advancing excellence

We are thrilled to bring you this issue Advancing Excellence, the publication of the Office of Advancement at the College of Media. This past year, the College has experienced significant growth and progress toward the goals within our strategic plan, Building Opportunities for Excellence. Our academic reputation continues to receive national recognition, and we continue to attract the most talented faculty and students to our programs. In this issue of Advancing Excellence, we highlight our loyal alumni and friends who have chosen to partner with us in achieving our ambitious goals for the College.

As the University prepares to launch its next capital campaign, we will rely even more on our alumni and friends to help us reach the College’s goals. Our strategic goals remain centered around four top priorities for the college: transforming media education, building leadership in media scholarship, delivering exclusive University of Illinois programs, and expanding Illinois Public Media and Public Engagement. We continue to work diligently in recruiting and retaining the brightest students and faculty, securing industry partnerships with corporations and professionals, and strengthening the impact of Illinois Public Media.

As we reach the end of another calendar year, we would like to thank all of our alumni, friends, and industry partners who have invested their time, talent, and financial resources in the College of Media. The College is stronger because of your contributions, and we are grateful for your support. Your investment continues to have tremendous impact for our students, faculty, and programs.

Please contact us at media-giving@illinois.edu to learn more about the College of Media and how your support can transform the lives of future generations of students.

Message from the Dean

Advancing Excellence is a celebration of the gifts the College receives from alumni and friends. In recent years, as state funding has decreased and tuition has increased, those gifts have become even more important.

During the past 11 years, state funding has decreased from 23.8 percent of the University’s total budget for the 2003-04 academic year to 11.9 percent for the 2014-15 academic year. We anticipate these declines to be even greater in future years.

Several years ago, the College of Media made a commitment to reducing its reliance on state funding. There are several ways this can occur:

- Grow the enrollment of students into the College, resulting in more tuition revenue
- Create new programs that produce non tuition revenue
- Increase the amount and number of philanthropic gifts

Growing enrollment takes time. Not only do we have capacity to add undergraduates within some of the majors, we are also launching new degrees and certificate programs. In fact, the Certificate in Sports Media will launch in the Spring 2016! This strategy must be undertaken carefully. Additional students will require additional teaching space and faculty, increasing expenses.

New programs have, and continue to be, developed. College of Media summer camps welcome high school students to campus to learn about creativity, entrepreneurship, sports media and more. Several professional development certificates are being offered in Chicago and on campus. They include certificates on data security, digital advertising, data analytics and visualization, and storytelling with data. That brings us to philanthropy. Gifts from our alumni and friends have a lasting impact on the College. Academic scholarships directly affect which students can afford to attend Illinois. Internship scholarships allow students to gain valuable work experience during a summer, winter or spring break. Support for study abroad and study domestic opportunities give students a unique perspective on the world. Professorships support teaching and research. Unrestricted gifts to the annual fund give us the flexibility to address the most pressing needs quickly.

All of these gifts work together to help the College of Media continue to provide students with an education that leads to employment and our faculty the support they need to engage in meaningful research. And we thank you for each and every one of them. Your engagement and support have made this College what it is today. We are proud to count you among our alumni and friends.
On a beautiful late-September day, more than 200 golfers played in a fundraiser for the Off the Street Club. The women-only outing, Swing for the Kids, is the brainchild of Beth and Jack Klues. The funds raised are used to support programming for girls who attend the club.

Off the Street Club, the oldest Boys & Girls Club in Chicago, is located in the Garfield Park neighborhood and provides, in the words of its executive director, a place where kids can just be kids. Jack has been involved with the club for 25 years and has acted as vice president of fundraising for the past 17 years. It is one of his passions.

Jack Klues grew up in Quincy, Illinois. As a kid, Jack knew he didn’t want to work in insurance like his dad had for 30 years, or be an accountant and work with numbers. His sister had the science and math brain, he said. During his junior year of high school, he took a communications class in which he read “The Medium is the Message.” Jack remembers being fascinated by the book. “The idea of manipulating the mass consumer marketplace into buying things they don’t need—you can also make them do things for good,” Jack said. “You can elect officials, raise money for good causes, get volunteers—all through the power of media and advertising.”

Jack started visiting colleges with advertising programs and met Professor Arnold Barban and Professor Kim Rottel at Illinois. “They were welcoming because of their warmth and humanity and obvious interest in students,” Jack recalled. “The faculty saw their success in preparing students for entry into the industry.”

While at Illinois, Jack was a member of Alpha Tau Omega and served as internal vice president with the Interfraternity Council. He was active with the group and worked to resurrect the festivities surrounding homecoming, which had waned prior to that time. He may have been a bit too active, Jack admitted. “I spent so much time in the Student Services Center that I didn’t spend enough time in class. I had to really buckle down to complete my classes.”

Jack’s most vivid memories of his time at Illinois revolve around his professors. “Barban made a tremendous impression on me,” Jack said. “Gorden White, with his black turtleneck and sport coat. Learning the basics of PR—they tried so hard to draw a line between paid advertising and publicity. The line looks blurry to me—and I’m OK with that! I am glad the blur is not only acknowledged, but effectively leveraged today.”

Ethics in advertising was also a memorable class. “It didn’t feel black and white,” Jack said. “I found it to be so philosophical, so gray. I didn’t want to sit in a class and hear it depends.” I found out later that every day I was running into ethical challenges. Between formal education and how I was raised by my folks—I think that’s what got me through a successful career. My folks always taught me to respect the ‘Golden Rule’ of treating and dealing with others as you want to be treated. It is a rule that has never let me down.”

After graduation, Jack went to work for Leo Burnett, the legendary ad agency in Chicago. He began his career as a client services trainee in the media department. In 1996, he was part of the management team that created Starcom, a distinct, dedicated media services agency. Jack became the global CEO for Starcom Mediavest Group in 2000, making it the one of the largest of its type in the world. In 2003, following the acquisition by Publicis Groupe, he served as global CEO for Publicis Groupe Media (SMG and ZenithOptimedia). From 2007 until his retirement in 2012, he served as global CEO and Directorate member with oversight of media agencies, as well as Digitas and Razorfish under Publicis’ holding company’s digital and media agency, Vivaki.

Jack’s involvement with the College began shortly after graduation. “We were successful recruiters of Illinois talent,” Jack recalled. “When you were allowed to go recruit, you wanted to go back to where you came from. You fish where you knew the best fishing spot was.”

In the mid-1980s, when an instructor left unexpectedly, Jack taught an advanced media strategy class. It strengthened his ties to the College. Today, he serves on the James Webb Young board, offering guidance to the Charles H. Sandage Department of Advertising. Through his work on the media side of the industry, Jack has seen the entire business model of advertising change. “Media sees it first because we are most directly impacted by those consumer trends in terms of choice and control,” Jack said. “It helped us be ready for the breakneck speed of change.”

“My greatest naiveté,” said Jack, “you can’t find a business that doesn’t have numbers in it. The power of math—automation, computerization, algorithms—is increasingly encroaching on what was a very human industry. I think they are going to take over. I do worry that evil robots will see everything as a math problem to be solved. Hopefully, future generations of ad people will remember to also use the right side of their brains.”

These changes tie closely with Jack’s advice for today’s students. “It would be good to have a dual major, in part for career protection and in the other part for career growth and enhancement over time,” Jack said. “An ability to navigate and manage data—you don’t have to write code, but be able to manage and manipulate and aggregate data. It’s as important as any human communication or learning you can have about human behavior as it relates to marketing communication.”

The Jack and Elizabeth Klues Family Foundation recently made a gift to the College for scholarships in the Charles H. Sandage Department of Advertising. The gift includes funds for current use and a bequest. The proceeds will provide scholarship support to underrepresented students in advertising who have significant financial need. The scholarships will be for both internships and experiential learning opportunities. Funds will also be used to provide high school students with financial need scholarships to attend a College of Media summer camp on the Urbana-Champaign campus. High school students who are involved in Off the Street Club will be one source of students considered for summer camp scholarships.

“There wouldn’t be a charity foundation if I didn’t have an equal partner—co-pilot—not sure where I would be,” Jack said. “My wife is tremendously supportive, works hard, gave up her own professional career, raising children, becoming a partner, understanding what I do for a living, becoming a fan of the Fighting Illini even though she didn’t graduate from here. There wouldn’t be money for a foundation without her.”
Carol Hillsman Sagers is a proud product of the Chicago Public Schools system. She and 25 of her Bowen High School classmates went to the University of Illinois. “New student week was off the hook,” Carol recalled. As the first person in her family to go away to college, Carol didn’t know what to expect. “It was comforting to get there and have friends from high school with me,” Carol said.

Getting there wasn’t easy. Carol’s mother died when she was young. Carol was separated from her siblings and had lived with different relatives in different states. Eventually, an aunt and uncle, who had no children of their own, allowed Carol to move in with them on the South Side of Chicago. Years later, Carol’s siblings joined her in this home. “My aunt and uncle changed the trajectory of my life by bringing me and my brothers into their home,” she said, “and they taught me that you have to work to get what you want.”

Carol applied to Illinois following the advice and guidance of her high school teachers. They helped her put together and submit her application. Carol was an Illinois State Scholar, which covered her tuition. Her room and board were covered by a number of other grants and scholarships. One of these scholarships was a four-year progressive young woman scholarship from Alpha Gamma Pi Sorority. “Twenty years after I received that scholarship, I became a member of that sorority,” Carol said. “The Alpha Gamma Pi scholarships continue to support African American college students.”

Once at Illinois, Carol worked at the Student Services Center, a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, the Illini Union Board, the Black Student Association, Torch and Sachem and the Illio staff.

“I loved every moment of it,” Carol said. “I loved most working at the Student Services Center and being in the know. I liked the fraternities and sororities, the weekends, working at the Student Services Center and being in the know. I liked the fraternities and sororities, the weekends, working at the Student Services Center and being in the know.”

Carol had been an editor of her high school newspaper and selected journalism as her major. That changed when she took an advertising class taught by Gordon White. As summer break approached, Professor White asked Carol if she would like to work in an advertising agency for the summer. She applied and was hired by Foote, Cone and Belding as a copy writing intern. She worked there for three summers.

Senior year, Carol applied for graduate school through the Consortium for Graduate Study in Management and was accepted at Washington University in St. Louis. She graduated in 1981 with an MBA and took a job with Quaker Oats as an assistant brand manager. Twenty-one others were brought in at the same time, fresh out of college. That group would remain connected for many years. At Quaker, Carol worked on the 100% Natural Cereal line and the launch of Chewy Granola Bars. The work was hard and included many late nights, but she loved it.

Around this same time, Carol and Rudy, her boyfriend from the U of I, married. The many late nights at work would have to end. A call from Kraft helped that to happen. Carol was the first of her group to leave Quaker Oats for Kraft, with several more joining her in the next few years.

At Kraft, Carol was a product manager in charge of new cheese products, including the Kraft light naturals and reduced fat naturals product lines. These products were ahead of their time as consumers had just begun reading labels. The Food and Drug Administration hadn’t even defined the terms “light” and “reduced fat” yet.

The work at Kraft was challenging and rewarding, but she and Rudy were living in Hyde Park and Kraft was located in Glenview — an hour commute. As their family grew, that commute took a toll. She started to think about a change.

Carol connected with friends and was introduced to the Gardner family, the owners of Soft Sheen products — an all-black company whereas she had been the only African American on previous marketing teams. Most important, Soft Sheen was located only 10 minutes from her home.

Eight years after leaving Kraft, Carol received a call from an associate she had worked with at Quaker Oats who was now at Kraft. Help was needed with ethnic marketing on the Maxwell House, Kool-Aid, Jello and Post cereals brands. Carol was happy at Soft Sheen, but Kraft made a suggestion she couldn’t ignore: work as a consultant. Soft Sheen accommodated this new arrangement, allowing Carol to have a four-day work week. CHS Consulting — a full-service marketing, advertising and branding firm — was born, and Carol’s consulting career was launched.

When Soft Sheen was purchased by L’Oréal in 1998, Carol began consulting full time. Through the years, she has worked with Ameritech, Unilever, McDonald’s and Sunbeam, among others. All of these clients came through connections with her friends from Quaker Oats and Kraft. “They hired me without a brochure or a business card,” Carol said. The work with McDonald’s turned full time in 2004. What was to have been an 18-month appointment turned into seven years, then she returned to consulting.

Carol considers herself a bridge builder. “People did that for me,” Carol said. “Even today in this highly technical age, I am gainfully employed because my business comes from relationships. It’s a small world. It becomes even smaller when you stay in the same community and discipline for 40 years.”

With those years behind her, Carol has perspective.

“I think there have been no changes in the fundamental aspects of marketing and communication,” Carol said. “When you look at the elements and the tactics that prevail — they have changed and evolved with technology. For example, we communicate with different tools and different media now than we did 10, 20, 30 years ago. As a marketing professional, it’s my job to leverage whatever vehicles are available to deliver persuasive communication. Fundamentally, the job has not changed at all. The tools have changed.”

Her advice for today’s students reflects her own youth.

“Work. Work anywhere you can, how you can,” she said. “That work experience is an important part of your education. Build relationships with people who work in environments in which you want to work. Build relationships with people who will help you move forward. There are no guarantees in life and nobody owes you anything. Hard work pays off. Building bridges will lead you to where you want to go.”
Endowed Professorships
Endowed professorships give the College an important advantage in recruiting and retaining the most talented faculty members in the field.
Minimum Investment Level: $500,000

Endowed Professors of Practice
Professors of Practice are industry professionals who join the classroom for short- and long-term teaching periods. Support of teaching innovation through recruitment of Professors of Practice will better prepare our students to meet the demands of an ever-changing, competitive media environment.
Minimum Investment Level: $500,000

Endowed Funds for Innovation and Research
These funds will support cutting-edge courses, curricula, faculty research, industry collaborations and student activities that will foster greater discovery and transform the delivery of content. These funds will also facilitate interdisciplinary collaborations and partnerships with industry, and will allow the College to further distinguish itself as the leader in innovation and research in the emerging media landscape.
Minimum Investment Level: $150,000

Digital Media Laboratory
The Digital Media Laboratory is designed to foster collaboration of high-end cross-disciplinary academic research. This research would include media and software industry development, production and online distribution of news and information, audience analysis, and social media content and measurement. This “collaboratory” will be designed to connect scholars, professionals and students who are committed to addressing societal demands, identifying and meeting challenges, and asserting international leadership in our evolving digital age.
Digital Media Laboratory: $300,000

We invite you to consider how you can make an impact on students and faculty in the College of Media. If you have interest in establishing an endowed fund for opportunities such as these, or you would like to explore other opportunities, please contact the College of Media Office of Advancement at 217.244.5466, or email us at media-giving@illinois.edu.

The College of Media Leadership Council
Launched in 2013, the College of Media Leadership Council provides leadership in fundraising, advocacy and stewardship for the College of Media, and assists in achieving the ambitious goals set forth within the College’s strategic plan. The College is thrilled to partner with this talented and dynamic group of industry professionals in achieving the College’s immediate and long-term goals. The council is assisting the College in a number of initiatives that will allow us to fully optimize our commitment to students, faculty and research missions of the College. The College of Media is pleased to recognize the following alumni for their gifts of time, talent and resources through their service on the Leadership Council:

Dawn Gareiss Barrera ’85 B.S. JOURN
President, DMG Marketing Communications

Lori Bitter ’84 M.S. ADV
President/Senior Strategist, The Business of Aging

Suhelily Natal Davis ’04 B.S. JOURN
Counsel, Labor and Employment Law, McDonald’s Corp.

Katherine S.C. Denny ’90 B.S. JOURN
Project Manager, Editor

Jane Phillips Donaldson ’67 M.S. JOURN
Partner/Co-Founder, Phillips Oppenheim

William Forsythe ’98 B.S. FIN
President, Frontier Partners, Inc.

Felicia A. Fortenberry ’91 B.S. ADV
Advertising Sales Executive, BET Networks

Robin Gareiss ’88 B.S. JOURN
President, Nemertes Research Group Inc.

Wendy C. Levy ’85 B.S. ADV
Midwest Director, Conde Nast Magazine

Helen McGrath ’77 B.S. ADV, ’78 M.S. ADV
Vice President Market Insights, AT&T Inc.

Carol Hillsman Sagers ’79 B.S. ADV
Principal Consultant, CHS Marketing Consultants

James E. Schlueter ’80 B.S. JOURN
Director, Technology Communications

Boeing Commercial Airplane Group

Jeanne Marian Sullivan ’70 B.S. ADV
General Partner, Co-Founder

StarVest Partners, LP

If you are interested in serving on the College of Media Leadership Council or would like to learn more, please call 217.244.5466, or email marlabg@illinois.edu.


— Megan Jones, ’17 News-Editorial Journalism, scholarship recipient
Dan and Nancy returned to campus for the 2015 Honors Reception. “We very much enjoyed meeting our first-time recipient,” Nancy said. “If that’s a prelude of what the others will be like, we’ll really look forward to this. We’re meeting smart, engaged, articulate future journalists. It’s very exciting.”

At the annual event, Angelica and her family sat with the Balzes. “They were so great talking with me and my mom and my aunt,” Angelica said. “Being able to keep in touch with them has been so great. Getting a scholarship is a validation of hard work. Your work doesn’t go unnoticed. It does help financially — any amount helps. Such a generous gift is something I really appreciated.”

“Mr. and Mrs. Balz have an interest in their investment in my education. They do care and want to see me do well. It’s really inspiring.”

— Angelica LaVito
alumni profile:

Paul Biasco 2010 B.S. Journalism, Neighborhood Reporter
Justin Breen 1999 B.S. Journalism, Senior Editor
Ted Cox 1981 B.S. Journalism, City Hall Reporter
Jon Hansen 2006 B.S. Journalism, Radio News Director
Stephanie Lulay 2008 B.S., 2009 M.S. Journalism, Neighborhood Reporter

Chicago is home to the largest concentration of Illinois graduates in the country. It's not unusual to find a number of Illini working for the same company. What is unusual is the three-year-old news organization, DNAinfo.com Chicago, where five journalism alumni have been changing the way news is delivered.

DNAinfo.com Chicago was launched in Nov. 26, 2012. One of its first major reports, "Murder in Chicago: The Human Toll," looked at the data associated with the city's murder rate and the people who comprise that data. The resulting murder timeline, which continues today, was the culmination of months of research. It was a massive undertaking and earned the news organization an EPPY award from "Editor & Publisher" magazine for Best Investigative/Enterprise Feature on a Website with under 1 million unique monthly visitors.

The organization is working to break stories and build its reputation. "You build a reputation by breaking the story over and over again every day," said Shamus Toomey, managing editor. "Every day we learn a little something new. There is no shortage of people wanting the news. You just have to get their attention. We're all over the city — on radio, TV and in print."

The philosophy at DNAinfo.com is to fill the neighborhood news gap that has been left by other news organizations. "We have the ability to do a small story that might not be as interesting to a larger news outlet," Shamus said. "The whole organization is interested in telling interesting stories that people in the neighborhoods want to read and share."

Justin Breen was the first of the Illini to join the team. He was the third person hired at the company in May 2012, before it had an office. He was part of the team that hired the first staff. "This place is an anomaly," Justin said. "A growing company that is adding people, that is covering really local news and adding papers to several dozen neighborhoods in the city."

As neighborhood reporters, Stephanie Lulay and Paul Biasco are deeply connected to their beats. They attend meetings, talk with business owners, know their neighborhoods and follow social media for scoops. They are also quickly adapting to how technology can add to their stories. "Back in school, they were just beginning to teach digital skills," Stephanie said. "We use those now on a daily basis. You have to have everything in your arsenal."

"We're not going to give you a big block of text," Paul said. "You're going to have an audio clip, a Vine you took on the street, add in a map — knowing what's possible is what we do. It makes the story more compelling."

"I think we give them a streamlined version of the story," Ted Cox added. "We give people the news that is applicable to their daily lives, make it straight forward, get in and get out. We include links to all of the background information on the story. If you want to dig in, you can."

Jon Hansen, who recently left DNAinfo for Weigel Broadcasting agrees. "The ways we do it I think are very interesting," Jon said. "The fact that you can go to one page for a story and you not only get a print version of it, you get audio enhancements. I think it's something people have really taken a liking to. At the end of the day, people care about a good story."

All five value their Illinois roots and feel the reputation of the program has made a difference.

"The Daily Illini had a great reputation — Ebert, Reston, the Ingrasias brothers," Ted said. "Illinois has a reputation for producing capable and hands-on journalists."

The Daily Illini and WPGU played an influential role with all of these alumni.

"I wrote for the Daily Illini for three years and was a copy editor for the paper for a year," Paul said. "I learned how to work under pressure and conquer the fear of interviewing strangers, which was tough at first."

"I pretty much lived at the Daily Illini, and ended my time there as managing editor," Stephanie said. "I learned the value of hard work. Ask any hiring editor in Chicago and I bet they would characterize UI journalism grads as really hard workers."

Ted wrote for the DI and also worked each year on the homecoming newspaper lampoon, The Tumor. "That was a kick," he said. "Selling it on the Quad was a hoot. We got to keep a dime of every paper sold. With a run of 10,000 copies, that was a nice chunk of change for the handful of sellers."

"I feel like one of the core skills I learned at U of I — whether it was through the College or WPGU — was how to be adaptable, learning how to make mistakes," Jon said. "You need to research ahead of time and try and be as prepared as possible, but sometimes you're just going to be in a situation where you aren't 100 percent ready. Have faith in your abilities and just power through the situation with confidence. Fake it till you make it!"

Justine has been a regular volunteer with the College. He has served on the College of Media Alumni Board for six years and has organized and hosted Journalism Career Night since 2011. "Journalism Career Night is my favorite 'work' night of the year," Justin said. "Not only do I get to talk to some amazing alumni who have exceeded in the professional world, but you get to meet so many excited students who want to become journalism stars. Not much is better than that."

Stephanie, Jon and Paul have all made trips back to campus to speak with students. Jon worked with Lynn Holley and one of her classes as they dug into the world of podcasting. Ted's younger daughter is a sophomore on campus this year. "She's a legacy!"

Their advice for today's students reflects their experiences.

Read the news every day. Follow those you admire on Twitter. Engage with your own stories. Learn how the Web works. Get as much on-the-job training as you can through internships, WPGU or the DI. Education is not the same as working. Do everything. Soak up as much as you can. Meet alumni. Make connections with different people. Learn to communicate. Be a well-rounded person. Enjoy being a student."
Advancing Excellence: Gifts in Support of the College of Media (July 1, 2014–June 30, 2015)

The following list represents contributions to the University of Illinois College of Media (excluding WILL) from generous alumni and friends during the 2015 fiscal year. We are grateful for your support of our talented students and faculty and your commitment to the goals and mission of the College. Members of the Presidents Council are designated with (+). The Presidents Council, the University of Illinois Foundation's donor-recognition program for those who give at the highest levels, is reserved for donors whose outright or cumulative gifts total $25,000 or more. Members of the Chancellor’s Circle are marked with (*). The Chancellor’s Circle honors donors who provide support of $2,500 or more between July 1 and June 30.

FY 2015 Giving Levels

at the highest levels, is reserved for donors whose outright or cumulative gifts total $25,000 or more. Members of the Presidents Council, the University of Illinois Foundation's donor-recognition program for those who give...
You may establish an estate gift (via will, trust, IRA, etc.) for the College of Media by including the following language: I leave (% of estate, $ amount, residue) to the University of Illinois Foundation (37-60006007), to be used for the College of Media (add department or program) at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

We invite you to become a member of the Legacy Society by including the College of Media in your will or other planned gift. Donors who remember the College of Media in their estate plans provide other student and faculty support. Those who have chosen to include the College of Media through a bequest, charitable trust or other planned gift. Donors who remember the College of Media in their estate plans can provide other student and faculty support. Those who have chosen to include the College of Media in their wills are recognized. If you would like to make a planned gift, please call 217.333.6448, or email marathb@illinois.edu.
Roger Ebert’s film festival

Roger Ebert’s Film Festival
Founded by the late Roger Ebert, University of Illinois Journalism graduate and a Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic, Roger Ebert’s Film Festival takes place in Urbana-Champaign each April for a week, hosted by Chaz Ebert. The festival presents 12 films representing a cross-section of important cinematic works overlooked by audiences, critics and distributors. The films are screened in the 1,500-seat Virginia Theatre, a restored movie palace built in the 1920s. A portion of the festival’s income goes toward ongoing renovations at the theater. The festival brings together the films’ producers, writers, actors and directors to help showcase their work. A filmmaker or scholar introduces each film, and each screening is followed by a substantive on-stage Q&A discussion among filmmakers, critics and the audience. In addition to the screenings, the festival hosts a number of academic panel discussions featuring filmmaker guests, scholars and students. Roger Ebert’s Film Festival is a special event of the College of Media at the University of Illinois.

silver sponsors: $1,500 +
Thomas P. Squires
Stan Manning & Colleen Quigley
Linda Smith Tabbs & Charles Tabbs
Patty & Jon Mccusson
Maxine & Jim Kaler
J. Michael Lulich
Linda & Nelson Barnes
Midstate Collection Solutions, Inc.
Lee Tate
Franda & Gary Porter
Chuck & Eileen Kuenneth
DOUG LOVES MOVIES
Marsha Dinard & Charlie Boast
Don Tingle
Bullock & Associates, Cheryl & Don Bullock
David Graham
Sharon Shawfield & Steven Zimmerman
Peter & Wanda Tracy
Presence Covenant Medical Center
Robeson Family Benefit Fund
Cinespace Chicago Film Studios
Eliot Counseling Group
Brand Fortner
Chuck & Lynn Nelson
Ann Benefiel & Joseph Kunkel
Cubail Digital, Inc.
Cowboy Monkey
Gusto’s
Soma Ultra Lounge
Jupiter’s Pizza & Billards
Seven Saints
Tammy Schaefer & Acacia Stamper
Chipman Design Architecture
Jan Shelby

Patrons: $750 +
Ashley Rodman & Matt Gladney
Karen Leavitt
Bill & Wilma O’Brien
Paul & Martha Dizio
Marge Perrino
Arn Beddini
Suzi & Don Armstrong
Hilary Froeman & John Lee
Carol Spindler & Thomas J. Bassetti
Tom & Regina Saker Unti
Todd Salen
Paul & Lynn Kane
Eric & Shirley Parson

Festival Friends: $500 +
Diana K. Armstrong
Greg & Anne Taubeneck
Nel Minow & David Apatoff
Gary & Connie Winkoff
Emma Fisher
One Man Development

Festival Associates: $250 +
Doc Erickson
Bab Hubalski
Ed & Nancy Tepper
Robert & Beth Zeiders
Chris & Anne Lukeman
Holly Holtbrand
Vette Schieven
Troyean Ladrner

Roger Ebert’s Film Festival donors
Firm Circle Sponsors: $25,000 +
Roger & Chaz Ebert
Champaign County Alliance for the Promotion of Acceptance, Inclusion, & Respect
Steak ‘n Shake
Shattenglass Studios
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Diamond sponsors: $10,000 +
James E. Hendrick
Leone Advertising
Hollywood Foreign Press Association
L.A. Gourmet Catering

Platinum Sponsors: $5,000 +
President & Mrs. Robert A. Easter
Big Grove Tavern
Debbie Hartman
Basy

Gold sponsors: $2,500 +
Steve & Susan Zumzahl
Marsha Woodbury
Carol Livingstone & Dan Grayson
Jim Johnson & Colleen Quinn
SAGindia
Tawani Foundation

Patron: $1,500 +
Tom Noonan & Colleen Quigley
Linda Smith Tabbs & Charles Tabbs
Patty & Jon Mccusson
Maxine & Jim Kaler
J. Michael Lulich
Linda & Nelson Barnes
Midstate Collection Solutions, Inc.

Silver sponsors: $1,500 +
Thomas P. Squires
Stan Manning & Colleen Quigley
Linda Smith Tabbs & Charles Tabbs
Patty & Jon Mccusson
Maxine & Jim Kaler
J. Michael Lulich
Linda & Nelson Barnes
Midstate Collection Solutions, Inc.
Lee Tate
Franda & Gary Porter
Chuck & Eileen Kuenneth
DOUG LOVES MOVIES
Marsha Dinard & Charlie Boast
Don Tingle
Bullock & Associates, Cheryl & Don Bullock
David Graham
Sharon Shawfield & Steven Zimmerman
Peter & Wanda Tracy
Presence Covenant Medical Center
Robeson Family Benefit Fund
Cinespace Chicago Film Studios
Eliot Counseling Group
Brand Fortner
Chuck & Lynn Nelson
Ann Benefiel & Joseph Kunkel
Cubail Digital, Inc.
Cowboy Monkey
Gusto’s
Soma Ultra Lounge
Jupiter’s Pizza & Billards
Seven Saints
Tammy Schaefer & Acacia Stamper
Chipman Design Architecture
Jan Shelby

Patrons: $750 +
Ashley Rodman & Matt Gladney
Karen Leavitt
Bill & Wilma O’Brien
Paul & Martha Dizio
Marge Perrino
Arn Beddini
Suzi & Don Armstrong
Hilary Froeman & John Lee
Carol Spindler & Thomas J. Bassetti
Tom & Regina Saker Unti
Todd Salen
Paul & Lynn Kane
Eric & Shirley Parson

Festival Friends: $500 +
Diana K. Armstrong
Greg & Anne Taubeneck
Nel Minow & David Apatoff
Gary & Connie Winkoff
Emma Fisher
One Man Development

Festival Associates: $250 +
Doc Erickson
Bab Hubalski
Ed & Nancy Tepper
Robert & Beth Zeiders
Chris & Anne Lukeman
Holly Holtbrand
Vette Schieven
Troyean Ladrner

EINSTEIN BROD BAGELS
HERNICK’S COFFEE COMPANY
STARK’S ARTS
SILVER CREEK & THE COURIER CAFE
CARTER’S FURNITURE
CANTONBRANTDESIGN
THE DAILY HIL</p>