



From the President	1
How time flies	2
University Club	2
Summer Alumni Events	3
In memoriam	3
Save the Date	3
Illinois Shakespeare Festival	3
Helping Hamper	4
Annuitant Spotlight	4
Annual dinner	5
Directory update	5

ISUAAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

From the President

By Charlie Harris

In last year's summer newsletter, my predecessor, Chuck McGuire, offered the following observation: "The state still has no budget; the General Assembly and the governor are still at loggerheads; and students, faculty, and retirees are in a state of growing uncertainty. By the time this newsletter is published, a second year's budget should be nearing completion. While this is being written around March 1, my bet is nothing will be happening by May either."

Unfortunately, Chuck won his bet.

Indeed, everything in Chuck's paragraph, including that bet, continues to apply to our current situation. As the state enters its third year without a budget, we hear talk of a bipartisan "grand bargain," a compromise brokered by Senate President John Cullerton and Minority Leader Christine Radogno, with tacit support from Gov. Rauner, that will potentially end the budget stalemate. As I write, however, that plan is itself stalemated.

If and when that logjam breaks, keep your eye on the portion of the bill affecting the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). Those of us who have already retired are probably out of the woods, thanks to the 2015 Illinois Supreme Court decision reaffirming constitutionally protected pension rights for all SURS participants. Current employees may not be as fortunate.

The grand bargain contains a pension reform proposal (Senate Bill 11) fashioned by President Cullerton and his former chief legal counsel, Eric Madiar, which would require current employees hired before 2011 to make a choice. If you choose to keep the current 3 percent compounded annual cost-of-living increase on your eventual pension, all future salary increases will be excluded from calculations of that pension. In other words, your future pension would be based on your current salary. By contrast, if you agree to a greatly reduced COLA (the lesser of 3 percent simple or half the rate of inflation), salary increases will count toward future pension benefits.

Since either choice would result in a diminished pension benefit over your lifetime, you might ask why this plan doesn't violate the Pension Protection Clause of the Illinois Constitution. Cullerton/Madiar speculate that while COLAs may be constitutionally protected, raises are not. The state can't unilaterally take away a pension right, but if it offers a "consideration" in exchange for that right, in this case raises for automatic COLAs, constitutional muster, they believe, will have been passed.

As I write in mid-March, the Cullerton reform bill has twice failed to secure the necessary votes and has been placed on "postponed consideration" to be voted on again later (all the bills in the grand bargain must pass for the measure to become law). Needless to say, SUAA attorneys are watching developments closely. If some version of this "consideration" approach to pension reform passes, and if SUAA concludes that the Pension Protection Clause has been violated as a result, our organization will once again go to court to protect our interests.

It's a common misconception that ISUAAA is an organization for ISU retirees. But you don't have to be retired to be a member. Since the future pensions of current employees may be threatened by imminent legislation, it's more important than ever that annuitants still working lend their support by joining ISUAAA/SUAA. Membership materials are on our website at Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu.

And, all of us should consider making a donation to SUAAAction, the political action group for SUAA members. Donations should be sent to SUAAAction, P.O. Box 1770, Springfield, Illinois, 62705-1770.

How Time Flies

By April Karlene Anderson
University Archivist, Dr. Jo Ann Rayfield Archives
at Illinois State University

150 years ago – June, 1867

- In his report to the board, President Edwards announced the official placement of John Wesley Powell (for the second time) as the “Curator of the Museum,” what later was known as the Illinois Natural History Museum. At the time, Powell was planning his next expedition to the Rocky Mountains, which produced a number of specimens that were eventually added to the museum. In his remarks to the board, Edwards said, “Our Museum will be enriched, if this enterprise is successful, with many and rare specimens in the various departments of Natural Science. And to us will be long the credit of having been among the first to explore, in the interest of science, a region supposed to be very rich in the means of guiding the thoughts of scientific men.” *Proceedings of the Board of Education of the State of Illinois*, Meeting Minutes, June 26-27, 1867, pg 4.

100 years ago – June, 1917

- *The Vidette* printed the “Red Cross Edition” on June 18 to bring awareness to the organization, the work of the ISNU chapter, and to recognize the many students and alumni who were signing up for military service after the United States declaration of war on Germany on April 6, 1917. *The Vidette*, June 18, 1917 (Vol. 29, No. 37, page 1)
- A presentation of “The Three of Us,” a play by renowned playwright and University High School graduate Rachel Crothers, was in rehearsals and slated to be performed on June 22 and 23 on campus. *The Vidette*, June 18, 1916 (Vol. 29, No. 37, page 3)

75 years ago – June, 1942

- Concert pianist Daniel Ericourt performed at Capen Auditorium on June 19, 1942, as part of a university series of lectures and performances called “Victory.” *The Vidette*, June 19, 1942 (Vol. 54, No. 59, page 1)
- The University offered a series of war-themed courses to provide specialized training for those who would eventually take part in World War II. Tailored courses in mathematics and geography were included for men going into the armed services, particularly aviation. First aid was also offered, as well as “Civilian Defense,” meant to “acquaint teachers with procedures involved in civilian defense in order that they may exert leadership in their respective communities.” *The Vidette*, June 26, 1942 (Vol. 54, No. 60, page 1)

50 years ago – July, 1967

- The Illinois Board of Higher Education approved the University’s proposal for a department of philosophy in the College of Arts and Sciences. A minor would initially be offered with a major in the field to follow soon after. *The Vidette*, July 6, 1967 (Vol. 80, No. 1, page 3)

- The University’s newest, and final, name was made official on July 1. The previous name, Illinois State University at Normal, was only three years old at the time. When the bill to rename the governing board of the state universities (Board of Regents) was put forth to the Illinois Legislature, “at Normal” was quietly dropped from the University’s name. Richard Godfrey, director of News Services, said that most administrators were happy with the change. *The Vidette*, July 19, 1967 (Vol. 80, No. 3, page 1)

25 years ago – June, 1992

- Larry Alferink, Psychology Department chair, was asked to lead the Clinical Training Task Force on Master’s Level Services and Training by the National Institute of Mental Health. The group’s mandate was to find ways to utilize the skills of professionals with master’s level degrees “in a variety of mental health concerns in society.” *Summer Vidette*, June 17, 1992 (Vol. 105, No. 1, page 5)
- The Illinois Shakespeare Festival kicked off its 15th year on June 26 and presented three shows that season: *As You Like It*, *A Winter’s Tale*, and *Macbeth*. *Summer Vidette*, June 24, 1992 (Vol. 105, No. 2, page 10)

The ISU University Club—ISUAA Newsletter for Summer 2017

By Bob Preston and Kay Wilson

University Club Discussion Hours: The University Club is the only ISU social organization open to all faculty, staff, administrative professionals, retirees, and ISUAA members. We meet every Friday from 3:30 –5:30 p.m. in the Faculty Staff Commons in Bone Student Center (BSC) during the fall and spring semesters when the University is in session. Please note that our meeting venue during the fall semester 2017 *may* change as the remodeling of BSC commences. Please see our website for any changes in meeting location.

You 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. Our first meeting will be held August 25. Please see our web page for updated information about dates and topics of the talks, as well as for other information about the University Club at 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. 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 at uclub.IllinoisState.edu/dinners.

Scholarships Awards: At the conclusion of the fall semester 2017, we will continue our 25-year tradition of awarding up to 10 \$500 scholarships to ISU undergraduate and graduate students who

are academically top achievers and who are also involved in giving back to the University and community through service. The funding for these scholarships is provided by independent donations from our members and colleagues. We encourage all who are interested in supporting our academically talented and socially engaged students to consider contributing to this program.

Mission Statement of the University Club: *“The University Club vigorously endeavors to promote collegiality among our diverse faculty, staff, administrative professionals, and annuitants. We seek to support University activities as embodied in the vision and core values outlined in Educating Illinois, to learn about and tell the stories of the culture of our academic and town community, and to support and enhance a vigorous exchange of ideas in a congenial environment that encourages friendship, cooperation, and ongoing intellectual growth. Through the generosity and support of our members, we provide a series of scholarships that are awarded to undergraduate and graduate students at Illinois State University. This scholarship program rewards some of the best and brightest students who have contributed to community and University development as well as succeeding at the highest levels academically. We always endeavor to sustain and promote ongoing open and free communication in this community and to support the finest ideals of education and academic life.”*

Summer alumni events, Homecoming 2017, and royalty nominations

By Rachel Kobus
Associate Director, Alumni Relations

Summer is almost here, which means Illinois State is gearing up for some fun in the sun and enjoying the summer nights.

First, mark your calendars for Illinois State night at the Normal CornBelts game on June 15 to enjoy the ballgame and the pregame cookout. Those interested in the arts should also make sure to save the date for alumni and friends night at the Illinois Shakespeare Festival on July 15. Guests will enjoy dinner, tours, and this year’s production of *Cymbeline* at Ewing Cultural Center. More information on both events is available at Alumni.IllinoisState.edu.

Campus then comes alive in the fall during Homecoming week (October 16-22). There are many must-do activities, with Saturday the most action-packed day of the weeklong celebration. Alums can join in on the annual Town & Gown 5K Run and One Mile Family Fun Run, watch the Homecoming parade, stop by the Alumni Association hospitality tailgate tent, or cheer on the Redbirds at Hancock Stadium. Information on these and more events is available at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu.

Also honored during Homecoming is the recognition of royalty. The Alumni Association is currently seeking nominations for the 2017 alumni king and queen.

To be eligible for alumni king or queen, graduates must have celebrated their 50th class reunion, have a strong connection to the University, and be able to attend Homecoming events throughout the weekend. Nominations can be for an individual or for a couple

Those who know of proud Redbirds to put in the running can complete a nomination form at Homecoming.IllinoisState.edu/Royalty. Deadline to submit is July 28.

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.



Save These Dates

- General Meeting and Election—June 7, 2017
- Fall Kickoff Breakfast—September 6, 2017
- Holiday Luncheon—December 6, 2017

In memoriam

Claude Bell	1/19/2017
James Brubeck	12/3/2016
Mary Conlon	1/12/2017
Frances Corry.....	1/30/2017
Joan Cothorn.....	2/14/2017
William Davis.....	1/15/2017
Alma Gamble	1/23/2017
Kathleen Gentes	11/11/2016
Eileen Hart.....	2/19/2017
Madeleine Hoss.....	1/22/2017
Allen Junghanel.....	2/5/2017
O.V. Lancaster	12/25/2016
Willard McCarthy.....	2/3/2017
George McCoy	2/6/2017
Max Rennels.....	2/8/2017
Shirley Schaller	1/19/2017
Cecil Wade.....	2/4/2017
Barbara Winterland.....	12/14/2016

Illinois Shakespeare Festival Celebrates Its 40th Season

By William Prenevost
Managing Director, Illinois Shakespeare Festival

Starting June 28, the Illinois Shakespeare Festival will celebrate its 40th season with the following productions:

A Midsummer Night’s Dream by William Shakespeare

What better way to celebrate ISF’s 40th anniversary than with a magical, musical, and imaginative interpretation of *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*? The family-friendly production of Shakespeare’s world-famous comedy follows four young lovers into an enchanted forest for an unforgettable journey of trickery, laughter, and love. Featured in this production is a musical Puck, whose original score is sure to cast a spell on you!

Performed in the outdoor theater at the Ewing Cultural Center in a rotating repertory schedule starting June 28 and continuing through August 11. (Specific performance dates are June 28 (preview), 30, July 6, 8, 12, 14, 16, 20, 22, 23, 26, 28, and 30; and August 3, 5, 6, 9, and 11.)

***Cymbeline* by William Shakespeare, adapted by Chris Coleman**

Cymbeline is one of Shakespeare's most fantastical plays, making it a perfect fit for a magical 40th! A brilliant princess, an evil queen, a misguided king, and a thoroughly rotten clown are just some of the characters in this fairy tale romance, made even more whimsical and theatrical by Coleman's six-person adaptation, in which five actors and a musician play all the parts!

Performed in the outdoor theater at the Ewing Cultural Center in rotation with *A Midsummer Night's Dream* starting June 29 and continuing through August 12. (Specific performance dates are June 29 (preview), July 1, 5, 7, 13, 15, 19, 21, 27, and 29, and August 2, 4, 10, and 12.)

***I Heart Juliet* by the Q Brothers Collective (GQ, JQ, Jax, Pos)**

The Q Brothers dazzled audiences in 2015 with *Q Gents*, their hilarious hip-hop adaption of *Two Gentlemen of Verona*. Their latest world premiere, *I Heart Juliet*, will be included in the 40th season. This time with 10 actors, the Q Brothers Collective is at it again, bringing their incredible energy, humor, and hip-hop verse to Shakespeare's timeless masterpiece *Romeo and Juliet*!

Performed in Illinois State's intimate indoor Westhoff Theatre starting July 9 through August 8. Note: *Seating is very limited, and season tickets holders will get preliminary seating.* (Specific performance dates are July 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, and 30, and August 1, 6, and 8).

Season Tickets for all three plays are now available. For more information, visit the festival website at www.IllinoisShakes.org, or call the ISU Center for the Performing Arts Box Office at (309) 438-2535.

Helping hamper

By Jan Cook

The Helping Hamper for our June dinner will support the St. Vincent De Paul Food Pantry in downtown Bloomington. The pantry can use any canned or packaged food, especially fruit, coffee, tea, or salad dressing for produce from the community vegetable gardens. We also donate soap, razors, and deodorants to help folks through Illinois' sultry summer.

Our March collection for the Salvation Army's Safe Harbor shelter included cash, coffee, tea, snacks, fruit, cough drops, lip balm, paper napkins, and many personal care items.

We also received 91 Box Tops for Education and 110 Soup Labels for Education to support the Metcalf School PTO's projects. Thank you all!

Annuitant in the spotlight: Laura Berk

Before permanently relocating to the heart of the heart of the country, Distinguished Professor Emerita Laura Berk grew up in California's Bay Area, near San Francisco. After earning her bachelor's degree in psychology from the University of California, Berkeley, she entered the University of Chicago, graduating with master's and doctoral degrees in child development and educational psychology. In 1969, she accepted a position in the Psychology Department at Illinois State University, where she taught until her retirement in 2001.

The Golden State's loss was the Prairie State's gain, as Berk quickly developed into one of ISU's most notable scholar-teachers. Widely published on the effects of school environments on children's development, the development of children's private speech, and the role of make-believe play in development, Berk is the author of four scholarly books, and her scholarship has appeared in many

ISUAA annual meeting and indoor picnic reservation form

5:30-7:30 p.m. Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Bone Student Center, Old Main Room

NAME(S) OF THOSE ATTENDING

Please reserve _____ meal(s) at \$13.50 each. A check for \$_____ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.

Family style indoor picnic: roast beef, turkey, ham, and salami with assorted breads; cheeses; baked beans; coleslaw; potato chips; brownies or fruit cup for dessert; coffee, ice tea, water

Mail your reservation along with your check to Illinois State University, ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL, 61790-8000. **Reservations must be received no later than May 30.** No phone reservations, please.

prominent journals and edited volumes. Unusual for academic work, her empirical studies have attracted the attention of the general public, leading to contributions in *Psychology Today* and *Scientific American*. She has also been featured on National Public Radio's *Morning Edition* and in *Parents Magazine*, *Wondertime*, and *Reader's Digest*.

Berk is probably best known for her textbooks, each a leader in its market. Her "lifespan" series, *Development Through the Lifespan*, in its seventh edition, and *Exploring Lifespan Development*, in its fourth, has been celebrated as "unparalleled among human development texts—in a class by itself." *Infants, Children, and Adolescents*, published in 2015 in its eighth edition, is also a best seller, as is *Child Development*, the 10th edition of which Berk is currently finishing.

Regarding her widely adopted textbooks, Berk says: "It's an incredible privilege to teach so many students through my texts about a field that I love. On a daily basis, I experience the challenges and joys of crafting aesthetic, accessible prose, making sense out of complicated theory and research, discussing its meaning for enhancing development in all manner of applied ways, and getting to know many wonderful people—professors, students, and professionals in higher-education publishing."

In retirement, Berk continues to expand and update her popular textbooks. She also remains active in work for children's causes, recently completing nine years of service on the national board of Jumpstart for Young Children, a nonprofit organization that provides intensive literacy intervention to thousands of low-income preschoolers across the United States, using college and university students as interveners. Currently, she serves on the governing boards of the Illinois Network of Child Care Resource and Referral Agencies and of Artolution, an organization devoted to engaging children and youths in collaborative public art projects around the world as a means of promoting conflict-resolution, relief from trauma, and resilience. On March 3, she delivered the keynote address at the Midwest Institute for Teachers of Psychology in Chicago.

Berk continues to live in Normal with her husband, retired ISU mathematics professor, Kenneth Berk. A member of the ISU College of Arts and Sciences Hall of Fame, she is currently planning a philanthropic endeavor on behalf of children and families in the community, which will also benefit faculty and students at Illinois State University.

Annual dinner and Business Meeting: It's a Picnic!

By popular demand, we're returning to the indoor picnic format for this June's Annual ISUAA Dinner and Business Meeting. The dinner will be held at 5:30 p.m., Wednesday, June 7 in the Old Main Room of the Bone Student Center. Instead of a formal meal, we'll celebrate the summer with an informal indoor picnic, served family style. The menu includes roast beef, turkey, ham, and salami, with assorted breads; a choice of cheeses; baked beans; coleslaw; potato chips; dessert; coffee, tea, and water.

Cost is \$13.50 per person. A drawing for door prizes is included.

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

ISUAA directory update

Please use this form to correct information in the 2017 Chapter Directory. Please respond ASAP. If the information in the directory was correct/complete, you do not have to complete this form.

Name _____

Phone () _____

Spouse's name _____

Address _____

Email _____

Send to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

Following dinner, we will have our annual business meeting, including election of officers for the coming year, with an update on various activities of ISUAA and the SUAA. The terms of Vice President Gail Lamb, Treasurer Neil Gridley, and Directors Jan Cook and Marie Dawson are expiring. Nominating Committee Chair George Tuttle will present the committee's slate of candidates. We'll also recognize annuitants who began their ISU careers 50 or more years ago.

Join us for the last event of the year! Attire is informal—it's a picnic! A reservation form for the event is included in this newsletter.



**ILLINOIS STATE
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Illinois' first public university

Annuity Association
Campus Box 8000
Normal, IL 61790-8000

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

