

# Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

# ISUAAA



Volume 1 Number 2, Fall 2006

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*ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971*

Dear Colleagues,

In just a few short months, Illinois State University will begin an exciting yearlong celebration of its sesquicentennial with a wide spectrum of academic, co-curricular, athletic, and social activities.

We will officially light the candles on our 150th birthday cake during Founders Day on February 15, 2007. World-renowned author and historian David McCullough will be our keynote speaker, and the University community will be joined by members of the Illinois State Historical Society, who will hold their annual conference on campus to complement our first days of the sesquicentennial celebration.

As annuitants, you are important members of the Illinois State University family. You maintain a strong connection to our heritage and our vision for the future. We are proud that you remain closely associated with Illinois State, and I hope you will help us celebrate the founding of Illinois' first and finest public university.

Throughout the fall, details about Illinois State's sesquicentennial will flow through the University's Web site homepage, faculty/staff newsletter *ISU Report*, and a variety of other communication vehicles. As anticipation builds towards the February 15 Founders Day kick-off, I hope you will share in the excitement of our 150th birthday celebration and get involved in any way you can.

If you have comments or questions, please contact our sesquicentennial point-person, Carol Struck, at [carolstruck@ilstu.edu](mailto:carolstruck@ilstu.edu).

Sincerely,

Al Bowman  
President, Illinois State University



## ISUAA president's message

ISUAA attempts to give members the biggest bang for their membership buck. A key element is the sponsorship program. Once again, Illinois State's Division of University Advancement is sponsoring ISUAA's membership directory. The ISU Credit Union sponsored this issue of the newsletter and has generously donated their "sponsor's space" for extensive coverage of Illinois State's 150th anniversary celebration. The summer newsletter was sponsored by the College of Fine Arts, and the Dean of Students Programming Unit sponsored the spring issue. Thank you to our sponsors for their support.

ISUAA dues are also kept stable because of operating fund support from University Advancement and the Illinois State University Foundation. This year, when ISUAA was faced with significant cost increases for using Bone Student Center for luncheons, University Advancement support was increased so these events could continue there. Operating funds from the Foundation were also increased. Thank you to Dianne Ashby, vice president for University Advancement, and Barbara Todd, executive director of Internal Campaigns and ISUAA liaison, for their support.

As this newsletter issue is going to press, Dona Meador is hard at work putting the membership directory together. Thank you, Dona, for your hard work.

This issue has a significant amount of space devoted to Illinois State's 150th anniversary celebration. I hope our membership actively participates in celebrating what they helped to create! Many of our members celebrated the 125th anniversary when Bone Student Center and Braden Auditorium were renamed, and some were here to celebrate the 100th anniversary.

Christ Schwelle

## Legislative/Political update: October 5, 2006

The summer issue of the ISUAA newsletter included a summary of various issues potentially impacting annuitants. Nothing new has happened since then, which is not unusual during the summer before an election. If you missed the article you can access it on the Web at [www.annuitants.ilstu.edu](http://www.annuitants.ilstu.edu), or call Christ Schwelle (309) 663-0230 and request a copy.

In late July, Schwelle, Dave Wiant, and Tom Wilson met with State Representative Dan Brady and discussed pension funding. A similar meeting with Senator Bill Brady took place in early October. Both are very supportive of getting proper funding of SURS back on track. These meetings are happening statewide with local SUAA chapter representatives meeting with their local legislators.

On August 29, *The Pantagraph* carried an excellent letter to the editor from Tom Wilson regarding state pension funding. Tom corrected some errors that were in a chart published earlier and reminded readers that pension benefits are a legal obligation of the state.

## Annuitant participation in 2007 convocation

Annuitants have been invited to participate in the 2007 Founders Day/150th Anniversary Convocation on Thursday, February 15, at 2 p.m, in Braden Auditorium. Appropriate academic regalia, according to the highest-earned degree, is required. Those who need to rent regalia should contact Sue Sutter at (309) 452-0535 or go to the Barnes & Noble University Bookstore in Bone Student Center by January 15, 2007. Those who do not hold an academic degree may order a robe to participate in the ceremony. If you have questions about the convocation please contact Julie Barnhill, director of Presidential and University Events, at (309) 438-8790 or [jtbarneh@ilstu.edu](mailto:jtbarneh@ilstu.edu).

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## Sesquicentennial speakers

A number of prominent speakers have been scheduled as part of Illinois State University's Sesquicentennial Celebration. Many are visiting classrooms as their schedules allow. Question-and-answer sessions and/or book signings will follow some of the presentations. Most public presentations will take place in Braden Auditorium with free admission. Detailed information may be found on the University Web site ([www.IllinoisState.edu](http://www.IllinoisState.edu)) or, as the event approaches, in the *ISU Report*.

### February 15, 2007 • 1 p.m.

Pulitzer Prize-winning author David McCullough will speak on "Leadership and the History You Don't Know" at the Founders Day Convocation. His books, such as *John Adams* and *Truman*, have been praised for their exceptional sweep, scholarship, and insight into American life, as well as literary distinction. A book signing will follow.

### March 28, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

Author and environmental activist Robert Kennedy Jr. will speak on "Our Environmental Destiny" followed by a question-and-answer session. *Time* magazine has recognized Kennedy as one of its "Heroes for the Planet" and his books have been *New York Times* bestsellers.

### April 17, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

Renowned underwater explorer and *Titanic* discoverer Robert F. Ballard, Ph.D., will present "Exploring the Living Dream." Ballard is also scheduled for informal remarks and a question-and-answer session at Milner Library at 3 p.m.

### September 18, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Award-winning author and historian Doris Kearns Goodwin's presentation, "Leadership Lessons from Abraham Lincoln," will

be followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Goodwin will appear earlier in the day at Illinois Wesleyan.

### November 1, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Award-winning documentary filmmaker Ken Burns is appearing as part of the Stevenson Lecture Series at both Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan (2 p.m.). Burns' work includes PBS projects *The Civil War*, *Baseball*, *The West*, and *Unforgettable Darkness: The Rise and Fall of Jack Johnson*.

### November 8, 2007 • 7:30 p.m.

Country-music superstar Naomi Judd will deliver a lecture, "Love Can Build a Bridge," followed by a question-and-answer session and book signing. Diagnosed with a potential life-threatening liver disease, Judd has met her challenges with strength and unwavering optimism.

### November 14, 2007 • 7 p.m.

Award-winning author on education and urban issues Jonathan Kozol will present "Hearts of Children and the Obligations of Our Nation's Schools" and follow his lecture with a book signing. Kozol has combined teaching with activism throughout his career.



## Homecoming 2007/Founders Day 2008

Homecoming 2007 will celebrate the University's 150th anniversary with a "Sesquicentennial Gala." Founders Day 2008 (February 14) will feature a 150th Anniversary Conclusion Convocation.

# Illinois State University Survivor Advocacy Team

## Reporting the death of an Illinois State University annuitant

*By Mary Liverman and Edna Johnston*

Before the need arises, it may be helpful to review the process of reporting an annuitant's death—or the death of an annuitant's dependent—to the State University Retirement System (SURS). An annuitant's death may be reported to SURS by

- The Human Resources Office at Illinois State upon reading a published obituary
- A family member reporting directly to the Human Resources Office ([309] 438-8311)
- A family member reporting directly to SURS by mail, telephone, or fax ([800] ASK-SURS [275-7877])

SURS needs the following information when reporting a death:

- Date of death
- Deceased's Social Security number
- Survivor's name, address, telephone number, date of birth, and Social Security number (if not on file)

Within 7–10 days after notification, SURS sends the survivor a “quote” letter. This letter explains the benefits payable and options available to the survivor. SURS also sends the forms necessary to apply for the benefits and/or options.

To receive all of this information at such an emotional time can be overwhelming. Therefore, the Illinois State University Annuitants Association developed the Survivor Advocacy Team to provide surviving spouses of Illinois State retirees with assistance in applying for survivor benefits. These volunteers have been trained by the SURS counseling staff and work cooperatively with the University's Human Resources Office in providing services.

The advocacy team contacts the survivor and offers assistance with the paperwork that will be coming from SURS. The survivor is asked to call the advocate if help is needed.

If the dependent spouse's death precedes the annuitant's, contact SURS, (800) ASK-SURS (275-7877), to

- Remove the Health Benefit Premium deducted from your monthly check
- Change the beneficiaries on life insurance policies (if needed)

To receive your earned benefits, the Survivor Advocacy Team suggests

- Keeping your recorded data current
- Keeping yourself and your eligible spouse informed
- Placing a copy of this article in the file folder with other SURS retirement-related documents

## President's Concert: February 18, 2007

The President's Concert features Illinois State's Wind Symphony at the Center for the Performing Arts Concert Hall. It will include the premier performance of newly commissioned music by David Maslanka written in celebration of the Illinois State's 150th anniversary narrated by President Emeritus David Strand. This is part of the School of Music's Gold Series. Annuitants who identify themselves when purchasing tickets will receive a discounted admission price of \$7.

## Congratulations!

Congratulations to Doug and Dianne DeLong and Claude and Jean Bell for winning door prizes at ISUAA's fall luncheon. The DeLongs won a gift certificate for a pair of tickets to any College of Fine Arts performance in the Center for the Performing Arts. The Bells won two tickets to the Marvin Hamlisch/Joel Grey concert in Braden Auditorium. Thank you to the College of Fine Arts and the Dean of Students Programming Unit for providing these door prizes. Thanks also go to Campus Dining Services for serving a fine meal.

## Did you know...?

**Did you know that the Illinois State University Wellness Program is available to annuitants as well as current faculty/staff?** A fee of \$50 per semester provides access to fitness programs, health screenings, and special events and workshops. This fee is a one-time charge per semester to all activities offered. In the fitness area, programs include lap swim, water classes, core fitness, and Pilates. For more information visit [www.hr.ilstu.edu/wellness](http://www.hr.ilstu.edu/wellness), or contact Wellness director Nikki Brauer at (309) 438-8845 or graduate assistant Jessica Domann at (309) 438-7003. If the programs and schedule work for you, you could realize a savings compared to other community wellness options.

**Did you know that if you have Verizon DSL you may be able to reduce your monthly costs?** A couple of members, who had been paying \$37.95 per month (plus taxes and fees), reported that after seeing Verizon ads for lower-cost DSL they contacted Verizon. The members were told they could opt for slower DSL

service (768K) at a lower cost. One received a \$14.95 rate (online) and the other a \$17.99 rate (via telephone). Neither has so far noticed any noticeable difference in service. If you are a Verizon DSL customer you may want to check this out. Contact information is on your bill.

**Did you know that annuitants, as well as faculty, staff, and students, can utilize TechZone in Bone Student Center for purchasing personal computers, hardware, software, accessories, and supplies?** TechZone offers educational pricing on systems and other equipment from their partner vendors: Dell, Apple, Lenovo/IBM, Microsoft, Adobe, CDW-G, Gov Connection, Insight Public Sector, and Crucial Technology. For more information visit [www.techzone.ilstu.org](http://www.techzone.ilstu.org) or call (309) 438-8334.

*If you can take advantage of any of these your savings may exceed your annual ISUAA/SUAA dues.*

## Programs for members

ISUAA vice president Sharon Quiram is in charge of programs, such as the spring excursion to the Lincoln Museum. Programs can be on any topic of interest to members. They do not have to involve a road trip. If you have any program suggestions please let Sharon know at [scquira@ilstu.edu](mailto:scquira@ilstu.edu).

## Using IRA proceeds for charitable giving

Recently enacted legislation allows a taxpayer who has attained the age of 70½ to use IRA proceeds to make charitable contributions, and count such contributions towards his or her required distributions. While a tax deduction is not allowed for such contributions, the distribution from an IRA that is donated to charity (up to \$100,000) will not be taxable income. This provision will be in effect through December 31, 2007. If you are interested in utilizing this new law, and Illinois State University is your charity of choice, please contact the Illinois State University Foundation at (309) 438-7681 for more information. It is also recommended that you consult with your financial advisor.

## Helping Hamper for December holiday luncheon

December's Helping Hamper will benefit the Clare House Soup Kitchen, which serves lunches to about 100 people each Tuesday and Thursday at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington. They would be happy to receive packaged pasta, canned broth, meat or vegetables for the soup, canned fruit for dessert, coffee, tea, sugar, sugar substitute, and dish-washing detergent.

## Thanks received

We filled September's Helping Hamper more than twice over at our fall luncheon! The Crisis Nursery folks helped unload the treasure, which had lots of diapers and snacks as well as a few luxury items such as children's Band-Aids, toothpaste, and paper party cups.

# ISUAA holiday luncheon reservation form

Wednesday, December 6, 2006

11:30 a.m.

Brown Ballroom, Bone Student Center

Names of those attending: \_\_\_\_\_

Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ meals at \$13 each. A check for \$\_\_\_\_\_ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Entrees

\_\_\_\_\_ Roast turkey \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\_\_\_\_\_ Grilled portabella mushrooms \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

*Please send your reservation form by November 22, 2006, to Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor Street, Bloomington, IL 61701-5334, or Irene Niccum, 301 S. Towanda Avenue #C, Normal, IL 61761.*

*Please, no late or telephone reservations.*

## University Club spring 2007 events

*By Jude Boyer*

### Gourmet dinners

Greek cuisine will be featured at the Friday, January 26, dinner to be held in the Old Main Room, Bone Student Center. The Saturday, February 24, dinner will feature Southwestern Tex-Mex cuisine, also to be held in the Old Main Room. Full information about each menu and reservation details should be available approximately December 15 on the University Club Web site ([www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub/gourmet\\_dinners.htm](http://www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub/gourmet_dinners.htm)).

### Discussion hours

The first discussion hour of the spring semester will be held Friday, January 19, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bone Student Center Faculty/Staff Commons. Please join us for refreshments and lively conversation. Discussion hours are held on most Friday afternoons of the academic semester. Special discussion/information topics are noted on the University Club Web site.

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 about University Club may be found at [www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub](http://www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub).

# ISUAA Night at Madrigal Dinners

Members who attended last year's ISUAA Night at Madrigal Dinners had such an enjoyable evening that the College of Fine Arts and ISUAA are again teaming up to offer a special ISUAA group rate of \$28 per person—a discounted rate. The performance selected is Thursday, December 7, at 6:30 p.m., in the Circus Room, Bone Student Center.

Seating is limited, so get your reservation in now! Reservations must be received no later than November 15. If you have questions, please call the College of Fine Arts at (309) 438-8321.

## ISUAA Night at Madrigal Dinners reservation form

**Thursday, December 7, 2006**

**6:30 p.m.**

**Circus Room, Bone Student Center**

Name(s): \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ tickets @ \$28 each = \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks payable to Illinois State University, OR charge to (circle one)

\_\_\_ VISA \_\_\_ MasterCard \_\_\_ Discover

Card number: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholder signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiration date: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to  
Illinois State University  
College of Fine Arts  
Campus Box 5600  
Normal, IL 61790-5600

All sales are final. Due to cost of meals, no refunds can be issued.

If you have any special requirements (wheelchair seating and vegetarian meals are available), please add a note to your order.

*Note: Should this newsletter arrive too close to the November 15 deadline to get your order in on time, please call the College of Fine Arts at (309) 438-8321 to place reservations.*

# In memoriam

Winnifred M. Baker, October 5, 2006

Bernadine Y. Becker, October 2, 2006

Anna M. Burke, October 4, 2006

Gordon L. Long, September 21, 2006

Marion "Orus" Smith Jr., October 8, 2006

Ruthie M. Walton, October 5, 2006

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