Glen Golf Club, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Paul Kabbes, (217) 206-7592.
- 3 – Rochester High School Football Team

- Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 7:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Double Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 4 – Don “Poochie” Byus Charity Outing Benfiting American Cancer Society, The Links Golf Course, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.,Keith Ward, (217) 479-4663.
 - 10 – Springfield High School Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
 - 10 – Camp COCO Children’s Cancer Fund at SIU School of Medicine Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Club,
- 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Lauren Murphy (217) 545-2819.
- 11 – Henning Memorial Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8 a.m. Shotgun

- Start, (217) 632-7242.
- 11 – Play for the Cure, Brookhills Golf Course, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shotgun Starts, (217) 787-8576.
 - 12 – 22nd Annual Crusader Aiders Golf Outing (benefitting Lutheran High School), The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 546-6276.
 - 12– 21st Annual Scottie Open Golf Outing sponsored by the Waverly Sports Boosters, Terry Park Golf Course, 11 a.m. Shotgun start, Nancy Heriford, (217) 971-8719.
 - 23 – Springfield Home Builders Association Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Lee-Ann Burgener, (217) 698-4941.
 - 24 and 25 – Robbie McEvers Memorial Junior Golf Tournament (age 18 and under), The Links Golf Course, Keith Ward, (217) 479-4663.
 - 27 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Jacksonville Country Club, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 245-2174, Scramble.
 - 27 – 22nd Annual Ronald McDonald House Golf Classic, Panther Creek Country Club, 11:30 a.m. Shotgun Start, Johanna Moll (217) 528-3314 ext 4.

August

- 4 – Sherman Area Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 496-2621.
- 5 – Elks Drum & Bugle Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 6 –Greenview Firemen Santa’s Helper Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242.
- 12 – Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Northridge Hills Golf Course, (18 Holes), 1 p.m. Start, (217) 245-2174.
- 21- 7th Annual Tiger Classic Golf Outing, Longbridge Golf Course, 3 p.m. Shotgun Start, Trinity Lutheran School office, (217) 787-2323.

September

- 8 – Chatham Chamber of Commerce Golf Outing, Edgewood Golf Club, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 483-6537.
- 9 – The Calvary Academy MC Johnson Memorial Golf Classic, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Tina Casper, (217) 546-9700 X210.
- 17 – 25th Annual Derek Dolenc Memorial Golf Outing supporting the Derek Dolenc Cancer Patient Assistance Fund at Memorial Medical Center’s Regional Cancer Center, Edgewood Golf Club, 10 a.m. Shotgun Start, Kent Dolenc, (217) 553-4449.
- 19 – Golf Fore Girls, LPGA Legacy for Leadership, The Rail Golf Club, 1 p.m. Shotgun start, Kate Peters (217) 241-3743.
- 19 – 13th Annual Orthopedic Center of Illinois Foundation (OCIF) Chip in Fore Charity!, Illini Country Club, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Kelsey (217) 547-9100.
- 22 – 18th Annual Springfield YMCA Golf for Kids Charity Tournament, Edgewood Golf Course, Noon Shotgun Start, Lynn Eck, (217) 544-9846 X116.
- 23 – Lincoln Land Community College 24th Annual Baseball Team Golf Outing, Panther Creek Golf Club, 8 a.m. Shotgun, Ron Riggle, (217) 786-2426.
- 24 – 8th Annual Mark Timm Memorial Golf Outing, Brookhills Golf Club, 9 a.m. and 1 p.m. Shotgun Starts (217) 787-8576.
- 30 – 9th Annual Central Counties Health Centers Outing, Edgewood Golf Course, 1 p.m. Shotgun Start, Melinda (217) 788-2310.

July

- 1 – Tom Madonia Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 2 – Over 50/Under 50 two-person scramble, Country Hills Golf Course, a.m. or p.m. tee times, (217) 632-7242.
- 8 – Little Flower Men’s Club, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 9 – Daisy’s Angels in the Fairway Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242.
- 16 – Warrior Classic Golf Outing, Country Hills Golf Course, 8 a.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 632-7242.
- 20 – 21st Annual Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce Corporate Cup Challenge Golf Outing, Piper Glen Golf Club, 7:30 a.m. and 12:45 p.m. Shotgun Starts, Ashley Earnest, (217)525-1173, four-person team, Scramble.
- 22 – Esper Figueras Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12 p.m. Shotgun Start, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.
- 29 – 8th Annual Carter’s Drive Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, Scott Selinger, (217) 494-8040.

October

- 7 – Matt Helm Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Courses, 12:30 p.m. Shotgun Start, (217) 786-4111.
- 10 – Capt. Kim Rhodes Memorial Golf Outing, Lincoln Greens Golf Course, Jim Sutzer, (217) 786-4111.

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MAJOR ASSOCIATIONS

Sources: The Associations.
(Ranked by numbers of members)

	ASSOCIATION NAME ADDRESS CITY, STATE, ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=) WEBSITE (www.)	MEMBERSHIP	PRESIDENT	MISSION	YEAR EST'D
1	Illinois Education Association 100 E. Edwards Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-0706 217-544=7383 ieanea.org	133,000	Cinda Klickna	Committed to advancing the cause of public education	1853
2	Illinois Federation of Teachers 700 S. College Springfield, IL 62704	217-544-8562 217-544=1729 ift-aft.org	103,000	Daniel J. Montgomery	Improve public education and public services for Illinois students and citizens	1936
3	Illinois Association of REALTORS® 522 S. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-529-2600 217-529=3904 illinoisrealtor.org	44,000	Mike Drews	As "The Voice for Real Estate in Illinois," IAR is the leading private property advocate in the state, promoting legislation that safeguards and advances the interests of real property ownership; and advocate for a healthy business environment and a professional resource for our member REALTORS®	1916
4	Illinois State Bar Association 424 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-525-1760 217-525=0712 isba.org	32,000	Umberto S. Davi	Promote the interests of the legal profession and improve the administration of justice, the quality of members' professional lives, and their relations with the public	1877
5	Illinois CPA Society 524 S. Second St., Suite 504 Springfield, IL 62701	217-789-7914 217-789=7924 icpas.org	24,000	Todd Shapiro	To enhance the value of the CPA profession	1903
6	Illinois State Medical Society 600 S. Second St., Suite 200 Springfield, IL 62704	217-528-5609 217-525=3923 isms.org	12,000	Scott Cooper, MD Thomas Anderson, MD (effective April 17)	Represents and unifies its physician members; represents the interests of member physicians; advocates for patients; promotes the doctor/patient relationship; the ethical practice of medicine; the betterment of the public health	1840
7	Illinois State Dental Society 1010 S. Second St., P.O. Box 376 Springfield, IL 62704/62705	217-525-1406 217-525=8872 isds.org	6,600	Dr. Bradley W. Barnes, DDS	To represent the members of the Society and the public we serve through communication, education and legislation.	1865
8	Illinois Principals Association 2940 Baker Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-525-1383 217-525=7264 ilprincipals.org	5,200	Sean German	To advance learning through effective educational leadership	1971
9	Illinois Manufacturers' Association 220 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-1240 217-522=2367 ima-net.org	4,000	Gregory W. Baise	Strengthen the economic, social, environmental and governmental conditions for manufacturing and allied enterprises in Illinois	1893
9	AIA Illinois 201 East Adams Street, Suite 1A Springfield, IL 62701-1323	217-522-2309 aiail.org	4,000	Richard "Rik" Master	To advocate a livable built environment by advancing the profession of architecture in Illinois	1946
10	Illinois Nurses Association 911 S. Second St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-523-0783 217-523=0838 illinoisnurses.com	3,500	Terence Yee, RN	The mission of the INA is to work for the improvement of health standards and availability of health care services for all people in Illinois, foster high standards for nurses, stimulate and promote professional development of nurses, and advance their economic and general welfare.	1901
10	Mid-West Truckers Association 2727 N. Dirksen Parkway Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-0310 217-525=0342 www.midwesttruckers.com	3,500	Don Schaefer, Exec. VP	Provides a wide range of services to trucking companies and businesses that use trucks in their operation. Represent truck operators before federal, state and local governments and regulatory agencies. MTA seeks to promote the economic and safe operation of trucks and provides safety training, drug & alcohol testing, insurance, licensing and permit services.	1961
11	Illinois Chamber of Commerce 215 E. Adams St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-522-5512 217-522=5518 ilchamber.org	3,200	Todd Maisch	To aggressively advocate the interest of business to promote prosperity and opportunity for the citizens of Illinois	1919
12	Illinois Society of Professional Engineers 100 E. Washington St. Springfield, IL 62701	217-544-7424 217-528=6545 illinoisengineer.com	2,000	Ronald Steenken, PE and SE	Advance and promote the public welfare in connection with construction, environment, licensing, public health and transportation	1886
12	Illinois Trial Lawyers Association 401 W. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-789-0755 217-789=0810 iltla.com	2,000	Perry J. Browder	Achieve high standards of professional ethics; uphold laws; secure and protect the rights of those injured in their persons or civil rights	1952
13	Home Builders Association of Illinois 112 W. Edwards St. Springfield, IL 62704	217-753-3963 217-670=1719 hbai.org	1,700	Dean Graven	The voice for home building in Illinois.	1956

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COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES

Sources: The individual colleges / universities. 1 - Robert Morris University operates on an accelerated timetable of 5 quarters per year vs. Spring/Summer/Fall semesters. N/A - Not Available.
(Ranked by Fall 2016 enrollment)

	COLLEGE NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY/ST/ ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=)	WEBSITE (www.) E-MAIL	TYPE OF INSTITUTION	FALL 2015 ENROLLMENT	SPRING 2016 ENROLLMENT	TUITION	PRESIDENT / CHANCELLOR	YEAR EST'D
1	Lincoln Land Community College 5250 Shepherd Road, P.O. Box 19256 Springfield, IL 62794-9256	217-786-2200 217-786=2829	llcc.edu info@llcc.edu	Community college	6,429	6,645	\$110/credit hr. (in-district residents)	Charlotte J. Warren, Ph.D., President	1967
2	University of Illinois Springfield One University Plaza Springfield, IL 62703	217-206-6600 217-206=6511	uis.edu admissions@uis.edu	Bachelor's & Master's degrees, one Doctoral degree	5,431	5,193	\$9,405 per year/full-time - undergraduate, \$319 per credit hour - graduate	Susan J. Koch, Ed.D., Chancellor	1970
3	Lincoln College 300 Keokuk St. Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3155 217-732=8859	lincolncollege.edu	Private, Liberal Arts college, Associate's and Bachelor's degrees (Lincoln campus) as well as accelerated Bachelor's degree program for working adults (Normal campus)	1,194	995	\$17,700 per year	David Gerlach, Ph.D.	1865
4	Illinois College 1101 W. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-245-3030 217-245=3034	ic.edu admissions@ic.edu	Four-year private, Liberal Arts	950	900	Tuition is \$31,110 and includes books. Total is \$40,850 with room, board and fees.	Barbara A. Farley, Ph.D.	1829
5	Lincoln Christian University 100 Campus View Drive Lincoln, IL 62656	217-732-3168 217-732=5718	lincolnchristian.edu info@lincolnchristian.edu	Four-year and post- graduate, private, offers Associate, Bachelor's, Master's degrees and Doctor of Ministry	877	782	\$12,900 per year/full-time, \$20,334 with room and board - Undergraduate; \$418 per credit hour - graduate and seminary	Don Green, D.Min.	1944
6	Benedictine University at Springfield 1500 N. Fifth St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-525-1420 217-527=8015	springfield.ben.edu springweb@ben.edu	Four-year, private, Liberal Arts, Catholic, Ph.D., Master's, Bachelor's and Associate's degrees	860	N/A	\$13,650 per year	William J. Carroll, Ph.D., pres.; Michael Bromberg, Springfield campus president	1929
7	Blackburn College 700 College Ave. Carlinville, IL 62626	217-854-3231 217-854=5522	blackburn.edu admissions@blackburn.edu	Four-year, private, Liberal Arts work college, Presbyterian affiliated	586	525	\$17,724 per year (less work credit), including fees, \$24,758 per year with room and board	President/Chancellor: John L. Comerford, Ph.D., President; John McClusky, Ph.D., Provost	1837
8	MacMurray College 447 E. College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-479-7000 217-479=7017	mac.edu admissions@mac.edu	Four-year, private, baccalaureate college, United Methodist	554	DND	\$23,600 per year	Colleen Hester, Ph.D., President	1846
9	SIU School of Medicine 801 N. Rutledge (main bldg.) Springfield, IL 62702	217-545-8000 217-545=5538	siumed.edu admissions@siumed.edu	Public education for medical students, graduate students, medical residents	226	288	\$14,578 per semester tuition only for In-State	Jerry Kruse M.D., MSPH Dean/Provost	1970
10	Robert Morris University ¹ 3101 Montvale Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-793-2500 217-793=4210	robertmorris.edu	Private, not-for-profit, offers Bachelor's, Associate's and Master's degrees	157	118	\$8,400 per quarter/full-time, \$2,700 per class/graduate	Mablene Krueger, President Michael P. Violtt, Chancellor	1913
11	St. John's College 729 E. Carpenter St. Springfield, IL 62702	217 525-5628 217 757=6870	stjohnscollegespringfield.edu information@stjohnscol- legespringfield.edu	Private, not-for-profit, Upper Division, 2 year program of Bachelor of Science in Nursing	122	106	\$9,036 (2015-2016) \$9,312 (2016-2017) / semester - BS Nursing - 2 yr. program / Second Degree Accelerated Prelicensure; \$417 / hour - Online RN to BSN program.	Brenda Recchia Jeffers, Ph.D., R.N.	1886
12	SIU Carbondale - LL Distance Education / Off-Campus Program 2450 Foundation Drive, Suite 100 Springfield, IL 62703	217-303-5855 217-786=3020	wed.siu.edu mvicher@siu.edu	Bachelor's & Master's degree in Workforce Education & Development	42	32	\$354/credit hr. undergrad, plus fees & books 30 hour program	Randy Dunn, Ph.D.	2012
13	ITT Technical Institute 2501 Wabash Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-547-5700 217-547=5750	itt-tech.edu	College, private, for-profit	N/A	N/A	\$18,048/year - full-time, first-time, undergraduate students	Jason Thoron, College Director	2012

Specialist in student success

By Eric Woods

Dr. Lesley Frederick was born in Missouri and lived in Nebraska and Wisconsin before settling in Springfield five years ago. She enjoys the size of the city, feeling it is big enough that there is plenty to do but without the traffic congestion of the larger cities. "There are tons of great things to do here, and we are close enough if you want to go to St. Louis or Chicago," said Frederick. She enjoys attending the local theater and symphony orchestra and will travel to see bigger productions in the larger cities. She is especially involved in the community, having volunteered with the Boys and Girls Clubs, the Central Illinois Food Bank and the American Cancer Society. She is also taking part in Leadership Springfield.

Frederick has always loved animals and even wanted to be a veterinarian when she was a child. That dream never came to pass but her early desire to become a teacher led her to a career in higher education. Early in her life she hauled hay for her grandfather, and her first paying job was at McDonalds during high school.

For the better part of 20 years, Frederick has worked in higher education. She has been with Lincoln Land Community College (LLCC) since December of 2010. A big part of her job with student services involves working with a variety of

departments including admissions, records and registration, financial aid, athletics, advising, career services, academic support and retention, just to name a few. "Student success is what is most important," said Frederick, who does get to work directly with students from time to time. "I also have responsibilities with planning in order to ensure we are on track to reach our goals. We want to continue improving our processes and working smarter, especially with all the new technology."

Frederick has learned a great deal over the years and enjoys passing her knowledge along to students as well as those who hope to work in higher education. "I was once told that anything worth doing is going to be hard. Though things seem hard, those are what can make the most difference. I try to remember that and pass it along to the students," she said. "We do not always have all the answers. To have success in higher education, you need to learn to deal with ambiguity."

For Frederick, earning her doctoral degree was a great accomplishment, as she is a first generation college student in her family and was not expected to go to college at all. "My parents and grandparents were super hard-working people with no college, and they did everything to provide for us," she said. "They always helped and

supported me in achieving my goals. That allowed me to do the things I would not have done otherwise."

Now that she is settled in Springfield, Frederick sees herself as part of the future at LLCC and continuing to help students achieve their goals. "I love Lincoln Land. Every day we can affect students in a positive way," said Frederick, who is looking ahead to the 2016 commencement ceremony. "That is the day we celebrate and recognize the students who accomplished their goals. It is my favorite day of the year."

Frederick does not think about retirement as she truly loves where her career has taken her. "I am the exact opposite of someone wanting to retire. I love what I do and cannot imagine not doing it. It is such a big part of me" she said, proud that she is completely plugged into the mission of the college. She is very curious about the future of higher education and how much more innovative colleges will get, given the increase in popularity of online and competency-based education. "I would love to see what education will look like in 30 or 40 years and how Lincoln Land will be addressing that." □

Connect with Eric Woods
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Dr. Lesley Fredrick

Title: Vice President of Student Services,
Lincoln Land Community College
Address: 5250 Shepherd Rd.
Education: Ed.D from Ferris State University

Favorites -

Hobby: Golf
Movie: *The Godfather*
Restaurant: Arlington's

Tidbits -

Has four rescue dogs
Wants to learn to play the banjo
Has a boat and enjoys going out on the lake

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INDEPENDENT PRIVATE SCHOOLS

Sources: Sangamon County School Directory; the individual schools.
(Ranked by current enrollment - March 2016)

	SCHOOL NAME STREET ADDRESS CITY/ST/ ZIP	PHONE (-) FAX (=)	WEBSITE (www.) E-MAIL	CURRENT ENROLLMENT	PRINCIPAL / DIRECTOR	GRADES	AFFILIATION	YEAR EST'D
1	Sacred Heart-Griffin High School 1200 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62702	217-787-1595 217-787=9856	shg.org	680	Sr. Katherine O'Connor, O.P., Pres.; Sr. Margaret Joanne Grueter, O.P., Principal	9-12	Catholic	1895
2	Blessed Sacrament Elementary 748 W. Laurel Ave. Springfield, IL 62704	217-522-7534 217-522=7542	bssbruins.org	519	Kathy Lynn Wear	Preschool-8	Catholic	1925
3	Springfield Christian School 2850 Cider Mill Lane Springfield, IL 62702	217-698-1933 217-698=1931 217-787-7673 (Preschool)	springfieldchristianschool.org springfieldchristianpreschool.org	430	Sheri Hall, Principal; Adrienne Jacobson, Preschool Director	K-8	Christian	1951
4	Christ the King Elementary 1920 Barberry Drive Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-3527 217-546=2159	ctkcougars.com	404	Pam Fahey	Preschool-8	Catholic	1957
5	St. Agnes Elementary 251 N. Amos Ave. Springfield, IL 62702	217-793-1370 217-793=1238	stagnescatholicsschool.org	353	Sister Joan Sorge, O.P.	Preschool-8	Catholic	1897
6	Calvary Academy 1730 W. Jefferson Springfield, IL 62702	217-546-5987 217-321=1063	caspringfield.org	300	Dr. Jay Hinckley, Principal; Donna Squires, Education Director	Preschool-8	Christian Non-Denominational	1977
7	Our Saviour School 455 East State St. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-8621 217-245=9981	oursaviourshamrocks.com	284	Stephanie VanDeVelde, Principal	K-8	Catholic	1860
8	Our Savior's Lutheran School 2645 Old Jacksonville Road Springfield, IL 62704	217-546-4531 217-546=0293	oursaviors-school.org	240	Jill Gerberding	Preschool-8	Lutheran	1962
9	Little Flower Catholic School 900 Stevenson Drive Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-4511 217-529=0405	little-flower.org	218	Stacie Reichensperger	Preschool-8	Catholic	1948
10	Trinity Lutheran School & Preschool 515 S. MacArthur Blvd. Springfield, IL 62704	217-787-2323 217-787=1145	trinity-lutheran.com	200	Trip Rodgers, MS, CAS	Preschool-8	Lutheran	1860
11	Cathedral School 815 S. Sixth St. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-2652 217-523=2750	cathedralschoolil.org	170	Debra Walch	Preschool-8	Catholic	1928
12	St. Aloysius Elementary 2125 N. 21st St. Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-4553 217-544=1680	saintalloysius.org	163	Marianne Stremsterfer	Preschool-8	Catholic	1928
13	Lutheran High School 3500 W. Washington Springfield, IL 62711	217-546-6363 217-546=6489	spiluhi.org	154	Glenn Rollins, Principal	9-12	Lutheran	1979
14	Routt Catholic High School 500 East College Ave. Jacksonville, IL 62650	217-243-3138 217-243=3138	routtcatholic.com	123	Nick Roscetti	9-12	Catholic	1902
15	Concordia Lutheran School 2300 Wilshire Road Springfield, IL 62703	217-529-3309 217-529=3096	concordiacares.org school@concordiaspfld.org	74	Mark Ploss	Preschool-8	Lutheran Church Missouri Synod	1931
16	Montessori Children's House 4147 Sand Hill Road Springfield, IL 62702	217-544-7702 217-544=5502	montessorispringfield.org	70	Sue Harris, Director	Preschool-6	NonSectarian	1977
17	St. Patrick Catholic School 1800 South Grand Ave. E. Springfield, IL 62703	217-523-7670 217-523=0760	st-patrick.org	60	Sarah Stanley, Principal	Preschool-5	Catholic	1910

186: Understanding the connection

Results of year-long survey expected to guide future

By Catherine O'Connor

There is no question that the challenges facing Springfield Public School District 186 are not unique as demographic shifts, economic pressures and social issues continue to transform the educational landscape throughout the country. Superintendent Jennifer Gill has embraced the challenge, opening the door for partnerships by spending many hours away from her desk, traveling throughout the district to meet with teachers, parents and community leaders.

While exploring what makes schools thrive, Gill discovered a common thread in strong relationships with local businesses and other community organizations. The Springfield district, which she inherited just over two years ago, has large numbers of low-income students as well as lower graduation rates and test scores than other school districts for many miles around. Gill has made it her quest to beat the odds and use all the tools available to improve learning outcomes and challenge negative perceptions.

The school district has worked closely with Greater Springfield Chamber of Commerce president and CEO Chris Hembrough in championing a year-long project to survey the local business community about their perceptions of Springfield public education. Beyond that, Gill has spent many hours fact-finding and providing answers for chamber

focus groups that have been delving into the intricacies of academic, infrastructure, finance and educator evaluation issues. The results of the survey, which reveal chamber business members' observations and insights, have been analyzed by an independent consultant and – along with findings of the chamber's leadership groups – is expected to be released later this spring.

District 186 is made up of three high schools, seven middle schools, 22 elementary schools, and an early learning center, along with adult education and alternative programs, including gifted and special needs programs and campuses. In response to critics, Gill notes with pride that between 2014 and 2015, graduation rates have risen by 8.5 percent – the first such rise in several years. However, according to the Illinois State Board of Education School Report Card, overall standardized test scores and other measures of achievement in Springfield public schools still fall below the state average in several areas.

Dan Sale, the CEO of Capital Area Realtors, whose association members participated in a recent survey to share their insights about homebuyer clients' perceptions of schools in Springfield, has a unique perspective. Sale said, "For gifted programs or special needs education, there's no doubt about it, District 186 can provide programs that the

surrounding communities cannot."

One such program is the International Baccalaureate learning program for gifted students at Iles School, where the curriculum has been transformed into "units of inquiry," which explore central themes as the framework for study, driven by individual educators and learners. The prestigious accreditation of Iles' program is based on unique curricula and teaching approaches which, according to advocates, can more effectively prepare students for college.

Another of the unique programs offered by District 186 but not available to students in neighboring communities is the new biomedical technology course, which is part of the Health Science Academy and has expanded to all three high schools. The four-year academy program gives students a chance to explore careers ranging from geneticist to physical therapist to cardiothoracic surgeon, according to Bree Hankins, the district's public information officer. One goal of the program, which functions as one of the district's business-education partnerships, is to create a school-within-a-school to connect students to the city's largest career cluster, that of the medical community.

Another concrete example of the improvements in Springfield schools is the recent \$90 million upgrade of facilities,


including consolidations of existing institutions and construction of two new elementary schools. Updated classrooms and academic environments which expose students to numerous opportunities beyond the classroom – including arts, athletics, the local workforce, and area institutions of higher learning – are examples of positive impact often cited by Gill in her presentations to and discussions with local organizations and business leaders.

"There is little question that economic growth depends on building strong links between educators and business constituencies," according to Hembrough. The upcoming release of the collaborative study between the chamber and the school district promises to reveal much more detail on academic, finance, student and educator issues and initiatives based on short- and long-term views of student achievement, graduation rates, college admission, degree completion, full-time employment and lifetime earning potential.


There is no doubt in Gill's voice when she emphasizes the return on investment in District 186 for the Springfield community. "The ultimate goal here is that students achieve their full potential," she said. □

Catherine O'Connor can be reached at catherineoconnor@gmail.com.

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Virtual creativity for a vibrant community

By Catherine O'Connor

With the goal of increasing the presence of public art in Springfield, Rhiannon Gurley is making strides as a consultant by finding distinctive ways to help community organizations implement creative projects.

After graduating from college, Gurley, a Springfield native, spent time substitute teaching and recently served as an instructor in design at both Benedictine University and Springfield Art Association. Like many young professionals, she was searching for a comfortable work-life balance when she hit on the idea for her first business venture, Rhiannon's Arbor, where she provides consultation on community events and communication strategies. More recently, she created a new spin-off entity, Our Vibrant Community (OVC), in order to work with existing nonprofits rather than creating yet one more arts organization to serve the Springfield area.

"Thinking with an alternative mindset and staying focused on not becoming another stand-alone agency allows me to use creativity and learning on the job," Gurley said. For nearly 10 years, she has been gradually building a résumé using a broad range of strategies and collaborations.

As a visual communicator and community engager, Gurley has partnered with groups such as Gen H Kids, Springfield Art Association, Springfield Boys and Girls Clubs, Montessori Children's House, 4-H and District 186 to explore programs and grants which provide a moderate administrative stipend to pay her fees, allowing her to manage and carry out community arts projects. She has been involved in a Lumina Grant-funded project through Southern Illinois University Carbondale and George Washington University. Visitors can experience one of Gurley's community art collaborations with Springfield Art Association, Memorial Medical Foundation, and Henson Robinson Zoo, where she instructed stroke survivors to paint lady bugs and beetles on large stones on the zoo grounds for a life-size interactive checkerboard game.

An important ongoing step in launching her business is the development of an OVC web-based arts directory and map. The focus will be on identifying and mapping all the public art, galleries, creative spaces and studios in and around Springfield as well as to offer linked webpage directory listings to allow working artists and organizations to share their products and programs.

"The website will also unify all art-related events in the Springfield area into a calendar that would be useful for parents who want to find something creative to do and keep track of upcoming gallery shows," Gurley said.

From seeking grants and sponsors to partnering with women's centers, juvenile centers and other nonprofits and hosting



Gurley, who has experienced hearing impairment, created this silkscreen print titled "Partly There," as a statement on taking hearing for granted. A symbol of a hand covering a mouth represents sign language. A close look reveals cracked shapes, words broken up with a giant ear on it, symbolizing 'speaking with your hands.'

PHOTO BY CATHERINE O'CONNOR

community art events making cards for children in hospitals, Gurley has found that there is a need for low-cost art activities to serve diverse populations. For example, the Mix It Up recycling program inspires kids and parents to find inventive uses for recyclables with the goal of increasing problem-solving skills by turning everyday objects into treasures.

While there is no actual office location for Our Vibrant Community, Gurley has live, hands-on interactions with the arts community as she regularly hosts "Color With Friends" workshops and parent-child art events at various locations throughout Springfield. On April 2 and 16 she will offer a free event at the Chatham Library where attendees will have the opportunity to craft a pig for the American Diabetes Association "Kiss A Pig" gala to be held in June. Also that month, Gurley will be co-presenting with an art therapist on the subject of coloring as a counseling resource tool, at the Illinois Counseling Association Foundation Conference, housed inside the Chiara Center in Riverton.

"Art is more than a gallery," says Gurley. "It can be public art, a costume parade, a map, creative cross-walks, bus waiting shelter, decorating your bike. Instead of saying art, I prefer the term creative initiatives." □

Learn more at www.ourvibrantcommunity.com

Catherine O'Connor can be reached at catherineoconnor@gmail.com.

Simulation project creates empathy

By Haley Wilson

During a speech in 1968 regarding the Peace Corps, Robert Sargent Shriver, Jr., the architect of the community action movement, said, “Peace will happen not through the absence of war but through the presence of love. The kind of love that will see to it that men have enough to eat, enough clothes to wear and enough houses to live in.”

This theme of improving the quality of life through community action became a flagship initiative for Sangamon County Community Resources. As executive director of SCCR, Sharmin Doering has blazed the trail for the war on poverty in Springfield.

Perhaps Doering’s greatest qualification for her leadership position at SCCR is her early connection with community action. In 1966, by request of Mayor Nelson Howarth, Doering’s father became the first local community action chairman. “At that time,” Doering recalls, “community action programs included Head Start, Neighborhood Youth Corps, Job Corps, VISTA, Adult Basic Education and a Small Business Development Center.”

Doering was born and raised in Springfield and attended District 186 public schools from kindergarten through 8th grade. After graduating from Sacred Heart-Griffin, Doering attended Lincoln Land Community College for one year before transferring to Illinois State University, eventually earning a bachelor’s and master’s degree in education. She lives in Springfield with her husband, Gary Doering, along with their two cats, Nigel and Duncan.

Doering’s active involvement with community action has shaped her into a philanthropist of sorts. Doering taught for District 186 for a number of years before becoming an active board member and volunteer at the Animal Protective League where she served as lead humane investigator for five years. She is currently an associate of the Dominican Sisters with whom she actively works on social justice issues. She even finds time to officiate the Senior Olympics bicycle race events.

All of these extracurricular activities have led her to what she considers her most important role yet, as executive director at SCCR. Doering has served in this position for nearly 12 years. “Working with struggling families and then seeing them succeed and move up in their lives is probably my favorite part of the work we do.”

Along with helping families in need, Doering (in collaboration with the local community action agency) facilitates a poverty simulation throughout District 186 which raises awareness about the struggles of the more than 9,000 impoverished families and children in Springfield. “The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month,” Doering states. She emphasizes that the simulation is not a game. The object of the simulation is to enlighten educators on the daily struggles of local underprivileged families in a realistic production model. Alice



Poverty simulation participants.

PHOTO COURTESY OF SHARMIN DOERING

Ivy, a parent educator for the Early Learning Center, has had the opportunity to participate in two poverty simulations. “The poverty simulations are very eye-opening,” she said. “Since I work with struggling families every day, I am thankful that there is a program available for educators to experience what they go through.” Ivy has also had the opportunity to work with Doering as she facilitates the simulations and says, “Sharmin does an excellent job of driving home the

message of educators working collectively towards helping our families in need.”

To learn more about the poverty simulation, contact Christine Westerlund from IACAA at 217-789-0125. □

Haley Wilson is a local writer and marketing professional with a bachelor’s degree in communication arts.

A brief description of the simulation experience

The poverty simulation experience is designed to help participants begin to understand what it might be like to live in a typical low-income family trying to survive from month to month. The object is to sensitize participants to the realities faced by low-income people.

In the simulation, up to 88 participants assume the roles of up to 26 different families facing poverty. It is recommended that dolls be used for the 1-3 year old children, as these roles do not actively participate in the simulation. (If you use

dolls in these roles the number of active participants is reduced to 80.)

Some families are newly unemployed, some are recently deserted by the “breadwinner,” some are homeless, and others are recipients of TANF (Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, formerly AFDC), either with or without additional earned income. Still others are senior citizens receiving disability or retirement income or grandparents raising their grandchildren. The task of the “families” is to provide for basic necessities and shelter

during the course of four 15-minute “weeks.”

The simulation is conducted in a large room with the “families” seated in groups in the center of the room. Around the perimeter are tables representing community resources and services for the families. These services include a bank, super center, Community Action Agency, employer, utility company, pawn broker, grocery, social service agency, faith-based agency, payday and title loan facility, mortgage company, school, community health center, and child care center.

Volunteers, preferably persons who have faced or are facing poverty, are recruited to staff the resource tables. Volunteers are also recruited to assume the roles of police officer and an “illegal activities” person.

The experience lasts from two and a half to three hours. It includes an introduction and briefing, the actual simulation exercise, and a debriefing period in which participants and volunteer staffers share their feelings and experiences and talk about what they have learned about the lives of people in poverty.

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LEGAL



Immigration law

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

The issue of immigration has been part of the political debate in our country almost since its founding but perhaps never as much as in this most recent election cycle. To understand the debate, I think it’s helpful to have a basic understanding of immigration law.

Generally speaking, there are two paths to entry into the United States for foreign citizens – by temporary visa or by permanent visa. The distinction is critical as (with few exceptions) it drives the end result.

A temporary visa is known as a non-immigrant visa. In other words, it’s issued to those who intend to return to their home country after a certain period of time. There is no citizenship waiting at the end of the rainbow for this type of visa. Once it’s expired, the person must return home. Typical temporary visas would be issued for tourism, medical treatment, marriage, education and certain temporary workers.

These visas are not really part of the immigration system in the strictest sense, as there is no intent to stay in the United States permanently. Each particular visa has its own application and requirements. For a student visa, for example, one must show that s/he is going to attend a recognized educational institution, and that s/he has sufficient funds to attend.

No matter the type of temporary visa, the government will require sufficient ties with the home country to demonstrate a

true intent to return. For those entering on a temporary visa, there can be consequences to thereafter applying for a green card, as the government will not be happy that you entered under false pretenses. Nonetheless, in practice, many types of temporary, non-immigrant visas can be extended almost indefinitely.

The H-1B visa that is mentioned so often these days (for persons working in specialty occupations requiring at least a bachelor’s degree or equivalent on-the-job experience), although categorized as a temporary visa, is actually a “dual intent” visa. That is, it is a type of visa that allows one to “change their mind” and apply for citizenship or permanent residence.

Permanent visas, also known as green cards, grant one permanent residence and typically lead to citizenship. As such, permanent visas are typically more difficult to obtain. There are a number of different paths to a green card.

First, there’s the family path for those who have a relative who is a citizen or permanent resident of the United States. This path is based on public policy that family unification is a good thing. The closer the family relationship, the easier it is to obtain a family visa. A spouse may be brought over in one year, while a sibling may have to wait over ten years.

The second path is based on employment. The employer must go through a certification process with the




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government to prove that it was not able to find a United States citizen for the position at issue. In general, then, this path is designed for those with unique skill sets that are hard to come by. There are five general categories within this path – with the waits growing longer for those with less rare skill sets and experience. This path is part of the current political debate with reference to whether, in reality, it’s true that no jobs are being taken away from United States citizens.

One of the most commonly mentioned types of employment visa is the EB-5 – the so-called “million dollar visa.” For those with the financial wherewithal, this may be one of the easiest options. This visa requires the applicant to purchase or start a company with a minimum investment of \$1,000,000. The investment must create at least 10 jobs for United States citizens.

This third path, and one that is particularly controversial today, is the refugee visa. To be eligible, the applicant must demonstrate that s/he has suffered past (or is in fear of future) persecution on the basis of race, religion, nationality, political view or membership in a certain group. After clearing this initial hurdle, the applicant must then satisfy certain medical and security criteria to be eligible for entry. The current controversy relates to differing viewpoints as to whether the government is thoroughly vetting the current crop of applicants and as to the number of these visas being issued.

The fourth path is via the “lottery.” Every year the government makes a certain number of visas available to people whose home country has low immigration rates to the United States. It is not available to residents of a country that sent more than 50,000 immigrants to the United States over the last five years. 110,000 applicants


are selected at random to be eligible, but once 50,000 of these visas are actually issued the window is closed for the year.

No matter the path, and no matter whether one seeks a temporary or permanent visa, one must still be otherwise eligible for entry into the United States. For example, someone who committed a serious crime or previously entered the United States without a visa would generally be ineligible for any visa. However, as with virtually every aspect of the law, there are a multitude of exceptions – called “waivers.”

Those who receive a visa can subsequently have them revoked – what is commonly known as “deportation.” For example, violating immigration or criminal laws may lead to a revocation. Due to backlogs and appeal rights, it often takes quite some time for one to actually be deported. Currently, controversies center on whether the government is enforcing the deportation laws.


Finally, for those who have permanent visas and have proven themselves to be model citizens, the end of the road can lead to actual citizenship. Although the actual laws are quite complicated, in general, citizenship is available to those who (a) have held a green card as a resident of the United States for at least five years, (b) can read, write, and speak English, (c) have an understanding of U.S. history and civics, (d) are over the age of 18, (e) have been physically present at least 30 months out of the last five years, and (f) are “of good moral character, attached to the principles of the Constitution of the United States, and [are] well-disposed to the good order and happiness of the United States.” □

Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney with Delano Law Offices, LLC in Springfield.



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SCI clinical trial to test melanoma vaccine

Patients who have been diagnosed with Stage II or III melanoma and have had surgery may be eligible to participate in a new clinical trial at Simmons Cancer Institute at Southern Illinois University School of Medicine. The clinical trial is studying the effectiveness of a vaccine for melanoma. Stephen Stone, M.D., professor of dermatology at SIU School of Medicine, is the principal investigator on the study. This Phase III melanoma clinical trial uses a combination of proteins associated with laboratory-grown melanoma cells to stimulate the body's immune system to fight the cancer. The international study currently has 63 sites open, all of which are in North America. Stone hopes to enroll 10 patients in the next year. More than 73,000 cases of melanoma were diagnosed in the United States in 2015, according to the American Cancer Society. Of the approximately 13,000 deaths from skin cancer each year, 10,000 are attributed to melanoma. Initial treatment for melanoma is surgery, followed by radiation and/or chemotherapy, depending on the advanced stage of the disease. Interferon and ipilimumab are currently the only approved treatment by the Federal Drug Administration to reduce the recurrence of melanoma after surgery and initial treatment. "However, the effectiveness of interferon is limited and patients using the drug have reported feeling ill, flu-like symptoms and severe depression," Stone said. "At least 100 patients are participating in preliminary studies of

the clinical trial vaccine," Stone said. Patients receive the vaccine injections over a two-year period. "Two of every three patients receive the vaccine. The third receives a placebo." The most frequent problems reported by patients in the clinical trial are a reaction at the site of the injection and fatigue. Stone sees dozens of melanoma patients annually and says those numbers have increased significantly over the years. He attributes that to tanning and tanning beds as well as recognizing tumors earlier due to better diagnostics. The clinical trial is open to men and women ages 18 to 80 with Stage II and III melanoma. For more information about this and other cancer related trials at Simmons Cancer Institute call 217-545-1946 or visit www.siumed.edu/cancer.

HCI Alternatives hits one-month milestone

Health Central Illinois Alternatives is cautiously optimistic about future growth of Illinois' cannabis industry after completing its first month in business at its Springfield facility. The capital city's first medical marijuana dispensary says its total patient count increased by nearly 300 percent in the first month of operation. "We like the direction we are headed," said Health Central CEO Chris Stone. "It's not where we want, or expect, to be long term by any means, but clearly people are starting to explore the medical benefits that our products provide." The dispensary had 26 qualified patients register

to receive product in Springfield when its doors opened for the first time on Feb. 18. As of March 18, 75 patients had declared HCI Springfield to be their dispensary of choice. "We have had a very positive response from patients in the first month," said HCI general manager Jennifer Dewitt. "Overall, they have been very satisfied with our staff's knowledge of the product and the friendly and secure atmosphere when they come into the dispensary." Of the nearly 75 individual customers to walk through the door in the first month, 53 have been repeat business, with the average customer spending about \$165 per visit. The most popular products sold in Springfield were sativa and indica strain flower products and edible forms. HCI operates each week Monday-Saturday from 12-6 p.m. Patients can access all necessary forms to sign up for Illinois' Medical Cannabis Program by visiting the HCI website at www.mynewmeds.com.

Springfield Clinic joins Midwest Healthcare Quality Alliance

Springfield Clinic has joined the Midwest Healthcare Quality Alliance (MHQA). "The purpose of the Midwest Healthcare Quality Alliance is to develop innovative solutions for improving healthcare access, quality, safety and community outcomes across central Illinois," said Charles Callahan, executive vice president and chief operating officer of Memorial Health System and executive director of the alliance. "The addition of

Springfield Clinic to the alliance will greatly enhance the scope, velocity and impact of our healthcare quality improvement work." Springfield Clinic becomes the third partner in the alliance, which was launched in 2014 by Memorial Health System and Southern Illinois University HealthCare.

SIU Telehealth summit to discuss reimbursement

Telehealth has revolutionized modern medicine, maximizing technology, improving the health of populations and reducing costs - and reimbursing doctors as well. Southern Illinois University School of Medicine Telehealth is hosting its second free, one-day summit on the state of telehealth in Illinois, focusing on public policy changes on reimbursement for telehealth, online care strategies and health plan perspectives. The meeting will be held from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday, April 4, at the Memorial Center for Learning and Innovation, 228 W. Miller Street in Springfield. Speakers include state and national leaders, private payers and health care providers. Topics will include coverage laws, reimbursable services and innovative payment methodologies. Health care administrators, clinicians/providers, government agencies, public health departments, schools and skilled nursing facility administrators are encouraged to attend. Registration is encouraged for this free summit. Call 217-545-7830 or email siusomtelehealth@siu.edu to register. □

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Balen’s Bar and Grill

By Thomas C. Pavlik, Jr.

With the recent departure of a handful of downtown restaurants, I was pleased to see the proprietors of Balen’s deciding to occupy the former Brickhouse space on Fifth St. It’s always good to see activity downtown and I hoped that Balen’s would deliver good food and service. Thankfully, I believe Balen’s has.

Compared to the former occupants of this space, Balen’s has softened the look with muted hues of grey and blue. Everything seems spruced up. Although the dominant feature is the long bar, Balen’s exudes more of a restaurant feel than its predecessor. Of course, there are the requisite large screen TVs and sports memorabilia peppered throughout. The ceiling has exposed ductwork which, coupled with the wood floors, made acoustics a little challenging.

Seating consists of high-top tables in the front, with booths and low-tops in the back. There’s also plenty of seating at the bar.

We visited on a weekday just after noon to find Balen’s about two-thirds filled. There was a steady stream of diners the entire time we were there, most of whom were downtown workers.

Balen’s menu is about what you’d expect for a bar/restaurant. However, there were a few curveballs – such as the PBJ panini (\$6.50 - \$7.99) made with griddled thick cut bread together with “super crunchy” peanut butter and strawberry jelly and the option of a variety of fun items thrown in (like the “Baby Bump” served with pickles or “The King,” served with banana and bacon).

Other items that caught our eyes included the “Flying Wings” (slow braised pork “wings”, fried and tossed with a choice of wing sauce, \$9.99); cheesesteak sandwiches (\$9.99 - \$10.99), the “Oinker Salad” (romaine, guacamole, fire roasted corn, black beans, peppers, cilantro, smoked gouda, pulled pork, bbq and ranch, \$8.99); and the “Taj Mahal” sandwich (spicy red curry marinated grilled chicken with slaw and spicy lemon mayo, \$8.99). Sandwiches and burgers come with Balen’s chips. Waffle fries or sweet potato fries are available for an extra dollar.

Perhaps the most intriguing item was the “Capital Punishment Burger” – served with pineapple habanero wing sauce and topped with ghost pepper jack cheese and

fried jalapenos (\$9.99), while the truly adventuresome can add sautéed habanero peppers for an additional dollar. Eat the whole thing and they’ll put your picture on the wall.

My party opted for much more pedestrian selections. One of my guests decided on the build-your-own-burger option (choice of two toppings, including a fried egg and bacon, \$8.99). She was pleased to see that Balen’s uses an Angus chuck and beef brisket mix and what we assume was a 70/30 ratio to allow for a sufficient amount of fat to deliver on the flavor. She was particularly tickled that our server advised that the kitchen would go so far as to cook the burger rare on request.

My other guest and I each opted to start with a cup of the “Balen Family Secret Recipe” Chili (\$3.99) followed by the Club Sandwich (turkey, ham, bacon, lettuce, avocado and mayo on a toasted ciabatta roll, \$9.99) and the “Off the Cobb Salad” (romaine, grilled chicken, bacon, ham, green onion, guacamole, croutons, bleu cheese and ranch, \$9.50).

The chili came out first. It looked like



Horchata booze-infused milkshake.

standard tavern chili (no beans, plenty of oil) but was topped with chopped fresh tomatoes. Although I found the entire combination pleasing with an appropriate amount of flavor and heat, my other companion did not find it to his liking. Chili isn’t what’s going to drive diners to come to Balen’s but it’s nice to have the option, even though our review ended in a split decision.

The burger came out a nice medium rare exactly as requested and was reported as juicy and flavorful. It was served with a generous portion of thin-cut homemade chips. My guest commented that she would come back for the burger – high praise

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Maple bacon salad.

PHOTOS BY MARANDA POTTERF



Authentic cheesesteak.

indeed from someone who's known to be quite picky about such things.

The club sandwich was reported as on the higher end of the club spectrum, but nothing to write home about. Then again, short of adding different ingredients, it's hard to get excited about a club sandwich. Perhaps that's why Balen's gives you the option to swap in grilled salmon for an additional dollar. Next time we'll take Balen's up on the offer.

The salad was a fun play on the classic Cobb, with a surprisingly generous helping of toppings. My special request for ranch on the side was accommodated. Again, it's hard to get too excited about a salad but

Balen's did a good job.

Service was good throughout, and our iced tea glasses were well monitored. We particularly appreciated the offer of "to go" cups on the way out – a nice touch.

Overall, Balen's has done a nice job. It has kept some of the classics that most diners expect to see while adding some creative surprises to keep things interesting. We'll be back, with best wishes to Balen's for a long and prosperous life downtown. □

Thomas C. Pavlik is an attorney with Delano Law Offices, LLC, in Springfield.

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Construction contract awarded for UIS student union

The University of Illinois board of trustees approved a contract that will kick off construction of the first-ever student union at the University of Illinois at Springfield (UIS), a \$21.7 million facility scheduled for completion in January 2018. Trustees awarded a \$12.7 million contract to William Brothers Construction Inc. of Peoria, which will be the general contractor for the project. Four other contracts totaling nearly \$6.1 million for plumbing, electrical and ventilation work also have been awarded, but did not require board approval. The planned two-story, 50,000-square-foot facility has long been a top priority for UIS, providing a hub for student life and fostering a greater sense of community on the growing, 5,400-student campus in the state capital.

Trustees gave project and design approval for the new student union in January 2014, a move that allowed Chancellor Susan Koch and UIS officials to ramp up efforts to raise \$8 million in private donations to build the new facility. More than \$5.3 million in gifts have been raised and officials say they will meet their fundraising goal before the facility opens. The remaining \$13.7 million will be paid through campus funds and a construction fee that students approved overwhelmingly in a 2012 referendum. □

Governor signs executive order directing Department of Commerce to work with new economic development nonprofit

Governor Bruce Rauner signed an executive order directing the Illinois Department of Commerce to work in collaboration with the newly formed Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation (ILBEDC) to attract businesses and investment and

encourage job growth and economic development throughout Illinois. Rauner was joined by DCEO Director Jim Schultz, Illinois Chamber of Commerce Chairman Matt Gambs, Illinois Economic Development Association Chair Angela Griffin and business and local economic development leaders from across the state. “This executive order formally establishes collaborative efforts between the Department of Commerce and the Illinois Business and Economic Development Corporation to jump-start economic development in our state,” Rauner said. “ILBEDC will make us more competitive to put Illinois back in the game after years of sitting on the sidelines, idly watching neighboring states and others lure businesses and jobs away from Illinois. This collaboration will field a highly competitive, proactive organization focused strictly on business development and job creation.” The Department of Commerce will collaborate with the corporation to more efficiently pursue economic development through the use of private sector resources and expertise.

Kidzeum to receive in-kind support from Peerless Cleaning and Restoration Services

Peerless Cleaning and Restoration Services has generously gifted \$50,000 worth of in-kind cleaning services to the Kidzeum of Health and Science. Although this gift doesn’t bring Kidzeum’s fundraising goal \$50,000 closer, it will take pressure off of the operating budget once open and will ensure that Kidzeum will be a well maintained facility. “We are very excited about the Kidzeum and what a positive impact it will have on the Springfield community,” says Peerless owner Brad Wike.



Dennis Miner



Tricia Nelson Becker

Community Foundation welcomes new board members

The Community Foundation for the Land of Lincoln has elected two new members to join its board of directors in 2016. Dennis C. Miner and Tricia Nelson Becker will serve four-year terms as directors.

Miner recently retired from the State of Illinois where he served as chief financial officer at the Illinois Department on Aging. Prior to that role, he served as chief financial officer at the Illinois Emergency Management Agency for 20 years and worked in program development at the Illinois Department of Commerce & Community Affairs. He has served on the Community Foundation’s scholarship committee and advisory council as well as several local boards, including the Mu Delta Lambda Charitable Foundation, Lincoln Land Community College Board and Financial Partners Credit Union. He is a graduate of Southeast High School and Illinois State University, and he and his wife, Rebecca, reside in Springfield.

Becker previously worked in medical research administration, specifically in

the area of human research subject ethics and in the generation of medical research protocols. She is a board member of the Springfield Art Association and the Sangamon Valley Youth Symphony, is an active member of District 186 Parent Teacher Organization, and is a troop leader for Girl Scouts of Central Illinois. Within the Community Foundation, Becker has been a member of Young Philanthropists, Women for Women and the advisory council. She is a graduate of Springfield High School and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and at Chicago. She and her husband John reside in Springfield with their three children.

“The staff and current board of the Community Foundation are thrilled to welcome Dennis and Tricia to our board of directors,” said John Stremsterfer, president and CEO of the Community Foundation. “They are committed community leaders who will play pivotal roles as the Community Foundation moves forward with its mission to connect people who care with causes that matter.” □

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An urbane update on the ubiquitous Uber

By David A. Kelm

Uber: adverb: having the specified property to an extreme or excessive degree, as in, “Dude, you’re like so *uber*-ripped, brother,” as overheard at the local gym (shockingly, never directed towards your theoretically humble writer); adjective: designating a person or thing that exceeds the norms or limits of its kind or class. As in, “The *uber*-intellectuals gathered in Davos to bask in their own radiance;” proper noun: name of the disruptive 21st century ride service; leader in the “sharing economy.” As in, “What the hell is *Uber*?” Paul said to Sam at 6:42 a.m. last Saturday morning at Panera on the west side; verb: To Uber, meaning to use a ride sharing service; “He was buying. I wasn’t arguing. I *Ubered* it home that night.”

For those still trying to follow along and fearful that this month’s column may or may not be in English, Uber is a huge deal. Not “yuge” like Donald Trump. Bigger. Much bigger. In Springfield, Uber is becoming the go-to car service for more than just hipsters going downtown to the bars. A little over a year since Uber hit Springfield’s pothole strewn one-way streets, drivers are experiencing a brisk business, and riders are pleased with the quality and cost.

Uber Technologies Inc. is a tech company that runs a smart phone app connecting those looking for a ride to approved drivers with private cars. The comparison to a taxi service is hard to avoid but is not necessarily an “apples-to-apples” argument. Uber drivers are independent contractors who pass a background check, own a vehicle worthy of Uber (2005 or newer) and who set their own hours and driving schedule.

Uber launched in 2009 and arrived in Springfield in January 2015. As of the middle of 2015, the service was available in 58 countries and in 300 cities worldwide. While the service appears to be wildly popular, a number of municipalities have put up barriers, imposed fees and prevented drivers from infringing on areas that have been traditionally controlled by cab companies. In Springfield, however, the company and drivers have had

surprisingly few hurdles to leap, and the service has become increasingly popular in the capital city.

“When I started driving, I did it as a bit for my radio show,” said Ray Lytle, who has been driving for Uber since last October. “The idea was to drive on the weekends and record riders for audio for the show.” At the time, Lytle was hosting an afternoon drive-time radio show. “I ended up really enjoying the experience – meeting people from out of town and talking with people about their evening downtown – and the money turned out to be nice.”

Lytle, who is currently not on the air in Springfield but hosts a popular podcast at MorningDisaster.net, relates that since he began driving, ride requests have increased month after month. While holidays, such as Thanksgiving evening, New Year’s Eve and the St. Patrick’s Day parade are big rider days, average daily ridership has gone up. “I’ve done runs to the airport and picked up older riders who were going to visit a friend at the hospital,” Lytle said. “Recently, I wanted to see if full overnight would work and I ended up having riders for 12 straight hours – 7 p.m. to 7 a.m. – and my car was full the whole time!”

Given the smart phone app and GPS technology used by the service, coupled with the fact that Uber has been a presence in larger metropolitan areas for years, the perception by some is that Uber riders (“Uberers?” “Uberites?” “Uberians?” “Uberistas?”) are young, upscale professionals with no car and no kids who Uber to the hot new small-plate private club on the Lower East Side North Upper River District. In Springfield, that perception seems to hold. Well, other than the small plate private club.

The Springfield ridership is changing though, at least according to driver Dan Cook. On a typical weekend, Cook will look for easy ridership by parking in downtown Springfield near popular bars. “I usually drive from 10 p.m. to 2 a.m. and mostly drive folks to the bars and then home



Ray Lytle PHOTO COURTESY OF WTAX.COM

from the bars,” Cook said. “But in the past couple of months, I’ve driven mid-week to make some extra cash and driven Hy-Vee shoppers and tourists from Italy.” Cook says that on a typical weekend he clears \$200 and his Uber driving has allowed him to pay off his car early.

Full disclosure: Your writer has never summoned an Uber (although, when I do, I’m thinking about doing it a la Moses parting the Red Sea in *The Ten Commandments*). Uber riders in Springfield report a service that is efficient, clean and affordable. More importantly to some, no “awkward, creepy stuff” has been reported. Kathleen McCarthy has Ubered in Springfield and a few larger cities like Chicago and San Diego. “I’ve never had a problem using Uber around town,” McCarthy said. “The app is easy to use and it is very convenient and economical.” McCarthy did point out, though, that Uber’s sliding payment scale can end up being more expensive than a taxi. “At 3 a.m. when the bars close, everyone is looking for an Uber and rates go up.”

Uber riders pay through the app with a credit card or payment service like PayPal – no cash changes hands between riders and drivers. Drivers are paid weekly with direct deposit. It is important to point out that Uber fees vary depending on ridership levels. For instance, when Cook did an afternoon run to the grocery store with a rider, that rider paid a lower rate than someone who ordered up a ride after the Saturday St. Patrick’s Day parade. Cook pointed to the Illinois State

Fair as a premium fare period. “I hit the fair every night because after the beer tents closed there were riders everywhere and the rates were great for drivers,” Cook said.

Even fuller disclosure: Your writer has never ridden in a Springfield area taxi. Surely there are many wonderful taxi drivers and spotless new taxis shuttling riders hither and yon across the amber waves of Springfield. However, some riders have found the Uber experience to be more to their liking. Alex Hamlin fits the Uber rider prototype – a young professional who on occasion finds himself in the company of friends at a local bar. “Before Uber, my friends and I would call a cab after the bars,” Hamlin said. “Some rides home were sketchy. Sometimes the driver didn’t know where he was going. One time we were taken through a fast food drive-through before heading to the house.” Since Uber came to town, Hamlin has used the service exclusively. “Uber tells you how much the ride will cost and you can see the route between locations on your phone,” said Hamlin. “I never had a ride or a driver where I didn’t feel safe or where the car wasn’t clean and nice.”

In the 15 months since Uber landed in Springfield, it appears to have been taken in like a cute puppy with a cold nose. The reviews from riders and drivers alike expressed nothing but positive experiences. Perhaps the only quibble voiced was the sliding fee scale, but that was balanced by the quality of the cars and drivers. The demographics are beginning to shift from only young, technologically-savvy riders to include those who are just looking to get from point A to point B as easily as possible. There had been some naysayers who grumbled that Uber would not find success in Springfield but in the last year or so it has become obvious that it –and perhaps similar services – will become part of the city’s landscape. □

David A. Kelm is a Springfield area attorney. He can be reached at DavidAKelm@gmail.com.



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Please help us by nominating a woman you know who deserves this recognition. Nominations may be made online at www.springfieldbusinessjournal.com or www.securitybk.com. For more information or questions, please contact Michelle Higginbotham at *Springfield Business Journal*, 217-726-6600 x139.



A woman hoeing a vegetable gardening in rural Kenya near Nairobi. Women dominate farming in Kenya with some estimates indicating that women make up 80 percent of all farmers. Microfinance initiatives are now making it possible for some of these women to expand their farms.



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Investing for dual purposes:

To make an impact and a financial return

By Julie Krehbiel

Cecilia is a farmer and young mother of two in western Kenya. She struggled to provide food for her family, with the hardest time of the year being the “hunger season” when she could not afford to feed her daughters. However, with loans from One Acre Fund, Cecilia tripled her harvest and was able to rent additional land for sugarcane. She then invested profits into opening a small shop at the nearby market, which her husband manages. Her next goal is to build a three-bedroom home and purchase more land. She says, “I have a vision of a new house and a new life. I now feel very powerful.”

With loans from One Acre Fund, smallholder farmers in Africa like Ceceila can pull themselves out of poverty. These loans are also alleviating hunger in their communities.¹ One Acre Fund is just one example of an organization using the investment dollars of individuals and foundations to make a positive change.

Impact investing is a new, rapidly growing area in the investment world. Someone making an impact investment is looking not only for a financial return, but also for a social or environmental return. Socially responsible investing – which means screening out companies that might be tobacco or weapons manufacturers,

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Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) or human rights violators, etc. – has been around for decades. Impact investing takes it a step further though, requiring companies to “screen into” the portfolio, by doing something beneficial.

Assets invested in a sustainable, responsible and impactful manner grew 76 percent over the last two years, according to the Forum for Sustainable and Responsible Investment. Many investors are choosing to match their values with their investments. In addition, a number of large financial institutions are entering the market, including J.P. Morgan, Bank of America, Morgan Stanley and BlackRock.

There are a number of areas where investors can find opportunities. For instance, microlending was the method used to help Cecilia. Another potential investment area is sustainable energy, which focuses on renewable energy sources such as solar power. In the health care area, companies provide drugs that are desperately needed in poor regions along with offering health care services. Women’s empowerment includes areas such as the aforementioned microlending, providing opportunities for moms to work or start a business in at risk neighborhoods, along with investing in

companies that have diverse boards. There are community development projects in areas such as Denver, the Twin Cities, Chicago, and San Francisco that transform poor areas or provide services to the elderly and those with disabilities.² In areas across the U.S. and abroad, there are water shortage issues and companies that can provide infrastructure and technology are in great demand.

An individual can invest for sustainability or impact through buying individual stocks, mutual funds, green bonds, private money managers or private equity. Studies have shown that an investor does not have to give up performance to make an impact. According to the Morgan Stanley Institute for Sustainable Investing, the MSCI KLD 400 Social Index has outperformed the S&P 500 since its inception in 1990. And investing in sustainability has usually met, and often exceeded, the performance of comparable traditional investments. So why not earn a competitive investment return and make a difference at the same time? □

Sources:
1. www.oneacrefund.org
2. Calvert Foundation

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