



Special Report

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Joseph Reynolds '03 returns with Great Urban Race



Picture yourself linked to one of your friends by a tandem land-ski, racing across the quad. There are several other teams doing the same, and this is just the beginning of the adventure. A physical challenge like the land-ski and other mentally and physically taxing activities will be a part of the Great Urban Race, Friday, Oct. 16, at 10:00 a.m.

Joseph Reynolds '03, business entrepreneur and creator of the Great Urban Race, has returned to his alma mater to bring energy and excitement to an area he knows and loves. "I was watching "The Amazing Race" on television, which was my original inspiration. I thought I could take that concept, which so many people love, and offer it on a local level," Reynolds said.

That light bulb moment occurred in May of 2007. Within a few days, Reynolds had content ready for a Web site, which was activated in July of that same year. With Chicago as his home, he chose that city for the first race just weeks later. Enough people showed up that he planned seven more races in seven cities around the country throughout the fall of 2007.

"It went well enough that I felt I could do it as a full-time job," Reynolds said. He subsequently sold the company he had launched his junior year, College Best Painting, and opted to put his money, time and energy into the Great Urban Race (GUR). His instincts were good as there was so much interest he offered 20 events last year and has 21 scheduled for 2009.



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Redbirds plan to rock the scoreboard for Homecoming 2009

The Illinois State football team, led by first-year head coach Brock Spack, hosts Indiana State Oct. 17 at Hancock Stadium for Homecoming 2009. Coach Spack and seniors Geno Blow, Eyad Salem and Doni Phelps will look to defeat the Sycamores and earn a Homecoming win for their Redbird fans in attendance.

The Redbirds have won 10 out of their last 11 meetings against Indiana State, including a 69-17 offensive rout in 2007, the Sycamores' last trip to Hancock Stadium. In that game, ISU tailbacks Rafael Rice, Blow and Cortes Rice each totaled 100-plus rushing yards, marking the first time in school history this feat had been accomplished.

Spack, who was the former defensive coordinator at NCAA Football Bowl Subdivision (FBS) and Big Ten Conference member Purdue, brought with him

a belief that Illinois State football was a "sleeping giant" - a program that had all of the tools and resources to be a powerhouse in NCAA Football Championship Subdivision, but was lacking the bravado and the foresight to see itself that way. After just a short while on the job, it appears that Spack is doing everything he



can to change that image.

Blow and Salem continue to move up the record books in several categories and are looking to put a positive end to their Redbird careers. Phelps, who

leads the way up front for the ISU defense, has also been a consistent contributor and a leader on the field since transferring to Illinois State prior to the 2008 season.

Not only do ISU football student-athletes get the job done on the field, but they also perform well in the classroom and in the community. In each of the past four years, ISU student-athletes have contributed more than 2,000 hours of community service to the Bloomington-Normal area, and Redbird student-athletes posted a school-record 3.13 cumulative grade-point average during the spring 2009 semester.

Tickets can be purchased online at GoRedbirds.com or by calling the Redbird Arena Ticket Office at 438-8000.

Picture yourself participating in Homecoming events

Tailgating



Picture yourself sharing a cup of hot chocolate with your friends while just a few yards behind you football helmets are knocking together on the football field. The matchup between Illinois State University and Indiana State is about to begin. Tailgating before football games is a time-honored tradition that can be enjoyed by all. Every year, faculty and staff help fill the parking lots surrounding Hancock Stadium to lift spirits and raise enthusiasm in order to cheer the Redbirds to victory.

While enjoying a burger from the back of your truck, you may run into several people that you have not seen in years. Faculty and staff have the opportunity to reunite with students they have taught previously and even friends with whom they attended school.

Tailgating takes place in the Ropp parking lot next to Hancock Stadium and the east lot next to Main Street. Reservations are not needed, but space fills quickly, and there is a \$5 charge for each occupied space.

Reservations are required for the Redbird Tent Zone, which includes

Twin City Tours

This new feature to Homecoming spotlights 40 community attractions as the Redbird mini-bus carries you on a guided tour.

The tour is Sunday, Oct. 18, and starts at the Alumni Center from 10:30 a.m. to noon. The cost is free, but space is limited.

Parking is available in the Alumni Center lot. Arrive early and enjoy coffee and bagels at the Alumni Center. To reserve your spot, call 438-3204.

tables, chairs, tents and game tickets for fans, groups and businesses. Departments, schools and units that want to reserve a spot in the Redbird Tent Zone for the Homecoming tailgate should visit GoRedbirds.com, or contact the Redbird Athletics Marketing office by calling 438-5000 or e-mailing jbledfo@ilstu.edu.

Decorating

Picture yourself hanging a streamer from one end of your office to the other. You've decided to show your school spirit by being a part of the decorating contest for Homecoming 2009. Everyone in the department is pitching in, and it is only a matter of time before the judging takes place.



Every year there is a campus-wide decorating contest for faculty and staff to show their creativity and support for their university. All offices are eligible to compete, and the judging takes place on Friday, Oct. 9, at 10 a.m. This year's theme is "Rock the Red," and offices will be judged based on the theme.

Winners of the contest will be announced at the Faculty and Staff Appreciation Lunch and will receive a traveling plaque and cash prize. The second and third place winners both receive a plaque and cash prize. Awards will also be given for the best newcomer, the best use of Reggie and the most original use of the

Homecoming theme. These winners are chosen on-line by the campus community.

To register for the decorating contest sponsored by Alumni Relations, visit the Homecoming Web site. Applications to participate are due to Alumni Relations by Oct. 2.

Parade

Picture yourself winding through campus and Uptown Normal in one of Illinois State University's largest parades ever. It's Homecoming 2009, and in front of you the cheerleaders are stunting, the dance team is marching to the beat of the Big Red Marching Machine and they are all "rocking the red." Behind you, Reggie is high-fiving the children sitting on the curb. Excitement and energy fill the air.

Joining the parade is just one of the many ways to get involved with the Homecoming festivities. Faculty and staff, students and local business staff can walk, drive or create a float to show school spirit. Awards and prizes are given to the best floats and walking groups.

Join in the fun on Saturday, Oct. 17, at 9:30 a.m. The entry deadline is Friday, Oct. 9, and participants are encouraged to review the resource guide for rules and regulations regarding the parade. For an application or to review the revised parade map, visit the Web site and click on parade.



'Give the Red' Blood Drive

As part of Homecoming, Illinois State University's Wellness and Peer Educators are once again asking you to join your peers in giving blood. The blood drive will be held on Tuesday, Oct. 13, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. in the BSC Old Main Room.

To "Give the Red," call 438-8845, or visit www.givebloodgivelifelife.org.

Uptown and Gown Gala set for Oct. 17

Picture yourself weaving around the dance floor with President and Mrs. Bowman twirling beside you. The night has been filled with camaraderie, a delectable dinner and live music by Tom Marko and Sally Weisenburg & the Famous Sidemen. You have thoroughly enjoyed catching up with old friends and meeting new people.

Uptown and Gown Gala '09 is a black tie optional event and is a time to recognize the partnership forged with alumni and friends of Illinois State University and the Bloomington-Normal community.

The event takes place on Saturday, Oct. 17, at the new Bloomington-Normal Marriott Hotel and Conference Cen-



ter.

The evening starts with cocktails at 6:30 p.m. and includes dinner and a short program emceed by Athletic Director Sheahon Zenger. Reservations are required by no later than Oct. 1, and tickets are \$50 per person. If you have questions, visit IllinoisStateHomecoming.com and click Uptown Gala.

Rock 'n' Roll Luncheon set for Oct. 14

Picture yourself having a "rockin" good time at the annual Faculty/Staff Appreciation Luncheon. It will be held Wednesday, Oct. 14. Lunch will be served from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m. in the Bone Student Center's Brown Ballroom. President and

Mrs. Bowman invite you to come enjoy some good old rock 'n' roll music as all of Illinois State "Rocks the Red" for Homecoming. Rock 'n' Roll dress is encouraged, and prizes will be awarded.

Civil Service Council and Administrative/Professional Council scholarship recipients will be introduced, and the winners of the Homecoming Campus decorating contest will be announced.

All employees, including temporary and extra help, are encouraged to make their reservations online at www.IllinoisState.edu/faculty-staff or call (309) 438-2592 by Wednesday, Oct. 7, as advance reservations are required.



Enjoy the Music at the Prism Concert

Picture yourself immersed in the entrancing sounds from faculty and staff in the School of Music. The Prism Concert, a non-traditional concert presented during Homecoming Week by the School of Music, features soloists, chamber groups and ensembles performing continuously, uninterrupted by applause. Like the multitude of colors emanating from a crystal prism, the musical Prism Concert features a kaleidoscope of instrumental compositions performed in immediate succession from every possible angle of the Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall.

This year's concert will be at 8 p.m. Friday, Oct. 16. General admission is \$6, \$5 for faculty-staff and \$4 for students and senior citizens. Children 6 and under are admitted free. Tickets are available at the Center for the Performing Arts box office from noon to 5 p.m. weekdays or by phone at 438-2535.

The concert will highlight a large cross section of the faculty and students in solo, chamber and large ensemble works. Groups performing include the Wind Symphony, Symphonic Winds and Chamber Winds.

Homecoming week events start Oct. 9

Some Homecoming events you will not want to miss are listed below.

Friday, Oct. 9

- Campus decorating contest judging, 9:30 a.m.

Tuesday, Oct. 13

- "Give the Red and Spread the Red" blood drive, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m., BSC Old Main Room
- Redbird Rumble Teams Competition- 7 p.m. Hancock Stadium

Wednesday, Oct. 14

- Faculty-Staff Appreciation Luncheon, serving from 11 a.m. to 1:15 p.m., BSC Brown Ballroom

Friday, Oct. 16

- The Great Urban Race, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Alumni Center to start
- Torchlight Parade, 6:15 p.m., Quad
- Hoopfest, 7 p.m., Horton Field House
- Prism Concert, 8 p.m., CPA
- Bonfire, pep rally, music, 8:15 p.m., north entrance of Redbird Arena

Saturday, Oct. 17

- Town & Gown 5K run, 7 a.m., Schroeder Hall Plaza
- Homecoming Parade, 9:30 a.m., steps off on the corner of College and University
- Pre-game tailgating, 11 a.m., Redbird Tent Zone near Hancock Stadium
- Football game, 2 p.m., Hancock Stadium, Redbirds vs. Indiana State
- Uptown and Gown Gala, 6:30 p.m. Marriott Hotel and Conference Center

For complete schedule of events, visit www.IllinoisStateHomecoming.com.

Hoopfest set for Oct. 16

On the heels of postseason appearances, the Illinois State men's and women's basketball teams take their first step with an old twist for Redbird Hoopfest on Homecoming weekend.

The Redbirds will return to historic Horton Field House for 3-point contests, a slam dunk contest and intrasquad scrimmages. Admission is free, and the event begins at 7 p.m.



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Town and Gown 5K Run

Picture yourself just steps away from the finish line. There are runners all around you, and there is a crowd of people cheering you on. Before most people have gotten out of bed for the day, you have run a 5K race.

The Town and Gown 5K Run takes place every year during Homecoming week. This year the race begins at 7 a.m. on Saturday, Oct. 17, in the Schroeder Plaza. Participants will tour the Town of Normal while they walk, jog or run the race route.

The race is sponsored by Illinois State University and the Town of Normal. To participate, download the registration form at IllinoisStateHomecoming.com and click on 5K Run.



Reynolds (cont.)

Advertised as “part adventure, part scavenger hunt,” the race is open to all ages. Participants register as teams of two for as low as \$45 per person. The race starts with teams receiving 12 clues at the same time. Teams then scatter to solve those clues in any order.

Some clues require a moderate physical challenge, while others are purely a mental exercise. Teams can use electronic devices to help complete the challenges or

phone a friend, but nobody is allowed to use anything other than their feet or public transportation to complete the course that encompasses six miles or less.

The team that finishes with the best time and has all the clues solved correctly wins the race, which ends at the five-hour mark. The first two teams receive a cash prize, and the top 25 qualify for a national race, where the winner receives \$10,000.

His rapid success has kept Reynolds busy as he adds events coast to coast. It has been so hectic he has not yet taken the time to write a formal business plan, which he knows from his days at Illinois State is supposed to be the first step when launching a business.

“I have a clear idea of where everything is going,” he assured, “but I know my professors would not be happy.”