

isuaa news

"ISUAA – serving annuitants and survivors since 1971"

2005-2006 Issue No. 3, February 1, 2006 Co-Editors, Jack Hobbs and Janet Cook

Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter
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PRESIDENT'S REMARKS

Janet Cook

The last few years in Illinois have seen a great deal of discussion of pensions, benefits and the state budget. Everyone agrees that Illinois does have financial problems. The legislature and the media have shown that no one can agree on the solutions, but the pension systems have taken both verbal and financial hits.

While the State University Annuitants Association (SUAA) is pursuing an active lobbying role in Springfield, the ISUAA has been reaching out to people and groups in our local area. After reading a Pantagraph editorial that theorized about the value of having retirees paying taxes and volunteering services in the community, I wanted to make Bloomington/Normal more aware of whom we are and how we contribute.

First, Picking up an idea of Parker Lawlis's, we've been inviting one area legislator to each of our social events to talk to and with our members. To avoid any appearance of favoritism, the invitations went out in alphabetical order. Thus far, Senator Bill Brady,

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Representative Dan Brady, and Representative Keith Sommer have been our guests. Senator Dan Rutherford could not attend our third session, but we hope he will get to the Spring Luncheon.

Our intention is to remind legislators that retirees are here, are interested voters, and are following closely the

issues that affect pensions and benefits. Of course, the impact on lawmakers is greater the larger the group of voters, and we have begun collaborating with two other interested organizations.

Heartland Community College has just organized an Annuitants Association. Although they have only 7 retirees, they have about 30 HAA members. Louise Krippenstapel, an officer, has been delegated to attend our bi-monthly council meetings so that we can coordinate our efforts to work with state officials.

ISU's Civil Service Council has named a Legislative Committee chair, Steve Lancaster, to keep their members up to date on significant discussions in Springfield. As part of his outreach plan, Steve has joined ISUAA and is part of SUAA's legislative list-serve. He came to our luncheon to meet Representative Sommer, and has an open invitation to our other events.

Second, the Helping Hampers we have set up at our meetings are a way of demonstrating our interest in community needs. So far we have donated to four local charities: the Crisis Nursery, the St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry, the Clare House Soup Kitchen, and the Compassion Center at Second Presbyterian.

Third, many of you are very active in our community, but, modest as you are, may not be playing up the point that retirees count for a lot around here. Could you toot our horn a little and point out the ISU people continue to matter? Work it into your conversations occasionally?

2006 CALENDAR

Wed., Mar. 8

ISUAA Board Meeting with Committee Chairs, Spotlight Room 2:00 – 3:30.

Mon. and Wed. March 20 and 22

55 Drive Alive course at the Calvary United Methodist Church, sponsored by YWCA Senior Services. Advance Registration required—phone 454 1451

Wed., Apr. 5

ISUAA Spring Luncheon, 11:30 – 2:00, Ballroom, Bone Student Center

Mon., Apr. 17

Deadline for materials, May Newsletter

WED. and Thurs. April 19 and 20

55 Drive Alive course at the Farm Bureau, sponsored by YWCA Senior Services. Advance Registration required—phone 454 1451

Wed., May 10

ISUAA Board Meeting with Committee Chairs, Spotlight Room 2:00 – 3:30

May ??

Tour of the new Lincoln Museum in Springfield

Wed., Jun. 7

ISUAA Annual Dinner and Elections, 5:30-7:30 Location TBA

Wed., Jul. 12

ISUAA Board Meeting with Committee Chairs, Spotlight Room 2:00 – 3:30

Mon., Jul. 17

Deadline for materials, August Newsletter

Wed., Sep. 13

ISUAA Board Meeting with Committee Chairs, Spotlight Room 2:00 – 3:30

Mon., Oct. 16

Deadline for materials, November Newsletter

Wed., Nov. 8

ISUAA Board Meeting with Committee Chairs, Spotlight Room 2:00 – 3:30

SPRING LUNCHEON

The ISUAA Spring Luncheon will be held on Wednesday, April 5, 2006 at the Brown Ballroom of the Bone Student Center. Doors open at 11:00 A.M.. Serving starts at 11:30. The price per person is \$13. The menu includes

Tossed Salad w/dressings
Mediterranean basil chicken served over fettuccini or grilled polenta
Vegetable medley
Fresh fruit cup
Warm bread sticks
Assorted pies
Coffee, iced tea; hot tea on request
Reservations to be sent by March 30 to Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701-5344, or to Dona Meador, 311 S. Towanda, #4. Normal, IL 61761.

ELECTIONS IN JUNE

At the Annual Meeting held at the end of the ISUAA dinner on Wednesday, June 7, 2006, we will be holding elections for officers and Council members. Terms expiring are *President*: currently Jan Cook. By custom, presidents do not run for reelection.

Secretary: currently Carolyn Bartlett. Secretaries may be reelected.

Two Council seats: currently Don Kachur and Pat Grogg.

If you would like to nominate yourself or another member for one of these positions, please contact Marilee Rapp, chair of the Nominating Committee. We welcome multiple candidates for these positions.

WELCOME NEW RETIREES

David W. Borst	08-01-05
Mary K. Gafney	08-01-05
I. Dean Heibert	08-01-05
Jerry I. Jinks	08-01-05
Sarah E. Musselman	08-01-05
Linda J. Bagby	09-01-05
Betty J. Kinser	09-01-05
Larry D. Norby	09-01-05
Kathie J. Toennes	09-01-05
Roslyn Wylie	09-01-05
Laura Miller	10-01-05
Robert E. Brown	11-01-05
Gloria J. Mott	11-01-05
Thomas Fowles	01-01-06
Cheryl Young	01-01-06

LUNCHEON HELPING HAMPER

The Helping Hamper at our April 5 luncheon will be for the Compassion Center, a day-time shelter for the homeless in downtown Bloomington. Some suggestions:

Individual snacks, including high-protein bars
Microwaveable single serving meals
Coffee, tea
Paper cups, napkins
Cold medicine, facial tissues
Feminine hygiene products
Laundry soap

THANKS, GREETINGS RECEIVED

The Clare House Soup Kitchen received the donations to the Helping Hamper at our December Luncheon. Don Peterson delivered our cooler of frozen meats and tub of food and supplies. We received a note of thanks signed by "All at Clare House".

Representative Keith Sommer (106th District), the legislator guest at our December Luncheon, sent us "Merry

Christmas! Happy New Year!” greetings with a photograph of him, his wife, and their two daughters.

Tom Clemmens, President of Heartland College Annuitants Association, sent us “Seasons Greetings” with a note saying, “Thanks for hosting us at your fall dinner.” Heartland is SUAA’s newest chapter.

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

The Discovery Learning Program is an after-school reading tutorial program run by Mount Pisgah Baptist Church at 801 W. Market St., Bloomington. Their program has grown so rapidly that they have put out a call for volunteers (Pantagraph, Jan. 11, 2006, p. A12) Volunteers start at 3:30 with student activities, then do tutoring in reading and vocabulary from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m. Tutoring materials are provided. People who can give one hour a week on a fairly steady basis will be welcomed with open books.

To learn more, call (309) 821-9552 or (309) 766-0012, or e-mail marie.njeumen.LTK8@statefarm.com

HELP WANTED

ISUAA desperately needs a newsletter editor to replace Jack Hobbs. Pay is good—equal to that of the President and Board Members.

Contact Jan Cook 726-1664 or Jack Hobbs 662-1830

LEGISLATIVE REPORT by Tom Wilson, Legislative Co-Chair

The Illinois Legislative session began on January 11 and is scheduled to end on April 7. Since the session is so short and legislators and executive officials will be looking forward to

elections in March and November, not much is expected to be done. The main objective will be to get some capital improvements for roads, buildings, etc. For incumbents, obtaining such improvements for their own district is good for getting re-elected.

The State is a little better off financially than it was at this time last year, but the main reason for this is the \$2.3 billion under-funding of the State retirement systems for fiscal years 2006 and 2007 (July 1, 2005 to June 30, 2007). For fiscal year 2005 the State contributed \$1.64 billion to the State retirement systems and was supposed to increase the payment each year to reach 90% funding by 2045. However, in fiscal year 2006 the State will contribute only \$935 million. This is something like telling your banker you won’t make your house payments for the next two years because you want to buy a BMW Roadster instead. Unfortunately, the State can get away with just letting the debt accumulate.

Hear Representative Dan Brady on February 10

Representative Brady will be the guest speaker at the University Club meeting at 4:30 pm on Friday, February 10. This event is sponsored by ISUAA with a small grant from SUAA to pay for the food. Jude Boyer has done a good job of keeping you informed on U-Club events. The U-Club “meeting” starts at 3:30 on Fridays and ends at 5:30. Food and drinks are ready at 3:30; the food is free and you pay for the drinks. The first hour is mostly a social period where you can talk with friends and meet a few new people.

The speaker talks at 4:30, usually for 10 – 15 minutes. Then there is a question and answer session and

discussion with the speaker, which can go until 5:30. People are free to come and go as they wish. The University Club meets in the Commons area at the northeast corner of the first floor of the Bone Center

POLITICAL INVOLVEMENT COMMITTEE

By Christ Schwelle

An article in the January issue of SUAA News provided an update on SUAA's Political Involvement Committee (PIC) initiative. In a nutshell, the purpose of SUAA's PIC initiative is to maximize the political influence of SUAA through grass roots efforts with local legislators. Structurally, there is a state-wide SUAA PIC Board of Directors to provide leadership and coordination. I am the ISUAA representative to this board and attended their first meeting January 13. All 50 local SUAA chapters are being asked to form their own PICs. ISUAA is in the process of doing this. Toward this end, Tom Wilson and I attended a workshop January 10 at Illinois Central College to learn more about the responsibilities of local PICs and get some pointers from SUAA's legislative liaison. The first step for local PICs is to establish positive relationships with local legislators. ISUAA has done a great job of this over the years. We need to maintain and enhance these relationships. Local chapters who have not done as well as ISUAA in this regard need to get rolling, and the SUAA PIC Board will help them do so.

I am thankful that when local PIC members meet with legislators we can say we represent some 1,300 local voters. I'd like to build on that. If you know an annuitant, survivor or pre-

retiree who has not yet joined please encourage them to do so. Please feel free to contact me (cfschwel@ilstu.edu or 663-0230) for membership information.

SURS ANNOUNCES NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

By Christ Schwelle and Tom Wilson

At their 12/7/05 meeting, the SURS Board of Trustees chose Dan M. Slack to fill the position of Executive Director vacated when James Hacking departed in August for a position in Arizona. Slack had served as interim Executive Director and prior to that as Associate Executive Director and General Counsel for SURS. The selection of Slack is seen as positive news for SURS members, especially given the Governor's advocating for the position a former legislator who was unseated by the voters in his district. It is crucial that the Executive Director be an advocate for SURS members rather than an agent for the governor or legislators.

BLOOMINGTON-NORMAL: A GREAT PLACE TO LIVE!

By Christ Schwelle

Every once in a while a newspaper or magazine article will list good locations for retirees to live. Frequently university towns are cited because of university sponsored cultural activities, athletic events, etc. Such opportunities exist in Bloomington-Normal and contribute to the quality of life. This issue of ISUAA News is sponsored by the College of Fine Arts (CFA) and in another article Brandon Burling describes some of CFA's spring semester offerings and how ISUAA members can obtain discounted tickets. These are significant discounts from the

prices for seniors! Illinois State Athletics sponsored the November issue, which included a coupon for a free game ticket. Braden Auditorium will sponsor the May issue with the intent of featuring events booked for 06-07. One of the great things about retirement is having more control over our schedules. Let's take advantage of this and attend events we didn't have time for when we were working, and support the efforts of current faculty, staff and students. Bloomington-Normal can be a great place to live if we take advantage of our opportunities.

One ISUAA group that recently took advantage of a cultural opportunity attended ISUAA Night at Madrigals. It was a great evening of food, entertainment and fellowship. Thank you to CFA and the faculty, staff and students associated with the 50th anniversary edition of the Madrigal Dinner Concerts. Also, thanks to the CFA for sponsoring this issue of ISUAA News.

**ISUAA PERFORMING ARTS
DISCOUNTS
By Brandon C. Burling, General
Manager
College of Fine Arts Box Offices**

The Center for the Performing Arts (CPA) and the College of Fine Arts are pleased to announce a special ticket rate for ISUAA members for the remainder of our 2005 – 2006 season: \$5 for Main-stage Theatre productions or Gold Series Music events, and \$3 for Second-stage Theatre productions or Regular Music events.

Main-stage productions in the CPA Theatre: February 24, 25, 28, and March 1-4 at 7:30 pm and February 26 at 2 pm: *The Normal Heart* focuses on an activist

of the 1980's who sets out to bring attention to the AIDS crisis. April 7, 8, and 12-15 at 7:30 pm; April 9 at 2 pm: *Die Fledermaus* features our annual collaboration of Theatre and Music in this visual, comedic opera for the entire family. May 5 and 6 are the dates of our annual *Spring Dance Concert*.

Second-Stage productions in Westhoff Theatre: March 2-4 at 7:30 pm and March 4-5 at 2 pm: *Crimes of the Heart* deals with family issues in a heartwarming, yet zany play, which received the Pulitzer Prize in 1981. March 30-April 1 at 7:30 pm: *Necessary Targets* presents a story both inspiring and heartbreaking about women refugees in Bosnia. April 28 – 30: *As You Like It* (and May 2 and 6 as a Main-stage production)

All music events are performed in the CPA Concert Hall. Remaining Gold Series events are:
Wind Symphony Orchestra – February 26 at 3 pm.
Jazz Festival with Special Guest Artist – April 1 at 8 pm.
Concerto-Aria – April 26 at 8 pm.
Choral Collage – April 30 at 7 pm.

Tickets may be obtained by calling the CPA Box Office at 438-2535 or visiting during regular business hours – 12 to 5 pm – Monday through Friday. ISUAA members must inform the box office of their membership in order to receive the discount. Please pick up your tickets no later than 15 minutes prior to performance. More information is available on our website at www.illinoisstate.edu/finearts.

I hope to see you all at the show!

TEE-BIRD GOLF
By Pete Whitmer

Tee Bird Golf League meeting is May 11. Play begins May 18. ISU annuitants, spouses and surviving spouses interested in playing golf in the Tee Bird Golf League this year should plan to attend the organizational meeting in the Faculty-Staff Commons at Bone Student Center at 10a.m. Thursday May 11. (Mark your calendar) Ask others to come to the meeting. The fee of \$6 will be collected at time of meeting. (The fee covers luncheon and prizes.)

Persons not able to attend can call Pete Whitmer (828-9550). Call if you have questions. League play will begin May 18 and continue into September. Most of the play will be at the ISU course with additional playtime at other area courses. The ISU golf course will sell annuitants, spouses and survivors a 9-hole-10 play package for \$50. Cart rental, if desired, will be \$63 person. (Total \$113 - paid at time of sign-up) Spouses and survivors should be members of ISUAA, and it is expected that players buy the package in April or early May to be ready for play May 18.

UNIVERSITY CLUB SPRING 2006
EVENTS
Jude Boyer

Discussion Hours. Discussion Hours are held each Friday that classes are in session. Please join us for refreshments and lively conversation in the Bone Student Center Faculty/Staff Commons from 3:30 to 5:30.

Spring Gourmet Dinners. The last dinner this spring will be Saturday,

February 25; a Caribbean cuisine will be served. Full information about each menu and reservation details are available on the University Club website (www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub/gourmet_dinners.htm). Reservations are due to Jude Boyer by February 17 (827-2826).

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 the University Club may be found at the following website address: www.lilt.ilstu.edu/uclub/.

PARKING ON CAMPUS FOR
RETIREES
By Christ Schwelle

Those of us who attend events on campus are thankful for our gold emeritus/retiree parking tags which we obtain free every school year, and which allow us to park free of charge (except when special event rate is in effect), in the Bone/Braden and South University St. pay lots on campus. The gold tags also allow us access to unreserved spaces in faculty/staff (FS) lots. While we earned these privileges, we are still thankful.

If you do not have one of these gold tags they are available at the Office of Parking and Transportation, 709 N. Main St. 7:30 – 4:30 M-F. In order to obtain the tag you must present a valid ISU (photo) Retiree ID card. Many of us have these, but if you don't these are available at the Campus Card Office, 2nd floor Bone/Braden. Hours are 9 – 5:30 M–F (5pm breaks). Please bring a photo ID, such as a driver's license, with you. The Retiree IDs may also be used at Milner Library, Bowling & Billiards

Center, Recreation Services, ISU Golf Course and for other campus privileges.

When we park in the pay lots, rather than FS lots, it maximizes parking available in these lots for current FS and in the evenings for commuter students. These people have to pay when they use the pay lots. When utilizing the pay lots, be prepared to show your tag to the attendant who needs to record the tag number.

When attending an event where the special event rate is in effect you can either pay the \$4 or park in a nearby FS lot for free. If you see a reserved space with a red sign you may park there after 5pm with your gold tag. Reserved spaces with white signs are available only to those with permits for reserved spaces.

Information regarding when the special event rate is in effect for specific lots may be obtained by calling Parking and Transportation (438-8391). On occasion some FS lots are converted to special event parking. Thanks to Maggie Nelson at Parking and Transportation and Robin Knapp at Campus Card Office for providing this information.

ISUAA DIRECTORY **By Christ Schwelle**

Many thanks to Vice President Dianne Ashby for University Advancement's sponsorship of the ISUAA Directory for 2005 – 2006. Please add the name of Gail Lamb, Development Director - College of Education/University Laboratory Schools (438-2903), to the list of Development Directors at the bottom of Dr. Ashby's letter in the front of the Directory.

A variety of difficulties were encountered in putting this year's Directory together and the finished

product was not totally accurate. Some names were inadvertently deleted as were some email addresses, and some email addresses were not current.

ISUAA regrets this. Dona Meador and Paul Schertz will be meeting with the appropriate University staff to correct the situation. If the ISUAA Directory listing for you was not correct please send the correct information to Dona Meador, 311 S. Towanda Ave, Normal, IL 61761. Thank you.

BUS TRIP TO SPRINGFIELD **By Sharon Quiram**

A bus trip to the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Museum in Springfield is being planned for late May. **Details and a reservation process will be included in the May newsletter.** If you have not yet visited the Museum, you are in for a treat. It is spectacular and a new major exhibit entitled First Ladies will be opening just in time for us!

**RESERVATION FORM FOR
SPRING LUNCHEON APRIL 5, 2006**

Bone Student Center – Ball Room

Doors open at 11:00; Serving starts at 11:30

Name(s) of those attending _____

Please reserve _____ meals at \$13.00 each
Entrees: _____ Mediterranean Basil Chicken _____

(name(s))

_____ Vegetarian Grilled Polenta _____

(name(s))

Make check for total amount payable to: ANNUITANTS ASSN., and mail check and this reservation form by March 30, 2006 to Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington IL 61701-5344 or Dona Meador, 311 S. Towanda #4, Normal IL 61761

(Tear off and save this portion)

I sent my luncheon reservation in on _____

I ordered _____ Mediterranean Basil Chicken meal(s)

I ordered _____ Vegetarian Grilled Polenta meal(s)

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