

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

ISUAAA



Volume 11 Number 1
Fall 2016

inside

ISUAA fall breakfast	2
ISUAA annual dinner meeting...	2
Fall 2016 College of Fine Arts events.....	2
In memoriam.....	2
Directory update.....	3
How time flies.....	4
New university email system.....	4
The ISU University Club	5
Helping hamper	5
Homecoming 2016.....	5
SUAA annual meeting: legal issues.....	6
Make your newsletter electronic!.....	6
Save these dates.....	7

ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

From the President

by Charlie Harris

I just returned from the 2016 State Universities Annuitants Association Annual Meeting in Springfield, my first official act as newly elected president of ISUAA. SUAA, of course, is the state advocacy organization that works to preserve and protect the pension system, healthcare plans, and other benefits enjoyed by 228,385 State Universities Retirement System (SURS) participants and beneficiaries, which includes public university and community college faculty and staff members, both retired and active, and their spouses and survivors.

Throughout the two-day meeting, our chapter's leadership at the state level was palpable.

Larry Alferink, former president of ISUAA, was unanimously elected SUAA president. Larry had previously served the organization as vice-president, chair of the bylaws committee, executive committee member, and member of the board of directors, among other duties. Chuck McGuire, our chapter's immediate past president, was unanimously elected to succeed Larry as chair of the bylaws committee. Other members representing ISUAA at the meeting were Jan Cook, Roger Cann, Marie Dawson, and Neil Gridley.

I left Springfield more convinced than ever of the key role SUAA plays in protecting our interests. Everyone is aware of its successful lawsuit last year against Senate Bill 1 (Public Act 98-0599), which resulted in the Illinois Supreme Court's decision that legislative efforts to severely limit our pension benefits were unconstitutional. But the organization hasn't rested on its laurels. As Larry Alferink's article in this issue makes clear, the state continues its efforts to reduce pension benefits rather than exploring ways to pay for them. As long as that attitude persists, we are not completely out of the woods. SUAA and its attorneys are carefully monitoring the situation in Springfield, and the state is aware that we are prepared to go back to court to counter any legislative changes that would significantly violate our constitutional protections.

Membership matters. The larger our state and local organizations are, the louder SUAA's voice will be in Springfield, where elected officials translate membership numbers into votes. Those of you reading this newsletter are already members of ISUAA/SUAA. But you probably know others who should be members but aren't. Send them a link to the Annuitants Association Website at Anuitants.IllinoisState.edu for information and membership materials. Better yet, bring them with you to this fall's kick-off breakfast on September 7, where they can enjoy the fellowship of ISUAA and hear President Larry Dietz's up-to-the-minute account of how ISU is faring in the face of the state's continuing budget crisis. A reservation form for the event is included in this newsletter.

I want to conclude by thanking Chuck McGuire for his steady leadership during trying times. For all of our sakes, I hope my term is less eventful than Chuck's has been. I also want to thank ISU's College of Fine Arts for its sponsorship of this edition of the newsletter. CFA continues to offer our membership special ISUAA rates for all events at the Center for the Performing Arts. A summary of its exciting fall productions, exhibitions, and performances is included in this issue.

ISUAA fall breakfast

The ISUAA Fall meeting will once again be a breakfast meeting, to be held at 8:30 a.m. on Wednesday, September 7, 2016, in the Old Main Room. We are very pleased that President and First Lady Larry and Marlene Dietz will be in attendance, and that President Dietz will give an update on happenings regarding Illinois State University. Door prizes will be awarded. Price is \$13.50 per person. We are looking forward to great attendance and hope to see many of you there! Fill out your reservation form now, and join us in September!

ISUAA annual dinner meeting

The ISU Annuitants Association held its annual dinner meeting June 8, in Bone Student Center. Charles Harris was elected president, Maureen Peel, secretary, and Roger Cann and Christ Schwelle, di-

ISUAA Fall Breakfast reservation form

Wednesday, September 7, 8:30-10:30 a.m.

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center
featuring President Larry Dietz

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

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

Entrees:

_____ Scrambled eggs with bacon

NAMES

_____ Scrambled eggs with veggies

NAMES

Please indicate dietary restrictions:

Reservations must be received no later than **August 26**. **Late reservations cannot be accepted.** Please mail the reservation form, along with your check, to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-8000. No phone reservations, please.

If you would like an email confirmation, please provide your email address here:

rectors. Continuing in their positions are Gail Lamb, vice president, Neil Gridley, treasurer, and directors Jan Cook and Marie Dawson.

Outgoing president Chuck McGuire was presented with the Distinguished Service Award.

Five door prizes were awarded to lucky attendees. Thank you to Barnes & Noble Bone Student Center Bookstore, Normal Theatre/Normal Parks and Recreation, and our other door prize sponsors.

Fall 2016 College of Fine Arts events

by Jean MK Miller, Dean
College of Fine Arts

ISU's College of Fine Arts is pleased to announce a selection of their fall 2016 events below. For the complete event schedules please see the School of Music, School of Theatre and Dance, School of Art, University Galleries, and The Illinois Shakespeare Festival websites. ISUAA special member rates apply. University Galleries' events are free.

School of Theatre and Dance

Waiora (New Zealand/Indigenous Maori play)

By Hone Kouka, directed by Kim Pereira

September 30, October 1, 4-8 at 7:30 p.m. and October 2 at 2 p.m.

The Center for Performing Arts, ISU

Fall Dance Theatre

November 3-5 at 7:30 p.m.

The Center for Performing Arts, ISU

It's A Wonderful Life, A Live Radio Play

Adapted by Joe Landry, directed by Connie de Veer

December 2-3, 6-10 at 7:30 p.m. and December 4 at 2 p.m.

The Center for the Performing Arts, ISU

In memoriam

Ellen Abshire	2/26/2016
Floyd Bonds.....	3/8/2016
Brian Braye.....	4/28/2016
Charles Gose.....	3/31/2016
Archie Harris.....	4/11/2016
Maria Hirsch	3/1/2016
Bryant Jackson	5/11/2016
Wenona James.....	3/8/2016
Theodore Lenegar	3/27/2016
G. Ben Paxton.....	3/5/2016
Mary Kay Rotsch	5/11/2016
Mable Scott	4/28/2016
W. Paul Vogt	4/27/2016
Neva Waller.....	4/9/2016
Eugene Wheat	5/14/2016

University Galleries: Exhibitions

11 Uptown Circle, Normal, IL

Claire Ashley: Caut, Hot, Taut... Not

On view through September 11

Rob Swainston: We thought they thought what we thought, but they didn't.

On view through September 11

Beyond the Norm, international juried printmaking competition organized by N.E.W. to celebrate its 40th anniversary

On view September 20–October 16

Wonsook Kim: Lines of Enchantment, a solo exhibition of the artist's drawings, prints, and bronze wall reliefs, *alum

On view September 20–October 16

Placelessness, an exhibition featuring multimedia installations by Sara Rothsberg and David Reuter and Marissa Lee Benedict

On view September 20–October 16

Strange Oscillations and Vibrations of Sympathy, a group exhibition featuring works by contemporary female artists that reference women writers

On view October 25–December 18

Gallery Events

Performance by Claire Ashley and Joshua Patterson

Uptown Normal roundabout

September 9 at 6 p.m.

Opening reception for Beyond the Norm, Wonsook Kim, and Placelessness

September 20, from 5–7 p.m.

Artist lecture by Wonsook Kim

September 21, at noon

Opening reception for Strange Oscillations and Vibrations of Sympathy

October 25, from 5–7 p.m.

School of Music

Gold Series: Music for the Holidays

Center for Performing Arts, ISU

December 3 at 3 p.m. and 7 p.m.

December 4 at 3 p.m.



ISUAA Directory

In the 2016–17 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, 2016**, 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

How Time Flies

by April Karlene Anderson

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

150 years ago – 1866

- In his report to the board, President Edwards addressed repeated delay of funds from the State Treasurer to the Board Treasurer: “For the last two or three years, there has been much delay on the part of the State Treasurer to pay over to your Treasurer the funds due on the first day of January of each year. The consequence has been an entire derangement of the finances of the Institution. Great delay becomes unavoidable in the payment of bills which ought to be settled at once. Members of the Faculty find it necessary to resort to perplexing expedients for want of money justly due to them. The evil is a very serious one; and if additional legislation is necessary to correct it, as, I understand from the Honorable Superintendent of Public Instruction, is the case, I sincerely hope that the attention of the legislature may be early and effectually called to the matter. As it now is, the Institution and the members of the Faculty both incur no inconsiderable loss.” *Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois*, Meeting Minutes, June 27-28, 1866, page 7.

100 years ago – June 1916

- In an effort to start the summer term off smoothly, President Felmley outlined a number of directions for students to follow. Items included how to properly fill out a registration card “name in full, surname first.” “Illinois students should sign the pledge to teach in Illinois and pay one dollar” while out-of-state and non-teaching students paid six dollars, students were to contact the Dean of Women to secure boarding, reminders that there was only a five-minute intermission between class bells, and “At the close of the second hour students should move without delay to the Auditorium for General Exercises.” *The Vidette*, June 10, 1916 (Vol. 28, No 37, page 1)
- The Fell Gateway was dedicated on Monday, June 12, 1916. The wife of Colonel D.C. Smith, whose home would be purchased by the university in 1934 and turned into Smith Hall, spearheaded the plan to create the gateway. *The Vidette*, June 17, 1916 (Vol. 28, No 38, page 1)

75 years ago – June 1941

- Journalist Genevieve Tabouis was the first speaker in the ISNU Summer Lecture Series. Tabouis, who was at the time a refugee from World War II German-occupied France, was expected to speak on her work as a prominent female journalist. *The Vidette*, June 10, 1941 (Vol. 53, No 59, page 1)
- A 14 percent drop in summer enrollment was reported at ISNU due in large part to the draft. Registrar Elsie Brenneman attributes the drop not only to the draft but to the college age men and women who would normally be attending college but are taking up the jobs left behind by the draftees. Brenneman explained to *The Vidette* the drop in enrollment was also felt at other regional campuses. *The Vidette*, June 27, 1941 (Vol. 53, No 61, page 1)



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.

50 years ago – July 1966

- *The Vidette* announced the return of 27-year-old alumni Kenneth “Buzz” Shaw as assistant to then President Bone. When asked by the paper about his feelings on returning to the university, he stated: “I feel very good in coming back. ISU is an outstanding school. I am pleased to be back.” He then added, “But there’s the problem of who you can call by their first name and who you must address as ‘Dr.’ or ‘Mr.’” *The Vidette*, July 6, 1966 (Vol. 79, No 1, page 1)
- *The Vidette* announced the appointment of Dr. Phoebe Scott as the department head of health and physical education for women. Scott was replacing Dr. Ellen D. Kelly who was returning to full-time teaching. *The Vidette*, July 6, 1966 (Vol. 79, No 1, page 1)

25 years ago – June 1991

- The university announced the closure of the University Museum and Photo Services. At the time, it was unclear where the materials held by the museum and Photo Services would be located. However, many of the museum’s artifacts and a large portion of the Photo Services photograph collection now reside at the University Archives. *Summer Vidette*, June 19, 1991 (Vol. 104, No 1, page 1)
- Five ISU baseball players were picked in the 1991 Major League Baseball draft. First baseman Todd Schroeder went in the 17th round to the Pittsburgh Pirates while pitcher Andy Cotner went in the 20th round to the New York Mets. Outfielder Brad James (25th round), second baseman Rick O’Neill (32nd round), and pitcher Scott Behrens (42nd round) all went to the Atlanta Braves. *Summer Vidette*, June 19, 1991 (Vol. 104, No 1, page 16)

New university email system

Illinois State is upgrading email and calendar for all students, faculty/staff, and annuitants. This multi-phase transition started last year and will be available for those annuitants using @ilstu.edu email later this fall. Watch for official communications via email and through the annuitant newsletter. If you would like to learn more, please visit the website: www.IllinoisState.edu/office365.

The ISU University Club

by Bob Preston and Kay Wilson

University Club Discussion Hours: Please accept an open invitation to join us at our University Club discussions this Fall Semester on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Faculty Staff Commons in the Bone Student Center. At 4:30 p.m. our speakers begin, so you may come at that time if it better fits your schedule. All ISU faculty, staff, administrative professionals, retirees, and ISUAA members 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 a meeting, and we always welcome and enjoy chatting with our colleagues from all areas of the Illinois University System. The schedule for our talks is under development at this time. Please see our webpage for updated information about the talks and other information about the University Club (uClub.IllinoisState.edu).

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. This fall semester our dinners will feature Portuguese cuisine (Saturday October 1) and Parisian French cuisine (Saturday November 5). 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 ISU Catering Service Chefs. The detailed menus are being developed, so please check our website for more information (uClub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners).

Scholarships Awards: On December 9, 2016, we will award 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 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."*

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



Helping hamper

by Jan Cook

Our September Helping Hamper will benefit the Crisis Nursery at the Children's Foundation in Bloomington, which shelters children up to age 9 during a family crisis, such as a fire or the hospitalization of a sibling, when family adults are not available to look after them. The Nursery can use healthful snacks and fruit, cute paper plates or napkins, clean used children's clothes and toys, and full or partial packs of disposable diapers or wipes.

The June Helping Hamper collection for the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry brought in food, including packaged fruit, salad dressing, and canned goods, dozens of packages of deodorant, razors, and bar soap to help folks feel clean in our sticky summer weather, and \$65 in cash and checks.

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

Thanks!

Homecoming 2016

by Rachel Kobus '09, M.S. '11
Associate Director, Alumni Relations

Every year campus comes alive during Homecoming week (October 3–October 9). There are many must-do activities, with Saturday the most action-packed day of the weeklong celebration.

The celebrations kick off on Monday, October 3, with the Town of Normal tree lighting in Uptown Normal at 6 p.m. The program will include performances from the Big Red Marching Machine and Illinois State cheerleaders.

After the program, take a carriage ride from Hileman Carriage. Guests can also stop by University Galleries until 8 p.m. for refresh-

ments and take in several exhibits, including “Beyond the Norm,” an exhibit featured in the College of Fine Arts Normal Editions Workshop.

On Saturday, alums join community members in the annual Town & Gown 5K Run and One Mile Family Fun Run, which is once again scheduled for 8 a.m. There are 12 divisions in the event, including 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! This year the fun starts at 10 a.m.

The football game is definitely a high point. This year’s game against Youngstown State 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 around campus and Uptown Normal. Start by visiting the Alumni Association hospitality tent in the tailgating area.

For more detailed information on all the exciting events taking place during Homecoming week, visit Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu.

SUAA annual meeting: legal issues

by *Larry Alferink*

The most recent SUAA Annual Meeting in Springfield (June 21-22) featured several very interesting and informative talks that may be of interest to our members. There are two in particular that should be of specific interest, both dealing with constitutional protection of your pension and benefits.

The first talk was given by Eric Mediar, former legal counsel for Illinois Senate President John Cullerton. Some of you may remember an excellent article he authored that was a legal analysis of the protections provided by Article XIII, Section 5, of the Illinois Constitution, the so-called pension clause. He conducted this analysis at the request of Cullerton to help him resolve legal claims by the Civic Federation and by the prominent law firm Sidley and Austin, a member of the Civic Federation, that the Automatic Annual Increase (COLA) could be reduced for both current employees and for retirees. Sidley and Austin had argued that the pension protection was not in effect immediately upon hiring, but only at some later date, and that the contract clause of Article XIII could be set aside given the serious financial difficulties that the state was experiencing.

Mediar, citing the legislative history and numerous legal precedents since the pension clause was adopted, concluded that the protection of pensions began on the first day of employment, as the pension benefits in effect on that date were part of a contract that each employee accepted when they agreed to work for the state.

While his full analysis is too complex to repeat here, one important component of his paper was an analysis that argued that the contract provision of Article XIII provided protections, but that contracts can be changed if consideration is given in exchange for a

Make your newsletter electronic!

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

If you prefer the electronic version, please send an email to: cbharri@gmail.com, simply stating that you would prefer to receive the newsletter electronically, together with your name and preferred email address. You will be placed on the electronic distribution list, and you will receive notification and a link by email whenever a newsletter is available. It’s printable, and it’s easy!

diminishment of an aspect of the contract. This formed the basis of his presentation of how the state could constitutionally diminish the pension and benefits of current employees. His argument revolves around a bill sponsored by Cullerton that would give employees a choice between receiving future pay increases or receiving an automatic three percent annual increase upon retirement. His argument is that pay increases are not required under the constitution and that providing such increases would be a consideration in exchange for an agreement to forgo pension increases upon retirement. There are questions about whether the Supreme Court would agree that this was constitutional. There also are practical considerations regarding the retention of current employees covered under Tier I were such legislation to be approved. Unless someone were close to retirement, in which case individuals would likely opt to forgo pay increases, others for whom retirement was more distant would likely accept the pay increases and immediately begin looking for other employment. This would be particularly devastating for the state universities that would lose key employees, some of whom would immediately be recruited by universities in other states. This would especially be true of faculty with sizeable federal grants who could take the grants with them to their new university.

While such legislation might be constitutional, it could easily turn out to be penny wise and pound foolish. In any case, if any of you believe that pensions are no longer under attack given recent Supreme Court decisions, this should make it clear that we need to stay vigilant. Fortunately, so far there has been no effort to move Cullerton’s bill in the Senate. However, the legislature agreed this past session to provide the City of Chicago with a \$200,000,000 bailout if they would agree to help pass a pension bill. So stay tuned!

The second important presentation was by John Carr and Aaron Madoff, the SUAA attorneys who represented our interests in the pension case and in the health insurance case. It seems clear that while the state is trying to figure out how it can avoid paying pen-

sions that were promised, they likely are now seeking to reduce the state's share of health care costs. This is evident both from meetings that CMS has been holding with stakeholders including SUAA over the past year, as well as the ongoing but stalled contract negotiations between the state and AFSCME. At one point, CMS asked stakeholders to poll their members for their preference about various CMS proposals. Our attorneys advised SUAA to refuse to agree to do such polling as it could be used to undermine any legal recourse available to us should we find the health insurance changes unacceptable.

Our attorneys believe that the unanimous ruling from the Supreme Court in the pension case provides broad protection against excessive increases in health insurance costs (e. g., co-pays). Their opinion is further supported by the Kanerva ruling providing annuitants with state health insurance at no cost to the annuitant. They believe the state may pass along increased costs, but only if the annuitant's share of total health insurance costs remains roughly proportional over time. Thus, if annuitants pay 15 percent of the cost of health care, the state cannot increase that share of the cost to 20 percent or 25 percent of total health care costs.

While somewhat less clear, our attorneys also believe that this constitutional protection applies to insurance for spouses and other dependents. While the state cannot increase health insurance premiums for annuitants, as it is not constitutionally allowed to charge such premiums, whether the state could increase premiums for dependents is not a matter of settled law. It seems clear that the state has been seriously considering such an increase, but that action has been on hold pending resolution of the contract negotiations with AFSCME.

In the past, all university employees have received pension benefits and insurance costs consistent with those negotiated by the

Save these dates

Fall Breakfast – September 7, 2016

Holiday Luncheon – December 7, 2016

Spring Luncheon – March 1, 2017

General Meeting and Election – June 7, 2017

Fall Breakfast – September 6, 2017

Holiday Luncheon – December 6, 2017

state with AFSCME. If dependent premiums or co-pays increase as a result of contract negotiations, such negotiations probably satisfy the “consideration argument” discussed above in the section on Eric Mediar's presentation and are likely constitutional. Based on the actions SUAA took last spring on the advice of our attorneys, SUAA members who are not represented by a union may not be bound by the results of such contract negotiations. If negotiated health care costs are excessive, we may not be bound by the outcome of these negotiations, and there may be a case that could be brought on behalf of our members based on the recent Supreme Court case.

Understand that the decision to enter into a lawsuit against the state is not a matter to be taken lightly. Lawsuits cost money and can be quite expensive. It does not make sense to file such a case over modest cost increases, even if they are not precisely proportional. However, the state is well aware that our attorneys are watching what happens in this matter and that by itself may dampen their enthusiasm for proposing increases that are likely to draw them into court as well.



**ILLINOIS STATE
UNIVERSITY**
Illinois' first public university

Annuity Association
Campus Box 8000
Normal, IL 61790-8000

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

This document is available in alternative formats upon request by contacting the Annuity Association at (309) 438-4311. An equal opportunity/affirmative action university encouraging diversity. University Marketing and Communications 17-0172 printed on recycled paper ♻️

**For more information, visit
Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu**

