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*ISUAAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971*

## From the President

*by Charlie Harris*

If you haven't already taken advantage of our state's generous early voting provisions, please remember that Election Day is Tuesday, November 8. This promises to be another historical election, so you don't want to miss out.

The presidential race has drawn a lot of attention, but our state's protracted budget crisis and its potential impact on pensions and other retirement benefits make this an important statewide election for SURS participants who continue to live and vote in Illinois. In this issue, we've included SUAA's Legislative Platform, so you can see where our state organization stands on issues affecting retirement security. ISUAAA encourages you to consider these priorities when you cast your vote.

And wherever you live, don't overlook local elections. Decisions made by county boards, city and town councils, and other locally elected officials, including judges, may have a greater impact on our day-to-day lives than more high-profile elections do. May I urge you to vote conscientiously all the way to the end of the ballot.

The aforementioned budget impasse has had a devastating effect on many public universities in the state. Rumors about faculty layoffs and furloughs, increased class sizes, voluntary payroll deductions, closed dormitories, and the like have discouraged students from enrolling in several state institutions. That ISU has been largely spared this reaction is not an accident; rather, it's a direct result of the careful stewardship of University resources by President Larry Dietz and his team. For the third year in a row, ISU's enrollment has increased. In President Dietz's words, "Students are voting with their feet, and we have a lot of feet on campus today."

While faculty and staff morale has plummeted at many state institutions, it remains relatively high at ISU despite months of dismal economic news from Springfield. Indeed, the respected journal, *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, included ISU on its honor roll of "Great Colleges to Work For," the only four-year college in Illinois to make the list.

In September, President Dietz addressed a large audience at ISUAAA's annual kickoff breakfast, which he attended with his wife Marlene. The annuitants enthusiastically received President Dietz's informative and upbeat message, which judiciously blended optimism and realism.

I hope you were among those who attended. But if you missed the fun, be sure to attend our next event, the annual ISUAAA Holiday Luncheon on December 7, 2016, where ISU's talented Madrigal Singers will again entertain us. And, be sure to bring a friend. More information about the event and a reservation form are included in this newsletter.

I close on a somber note. Chris Schwelle, an invaluable ISUAAA leader for over a decade, died on August 19. Chris was the first president of our chapter to be elected twice, and after his second term, he continued to serve as a director on our board until his death. The overflow attendance at the August 27 Celebration of Chris's Life at ISU's Bone Student Center was a tribute to his many contributions and, one hopes, a comfort to his family. Read Larry Alferink's goodbye to Chris in this issue.

# How Time Flies

By April Karlene Anderson

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

## 150 years ago – 1866

- The 1866 academic year course catalog included, for the first time, the names of the “Pupil Teachers,” Normal Department students who had taught in the Model Department schools. The Pupil Teachers were broken into classes: the first class had 16 students who had taught for at least four terms; the second class had five students who had taught for at least three terms; the third class had 16 students who had taught for at least two terms; the fourth class had 32 students who had taught for at least one term. Illinois State Normal University, Catalogue of the State Normal University for the Academic Year ending June 28, 1866 (N.C. Nason: Peoria, 1866), 5-6.

## 100 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1916

- ISNU claimed victory beating Bradley on the football field on November 4. Called “the best game in years” and printed in all capital letters, *The Vidette* declared: “In the most brilliant exhibition of the gridiron game played on the local field in some years, Normal atoned for former defeats and pleased her supporters by licking Bradley Polytechnic by the decisive score of 16 to 6.” *The Vidette*, November 8, 1916 (Vol. 29, No 9, page 1)
- Presidents of the four state normal schools (Northern Illinois State Normal, Western Illinois State Normal, Eastern Illinois State Normal, Southern Illinois Normal) met at President Felmley’s home at the end of the fall term to informally discuss issues at each university and how they related to one another. They later held an assembly on campus, each lecturing on language education and its place in society. President Morgan, of Western Illinois State Normal, mused: “It is rather a remarkable thing that in the five normal schools in Illinois, four of them are under the leadership of Indiana men. You know they say that in Indiana people never appreciate a joke.” *The Vidette*, November 1, 1916 (Vol. 29, No 8, page 1, 3)

## 75 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1941

- The University observed American Education Week, held November 9-15. Sponsored by the National Education Association, the American Legion, the United States Office of Education, and the National Congress of Parents and Teachers, the week’s theme was “Education for a Strong America.” Local community businesses and groups were involved, including area theaters that showed the American Education Week movie trailer, local pastors who included in their sermons dialogue about the importance of education, and *The Pantagraph*, which ran articles related to the topic. *The Vidette*, November 6, 1941 (Vol. 65, No 15, page 1)
- School administrators and faculty participated in the ninth annual Educator’s Roundup on December 6. Attendees participated in talks geared toward the year’s theme: “Education and National Defense.” *The Vidette*, November 18, 1941 (Vol. 65, No 18, page 1)

- In order to prepare the male students who were about to be called into the WWII draft, the University held a question-and-answer session on November 26 and 27 with the St. Louis Naval Aviation Cadet Selection board. The board answered general questions and interviewed candidates who were interested in pursuing flight training. *The Vidette*, November 26, 1941 (Vol. 65, No 19, page 1)

## 50 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1966

- The auditorium in the new University High School building was dedicated on November 6, 1966, and named for long-time English teacher, Ruth Stroud. In addition, “A Parthenon frieze, dedicated to U-High by the classes of 1916 and 1918, has been moved from the former U-High building, Moulton Hall, to the walls of the new auditorium.” *The Vidette*, November 3, 1966 (Vol. 79, No 20, page 1)
- The funeral for geography department head Dr. Arthur W. Watterson was held November 11. Watterson, who died of a heart attack, would later be the namesake for the new 27-floor dormitory that was tentatively approved in late October. *The Vidette*, November 15, 1966 (Vol. 79, No23, page 1)
- East campus held its first informal dance in the Vrooman Center on December 2. The theme was “Go Mod,” and the band The Youngbloods provided the entertainment. *The Vidette*, December 8, 1966 (Vol. 79, No 28, page 2)

## 25 years ago – Nov./Dec. 1991

- Sarah Booth, vice principal of Metcalf Laboratory School, and Brisbane Rouzan, assistant vice president for Academic Services, were chosen to be part of the 12-member Educational Policy Fellowship Program. The program looked at educational policy and training in the state of Illinois. *The Daily Vidette*, November 6, 1991 (Vol. 104, No 61, page 3)
- A new “hands on” biotechnology course was created for the 1991 Fall term by ISU biology professors H. Tak Cheung, Anthony Ostuka, and David Borst. The course offered select students a chance to “learn the importance and broad application of molecular recognition at the biochemical, immunological and molecular levels” while also preparing them to run their own research projects. *The Daily Vidette*, November 18, 1991 (Vol. 104, No 69, page 3)
- The Red Hot Chili Peppers performed in Braden Auditorium on November 26. Opening bands were the Smashing Pumpkins and Pearl Jam. *The Daily Vidette*, December 3, 1991 (Vol. 104, No 677, page 24)

## 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.



State Universities  
Annuitants Association

## 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*



## The ISU University Club

*By Bob Preston and Kay Wilson*

University Club Discussion Hours: Join us at our University Club discussions this fall semester on Fridays from 3:30-5:30 p.m. in the Faculty Staff Commons (FSC) in the Bone Student Center (BSC). Please note that on October 28 and November 4 meetings will be held in the Founder's Suite in the BSC since voter registration for the national election will take place in the FSC.

At 4:30 pm the talks 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, and we always enjoy chatting with our colleagues from all areas of the Illinois University System. The first meeting was held August 26. Please see our webpage for updated information about dates and topics for the talks this semester, as well as for other information about the University Club ([Uclub.IllinoisState.edu](http://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 the ISU Catering Service chefs. The detailed menus and reservation information are posted on our webpage ([Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/Dinners](http://Uclub.IllinoisState.edu/Dinners)). Please make reservations two weeks prior to the scheduled dates for these dinners.

Scholarships Awards: At our final fall meeting on December 9, 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 communi-

ty 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."

## Illinois State alumni royalty define Redbird pride

*By Rachel Kobus*

*Associate Director, Alumni Relations*

Parker and Sharon (Morton) Lawlis, this year's Homecoming alumni king and queen, are the epitome of what it means to be Redbird proud, having shown this through their employment at the University, their membership on various boards, and their dedicated support of scholarships and events.

Sharon '60 studied home economics (now Family and Consumer Sciences), leading her to teach part-time at Illinois State and Illinois Wesleyan before returning as a full-time teacher at Chiddix Junior High. Parker '57, M.S. '61, studied business education and education administration and was a student-athlete on the basketball team. He worked at Illinois State as alumni director and retired as director of placement services.

Following retirement, Parker served as president of the Illinois State Annuitants Association, on the Town of Normal council, and on the McLean County Board, while Sharon taught food safety and sanitation courses for the state of Illinois and continues to be active in the McLean County Family and Consumer Sciences Professionals.

These loyal Redbirds also established the Lawlis Endowed Scholarship in Family and Consumer Sciences to provide assistance to students majoring in education within the department. Both attend many scholarship and University events, as well as having been involved with the Half Century Club and the Alumni Association. Parker was also honored in recent years with the E. Burton Mercier Service Award. He and Sharon are members of the Loyalty Circle.

Homecoming and its royalty court are just part of the many traditions celebrated at Illinois State University. To learn more about Homecoming and other traditions, visit [Traditions.IllinoisState.edu](http://Traditions.IllinoisState.edu).

## Save these dates

SUAA Fall Meeting – November 21, 2016  
Holiday Luncheon – December 7, 2016  
Spring Luncheon – March 1, 2017  
General Meeting and Election – June 7, 2017  
Fall Kickoff Breakfast – September 6, 2017  
Holiday Luncheon – December 6, 2017

## Helping Hamper

By Jan Cook

The Helping Hamper at the December Holiday Luncheon will benefit the Clare House Loaves and Fishes Soup Kitchen. The kitchen serves more than 100 hot lunches each Tuesday and Thursday at St. Mary's Church in Bloomington.

At our September breakfast, the hamper for the Crisis Nursery at the Children's Foundation was filled with \$66 in cash, toddler clothes, including some with clearance tags, toys, kid's toothpaste, single servings of baby and toddler food, colorful plates and napkins, and diapers.

For Thomas Metcalf School, we collected 194 Box Tops and 28 Soup Labels for Education. (We eat less soup in summer?) Labels and Box Tops are on Campbell and Progresso soups, Betty Crocker, Pepperidge Farm, Lysol, Glad, and Hefty products, and some snacks and cereals. The school redeems them for special school supplies.

Thank you all very much!

## Golden [Years] Books

By Al T. Cocker

Almost everybody gets old. And most of us in the "Suddenly Sixty and Beyond" category read novels. But novels about getting old, although plentiful, don't receive the same kind of attention as fiction about childhood or young adulthood or even the journey from childhood to adulthood traced in popular "coming-of-age" novels.

So I thought I'd construct a representative list of novels about "seniors," to employ the familiar euphemism. Seniors aren't just characters in these books, they're the main characters, often the narrators of their stories, and they're never stereotypes. As 83-year-old British novelist Penelope Lively observes, members of our demographic have "nothing much in common except the accretion of years, a historical context, and a generous range of ailments." Older people in these novels differ as much from each other as you and I do from others in our age group.

Not surprisingly, many of these novels involve elderly narrators who, like the 111-year-old Jack Crabb of Thomas Berger's *Little Big Man*, look backward at lives long-lived (Crabb's recollections involve the battle of Little Big Horn). You'll find variations on this narrative pattern in novels by Barnes, Berry, Flagg, Ishiguro, Laurence, Lively, Stegner, Tyler, and Zweig. Amis and Fitzgerald provide a radical twist on the pattern, literally reversing the arrow of time as their

protagonists live their lives backwards.

In yet another twist, the novels by Ford, Roth, and Updike serve as bookends, as it were, to a series of books about characters—Frank Bascombe, Nathan Zuckerman, and Harry "Rabbit" Angstrom, respectively—whose lives the authors have chronicled over the course of several novels (four each about Bascombe and Angstrom, nine about Zuckerman).

"Old age," Bette Davis memorably quipped, "ain't no place for sissies." Whether it's confronting the death of a spouse (Olsen, Elkin, Barth, Thompson) or struggling with failing health (Munro, Sarton) or facing one's own impending demise (Spark, Faulkner), several writers on this list dramatize the struggles that often accompany aging. Fortitude—whether Santiago's grace under pressure in Hemingway's classic novel or Anse Bundren's self-centered tenacity in Faulkner's or the redoubtable Olive Kitteridge's moxie in Strout's—seems a prerequisite for longevity.

As we age, John Barth whimsically observed, "Memory goes, sex goes, but the memory of sex never goes." "Old Love," the title story of I.B. Singer's collection by that name, forms a key theme in many works on the list, including the ones by Robinson, Thompson, Garcia Marquez, and, of course, Singer. Another kind of love, our continuing relationships with children over the years, figures prominently in the works by Tan, Thompson, Faulkner, and Smiley, whose *A Thousand Acres* updates the story of King Lear.

The books on this list range from the humorous (Trevor, Flagg) to the somber (Munro) to the historical (Gaines) to the troubling (McCarthy). There's even a jeremiad or two (Bellow). Better start reading. At our age, time, quite literally, is at a premium.

Martin Amis, *Time's Arrow*

Julian Barnes, *The Sense of an Ending*

John Barth, *Every Third Thought*

Saul Bellow, *Mr. Sammler's Planet*

Thomas Berger, *Little Big Man*

Wendell Berry, *The Memory of Old Jack*

Stanley Elkin, *Mrs. Ted Bliss*

William Faulkner, *As I Lay Dying*

F. Scott Fitzgerald, *The Curious Case of Benjamin Button*

Fannie Flagg, *Fried Green Tomatoes at the Whistle Stop Café*

Richard Ford, *Let Me Be Frank with You*

Ernest J. Gaines, *The Autobiography of Miss Jane Pittman*

Ernest Hemingway, *The Old Man and the Sea*

Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day*

Margaret Laurence, *Stone Angel*

Penelope Lively, *Moon Tiger*

Gabriel Garcia Marquez, *Love in the Time of Cholera*

Cormac McCarthy, *No Country for Old Men*

Alice Munro, "The Bear Came Over the Mountain"

Tillie Olsen, *Tell Me a Riddle*

Marilynne Robinson, *Lila*

Philip Roth, *Exit Ghost*

May Sarton, *As We Are Now*

Issac Bashevis Singer, *Old Love*

Jane Smiley, *A Thousand Acres*

Muriel Spark, *Memento Mori*



Wallace Stegner, *The Spectator Bird*  
 Elizabeth Strout, *Olive Kitteridge*  
 Amy Tan, *The Joy Luck Club*  
 Ernest Thompson, *On Golden Pond*  
 William Trevor, *The Old Boys*  
 Anne Tyler, *A Spool of Blue Thread*  
 John Updike, *Rabbit at Rest*  
 Stefan Zweig, *Confusion*

## 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, 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!

## Representative Dan Brady meets with ISUAA Board

On July 26, State Representative Dan Brady, 105th district, met with current and former directors of the ISUAA Board. Brady discussed June’s six-month stopgap budget bill, which, combined with a similar bill approved in April, provides ISU with approximately \$60 million, about 82 percent of what the University received for the 2014-15 academic year. Brady said the bipartisan bill should help financially beleaguered public universities survive the fall semester.

The “big question,” according to Brady, is what happens in six months. Many lawmakers, he said, are reluctant to continue funding institutions that are performing poorly and, as a result, are considering performance-based incentive packages for higher education. He pointed to Tennessee’s outcomes-based funding model as an example.

Other topics covered included the possible repeal of the Social Security Windfall Elimination and Pension Offset, possible income and service tax increases, and a bill sponsored by Senate President John Cullerton that would provide current employees a choice between future pay raises or an automatic three percent annual pension increase upon retirement. Brady agreed with SAAA President Larry Alferink’s analysis that the Cullerton bill, if adopted, could encourage mobile faculty to choose the pay-raise option and immediately begin to seek employment in other states.

Parker Lawlis, co-chair of ISUAA’s Legislative Committee, arranged the meeting with Brady. Lawlis is organizing a similar meeting with State Senator Jason Barickman, 53rd district, for later this fall. A report of this meeting will be included in the next newsletter.

## ISUAA Holiday Luncheon – The Madrigals Return!

The ISUAA Annual Holiday Luncheon will be held from 11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. on Wednesday, December 7, 2016, in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center. Back by popular demand, a group of the ISU Madrigals will entertain us with old and new holiday favorites! We are very pleased the Madrigals have agreed to be with us again! And once again there will be valuable door prizes.

The meal this year will consist of a house salad with a variety of dressings, a choice of pot roast or vegetarian lasagna, California-blend vegetables, mashed potatoes, rolls and butter, chef’s choice cake slice, and coffee or iced tea. The cost for the meal is \$20. Reservations are due by November 25, and a reservation form is attached. Please mail the form by November 22 in order that it may reach us by the deadline date.

Consider inviting a friend to join you at the luncheon. There are thousands of ISU retirees (or future retirees) who would enjoy the fellowship of ISUAA and enjoy the luncheon and the Madrigals’ performance. The luncheon is NOT restricted to ISUAA members. We welcome anyone, especially those who have retired (or who WILL retire from ISU). And, while they are at the luncheon, perhaps they will consider becoming a member of ISUAA.

Finally, it is NOT necessary to be retired to join ISUAA. ISUAA is open to all members of SURS, including current employees. See you at the luncheon!

## ISUAA Holiday Luncheon Reservation Form

**December 7, 2016, 11:30 a.m.**

Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

Featuring The Madrigal Singers

\_\_\_\_\_  
 NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING

\_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Pot roast with mashed potatoes and gravy

Vegetarian lasagna

Fruit cup option for dessert

Dietary Restrictions \_\_\_\_\_

Reservations must be received no later than November 25, 2016. Please send the reservation form along with your check to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Illinois State University, Normal, IL 61790-8000. No phone reservations, please.

\$20 per person    Enclosed is a check for \$\_\_\_\_\_

# Receiving Social Security Benefits?

by Larry Alferink, president, SUAA

If you are receiving Social Security benefits as a result of other employment and are also receiving a state pension, your Social Security benefits are subject to the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) that substantially reduces these benefits. There have been a number of proposals to eliminate or change the WEP provisions over the years with a substantial majority of members of Congress signing as sponsors of these bills. However, one reason they were willing to serve as sponsors was because Social Security is running out of money, and they knew that leadership would never call these bills to a vote. Thus, they got the political benefit of being able to tell interested constituents that they supported these bills without having to defend an actual vote to other constituents who might be concerned that their own Social Security benefits could be reduced due to a lack of adequate money in the Social Security trust fund.

The situation may be a bit different this year. There are several bills that have been introduced, and one of these seems to have some political legs, with provisions of the bill supported by the Obama administration and by the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, a Republican. This bill, H. R. 711, will benefit many of our members but may also cost others. It is expected to result in a net increase in funding for Social Security if implemented, which is why there is a possibility that it might be called for a vote and pass.

First, it would change the way that the WEP is calculated, including non-Social Security-covered earnings as if they were covered by Social Security and then determining the portion of these earnings that were actually covered by Social Security taxes. This should result in modest increases in Social Security benefits for many of our members, reducing the WEP offset by approximately 50 percent.

The downside will occur for those members with more than 20 years of substantial earnings covered by Social Security as the WEP offset is reduced for these individuals and no longer applies to any individual with 30 years or more of Social Security earnings. This will no longer be true and their Social Security benefits will be determined using the same formula as for those that do not have 20 or more years of service. This will generate funds to offset the benefit increases for others whose Social Security benefits are reduced by WEP currently.

A second downside will occur for those individuals who did not report their state pension to the Social Security administration and who never experienced the WEP offset, and therefore received benefits they were not entitled to receive under the law. The bill is likely to include an enforcement provision that has not been implemented currently. These changes are expected to modestly improve funding for Social Security, saving the system approximately \$3.5 billion over 10 years.

Stay tuned!

## SUAA 2016 Legislative Platform

This legislative platform serves as a general guideline for SUAA's positions on legislation that affects pension, health insurance, and

other retirement benefits for SURS participants.

The main legislative goal for 2016 is to protect the retirement security of all past, present, and future employees of Illinois public universities, community colleges, and their survivors.

Therefore, SUAA will review and evaluate all proposed pension and retirement benefit initiatives and legislation to determine their compatibility with the association's goals and, where appropriate, publicly support or oppose such legislation either with respect to specific components or in its entirety.

Furthermore, if legislation is enacted that SUAA considers to be in violation of the pension protection clause of the Illinois Constitution, SUAA is prepared to challenge that legislation in the courts, in concert with coalition partners or independently, if necessary.

## 2016 Legislative Action Plan

- SUAA supports legislation that would provide for guaranteed full funding of the SURS pension system.
- SUAA opposes legislation that does not provide for a compounded automatic annual increment that would provide protection against inflation.
- SUAA opposes legislation designed to eliminate the defined benefit option in state retirement plans for future employees.
- SUAA supports legislation that would revise Tier II to provide for a more equitable set of benefits related to final salary period, automatic annual increment, and early retirement reduction.
- SUAA opposes any legislative attempt to amend, modify, or eliminate Article XIII, Section 5, of the Illinois State Constitution, which states: "Membership in any pension or retirement system of the state, any unit of local government or school district, agency, or instrumentality thereof, shall be an enforceable contractual relationship, the benefits of which shall not be diminished or impaired."
- SUAA supports legislation that would provide funding for a high quality educational system.
- SUAA opposes legislation that would reduce or eliminate the 50 percent tuition waivers for the children of current employees at state universities.

## Revenue Enhancement Measures

SUAA supports various revenue enhancement measures to ensure that the state has sufficient resources to adequately fund both essential public services and public pensions. Specifically:

- SUAA supports legislation that would change the amortization of the current pension ramp (catch-up) schedule to a flat payment schedule.
- SUAA supports transferring funds for debt service fees to expiring pension obligation bonds into the pension stabilization fund.
- SUAA supports returning the state income tax to 5 percent on individuals and 7 percent on corporations until such time as there is an adequate replacement for the revenues generated from this source.
- SUAA supports a graduated state income tax.

- SUAA supports other revenue enhancement measures to address the state’s continuing fiscal crisis. Examples of these would include, but not be limited to, such measures as: the taxation of selected services; a speculation sales tax; and the elimination of some tax breaks such as the foreign dividend exemption, offshore oil drilling credit, and retail sales tax discount.

## Health Insurance

- SUAA supports legislation to ensure that all Illinois public university and community college employees, retirees, and survivors will be treated equitably under the State Employees Health Plan and College Insurance Programs.
- SUAA opposes any decrease in state funding for the College Insurance Plan and any reduction in coverage provided by that plan.
- SUAA supports legislation that would provide community college retirees with the same opportunities as university retirees to opt in or to opt out of the College Insurance Plan.

## Federal Legislation

- SUAA supports the repeal of the Social Security Windfall Elimination and Pension Offset.

## The 2017 University-Wide Teaching & Learning Symposium

By Jim Gee

*Coordinator for Communication and Faculty Development, Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology*

The Center for Teaching, Learning, and Technology invites you to save the date for the 2017 University-Wide Teaching & Learning Symposium. It will once again take place at Marriott Hotel & Conference Center in Uptown Normal, this time on Thursday, January 12, 2017. Attendance, including luncheon (starting at 11:45 a.m.), is free to all members of the Illinois State University community.

This year’s theme is Start Where You Are: The Journey Towards Cultural Responsiveness. The need to design inclusive learning environments, as outlined in Illinois State’s guiding document, Educating Illinois, challenges each of us to be more culturally responsive. At the same time, the journey toward cultural responsiveness is unique to each individual instructor. Regardless of where you are on your journey, we invite you to share your challenges, your experiences, and your insights with your colleagues at the symposium.

Details of the day, including our keynote speaker, will be available at [CTLT.IllinoisState.edu](http://CTLT.IllinoisState.edu). Those who wish to join us for lunch will be able to register online, or they may contact Chasity Logan at (309) 438-2542 to reserve a seat and specify a meal preference.

## SUAA Foundation Emergency Assistance Fund

The SUAA Foundation Emergency Assistance Program is designed to help chapters provide support for members who are facing a sudden need for funds to cope with a crisis situation. Chapters may

request assistance of up to \$1,500 on behalf of individuals who have been SUAA members for five years or more.

If you are aware of an ISUAA member who qualifies for this assistance, contact a member of the ISUAA Board of Directors or President Charles Harris by email or at Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000. Describe the situation for which the member needs financial assistance. Describe what overall aid the member is requesting and how it will be used. Include whether insurance will be available to cover some of the costs.

Some grants can be subject to taxes.

## A sad note...

by Larry Alferink

Chris Schwelle passed away on August 19 at his home at the age of 74, surrounded by his family. Chris served two terms as president of ISUAA from 2006-2010 and continued to serve ISUAA as an elected member of the Executive Committee until his death. While on the Executive Committee, he served as chair of the Nominating Committee and the Distinguished Service Award Committee multiple times. He attended regular meetings with local legislators, helping to ensure that they understood the SURS pension system and their constitutional obligations to our pensions. He received the ISUAA Distinguished Service Award in 2010.

Chris also served repeatedly as a state director, representing the ISUAA Chapter at the SUAA annual and fall meetings, working to support the state organization, to elect individuals to SUAA state offices who would work to support the interests of SUAA statewide, and to help the meetings run smoothly. He served as an officer of SUAAAction, the 501(c)4 organization associated with SUAA that is permitted to engage in political activity. His death is a significant loss to the organization, and he will be missed.

## In memoriam

Jerry Abner.....	7/23/2016
Judith Artega.....	7/20/2016
Rosemary Bauer.....	9/9/2016
Robert Duncan.....	7/20/2016
Tommie Gaiter.....	6/6/2016
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