



Volume 12 Number 2  
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*ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971*

## From the President

*By Charlie Harris*

After a two-year legislative impasse, we've finally got a state budget. Reporting that budget, however, recalls the old good news/bad news Vaudeville routine.

Good news! We finally have a state budget! No, that's bad news! Passing the budget required one party to override a gubernatorial veto and ram the vote through with scant support from the other party—a circumstance, as ISU President Larry Dietz observed at our September ISUAA Kickoff Breakfast, that hardly inspires confidence in future budget negotiations.

But a funny thing happened on our way to the fiscal abyss. A moment ago, just as I was putting the final touches on my previous paragraph, news broke that the Illinois General Assembly has passed a bipartisan school funding bill. Gov. Bruce Rauner, whose amendatory veto stalled the initial funding bill, has agreed to sign this one quickly so that school districts can receive their badly needed allocations.

The legislation, hailed as “historic” and which promises to fund schools fairly “for the first time in decades,” has simultaneously pleased and disappointed members of both parties, a necessary feature of any bipartisan compromise—which, at least at this point, would seem to be good news and, one hopes, a harbinger of more bipartisanship to come.

Because ISUAA membership comprises the full political spectrum, we think bipartisanship is a good thing. An advocacy organization, SUAA is necessarily political. But both the home organization and your local chapter work hard to rise above the partisan fray.

That's not always easy, especially since all current state legislators who represent the ISU area belong to the same party, a party that sometimes disagrees with SUAA's legislative priorities. But when we meet with our area representatives (which ISUAA board members do regularly) or when we attend their campaign fundraisers (SUAAction contributes to the election campaigns of legislators who support SUAA positions), we strive to remain issue oriented and nonpartisan.

To familiarize you with SUAA's legislative priorities, our organization's 2017 Legislative Platform is included in this issue. Also included are a few “dos” and “don'ts” for contacting your elected state officials. Finally, a description of SUAAction, SUAA's political action committee, has been included.

Of course, the best way to support SUAA is by maintaining your membership and attending ISUAA's various functions. We were delighted by the large and enthusiastic attendance at September's Fall Kickoff Breakfast, and we look forward to seeing everyone again at our December 6 Holiday Luncheon, where McLean County Museum of History Librarian Bill Kemp will present an illustrated talk on how McLean County residents celebrated the holidays from the pioneer era into the mid-20th century. Please take note that the location for December's luncheon has been changed from the Bone Student Center to the Alumni Center.

# How Time Flies

By April Karlene Anderson

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

## 150 years ago – 1867

- John Wesley Powell's report to the Board of Education of Illinois was included in the December 1867 board minutes. Powell recounted the Board's approval and funding of his scientific expedition to the Rocky Mountains to collect specimens for the university's museum. Powell included a letter from General Ulysses S. Grant who gave his party escort assistance and provisions provided by the U.S. Army. Included in his report are brief descriptions of what he saw on his journey: "We crossed this range of mountains a few miles south of the canon, into a Park which heads on the slope of the foot-hills at the base of Pike's Peak, and extends north more than thirty miles to the base of Devil's Head. This Park varies from three to five miles in width, with a rich meadow stretching down its entire length, and bordered on either side with heavy pine woods that reach up the mountain sides and change into a dwarfed growth of firs and poplars, that in turn are lost among the crags and rocks of the summits." *Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois*, Proceedings of Regular Meeting, December 17-18, 1867, pg 11-12

## 100 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1917

- With the country fighting in World War I, the students of ISNU contributed their time and efforts to volunteer organizations such as the YWCA and the Red Cross. During Fall 1917, the Red Cross reported many items created for troops, including 57 shoulder wraps, 32 slings, 35 abdominal bandages, 4 operating caps, 20 bed socks, 40 knitted scarfs, 500 gun wipers, 50 sweaters, and many other items. *The Vidette*, November 28, 1917 (Vol. 30, No. 12, page 1)
- Four more men enlisted in military service, bringing the total number of enlistments that term to fourteen. Women in the faculty decided to make "comfort kits" to give to ISNU men who enlisted and left school for active duty. *The Vidette*, December 12, 1917 (Vol. 30, No. 14, page 4)

## 75 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1942

- The Blackfriars planned an informal initiation for their newest members. As reported in *The Vidette*, the weekend was "packed with thrills" as the event occurred at the same time as the Normal-Wesleyan football game. Event organizers urged "Everyone present at any of these places when the young men make their appearance is urged to remain calm because it will be only an initiation." *The Vidette*, November 13, 1942 (Vol. 55, No. 15, page 1)
- Musician Ronnie Kemper headlined the Illinois-Wesleyan "Goodwill Dance." The dance was held at IWU's Memorial Stadium and was created to promote good will between the students of the rival schools. *The Vidette*, November 20, 1942 (Vol. 55, No. 17, page 1)
- ISNU faculty approved the expansion of the Health and Physical Education program to provide additional physical

training and testing of both male and female students. Starting the following term with freshman and sophomore men, they "are required to take four hours of physical education a week for two years and freshman and sophomore women are to have three hours of work per week." *The Vidette*, December 11, 1942 (Vol. 55, No. 21, page 5)

## 50 years ago – Nov. 1967

- The women of Hewett Hall publicly thanked the men of Manchester Hall for their efforts in helping Hewett Hall residents evacuate their building after an evening fire. The men "helped residents to Vrooman basement, gathered blankets for us, and took girls who had breathed too much smoke to the infirmary." They thanked several men in particular for their assistance and said of the entire Manchester Hall community: "These men have set an example for the whole campus and have earned our gratitude." *The Vidette*, November 2, 1967 (Vol. 80, No. 21, page 1)
- A federal fugitive was captured in the lounge of Hewett Hall. The fugitive, an escapee from a prison camp in Fort Walton Beach, Florida, travelled to Normal, Illinois, to reconnect with a former girlfriend. The woman no longer lived in town but informed her friends, who then encountered the armed fugitive and called police. Officers from ISU, Normal Police, and Bloomington Police responded, quietly surrounded the building, and a plainclothes officer made the arrest. *The Vidette*, November 7, 1967 (Vol. 80, No 22., page 1)
- The touring Broadway production of *Hello, Dolly!* starring Dorothy Lamour performed in Horton Field House on November 19. The audience gave two standing ovations, one in the middle of the performance. Lamour thanked the audience and said their reception was "music to my ears." *The Vidette*, November 21, 1967 (Vol. 80, No. 26, page 3)

## 25 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1992

- The 1857 Room changed into a coffee shop. Addressing the needs of students, Bone Student Center changed the popular venue into a space designed to allow for more private study and quiet conversation. The revamped space served coffee, food, and other beverages and nothing would be over \$1.25. *The Daily Vidette*, November 3, 1992 (Vol. 105, No. 57, page 6)
- Emergency phone boxes were approved and placed around campus. The boxes, seventeen total, were scattered throughout campus but concentrated near dormitories. The outdoor boxes contained phones with direct connections to the ISU Police

## 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.



State Universities  
Annuity Association

Department and could easily be identified by their blue lights. *The Daily Vidette*, November 19, 1992 (Vol. 105, No. 63, page 1)

- Gallagher, the comedian known for smashing watermelons on stage as part of his act, performed in Braden Auditorium on November 21. Using his signature prop, the Sledge-O-Matic, Gallagher smashed a variety of items while he engaged the audience in his brand of comedic life lessons and storytelling. *The Daily Vidette*, November 23, 1992 (Vol. 105, No. 72, page 9)

## The ISU University Club

By Bob Preston and Kay Wilson

**University Club Discussion Hours:** The University Club is the only ISU social organization open to all faculty, staff, administrative professionals, retirees, and ISUAA members. We meet every Friday from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Founders Suite in the Bone Student Center (BSC) during the fall and spring semesters when the University is in session. Please note that our traditional meeting venue, the Faculty/Staff Commons, will be moving to new facilities on second floor of the BSC next year. Until that move is complete, we will meet in the Founders Suite with one or two meetings in the Atrium, also in the BSC. Please see our website calendar page ([UClub.IllinoisState.edu/Calendar](http://UClub.IllinoisState.edu/Calendar)) for the meeting locations for specific dates.

You are invited to join us for any or all of our programs presented in a congenial and informal environment. You need not be a University Club member to attend, and we always enjoy chatting with our colleagues from all areas of the Illinois University System. Our first meeting was held August 25. Please visit [UClub.IllinoisState.edu](http://UClub.IllinoisState.edu) for updated information about dates and topics of the talks, as well as for other information about the University Club.

**Gourmet Dinners:** Throughout the academic year, the University Club offers two gourmet dinners each semester. These dinners are an opportunity to enjoy fine food with a central theme or food 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. The dinners are prepared by the ISU Catering Service chefs. Please visit [UClub.IllinoisState.edu/Dinners](http://UClub.IllinoisState.edu/Dinners) for detailed menus and reservation information.

**Scholarships Awards:** At the conclusion of the fall semester 2017, we will continue our 25-year-old tradition of awarding up to 10 \$500 scholarships to ISU undergraduate and graduate students who were academically top achievers and who were also involved in giving back to the University and community through service. The funding for these scholarships is provided by independent donations from our members and colleagues. We encourage all who are interested in supporting our academically talented and socially engaged students to consider contributing to this program.

**Mission Statement of the University Club:** *"The University Club vigorously endeavors to promote collegiality among our diverse faculty, staff, administrative professionals, and annuitants. We seek to support*

## Save these dates

Holiday Luncheon—December 6, 2017

Spring Luncheon—March 7, 2018

General Meeting Dinner and Election—June 20, 2018

*University activities as embodied in the vision and core values outlined in Educating Illinois, to learn about and tell the stories of the culture of our academic and town community, and to support and enhance a vigorous exchange of ideas in a congenial environment that encourages friendship, cooperation, and ongoing intellectual growth. Through the generosity and support of our members, we provide a series of scholarships that are awarded to undergraduate and graduate students at Illinois State University. This scholarship program rewards some of the best and brightest students who have contributed to community and University development as well as succeeding at the highest levels academically. We always endeavor to sustain and promote ongoing open and free communication in this community and to support the finest ideals of education and academic life."*

## Senior Professionals' Winter Academy of Seniors Class

By Laura Kowalczyk  
Coordinator, Senior Professionals

**Illinois' First Farmers: The 1,000th Anniversary**  
**January 9, 11, 16, 18 (Tuesdays/Thursdays)**  
**1:30–3:30 p.m.**

One thousand years ago, the cultivation of maize and a suite of domesticated native plants accelerated a change in the Native American way of life. Archaeological research in Illinois and elsewhere has shed light on plant domestication, the rise of larger communities with year-around residents, and changes in everyday life. This class will highlight archaeological fieldwork and the discovery of extraordinary objects.

Michael Wiant, director of Dickson Mounds Museum,  
interim director State Museum

**Cost:**

\$35 (four sessions)—Senior Professionals members

\$45 (four sessions)—non-members

Classes are held at Illinois State University's Alumni Center,  
1101 N. Main St., Normal.

For more information or to register, go to **SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu** or call (309) 438-2160.

## Helping Hamper

By Jan Cook

The Helping Hamper at the December Holiday Luncheon will benefit the Clare House Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. The kitchen

## Annuitants Association website

- Announcements
- Why join?
- How to join
- Contacting your legislator
- Legislative news
- History of ISUAA
- Survivor assistance information
- Newsletters
- Organization
- Parking on campus
- Meetings and events schedule

**Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu**

*Jess Ray, Web page coordinator*



serves 60-85 hot lunches each Tuesday and Thursday at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington. The cooks would be delighted to receive packaged rice or pasta, canned broth or vegetables for the soup, coffee or tea for hot drinks in cold weather, and, especially, cans or snack packs of fruit.

At our September breakfast, the hamper for the Crisis Nursery at the Children's Foundation was more than filled with \$25 in cash, toddler clothes, kid's toothbrushes and toothpaste, fruit and soups, single servings of baby and toddler food, colorful plates and napkins, and diapers. LOTS of diapers. "Wow! That's wonderful! We go through them so fast."

For Thomas Metcalf School, we collected 123 Box Tops and 12 Soup Labels for Education. Labels and Box Tops are on Campbell and Progresso soups, Betty Crocker, Pepperidge Farm, Lysol, Glad, and Hefty products, and some snacks and cereals. The school redeems them for special school supplies.

Thank you all!

## Proud Redbird couple named Homecoming royalty

*By Rachel Kobus  
Associate Director, Alumni Relations*

Mike and Nancy (Johnson) Monken, this year's Homecoming alumni king and queen, met at ISU, and from there continued to be a proud Redbird couple.

Nancy '62 studied English at Illinois State and went on to receive a master's in counselor education in 1967 from the University of Illinois. An honors resident, she was heavily involved with class advisory board and the women's club. After graduation, she taught English for many years and retired as a college counselor in Lincolnway.

Mike '61, M.S. '66, studied physical education as an undergraduate and returned to Illinois State to earn his master's in health, physical education, and recreation. He played football for four years at ISU, serving as captain his senior year. He was also a member of

the industrial arts club and physical education club. He taught shop, physical education, health and driver's education, and also coached high school football for more than 30 years for several schools in Illinois. Mike's coaching career landed him a place in the Illinois High School Football Coaches Hall of Fame.

Now both are very involved on the Half Century Club committee. They help plan each year's reunion weekend, have served as emcees, and attend each year since being inducted.

When not showcasing their Redbird spirit, they stay busy with family activities. They have three children, two sons and a daughter, along with many grandchildren whom they love to spend as much time with as possible. Jeff coaches Army West Point, Tom previously coached high school before starting his own insurance agency, and Susan is an early childhood teacher and ISU alum.

## The 2017 University-Wide Teaching and Learning Symposium

*By Jim Gee*

*Coordinator for Communication and Faculty Development, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology*

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology invites you to save the date for the 2017 University-Wide Teaching & Learning Symposium. The event will run all day on Wednesday, January 10, 2018, at the Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Uptown Normal. Attendance, including luncheon (starting at 11:45 a.m.), is free to all members of the Illinois State University community.

This year's theme is "Expanding Notions of Literacy." Our digital age holds potent possibilities and daunting challenges for those who strive to help students become critical, literate thinkers. Scholars from across campus, along with invited speakers with deep ties to this important topic, will share ideas, best practices, and foster collegiality across the disciplines.

Details of the day, including our keynote speaker, will be available at CTLT.IllinoisState.edu. Those who wish to join us for lunch will be able to register online, or they may contact Chastity Logan at (309) 438-2542 to reserve a seat and specify a meal preference.

## Annuitant in the Spotlight: Alvin Goldfarb

Alvin "Al" Goldfarb grew up in a candy store. He lived with his parents in a small, one-bedroom apartment above the Goldfarb family candy shop in Queens, a circumstance, he wryly notes, that made him one of the more popular kids in the neighborhood.

Goldfarb remained at home throughout his college years. He rode buses and the subway to Queens College of CUNY, where he received an interdisciplinary degree in English, mass communications, and theater; to Hunter College of CUNY, where he earned a master's degree in theater and cinema studies; and to The City University of New York, where he received a Ph.D. in dramatic literature and theater history. When he joined the theatre faculty at Illinois State University in 1977, it was his first experience at a residential campus.

Once at ISU, Goldfarb took to academia like, well, a kid in a can-

dy store. He moved steadily through the ranks, serving the Theatre Department (now the School of Theatre and Dance) as graduate director and then, from 1981-88, as chairperson. In 1988, he was appointed dean of the College of Fine Arts, a post he held for a decade. During his tenure as dean and department chair, Goldfarb was instrumental in the construction of a permanent theatre for the Illinois Shakespeare Festival, as well as the new Center for the Performing Arts. He also negotiated an acting internship program with the renowned Steppenwolf Theatre Company.

From 1998 to 2002, Goldfarb served ISU as provost and vice president for Academic Affairs before accepting the position of president at Western Illinois University, where he presided from 2002 until his retirement in 2011.

Goldfarb's parents were Holocaust survivors, a fact that has exerted a profound influence on his personal and professional life. "The greatest lessons I've learned, I learned from my parents," he says. "They were lessons in terms of issues of human respect and social justice, the fact that everyone deserves to be treated equally, in terms of our own humanity. Their experiences are always in the back of my mind—the fact that my parents survived this horrific genocide."

Family background informs his co-edited book, *Theatrical Performance during the Holocaust: Texts, Documents, Memoirs*, a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award. The book explores the crucial role art, theatre, poetry, and literature played in the lives of those confined in ghettos and concentration camps during the Shoah. This interest has continued into his retirement. Goldfarb is the lead scholar for the Holocaust Theatre Catalog, an online database of over 750 plays and theatre pieces dealing with the Holocaust housed at the University of Miami's Sue and Leonard Miller Center for Contemporary Judaic Studies.

Throughout his presidency at Western Illinois, Goldfarb and his wife Elaine kept their home in Bloomington, where they had raised their children Jason and Deborah. Upon retirement, they moved back to Bloomington, where they now reside.

Because he is noted for his high energy, few have been surprised by Goldfarb's active post-retirement schedule. Indeed, in his case, the word "retirement" requires scare quotes. Goldfarb serves as a member and treasurer of Chicago's Joseph Jefferson Awards Committee, that city's equivalent of the Tony Awards, recognizing excellence in Chicago theatre. He is also a board member of the Arts Alliance of Illinois, the state's leading advocacy organization for the arts and arts education. Both responsibilities require multiple drives to Chicago each month.

Goldfarb continues to revise his widely adopted co-authored textbooks. The seventh edition of *Living Theatre* was just published by W.W. Norton, and the 10th edition of *Theatre: The Lively Art* will be available in January 2018 in both bound and digital versions from McGraw-Hill. He also remains active in Bloomington's Moses Montefiore Congregation, chairing its recent rabbi search committee and serving on the worship committee.

Despite a hectic agenda, Goldfarb manages to keep in contact with hundreds of former students. In October, for example, he plans to meet with a group of ISU Theatre alums during a trip to Los An-

geles. Those who can't see their former mentor face-to-face maintain virtual communication through the Facebook group "ISU Theatre Alumni—the Goldfarb Era," whose almost 450 members share updates, photos, and pleasant memories.

## ISUAA Holiday Luncheon Featuring Bill Kemp

The ISUAA Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 6, 2017, in Room 118 of the Alumni Center, 1101 North Main St. The luncheon location has been moved from Bone Student Center to the Alumni Center because of the extensive renovations currently underway at the student center.

McLean County Museum of History Librarian Bill Kemp will give an informative and entertaining talk on how McLean County residents celebrated the holidays from the pioneer era into mid-20th century. And once again there will be valuable door prizes.

The meal this year will consist of a house salad with a variety of dressings, a choice of sundried tomato chicken or vegetarian lasagna, vegetables, rolls and butter, dessert or a fruit cup, and coffee or iced tea. The cost for the meal is \$18. Reservations are due by November 24, and a reservation form is attached. Please mail the form by November 21 in order that it may reach us by the deadline date.

Consider inviting a friend to join you at the luncheon. We welcome anyone, especially those who have retired (or who **will retire from ISU**).

### ISUAA Holiday Luncheon Reservation Form

**11:30 am, December 6, 2017**

Room 118, Alumni Center

**Featuring Bill Kemp**, librarian,

McLean County Museum of History

\_\_\_\_\_  
NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_ Sundried tomato chicken

\_\_\_\_ Vegetarian lasagna

\_\_\_\_ Fruit cup option for dessert

\$18 per person    Enclosed is a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please mail the reservation form along with your check to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-8000. **Reservations must be received no later than November 24.** No phone reservations, please!

## SUAA 2017 Legislative Platform

This legislative platform serves as a general guideline for SUAA's positions on legislation that affects pension, health insurance, and other retirement benefits for SURS participants.

The main legislative goal for 2017 is to protect the retirement security of all past, present, and future employees of Illinois public universities and community colleges and their survivors.

Therefore, SUAA will review and evaluate all proposed pension and retirement benefit initiatives and legislation to determine their compatibility with the association's goals, and when appropriate, publicly support or oppose such legislation either with respect to specific components or in its entirety.

Furthermore, if legislation is enacted that SUAA considers to be in violation of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution, SUAA is prepared to challenge that legislation in the courts, in concert with coalition partners or independently, if necessary.

### 2017 Legislative Action Plan

- SUAA supports legislation that would provide for guaranteed full funding of the SURS pension system.
- SUAA opposes legislation that does not provide for a compounded automatic annual increment that would provide protection against inflation.
- SUAA opposes legislation designed to eliminate the defined benefit option in state retirement plans for future employees.
- SUAA supports legislation that would revise Tier II to provide for a more equitable set of benefits related to final salary period, automatic annual increment, and early retirement reduction.
- SUAA opposes any legislative attempt to amend, modify, or eliminate Article XIII, Section 5 of the Illinois State Consti-

tion which states "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the state, any unit of local government or school district, agency, or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."

- SUAA supports legislation that would provide funding for a high quality educational system.
- SUAA opposes legislation that would reduce or eliminate the 50 percent tuition waivers for the children of current employees at state universities.

### Revenue Enhancement Measures

SUAA supports various revenue enhancement measures to ensure that the state has sufficient resources to adequately fund both essential public services and public pensions. Specifically:

- SUAA supports legislation that would change the amortization of the current pension ramp (catch-up) schedule to a flat payment schedule.
- SUAA supports transferring funds for debt service fees to expiring pension obligation bonds into the pension stabilization fund.
- SUAA supports increasing the state income tax to at least 5 percent on individuals and at least 7 percent on corporations until such time as there is an adequate replacement for the revenues generated from this source.
- SUAA supports a graduated state income tax.
- SUAA supports other revenue enhancement measures to address the state's continuing fiscal crisis. Examples of these would include, but not be limited to, such measures as: the taxation of selected services; a speculation sales tax; and the elimination of some tax breaks such as the foreign dividend exemption, offshore oil drilling credit, and retail sales tax discount.

### In memoriam

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Marguerite Deutsch ..... | 6/14/2017  |
| Barbara Funk .....       | 6/11/2017  |
| Julie Gowen .....        | 8/2/2017   |
| John Helgeson .....      | 7/25/2017  |
| Irene Keller .....       | 4/24/2017  |
| Eileen Lancaster.....    | 6/10/2017  |
| Elizabeth Larson .....   | 7/29/2017  |
| Anjali Nayak .....       | 11/22/2016 |
| Elizabeth Oswald.....    | 8/5/2017   |
| Sim Simpson.....         | 6/3/2017   |
| Roy Sparks.....          | 8/9/2017   |
| Robert Tomaski.....      | 8/27/2017  |
| John Verbout.....        | 6/01/2017  |
| Betty Wittenborn .....   | 5/25/2017  |
| Donna Jo Workman .....   | 7/21/2017  |

### Health Insurance

- SUAA supports legislation to ensure that all Illinois public university and community college employees, retirees, and survivors will be treated equitably under the State Employees Health Plan and College Insurance Programs.
- SUAA opposes any decrease in state funding for the College Insurance Plan (CIP) and any reduction in coverage provided by that plan.
- SUAA supports legislation that would provide Community College retirees with the same opportunities as University retirees to opt in or to opt out of the CIP.

### Federal Legislation

- SUAA supports the repeal of the Social Security Windfall Elimination and Pension Offset.

## Contacting your State Legislator

By Larry Alferink

The following advice is based on information provided by the State Universities Annuitants Association.

### Fundamental “Dos”

- Specifically ask for support of your position
- Address your legislator properly
- Write legibly (handwritten letters are fine if they are readable)
- Be brief, to the point, and discuss only one issue in each letter
- If possible, give an example of how the issue affects you personally. Use your own words and your own stationery
- Include your address and sign your name legibly
- Ask the legislator to explain his/her position in their reply
- Write your legislator when they do something of which you approve, not just when you are against something

### Fundamental “Don’ts”

- Do not send a postcard
- Do not sign and send a form letter
- Do not begin on a righteous note (“as a citizen and a taxpayer” and/or “as a concerned citizen”)
- Do not apologize for writing and taking their time. If your letter is short and expresses an opinion, they are happy to give it consideration
- Do not be rude or threatening
- Do not send a copy of your letter to other legislators; write each one individually
- If you choose to email a legislator, do not use a university email account

### How to address letters

When writing to a state senator, state representative, or the governor: The Honorable John Doe (or Jane Doe), State Senator, State Representative, or Governor (address).

### For salutation:

Dear Governor Rauner, Dear Senator, or Dear Representative.

### Contact information for elected officials

Contact information for legislators can be found at [www.legis.state.il.us](http://www.legis.state.il.us). Click on “Legislator Lookup” to search by your address or nine-digit zip code. You can also search for an individual name by using a search engine such as Google. Write the Senator/Representative for the district in which you live.

## Contribute to SUAAction

SUAA’s political action committee provides members and chapters a multitude of ways to get involved in the political process. These opportunities include everything from grassroots campaigning to

attending fundraisers. SUAAction is funded by voluntary member contributions. SUAAction is also an important affiliate that helps SUAA achieve its goals.

To learn more about SUAAction, or to make a contribution, go to this link on the SUAA Website: [suaa.memberclicks.net/suaaction](http://suaa.memberclicks.net/suaaction).

## Jan Cook elected president of SUAA Foundation

At the June SUAA General Meeting in Springfield, ISUAA director Jan Cook was elected president of the SUAA Foundation. Established in 1989, the SUAA Foundation is authorized to support education and the dissemination of information on issues affecting the welfare of SUAA members, provide Emergency Assistance Grants to chapters that support members who face financial crisis, and assist chapters in establishing Survivor Assistance Programs.

Recently, the Foundation Board approved an Emergency Assistance matching grant to a chapter whose member suffered a health emergency while abroad and needed prompt, drastic aid with medical and transportation costs.

At the June 2017 General Meeting, the Foundation arranged a luncheon at which John Meyers of the Springfield Social Security Office described to chapter directors how SURS benefits and social security benefits interact for those employees who qualify for both. This is a matter that few people, including journalists and legislators, understand clearly, so having SUAA spokespeople well informed is a service to SUAA as a whole.

The Foundation continues to work on ways to provide information and assistance to SUAA chapters and members, and appreciates your continuing support.

The SUAA Foundation is registered as a 501(c) (3) organization, recognized by the IRS as a public charity.



Sunlight fades over the Quad, with Fell Hall, one of the oldest buildings on campus, in the background at left. That’s DeGarmo Hall at right.



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