



Volume 6 Number 3
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inside

Technology discount available for retirees	2
Annual report	2
Legislative report	3
How time flies	3
Future of pension reform	4
Helping hamper	4
In Memoriam	4
'Tis election season... for SURS!	5
SURS needs your email	5
Directory update: New information	5
Alumni award winners announced	6
Senior Professionals spring programs	6
University Club spring 2012 events	7
ISUAA calendar	7

ISUAAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

President's message

We survived the fall veto session without the passage of adverse legislation affecting our pensions or benefits (See the Legislative report section for details). That does not mean that the Civic Committee did not push very hard to pass SB 512. Fortunately, they were not successful as current employees face enough difficulties this spring with a sizeable reduction in their pension benefit this July due to the periodic adjustment to the money purchase formula. You may recall that if individuals did not retire by the end of this June, it would take them approximately 10 months of additional employment to have earned the same pension that they were credited with at the end of this June. If SB 512 had passed, it was scheduled to take effect on July 1, 2013, just about the time that these employees had recovered their losses due to the change in the money purchase formula. I am delighted it is now less likely they will face these difficult choices, at least in that time frame. However, the problems facing the state have not gone away, and we can expect further efforts to make changes to the pension systems. This time we may have an opportunity to make sure these changes make sense and are consistent with the constitution (See The future of pension reform section).

SB 178, which addresses the problems with how the state awarded health insurance contracts, was vetoed by the governor, but the house voted to override that veto during the Fall Veto Session. Unfortunately the senate failed to override the veto. See the Legislative report section for what this portends.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the spring luncheon. We are again featuring the key lime tart that was such a hit last spring, and as always, the luncheon provides an important opportunity to renew acquaintances with old friends and catch up on what is happening in their lives. We cannot confirm the entertainment at this time, but we again expect to be entertained by Acafellaz, the student a capella group. Once the students have their spring schedules in place in January, we should be able to complete these arrangements.

Our thanks to Tech Zone for again sponsoring this newsletter. Information about products and services available to ISUAAA members at a discount is provided on page 2. Check out what they have to offer and thank them for their support!

Larry Alferink, ISUAAA President

Technology discounts available for retirees

TechZone, a department of Illinois State University, offers discounts and buying assistance to all members of the University community, including annuitants on personal computers, software, peripherals, and supplies. TechZone can help you purchase everything from complete computer systems to printer ink to Microsoft software. A popular question that you can ask is whether you should get a tablet (like an Apple iPad) or a traditional laptop computer. TechZone offers the flexibility of shopping online from home or working with friendly staff for personal assistance through the buying process.

TechZone keeps some of the most popular computers, iPads, iPods, and cables in stock while other models can be customized and ordered online. Vendor partners include Apple, HP, Dell, Lenovo, as well as numerous other sources for peripherals. All vendors meet high standards for competitive pricing, quality products, customer service, warranty, and repair.

To shop online visit TechZone.IllinoisState.org. An active University Login ID (ULID) and password are required. For more information send an email to TechZone@IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-8334 if you don't have an active ULID/Password. You can also visit the TechZone sales center located on the second floor of the Bone Student Center across from Barnes & Noble.

The TechZone service center has a walk-up counter for basic tech questions and on-site Apple, HP, Dell, and Lenovo hardware warranty repairs.

Annual report

ISUAA year in Review 2010–2011

Larry Alferink

ISUAA membership was 1,402 compared to 1,339 a year ago. In addition, 24 current employees joined ISUAA through payroll deduction, but their membership did not officially begin until payroll deduction resumed in August. Pension reform bills in the legislature clearly contributed to this increase, especially among current employees who were the primary targets of this legislation. While ISUAA continued to benefit from income from other sources, the chapter finished the year with a slight deficit financially, absorbed by reserve funds. The ISU Foundation continued to provide a generous amount of support and continued operation of the retiree hotline, (309) 438-4311. Four ISU affiliated areas sponsored newsletters, helping offset this expense. The State Universities Annuitants Association Political Action Committee (SUAAction) paid for chapter leaders to attend political fundraisers where they could continue to cultivate the chapter's relationship with legislators.

The Survivors Advocacy Team Program continued to be a source of chapter pride. Team members monitored obituaries to obtain names of annuitants who have died and contacted/assisted survivors as needed. A seminar on survivor planning took place in the spring. Two well-attended sessions on SURS, Social Security, and Medicare cosponsored with human resources were attended primarily by those not yet retired who benefit from learning about

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

Jess Ray, Web page coordinator



the realities of reduced Social Security benefits for those with public pensions. A fall coffee with local legislators was held to discuss pension issues, and a similar meeting occurred with the local Chamber of Commerce in late spring. ISUAA participated in the Human Resources Benefits Fair in May to encourage membership by current employees.

The fall luncheon featured Illinois State President Al Bowman and his optimistic view of a difficult financial situation for ISU. The ISU Madrigal Singers delighted members with their performance at the annual holiday luncheon. Attendees at the spring luncheon were entertained by Acafellaz, an a capella student group. The annual dinner meeting took place in June with board elections and presentation of distinguished service awards as the primary agenda items. William Mabe, executive director of SURS, was the featured speaker, and members in attendance had numerous questions about insurance benefits. Various local charities benefitted from canned goods and other items donated at the luncheons/dinner. In addition, "box tops for education" were collected for Thomas Metcalf School.

The ISUAA board of directors and committee/task chairs met six times. The ISU representatives to SURSMac, a SURS advisory board, joined the ISUAA Board as nonvoting members to increase communications about pension issues. ISUAA was represented at the annual state meeting of SAAA in Springfield and a regional

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meeting in Champaign. Jan Cook is serving as treasurer of SUAA, Marcia Strum was elected to the SUAA board of directors, and Parker Lawlis is cochair of the board of directors of SUAAAction. Larry Alferink serves as SUAA membership cochair and is a non-voting member of the board.

ISUAA again published the popular chapter directory. There were four newsletters and the chapter website, IllinoisState.edu/annuitants to keep members informed. Communications continued to be enhanced by SUAA briefings and mini-briefings emailed to members with a valid email address on file with SUAA. The SUAA Office was especially effective this year in keeping members informed on critical issues in the legislature.

While there were several contenders for the issue of the year, the winner was clearly the decision by the state to award new insurance contracts, eliminating contracts with Health Alliance and Humana and failing to provide HMO coverage for much of the state. This decision created unprecedented confusion among employees and retirees who were faced with the prospect of needing to select new health care providers, in some cases doing so during the course of medical care for serious medical conditions. Fortunately legislative action by the Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability provided at least a temporary reprieve as the state was forced to extend the existing contracts.

Legislative report

Several legislators promised to push adverse legislation in the Fall Veto Session. Senator Schoenberg introduced SB 175 to impose health insurance premiums on retirees last spring. He vowed to rework the bill to eliminate a number of problems so that it would have greater support in the fall. Fortunately, he never completed the task and the bill did not come up in the Fall Veto Session.

In addition, Speaker Madigan, Minority Leader Cross, and Ty Fahner, president of the Civic Committee of the Commercial Club of Chicago, vowed to bring SB 512 to a vote in the Fall Veto Session. On November 7, before the second week of the Fall Veto Session opened, Tom Cross introduced Amendment 2 to SB 512. SB 512 had a provision that required an adjustment every three years to the cost of continuing to participate in the existing defined benefit plan rather than choose one of the other two options. With an initial cost of 15.31 percent instead of the current 8 percent, there was no limit as to how much the future cost of the traditional plan could increase over time. Amendment 2 limited that increase to a maximum of 2 percent. It also removed the judges, police officers, and fire fighters from the provisions of the bill. Not surprisingly, Amendment 2 was quickly approved by the House Pensions Committee, a body that had been restructured last spring to ensure passage of any pension legislation.

Press reports before the fall veto session indicated that Madigan, Cross, and Fahner had reached an agreement that Madigan would produce 30 Democratic votes in support of the bill and Cross would produce 30 Republican votes. These 60 votes would be enough for the bill to pass the House. In addition, the Civic Committee spent \$1.5 million on media spots in Champaign and Springfield vowing

How time flies

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

150 years ago | 1861

- It was announced that Charles Hovey (first president), Ira Moore (mathematics), Leander Potter (English language) and Julius Bryant (drawing) left ISNU to join the war effort. The school was unable to print an accurate list of instructor and staff names for the model school due to hurried departures for the war. However, Perkins Bass was named interim head of ISNU while Henry Norton was named principal of the Model School.

100 years ago | November/December 1911

- The ISNU faculty recommended five years of course work for students who had not received an education beyond the eighth grade. Exceptions could be made for those who had prior teaching experience.

75 years ago | November/December 1936

- An editorial by "Six Maedchens in Rebellion" appeared claiming that the male population on campus had forgotten how to open doors and offer seats for ladies. The ladies referred to these individuals as "Roaming Romeos" and accused them of slamming doors in their faces. An editorial in reply by a "Roaming Romeo" appeared the following week telling the "Six Maedchens in Rebellion" that kindly manners and "a thank you once in a while" would help doors open and empty seats to appear. No further editorials appeared on the matter.

50 years ago | November/December 1961

- A "bar behind two red doors" was advertised in an article in the Vidette. The bar was a nonprofit coffee bar that was opened as an alternative to the always busy and smoky The Cage. A cup of coffee and a donut were sold for a dime each.
- It was announced that the new field house would bear the name of long-time athletics director, Clifford "Pop" Horton.
- It was also announced that ISNU would get a radio station the following year. An advisory committee was created and three faculty members were appointed: Ralph Smith, director of radio television; Ruth Yates, speech instructor; and Louis Steinburg, art instructor.

25 years ago | November/December 1986

- Kenley Kaisershot, an ISU sophomore finance major, announced his run for the Normal Town Council. It was believed that Kaisershot may have been the first student to run for public office. The Student Body Board of Directors (pre-SGA) did not back Kaisershot at first and opted to meet him before making any public statements of support.

If you have any books, letters, or memorabilia from ISU that you would like to donate to the University Archives, please contact April Anderson at aander2@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 438-5525.

to defeat any representative that did not support their bill. Needless to say, this is not the way to win friends and influence legislators. They seemed unaware that a bunch of very wealthy people from Chicago telling them how to vote does not sit well with most people downstate. In any case, it is likely that there were not 30 votes in either party in support of the bill, and it did not come up for a vote. The legislature even added an extra day to the veto session on November 29. SUAA was concerned there might be a third amendment introduced before that session, but it didn't happen. Thanks to all of you that contacted members of the legislature and to SUAA for all their work behind the scenes.

We need to continue to monitor the situation, as there is always a possibility that a significant amendment may be introduced at any time that might generate enough votes for passage. Unless that happens, passage is not likely until after the primary elections. Of concern is that several members of the house that voted against the bill this time indicated that unless the opposition comes up with a better bill, "pension reform" is critical for the future of the state and they would vote for passage this spring.

The house voted to override the governor's veto of SB 178, the bill designed to change the way in which health contracts are bid. However, the senate failed to override the governor's veto. Members of the house are reworking this bill to address the governor's objections and plan to introduce this bill in the new spring legislative session. The outcome of this legislation may be of great interest as the contracts with Health Alliance were extended through this June.

The future of pension reform

It is increasingly likely that something like SB 512 may pass unless we suggest alternatives. If legislation passes that reduces future benefits for current employees, there clearly will be a court challenge, but such a challenge is costly, takes time, and creates uncertainty for current employees. We have seen the uncertainty created by the possibility of SB 512 cause people to accelerate their retirement planning already. It would be better if we could avoid or minimize these problems. However, it is clear the Civic Committee will keep pushing until they achieve at least the appearance of a legislative victory.

The path forward may be facilitated by a letter that the university presidents submitted before the fall veto session describing the problems with SB 512 and offering to help craft a better solution in the spring session. It is very important that SUAA be part of that conversation, as we understand better than anyone the problems faced by SURS participants while also supporting the future of higher education in the state.

Based on the legal analysis by Eric Mediar, the legal counsel for Senate President Cullerton, the non-impairment clause established a contract that the state cannot unilaterally abrogate. But like all contracts, it can be renegotiated. Obviously, SB 512 is unacceptable because it involves unilateral action on the part of the state—we get

Retiree information hotline

Have a question? Need an answer? Don't know whom to contact? Call (309) 438 4311, the phone line answered by University Advancement 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.



nothing in return. So the question is, if the pension system were to be modified, what would we want in return?

Mediar suggested this past summer during the annual meeting that we should expect a constitutional guarantee of funding of the pension system as part of any future pension legislation, and he believes there is a way to force the legislature to provide the annual required contribution. That would stabilize the pension systems and provide protection against the future possibility, that if the state became insolvent, a judge would make decisions about where our pensions would stand in the priority list of the demands on the state coffers. That would especially be a benefit for current employees, but would also provide better security for many retirees.

For those of you who would like more information on where pension reform might be headed in the future, you may find a report issued by Institute of Government and Public Affairs based on a conference held on October 3 and 4 to be of interest. Two notable themes were expressed in this report. The first is that thus far "pension reform" in Illinois has been driven by budget considerations and has ignored the human resource issues involved in state pensions. The total compensation package offered to employees must be competitive and be adequate to attract and retain future employees. HB 1946 that established the tier II pension system for new employees completely ignored this important issue, as does SB 512. Secondly, there was considerable discussion of hybrid pension plans that combine a defined benefit component with a defined contribution component. Such hybrid plans, properly configured, would likely be a distinct improvement over the tier II system currently in place for new employees. This report is available at igpa.uillinois.edu/system/files/IGPA_State_Summit_on_Pensions_REPORT.pdf.

In memoriam

Bernadine Aucutt.....	11/18/2011
Thomas Collins.....	9/29/2011
Jacilyn Gordon.....	11/08/2011
Marguerite Hocker.....	9/19/2011
Edward McGowan.....	6/20/2011
Anna Scott.....	11/15/2011

Helping hamper

Jan Cook

Our collection at the Spring Luncheon will benefit the Safe Harbor Shelter for the homeless in Bloomington-Normal. They would appreciate coffee, tea, canned fruit, and hot or cold cereals for breakfast, as well as lip balm, personal-sized soap, toothpaste, and hand lotion.

The donations to the Clare House Soup Kitchen at the Holiday Luncheon included not only fruit, ingredients for the soup, and coffee, but also Trick-or-Treat sized candy to hand out with the meals.

We continue to collect Box Tops for Education on behalf of Thomas Metcalf School. Look for them on Betty Crocker, Kleenex, Zip-Lock, and Progresso products, among others. Each is worth 10 cents in cash for the PTO's projects.

Thanks for your efforts, not only to help others but also to make state retirees visible by continuing to contribute to our community. At a time when public pensions are under attack, it helps when we can publicize the many services pension recipients provide.

'Tis election season.....for SURS!

SURS is beginning the process of conducting an election to fill three seats on the Board of Trustees. Two of these seats will be filled by current employees participating in SURS and one by a SURS annuitant. Election materials will be mailed to qualified SURS members on March 30 and must be returned by May 1.

SURS needs your email

There are 37,710 annuitants currently drawing a SURS pension. Of these only 929 have provided SURS with a current email address. Email addresses are important for SURS as a means of providing you with information. For example, last spring during the benefits choice period, it would have been beneficial for you to receive information about the changes in health providers during the benefits choice period, especially as that information was changing rapidly. To provide SURS your email address, simply log in to the SURS site at surs.com. If you have not previously established a user name and password, you will be asked for your email address as part of that process. If you have already established a log in, you will see a "welcome back" box on the upper right that will allow you to update your information.

Directory update: New information

The following is updated information for the 2011-2012 Annuitants Directory that you received in November. Please add it to your copy.

- James Jacobs: (309) 826-1582
- University Advancement Leadership Team (page 2): Jill Jones: (309) 438-3135
- Patricia Madden: PO Box 312, Fleetwood, NC 28626-0312
- Marian Kelly: 5055 W. Panther Creek Dr. Apt 3214, Spring, TX 77381-3546
- Phyllis Feaster: 111 W. 17th St. Apt 405, Sioux Falls, SD 57104-4983
- Ricardo Lewis: 20 Brickyard Dr. Apt J 5, Bloomington, IL 61701-7516
- Mildred Pratt: PO Box 2184, Champaign, IL 61825-2184
- John & Linda Berger: 2902 E. Oakland Ave., Bloomington, IL 61704-5901
- Jane Miller: 2909 Essington St., Bloomington, IL 61705-6540
- John Copes: 624 E. Vorey St., Heyworth, IL 61745-9619
- Mark Oglesby: 3406 Bonsai Dr., Bloomington, IL 61705-9134
- David Racki: 901 N. Madison St., Bloomington, IL 61701-4538
- Teresa Thomason: 3257 Jennefer Dr., Saint Charles, MO 63301-3255
- Junior Bartels: 2897 County Rd. 1300 E., Rantoul, IL 61866-9736
- George Cunningham: PO Box 87, Riverbank, CA 95367-0087
- Bonnie Pomfret, 296 Old Connecticut Path, Wayland, MA 01778-3412

Please continue to let us know of any new information for the directory.

Alumni award winners announced

Each year the Illinois State University Alumni Association honors alumni for their outstanding accomplishments. The alumni will receive their awards on February 17 at the Alumni Association Awards Recognition Dinner. This year's honorees are:



Outstanding Young Alumni Award

Amar Kamah, M.B.A., '97
Vice president of Marketing,
BioReference Laboratories



Alumni Achievement Award

Constance Mueller, M.S. '84
Food Service director emeritus, District 87



E. Burton Mercier Alumni Service Award

Marian Kneer, '49, M.S. '57
Professor emerita, University of Illinois-Chicago



Senator John W. Maitland Jr. Commitment to Education Award

David T. Wiant
Assistant vice president emeritus,
ISU Administrative Services



Distinguished Alumni Award

R. David Edmunds, M.A. '66, L.L.D. '02
Professor of History, University of Texas at Dallas

Nominations are being accepted for 2013 and are due by May 31, 2012. Do you know an Illinois State alum who:

- *Has significant career achievements?*
- *Has had national or international impact?*
- *Has contributed to their field beyond the expectations and responsibilities of the positions they have held?*
- *Has had a direct, positive impact on society and their community?*

If you know someone who fits these descriptions, nominate them for an Illinois State University Alumni Association Award. The nomination process is the first step in identifying outstanding alumni who are making a difference.

Visit Advancement.IllinoisState.edu/Alumni_Association/Awards to view the award descriptions and make a nomination today. For more information about the Alumni Awards Program, email Gina Bianchi at glbianchi@IllinoisState.edu or call (800) 366-4478.

ISUAA Directory update

Please use this form to correct information in the 2011–2012 Chapter Directory (blue cover). Please respond ASAP. If the information in the 2011–2012 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.

Senior Professional spring programs

Academy of Seniors

Classes start in March and go until June. The Civil War class will allow walk ins for \$15 to the different sessions.

- Is Japan a Violent Culture?
- The Civil War You Never Knew
- Economics on Main Street: Concepts for American Voters
- 21st Technology: It Can Be For You

Morning with the Professors

Lectures start March 30 and run until April 27.

Remember you can purchase all five sessions for \$45 or walk-in individual sessions for \$15.

- Miranda warnings: Book-'em Danno
- 100 Years of Agriculture at ISU
- Did the Founding Fathers Intend a Christian Nation?
- Bringing Economic Development to the Twin Cities
- Neanderthals and the Beginnings of People Like Us

The popular Lunchtime Journeys will be held on four Thursdays in April and May.

For information on any of the classes or to register, check out SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu or call (309) 438-2818.

University Club spring 2012 events

Jude Boyer

Gourmet dinners.

The final gourmet dinner of the spring semester will be Saturday, February 25, in the Founders Suite, Bone Student Center. It will feature Norwegian cuisine. Full information about the menu and reservation details is available at uClub.IllinoisState.edu.

Discussion hours.

The final discussion hour of the spring semester will be May 4. Discussion hours are held on most Friday afternoons of the academic semester from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m. in the Bone Student Center Faculty/Staff Commons. Please join us for refreshments and lively conversation. Special discussion/information topics are noted at uClub.IllinoisState.edu.

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 on the Web at uClub.IllinoisState.edu.

ISUAA 2011 calendar

March 7 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.

ISUAA Spring Luncheon
*Old Main Room, Bone Student Center**

March 14 • 2–3:30 p.m.

ISUAA Board with Committee Chairs
Alumni Center, Room 119

May 9 • 2–3:30 p.m.

ISUAA Board with Committee Chairs
Alumni Center, Room 119

June 6 • 5:30–7:30 p.m.

Annual Meeting/Dinner
Old Main Room, Bone Student Center

To be announced

Social Security Workshop
Spring Survivor Benefits Workshop*
Annual Benefits Fair

* Reservation required

ISUAA 2011 spring luncheon reservation form

11:30 a.m., Wednesday, March 7

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.

House Salad

Ranch & French dressing

Entrees

___ Beef roll (with green bean almandine and mashed potatoes & gravy) _____ (names)

___ Portobello and spinach risotto stack _____ (names)

___ Please indicate dietary restrictions _____ (names)

Dessert

___ Fruit cup as dessert _____ (names)

___ Lime tart as dessert _____ (names)

Please indicate dietary restrictions _____ (names)

Please mail the reservation form no later than February 22 to ensure delivery by February 24 to: Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701 5334 or Dona Meador, 311 S. Towanda Ave #4, Normal, IL 61761 6101.

Reservations must be received no later than February 24. Late reservations cannot be accepted. No exceptions!

YES, MY GIFT MATTERS.

GIFT DESIGNATION

- ISU EXCELLENCE FUND.** Supports the University's area of greatest need (3065065)
 RED AND WHITE SCHOLARSHIP FUND (2323000)
 COLLEGE/DEPARTMENT/OTHER: _____

PAYMENT OPTIONS

___ **OPTION 1:** Check. A check for my gift of \$ _____ payable to Illinois State University Foundation is enclosed.

- ___ **OPTION 2:** Credit Card: **VISA** **MASTERCARD** **DISCOVER**
 A single gift in the amount of \$ _____
 A recurring gift in the amount of \$ _____, ending on ____/____/____ (month/day/year), to be paid: monthly quarterly semi-annually annually

Name on card Account number

Expiration date Signature

___ **OPTION 3:** Make a gift online at IllinoisState.edu/Giving

DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s) University ID (if known)

Address

City State Zip

Preferred email address

() mobile home

Preferred phone number

FURTHER GIVING INFORMATION

___ My spouse works for a matching gift company:

___ I would like more information on including Illinois State University in my estate plans.

___ I have already included the University in my estate plans.

Office use only: AG00000000 20121SUAA0 43

Please mail this form to the Illinois State University Foundation, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000.

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