

1968

Barbara Ford is director of the University of Illinois Library's Mortenson Center at Urbana-Champaign. In March she traveled to Ghana, Nigeria, Tanzania, and Uganda to assess the needs of seven university libraries with the Partnership to Strengthen African Universities, a 10-year initiative sponsored by the Carnegie Corp. of New York to help rejuvenate poorly-funded African universities. Ford, who was impressed by the determination of African students to get an education and by the resourcefulness of librarians to help them, said, "It's incredible what people can accomplish with very few resources." In 1998, Ford won IWU's Distinguished Alumni Award.



1969

Charlotte ("Char") Peine Fesler has been teaching piano privately in Bloomington for quite some time, and maintains a studio of approximately 40 students. She was very active in the theatre for years, both acting and musical-directing. While she rarely performs onstage anymore, she frequently participates in the Evergreen Cemetery Walk as an actor. She also sings with the ISU Civic Chorale & Chamber Group, as well as a local group, Cantus Novus. She and her husband John, who also participates in musical activities, live in Bloomington.

Howard Eugene McNier and his wife have lived in St. Petersburg, Fla., for three years. He works at Siam University in Bangkok, Thailand, as a professor of international business law.

1971

An edition of Jim Barnhart's sports column published last spring in the Bloomington/Normal *Pantagraph* featured **William Farrar**, the first student to be named an Academic All-American from Illinois Wesleyan in 1970. Farrar — who still holds several IWU football records, including five interceptions in one game — is professor of surgery, chief of surgical oncology, and medical director for the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute at Ohio State University. He lives in Columbus, Ohio, with his wife Kathryn and their three daughters, all of whom are nationally ranked tennis players. His son is pursuing majors in biology and art at Coastal Carolina.

in profile class of 1968

Daniel Bassill's work helping inner-city youths is recognized

Daniel F. Bassill '68 first learned the rewards of tutoring in 1973, while working for the Montgomery Ward company, when he volunteered to help a youth from Chicago's Cabrini-Green neighborhood with his studies. "I had no idea my life would be so transformed," he reflects in a message on his Web site. "I just thought I'd spend an hour each week helping an inner-city boy with his homework."

As that boy grew into a young man, Bassill attended every important ceremony in his life, from high school and college graduations to his wedding. "I can't tell you how important it has been to me to have been part of his life, and that of thousands of other kids and volunteers who have been part of the tutor/mentor program I've led since 1974."

Bassill was recognized for his work in being named a Shining Example of Liberal Arts for Leadership by the Associated Colleges of Illinois (ACI). Honored for his commitment to helping low-income youth beat the odds to finish high school and go on to college, he was one of three recipients of the annual awards, which recognize the leadership contributions of graduates of Illinois' 24 private liberal arts colleges and universities that comprise the ACI. This year's class of Shining Examples was selected from a group of nearly 50 nominations submitted by ACI member colleges and universities.

ACI Executive Director Jerry Fuller said, "This year's Shining Examples complement ACI's commitment to our College Readiness Program, which has helped hundreds of low-income and minority students realize their college dreams since 1996."

Bassill, who lives in Park Ridge, Ill., began directing Montgomery Ward's Cabrini-Green Tutoring Program in 1974, managing hundreds of volunteers and students. In 1990, he left the company to lead a tutor/mentor program full time. Since then, Bassill has helped more than 4,000 adults establish tutoring/mentoring relationships as president and CEO of Cabrini Connections and the Tutor/Mentor Connection, a nationally recognized not-for-profit organization that provides tutoring and mentoring services to inner-city youth and promotes networking among similar organizations nationwide.

He admits it hasn't been easy: "Every day I feel like David facing Goliath, without the sling-shot. The challenges of mentoring young people from poverty to careers are enormous, and they are made more difficult by lack of time, talent, and dollars." According to its Web site, "The Tutor/Mentor Connection focuses on our nation's largest cities where the concentration of poverty, segregation, and generations of welfare in some neighborhoods breeds a sense of hopelessness, despair, and youth-on-youth violence. We feel (such) programs can be a bridge, connecting volunteers, donors and business leaders from one side of this divide with children, families, and schools on the other side."

"Dan Bassill is a visionary," said Renee Tucker, director of ACI's College Readiness Program. "He sees where support is needed in his community, and in society at large, and not only thinks of ways to address those needs, but puts those thoughts into action. The Tutor/Mentor program is a prime example."

Bassill majored in history at Illinois Wesleyan. He has received numerous awards for his leadership in the not-for-profit sector. In 2001, former Illinois Governor George Ryan appointed him to serve as a commissioner on the Illinois Commission on Volunteerism and Community Service and, in 1997, Bassill was one of 10 Chicago delegates to the President's Summit for America's Future.



Acting IWU President Janet McNew (left) was present when Bassill (right) received the Shining Example award this past April in Chicago.