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The Chancellor’s Circle recognition program honors donors who make significant contributions to the University of Illinois in a given fiscal year.

Established by the University’s three campuses and the University of Illinois Foundation, the Chancellor’s Circle promotes the importance of leadership-level annual giving.

This roster recognizes, with gratitude, those donors who provided vital support during Fiscal Year 2014 (July 1, 2013–June 30, 2014).

We also extend our appreciation to those donors who gave at the leadership-level but chose to remain anonymous.
“Thank you for your support of the faculty and students of Illinois.

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Vice President, University of Illinois

“I am honored to pay tribute to loyal alumni and friends of the University of Illinois at Chicago.

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**PAULA ALLEN-MEARES**  
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Chicago  
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“Your gifts to the University of Illinois Springfield are more important than ever.

I am grateful for the alumni and friends who understand the great value of this University of Illinois campus right here in Springfield and who believe in the promise of higher education and all that it can do for individuals, our communities, and our nation. Your gifts make it possible for many students to attend UIS and pursue their dreams of earning a U of I degree and careers that will allow them to build families and contribute to the economic growth of Illinois.”

**SUSAN J. KOCH**  
Chancellor, University of Illinois Springfield  
Vice President, University of Illinois
I didn’t even have a second thought about **donating**. I am where I am today because of my **strong training** and **education**.

CATHLEEN COYNE

1992: Cathleen Coyne BS ’91, DDS ’93 had finished all the requirements to complete her penultimate year of general dentistry training. However, there was a catch: three months still remained in the school year. Cathleen thought she might leave school for a bit, take a retail job to help offset tuition, and then return in the fall to complete her training.

Dean of the College of Dentistry Allen W. Anderson advised against it, suggesting instead that she observe rounds being completed by the school’s post-doctoral students, giving her exposure to different kinds of patients and diagnoses in the full range of the College’s clinical specialty areas.

Things went well as Cathleen observed pediatrics, endodontics, orthodontics... and then she came to oral and maxillofacial surgery. “One of the residents took me on-call,” Cathleen recalls. “I walked into the hospital and I thought, ‘This is what I need to be doing.’ I was attracted to the dental surgery aspect, plus being able to treat the whole patient—the trauma, the pathology, the things to which I wasn’t exposed as a dental student.”

Never mind that she was only a year away from completing her degree, and this change of course would add several more years to her studies. Never mind that oral surgery was not a common area of specialty for women. Never mind that family, friends—even some faculty—worried that perhaps Cathleen was making a rash decision. Her encounter with oral surgery provided Cathleen a true aha moment. “It literally was like a light switch going on: **This. Is. It.** And I still feel that way today.”

2014: Dr. Cathleen Coyne runs a thriving practice in Franklin, Tenn., a southern suburb of Nashville. She was the first female to open an oral surgery office in Tennessee, and is only one of a handful in the field. “One percent of oral surgeons in the United States is female,” she explains. “Many people still believe that oral surgery is about brute strength—that you have to be big and strong in order to pull a tooth out of a jaw. It’s really not; it’s all about finesse and positioning with a lot of physics behind it.”

Dr. Coyne’s legacy as a donor to the College of Dentistry at the University of Illinois at Chicago is singular as well. Cathleen has supported the Dean’s Fund for Excellence annually since 1998, making her an inaugural member of the Chancellor’s Circle and a leadership donor for well over a decade. “When I came out of school and was able to make a couple of dollars, I didn’t even have a second thought about donating,” she says. “I am where I am today because of my strong training and education, and I feel that I need to thank the University not only for giving me that opportunity, but also for being able to help future students have access to quality education.”
She also lent her support to the College’s Brilliant Futures: Educating a New Dentist for America campaign with its focus on clinical renovations. “Between 60 and 75 percent of our dental students’ education is spent in the clinic,” explains College of Dentistry Dean Emeritus Bruce Graham. “If we are going to provide students with an outstanding clinical education in a time when oral health care delivery is so technologically based, we need to provide the students with the technological advances that are commonplace in dental practice.”

Bringing together practice and technology has been a major component of the clinical renovation. The College integrated its group practice and specialty clinics to create the Integrated Clinical Technology Center, a comprehensive group practice model that allows a great majority of care to occur in the same clinic, with supervising faculty and students addressing a variety of treatment needs. “This approach contributes to collaboration, improved communication, and enhanced consultation opportunities,” says Dr. Susan Rowan BS ’82, DDS ’84, the College’s associate dean of clinical affairs. “It results in improved student education and patient care.”

To that end the renovations have touched innumerable lives, given that the College’s 116 group practice clinic chairs average more than 100 patients per year. “As a faculty member, I see every day what a difference it makes to provide patient care in an environment conducive to the best educational practices and the most compassionate care,” says Dr. Rowan. “We are able to use digital imaging for the patients, and provide an environment that is esthetically pleasing and private. The environment is far more conducive to the learning experience. The educational process is enhanced because of the efficiencies—students are able to focus on learning and on patient care.”

Recent graduate Kelley Gyllenhaal DDS ’13 cites the clinical renovations as a major point of pride for the College, its students, and its graduates. “Our school was already outstanding in terms of teaching, research, and curriculum. The only thing holding us back from being truly exceptional was our dated clinical facilities. Now, students no longer need to struggle with dated equipment and are able to focus more on what really matters—learning quality dentistry and gaining practical experience.”

That kind of transformation speaks directly to Cathleen Coyne; sustaining the quality of the student experience has been a key motivator for her generosity. “Today’s students are the people who are going out into the world and treating patients. They’re going to be just like I was coming out—extremely well prepared and current with the latest instruments and technology. They will have been taught by top faculty and exposed to leading-edge research. All of these facets will make them better providers for their patients.”

Cathleen embodies the tradition of passing on UIC’s dentistry excellence. Before she was a pioneering female oral surgeon, before she nearly was a general practitioner who had a change of heart at the 11th hour, even before she was a college student, Cathleen was a 14-year-old patient of North Shore family dentist and UIC alumnus Dr. Michael C. Rodbro BS ’64, DDS ’66. It was the summer that her braces had come off, and she sat in Dr. Rodbro’s chair marveling at the transformation orthodontics had made in her appearance and life.

“I can’t believe I look so different. I just am fascinated by it,” she recalls saying. Dr. Rodbro remarked, “Well, if you’re really that interested in dentistry, come find me when you’re 16 and I’ll give you a part-time job working after school and on weekends.”

Two years later, that’s exactly what Cathleen did. “I’m not sure that he remembered the offer, but he took me under his wing,” she says. “He was definitely my mentor: he taught me everything that you could teach somebody my age. After my parents, he was the first person I called when I got accepted into dental school.”
Don Edwards

The best student-athletes look for a university where both their academic and athletic aspirations can be fulfilled. For Don Edwards BUS ’88, the search led straight to Illinois. “I was recruited to Illinois on a golf scholarship. I’m originally from New York and there weren’t many students from the East Coast attending Illinois at the time. But when I visited, it was clear that Illinois would provide the perfect combination of academics and athletics for me.”

Don excelled at both. During his time as an Illini, he was a four-year Varsity I letter winner and earned six individual Top 10 finishes. His accomplishments in the classroom earned him a membership in Beta Gamma Sigma, the George Huff Award, and the Bronze Tablet while also being named a two-time Golf Coaches Association of America All-American Scholar. “I had a great experience,” he recalls. “Both Mike Small (now the men’s golf coach at Illinois) and Steve Stricker (current PGA professional) were on the team. We competed at very high levels at Illinois and we remain very close friends. To have that opportunity, coupled with the outstanding education I received from the College of Business, made my years at Illinois very special.”

Following the 1988 Big Ten Championship season, Don accepted his first job on Wall Street with financial advisory and asset management firm Lazard. His Illinois education prepared him well, and he was able to excel compared to his peers—many of whom held undergraduate degrees from Ivy League institutions. “Later, while at Harvard Business School, I was able to succeed because of the strong foundation I built at Illinois,” Don says. Since his time at Illinois, Don has been very successful. He currently serves as the Chief Executive Officer of Flexpoint Partners, LLC, a Chicago-based private equity investment firm with over $1 billion under management.

Even before he graduated, Don knew he wanted to give back to Illinois. “I have always felt very grateful for the scholarship and the experience of being a student-athlete,” he explains. “It has always been a priority for me to support both parts of my experience—the academics and the athletics.” In addition to their leadership-level annual gifts, Don and his wife Anne Marie BUS ’88 have established funds in their name that provide scholarship assistance for student athletes and high-achieving students in the College of Business. Don encourages all alumni to make the choice to give back. “If Illinois did a lot for you, you need to do a lot for Illinois.”

Alex Burge, a current student in the College of Business and a member of the varsity men’s golf team, feels the impact of Don’s generosity. “It is an honor to represent Illinois, and the support we receive is unbelievable,” Alex says. “I am so grateful to support both parts of my experience—the academics and the athletics.”
for alumni like Don Edwards. All of us on the team understand how private support makes so much possible for all students. We want donors to know these gifts inspire us even more to do our very best in the classroom and in competition.”

From the time Don opted for a professional career in finance instead of on the links, he has not been able to play golf at the level he enjoyed as a Fighting Illini student-athlete, but his volunteerism and philanthropy have allowed him to stay involved and express his passion for the sport in other ways. “The most enjoyable way for me to stay involved in the sport was through Mike and the Fighting Illini golf program and also through Steve Stricker.”

Most recently, Don made a generous gift in support of the Lauritsen/Wohlers Outdoor Practice Facility. The new 24-acre training center, inspired by the practice area at Augusta National Golf Club, includes target fairways, target greens of varying distances and sizes, fairway bunkers, and greenside bunkers—along with putting greens, chipping greens, and multiple wedge areas. The facility will keep Illinois at the forefront of college golf and be a model for programs across the country.

Coach Small describes Don as the consummate teammate, for nearly three decades. “Don has been an Illini for almost 30 years, we came in the same class, and we have been great friends since we were on the team. All of us who were around Don knew he was going to be successful no matter what he did. It’s great to have a person like that around the golf program now, showing the young guys what can be accomplished on the course or off. I’m thrilled to have Don involved with the program and adding the financial support; it’s a win-win for the program and for our team. Guys like Don are what make the Illinois program what it is.”
In his life, Michael Goldstein LAS ’65 has learned the importance of helping those less fortunate find opportunity and independence. Growing up in a strong Jewish family, Michael saw the powerful impact of charity and the tradition of tzedakah, or charitable obligation. In Judaism, the highest form of tzedakah is to give individuals opportunities that will allow them to support themselves, instead of living upon others.

Throughout his life Michael has maintained an acute understanding of the disparities that exist in America, especially in education and the economy. His firm belief in tzedakah and the powerful opportunities that education can bring led him to explore options earmarked to help young minorities in the Chicago neighborhood where his family’s grocery store once provided so much for him.

In 1893, Michael’s great-grandfather, the Hon. David Kallis, a county commissioner in Cook County, originated the soup-house system to feed the wives and children of Chicago’s poor. He sacrificed his own business in their interest and for one month, he alone secured provisions for 25,000 Chicagoans. Years later David’s daughter, Cora Kallis Goldstein, kept his passion alive by providing warm meals on the back porch of the family home with food from Goldstein’s Progressive Food Store for those who could not afford to eat.

It was in that family-owned store where Cora’s grandson Michael first learned about economic realities. Located on East 35th Street in Chicago, Goldstein’s Progressive had many poor customers. Working as a stock boy along with his older brother and cousins on weekends and school vacations under the supervision of his father and uncle, Michael soon understood that their middle-class life was supported by this neighborhood.

Michael was raised first in suburban Highland Park and then in Glencoe, but he never forgot the disparity he witnessed working in the family store. After graduating from top-ranked New Trier Township High School in Winnetka, where he was an editor of the school’s newspaper, he decided to pursue a journalism degree, enrolling at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign campus in 1961. During his undergraduate studies the impact of three Illinois professors—E.A. Ahrens, W.H. Rueckert, and Robert Ornstein—

During his years at Illinois, Michael experienced the special environment that is created by a campus community filled with people of many races, nationalities, and religions who speak many languages but share similar experiences.
changed his focus to sociology with special approval to minor in English. After completing his degree with honors, Michael followed his passions to the West Coast where he began graduate studies in sociology and literature at the University of California, Berkeley. During this time, while closely witnessing the social and anti-war movements of the 1960s, Michael met a fellow just back from living on a kibbutz, one of Israel’s collective communities based on both agriculture and light industry. Seriously interested, he left Berkeley and spent six months enrolled in a work-study program volunteering on a kibbutz to learn firsthand about the people, their work, and their unique way of life. However, his emerging struggle with his sexual identity brought him back to the United States.

In 1970, mentored by an older gay cousin, Michael moved to New York City and pursued a career in retail management at Federated Department Stores, perhaps emulating his family’s mercantile heritage. But after a decade he rediscovered his love of sociology that had taken root as a U of I undergraduate, and at age 36 he changed course, starting a new career in opinion research and living his life as an openly gay man. Proudly integrating his Jewish faith, sexuality, and career, in 1975 he joined what has become the world’s largest gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender synagogue, New York City’s Congregation Beit Simchat Torah. In 1980, he became a charter singing member of the New York City Gay Men’s Chorus, which has performed to critical acclaim over 50 times in Carnegie Hall, as well as across the United States and internationally, raising thousands of dollars for AIDS-related charities. Since 1983, he has been an opinion research field editor for survey, opinion, and policy research organization Abt SRBI, among the premier companies of its type in the world. With no intention of retiring, Michael helps develop studies for Time Magazine, Pew Research Center, network news organizations, and various federal agencies, municipalities, and university-related research projects. He currently lives in New York City with Alton Bader, his life-mate of 21 years.

During his years at Illinois, Michael experienced the special environment that is created by a campus community filled with people of many races, nationalities, and religions who speak many languages but share similar experiences. He has learned a great deal about himself and the world, and he wants to ensure that those opportunities are available for future generations so they may, as he says, “feed their interests, find out who they are, what they can do, and fall in love with what they do for a living.”

Michael found his opportunity to perform an act of tzedakah by giving back through the Illinois Promise program, which launched in 2005 to ensure access to an Illinois education for high-achieving students from all economic backgrounds. He was especially impressed that the program covers tuition, fees, room, board, books, and supplies.

“The generous gift by Michael is the largest gift in the almost 10-year history of the I-Promise scholarship program,” said Illinois Promise Program Director Susan Gershenfeld. “Honoring his grandmother, the impact of his gift will transform the lives of talented, low-income students who are from the very Chicago communities that benefited from Michael’s family so many years ago. On behalf of the current and future Cora Kallis Goldstein scholars, we are truly grateful.”

“Alton and I look forward to visiting campus soon to meet the first class of Cora Kallis Goldstein scholars,” noted Michael. The first seven scholars are on campus now, and they will be followed by seven more every four years through 2024.
Tom and Natalie are first-generation college graduates, and they are eager to help young people achieve their educational goals.

**TOM & NATALIE MARANTZ**

“We were the ‘begging team,’” says Coach Chris Ramirez of the UIS Prairie Stars baseball team.

UIS baseball started in 2011 as part of the University’s expansion into NCAA Division II athletics. The team had a fenced-in practice field on campus. But with no dugouts, scoreboard, or bleachers, they had to bounce around town, playing at whatever community field was available for games.

This past year, Coach Ramirez decided to change that. Rather than waiting for the ideal $5 million stadium, he would add necessary elements, one by one, so the field could be used for competition in the Great Lakes Valley Conference (GLVC), the Prairie Stars’ Division II league. “I had a five-year plan,” he says. “One dugout this year and another one next year. With a little progress each year, eventually we would have the field we needed.”

Then came Tom Marantz.

Tom has been a good friend to UIS for many years. In fact, in 2008 he received the William E. Winter Award for Outstanding Advocate Leadership, which celebrates individuals who have played an active role in securing private support for the University of Illinois. “We believe in UIS,” Tom says, speaking for his wife, Natalie, and for the Bank of Springfield (BOS), of which he is chairman of the board and CEO. “We support UIS athletics because it has the power to raise the visibility of the University and build pride in the school.”

This past year, Tom had a chance to meet Coach Ramirez and, with the backing of the Bank’s board of directors, Tom arranged a gift in support of the baseball field. “Chris has some great energy, and I really think he’s going to do something with the program.”

“Tom Marantz put us over the top,” says Coach Ramirez. “As soon as he arranged the donation for the scoreboard, we sped up the dugout project, and with their gift, we were also able to purchase a full field tarp—part of the GLVC rules. We still had to figure out game bases, a chalker, a windscreen for the outfield fence...but really, once BOS came in, it was official. We would be playing on campus this year.”

The impact of a true home field has been huge, according to the coach. Now the players know their surface, the way the ball bounces, the levels of the grass, and how the wind blows. And with familiar backdrops, players handle the ball better both when hitting and fielding.

“It may not sound like much, but it can really create an advantage,” says senior Barry Arnett, who has been on the team since the beginning in 2011. The season record seems to support Barry’s claim. In 2014, for the first time ever the Prairie Stars had a winning baseball season (28–22) and a bid to the GLVC conference tournament.

It also has been great to see so many new fans at the games. “Students could walk across the street to watch a game,” Coach Ramirez says. “We had games this past year when all the stands were filled and people were lined up along the line.” And that’s exactly what the Marantz family
was hoping for—an improved atmosphere where students could take a collective pride in the baseball team’s success.

The Marantz family has quite a few ties to baseball. Son Gregory and son-in-law Jason Knoedler played for Lincoln Land Community College (at a time when UIS did not have baseball). Jason, who was a sixth-round draft choice by Major League Baseball, played minor league ball for the Detroit Tigers. Last spring, at the team’s inaugural home game on campus, grandson Colten Knoedler, then 6, threw out the first pitch. “He was only six years old and too young to know how far he wants to go in baseball, but he already loves it,” says Colton’s grandmother Natalie Marantz.

The Marantz family and BOS also have a strong commitment to education. Tom and Natalie are first-generation college graduates, and they are eager to help young people achieve their educational goals. The couple earlier established the Jack Marantz Scholarship Fund for basketball players at UIS in honor of Tom’s father, and BOS pays the tuition of any employee who wants to further their education at a public university. “We invest in education because no one can take that away from a person,” Tom explains. “We support UIS specifically because it’s a vital part of this community economically, and it contributes to long-term growth.” Natalie agrees, adding, “It all really centers around community and making Springfield a desirable place to live and work.”

Coach Ramirez still has plans for a real stadium with permanent seating, a press box, even luxury suites. “This was a big step forward,” he says. “The field has been a huge advantage for us. Thanks to Tom Marantz and the Bank of Springfield, we have a place we can call home at UIS.”
As a mental health nurse, Laurel Owen BA LAS ’79, BSN ’80 sees helping those in distress—whose illnesses keep them from life’s joys and delights—as somewhat sacred work. For her, people are the joy and delight in being human and she values her interactions with others as the real gifts in life.

Laurel didn’t come to this calling immediately, however. She began her connection with the University of Illinois as a music major where she soon discovered that solitary life in a practice room didn’t sustain her interest in connecting with others. She decided instead to focus on a secondary interest, psychology, which sparked a dual interest in another field that strongly resonates with those who are concerned with well-being and the power of the human touch—nursing.

She pursued the two interests concurrently, completing a BA in psychology at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1979 and a BSN in nursing from the University of Illinois at Chicago in 1980. Splitting her time and focus between two campuses proved challenging; however Laurel felt both programs were deeply enriching. “To come to Chicago to learn anything medical is an extraordinary opportunity,” she notes.

Laurel’s humanitarian interests reach beyond the boundaries of her field and spread as far as East Africa. She joined a group of University of San Diego nursing students on a medical mission to Uganda to train local doctors and nurses. While there, she met two young refugees with great potential and no funding for college. One was an orphan due to HIV; the other the daughter of a widow. Laurel realized that her help could potentially change their lives, and so she reached out. “The first student now has finished a certificate program in software development,” Laurel says, “and the other is graduating in the spring with a university degree in hospital lab science. She is working on a senior thesis right now.”

She cites that experience in Uganda as the genesis of her receptivity to creating the Owen Graduate Nursing Scholarship at UIC, an opportunity that answers the need she anticipates will grow for advanced care. “I had already seen that modest donations could change someone’s life,” she explains. “I also learned that an individual donor, partnering with a university such as UIC, could provide something meaningful much more effectively.”

College of Nursing Dean Terri Weaver sees Laurel as representative of a growing number of alumni who understand that the future of healthcare and education is dependent upon their continued engagement. “They’re making a difference by supporting our students, our faculty research, and our programs,” Dean Weaver says. “Laurel’s support is distinctive in that she starting giving to our annual fund right after she graduated. Her contributions have steadily grown over time, and that kind of dedication is invaluable as we work to maintain excellence. Her recent
decision to support a graduate nursing scholarship that she ultimately will endow is a wonderful capstone."

"I'm one person, living on a nurse's salary, and I'm making a difference," says Laurel. "My whole family attended state schools, so this scholarship is a fitting way to honor that history and have an impact in my field."

It so happens that Andrea Ensign is in her field, and she's feeling the difference. Andrea worked as a social worker in New Mexico for 16 years, where she was struck by the state's underserved and low-income populations' needs for behavioral health services. A job change for her husband moved the family to Chicago where she entered the College of Nursing’s Graduate Entry Program, designed for individuals with a baccalaureate degree in a field other than nursing. With a daughter in college, and a son entering shortly, she knew loans to cover her tuition were on the horizon.

Today Andrea is completing the RN portion of her degree and will begin two years of full-time study to earn her masters. She became the first beneficiary of Laurel's scholarship fund. "I am grateful and thankful," says Andrea. "I can reduce the loans I need to take out, it allows me to commit more fully to my studies, and I can find the job I'm passionate about after graduation, rather than one that pays more."

Laurel believes scholarships at the graduate level are most likely to change and improve access to and quality of care. She sees nurse practitioners coming out of graduate programs performing just as capably and effectively as physicians in patient interventions. This, combined with the expanding need for access to behavioral health services, makes supporting students like Andrea incredibly gratifying. She's likely to see the impact of her scholarship in practice soon, when Andrea moves back to New Mexico. “There’s a long way to go in recognizing mental health issues as diseases, and I look forward to bringing that message back with me,” Andrea says. “I’m optimistic about not only being a provider, but also part of a movement to serve in an encompassing way people struggling with mental health issues.”

Laurel was pleasantly surprised to learn she had the philanthropic capacity to make a difference. "I don’t make a fortune and I’m not giving huge gifts," says Laurel. "Yet I have created a scholarship with immediate impact, and I am building an endowment over time that will become my family legacy."
“The primary reasons I chose Illinois were the alumni connections with current students and strong donor support. If it were not for this support, I would not be entering my junior year. Donor support has brought relief knowing I can attend without the burden of student loans or debt, and it is the reason I am motivated to perform well academically, volunteer in the community, and give back whenever I can.”

Nicholas Tarleton

Undergraduate in Urbana-Champaign’s College of ACES
“I suffered from childhood asthma. Ever since I learned that tiny things we cannot see could make us sick, I was intrigued about what makes medicine effective. Thanks to scholarship support, I’m pursuing that interest at the UIC College of Medicine. My recent volunteer work at the University of Illinois Hospital & Health Sciences System has prepared me to work unselfishly to improve my patients’ lives and inspired me to serve my community with a particular interest in the field of public health.”

Irfan Hussain
Third-year student in UIC’s College of Medicine
Recipient of the Raymond Nester Sweeney Scholarship
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Kendall Yokosuiian

Undergraduate in Urbana-Champaign’s College of Business
“Some of my fondest memories of UIS are the relationships I have developed with my professors. Every teacher I have had deeply cares about his or her students and is always willing to help me when I am confused. The teachers really made me feel like I belong.”

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