



Volume 5 Number 1  
Fall 2010

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*ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971*

### President's message

This newsletter is scheduled to be mailed on Election Day. If you live in Illinois I hope you did your best to become as informed as possible and cast your vote for the candidate of your choice.

As you are aware Illinois and many other states are facing a "budgetary crisis" and some blame our "Cadillac" pensions as a major factor in this crisis. A common talking point is that the pension systems are "unsustainable." Repeating these talking points over and over doesn't make them true, but it does result in some people believing that they are. Many are not well informed about our state pension systems, and in bad economic times many in the public are anti-government and unsympathetic for anyone who is or was a public employee. An op-ed piece was published in *The State Register* about a month ago by a "pension expert" who seemed completely unaware that there are five pension systems in Illinois and that they do not have one-size-fits-all provisions. He seemed not to know that participants in SURS and TRS do not receive social security benefits and that participants in the other three systems do. Anyone who worked after retirement from public employment paid into social security and drew social security benefits as well as their pension was "double-dipping." He ignored the fact that these individuals have paid for this benefit, and that it is substantially reduced from the full social security benefit because of their government pension. We have work to do to educate the "experts," let alone the public at large!

Danger signs with respect to your pension and benefits are appearing around the country. As you know a significant charge for retiree health insurance was considered last spring in Illinois but was not included in the final bill. However some other states that have not charged health insurance premiums to retirees have begun to do so. Kentucky and Michigan are two recent examples with the Michigan case in court. Likewise three states that protect pension benefits either in their constitutions or in their pension laws have reduced "cost of living" increases for retirees relative to what has been provided in the past. These states include Colorado, Minnesota, and New Jersey. All three states are involved in lawsuits challenging these actions. You can be sure that there are individuals in Illinois that are watching these cases with great interest, and if one or more states prevail, will be pushing hard to change Illinois pensions. As you may know Sidley Austin LLP, the Tribune Co. law firm, has already issued legal opinions that future pensions for current employees can be reduced and that the Constitutional Guarantee of pensions applies to SURS, not the state of Illinois.

We are again delighted to be able to provide the Madrigal Singers as entertainment at the Holiday Luncheon. We hope you will be able to attend as this promises to again be a very enjoyable event. However it is critical that you mail your reservation form on time. In order to control our costs Campus Dining needs to know exactly how many meals to prepare when they place their food order. Therefore we cannot add late registrations beyond the due date. Please mail your registration today to avoid missing out on this delightful event!

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If you have visited campus recently you are aware that construction of the Student Fitness Center is nearing completion. Located on the spot where Dunn-Barton and Walker Halls used to be, a bridge crossing University Street connects the new building with McCormick Hall. In recognition of this event Recreation Services is sponsoring this newsletter and will be announcing tours of the building later this semester. If you live in Normal you may wish to take advantage of these opportunities. We express our appreciation for their support and invite you to take advantage of wellness and fitness programming that will be available to ISUAA members in spring 2011 at this new facility

*Larry Alferink, ISUAA President*

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## **President Bowman featured at fall luncheon**

Illinois State University President Al Bowman was the featured speaker at the ISUAA fall luncheon on September 1. More than 100 people attended the event. Bowman noted that the state funding problems continued but the University is managing the delay in the receipt of state payments. Student applications remained strong with more than 14,000 applicants, again resulting in a highly qualified freshman class. Bowman noted that our admissions standards are higher than half of the Big 10 institutions and that if a student elects to accept an offer of admission elsewhere, it is typically at another well-respected institution. He also noted that work has begun on renovating 400 rooms in Watterson Towers. Renovations on the Watterson Food Court have been completed, giving students the ability to access a webcam showing the length of lines at the food court.

Erin Minné, the new vice president for Advancement, was introduced and spoke to the group about her background at the University of Iowa and noted how proud she was to be a Redbird. Also recognized for their support of ISUAA were Barb Todd, who is transitioning to a new position as executive director of Ewing Properties, and Kathleen Pollock. Todd served as executive director of Internal Campaigns, has been our primary contact in University Advancement, and has been extremely supportive of our programs. Pollock has been critical in helping to maintain accurate information about our membership, permitting us to mail the quarterly newsletters and produce the directory. As several of our board members that work on these projects noted when a problem arises, Pollock has it solved by the next morning. Our thanks to both of them for their help and best wishes for their futures.

## **Madrigal Singers headline ISUAA holiday luncheon**

The annual ISUAA Holiday Luncheon, scheduled for 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 1, in the Brown Ballroom, will again feature the Illinois State University Madrigal Singers, directed by Karyl Carlson. A reservation form for the Holiday Luncheon is included in this newsletter.

This is the 55th season for the Madrigal Dinner Concerts, brought to the Illinois State community in 1956 by Bruce Kaiser and Jim Roderick. Tickets are now on sale for the performances that open on December 8. Additional performances are planned for December 9, 10, and 11 (two shows, 1 p.m. and 7 p.m.). The pre-show Champagne toast (included) starts at 6:30 p.m. and the show starts at 7 p.m. The show will feature time-honored Madrigal traditions and is called "Amahl and the Night Madrigals." General tickets are \$40, and tickets for groups of eight cost \$30 each. The price for seniors is also \$30. Ticket information may be obtained by contacting the Center for Performing Arts box office at (309) 438-2535.

In addition to Kaiser and Roderick a number of ISUAA members have played key roles in the success of Madrigals over the years, the most notable being the late John Ferrell, who served as director for many years. As a token of appreciation for the Madrigal Singers' performance at the Holiday Luncheon, ISUAA will make a donation to the Foundation account for the Madrigal Singers.

As the calendar year and tax year nears its end ISUAA members are encouraged to consider a donation to the Illinois State University Foundation, perhaps targeting an account, such as the John Ferrell Scholarship, that may have special meaning to them. Beth Snyder, assistant director for annual giving, can help you find the right account for your donation. Contact Snyder at (309) 438-5725.

## **Survivor's advocacy workshop a success**

The Survivor's Advocacy Team held a workshop just preceding the Fall Luncheon. Fourteen members attended and learned how to work their way through the maze of SURS paperwork that needs to be completed by the surviving spouse when an annuitant dies. The workshop was well received and will be repeated in the spring. Team members are also available if you know a surviving spouse who needs assistance with this paperwork at these difficult times. Please suggest that they contact Mary Liverman. Consider attending a future workshop to help in your own preparation.

### **Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter**

**Volume 5, Number 1, Fall 2010**

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Illinois State University Annuitants Association  
Campus Box 8000  
Normal, IL 61790-8000

[www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu](http://www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu)

## How time flies

### 50 years ago | October–December 1960

- Enrollment reached 4,468 students, an increase of 14 percent over 1959.
- Duke Ellington played McCormick at the second Big Four Dance of the year.
- Student Representatives from the six state universities under the Teachers College Board participated in a marathon run in support of the \$195 million Universities Bond Issue Referendum. ISNU students carried the “Torch of Wisdom” from Rock Island through Normal to Champaign. In the months prior to this last push, dozens of faculty and administrators delivered talks in scores of venues and wrote letters to garner support. The referendum passed and soon buildings were planned and constructed.

### 25 years ago | October–December 1985

- Henry Kissinger delivered the Adlai E. Stevenson Memorial Lecture.
- Illinois State University was an important element in the decision by Mitsubishi and Chrysler to locate the Diamond-Star Motors Corporation in Bloomington-Normal. The University began to gear up for the relationship by planning a Japanese School and other programs.

### 15 years ago | October–December 1995

- Kevin Lucas, a fifth-year music major, participated in a prestigious international marimba competition. Lucas, going to the competition for the third year, placed eighth in 1994.
- A student steering committee dropped the recreation center and parking decks from the upcoming referendum. A performing arts center, parking deck, and residence hall upgrades remained on the list for the February 1996 referendum.
- The Board of Regents met for the last time as Illinois State University began the transition to the Board of Trustees.

### 10 years ago | October–December 2000

- Ground was broken for the new College of Business Building on the south end of the Quad.
- *Educating Illinois: An Action Plan for Distinctiveness and Excellence at Illinois State University* was finalized.
- Eugene Hunter became the fourth person in the University’s history to work here for 50 years.
- The Kaufman Football Building was dedicated.

## Transitions

We are losing the services of several long-time supporters of ISUAA and employees in University Advancement. Previously serving as director of Alumni Relations and then as executive director of Internal and Annual Giving, Barb Todd has accepted a new position as executive director of Ewing Properties. In this position she will be responsible for programming at Ewing Manor, the Genevieve Green Gardens at the Manor, and the Theatre at the Manor. We wish Todd our best for a happy transition and delightful future. Todd continues her support of ISUAA as a member.

We will also miss the services of Kathleen Pollock, administrative clerk in University Advancement. Pollock has been responsible for maintaining accurate membership records on ISUAA membership for University Advancement and ISUAA. These records are critical as we do an annual membership audit between our local membership records maintained by Pollock and those maintained by the SUAA Office. Resolving any discrepancies allows us to print a membership directory that is accurate and to mail the directory and quarterly newsletters to our members. Pollock will be retiring as of December 1. We wish her a happy retirement, knowing that as a member of ISUAA it is likely she will have one!

## Annuitants’ pool

Now that cooler weather is here it is a good time to consider participating in annuitants’ pool. On Mondays from 2–4 p.m., a small group gathers at the Bowling and Billiards Center to play pool.

This is a very informal group of varying skill levels. Once the group gathers they decide the games (eight ball, nine ball, etc.) to be played that day. For more information contact Paul Dohrmann at [pfdohrm@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:pfdohrm@IllinoisState.edu) or (309) 452-2322. Join the group, learn a new game, or improve your skills. They welcome newcomers!

## Annuitants Association website

- Why join ISUAA
- History of ISUAA
- How to join
- Survivor assistance information
- Newsletters
- Parking on campus for retirees
- Meetings and events schedule
- Contacting your legislator
- Legislative platform

[www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu](http://www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu)

David Doss, Web page coordinator



## Contacting your state legislator

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

### Fundamental “dos”

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

### Fundamental “don’ts”

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

### How to address letters

*When writing to a state senator, state representative, or the governor:*

The Honorable John Doe (or Jane Doe), State Senator, State Representative, or Governor (address).

*For salutation:* Dear Governor Quinn, Dear Senator, or Dear Representative.

### Contact information for elected officials

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

## Are taxes too high?

As you near retirement age you undoubtedly receive numerous invitations to attend free dinners to learn about variable annuities and other “senior” products. A common question at these events is “How many of you think your taxes are too high?” Typically nearly every hand in the room immediately goes up. Of course we all would like to pay less in taxes, but the same is probably true for nearly every other product or service we use. But they never ask “How many of you think gasoline costs too much? Or that groceries are too expensive.”

If you are ever asked that question, consider how many people in the room actually know how to determine the answer to that question. Many of you may recall that during the Reagan Era discussions of supply side economics there was a prominent graph known as the Laffer Curve. Theoretically at least the Laffer Curve allows you to answer that question. Consider what would happen on one extreme of this curve where 100 percent of your income was taxed and you received no take-home pay. All of us would agree that we simply would not be motivated to work that hard to earn an income. Now consider the other extreme, where none of us paid any taxes and got to keep all of our income. There would be no tax disincentive to discourage us from working and we likely would be pretty motivated.

Of course this would also mean there would be no government services. Every street would be a toll road, you would be negotiating a price before the “Acme Fire Company” would agree to try to save your burning home, and none of us would have worked for a state university. The point at which taxes are too high is somewhere between these two points. Unfortunately nobody knows exactly where this point is, and it probably varies by income level. There are undoubtedly people that are more or less tolerant of taxes at any given income level.

So when the hands go up next time, ask yourself how they know and whether taxes would be too high even if they were much lower!

## Retiree information hotline

Call (309) 438-4311

Operated by  
University Advancement



## State senators/representatives for the Illinois State area

### 44th, State Senator Bill Brady (R)

billbrady@senatorbillbrady.com  
2203 Eastland Drive, Suite 3  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(309) 664-4440

### 53rd, State Senator Dan Rutherford (R)

danrutherford@danrutherford.com  
320 N. Plum Street  
Pontiac, IL 61764  
(815) 842-3632

### 88th, State Representative Dan Brady (R)

dan@rep-danbrady.com  
202 N. Prospect Road, Suite 203  
Bloomington, IL 61704  
(309) 662-1100

### 106th, State Representative Keith P. Sommer (R)

sommer@mtco.com  
121 W. Jefferson St.  
Morton, IL 61550  
(309) 263-9242

### Governor Pat Quinn (D)

[www.illinois.gov](http://www.illinois.gov),  
“Contact the Governor”  
207 State Capitol  
Springfield, IL 62706  
(217) 782-0244

## 2010–2011 directory

The 2010–2011 Annuitants Directory should be just about ready for mailing by the time you are reading the November newsletter. Barring any last minute delays you should receive your copy prior to Thanksgiving. Please let us know if you do not receive your copy. While every effort is made to ensure accurate directory information, errors do occur. Please review your information in the new directory and let us know of any inaccuracies. Instructions for notifying ISUAA of changes can be found on the last page of the directory.

Jude Boyer and Dona Meador are coordinating the revision and updating of the directory. Every effort is made to ensure the information is as accurate and up-to-date as possible. With more than 1,300 members this is a major task. We ask all members to inform us of any changes in the summer newsletter, so we thank you for the role you played in helping to ensure that your information is current.

Updating the directory is a time to add new members and unfortunately to remove those that have died during the past year. It is also a time when we do our best to follow up with individuals who have let their dues lapse, inviting them to submit their dues payment in time for inclusion of their name in the newest directory. We thank everyone that has their dues automatically deducted by SURS or by Illinois State University Payroll, or who pay those dues promptly. If your name is not included you may have forgotten. That is why automatic dues deduction is such a benefit as it is one less thing we need to remember. Of course if your name is not in the directory you probably also didn't get this newsletter!

## Is Social Security going broke?

You have all heard the news. Social Security will run out of money by 2037. Social Security is paying out more money than it is taking in. As an intergenerational transfer system that depends on younger workers funding benefits for older members of society, the number of workers to retiree is approaching three to one. Should we raise the retirement age to 70, increase the cap on income subject to the payroll tax, and/or reduce COLAs?

The answer to all of the above is a definite maybe! It is true that Social Security is paying out more than it is taking in, but this is because of the current recession and level of unemployment. This should change when employment improves. This is the first time this has happened in 30 years!

But it is unclear that the 2037 projection is on the mark. This projection, one the trustees call the intermediate projection, is based on a number of assumptions about economic growth, inflation, interest rates, etc. There is considerable uncertainty about all of these assumptions. Thus the trustees also produced two additional projections. The worst-case projection has the trust fund going broke in 2030, certainly not a good thing. However the more optimistic projection has the trust fund healthy until 2085—as far as they are willing to project.

Politicians from both parties are pushing the 2037 date and that

## Helping Hamper

*Jan Cook*

The Helping Hamper at our December Holiday Luncheon will be for the benefit of the Clare House Soup Kitchen. They serve more than 100 lunches each Tuesday and Thursday at St. Mary's Catholic Church in Bloomington. They would be happy to receive packaged pasta or rice, canned broth, or canned vegetables for the soup; coffee or tea for hot drinks in cold weather; and especially canned or packaged fruit. Fruit is expensive, and almost no one else donates it. The last two years we sent them a lot of snack-sized boxes of raisins.

At our September Luncheon we over-filled the Crisis Nursery hamper with cash, diapers, applesauce singles, paper party goods, and kid's bandages. (Someone asked, "Who'd give bandages?" The nursery director replied, "Someone who knows kids!"). The donations were too much for our hamper and cart to hold. While I trundled the cart, the Tutttles hauled four large bags out to the car.

We collected 275 Box Tops for Thomas Metcalf School this September. That's \$27.50 in cash for their projects! Good job. At the Holiday Luncheon we will be happy to collect your supply of Box Tops for Education from General Mills cereals, Betty Crocker products, some Progresso soups, Ziploc bags, Cottonelle, Viva towels, and some Kleenex products.

your children will only receive 75 cents on the dollar. One cynic has suggested that Congress relies on the Trust Fund as a source of money they can "borrow" against to fund pet projects! Watch with concern about the health of the system, but also listen with a healthy dose of skepticism!

## Leaving Normal

For those heading South, West, or even North for the winter, don't forget to update your forwarding address with the U.S. Postal Service so your newsletters can be forwarded. ISUAA is working to get the newsletters posted on our website as soon as possible so that you can read the newsletters and obtain the luncheon registration forms electronically. The next two newsletters are scheduled for mailing the first week of February and the first week of May. If you know you want to attend the March 3 Spring Luncheon, will be away for the winter, and don't want to take a chance on forwarded mail, contact Dona Meador now to arrange reservations. If you cannot attend the luncheon understand that dues do not subsidize the cost of the luncheon. The per-plate price collected from those that attend covers the cost of the meals.

# Holiday Luncheon Reservation Form

Featuring the Madrigal Singers

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, December 1, 2010

Brown Ballroom, 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 turkey \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\_\_\_ Spinach and ricotta-stuffed shells with marinara \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

\_\_\_ Please indicate dietary restrictions \_\_\_\_\_ (name)

*Fruit cup as dessert ONLY for those on dietary restriction, if requested. \_\_\_ yes \_\_\_ no*

**Reservations MUST be received NO LATER than NOVEMBER 17.**

**LATE RESERVATIONS CANNOT BE ACCEPTED**

*Please send the reservation form to: Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701-5334*

*OR Irene Niccum, 301 S. Towanda Ave #C, Normal, IL 61761-2110*

## The new Student Fitness Center

Campus Recreation at Illinois State has gone through a name change, a department rebranding, a website redesign, and is moving along full force with a variety of recreational programming throughout campus. The opening date of the new Student Fitness Center is on January 10, 2011. Construction is steadily progressing toward completion.

All annuitants and their spouses/partners will be eligible to purchase a membership for full access to the Student Fitness Center, which includes the use of all strength and cardio equipment, group fitness classes, sport courts, running/walking track, swimming, rock climbing, and more. Memberships will be available at a cost of \$120 for the spring semester or \$320 annually. For those who were previously involved with the fitness program for faculty and staff through Health Promotion and Wellness, these activities are now included as part of an annuitant membership, providing an extensive selection of recreational opportunities.

As the opening of the Student Fitness Center gets closer, Campus Recreation is planning an opportunity for members of ISUAA to attend a sneak peek of the building in November. More details will be available soon. For more information about everything Campus Recreation has to offer visit [CampusRecreation.ilstu.edu](http://CampusRecreation.ilstu.edu) or call Dawn Sanner at (309) 438-3700.

## Academic Senate learns about Annuitants Association

ISUAA President Larry Alferink was again a guest of Illinois State's Academic Senate at their September 15 meeting where he updated the senate on what has happened over the past year. He invited senators to attend the October 26 workshop on Social Security and to help spread the word to others about this workshop. He described the role that ISUAA plays as an advocate for the pensions of both current employees as well as those that have retired and described the problems facing SURS. He reminded them that current employees that participate in SURS are welcome to join ISUAA and that future pensions of current employees are at risk. In addition he summarized changes in pension laws across the country and implications of these changes for Illinois.

## Staying informed about pensions

These are critical times for annuitants in this state and across the country, and things that are tried in one state may well be copied by other states attempting to address a budget crisis. This makes it even more important for you to stay informed about these issues. Fortunately there is an easy way to do so. John Terwilliger of Eastern Illinois University posts articles, editorials, and op-ed pieces on pensions from newspapers in Illinois as well as major national publications. You can easily subscribe to these postings by going to [lists.eiu.edu/mailman/listinfo/suaatalk](http://lists.eiu.edu/mailman/listinfo/suaatalk).

## The pension system and the state budget

Many of you may have heard the talking points that we have a “Cadillac” pension system that is “unsustainable” because the state cannot afford to continue funding it. Perhaps it might be useful to have some facts at hand to help you be better educated about these claims, the state of SURS, and state finances.

### The pension fund

- The state pension systems are about average in terms of the benefits provided relative to neighboring states
- The average SURS pension is approximately \$2,600 per month
- SURS has \$12.2 billion in assets
- Due to lack of state funding, SURS will need to cash in \$1.2 billion of these assets this year
- We have the most underfunded pension systems in the country on a per capita basis (second only to California in terms of overall underfunding)
- Some experts have projected that SURS will be broke in less than 10 years
- The state has not provided the funding required by the pension laws in most years since SURS was established (the primary exception was during the Edgar administration)
- SURS is funded at approximately 48 percent of liabilities (and was down to about 41 percent last spring)
- If the state had met its obligations under the pension law, SURS would be funded at 107 percent of liabilities, clearly a sustainable system if the required state funds had been provided

### The state budget

- The legislature approved a budget with a deficit of \$12 billion
- The state operating budget (General Revenue Fund—GRF) for fiscal year 2011 is approximately \$24.9 billion
- The projected deficit in this budget is approximately \$5.9 billion or approximately 24 percent of the GRF
- The carryover debt from borrowing in fiscal year 2010 is approximately \$6.1 billion, for a total budget deficit of approximately \$12 billion or approximately 48 percent of the GRF
- Even though the budget deficit is large relative to the operating budget, state GRF debt is less than 5 percent of Illinois’ GDP, a very manageable figure (U.S. Debt is 85 percent of GDP)

### Taxation

- Illinois ranks as the 18th wealthiest state in the nation
- Illinois state and local tax burden is estimated to be 9.3 percent

of income, below the national average of 9.7 percent

- Illinois ranks as 30th highest in terms of total state and local tax burden
- The state income tax rate is the lowest among 46 states that tax individual income, ranks 31st highest on individual income tax collections per capita, and ranks 35th on total state and local income tax collections
- The state ranks as 23rd highest among the 46 states that tax corporate income
- At 6.25 percent the state sales tax is higher than the national median of 5.85 percent and ranks 16th nationally on sales tax collections per capita. Some states also tax services as well as products
- Illinois ranks ninth highest on state and local property taxes combined on a per capita basis

In summary Illinois is a relatively wealthy state, but has structural problems in its tax policies. The state legislature could choose to fix the budget problems and the state can afford to do so, but since all solutions are politically unpopular, they have thus far not elected to address these problems in a significant way. The pensions are not overly generous and the system is very sustainable. Remember that repeating a talking point often enough does not make it true, but it does make it more likely that people will think it is. The underfunding of the pension is not your fault, it is theirs.

## Numbers count!

Help ISUAA/SUAA grow in numbers and influence. Urge your friends and colleagues (retired or still working) to join ISUAA/SUAA. Membership information/forms are available at/from:

ISUAA website: [www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu](http://www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu)

SUAA website: [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)

“Join Now” online application

Paul Schertz: (309) 963-4610

## Alumni Association updates

### Homecoming photos online

Illinois State University celebrated its 90th Homecoming October 11–17. Alumni, students, community members, faculty, and staff participated in a variety of events including a parade in Uptown Normal, football game, tailgating, and more. Thousands of pictures were captured and are available in online photo albums as well as recap videos. To view the albums visit [IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://IllinoisStateHomecoming.com). Mark your calendars for next year’s celebration—October 10–16, 2011.

### Annuitants invited to alumni events

Annuitants and friends are always welcome at events hosted by the Alumni Association. For the most up-to-date event information or to register online visit [www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/events](http://www.Alumni.ilstu.edu/events). Detailed information for all university events is available on the University Calendar at [www.Calendar.ilstu.edu](http://www.Calendar.ilstu.edu).



## Annuitant participation in Founders Day Convocation

Annuitants have been invited to participate in the 2011 Founders Day Convocation at 2 p.m. on Thursday, February 17, 2011. This will be in the Bone Student Center Brown Ballroom. Appropriate academic regalia, according to the highest earned degree, is required. Those who need to rent regalia should contact Barnes and Noble University Bookstore in the Bone Student Center at (309) 452-0535 by January 15, 2011. Those who do not hold an academic degree can order a robe to participate in the ceremony. If you have questions about the convocation contact Julie Barnhill, director of Presidential and University Events, at [jtbarnh@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:jtbarnh@IllinoisState.edu) or (309) 438-8790. A complete schedule of Founders Day activities will be available.

## Honorary degree nominations now being sought

Candidates are being sought for an Illinois State honorary degree that will be presented at Founders Day 2012. Honorary degrees are awarded in recognition of persons who have achieved a record of major distinction at the national or international level in education, public service, literature, business, or the professions. Letters of nomination should be supported with vitae and/or related materials. The information should be addressed to the associate vice president for Graduate Studies and sent to Judy Keenan, Illinois State University, Graduate School, Campus Box 4040, Normal, IL 61790. Materials are due no later than February 2011.

## Teaching and Learning symposium

All emeriti educators are warmly invited to join their colleagues at the Annual Teaching and Learning Symposium, which is set for Wednesday, January 5, 2011, at the Marriott Hotel and Conference Center in Uptown Normal.

This annual event, sponsored by the Center for Teaching, Learning and Technology (CTLT), brings together Illinois State University's community of educators for a day of friendship and scholarship. This year's theme is "Stating Your Passion For Teaching and Learning."

"We have been delighted to see a good number of emeriti join us every year," said Patrick O'Sullivan, CTLT director. "I think that those who attend find it to be a rewarding experience. We always hope to see even more emeriti enjoy the day with us."

A highlight is the noon luncheon (complimentary for all registered attendees). This year's keynote speaker will be Eric Liu, educator and author of acclaimed books including his latest, *Imagination First: Unlocking The Power Of Possibility*. Before and after lunch you can attend any of the 36 concurrent sessions where Illinois State University educators share their accomplishments and research on a wide range of teaching-related topics.

Please join us for all or part of the day, but don't miss the luncheon. Registration for lunch is required and can be done by calling CTLT at (309) 438-2542 or e-mailing Chasity Logan at [cglogan@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:cglogan@IllinoisState.edu) or registering at [www.TeachTech.ilstu.edu](http://www.TeachTech.ilstu.edu) (follow the Symposium links).

## Gladly We Give

### FY10 summary

We are very pleased to report that once again the number of faculty, staff, and retiree donors to our university grew from the previous fiscal year! During the 2010 fiscal year 1,506 of us made a contribution to support our campus passions, an increase of 39 individuals who gave in fiscal year 2009. Total household giving from retirees grew by more than \$35,000 to \$215,512.

On behalf of the entire University thank you for all of your support to make this growth possible. Your gifts made a difference in scholarships, faculty development funds, technology purchases, and public radio programming, just to name a few.



I encourage you to continue to grow your support to our university. Each and every gift matters and has an impact on the lives of our students.

Thank you for all of your support, and I know you will all enjoy meeting and working with Beth Snyder, assistant director of Annual Giving, who has assumed responsibility for Gladly We Give. Snyder can be reached at [bsnyde@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:bsnyde@IllinoisState.edu) or (309) 438-5725. As I transition to a new role at Ewing Cultural Center. I look forward to seeing all of you at the Manor or in the Gardens. Please stop by and say hello!

Thank you,  
Barbara Todd  
Executive Director, Internal and Annual Giving  
[www.Advancement.ilstu.edu](http://www.Advancement.ilstu.edu)

## Gladly We Give donor appreciation reception

Join faculty, staff, and retiree donors from fiscal year 2010 to celebrate your support of Gladly We Give at the donor appreciation reception from 4 to 6 p.m. on Thursday, November 11, in the Alumni Center. For additional information or reservations contact Beth Snyder at [bsnyde@IllinoisState.edu](mailto:bsnyde@IllinoisState.edu) or (309) 438-5725.

Visit [IllinoisStateHomecoming.com](http://IllinoisStateHomecoming.com) for this year's recap and more information for Homecoming 2011.



## In memoriam

Art Adams.....	9/1/2010
Donna Banner.....	8/2/2010
Beatrice Bell.....	6/28/2010
Charles Bolen.....	7/14/2010
Elsie Bryan.....	6/13/2010
Roger Champagne.....	8/7/2010
Esther Dawson.....	6/29/2010
Hal Gilmore.....	9/3/2010
Irving Jacks.....	6/19/2010
Eva Kempin.....	6/14/2010
David Kephart.....	8/21/2010
Joe Kraus.....	7/6/2010
Jean Landis.....	7/8/2010
Harriet Lay.....	8/11/2010
Edith Leicht.....	6/30/2010
Mary Lewis.....	7/5/2010
Kathryn Marr.....	8/9/2010
Mark Moran.....	7/21/2010
Virginia Wirick.....	7/24/2010

## Legislative report

The good news is the legislature has not been in session since the summer newsletter was mailed, and therefore no bills were passed adversely affecting your pensions or benefits. The bad news is the legislature has not been in session, and therefore no bills were passed addressing the serious problems that face the state in this budget crisis. Most notably the legislature did not address the lack of funding for the pension systems for this budget year. As a result SURS has found it necessary to cash in \$1.2 billion in assets in order to make the required pension payments. SURS had approximately \$12.2 billion in assets so there are approximately 10 percent fewer assets invested to grow the value of the portfolio.

The members of the legislature are busy on the campaign trail preparing for the November election. Depending on the outcome of the election, the legislature may come back into session to address budget issues, pension funding, and other matters. Stay tuned!

## 'Tis the season

As we near the end of the year most of us are involved in family gatherings and other celebrations that evoke feelings of good cheer and benevolence. However those feelings can sometimes cause confusion about how to express those feelings or how to deal with the financial consequences. Here are some suggestions:

Have you ever been baffled about what to give to the person who has everything? Perhaps making a gift to Illinois State University in his/her name would show your appreciation for that person, while helping a worthy student manage the cost of higher education.

**Advancement.** [IllinoisState.edu/support/ways/annual\\_fund](http://IllinoisState.edu/support/ways/annual_fund)  
**www.plan.gs/Article.do?orgId=398&articleId=9526**

Holiday gatherings with family and friends often lead one to think about how they wish to ultimately distribute their assets. This may be a good time to create or update your will.

**www.plan.gs/Article.do?orgId=398&articleId=9648**

The end of the year is also tax time. Making charitable gifts may reduce your tax "bite." In order to be considered as a deduction on your 2010 tax return, Illinois State University must receive your gift by December 31, 2010.

As you prepare to enter a new year, you may wish to consider ways to stabilize your income. A Charitable Gift Annuity can ensure a steady income stream for the rest of your life.

**www.plan.gs/Article.do?orgId=398&articleId=9416**

For more information contact University Advancement at (309) 438-7681.

## University Club spring 2010 events

*Jude Boyer*

**Gourmet Dinners:** Portuguese cuisine will be featured at the dinner on Saturday, January 29, in the Bone Student Center Founders Suite. The Saturday, February 26, dinner will feature Swedish cuisine, also to be held in the Founders Suite. Full information about each menu and reservation details will be available approximately December 15 at [www.uClub.ilstu.edu](http://www.uClub.ilstu.edu).

**Discussion Hours:** The first Discussion Hour of the spring semester will be held from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. on Friday, January 14, in the Bone Student Center Faculty/Staff Commons. 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 Calendar website.

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 [www.uClub.ilstu.edu](http://www.uClub.ilstu.edu).

## ISUAA calendar

**November 10, 2010**  
**2-3:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Board with  
Committee Chairs  
*Alumni Center Room 119*

**December 1, 2010**  
**11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Holiday Luncheon  
with Illinois State University  
Madrigal Singers  
*Bone Student Center*  
*Brown Ballroom\**

**January 12, 2011**  
**2-3:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Board with  
Committee Chairs  
*Alumni Center Room 119*

To be announced:  
Spring Social Security workshop  
Spring Survivor Benefits workshop\*  
Spring Benefits Fair  
ISUAA annual dinner

\*Reservation required

**March 3, 2011**  
**11:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Spring Luncheon  
*Bone Student Center*  
*Old Main Room\**

**March 9, 2011**  
**2-3:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Board with  
Committee Chairs  
*Alumni Center Room 119*

**May 11, 2011**  
**2-3:30 p.m.**  
ISUAA Board with  
Committee Chairs  
*Alumni Center Room 119*



## Help prevent dues increase

Due to the rising cost of postage the Illinois State University Annuitants Association is exploring the possible use of e-mail to deliver the Annuitants Newsletter. It would still be available on the Annuitants website ([www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu](http://www.Annuitants.ilstu.edu)) or as a print version for those who prefer a printed copy by mail.

If you are willing to accept the change by receiving your copy of the Annuitants Newsletter by e-mail, please mail the form below to ISUAA, Illinois State University, Campus 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Date \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

*I would prefer to receive the quarterly newsletter electronically as a PDF rather than as a paper copy.*

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

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

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