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4600 Miles
72 Days
28 Riders
2 Wheels
1 Cause

2015

Year In Review



www.Illini4000.org

www.portraitsproject.org

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2015 Ride Recap

“ No matter how far apart or how different our backgrounds are, there will always be things that tie us together. ”



‘A summer on I4k is a very unique experience, and trying to put all the intricacies and details into words is almost as daunting a task as the longest climb. 28 of us left for New York this past May with bikes in hand and nearly 4700 miles ahead of us once we got there. Some of us had known each other for years, while some of the off-campus riders were first introduced to everyone in person when we met at the train station. We had students from Illinois, Arkansas, Ohio, Spain, Japan, China, and Malaysia, with majors in everything from Industrial Design to Physics, Political Science to Chemistry.

The summer wasn’t without its challenges, but the team pushed through rain (you’d think Utah would be pretty dry in the summer, but you’d be wrong), funnel clouds, bitter cold (we learned it still gets down to 40 degrees F at the end of July in Crater Lake...while camping outside), and scorching heat (110 degrees in the Sacramento Valley), but in doing so we were able to raise over \$100,000 for cancer research and support services and meet some truly amazing people who have stared cancer in the face and refused to back down.

The generosity of our hosts and the kindness of people we meet throughout the country never fails to be a source of humility. I think I can safely speak for the entire team when I say that the connections made with other people over the summer, whether it be within the team or the hundreds of others we meet, are truly unforgettable and a reminder that no matter how far apart or how different our backgrounds are, there will always be things that tie us together. Whether it is sharing in the experience of having gone through or having a loved one go through cancer, wanting to help improve the health and wellness of our society in the future, or simply sitting down and sharing a meal and conversation with members of a community, these connections offer a very sobering reminder that for all the world can provide, at the end of the day all we really need are people to share it with.’

Ben Wooley, 2015 Ride Leader

The **TEAM**



Top (left to right)

Tony Siu, Jack Feldman, Zack Zlevor, Samantha Yadron, Benjamin Wooley, Joesph Lee, Diego Apraiz, Jason Hempstead, Angelica Czarnicka, Shutian Xu, Khrystyna Kozak, Liz Berger, Kevin Gibbons, Emmy Sakakibara

Bottom

Sarah Virgo, Sean McCarty, Alexandra Kott, Lauraleigh Heffner, Hannah Burkhardt, Hannah Russell, Sarah Halko, Corinne Mckenna, Jane Phang, Haley Johnson, Carrie Watkins, Lisa Huang, Brian Wu, *not pictured Andrew Kerr



Riders enjoy the sights of Crater Lake National Park



Jason Hempstead looks out towards the rockies at an elevation of 10,390 ft

THE Portraits Project

A PORTRAIT OF CANCER ACROSS AMERICA

Without a doubt, it's an incredible feat to raise money for cancer research and patient services by riding a bicycle across the country. But the Illini 4000 is so much more than that. As we journey across America, we interview people from all walks of life to create the Portraits Project--a collection of narratives that serves to document the American cancer experience and gives patients, survivors, and caregivers the chance to share their stories. By sharing these stories, we hope to unite a community of powerful people and provide resources to inspire others as we have been inspired by the people we meet. I believe that the Portraits Project is what makes the Illini 4000 truly special and sets us apart from other cancer fighting organizations.



“ These interactions **inspire** riders to persevere. ”

Left: Riders engaged in a Portrait

Throughout this summer, the 2015 Trek Bike America team sat down with people they met during their journey at gas stations, churches, and rest stops and listened to their stories. The team conducted 42 Portraits—each one remarkable in its own way. Sean Mccarty, one of the Portraits Project coordinators on the ride, reflected on his experience: “Each portrait was as amazing as the last and no two stories were the same. I remember one story where a woman who took hormone injections in order to grow stem cells for her brother because it was basically the only way that he was going to make it through. Being able to see how strong the ties are between the people all around us is truly an extraordinary thing.” These interactions inspire riders to persevere on hard days. Through the Portraits Project, we learn that cancer doesn't discriminate. It truly touches the lives of so many people, and we are so grateful to those who shared their stories with us.

This year's Portraits Project board is full of talented and motivated individuals that will continue to share these stories in new ways, build a Portraits community, and provide resources for patients, survivors, and caregivers. Our exciting plans for this year include creating a Portraits book, hosting galleries and other events, and constantly adding new text, photos, and videos to our website. Check out portraitsproject.org and stay tuned for more Portraits updates!

Catherine Kemp, Portraits Project Director

Our HOSTS

What we do would not be possible without the kindness and generosity of our hosts. We are fortunate enough to have arranged places to stay every night that offer provide us with meals, showers, and great company.

May:

5/23 New City, NY
5/24 Beacon, NY
5/25 Albany, NY
5/26 Little Falls, NY
5/27 Syracuse, NY
5/28 Palmyra, NY
5/29 Rochester, NY
5/30 Niagara Falls, NY
5/31 Westfield, NY

6/17 La Crosse, WI
6/18 Rochester, MN
6/19 Rochester Event Day
6/20 Lake Mills, IA
6/21 Emmetsburg, IA
6/22 Storm Lake, IA
6/23 Sioux City, IA
6/24 Norfolk, NE
6/25 Grand Island, NE
6/26 Holdrege, NE
6/27 McCook, NE
6/28 Wray, CO
6/29 Fort Morgan, CO
6/30 Denver, CO

7/14 Rupert, ID
7/15 Twin Falls, ID
7/16 Glens Ferry, ID
7/17 Boise, ID
7/18 Boise Event Day
7/19 Ontario, OR
7/20 Unity Lake, OR
7/21 John Day, OR
7/22 Paulina, OR
7/23 Bend, OR
7/24 Bend Event Day
7/25 Crescent, OR
7/26 Crater Lake, OR
7/27 Klamath Falls, OR
7/28 Mt Shasta, CA
7/29 Redding, CA
7/30 Orland, CA
7/31 Clear Lake, CA

June:

6/1 Ashtabula, OH
6/2 Cleveland, OH
6/3 Cleveland Event Day
6/4 Canton, OH
6/5 Zanesville, OH
6/6 Columbus, OH
6/7 Richmond, IN
6/8 Indianapolis, IN
6/9 Rockville, IN
6/10 Champaign, IL
6/11 Bradley, IL
6/12 Chicago, IL
6/13 Chicago Event Day
6/14 McHenry, IL
6/15 Waterloo, WI
6/16 Wisconsin Dells, WI

July:

7/1 Denver Event Day
7/2 Denver Event Day
7/3 Idaho Springs, CO
7/4 Granby, CO
7/5 Steamboat Springs, CO
7/6 Maybell, CO
7/7 Vernal, UT
7/8 Starvation, UT
7/9 Herber City, UT
7/10 Salt Lake City, UT
7/11 Salt Lake City Event Day
7/12 Logan, UT
7/13 Pocatello, ID

August:

8/1 Petaluma, CA
8/2 San Francisco, CA
8/3 San Francisco Event Day

Contact Us!

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If you have any general comments or questions about our organization email us at:

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For more information about Illini 4000:

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For more information about the Portraits Project:

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