



Volume 7, Number 1 Summer 2012

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ISUAA—serving annuitants and survivors since 1971

## President's message

Thanks to the College of Fine Arts for sponsoring this issue of the newsletter and for offering event ticket discounts to ISUAA members. A listing of some of their events is provided in this newsletter. Please support these events by purchasing tickets, and remember to ask for your annuitant discount.

It has been a hectic and scary legislative session, and the anxiety will continue as we move into summer. First, the good news. Health insurance contracts have been extended by 90 days on an "emergency" basis. That certainly is good news for those of us that depend on Health Alliance or other providers for our health care. The other good news is that the legislature did not pass pension reform. Unfortunately, the bad news is that they will attempt to pass pension reform in a special session this summer (see Legislative update). Even worse, they did pass SB 1313, the bill that implements health insurance premiums for retirees and authorizes CMS to establish the level of those premiums. At the time this newsletter went to press, details on the premiums that retirees will pay were not yet available, and state subsidies for health insurance premiums will likely decrease, increasing insurance costs for current employees as well.

I look forward to working with William Ducett. He was elected as a director at the Annual Meeting. Our thanks go to Martha Burk for her past work as a director. Significant challenges lie ahead and we need your help and support. If you know someone that is not yet a member of ISUAA, encourage them to join. And remember to pay your annual dues, or even better, sign up for payroll deduction or have your dues automatically deducted from your monthly SURS pension. That ensures that you will not set this notice aside and then forget about making your dues payment. And if you want to help in other significant ways, let a member of the board know of your interest. We often need help on various projects and each year face the task of identifying new members for positions on the board, committees, and task forces.

I hope to see you at the Fall Luncheon on September 5. President Al Bowman will again be our guest speaker. He is both a member of ISUAA and a great supporter of our association. Future events of interest to our members are listed in this newsletter. Please take advantage of these opportunities to socialize, learn, and enjoy superb entertainment.

Larry Alferink

## ISUAA discounts for College of Fine Arts events

Once again, the College of Fine Arts at Illinois State is pleased to announce a special ticket rate for ISUAA members to events at the Center for the Performing Arts. ISUAA members are able to receive the Illinois State student ticket rates of \$12 for tickets to any School of Theatre and Dance production and \$6 to any School of Music concert (\*except as noted below).

## Center for the Performing Arts 2012–2013

#### Theatre productions:

- •Anon(ymous)—opening September 28
- •Noises Off-opening November 2
- Fall Dance Theatre—opening December 6
- Oklahoma!---opening February 22
- The Adding Machine—opening April 5
- Spring Dance Theatre—opening May 2

#### \*2012–2013 Center for the Performing Arts Music events with \$10 tickets:

#### • Music for the Holidays Concert

#### • Jazz Festival with special guest artist

Tickets can be obtained by calling the ticket office at (309) 438-2535 or visiting during our regular business hours, 11 a.m.–5 p.m., Monday–Friday. ISUAA members must inform the box office of their membership to receive this discount. We recommend that ISUAA members redeem their tickets no later than 15 minutes prior to performance start times. Please note that all dates, times, and prices are subject to change. For a complete listing of dates and times, visit IllinoisState.edu/finearts.

The College of Fine Arts looks forward to seeing you!

Brandon Burling,

Ticket Office Manager

## Illinois State Annuitants Association Newsletter

Volume 7, Number 1, Summer 2012

#### Published quarterly

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

www.Annuitants.IllinoisState.edu

# **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.

# University Club fall 2012 events

#### Jude Boyer

**Gourmet dinners:** Fall dinners will be held on Saturday, September 29 (Spanish cuisine), and Saturday, October 27 (Korean cuisine), in the Founders Suite of Bone Student Center. Full information about each menu and reservation details should be available to all by August 20 on the University Cub website: uClub.IllinoisState.edu. University Club members will receive a mailing in August.

**Discussion Hours:** The first Discussion Hour of the fall will be held Friday, August 24, from 3:30 to 5:30 p.m., in the Faculty/Staff Commons of the Bone Student Center. Join us for refreshments and lively conversation. 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. 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 uClub.IllinoisState.edu.

# Alumni Relations events

#### We invite you to join us to "Get Your Groove On" for Homecoming, October 1–7, 2012

Every year alumni, students, retirees, and friends gather for Homecoming and have must-do activities on their weekend planner, with Saturday being the most action-packed day of the weeklong celebration.

Many join in the annual **Town & Gown 5K Run**, which is scheduled for 7:30 a.m. There are 12 divisions in the event, including wheelchair participants.

The **parade** is another tradition everyone enjoys. Redbird pride soars as the Big Red Marching Machine takes to the streets and starts up the ISU fight song! This year the fun starts at 9:30 a.m.

The **football game** is definitely a high point. This year's game against Southern Illinois University will require earlier planning, as Hancock Stadium is under construction and seating will be limited. Tickets are available by calling the Redbird ticket office at (309) 438-8000.

Beyond these popular activities, alumni are encouraged to maximize their time at Illinois State University by exploring all that is new on campus and Uptown Normal. Start by visiting the Alumni Relations hospitality tent in the tailgating area. Drop off your business card or fill out an update form to receive your limited edition 2012 commemorative Homecoming pin.

You'll find campus and Normal maps, as well as information about the changes in recent months. These include the opening of the Student Fitness Center and McCormick Hall, which is enriching the lives of students. Take a tour to find out what's so amazing about this facility. Don't miss the chance to also see the recently completed apartment complex at Cardinal Court. This unique project has significantly changed housing options for Illinois State University students.

When you finish strolling the campus, head to Uptown Normal and marvel at the renovations. From the newly opened transportation center to the complete upgrade of businesses, the area is not what most graduates will remember, although favorite student hang-outs remain.

For the most up-to-date information and maps visit Illinois-StateHomecoming.com and plan to join us for the fun!

# Senior Professionals fall 2012 class line up

#### Academy of Seniors

- *The Literary World of Charles Dickens* Sept. 10, 17, 24, and Oct. 1 Jan Susina, professor, English
- Food for Thought & Thought for Food Oct. 10, 17, 24, and 31 This class will look at four different topics. A walk-in option will be available.
- *Russia During the Khrushchev Years* Nov. 1, 6, 8, and 13 Christine Varga-Harris, history, ISU
- American Indians and the War of 1812
  Jan, 8, 15, 22, and 29
  Michael Wiant, director, Dickson Mounds Museum

#### Mornings with the Professors

Remember you can purchase all five lectures for \$45 or walk in any class for \$15.

- Behind the Scenes at the 2012 Democratic and Republican Conventions
   September 28
   Robert Bradley, retired professor
- *Tuning in: TV and the American Family After WWII* October 12 Amy Wood, associate professor, history
- Willem & Willem The influence of Two Dutch Artists on Modern Art October 19 Ken Holder, professor emeritus, art

- *The Amazing Story of Negro League Baseball* October 26 Chad Kahl, social sciences librarian
- Water for our Community and the World November 2 Bob Kohlhase, engineering manager, Farnsworth Group, Inc

All classes are held at the Alumni Center, For more information visit SeniorProfessionals.IllinoisState.edu.

## Annuitants Association election results/ annual meeting summary

The Illinois State University Annuitants Association annual meeting and dinner was held on June 1 in the Brown Ballroom of Bone Student Center. Larry Alferink was re-elected president and Jan Bremner was re-elected as secretary. William Ducett was elected to a position as a director and Chris Schwelle was re-elected to this position. Continuing in their positions on the board are Chuck McGuire, vice president, Neil Gridley, treasurer; and Jude Boyer and Jess Ray, directors.

Larry Alferink was recognized as the recipient of the Distinguished Service Award. Linda Brookhart was presented with a Certificate of Commendation in recognition of her fifth anniversary as SUAA executive director and the work she and her staff do on our behalf.

## **Cost of the Pension Debt**

Some of you may have read that the cost of the five state pension systems to the State of Illinois for 2013 is \$5.09 billion, a figure that many people say is unsustainable because it crowds out important state contributions to education, health care, and other state services. What they don't say is why this is the case. While it is widely accepted that the state pension debt is largely the result of a failure of the state legislature to fund the five pension systems, there is little discussion of the impact of that failure on current state payments to the pension systems. Of the \$5.09 billion, \$1.5 billion is the normal cost of funding the pension systems. In other words, 70 percent of the current cost of funding the pension systems is paying off accumulated debt.

In 1995, concern over the pension debt resulted in Public Act 88-0593, a 50-year plan to address the underfunding of the pension systems. However, this plan was designed to underfund the pension funds each year such that the pension debt continued to grow until 2029. Then, during the later years, the required payments each year mushroom much like the balloon on an adjustable rate mortgage. It is the design of this plan combined with persistent underfunding that has created the problem we are in. So why doesn't the state approve a more sensible repayment plan instead of attacking your pensions and benefits?

# Directory

In order to be included in the 2012-2013 ISUAA Directory you must be a current, paid up member, so do not delay sending in your renewal form/check if you pay your dues annually. SUAA mails these renewal forms just prior to expiration of annual membership.

We have long assumed that if you join ISUAA you acknowledge that your name, address, etc. will appear in the chapter directory, but you may prefer to not have such a listing. If so, let us know. Information about contacting ISUAA regarding the directory is located on the inside of the back cover of the directory or write to:

> Campus Box 8000 Illinois State University Normal, IL 61790-8000

Let us know as soon as you have a change in address, phone number, etc. We must receive information about such changes prior to October 1 to ensure it will be included in the new directory.

Please use this form to correct information in the 2011–2012 chapter directory (blue cover). Respond ASAP. If the information in the 2011–2012 directory was correct/ complete, you do not need to complete this form.

Name	
Phone(	)
Spouse's name _	
Address	
Email	



Annuitants Association

# **Legislative updates**

It has been a harrowing legislative session with proposals on pensions and health care flying right and left. First, a description of the legislation that passed. SB 1673 that failed to pass by the May 31 deadline will be treated separately.

HJRCA 49. Sponsored by Speaker Madigan, this constitutional amendment was approved by the legislature this spring. It will come up for a vote in the November 2012 election. This bill would require a 3/5 supermajority to increase any future pension benefit, whether it is a vote by the legislature, a school board, or a local governmental unit. Likely intended to prevent undoing the pension law for new employees passed last year, it will make it more difficult to undo provisions that have serious consequences for the state and universities in the future. There is also a possibility that this amendment could be used to modify the non-impairment clause that protects your pension. If you care about the future of education in this state, and if you want to prevent future mischief, it is important for all of us to work to defeat this amendment in the fall election.

It is important to note that this proposed amendment does nothing to address the reasons for the pension debt, nor does it reduce the pension debt by a single penny. Instead, it seems to create the illusion for the public that the legislature has taken decisive action on the pensions, a distraction from what they have actually done.

SB 1313. This bill repeals the "20-year rule" that provided health insurance at no cost to retirees if they worked at least 20 years for the state before retirement. It implements health insurance premiums for retirees and authorizes CMS to set the premiums for this insurance.

No information on the cost of health insurance premiums is available at this time. However, CMS plans on using a framework where pension costs are based on two variables: (1) total state pension benefits and (2) the age at retirement plus the number of years of service. This will produce a grid providing the percent of state insurance costs that will be paid by the annuitant such that those with higher pensions who retire early and have worked less time will pay a higher percentage of their pensions than those who retire at an older age, with many years of service and a low pension. This means that if you choose a lower cost provider network such as an HMO, you will pay the same percentage as someone that chooses Quality Care, but the lower cost to the state will translate into proportionately lower costs for you. Likewise, those covered by Medicare will pay less than those not covered by Medicare because they are not yet at the age they become Medicare eligible or they retired before they earned their 40 quarters. Those that began working for the University before Medicare coverage first became available in 1986 will be treated as if they are covered by Medicare, provided they would have been covered if it had been available when they began their employment. Insurance costs for spouses and dependents will be based on the same grid. All of this is subject to change as a result of negotiations with AFSCME.

SB 4996. This bill limits the ability of universities to rehire annuitants after retirement. Annuitants are limited to 100 paid days or 500 hours of employment without penalty to the employer. If this period of employment is exceeded, the university would need to pay the current value of the pension back to SURS. Some of our members have returned to work after retirement for longer periods of time. This will be unlikely to happen in the future.

# Parking tag

If you have an annuitant Parking Hang Tag (It's golden!), this is the year you will need to renew it. If you have recently retired, you can obtain this tag from Parking Services. It allows you to park at no cost in the Bone Student Center lot and in guest parking at the lot south of the College of Business building at no charge, as well as other lots around campus.

# **Helping Hamper**

#### Jan Cook

Our September Helping Hamper will be for the benefit of the Crisis Nursery at the Children's Foundation in Bloomington. They can use baby goods—clean, used toys; food; and especially diapers. Do you know a child that has outgrown their diapers before the package was used up. Consider donating them. Healthy sugar-free snacks for pre-schoolers are also needed. Helping Hamper also needs paper plates and cups in any bright color, graduation, or Fourth of July—the kids love them all!

The June Helping Hamper for St. Vincent de Paul Food Pantry collected more than a hamper full of vegetables, pasta, big jugs of coffee and creamer, and personal care items. There were more than 50 deodorants, 30 packs of razors, and 40 packages of bar soap! That means a lot for people's self respect in hot weather. We also received \$60 in cash for the pantry to use to buy seldom donated supplies.

Our collection of "Box Tops for Education" produced 132 box tops, worth \$13.20 for the PTO at Thomas Metcalf School. They are now collecting both "Box Tops for Education" and "Labels for Education." They receive cash back from General Mills for each postage-stamp size "Box Top" from General Mills, Betty Crocker, Kleenex, and other products. The soup labels give them credit toward purchases from a company catalog. Look for tiny rectangles on the least conspicuous part of the package.

Thanks! We are still making a mark in our community!

# **Ruth Barber**

Ruth Barber died on June 3. Ruth was the wife of Bradford Barber who founded the ISUAA chapter and cofounded SUAA. Ruth was a long-time supporter of the organization and asked that individuals who wish to provide a contribution in her memory donate to the SUAA Foundation.

# In memoriam

Edward Anderaseon	2/24/2012
Mary Anderson	5/10/2012
Ruth Barber	6/3/2012
Minnie Berson	4/23/2012
E. Scott Blankenship	3/24/2012
James Bommarito	5/1/2012
Eileen Brand	3/28/2012
Paul Curry	6/3/2012
F. James Davis	4/24/2012
Tella Marie DeBose	4/13/2012
Glen Greenseth	3/18/2012
Francis Leary	4/15/2012
Edward Livingston	5/23/2012
Edward Livingston Patricia Meckstroth	
	5/6/2012
Patricia Meckstroth	5/6/2012 3/27/2012
Patricia Meckstroth Gary Ramseyer	5/6/2012 3/27/2012 3/15/2012
Patricia Meckstroth Gary Ramseyer Orin Reitz	5/6/2012 3/27/2012 3/15/2012 2/18/2012
Patricia Meckstroth Gary Ramseyer Orin Reitz Barbara Sailors	5/6/2012 3/27/2012 3/15/2012 2/18/2012 4/2/2012
Patricia Meckstroth Gary Ramseyer Orin Reitz Barbara Sailors Joan Schaab	5/6/2012 3/27/2012 3/15/2012 2/18/2012 4/2/2012 4/21/2012

# **Planned Giving**

You may have noticed information about planned giving in your email inbox or mailbox recently. Illinois State University is seeing an increase in the number of bequest intentions from its



alumni, faculty/staff retirees, and friends. If you are interested in including Illinois State University as part of your estate plans, or would like to make sure Illinois State University knows your intentions, please contact Joy Hutchcraft, executive director of Development at (309) 438-8041 or call toll free (800) 366-4ISU.

# ISUAA Organization 2011–2012

#### ISUAA Board

President Larry Alferink (14)
Vice president Charles McGuire (13)
Secretary Jan Bremner (14)
Treasurer Neil Gridley (13)
DirectorJude Boyer (13)
Director William Ducett (14)
DirectorJess Ray (13)
Director Christ Schwelle (14)

#### **Committee chairs**

Awards	. Richard Dammers
Golf	. Pete Whitmer
Insurance	. Yvonne Hougham
Legislative	. Parker Lawlis, Larry Alferink,
	and Dave Wiant
SUAAction	. Jim Carlson
Membership	. Frank Waterstraat
Nominating	. Jude Boyer
Pool	. Paul Dohrmann



# Yes, MY GIFT MATTERS.

#### GIFT DESIGNATION

□ ISU EXELLENCE FUND (3065065) □ RED AND WHITE SCHOLARSHIP (2323000) □ COLLEGEDEPARTMENT/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
  - $\Box$  A single gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_
  - A recurring gift in the amount of \$\_\_\_\_\_, ending on \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_ (month/day/year),
    - to be paid:  $\Box$  monthly  $\ \Box$  quarterly  $\ \Box$  semi-annually  $\ \Box$  annually

Name on card

Account number

Expiration date

Signature

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

Programs	. Charles McGuire
Social	Shirlee Bottomley and Dona Meador
Survivors Advocacy	Mary Liverman and Edna Johnston

#### State Association directors

Larry Alferink
Jude Boyer
Charles McGuire
Frank Waterstraat

#### ISUAA Taskforce Teams/Resources

Archives ......Jude Boyer and April Anderson Auditor ......Marie Dawson Chapter Directory.....Jude Boyer and Dona Meador Foundation liaison ......Lora Wey Mailing list .....Kaberi Dutta Newsletter .....Larry Alferink, Richard Dammers, and University Marketing and Communications Social Security Issues .....Robert Hunt Website ......Jess Ray

#### DONOR INFORMATION

Name(s)	University ID (if known)	
Address		
Address		
City	State	Zip
Preferred email address		
( ) Preferred phone number		
ricitica phone number		
FURTHER GIVING INFORM	ATION	
I (and/or my spouse/partner) work	for a matching gif	t 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: AG0000000 2013ISUAA0 43

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

## **Conversion to dues deduction**

If you have not yet converted from single dues payment to automatic monthly dues deduction and would like to do so, please use this form. Please contact Larry Alferink with questions at alferink@IllinoisState.edu or (309) 454-3814.

1) FOR AUTOMATIC DUES DEDUCTION (current retirees only, currently \$2.42/mo; \$4.50 w/spouse). This is available only to current retirees receiving a SURS annuity. I hereby authorize the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) to deduct each month the amount certified by SUAA as the current rate of dues. The deduction is to start upon expiration of my single payment membership and will continue until I inform SURS otherwise. I also authorize SURS to provide SUAA with any change of address.

Name (print)
Date
Signature
[]]D#

2) FOR PAYROLL DEDUCTION (current employees only; currently 2.90/mo; \$5.40 w/spouse August–May). This is available to current Illinois State University employees only. I hereby authorize Illinois State University to deduct each month (August–May) the amount certified by ISUAA as the current rate of dues. The deduction will be implemented as soon as possible upon expiration of my single payment membership and will continue until I submit a signed revocation form to Illinois State University.

Name (print)	
Date	
Signature	
UID#	
Office use only	
	086-724 (\$2.90)
	086-725 (\$5.40)

Please return completed form to ISUAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-8000

# ISUAA 2012 calendar

September 5, 2012 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m. ISUAA Fall Luncheon with President Al Bowman Old Main Room, Bone Student Center\*

#### September 12 • 2–3:30 p.m.

ISUAA Board with committee chairs Alumni Center room 119

#### **October 1–7, 2012** Homecoming Week

**November 14, 2012 • 2–3:30 p.m.** ISUAA Board with committee chairs *Alumni Center room 119* 

**December 5, 2012 • 11:30 a.m.–1:30 p.m.** ISUAA Holiday Luncheon Brown Ballroom\*

**To be announced:** Social Security/Medicare for SURS Participants

Survivors Benefits Workshop\*

\* Reservation required

## **Survivor Planning Workshop**

ISUAA's Survivor Advocacy Team is planning a Survivor Planning Workshop. The focus of the workshop will primarily be on SURS procedures, including assistance in filling out the papers required for survivors' benefits. The workshop will be held on September 20 from 1 to 3 p.m. in room 119 of the Alumni Center. There will be an opportunity to sign up for the workshop at the fall luncheon, or you can contact Mary Liverman at (309) 452-4181.

Address _		
Email		
Phone		
	UAA, Campus Box 8000, Normal, IL 61790-80 <b>an August 22</b>	000

## More legislative updates-SB 1673

The final two weeks of May caused considerable anxiety. Various pension reform proposals were floating around Springfield including the IGPA proposal described in the last newsletter and a proposal from the governor. Governor Quinn had introduced a series of reforms that targeted the benefits of current employees. Included in these reforms was an increased employee contribution from 8 percent to 11 percent, an increase in the retirement age from 60 to 67, and a reduction in the COLA to that provided under tier II. This would mean that the COLA would be 50 percent of the urban CPI with a maximum of 3 percent. In addition, health insurance in retirement would no longer be free, but would continue to be subsidized by the state. In an attempt to bypass the constitutional protection of Article 13, the "non-impairment clause," individuals could opt to keep the current COLA but would not be eligible for state subsidized health insurance. In addition, while the pension benefits accrued to date would remain in place, future pay raises would not be credited to the pension. The combination of proposals was designed to provide a renegotiated contract, a means of bypassing the non-impairment clause. In consideration for agreeing to a higher retirement age, increased pension costs, and a reduced COLA, individuals would receive a "guarantee" of state subsidized health insurance and pay raises would accrue to their pension. The size of the state subsidy was not specified in the governor's proposal, and by now, many of you will question what a guarantee by the state of Illinois is worth! The governor also favored shifting at least a portion of the costs of the pensions over time to the universities, community college districts, and local school districts. This change would be phased over time and the governor was hopeful that this cost shifting would occur at some point but that he would not insist that it begin immediately.

Considerable time passed after the governor made his proposal and nothing was drafted into legislative language. It is difficult to oppose something when you don't have actual legislation to oppose. As we approached the May 31 deadline for legislation to pass with a simple majority, Speaker Michael Madigan made some critical decisions, deciding that raising the retirement age to 67 and increasing employee contributions by 3 percent would not pass constitutional muster. However, the speaker did make cost shifting part of the bill. The speaker argued that cost shifting was an issue of fairness as the Chicago School System funded the pensions of Chicago teachers without any state support, but their taxes helped pay for the pension of downstate teachers. In addition, he argued that the universities, community colleges, and school districts made decisions that increased pension costs that the state was obligated to pay, but they bore no responsibility for the long-term costs of those decisions. Alternatively, some have suggested that this was a clever plan on the part of the speaker to pit Chicago business

interests, such as the Civic Committee, that have pushed hard for reductions in the cost of the pensions, against downstate legislators who worried that this change would result in significant property tax increases.

In any case, HB 1673 was introduced by the speaker on the morning of May 29, with an effort to push for rapid passage that same day. The senate was even asked to consider the bill but Republican members objected so strongly that the effort was dropped. However, the scene in the senate was nothing like that witnessed on the floor of the house where tempers flared and politeness took a holiday. Representative Mike Bost (R-Carbondale) threw a tantrum that made YouTube (wbnq.com/illinois-representativethrows-epic-tantrum-video), showing him screaming at the speaker and papers flying in the chamber. Needless to say, the speaker was not successful in his effort to obtain rapid passage. Consideration of the bill dragged on until the governor asked the speaker to drop the cost-shifting proposal from the bill as that was the source of such violent Republican opposition. The speaker agreed, removed the cost shifting language from the bill but also shifted the sponsorship of the bill from himself to Minority Leader Tom Cross and announced he would now oppose the bill.

While the amended bill, not surprisingly, was quickly approved by the House Pension Committee on the morning of May 31, the last day of the session, it quickly became clear that there was not enough support to pass the bill as amended and Cross decided not to call the bill for a vote. The legislative session ended without passage.

However, the governor indicated that he will call the legislature back into special session after tempers have had a chance to cool. We have no idea what legislation considered in that special session will look like, but it is clear that a reduction of the COLA will be featured. Unlike the regular legislative session where bills are approved with a simple majority, it will take a supermajority with 3/5ths of the legislators voting for the bill in the special session.

SB 1673 as configured in May would undoubtedly trigger a court challenge under the non-impairment clause. It is hard to imagine that not including future pay raises in the pensions of anyone that opted to retain the current COLA would pass constitutional muster. It is less clear what would happen with the threat of the loss of retiree health benefits as it could be argued that providing guaranteed benefits in the future satisfies the requirement of a consideration in exchange for the agreement to accept a reduced pension. Of course most of us already thought we had that health benefit commitment from the state. Remain vigilant and be prepared to contact members of the legislature. While ISUAA and SUAA are working on your behalf, we need all the help we can get.

## How time flies

#### Compiled by April Anderson

## 150 Years Ago • 1862

• On June 27, 1862, ISNU held its 3rd annual commencement ceremony. Eight students graduated, including five women and three men.

## 100 Years Ago • 1911

- To help commemorate the end of the school year, the 1912 senior class men challenged the men of the ISNU faculty to a baseball game. The match was to go for five innings, but the faculty team tied the game at the bottom of the fifth at 5-5. The game went to a sixth inning where the senior class came out on top with a final score of 10-5.
- An alumni dinner was held for the Class of 1911 on June 19, 1912. Only 23 alumni made the dinner on account of bad weather. Despite the turnout, the attendees had a great time and vowed to have another dinner in five years in 1916.

## 75 Years Ago • 1936

- Agnes Samuelson, state superintendent of Iowa Schools, was the speaker for ISNU's 77th annual commencement ceremony. This marked the first time in school history that a woman was a commencement speaker.
- Emma Knudson, director of music education, took 18 music students to represent ISNU at the National Music Camp (now the Interlochen Arts Camp at the Interlochen Center for the Arts) in Interlochen, Michigan.

#### 50 Years Ago • 1961

 ISNU's June 1962 commencement had the largest graduating class to date—515 seniors, not including master's and Ph.D. students. Due to the number of graduates, this was the first commencement ceremony in school history that did not call out individual students' names.

- On June 1, 1962, administration officials and students placed the cornerstone for the Horton Field House. The cornerstone was a copper box with unknown mementos. Horton Field House was completed and opened in 1963.
- The Teachers College Board—the governing body for state universities at the time—approved the purchase of the following items for ISNU:

-Nine Studebakers (seven sedans and two station wagons) -42 microscopes and high-intensity lamps for the Biological Sciences Department

## -Recreation and lounge furniture for Atkins-Colby

#### 25 Years Ago • 1986

- *The Vidette* announced that the June 17 edition of the paper would be the start of their 100 anniversary celebration. *The Vidette* started publication in February 1888.
- The Music Department moved to the newly renovated Cook Hall in the summer of 1987.
- Despite being 3–5 weeks behind its construction schedule, university officials promised a fall 1988 opening for Redbird Arena. In June 1987, the arena had yet to receive its distinctive roof. The building officially opened January 13, 1989.
- Not to be outdone by its partner building, Hancock Stadium got a facelift in June 1987 with new coats of paint.
- *The Vidette* officially announced that James Collie, men's Basketball coach from 1957–1970 was to retire in the summer of 1987. During his tenure, Collie had 209 coaching wins and was named to the ISU Athletics Hall of Fame in 1976.

# **ISUAA** Fall Luncheon reservation form

Featuring President Al Bowman 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, September 5, 2012, Old Main Room, Bone Student Center	
Attendee names	
Please reservemeal(s) at \$13.50 each. A check for \$ payable to ISUAA is enclosed.	
Entrees	
Swiss steak with gravy and mashed potatoes (name)	
Spinach and ricotta shells	_(name)
Coffee, iced tea, rolls and chefs' choice dessert included with the meal	
Dessert	
Fruit cup as dessert (only for those on dietary restrictions)	
Please indicate dietary restrictions	_(name)
Reservations must be received no later than August 22. Late reservations cannot be accepted! No exceptions! REMEMBER—The Bloomington Mail Facility is closing, and mail will take longer to deliver. Please mail the re tion form no later than August 18 to: Shirlee Bottomley, 507 E. Taylor St., Bloomington, IL 61701–5334 OR Dona 311 S. Towanda Ave #4, Normal, IL 61761–6101.	

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