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ISUAAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

President's message

Thank you to Illinois State University's TechZone in Bone Student Center for sponsoring this issue of the ISUAAA newsletter, for assisting annuitants in assessing their computer hardware and software needs, and for facilitating our purchasing with what we need at the right price.

Congratulations to ISUAAA's Parker Lawlis for being the recipient of the Alumni Association's E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award. It is well deserved. Parker was the 2008 recipient of ISUAAA's Distinguished Service Award.

This newsletter is scheduled for mailing the week of primary elections. Politicians had agreed some time ago that serious discussion about the state's fiscal crisis would begin after the primaries. Don't hold your breath waiting for progress, but let's not let them off the hook either. Now is the time for some sorely needed leadership in Springfield.

Christ Schwelle

Discounts for retirees on Microsoft Software now available

In December, Illinois State's TechZone announced that Microsoft Windows 7 and Microsoft Office discounts, previously unavailable to retirees, would now be available. The discounts are the same as those for current faculty and staff and resulted after continued discussions with Microsoft. The pricelist is available online or at the showroom.

TechZone, a department of Illinois State University, offers discounts and buying assistance to all members of the University community, including annuitants, on personal computers, software, peripherals, and supplies. TechZone can help you purchase everything from complete computer systems to printer ink. TechZone offers the flexibility of shopping online from home or working with friendly staff for personal assistance through the buying process.

TechZone keeps some of the most popular computers, iPods, and cables in stock while other models can be specially configured and ordered online. Vendor partners include Apple, Dell, Lenovo/IBM, as well as numerous other sources for peripherals. All vendors meet high standards for competitive pricing, quality products, customer service, warranty, and repair.

To shop online visit www.TechZone.ilstu.org. An active University Login ID (ULID) and password are required. For more information send an e-mail to techzone@ilstu.edu or call (309) 438-8334 if you don't have an active ULID/Password. You can also visit the TechZone showroom located on the second floor of the Bone Student Center across from Barnes & Noble.

The TechZone Service Center has a walk-up counter for basic tech questions and on-site Apple/Dell/Lenovo hardware warranty repairs. TechZone can also setup and configure your new computer for \$50.

Holiday luncheon

ISUAA's annual holiday luncheon took place December 2, 2009, in the Brown Ballroom of Bone Student Center. Approximately 135 people attended the event. After lunch and conversation, entertainment was provided by the Illinois State University Madrigal Singers under the direction of Karyl Carlson. This group of students, attired in "business casual" Madrigal polo shirts and khakis, performed from the front of the ballroom before breaking into quartets and going out among the audience for some selections where they could connect face-to-face with annuitants and better show off their individual voices. The singers closed their performance with audience participation in "Silent Night" and a departing, "We Wish You a Merry Christmas."

A brief business meeting, which included a report on chapter finances, membership (1,350), information on the SUAA dues increase, and a legislative update followed the entertainment. Door prizes were provided by Bone Student Center/Braden Auditorium. Congratulations to Doris Henderson and Betty Keough on winning tickets to the December 16 performance of *Annie*, and to John and Joan Rich on winning tickets to the February 8 performance of *Jesus Christ Superstar*. Poinsettias were also awarded as door prizes. The next chapter luncheon will be on March 3.



ISUAA's Parker Lawlis hosts SUAA representatives from throughout the state to coordinate strategy

SUAA briefings

Many of us with accurate e-mail addresses on file with the State Universities Annuitants Association receive e-mail "Briefings" and "Mini-Briefings" from SUAA. For those who do not get these, here are some tidbits gleaned from these briefings:

Pension funding—The selling of bonds to fund state pensions has been delayed. Selling bonds for this purpose and/or for paying the state's bills, rather than increasing revenue, just means more debt for Illinois. This should not impact the payment of pension benefits to annuitants as required by law.

Pension Modernization Task Force—The state's Pension Modernization Task Force could not agree on the content of its final report. One point of contention was that some Task Force members did not want it reported that the cost to taxpayers of state-funded pension benefits is less than the cost in the private sector and neighboring states. Also, changes or cuts in pensions of future employees will not reduce the state's debt for past benefits already earned, nor lower required pension payments in the near term. The private sector representatives seem to be intent on changing public pensions for new employees, and if they can find a way legally, current employees. Current annuitants seem to be safe from the changes being discussed.

Dental insurance premiums—An arbitrator has rejected a grievance filed by AFSCME challenging the state's imposition of an \$11 per month retiree contribution for dental insurance. AFSCME has indicated they were reviewing the decision and assessing options that might be available.

Health care claims—Payment of these is still very slow. If things get really bad SUAA suggests calling Jay Brown at the Governor's Office (866) 465-9889.

National health care reform—This will most likely not affect those on the state health insurance program.

The full content of these briefings is available from SUAA at www.suaa.org. You can also register to get the e-mail briefings on the Web site.



(Left to right) Dona Meador, Shirlee Bottomley, and Irene Niccum greet holiday luncheon attendees

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

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Illinois State University Annuitants Association

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www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu

SUAA fall meeting/dues increase

The SUAA Board of Directors met October 5, 2009, in Urbana. Delegates from ISUAA were Larry Alferink, Jan Cook, and Dave Wiant. Legislators from the area briefed the group about the state fiscal situation. Dave Wiant addressed the group about the need for SUAA members/chapters to let legislators know we are disappointed with the lack of action on their part regarding the state's fiscal crisis.

The SUAA board of directors approved a \$4 annual increase in SUAA dues, from \$21 to \$25 effective January 1, 2010. ISUAA local dues will remain at \$4, with a local dues waiver for spouses. The total annual dues for ISUAA members will be \$29 (from \$25) for the retiree and \$25 (from \$21) for spouse members. Those who pay dues via check will see the increase when they renew. Those who pay via dues deduction will see a very small monthly increase. The dues increase is needed to adequately finance the SUAA Office in Springfield. The SUAA Office has been taking an increasingly active and important role in advocating on behalf of members. It was felt that now is not the time to adversely impact their ability to function effectively.

Social Security/Medicare for SURS members

Approximately 80 people attended the Social Security/Medicare for SURS members program on October 27, 2009, featuring Elaine Popejoy of the local Social Security Office. More information is available on the Social Security Web site, including a benefits calculator for those affected by the Windfall Elimination Provision, which impacts those eligible for both Social Security benefits and a SURS (or TRS) pension. ISUAA will be repeating this program on April 8. Publicity will be in *The Report*, Illinois State's faculty-staff newsletter.

Government Retiree Credit

According to IRS instructions that accompanied US 1040 forms, you may be able to take a Government Retiree Credit, "if you received a pension or annuity payment in 2009 for service performed for the U.S. Government or any state or local government (or any agency of one or more of these) and the service was not covered by social security. The credit is \$250 (\$500 if married filing jointly and both you and your spouse received a qualifying pension or annuity)." Be sure to consider this when preparing your federal tax return.

Planned giving

Gifts of appreciated securities may be a viable option for many donors. Stocks that have been held for several years may have market values that are considerably higher than the donor's purchase price. When appreciated securities are gifted to the Illinois State University Foundation, the donor is credited with the fair market value on the date of the transfer of the securities. And, because the foundation is a tax-exempt entity, no taxable capital gains will accrue to the donor or the foundation. For more information, contact Barbara Todd at btodd@ilstu.edu or (309) 438-2592.

University Club

By Jude Boyer

Gourmet dinners. The final gourmet dinner of the spring semester will be Saturday, February 27, in the Founders Suite, Bone Student Center. It will feature Tour of America: Southwest cuisine. Full information about the menu and reservation details are available at www.uClub.ilstu.edu.

Discussion hours. The final discussion hour of the spring semester will be April 30. Discussion hours are held from 3:30–5:30 p.m. on most Friday afternoons of the academic semester in the Bone Student Center Faculty/Staff Commons. Join us for refreshments and lively conversation. Special discussion/information topics are noted at www.uClub.ilstu.edu.

University Club is a great way to meet members of the University Community. Membership is open to all current and retired faculty and staff of Illinois State University. Further details may be found at www.uClub.ilstu.edu.

Legislative update

Christ Schwelle wrote local legislators expressing disappointment with the lack of serious attention to the state's fiscal crisis, specifically citing the dental insurance premium for retirees and delays in paying medical providers. Dave Wiant, Parker Lawlis, and Schwelle followed up by attending fundraisers for Sen. Dan Rutherford and Rep. Dan Brady. The objective was to let them know we're concerned and watching. Participation in these fundraisers was paid for by SUAAction, SUAA's political action committee. This winter you will be getting a letter from Lawlis requesting that you contribute to SUAAction to help support such activity statewide.

Statewide, public pensions continue to be relatively secure because of the constitutional protection, but we cannot be smug about this. Public pensions and retiree health benefits are clearly in the crosshairs of the private sector, the media, the public, and politicians.



(Left to right) Dave Wiant, Parker Lawlis, Sen. Dan Rutherford, and Christ Schwelle

Alumni Award winners announced

Each year the Illinois State University's Alumni Association recognizes individuals who personify the University's tradition as an environment for excellence. Through outstanding achievements and contributions, these individuals bring honor to Illinois State and the Alumni Association. The recipients of the 2010 awards will be recognized at a special dinner on Thursday, February 18. This year's honorees are:

Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Joe Reynolds '03

Alumni Achievement Award

Connie F. Shoemake '77

Tom Irwin '79

E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Parker Lawlis '57, M.S. '61

Distinguished Alumni Award

Richard Allen Manahan '65, M.S. '71, Ed.D. '75

John Maitland Commitment to Education Award

Eugene Jontry '58

Nominations are being accepted for 2011 and due by May 28, 2010. Do you know an Illinois State alum who:

- Has significant career achievements?
- Has had national or international impact?
- Has contributed to their field beyond the expectations and responsibilities of the positions they have held?
- Has had a direct, positive impact on society and their community?

If you know someone who fits these descriptions, nominate them for an Illinois State University Alumni Association Award. The nomination process is the first step in identifying outstanding alumni who are making a difference.

Please visit www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/awards to view the award descriptions and make a nomination today. For more information about the Alumni Awards program, e-mail Gina Bianchi at glbianc@IllinoisState.edu or call (800) 366-4478.

Lunch and Learn

University Advancement will host Lunch and Learn seminars for current and retired employees. There is no fee to attend these seminars, and lunch is provided. All events begin at 11:30 a.m. and will conclude no later than 1 p.m. Advance reservations are required. For additional information or to make a reservation, contact Barbara Todd, executive director of Internal and Annual Giving at (309) 438-2592.

“**Charitable Gift Annuities**” presented by Bill Fanning, Thursday, April 1, Room 116, Illinois State University Alumni Center. Fanning is the director of business affairs for the Illinois State University Foundation.

“**How to save for College and Retirement**” presented by Karen Fleming, Tuesday, May 18, Old Main Room, Bone Student Center. Fleming is a financial planner and asset manager with Fleming Financial Solutions in Normal.

“**How to Create an Endowment at Illinois State University**” presented by Joy Hutchcraft and Bill Fanning, Thursday, June 17, Room 116, Illinois State University Alumni Center. Hutchcraft is the executive director of Development at Illinois State and Fanning is the director of Foundation business affairs.

Reunions set for Class of 1960 and Half Century Club

Members of the Class of 1960 will celebrate their 50th class reunion on Thursday, June 10, during the annual Half Century Club spring event taking place at the Alumni Center. They will be inducted into the Half Century Club at dinner on Thursday, and join the Half Century Club for a full day of activities on Friday, June 11.

The Illinois State University Half Century Club honors all alumni whose classes graduated 50 or more years ago. The annual spring program gives alumni an opportunity to catch up with classmates, make new acquaintances, and learn what's new at Illinois State. No fees are required of club members.

Members of the classes of 1955, 1950, 1945, 1940, and 1935, who will be celebrating their 55th, 60th, 65th, 70th, and 75th reunions from Illinois State Normal University will be honored at the Friday luncheon and receive a special recognition gift.

For additional information, contact Alumni Relations at (309) 438-2586 or (800) 366-4478 or e-mail Stephanie.Duquenne@IllinoisState.edu.

Spring Retiree Event

Mark your calendars for the University Advancement Spring Retiree Event to be held at 11:30 a.m. on Wednesday, May 12, in the Brown Ballroom. The featured program will be the American Democracy Project.

Invitations for this event will be mailed to retired employees within a 60 mile radius of the campus, as well as active employees who are members of the ISUAA. For additional information contact Barbara Todd, executive director of Internal and Annual Giving, at (309) 438-2592 or btodd@ilstu.edu.

How time flies, December–February

Compiled by Jo Ann Rayfield

50 years ago, 1959

- The Teachers College Board approved \$1.5 million for a new Physical Education Building and Field-house (Horton), \$1.4 million for a Science Building annex, and approximately \$600,000 for expansion and improvement of the University Farm.
- Smith Hall was demolished to make way for the planned 10-story women's residence hall (Atkin-Colby).
- The Illinois State men's basketball team won the IIAC championship (in March) with a record of 20–4. James Collie was named Coach of the Year.

25 years ago, 1984

- December 1983, the Women's Volleyball team went to the first round of the NCAA.
- January 1984, Illinois State women's basketball defeated Bradley in their first meeting (105–52).
- Women's track team won their fifth consecutive Gateway Collegiate Conference championship with six first place winners.
- Two wrestlers qualified for the NCAA national tournament.
- February 1984, President Watkins told the Board of Regents that Illinois State spent \$300,000 for computers in Milner, Applied Computer Science, and other areas of campus.
- March 1, 1984, David Strand formally became the provost.

15 years ago, 1994

- The proposed science building (\$29.2 million) was ranked eighth on the IBHE list of capital improvements listed for Fiscal Year 1995.
- Distinguished alums visited campus to talk on the theme of "In pursuit of a New World Order" and meet with students in politics and government classes. Donald McHenry received an honorary Doctor of Laws degree from the University in 1980, and received Distinguished Alumni Award in 1990.
- The PQP process was moving forward as was the search for a new provost to replace David Strand, who returned to his position as vice president for business and finance.

10 years ago, 1999

- An agreement was reached for Mennonite College of Nursing to become Illinois State University's sixth college and first professional program on July 1, 1999.
- President David Strand received an honorary doctorate from Srinakharinwirot University in Thailand.
- Victor John Boschini, Jr. was named the 16th president of Illinois State University. His term began July 1, 1999. Boschini had been vice president and dean of Student Affairs at Illinois State since 1997.
- Jill Hutchison, head women's basketball coach for 28 years, announced her retirement. With a record of 461–323, Hutchison's teams made a dozen national tournament appearances. She also coached successfully at the international level.

Directory

By now you should have received your copy of the 2009–2010 membership directory. While every effort is made to ensure accurate directory information, errors do occur. Please make the following additions/corrections to your directory: 1) the development director for the College of Fine Arts (p. 2) is Brian Gawor (309) 438-7735, 2) the e-mail address for John K. Boaz is jkboaz1938@att.net., 3) the e-mail address for Irene and Leger Brosnahan is ibrosnahan@yahoo.com, 4) the e-mail address for Betty and Bob Duncan is betty.duncan@verizon.net, 5) the phone number for Neil M. Gridley is (309) 838-2798, 6) the e-mail address for Frederick Jackson is frjacks@verizon.net, and 7) the address for Margaret Jones is c/o Robert McNutt, 2635 Overlook Blvd., Helena, MT 59601-1421. Instructions for notifying ISUAA of changes in directory information are found on page 90 of the directory.

In memoriam

Patricia Barr	December 9, 2009
Mack Bowen	October 25, 2009
Helen Dunn	October 7, 2009
Helen Jones	September 9, 2009
Aubrey MacCannell	November 11, 2009
Gene McCreery	September 7, 2009
Beverly Sutter	September 22, 2009
Helen West	October 13, 2009

Senior Professionals spring programs

Academy of Seniors

March 23, 25, 30, and April 1

Alfred Kinsey and the History of American Sexuality

Richard Hughes, associate professor of history, Illinois State University

April 5, 7, 12, and 14

Living Longer, Staying Younger: What Does the Future Hold for Us?

H. Tak Cheung, professor, Illinois State University

May 25, 27, June 1, and 3

Understanding Islam and Contemporary Muslims

Ali Riaz, Department of Politics and Government professor and chair, Illinois State University

June 22, 24, 29, and July 1

Social Networking on the Web: What for, How to, and Why not?

Elaine Cousins, retired professor of information technology, University of Michigan

Mornings with the Professors

Spend Friday mornings in October with presenters from academia and the community. Cost is \$45 for all five sessions or you may pay \$15 at the door for individual sessions.

April 2

Dissent in American Culture—Noble and not so Noble

James Bortell, retired United Methodist minister
Judge John Freese, retired Chief Circuit Judge

April 9

Hazle Buck Ewing: To the Manor Born

Jo Rayfield, university archivist, Illinois State University

April 16

Spinach is Spinach, You Say?

David Kopsell, assistant professor, School of Agriculture, Illinois State University

Dean Kopsell, associate professor, Plant Sciences Department, University of Tennessee—Knoxville

April 23

From Rags to Riches; the Story of Ragtime?

Todd Tucker, Professor Emeritus of music theory, Illinois Wesleyan University

April 30

Aging Successfully: What Science has to Say

Mignon Montpetit, assistant professor of psychology, Illinois Wesleyan University

Lunchtime journey

Enjoy exploring a different country in food and learning about their culture. All classes are Thursdays from 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. (Additional costs for lunches)

April 22

France—Illinois State University Alumni Center

April 29

Thailand—Illinois State University Alumni Center

May 6

Route 66—Cozy Dog Drive Inn, Springfield*

May 13

Egypt—Illinois State University Alumni Center

*The Route 66 bus will leave at 8:30 a.m. and return at 2 p.m.

All Academy of Seniors classes are \$45 for four sessions unless stated. Check the brochure or contact the office for more information.

Academy of Seniors and Mornings with the Professors will be held at Illinois State University's Alumni Center, 1101 N. Main St., Normal, IL.

For more information or to register call (800) 877-1478 or (309) 438-2160. You may view the brochure online and download a registration form at SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu.

Helping Hamper

By Jan Cook

Our collection at the spring luncheon will benefit the new Safe Harbor shelter for the homeless in Bloomington-Normal. They provide beds and shelter for approximately 35 men and 15 women, including breakfast and supper. They would appreciate coffee, tea, oatmeal, pasta, and large cans of vegetables and fruit. These folks can use commercial-sized packages of supplies.

The donations to the Clare House Soup Kitchen at our Holiday Luncheon included not only ingredients for the soup, but also cans of fruit for dessert. Canned fruit is appreciated as it is not frequently donated. Packages of kitchen sponges and disposable gloves were also donated.

Spring luncheon features Linden Flute and Guitar Duo

The annual ISUAA spring luncheon will be 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3, 2010, in the Old Main Room of Bone Student Center. Entertainment will be provided by the Linden Flute and Guitar Duo of Angelo Favis and Kim Risinger, who performed at last year's spring luncheon. Favis, associate professor of music at Illinois State, specializes in classical guitar, is an active performer of solo and chamber music in the U.S. and abroad, and has been the winner of many performance competitions. Risinger, professor of music at Illinois State, is principal flutist with the Illinois Symphony Orchestra and also performs with the Sonneries Woodwind Quintet and the Chicago Jazz Symphony. The reservation form for the spring luncheon can be found on page 8. Send in your reservation now.

ISUAA calendar

February 18, 2010

Founders Day

Check the University calendar for more information at Events.IllinoisState.edu.

March 3, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

ISUAA spring luncheon featuring the Linden Guitar and Flute Duo
*Old Main Room**

March 10, 2010 • 2–3:30 p.m.

ISUAA Board w/committee chairs
Spotlight Room

April 1, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Lunch and Learn on Gift Annuities
*University Alumni Center, Room 116**

April 8, 2010 • Noon–1 p.m.

Social Security/Medicare for SURS Participants
Old Main Room

May 12, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

Spring Advancement Retiree Luncheon,
American Democracy Project
*Brown Ballroom**

May 12, 2010 • 2–3:30 p.m.

ISUAA Board w/committee chairs
Spotlight Room

May 18, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Lunch and Learn on College and Retirement Savings
*Old Main Room**

June 2, 2010 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

ISUAA Annual Meeting/Dinner
*Old Main Room**

June 17, 2010 • 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m.

Lunch and Learn on Creating Endowments
at Illinois State University
*University Alumni Center, Room 116**

Spring dates to be determined

Survivor Planning Workshop
SUAA Annual Meeting

* Reservation required



Spring luncheon reservation form

Entertainment by the Linden Flute and Guitar Duo

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 3, 2010

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

Name(s) of those attending _____

Please reserve _____ meal(s) at \$13 each. A check for \$_____ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Entrees

_____ Roast beef au jus _____ (name)

_____ Portobello and spinach risotto stack _____ (name)

Please indicate dietary restrictions _____ (name)

Fruit cup as dessert for those on dietary restriction

Reservations must be received by February 25. Please send to: Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701-5334 or Dona Meador, 311 S. Towanda Ave. #4, Normal, IL 61761-6101.

Please, no late or phone reservations.

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Annuitants Association at (309) 438-4311.

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