

# ISI Insider



## Norm Stuba Retires

It was 1980. Norm Stuba was a second-year apprentice carpenter working in single-family housing—an industry heading for a downturn. A buddy at the union hall suggested to Norm that he call Bud Sprenzel and inquire about work at Installation Specialists.



Norm Stuba

Norm made the call and got an offer. “I can’t promise anything beyond two or three weeks of work,” Bud said, “but if you’d like to take it and see where it goes, we’ll talk.”

“It’s been a very long two weeks,” as Norm likes to tell it. Indeed it has. Norm’s two weeks of trial employment turned into a 37-year career as an ISI installer and foreman. There have been plenty of individual and team accomplishments along the way, and successful projects too numerous to mention.

Reflecting on Norm’s career with ISI, Matt Sprenzel said, “We’ve jokingly called him Stormin’ Norman, but the reality is that Norm Stuba has always been an extremely calm, patient individual. Those qualities made him a strong leader. He’s also been very good at training people and getting them to exemplify the dedication to thoroughness and quality workmanship that sets ISI apart. The ISI Team is going to miss Norm greatly.”



Showing himself again to be a builder through and through, Norm plans to kick off his retirement from ISI with a kitchen remodeling project. Beyond that, he and his wife, Carolynn, look forward to spending more time at their home in Wisconsin. Carolynn hopes to retire in the near future as well.

We wish Norm and Carolynn all the best!

## Companywide Meeting in September

Our latest companywide meeting provided some important looks back for ISI and even more of a look ahead.

Matt Sprenzel’s review of the business from late 2016 to the present and a little beyond helped to put the challenges and achievements of 2017 into perspective for everyone.

Newer ISI teammates received something of a history lesson as Matt remarked on the retirements of Norm Stuba and, earlier this year, Don Palka, each a long-serving member of the ISI field team. Rich Moore further heightened the sense of ISI’s history as a service provider and employer by spotlighting Tom Antonik (35 years), Ed Pulido (25 years), and the installers shown in boldface type in Career Milestones.

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## 29th Annual Holiday for Hope

For the third consecutive year, ISI will be a corporate sponsor of Holiday for Hope, an annual daylong event featuring children’s activities, lunch, and a visit from Santa bearing gifts for the children.

The hundreds of children who participate are primarily homeless or from area shelters who might not otherwise have the opportunity to enjoy a traditional Christmas holiday.

Holiday for Hope, now in its 29th year, will be held Saturday, December 16, at Broadway Armory from 9:00 to 3:00.

In addition to providing financial support and in-kind gifts, ISI organizes volunteers to assist with the day’s activities. Last year, several dealer staff members also participated on the ISI volunteer team. All of our volunteers have commented on how much they enjoyed interacting with the children.

Consider participation in Holiday for Hope as a part of your holiday giving. It is a great way to give back to the community, and we can assure you it will be a rewarding and unforgettable experience. Activities range from assisting with arts and crafts projects and monitoring sports events to helping serve food.

► We invite ISI staff members, dealers and clients to join the ISI volunteer team. To volunteer, contact Kelli Conway ([kconway@isi-install.com](mailto:kconway@isi-install.com)). Contact Rich Moore ([rmoore@isi-install.com](mailto:rmoore@isi-install.com)) for event details.

## HOLIDAY SCHEDULE THRU YEAR END

ISI will be closed for holiday observance on the following days.

Thanksgiving..... Thursday, November 23  
 Christmas..... Monday, December 25  
 New Year’s Day..... Monday, January 1



## Save the Date!

The ISI Employee Holiday Party is scheduled for Friday, December 22. We hope to see everyone take part in the festivities.

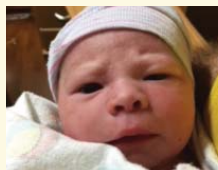
## IN THE FAMILY

**Xavier Jimenez** — “Thanks from the bottom of my heart for all the love and support everyone has given me,” Xavier wrote as he continues to recover at home from injuries sustained in an auto accident. It looks like Xavier will be unable to work for quite a while and surgery may become necessary. If you can lend a hand, please visit the donation page that was set up to help offset medical expenses and lost wages: <https://www.gofundme.com/vs9ksx-lost-wages>.

**Mike Palka** — Congratulations to Mike and his wife, Shana, on the birth of Cameron Michael Palka in mid-October. Cameron was 9 lbs 2 oz and 21-1.2”. Big sis, Chesney Marie, is delighted by his arrival.



**Jim Sheridan** — “Mom and baby doing great,” Jim wrote in his October 30th email reporting the arrival of Elle Sullivan Sheridan. She was 6.3 lbs, 19”. Congratulations to Jim and his wife, Megan.



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Proven Progressive Professional

CAREER MILESTONES

We wish to recognize the accomplishments of the ISI staff members with employment anniversaries falling in April through September 2017.

Years of Service

APRIL

<b>Marty Minogue</b> .....	<b>25</b>
<b>Eric Strom</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Juan Gallegos.....	24
Kurt Logan.....	22
Juan Escamilla.....	17
Angel Vizcarra.....	17
Craig Wagner.....	11
Brian Peyton.....	10
Dave Shea.....	10
Kelli Conway.....	8
Terence Kohout.....	6
Santos Martinez.....	6
Steve Kosacz.....	5
Tom Miglieri.....	5
Mitzy Aviles.....	4

MAY

Jason Van Schiak.....	19
Michelle Koller.....	15
Mike Palka.....	13
Debbie Postma.....	11
Juan Cruz.....	10
Jim Mack.....	10
Jeff Robbins.....	8
Xavier Jimenez.....	5
Mike Lopez.....	5
Javier Angulo.....	4
Jim Bard.....	4
Chris Fry.....	4
Mike Hermanson.....	4
Dave Kiley.....	4
Gary Skala.....	4

JUNE

Ted Vandersnick.....	29
Ed Kalupski.....	26
John Palka.....	18
Jim Sheridan.....	12
Paul Thoreson.....	11
Andy McCarthy.....	10
Joe Skubak.....	9
Dave Banialis.....	6
Simon Martinez Sr.....	6
Eric Sprenzel.....	5

Years of Service

JUNE CONTINUED

Freddie Laboy.....	4
Derek Lorens.....	4
Dave Rydberg.....	4
Jake Triezenberg.....	4

JULY

Myra Valencia.....	27
<b>Vic Lampasona</b> .....	<b>20</b>
Tony Jansto.....	19
Tom Hum.....	17
Craig Swiecki.....	11
Dan Rogers.....	8
Albert Garcia.....	7
Alex Ojeda.....	4
Simon Martinez Jr.....	4

AUGUST

<b>Al Herrmann</b> .....	<b>30</b>
<b>Rick Ziarko</b> .....	<b>25</b>
Jim Oesterle.....	24
Ken Maschek.....	23
Erik Wyman.....	21
Rob Luckett.....	19
Dan O’Keeffe.....	18
John Duncan.....	15
Judy Cruikshank.....	14
Fred Howard.....	12
Craig Wagner.....	12
Matt Wagner.....	12
Kevin Palka.....	10
Dave Baumann.....	8
Willie Gildart.....	8
Jamie Beres.....	7
Victor Lopez.....	5
Meghan Winkler.....	5
Rich Moore.....	2

SEPTEMBER

Mike Troesch.....	24
Travis DeRossett.....	18
Mark Sprenzel.....	17
Gary Gocal.....	16
Ken Kruk.....	12
Kevin Wyman.....	11

Companywide Meeting Continued



Looking ahead, Matt outlined the management team’s key initiatives for 2018, including operational and technology developments.

Members of our Chicago-based marketing team gave an overview of their process and goals for furthering the ISI brand. And our insurance company rep spoke on fire extinguisher use and emergency exit procedures for our building.



KUDOS

Thank you to everyone at ISI for your professionalism and consistent efforts to make each project a success. We appreciate that our clients have taken the time to recognize the hard work of those mentioned below.

**From:** Account Manager, Dealer  
**Foreman:** Gary Gocal

“You have been amazing to work with. Thank you for all your hard work! I hope to work with you again.”

**From:** Sales Coordinator, Dealer  
**Foreman:** Kevin Burgard  
**PC:** Debbie Postma

“Kevin and Debbie really went above and beyond yesterday to help me out. I forgot to send in the purchase order for some additional work to be done. It was not looking so good to make it happen but Kevin did it! A big thank you to him! Thanks to both of them! It was greatly appreciated.”

**From:** Director of Project Management, Dealer  
**Installers:** John Palka (foreman), Al Ziarko (foreman), Javier Angulo, Dave Banialis, Bob Cullen, Tait Erikson, Juan Escamilla, Rich Green, Tom Hum, Dave Kiley, Nick Klem, Paul McGrath, Tom Miglieri, Raymond Monahan, Kevin Palka, Adam Post, Thomas Riley, Dan Rogers, Javier Saucedo, Mike Schmutz, Jim Sheridan, Joe Skubak, Mike Sprenzel, Craig Swiecki, Chris Vermeulen, Mark Wakitsch, Rick Ziarko

“John, once again, your expertise, diligence and attention to detail have made this project successful. You were a hero out there! We could not have done this without you and your team. I cannot thank you enough.”

**Dealer’s Account Executive:** “I want to echo our PM’s gratitude. I don’t know how we would have done this without you. We truly appreciate your hard work and dedication and brain power! This was probably the most complicated reconfiguration I have ever been involved with. You, your gang of merry men and our PM did a remarkable job! We are very lucky to have such great people to partner with. Many thanks.”

**From:** Business Development Manager, Dealer  
**Installers:** Dave Selep (foreman), Juan Escamilla, Steve Hansen, Fred Howard, Greg

**Jamrozy, Marlon Lopez, Mike Palka, Javier Saucedo, Mike Sprenzel, Tim Webster**  
**PC:** Mitzy Aviles

“Thank you for your diligence and attention to recover from the manufacturer’s shipment issues. Your help in making it all happen is greatly appreciated!”

**From:** Account Executive, Dealer  
**Installers:** Derek Lorens (foreman), Ron Abernathy, Juan Gallegos, Matt Wyman, Jesus Zanabria

**PC:** Mitzy Aviles  
**Sales:** Tom Robbins

“Thanks very much, ISI Team! Your accommodations throughout are much appreciated.

Mitzy, you are incredible! Thanks so much for being one of the few action-oriented people in this whole process! I owe you.”

**From:** Sr. Account Manager, Dealer  
**Installers:** Gary Gocal (foreman), Jose Alvarez, Javier Angulo, Collin Armistead, Juan Escamilla, Greg Jamrozy, Kurt Logan, Tom Miglieri, Dave Selep

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**KUDOS CONTINUED**

“Looks wonderful! Thank you again for all your hard work. It’s a pleasure working with ISI.”

**From:** Account Executive, Dealer  
**Installers:** Rob Manley (foreman), John Duncan, Tait Erickson, Willie Gildart, Tony Jansto, George Melendez, John Miniuk, Raul Rivera, Javier Saucedo, Craig Swiecki, Chris Vermeulen, Mark Wakitsch, Rick Ziarko

“Thank you to Rob. See the note below.”

*General Manager, Corporate Client:* “It turned out great; just what we envisioned. Robert and team did a great job.”

**From:** Sales Team Member, Dealer  
**Installers:** Norm Stuba (foreman), Eric Strom, Greg Kuczer

“Thank you, thank you, thank you! As usual, you guys hit it out of the ballpark. My island went back perfectly and am suspecting better than the original install! Norm, Eric and Greg were just great, and also assisted in moving my other furniture back. So grateful to have such stellar guys professionally and personally.”

**From:** Project Manager, General Contractor  
**Installers:** Gary Gocal (foreman), Jim Sgrignoli

“Thanks again for a great project. You guys did a great job!”

**From:** Project Design Consultant, Dealer  
**Installers:** Ted Vandersnick (foreman), Tom Antonik, Kevin Burgard, Travis DeRossett, Dan Faucher, Ro Fierro, Mike Grzych, Jack Halter, Modelle Jonkins, Nick Klem, Greg Kuczer, Jim Mack, George Melendez, Jim Oesterle, Ed Pulido, Erik Robbins, Jeff Robbins

“Ted, thank you so much for all your patience on this job! You have been wonderful to work with.”

**From:** Facilities Specialist, Corporate Client  
**Installers:** Vic Lampasona (foreman), Tom Antonik, Steve Markasovic, Ed Wittke, Jesus Zanabria

“Vic is a tremendous asset and a great guy to work alongside. ISI has been fantastic to work with overall.”

**From:** Account Manager, Dealer  
**Installers:** Al Ziarko (foreman), Bob Cullen, Willie Gildart, Rich Green, Dave Kiley, Terence Kohout, Ken Kruk, Paul McGrath, John Miniuk, Mike Palka, Frank Pileggi, Adam Post, Dan Rogers, Joe Skubak, Mike Sprezel, Eric Strom, Angel Vizcarra

“Nice job! Thanks for all your hard work. See client’s email below.”

*Dealer’s client:* “I must say, they did a stellar job! Thank you.”

**From:** Director of Distribution, Corporate Client  
**Installers:** Joe Failla (foreman), Raul Rivera

“Can we get Joe and Raul back for the reinstall? They’re awesome!”

**From:** Business Development, Dealer  
**Installers:** Jim Oesterle (foreman), Mike Grzych, Jorge Quinonez, Dave Rydberg

“Thanks, Jim. You and your team did a great job!”

**From:** Account Executive, Dealer  
**Foreman:** Gary Gocal

“My client is beyond thrilled and incredibly complimentary of you and the ISI team. Thank you so much for making our customer happy!”

**Celebrating Our 2017 Graduates**

The Insider recognizes the educational accomplishments of the ISI family members named below. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

8TH GRADE	GRADUATED FROM	WENT ON TO
Elizabeth Cahill	Manteno Middle School	Manteno High School
Aodhan Bard	Traugher Junior High School	Oswego High School
Anthony Miglieri	Brooks Middle School	Bolingbrook High School
Sophia Nungaray	Gunsaulus Academy	Lane Tech High School
Rocco Sgrignoli	Central Middle School	Tinley Park High School
Ricky Stachura	Glen Westlake Middle School	Glen Westlake High School

HIGH SCHOOL	GRADUATED FROM	WENT ON TO
Allison Baumann	Naperville Central High School	University of Iowa
Travis Oesterle	Plainfield Central High School	West Kentucky College
Alex Postma	Wheaton North High School	Indiana State University
Matthew Postma	Wheaton North High School	Augustana College
Diego Pulido	Naperville Central School	Iowa State University
Rachel Sherman	Bezael Home School	Elgin Community College

COLLEGE	GRADUATED FROM	CURRENT ACTIVITY
Michelle Kalupski	University of Connecticut	Internship with Riddell B.A., Communication & Journalism

**Industry Events**

ISI thanks the many industry groups that have organized networking events in recent months. The events are great opportunities to experience the warmth and professionalism that characterize the commercial interiors field. ISI representatives enjoyed participating in the John Buck Spring Fling, the Advocate Children’s Hospital Golf Classic, the CBRE Charity Bash at Wrigley, the CREW Golf Outing, the CoreNet Golf Classic, and the FSN Fall Meeting in NYC.



**October Stumper**

What Chicago landmark opened November 11, 1924?

\$25 gift card to the first person submitting the correct answer by 11/10/17. Email [kellie@isi-install.com](mailto:kellie@isi-install.com), Subject: Fall Stumper.

**Last Stumper Winner:** Gale Kezios from Office Revolution. **Answer:** The iconic Farnsworth House, in Plano, IL, was designed and constructed between 1945 and 1951 by **Ludwig Mies van der Rohe**, a leader of the German modern movement in the early 20th century.

**2017 Chicago Marathon**  
 Finishing in 3:54:42, ISI sales team member Mark Sprezel completed his fifth Bank of America Chicago Marathon, raising \$3,475 for SCC/ Special Olympics Chicago. Congratulations, Mark, and thanks to everyone who supported Mark’s run!

