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Dale Wolf, President

Jayne Ozier, Vice- President

Ellen Keiter, Membership Chair

Ron Wohlstein, Treasurer

Jane Johnson, Secretary

Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor

Financial support of EIU Foundation is appreciated

LOOKING AHEAD

Our next meeting will be the 38th Annual Luncheon on January 19th at St. Charles Borromeo Church in Charleston. The entertainment will be provided by the EIU Concert Choir and Instrumental Performances directed by Dr. Richard Rossi Lunch will be served by the Niemerg's Steak House at 11:30 AM

MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EUIAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
Jan 19, 2009	38 th Annual Luncheon	March 5, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
April 10, 2009	Neal Welcome Center	May 7, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
June 4, 2009	Neal Welcome Center	August 7, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
Oct 8, 2009	Neal Welcome Center	Nov. 12, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
Jan 18, 2010	Annual Luncheon		

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As you read this, we will have elected a new President of the United States. I do hope that everyone was able to vote (pro or con) concerning the candidate and issue of their choice. Voting is our way of speaking our mind without saying a word. We will be most encouraged if our new leaders are in tune with setting our country back on its feet after a lengthy period of economic stress.

In our own organization, we are able to speak with one very strong voice if we can continue to add to our membership. The more members we have- the louder we can speak to Springfield. The addition of more numbers to the EIU Annuitants is a major goal for not just the AA officers but for everyone. Please do all you can to encourage joining to any former employees or to any new upcoming retirees.

It is easy to belong and very inexpensive. These prospective members have the opportunity to spend time with good friends and give help to future annuitants. Our fall chapter meeting gave us the time to hear from several speakers including Jill Nilsen, Jim Johnson and Terry Weidner. The surprise appearance of Chapin Rose was also most informative. I personally hope that you have a wonderful and healthy holiday season. Plan to join us at the ANNUAL WINTER LUNCHEON on January 19th, 2009 at St. Borremo Catholic Church in Charleston.

~Dale Wolf, EIUAA President

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

With this issue of the New Horizons, we initiate a segment called “For Your Information” printing articles relevant to Annuitants’ interest. We invite our readers to write such articles for publication. The following is an article by **Dr. Gloria A. Leitschuh** who is a Professor in the Department of Counseling & Student Development at Eastern Illinois University and a Psychologist in Private Practice. DR. Gloria Leitschuh, has a sustained an outstanding record of Research & Service in the Discipline nationwide.

When a Loved One Dies

The loss of a loved one is an inescapable mystery of life. Unless one dies at a young age, one will experience the death of a spouse, a significant other, a close friend, or relative. Each individual may find his/her reaction to be unique. However, several commonalities seem to be universal. In this article, the author will discuss some perspectives on common reactions to death. Suggestions for healing will also be provided.

Grief is the emotional reaction to the loss of a loved one. Just what is that emotional reaction? Some common initial experiences include shock or disbelief, followed by anger. Anger may be directed at God, a relative, a doctor, one self, or even the deceased person. At some point a person will usually experience the extreme sadness in recognition that the person will no longer be available in the physical realm. The sadness may be experienced by periods of crying, or a sense of loss of control. The individual may also report being overwhelmed or feeling fearful, depressed, guilty or regretful. It is important to remember that these are natural human reactions to loss. What we do with them though, determines how we will choose to spend the remainder of our time on earth.

Most people find, depending on their relationship to the deceased, that their life changes in unpredictable ways. It may mean anything from reorganizing daily routines to changing holiday celebrations. For some it may mean a deep spiritual awakening, for others it may involve the uprooting of one’s home. There is no simple method for overcoming or reacting to death. All of us however, will hopefully discover methods for incorporating this experience into our lives in meaningful and helpful ways. I will share some personal and professional suggestions for the healing process.

Allow yourself the time to grieve. A period of reflection and sadness is to be expected. This time can be useful for saying good-bye to your loved one and making the transition to a new and different way of living. Your body and soul need time to heal!

Find meaningful ways to pay tribute to the person’s life. This generally comes in the form of a religious or spiritual tradition. It may be a wake, funeral, memorial, or a simple family gathering. Take the time to make this occasion a reflection of that person’s life in any way possible. For some this may mean an elaborate procession with a great deal of religious tradition. For others it may mean planting a tree in honor of the deceased. Some may choose to do both! If you are reading this, it is not too late to discuss or write about one’s final wishes.

Identify the need for adjustments to daily living. At some point, and it is different for each person, acceptance of the loss leads to recognition that life will be different. This does not mean that it has to be horrific, difficult,

or overwhelming. It does mean change. Life adjustments arrive on a daily level for those who were living with the deceased. Routines may need to be altered. Simple chores like cleaning the sink or emptying the garbage may need to be revised. Changing the routine can be difficult, however, asking for help from neighbors or relatives can infuse new ideas for how to complete routine activities. It may seem automatic to think “he or she did it this way”. In some cases it may be helpful to repeat the prior routine, in others it may require thinking outside of the box.

Give special attention to Holiday or Anniversary celebrations. Holidays can initially pose an emotionally difficult time. Especially the first year, when celebrations will not include the deceased for the first time. It may be helpful for some individuals to allow time for quiet reflection, while also allowing time to carry on with traditional celebrations or rituals. Each family or individual may make decisions about which rituals can be kept in memory of the deceased as well as incorporating new rituals. Some may find it beneficial to celebrate in a new location, volunteer at a community dinner, or invite new friends to share a meal.

Find time to share thoughts and stories about your loved one. It is acceptable to talk about the deceased! Some may be hesitant to do so in the beginning. If you are a friend, listen. If you are grieving, talk if you need to do so. It may be beneficial to set aside time to share pictures, videos, and stories of the deceased with other friends or relatives of the loved one. This process can provide laughter, shared memories, and new perspectives on this person’s life.

Write or Journal your thoughts and emotions. The writing may come in the form of automatic thoughts, a letter to the deceased, a note to God, or some form of communication to those who also loved the person. Sharing what you liked about the person or what you learned from them may be inspirational.

Find artistic outlets. Music, poetry, and art work are all therapeutic forms of expression. Gain emotional support and strength from others. This may be a formalized group at a hospital or clinic, a church group, a counselor, or friends and relatives.

Take care of yourself. Nutrition and exercise are vitally important, especially in times of stress and loss.

If grief continues to be overwhelming, or you find yourself unable to carry on activities of daily living after a period of time, seek professional help.

~Dr. Gloria A. Leitschuh
Counseling and Student Development

**Of course there are the legal considerations which include the preparation for death, wills, attorneys, probate courts, and a host of other earthly determinations. These are beyond the scope of this article.*

Academy of Lifetime Learning

Enjoyable, affordable educational experiences for persons over age 50

A few years ago, Lifelong Learning Institutes (LLI) began to form across the nation in response to a need for continued education among retired individuals. Every six seconds someone in the United States turns 60, a trend that will continue for many years. Today's 60 year-olds are healthier and more active than ever before and want to live out their dreams during retirement. These dreams often include continued learning on subjects they simply did not find time for while working in their chosen profession. Approximately 18 months ago, Eastern Illinois University's School of Continuing Education began development of a Lifelong Learning Institute at the urging of Dean Will Hine. With the efforts of his staff and an ad hoc committee composed of community members, annuitants and University administrators, the Academy of Lifetime Learning was officially formed in April, 2008, seating an advisory board of 13 members. The Board is led by an EIU annuitant and consists of numerous annuitants and community members who have a vested interest in the lives of older adults, such as physicians, social service directors and retired school teachers.

The purpose of this effort is to provide all older community members an outlet for their creative and educational needs. Programming is member-driven, thus far leading to workshops in Art, History, Writing and Gardening. We have also taken a trip to the St. Louis Botanical Gardens where a former EIU student provided a tour. Other events include socials and a luncheon lecture series each month. Some of the programming has been intergenerational, providing an opportunity for grandparents and grandchildren to learn together about gardening and food preparation. The School of Continuing Education has invested much time and effort into this endeavor, including designating a full-time Coordinator this fall. Our goals remain the same but our desire is to reach out to interested groups throughout the communities we serve to increase membership, strengthen programming, increase name recognition through marketing, and ultimately place ourselves in a position to become eligible to apply for grants and endowments leading to fiscal independence of the Academy.

We need your assistance. As annuitants, we know you support the University's continued growth and want us to continue to uphold our reputation as a responsive University. Eastern is a premier educational institution and a valuable asset to the state, region and community. In order to continue in this vein, we must respond to the needs of those who are celebrating a 60th birthday every six seconds. As annuitants, we ask you to consider becoming a member, provide lectures, workshops and spread the news that the Academy exists by inviting our staff to introduce the Academy to groups to which you belong.

To suggest programming ideas, offer your support or to apply for membership, please e-mail the coordinator at joverstreet@eiu.edu or call 581-5114.

School of Continuing Education www.eiu.edu/~adulded

CHAPTER NEWS

EIUAA members met at the Neal Welcome Center on October 2, 2008. President Dale Wolf began the meeting at 9:00 AM by welcoming everyone and introducing the new officers: Jayne Ozier, Vice President, Jane Johnson, Secretary, Ron Wohlstein, Treasurer, Ellen Keiter, Membership, and Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor. Dale continued with a call to various officers.

Ron Wohlstein reported that the Treasury has a balance of \$3,894.69. Vice President Jayne Ozier is contacting the various Department Deans for candidates for the annual scholarship to be awarded in January. Ellen Keiter as Membership Chair made a call for additional memberships throughout the year. We need everyone's help to achieve this goal. In order to reduce our expenses, Alan Baharlou is emailing the Newsletter to some of our members. He also reported that he requested and received \$300 from SUAA toward the printing cost of September issue of New Horizon

Chapin Rose, Illinois Representative thanked the Annuitants for their support and friendship. He addressed the budget cuts being made in the Governor's budget. He urged the group to oppose the call for an Illinois Constitutional Convention.

Vice President of External Relations, Jill Nilsen, spoke to the group next. She reviewed President Perry's vision for EIU to be the "Best in the Nation." One of the issues the University is addressing is the need for a new power plant. The current one is very antiquated and expensive to operate. The planners are looking at ways to burn bio mass as a way of thinking green. Other matters of concern are the marketing of EIU and fund raising. Currently the student population is at 12,040, the maximum for keeping EIU with a good ratio of students to instructors. Also parking initiatives are underway to ease the ever-present parking problems. October 24-26 will be the Doudna Dedication Celebration. On December 31, Jeff Cooley, Vice President for Business Affairs, will be retiring and a replacement will be sought.

Jim Johnson, Dean of Arts and Humanities College, invited all to tour the new Doudna Fine Arts Center just opened. The journey for this beautiful new building started 10 years ago, and the departments have been out of the building for 6 years.

Terry Weidner former EIU VPAA & SUAA President spoke to the group about the Annuitant State Organization. Membership is well worth the monthly fee of \$2. Currently the membership stands at 15,000, but more members are needed to keep the Association afloat. SUAA has excellent lobbyists as well as the president and a legislative committee.

The State Constitution currently protects your monthly retirement check. However, the State doesn't have to send the money to SURS, although they are supposed to. Terry reviewed the changes in the new AFSCME contract for health benefits. Retirees will not have to worry about paying for benefits. Benefits remain stable for retirees.

EIU Again Ranked Among Best in Its Class by U.S. News & World Report

For the ninth consecutive year, Eastern has been named one of the top Midwestern public universities in its class by U.S. News & World Report. The region encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. In addition, EIU touts the highest freshman retention rate and the highest graduation rate among all Illinois public universities in its class.

EIU among Best in the Nation in Producing Ph.D. Earners

Survey Results are Additional Proof of EIU's Quality Instruction Since the success of students in doctoral programs can be one measure of the quality of instruction at the undergraduate level, officials at Eastern Illinois University are feeling pretty good about their institution. Recently released results from the Survey of Earned Doctorates, a federal agency survey, or census, conducted annually by the National Organization for Research, indicate that many Eastern graduates have done their alma mater proud by continuing their education, seeking doctorates and achieving their educational goals.

Fall 2008 Enrollment at EIU Nears Optimal Level

Nearly a year ago, Eastern Illinois University President Bill Perry determined that a total enrollment of near 12,000 was optimum for the institution with its resource base. "And I would say we pretty much hit it on the button," said Blair Lord, provost and vice president for academic affairs, commenting on Eastern's Fall 2008 on and off-campus enrollment of 12,040. "I am very happy with this number." Numbers reflect an on-campus enrollment of 10,863 and an off-campus count of 1,177. EIU officials are particularly pleased with a continued increase in minority students (from 1,488 to 1,655). Minority students now make up 13.75 percent of total enrollment

60 million dollars Doudna Fine Arts Center was rededicated on October 24

Eastern Illinois University's newest architectural landmark, designed by the internationally famous architect Antoine Predock. This newly renovated and greatly expanded facility boasts several public arts venues: The Theatre which seats 300, the Black Box studio theatre, the 600-seat Dvorak Concert Hall, the 180-seat Recital Hall, the 150-seat Lecture Hall, and several corridor art galleries. The Doudna Fine Arts Center also houses EIU's departments of Art, Music and Theatre Arts. Tours of the facility are available upon request. Art, music and theatre students now have a state-of-the-art facility in which to learn, and people throughout the region will soon have an opportunity to enjoy top-notch cultural activities.

Office of Philanthropy to Hire More Directors

Eastern is hiring two more directors of philanthropy as part of an effort to launch a major comprehensive capital campaign, which will go to improving facilities on campus. Jill Nilsen, vice president for external relations said. Eastern has about 70,000 alumni with good addresses and each of these directors of philanthropy will be working with 80 to 120 donors and friends.

Eastern Breaks Ground For New Textbook Rental Facility

The ground breaking ceremonies took place on Friday November 21, immediately after the EIU Board of Trustees authorized the borrowing of money & hiring of contractors for the 2.85 million project.

STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS.

Social Security Fairness ACT:

A resolution was introduced on September 7 in the US House of Representatives (H.Res.987) to immediately consider the Social Security Fairness Act (H.R. 147) that repeals the Government Pension Offset (GPO) and Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP) Penalties. This bill (H.R. 147) means for those of us who worked someplace other than the university and who paid social security on that income, will be able to receive the full social security income that we have paid into the system, (instead of the present an average of about 40%) something we can't do now because of GPO & WEP.

Financial State of Our Pension

We want to share with you the following Media Advisory Statement that we just received in the hope that answers some of the concerns you may have regarding our pension.

Pension Information

On October 9, 2008, Jon Bauman of TRS (Teacher's Retirement System of the State of Illinois TRS), William Atwood of ISBI (the Illinois State Board of Investment), and Dan Slack of SURS (State Universities Retirement System) sent a media release stating the following:

Members of the Illinois state retirement systems can rest assured that their retirement benefits remain secure despite the current volatility in the global financial markets. The benefits delivered by the state pension systems are constitutionally protected and cannot be reduced due to investment losses or for any reason. Those protections also exist under the contracts clause of the U.S. Constitution.

Additionally, the state retirement systems have structured their investment portfolios to effectively endure market declines over the long term.

The three Illinois Retirement Systems each have investments in a number of different asset classes. This diversification has minimized recent investment losses and maximized returns when the financial markets have performed well. Each system employs a stable of investment professionals that have the expertise and experience needed to effectively navigate the plans through the unstable market conditions.

Finally, while the systems recognize the grave realities of the current financial markets, we are well-equipped to look beyond the fear that has permeated our society in order to make investment decisions that are in the best interests of our members. The state retirement systems remain stable and our benefits are reliable.

Constitutional Convention Resolution.

The Constitutional Convention resolution was defeated by 66% majority of those who voted on the resolution on November 4th election.

Heath Care Agreement Concluded last September between the State and AFSCME Council 31 with the following relevant results:

The agreement calls for the 37,000 AFSCME members to pay slightly higher health insurance premiums, but the increased costs are lower than what was initially being pushed by state negotiators.

The result: Workers will pay \$6 more per month for insurance the first two years. They also face a \$50 deductible for prescription drugs. It keeps health care affordable for active employees and retirees,

The agreement secures free health benefits for the university retirees with more than two decades of service, as well as keeps pension contributions at current levels.

QUESTIONS & ANSWERS

We have received several questions regarding our pension. The following will answer most of them.

1. Q Is there any validity to the public perception that pension payments for state university employees are outlandish?

A No. During FY 2004, there were 29,566 people on regular SURS annuities.

The average monthly annuity payment was \$2,330.

2. Q How does Illinois compare with the other 49 states in its preparedness to meet its pension obligations?

A Currently, Illinois ranks last among all states.

3. Q How is your pension system funded?

A There are three sources of funding:

1a. YOU, the employee

2a. Your employer (which is the state of Illinois, not EIU)

3a. Returns gained from investing the above two sources.

Each is expected to contribute a certain share to the pension system. If each provides its agreed upon share, there is no problem. The state has not provided its agreed upon share. That is the problem.

4. Q Do additional problems exist due to (a) state employees not contributing their share to the pension plan and (b) pension funds being poorly invested?

A No. Employees have always contributed their mandatory required share and SURS (the State University Retirement System) has produced adequate investment returns on the funds they manage. The state, however, has failed to contribute its actuarially required contribution.

5. Q How much do employees contribute?

A Eight percent of their salary. Distribution of this 8% is dependent upon which type of retirement plan the employee may be enrolled. For those employees with Traditional or Portable Plans, 6.5% goes to retirement and 0.5% to automatic annual increase, with the remaining 1.0% to either survivor insurance (Traditional Plans) or for portability (Portable Plans). Those employees with the Self Managed Plan contribute the entire 8% to retirement.

6. Q How much does the state contribute?

A Full funding would be 4% of an employee's salary. The state, however, has actually funded at about 2.4%.

7. Q Can state university employees rely on social security, like the rest of the population?

A No. The state of Illinois does not allow state university employees to participate in social security based on their state salaries. If state employees did participate in social security, the state of Illinois would be required to contribute 6.2% (instead of present 4%) of employee salary without any provision for paying only part of the cost, as the state now does.

8. Q So, what can you do as an EIU employee or annuitant to change the state's lack of preparedness in meeting its pension obligations?

A 1. Get actively involved. It is the security of your pensions that is at stake!

Let your governor, state senators, & state representative know how you feel about this issue. You can gain their identities and both e-mail and snail mail addresses by going to: <http://www.elections.state.il.us/DistrictLocator/AddressSearch.aspx>

A 2. Join the EIU Annuitant Association (the local chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association)



NEWS FROM YOU



We need to hear from you! Please send your news bits to EIU Annuitants Association, Brainard House, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston IL 61920 or email them to

A note from **Norma Taylor**: I am enjoying my retirement since March 1 and keeping very busy. I like having the choice to do something or nothing. I am promoting my book *Sixty Years In This Wicked World For Nuthin* and have a start on a second one. And I wish the Office of Student Life and the Secretary of Greek Life the very best. After 22 years, I truly miss the staff and the students.

Markay & Bob Saltmarsh send greetings from their spacious Vila at Pine Creek in Springfield, IL. The former Chair of the EIU Counseling Dept. and former owner of Arrow Travel reminisced on their meeting in 1949 at Miami University of Ohio & wedding 4 years later in 1953. During their time together, Bob played football for Woody Hays & Ara Parsegan alongside men like Bo Schembechler. He finished his MS and Ed.D degrees from Indiana University. Bob & Markay moved to Charleston in 1969 when they raised 3 daughters & lived for 30 years until he retired from EIU.

David E. Henard Book *Victory Stolen* was selected by Publish America as the Book of the Week based on a number of factors: sales, reviews, recommendations, and reader interest. Dave is a Vietnam War veteran served as a helicopter pilot with the 25th. The book is his story about the Tet Offensive, where the 25th Infantry Division was heavily involved in the defense of Saigon. He was hired as the computer services director at EIU, beginning in 1980 and retired from EIU as the associate vice president for information technology services in 2000 to join his wife Gail as a part-time missionary and as a stock trader. The two have served in various humanitarian jobs in Scotland; Juarez, Mexico; and Central Asia.



EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

E. Duane & Rachel (Kamm) Elbert of Forrest, Il celebrated their 50th wedding Anniversary on August 30 with a Holly Communion Service , followed by a dinner at St. Paul's Lutheran church Bloomington. Duane retired from The EIU History Department in 1999 & he & Rachel returned to the family farm where Duane was born.

George Hackler celebrated his 80th birthday on Monday November17. George was born in Merom, Ind. The son of George & Myrtle Hackler. He married Donna Thompson on September 11, 1949.He has 4 children, 8 grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren. George graduated from EIU with a master's degree in education in 1959. He retired from EIU as the Director of Continuing Education in 1984.

Ron & Sue Leathers celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday November 26th with a dinner & dance in Charleston Country Club. The event was hosted by their children, Ronda Dively & Lee Leathers. Ron retired from Eastern and Sue was a local businesswoman.

Terry & Carol Lungren celebrated their 45th Wedding Anniversary on Thursday November 27th. Both Terry and Carol are Emeritus professors of School of Business at EIU.

Ron & Sandy Osborn, celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary on Wednesday October 29th. A party in their honor was organized by their sons. They are parents of Matthew and Clayton. Ron is retired police officer from EIU & Coles County Sheriff's department. Sandy is dental assistant.

Jean Richardson of Charleston, IL celebrated her 80th Birthday on Saturday. Jean is the mother of four, Linda (Keith), Jean (Dan), Myron (Pam) & John (Jody), Jean has 10 grandchildren. She retired from EIU.

Remembering Friends



Peter Richard Moody School's first provost & a Retired military general dies Moody began the pass-fail option at the school not long after his first day on the job as the vice president for instruction on Oct. 1, 1967. A restructuring of the school's administration in 1970 created the vice president for academic affairs and provost title he held until his resignation in 1976. Moody came to Eastern after a 30-year military career that began at the ROTC senior course at Wofford University and ended upon his retirement from the Air Force in 1967 as Brigadier General. Included was a two-year stint as a combat pilot in the European theater of World War II. His military background shaped his style of leadership at Eastern.

Robert A. Carey, of Phoenix, formerly of Berlin, Wisconsin, and Charleston, Illinois, passed away Friday, October 24, 2008 at his home on his 88th birthday. He was a veteran serving in the Army as a sergeant during the end of WWII and then received his bachelors degree from LaCrosse State Teacher's College and his masters degree from the University of Wisconsin. His first teaching job was at LaCrosse. He then became the physical education teacher and basketball coach. He attended the University of Indiana where he completed his PhD and was then hired as the head basketball coach at Eastern Illinois University in 1953. While at EIU Robert served as head basketball coach from 1953-64, head golf coach from 1954-77, and as Coordinator of Graduate Studies from 1968-77.

Betty Ellen Wilcoxon, 85, of Mattoon, passed away at 4:04 p.m. on Sunday, August 24, 2008, at Mattoon Health Care Center.. Her family includes three sons, Robert Lee Wilcoxon II and wife Loretta of St. Petersburg, Florida, Tony Taylor Wilcoxon (deceased) and Tracy Joe Wilcoxon and wife Twilla of Humboldt; two sisters, Jeanine Reynolds of Charleston (EIU Annuitants) and the late Norma Horton; seven grandchildren, and three great-granddaughters.

Robert W. Nolan, Sr., age 85 of Charleston, went to his heavenly home on Sunday, August 17 (2008) as a result of an automobile accident.. He married Dorothy F. Roberts on November 8, 1942 in Charleston and they enjoyed sixty-one years of marriage and friendship prior to her death on April 29, 2004. He is survived by three loving children, Candi Grupe of Effingham, Illinois, Mike Nolan and his fiancée Linda Crites, also of Effingham, and Bob Nolan, Jr. and his wife Marsha of St. Elmo, Illinois; four grandchildren, & eight great-grandchildren. For twenty-seven years Bob was a familiar face on the campus of Eastern Illinois University where he served as Superintendent of Grounds Maintenance.

Elbert L. "Butch" Chron, age 92 of Charleston, passed from this life at approximately 3:00 a.m. on Saturday (August 16, 2008) at Hilltop Convalescent Center in Charleston. He is survived by one son, Michael of Charleston .

Ellen Dennison, We extend our deepest sympathies to the family, friends and co-workers of Ellen Dennison, who died Monday (Sept. 8) morning following a battle with cancer. Mrs. Dennison was employed by Eastern for nearly 13 years -- most recently with the Office of Planning and Institutional Studies, a division of External Relations. News from Old Main

Helen L. Henry, age 89 of Charleston, passed away on Thursday (August 14, 2008) at Peace Haven in St. Louis, Missouri.. Helen was born in Charleston on May 3, 1919 a daughter of Leland and Virgie (Alexander) Cox. She married Paul Henry and to that union three daughters were born. Surviving family members include her 3 daughters; six grandchildren, and eleven great-grandchildren. She was preceded by her parents and a brother, Lewis Cox. Helen was employed as a secretary at Eastern Illinois University.

Imy Thompson, age 72 and life-long Charleston resident, passed away on Saturday (August 30, 2008) at her home. She married James C. Thompson on May 10, 1969 and he preceded her in death on September 15, 1996. Surviving are her three stepchildren, Garry Thompson and his wife Sharon of St. Peters, Missouri, Sharon Kranz of Florissant, Missouri and Richard Thompson and his wife Dana of Wichita, Kansas; six step-grandchildren; five step-great-grandchildren; and her very special friend and companion Jack Davis of Charleston.. Imy was a thirteen year employee of Eastern Illinois University as Assistant Manager of their Text Book Library.

Jessie Louise Clark, age 87 of Toledo, Illinois and formerly of Janesville, passed away on Tuesday (September 2, 2008) at Douglas Rehabilitation and Care Center in Mattoon.. She was united in marriage to Don Adams and after his death later married John R. Clark in 1981. Jessie was a long-time employee of the Brown Shoe Company in Mattoon and after its closing accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University in the Food Services Department.

Margaret L. Biggs, 88, of rural Ashmore, Illinois passed away at 10:35 a.m. on Thursday, October 9, 2008 at Hilltop Nursing Home in Charleston, Illinois. On May 30, 1937 she married Herbert Donald "Don" Biggs in Ashmore, Illinois. He passed away on March 5, 2008. Survivors include her son, Steve Biggs and wife Judy of Ashmore, IL; five grandsons, two step grandchildren, & fourteen great grandchildren. Margaret was a farm wife, homemaker and former cook at Eastern Illinois University.

Maria F. Drost, 85, of Sullivan passed away 5:50 p.m. Monday, August 18, 2008 at Sullivan Health Care Maria was born May 20, 1923 in Janowice, Poland, the daughter of Francis and Karolina (Kot) Wach. She married *Chester F. Drost May 26, 1951 in Chicago.

Marion A. Burton, age 79, of Toledo, IL passed away at 3:13 am on Wednesday September 24, 2008 at Mattoon Health Care Center.. Marion was born on February 27, 1929 in Neoga, IL the son of Thurl & Nellie (Prince) Burton. He married Lucille Elliott on October 18, 1961 (Lucille is EIUAA Annuitant). Marion is survived by his loving wife Lucille and a daughter Sheila Burton and her special friend David Arthur of Mattoon, IL.

Max Russell Strong, 62, of Charleston, passed away Friday, August 8, 2008, Interment will be in Janesville Cemetery with military rites conducted by Mattoon VFW Post 4325. Survivors include his wife Myrna L. Romack, his mother, a son, a sister, a half sister, a step-brother, & two grandchildren. Mr. Strong served our country with the Army from 1965-1968. He was employed by Eastern Illinois University.

Modena Jeffers Sandy, 87, of Casey, Illinois passed away at 5:35 p.m. on Wednesday, August 20, 2008 at Heartland Manor, Casey, Illinois. Survivors include her sisters in law, Wanda Reid of Charleston, IL.

Norma Jean Barolo Weber, 75, of Taylors, S.C., formerly of Charleston, died Friday (Aug. 15, 2008). She married Gerald R. Weber; he survives. Other survivors include one son, two daughters, and four grandchildren. She retired from Eastern Illinois University in 1988, having served as secretary to the Dean of Fine Arts and received the university's Livingston C. Lord Distinguished Service Award for Civil Service.

Marion Railsback Webb, 79, of Houston, Tex., died Aug. 28, 2008.. She married Richard B. Webb Jr. in 1957; he died in 1972. She is survived by one sister, Janet Fraembs of Charleston and by several nieces and nephews.. She was a teacher, having taught in Illinois, the Houston Independent School District at Bellaire High School and at Houston Baptist University.

We want to express our sympathy to the following Annuitants

Earl M. Holmes, Jr., age 82 of Ashmore, Illinois and formerly of Tuscola, Illinois, passed away on Sunday (August 31, 2008) at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. He later married Linda (Lennington) Reynolds.

Gerald M. "Gerry" Bingham, age 80 of Charleston, passed away on Friday (August 15, 2008) at his home. Adams Funeral Chapel, Charleston. He was united in marriage to Dorothy Jones on September 2, 1950 in Canada. He is survived by Dotty, his loving and devoted wife and best friend of nearly fifty-eight years; two daughters, Sandy Bingham-Porter and her husband Steve and Carolyn Campbell and her husband Ken, all of Charleston; two grandsons. He was a Veteran of the United States Air Force and proudly served his country during World War II.

Maria Carmenza Salazar de Soler, 98, of Joplin, Mo., died Sept. 11, 2008, at Spring River Christian Village. She was born Dec. 10, 1909, in Bogota, Colombia, South America. She married Jose H. Soler. He preceded her in death. Survivors include four daughters, Luz Whittenbarger of Charleston, 17 grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; and one great-great grandchild.

A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP CHAIR

You are receiving this newsletter because you are a member of the EIU Annuitants Association which means you recognize the benefits of your involvement in this organization.

Here's an idea. How about showing how much you value the Association by giving a gift membership to a friend or perhaps an employee in your department? It's easy! Just go to the EIUAA website (<http://www.eiu.edu/~annuitants/>), download a membership form by clicking the link on the left of the page, complete the form, and send it with your check to the address on the form. Or you can contact me at eakeiter@eiu.edu or 217-345-3462 and I'll be happy to send you a form.

Happy Holidays!!

~Dr. Ellen Keiter, EIUAA Membership Chair

FROM THE EDITOR

Another Impressive Legacy of Our Offspring

The outcome of the last November 4 Presidential Election has been praised and described world wide as another pivotal moment in the tumultuous history of American Democracy. Once more, our youth took the lead in making a profound impact. Their vision, hope, and foresight for a better future prevailed. Our youth have much at stake in the future and a history of taking a stand in critical times to change an unjust course. In the 1960s, they were the most active groups in civil rights, environmental movements, equality for women, and provided services to the needy at home and abroad through VISTA and the Peace Corps.

In over 40 years in higher education, I have had the privilege to observe and help cultivate the inherent talents in our young people and follow their challenges and successes. I am constantly amazed at their ability to break with past, heavily entrenched intolerance and discrimination on the base of race, gender, or sexual preference. They are often more moral and ethical than past generations, not to mention more technologically savvy. As parents, grandparents, and mentors, we proudly yet humbly, claim a small role in their vision, determination and commitment. They are our greatest legacy.

In closing, the State of Illinois defeated the Constitutional Convention Resolution by a large majority. Illinois Higher Education Annuitants were among the first and most active groups opposing it.

~Dr. Alan Baharlou, EIUAA Editor

To find out more information about the EIU
Foundation, check out our web page at
www.eiu.edu/~found/

EIU Annuitant Email Address
annuitants@eiu.edu

EIU Annuitant Association Web Page
www.eiu.edu/~annuitants/

EIU Annuitant Association Mailing Address
Brainard House
600 Lincoln Ave
Charleston IL 61920