

2019
RETREAT & REVIEW





LETTER FROM *THE DIRECTOR*



Your dedication to Allerton has inspired a momentous year. Spurred by a dynamic staff, devoted volunteers, gracious donors, and an enthusiastic community, 2018 produced numerous big steps at Allerton.

Your encouragement of Allerton allows for the unique opportunity to shape its future. The idea that we can continue to improve and utilize Allerton in new ways stimulates creative thinking, allows for fine-tuned programming, and creates progressive expectations.

Your loyalty to Allerton is providing the cornerstone for traditions and continued successes. Your attendance and support are paving the way for innovative programs, additional community partnerships, and overall increased exposure for Allerton.

Your tenacity helps provide the vision for a bright future that is now within reach.

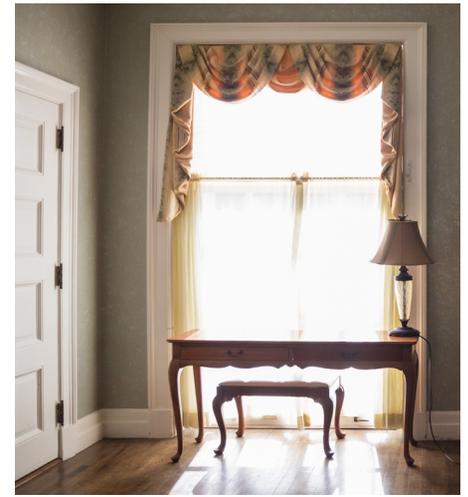
Join us as we construct Allerton's next exciting year in 2019. Add *your* force to the Allerton movement. Contribute *your* talent to the Allerton definition. Let this place become *your* passion. Go ALL IN for Allerton.

Derek Peterson
DEREK PETERSON, DIRECTOR



"I have seen the facility and the public offerings grow and get better every day during my lifetime. There are few places that inspire just by being. Allerton Park never disappoints."

– FACEBOOK REVIEWER



IMAGINE THE POSSIBILITIES

JORDAN ZECH, RETREAT CENTER MANAGER

With over 400 events a year, we have a lot of guests utilizing Allerton's facilities. Whether visitors are attending a wedding, conference, themed dinner, or simply visiting the Park, we encourage them to stay overnight in the Mansion or one of the nearby guest houses. Our priority is always making sure that guests have the best experience possible, regardless of the reason for their visit.



With an increase in lodging over the past couple years, our sales department has begun to focus more on this specific guest experience – ensuring there are comfortable and consistent amenities, along with tasteful and thoughtful décor. There are very few original pieces in the

Mansion, as Robert donated or auctioned off many before moving to Kauai. Over the years, furniture, décor, linen, and rugs have been pieced together to create a unique, but modest overnight experience. Using inspiration from historic photos and the few remaining original pieces, we are reviving the Mansion's interior, from window coverings to bed frames and linens to artwork.

As we continue to increase event revenue and support from individual donors, there is great opportunity to start to return Mansion guest rooms to a historic, yet functional era. As we work to become self-sufficient, it is critical that we are the best destination that we can be, offering guests the opportunity to experience Allerton to the fullest and encouraging them to come back for future visits. We hope you will join us and imagine the possibilities!



For more info on how you can help restore and endow specific Mansion rooms, contact our Associate Director of Advancement, Bridget, at BRIDGETF@ILLINOIS.EDU.

PLANT SALE 2018: MORE THAN JUST PLANTS

MICAH PUTMAN, ASSISTANT FACILITIES MANAGER

Picture this: It's 74 degrees and the sun is setting over the beautiful gardens at Allerton Park. Music is playing under café lights, and the scent of delicious food and sounds of laughter fill the air as kids run around and a group of workshop-goers chat. Oh, and there are plants for sale! This is a snapshot of Allerton's new-and-improved Plant Sale, held last May.

The addition of a Friday night sale brought a number of excellent add-ons. Activities included workshops by U of I Extension Educator Candice Hart and Becky Newton of Wren's Gate Flower Farm. The Bashful Youngens entertained with their sweet tunes, while the crowd enjoyed tasty treats from the Greenhouse Café and Dragon Fire Pizza. A free Kids' Potting Corner kept children busy on Saturday, while the Piatt County Master Gardeners helped steer plant novices in the right direction. Instructor Josie Heck led yoga in the Meadow to offer

Sunday's shoppers a relaxing breakout activity. 2018 was a year of amazing growth for Allerton's Fifth Annual Plant Sale. Not only did we add many activities, but we increased sales by 50 percent! Once again, Country Arbors Nursery in Urbana grew some amazing plants for us to sell – with all proceeds going directly to maintaining the gardens and grounds throughout the Park. We are so thankful for all those that came out to participate, and we look forward to continuing to grow in 2019 on May 3-5!



Interested in volunteering for the Plant Sale, or other public events? Contact our Public Engagement Coordinator, Mindy, at BRAND@ILLINOIS.EDU.



PHOTOGRAPHS COURTESY OF
DELLA PERRONE



ABOVE: In addition to our annual Concert Series, holiday events, hikes, and workshops, we added a variety of new offerings to our calendar in 2018. Our Mother's Day Tea, Aloha Allerton Luau, and Whiskey Dinner were all very successful events. Regardless of the season, we strive to have something coming up on Allerton's calendar for the community to attend, and we're busy planning more options in 2019!

DOUBLE THE CAMPERS, DOUBLE THE FUN

MINDY BRAND, PUBLIC OUTREACH COORDINATOR

Last summer saw a significant expansion of Allerton Day Camp, increasing the total number of campers accommodated from 70 to 143. Families from surrounding communities jumped at the chance to have more Allerton in their lives. If we could have predicted what an excellent summer it was going to be, we would have expanded camp long ago!

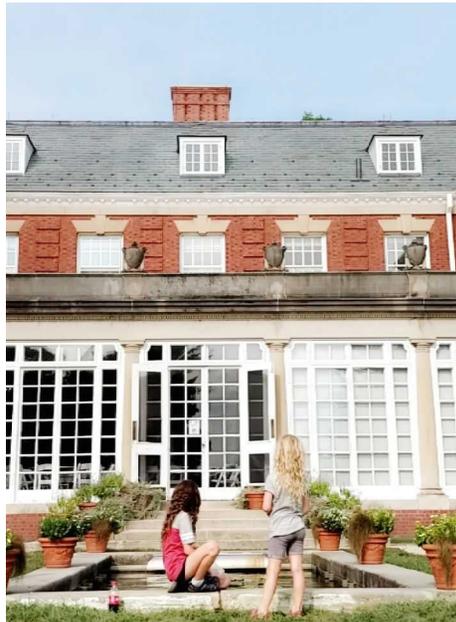
By all conventional standards, Allerton Day Camp 2018 was a huge success. We saw registration levels soar and more children attending than ever before, which is a wonderful thing. But what is the true measure of success for camp? It certainly can't be measured with numbers. What Allerton Day Camp strives to do is bring the outdoors back into children's lives. What we see when our campers spend the summer playing and exploring together outside is

wild imagination and relaxed engagement. They go home tired and happy. Learning is happening all around, but often campers don't even know it.

Outside of school, outside of electronics – camp is a place to run and play. Campers dug in the dirt, threw sticks into the Sangamon, and played tag in the Meadow. Some campers attended for one week, others registered for the entire summer. Either way, they all experienced Allerton Park in a way that we hope becomes a lifelong memory.



Find more events and programs to get your kids outdoors at **ALLERTON.ILLINOIS.EDU/YOUTH-PROGRAMS**.



ABOVE: "Our long-term plan for the Allerton Prairie and the surrounding forest is to manage invasive species and open up the forest, allowing for prescribed fire management. By opening up the young forest adjacent to the Allerton Prairie, we will be creating additional habitat for listed snake species, creating an open forest habitat that is currently under-represented at Allerton Park, and improving our ability to manage invasive species." – NATE BECCUE

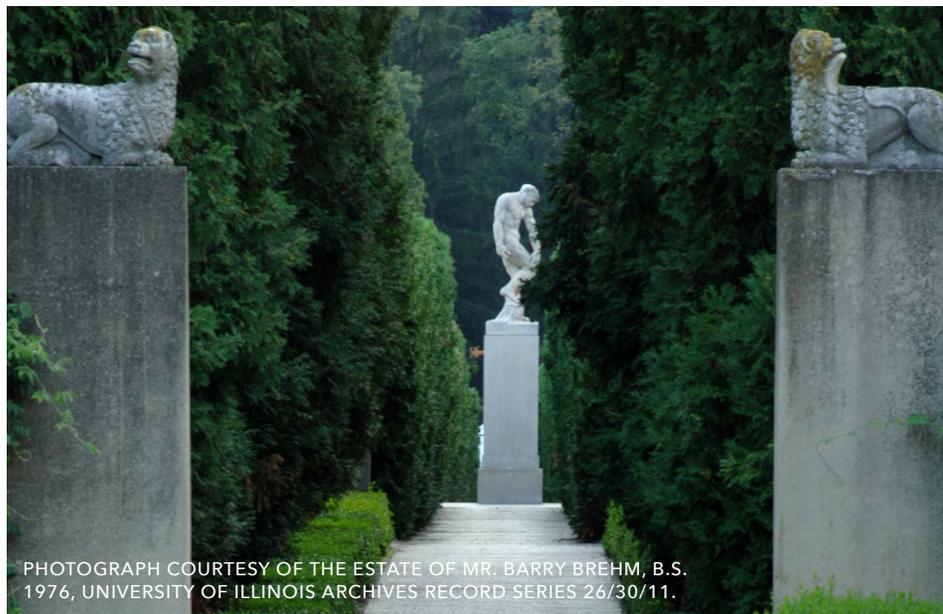


ABOVE: Thanks to an anonymous donor, Allerton was able to spend \$10,000 for a one-month forestry mower rental. The mower allowed Park staff to clear more than 50 acres of invasive species – a task which would have normally taken 5 years! – and expand Allerton's 52 acre prairie.



PHOTOGRAPH OF ENTRANCE DRIVE
DONORS DAVE & DEBBIE RATHJE
COURTESY OF DELLA PERRONE

ABOVE: "The new sidewalk that winds from the Main Parking Lot to the Mansion, in particular, is really a testament to the character of the Park: there's this moment where the trees open up to a spectacular view of the Mansion entrance – it's a moment of unexpected beauty that visitors often encounter around unassuming corners at Allerton." – DEREK PETERSON



PHOTOGRAPH COURTESY OF THE ESTATE OF MR. BARRY BREHM, B.S.
1976, UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS ARCHIVES RECORD SERIES 26/30/11.

ABOVE: New life will be given to Allerton's Triangle Parterre Garden this year, thanks to a donation from Dana Brehm and Larry Baumann, in remembrance of their sibling and brother-in-law, Barry Brehm (U of I Accountancy '76). The donation in memory of Barry will fund a complete renovation, and provide a named endowment for the long-term care and maintenance of the Garden.

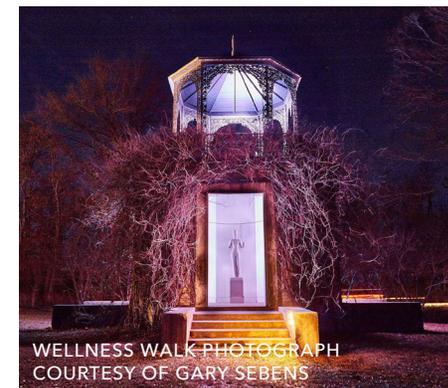
THE POWER OF MANY

BRIDGET FRERICHS, ASSOCIATE COORDINATOR OF ADVANCEMENT

One of the best parts of my job is talking with people about their personal Allerton story. It is such a unique place that holds fond memories and significance for so many. From first dates in the Meadow to exchanging vows in the gazebo... Finding peace after a traumatic experience, or being inspired to pursue a career protecting our natural resources. It is humbling and motivating to hear the diverse experiences had here, and to think about the importance of places like this in our society.

Another great part of my job is working with donors to help ensure future generations will continue to have these kinds of experiences. Protecting the trails, renovating a garden, or creating new programs – the large donations we receive pave the way for continued improvements and exciting endeavors. However, another source of funds that doesn't get enough attention are those from our Friends of Allerton fund. Not one large gift, but the collective power of many – many of you!

is significant. Over the past year, Friends of Allerton have helped expand the Kirby Winter Wellness Walk, fund musicians for our Concert Series, bring new art to the Park, purchase tools for the natural areas, update Mansion furniture, renovate the exterior of an Allerton-original building, and design the Main Parking Lot Beautification project.



WELLNESS WALK PHOTOGRAPH
COURTESY OF GARY SEBENS

As improvements are made and amenities are added, our staff hears many encouraging words from the community. People are noticing updates around the estate, the increase in public events, and the renewed vision for this historic place. It is no coincidence that these positive changes have increased as gifts to the Friends of Allerton fund increase. To those of you who have already gone ALL IN for Allerton this year – thank you for being a part of this revitalization. We appreciate your help spreading the word to others who may love Allerton but don't realize the impact of their yearly contribution – in any amount!



NEW ROTATING ART SCULPTURE
"CHICAGO PEACE TREE" BY NICOLE BECK

When you drop money in a donation box, respond to our ask letter, or make a gift online, you may wonder – "Does my 'small' gift even make a difference?" The answer – without a doubt – is YES! When you consider hundreds of your fellow Allerton enthusiasts who are contributing towards the same cause – the impact



Join our email list to receive news on Park updates, specials, and upcoming events – every two weeks, straight to your inbox. Sign up at ALLERTON.ILLINOIS.EDU.



ABOVE: Allerton's trails have gotten quite the facelift over the last year, thanks to generous donations from the McDonald Family and trail grants from the Illinois Department of Natural Resources. Problematic spots where water had eroded parts of the trail have been fixed and will keep the trails enjoyable for many years. Sections of the trails that are likely to hold moisture longer have received a new layer of gravel to help build the trail up and keep hikers' feet dry. Watch for more projects incorporating new culverts and gravel starting this spring!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL WORK AT ALLERTON

NATE BECCUE, NATURAL AREAS MANAGER

Allerton is home to a group of mounds now called 'Samuel's Mounds,' named after Robert Allerton's father. Samuel's Mounds consist of ten mounds thought to date to the Late Woodland Period, roughly 1,000 years ago. Mound groups like these were likely abundant up and down the Sangamon River pre-settlement, but unfortunately most mounds have been destroyed due to looting, agricultural practices, and development. Archeologists from the Illinois State Archeological Survey (ISAS) were happy to find that Samuel's Mounds are well preserved with only two having been damaged by historical looting.

In 2018, Parkland College Archeology Field School explored Allerton Park for the second year in a row. A group of six students led by Dr. B. Jacob Skousen (ISAS) focused their attention on woodland areas near Samuel's Mounds. One of the goals of the field school was to identify living areas associated with the Mound group. ISAS staff used non-invasive LiDAR, magnetometry, and soil resistivity to locate nearby areas of interest, and then the field school students

excavated a number of these areas. Excavated areas yielded a number of artifacts including projectile points, food preparation tools, and pottery sherds. The Field School will use Allerton again this year as they continue exploring the area surrounding the Mounds and the Mounds themselves.

The Allerton Archaeological Project is a joint, multi-year research and educational effort by ISAS, the Allerton Park staff, the University of Illinois, and Parkland College to understand the long-term cultural history of this protected segment of over 1,500 acres of the Sangamon River valley, especially concentrating on the poorly known native history. As the project wraps up, keep an eye out for new interpretive signage along the McDonald Family Trail explaining the location and history of the Mounds.



To learn about additional research projects being conducted at Allerton, visit [ALLERTON.ILLINOIS.EDU/RESEARCH](https://allerton.illinois.edu/research)





ONWARDS AND UPWARDS

If you happened to miss the excitement last April – Allerton celebrated the Grand Opening of the Greenhouse Café! This cozy addition to the Visitor Center is the perfect place to stop during a visit to Allerton. The Café, managed by the Zybell House, serves seasonal and weekly specials – not to mention delicious coffee – and offers a place to rest and relax amid the nature and beauty of the Park. Guests can eat in the dining area, take their lunch out to the Meadow for a picnic, or enjoy their meal on the outdoor patio.

The newly-paved patio is thanks to a gift from Deborah and Michael Westjohn, who worked with Allerton staff and the University of Illinois

Foundation to transfer funds directly from their IRA. Their gift replaced the patio's pea gravel with a concrete aggregate, while also helping fulfill their required minimum distribution. The Westjohn's gift, made in memory of Henry and Elisabeth Westjohn, also provides an endowment for the long-term care of the space.

The addition of the Greenhouse Café and the patio improvements are the first of many updates visitors will see in the area surrounding the current Visitor Center. Plans for new programming spaces, relocating the Visitor Center, and adding a new streetscape are in the works, but require additional funding.

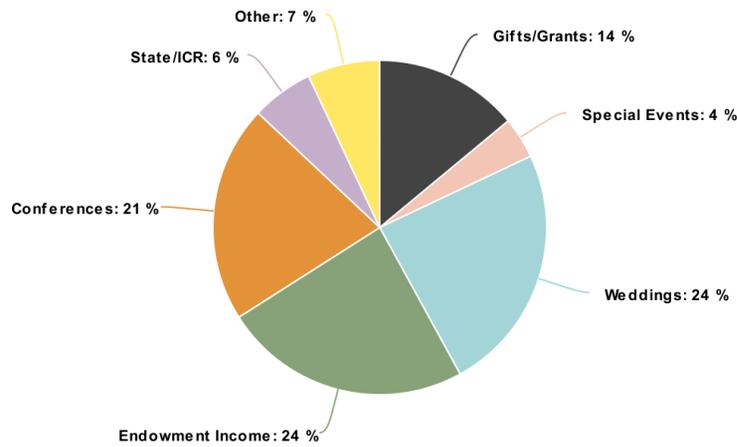


ABOVE: "There are several historic buildings across the street from the current Visitor Center that we are reimagining as lodging facilities, as well as 'resident' spaces. So it might be an artist, teacher, or maybe naturalist in residence. There are really endless opportunities for public programs and community engagement." – BRIDGET FRERICH

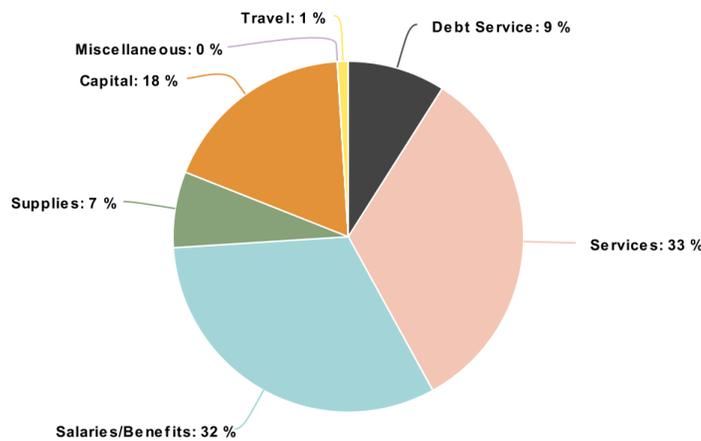
A SNAPSHOT OF ALLERTON'S FY18 FINANCIALS

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR QUESTIONS, CONTACT OUR BUSINESS MANAGER, JAN, AT JKGILL@ILLINOIS.EDU.

FY18 REVENUE BREAKDOWN



FY18 EXPENSE BREAKDOWN



"We were impressed with the staff's attention to every detail and every request that we made, and we appreciated all of their small touches that made our wedding weekend so special. We hosted our guests for the entire weekend on the property. It is not an exaggeration to say that every single one of our guests pulled us aside to comment on the staff's professionalism, kindness, and helpfulness, and they all remarked on how well the Mansion and grounds were maintained. We love Allerton and knew it would be the most beautiful location for our wedding, but it was truly transformed for 48 hours thanks to the skill of your team. It was better than we could have imagined, and we credit the entire team's hard work, excellent service, and thoughtful kindness to us and our guests." – JANA & BRYAN, MARCH 2018

YES! I'M **ALL IN** FOR ALLERTON!



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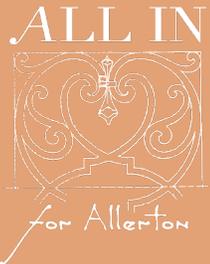
THE ALLERTON PARK ENDOWMENT (774262) THE FRIENDS OF ALLERTON (330330)

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We wouldn't be where we are without the support of our donors. Join a family of loyal patrons today, by giving to Allerton Park & Retreat Center! Find out more at allerton.illinois.edu/all-in.

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To give by credit card, please visit
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Your tax-deductible gift will be processed and received by the University of Illinois Foundation.

For more information on giving opportunities or specific projects, please contact Bridget Frerichs at bridgetf@illinois.edu or 217-333-3287.



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