



Volume 10 Number 1
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ISUAAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

From the President

by Chuck McGuire

Let's take a minute to congratulate ourselves and celebrate! On May 8, the Illinois Supreme Court handed down its decision in *Heaton v. Flynn*, otherwise known as *In re: Pension Litigation*, in which the court held P.A. 98-599 unconstitutional in a unanimous decision. That statute had severely limited pension rights for SURS participants, along with all other state employees (except judges).

The court made swift work of the question of whether the law was unconstitutional, saying "... there is simply no way that the annuity reduction provisions... can be reconciled with the rights and protections established by the people of Illinois when they ratified... [the] pension protection clause."

The court spent a little more time dealing with the state's argument that the state's "reserved sovereign powers," also known as the police powers, permitted the state to override the rights and protections provided by the Constitution. The court reviewed the legislative history of the pension protection clause in 1970, the history of Illinois pension laws going back to 1917, case law from Illinois as early as 1935 and as late as 2014 (*Kanerva*), and case law from other jurisdictions. The state's related reliance on the "contracts clause" was rejected rather summarily with the statement "[t]he State could not, as a matter of law, clear the threshold imposed under contemporary contract clause jurisprudence." (The term "as a matter of law" is critical, showing that the court would not permit a hearing on the facts as to whether the state's finances were so dire that the pension protection clause should be ignored.)

It is important to note that statements in the decision indicate that protections begin *when employment begins*. In speaking of adding benefits to the pensions of existing employees, the court said "[o]nce the additional benefits are in place and the employee continues to work [and] remains a member of a covered retirement system... the additional benefits cannot be unilaterally diminished or eliminated." (citing cases.) (note 13, p.20).

The court concluded with soaring language, indicating that even in the face of crisis – and in fact especially in the face of crisis—governments must follow the law. "Crisis is not an excuse to abandon the rule of law. It is a summons to defend it." The court quoted from the U.S. Supreme Court and even from James Madison, "If men were angels, no government would be necessary."

Following the decision, there appears to be little room to maneuver for the legislature. Several schemes have been advanced, but it seems clear that constitutional legislative solutions are indeed rare. More likely is a long-term effort to change the constitution or even eliminate the pension protection clause. Our lobbyists and lawyers continue to work for you, and we will keep you advised.

On another front, you should have received your refund of health insurance premiums following the *Kanerva* decision. It was due to the efforts of our legal team that SURS recipients actually received a refund. The refund reflects a 2.37 percent attorney's fee.

So far so good. Maybe next time this article won't have to be about legal issues....

Finally, our thanks to the sponsor of this issue of the ISUAA Newsletter, the College of Fine Arts. Please note the offer to ISUAA members on page 5.

ISUAA Fall Breakfast

Following a number of requests and suggestions, ISUAA is reviving the tradition of the **Annual Fall Breakfast** to begin the academic year. The breakfast will be held at 8:30 a.m. on September 2 in the Old Main Room. The featured speaker will be President Larry Dietz, and First Lady Marlene Dietz will be our honored guest. President Dietz will provide his outlook for ISU for the coming year.

The menu will include a fruit cup, orange juice, two types of scrambled eggs (one with bacon and one with veggies), assorted breads and pastries, and coffee and assorted teas. Once again, door prizes will be awarded, including game tickets and other big prizes. Price will be \$13.50 per person.

The breakfast was an important part of the ISUAA heritage for many years. It is a great opportunity to kick off the year, reconnect with friends, and hear the great story about ISU from our president.

Fill out your reservation form now, and join us in September!

ISUAA Fall Breakfast reservation form

Wednesday, September 2, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

featuring President Larry Dietz

NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING

EMAIL

Please reserve _____ meal(s) at \$13.50 each.

A check for \$ _____ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Remember the Bloomington mail facility is closed and mail will take longer to deliver. Please mail the reservation form no later than August 20 to ISUAA Campus Box 8000, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-8000. Reservations must be received no later than August 22. No phone reservations please!

Annuitants Association election results/annual meeting summary

The ISU Annuitant's Association annual meeting and dinner was held on June 10 in the Old Main Room of Bone Student Center. Christ Schwelle, chair of the Nominating Committee, presented the slate of candidates and opened nominations from the floor. Gail Lamb was re-elected as vice president and Neil Gridley was re-elected as treasurer. Also re-elected were directors Jan Cook and Marie Dawson. Continuing in their positions are Chuck McGuire, president, Jan Bremner, secretary, and directors Roger Cann and Christ Schwelle.

Attendees were especially interested in Chuck McGuire's report on the role played by SUAA in convincing the Illinois Supreme Court to compel the state to adhere to the constitutional protection of retirement benefits, and his analysis of possible future threats to the well-being of ISU retirees and current faculty/staff. McGuire encouraged contributions to the SUAA Legal Fund.

SUAA Legal Fund: lawsuits cost money

The dues that you pay to ISUAA and to SUAA cover costs such as the four newsletters you receive from ISUAA and the lobbyists who work on your behalf to protect your interests before the Legislature. The lawsuits are paid for entirely out of individual contributions to the SUAA Legal Fund. AN IDEA: Why not contribute a portion of the refund of your health insurance premiums to the legal fund? If you wish to contribute, send a check to: SUAA Legal Fund 217 E. Monroe Street, Suite 100 Springfield, IL 62701 Contributions to the SUAA Legal Fund are not tax-deductible.

Thanks, Mary!

Mary Liverman has decided to step down from her role as chair of our Survivor's Advocacy program after many years. Her work on behalf of survivors of SURS Annuitants has been incredible and vital to so many. Nancy Spangler has agreed to take on that role, and Mary as agreed to provide advice and counsel during the transition.

In memoriam

Vernelle Armour.....	5/30/15
Helen Busse.....	3/11/15
George Cunningham.....	1/17/15
Joanne Hartman.....	1/20/15
Roma Humenick.....	1/12/15
Elizabeth Kessinger.....	1/8/15
Russell Krieg.....	2/16/15
Judith Nelson.....	3/12/15
Eilene Toberman.....	4/18/15
Mary Witham.....	3/23/15
Margaret Woodburn.....	4/16/15

ISUAA online directory

As a result of increasing printing and postage costs, ISUAA is making some changes in the annual member directory. Beginning with the next (2015-16) issue, the directory will be available in an electronic format.

If you wish to continue receiving a printed copy by mail, we will make those available on a cost-sharing basis. Below you will find a form that should be returned by November 1, 2015, along with a check for \$5 to cover printing and postage.

If you are at all familiar with computers, you may wish to use the online version alone. It will be available anywhere, and you don't have to pack the book!

Make your newsletter electronic

Please consider receiving your ISUAA newsletter electronically. Printing and postage costs are rising, and the mail service is never as "on time" or as reliable as we would like. The ISUAA newsletter that you are currently reading is available online on the ISUAA website, Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu. Past issues are available, as is a great deal of information about ISUAA.

If you prefer the electronic version, please email crmogui@IllinoisState.edu, simply stating that you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, along with your name and email

address. You will be placed on the electronic distribution list and will receive notification and an email link when the newsletter is published. It's printable, and it's easy!

Helping Hamper

By Jan Cook

Our September Helping Hamper will benefit the Crisis Nursery at the Children's Foundation in Bloomington. The nursery provides shelter for children up to age 9 during a family crisis, such as a fire or the hospitalization of a sibling, when family adults are not able to care for them. The nursery can use clean used children's clothing and toys, healthy snacks, and cute paper plates or napkins.

The June Helping Hamper collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry brought in cash; food, including packaged fruit, salad dressing and canned goods; and dozens of packages of deodorant, razors and bar soap to help folks feel clean in our sticky summer weather.

We continue to collect "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education" to support the Thomas Metcalf School PTO. Yes, we care about education!

Thanks!

Illinois State Annuitants Association



ISUAA Directory

In the 2015-16 academic year, an electronic version of the ISUAA directory will be made available to members. If you wish to continue receiving a hard-copy version by mail, please return the following form by **November 1, 2015**, with a \$5 payment to cover printing and postage costs to:

Annuitants Association, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL, 61790-8000

YES! I want to continue receiving the printed, paper copy of the ISUAA annuitants directory in the mail.

My \$5 payment (cash or check) is enclosed.

NAME

ADDRESS

CITY

STATE

ZIP

HOME PHONE

MOBILE PHONE

PREFERRED EMAIL ADDRESS



Retiree information hotline

Have a question? Need an answer? Don't know whom to contact? Call (309) 438 4311, the phone line answered by Human Resources just for retirees and surviving spouses. Staff will either direct you to the needed resource or take your name and number and have someone follow-up with you.

The ISU University Club fall semester events

Kay Wilson and Bob Preston

The ISU University Club is open to Illinois State University faculty, staff, administrative professionals, and annuitants. We provide an informal and friendly environment where we gather on a weekly basis to socialize with friends and make new ones. Short talks are presented during our Discussion Hours, where we learn about the University and the local community and have an opportunity to get to know our diverse and interesting colleagues. You do not have to be a member to attend, and we strongly encourage those who are interested in any of our programs to drop by.

Discussion Hours: We meet every Friday with the exception of academic holidays from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Faculty/Staff Commons of Bone Student Center. The first meeting for the fall semester is Friday, August 21. More information about events and activities can be found on our website: Uclub.IllinoisState.edu. These talks are also listed on the main ISU Calendar of Events. Continuing program support for the University Club is provided by the ISU offices of the provost and president.

Gourmet dinners: Throughout the academic year, U-Club offers two gourmet dinners each semester. These dinners are an opportunity to enjoy fine food with a central theme from a particular country. The main dishes are served family-style and the dinner includes wine for each table with coffee, tea and dessert, all for a reasonable price. Attendees are encouraged to bring guests. A Cuban dinner will be held Saturday, September 26, and Greece cuisine will be the theme on Saturday, November 7. We gather in the Founders Suite in the Bone Student Center at 6:30 p.m. with dinner at 7 p.m. The dinners are prepared by the ISU Catering Service chefs. Please check our website for more up-to-date information and menu details: Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners.

Scholarships awards: On December 4, we will conduct our annual University Club Scholarship Award ceremony. Up to 10, \$500 scholarships will be awarded to ISU undergraduate and graduate students. The funding is provided by donations from our members. We encourage all who are interested in supporting our academically talented and socially engaged students to consider supporting this program.

How Time Flies

by April Karlene Anderson

University Archivist, Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives at Illinois State University

150 years ago – 1865

- Jesse Fell officially joined the Board of Education of the State of Illinois as a board member. Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois, meeting minutes, June 21-22, 1865, pg 1
- The number of students at the University was 704, with 421 in the Model school and 283 in the Normal school. This number showed an increase in student enrollment, necessitating more boarding options within town limits and increased academic space on university grounds: "But the neighborhood has so rapidly increased in population, so many families have come into it for the sake of enjoying the benefit of the Model school, that the numbers have now become too great for the capacities of the building." Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois, meeting minutes, June 21-22, 1865, pg 5

100 years ago – June 1915

- ISNU celebrated commencement week with several events, including a reception for graduating seniors, hosted by President Felmley; a senior breakfast; graduating exercises of the Country School Department and University High School; and a commencement dance. *The Vidette*, June 9, 1915 (Vol. 27, No 30, page 1)
- On June 2, the kindergarten children of the Model school held a flower festival. The children wore crowns made of flowers, sang songs, and danced around a maypole, all under the watchful eye of the women of the kindergarten department. *The Vidette*, June 9, 1915 (Vol. 27, No 30, page 3)
- The University graduated 121 students on June 10, with 14 in the teachers college. *The Vidette* reported, "McLean County, naturally, is at the head of the list, having thirty-six. Seven of these will receive degrees, bringing McLean's percentage in the teachers' college graduating class to the 50 percent mark. Macon County ranks second, having eight graduates. Then comes Macon, Lawrence, Sangamon, Livingston and Woodford in their respective order." *The Vidette*, June 9, 1915 (Vol. 27, No 30, page 6)

75 years ago – June 1940

- Though construction continued, on June 10, the new library building was officially dedicated and named the Ange Milner Library. *The Vidette*, June 11, 1940 (Vol. 52, No 59, page 1)
- In a letter to the *Vidette*, the Geography Trippers reported that their trip was going well, and they had seen some beautiful parts of the American West: "Most of us will remember the drive from Tulsa to Oklahoma City – green corn against the very red soil, the first cotton fields, and many gas wells. At the state capital, we counted more than a hundred derricks in the immediate vicinity." *The Vidette*, June 27, 1940 (Vol. 52, No 61, page 4)

50 years ago – June/July 1965

- Robert Hertel died suddenly on June 8 at the age of 46. Hertel had been the director of Milner Library since 1959. Bryant Jackson was appointed as acting director. *The Vidette*, July 8, 1965 (Vol. 78, No 1, page 3)
- The Town of Normal celebrated its centennial anniversary with a “Hootenanny” at the University Union ballroom on July 16. Other events included an education day, plays, crowning of the Centennial Queen, and a large banquet held to honor then Illinois Governor Otto Kerner. *The Vidette*, July 14, 1965 (Vol. 78, No 2, page 1)

25 years ago – June 1990

- Construction began in July 1990 on the first two parking decks on ISU’s campus. *Daily Vidette*, June 27, 1990 (Vol. 103, No 2, page 1, 12)
- The new Amtrak station in Normal opened June 11, 1990, at 100 East Parkinson Street. The opening of the new station meant ISU students no longer had to find transportation to campus from the old Amtrak station in Bloomington. *The Daily Vidette*, June 27, 1990 (Vol. 103, No 2, page 10)

Alferink elected SUAA VP; Bylaws pass

At the annual meeting of the state SUAA held in Springfield on June 16-17, former ISUAA President Larry Alferink was elected as vice president of the State Association. At the same meeting, new bylaws were adopted following a two-year struggle. The bylaws committee was also chaired by Larry Alferink.

Homecoming 2015

Every year campus comes alive during Homecoming week, which is October 19- 25 this fall. There are many must-do activities, with Saturday the most action-packed day of the weeklong celebration.

Alums join the community in the annual Town & Gown 5K Run and One Mile Family Fun Run, which is scheduled for 8 a.m. There are 12 divisions, including one for wheelchair participants.

The parade is another tradition everyone enjoys. Redbird pride soars as the Big Red Marching Machine takes to the streets and starts up the ISU fight song! The fun starts at 10 a.m.

The football game is definitely a high point. This year’s game against Western Illinois University will be played at Hancock Stadium at 2 p.m. See GoRedbirds.com for more information on how to get your tickets now.

Beyond these popular activities, alumni and friends of the University are encouraged to maximize their time at ISU by exploring all that is new on campus and in Uptown Normal. Start by visiting the Alumni Relations hospitality tent in the tailgating area. Enjoy complimentary food provided by Avanti’s and the Alumni Board Homecoming Committee.

ISUAA discounts from the College of Fine Arts

The College of Fine Arts is offering a special ticket rate for ISUAA members to events at the Center for the Performing Arts for the 2015-16 season. You’ll receive the Illinois State student ticket rates of \$12 for School of Theatre and Dance productions and \$6 to School of Music concerts, except “Music for the Holidays.”

Tickets may be obtained by calling the Ticket Office at (309) 438- 2535 or visiting during regular business hours of 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday-Friday. You must inform the box office of your membership in order to receive this discount.

It’s recommended that you redeem your tickets no later than 15 minutes prior to performance start times. All dates, times and prices are subject to change. For a complete listing of dates and times, visit FineArts.IllinoisState.edu.

We look forward to seeing you this season, and hope that you will take advantage of our special offer!

Dean Jean Miller, College of Fine Arts

When you finish strolling the campus, head to Uptown Normal. From the newly opened University Galleries in the transportation center to new businesses, the area is not what most graduates will remember, although favorite student hangouts remain.

For more detailed information on all the exciting events, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu.

Renew parking permit

If you have an annuitant parking hang tag, it’s golden but it is only good until August. Now is the time to renew it for the coming year. If you have recently retired, you can obtain this tag from Parking Services. It allows you to park at no cost in the Bone Student Center lot and in guest parking at the lot south of the College of Business building at no charge, as well as at other lots around campus.



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Annuity Association
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Normal, IL 61790-8000

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Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu

For more information, visit

