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December 2009

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

On Friday, January 22, 2010, we will celebrate Eastern Illinois University Annuitants Association's 39 years in existence with our Annual Luncheon and Entertainment at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church in Charleston. To make reservations please scroll to page 9 and click to print, from the print menu select current page and click OK. Complete the form and return by January 8, to the address designated on the form.

The EIUAA Executive Committee Members wish you all wonderful Holiday Season and a Happy New Year.

MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EIUAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
October 8, 2009	Neal Welcome Center	August 6, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
January 22, 2010	39 th Annual Luncheon	November 12, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
April 8, 2010	Neal Welcome Center	March 4, 2010	Neal welcome Center
July 8, 2010	Neal Welcome Center	June 3, 2010	Neal Welcome Center
October 7, 2010	Neal Welcome Center	September 9, 2010	Neal Welcome Center
		December 2, 2010	Neal Welcome Center

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

PRESIDENTS CORNER WINTER 2009

The first item I wish to call to your attention is the MID WINTER LUNCHEON which is scheduled for January 22nd, 2010. We will again be at St. Borromeo Church in Charleston with doors open at 11am and lunch at 11:30am. Please consider attending this fun event and enjoy seeing many of your friends.

On a more serious note, the State association has decided that it is necessary to raise their dues by \$4 annually beginning in 2010. SUAA has changed greatly in recent years making it more expensive to operate. Several of their reasons for this increase include items such as: 1) new computers and their installation, 2) additional staff person to help with membership around the state, 3) first increase in six years, and many others. This increase leads to the individual regional chapters, such as our own, also needing their own dues increased.

For those who do not know, the EIU AA pays back to the state \$21 for every member out of the \$24

collected on the current structure. Once the state changes their rates, we will actually be \$1 BEHIND in paying in our share. The increase to be instituted beginning in 2010 is \$6 (or 50 cents per month) bringing your annual dues to \$30. This will allow our organization to withstand the state increase and also hold the line if and when the state follows up with any additional increase in rates the next year.

We obviously do not wish to burden our members with more fees or dues however it has become a very necessary change for this coming year, an important one in keeping the associations both visible and viable.

Finally, your Board has moved to make donations to the EIU Foundation in honor of members that have passed away during the year. We currently donate to SUAA in a similar manner and we believed that this new donation would honor as well as add to the EIU scholarship fund.

Happy holiday season to all. See you in January.

~Dale Wolf, EIUAA President

FROM THE EDITOR

Illinois Pension as a “Scapegoat”

So far, due to the persistence, vigilance and well-organized efforts of our State Universities Annuitants Association (SURS), its chapters, friends, and supporters, the Illinois General Assembly has not adversely affected our pension or health care. This is in spite of the General Assembly struggling to cope with a nearly 12 billion-dollar budget deficit. As you have probably heard, the PEW Center released a report indicating that Illinois is near the top of 10 states facing severe budget crises and no resolution is expected until February 2, primary elections. Therefore, the budget crisis will worsen and nothing is being done so far to resolve it. This makes it imperative for us to be even more vigilant and active in order to protect our pensions that we have paid for and our health care that was part of our contract when we started working for the state.

We are facing a persistent effort by some of the media in Illinois to make the state budget crisis mostly due to state employees' pension payments. The editorials objectives are generally to deflect the budget crisis from its source, which is the state's lack of a progressive income tax base. In other words, presently a person in Illinois with \$50,000 annual income pays the same rate as a person with a 50 million dollar income. For example, the Chicago Sun Times, in a series of editorials, attempted to make the state's pension obligation the “Scapegoat” for the state's budget deficit. The Chicago Sun-Times, in its October 27 editorial by Dennis Byrne, used terms such as “outrageous” and “lucrative” to define state pension benefits for its employees. The editorial provides two examples support its claims. One is that a retired professor from the University of Illinois at Chicago Medical School receives \$390,716 or \$32,560 per month pension, and the other is of a Chicago suburban public school teacher at age 55 who receives a pension of \$100,000 per year. Unfortunately, the paper does not provide its readers with the information that:

- These two cases are exceptions,
- State Universities Retirement System (SURS) members' average monthly pension is **\$2500**.
- So far, SURS members have paid their contributions to the pension fund while the state has taken a “pension holiday” by postponing their contributions
- State of Illinois does not pay Social Security for its employees, consequently, employees pay 1.7 % of their salary in addition to 8% for retirement pension each month so that they will have Medicare part B upon retirement,
- State of Illinois contributes the least toward its employees' pension
- According to the Pension Systems Modernization Task Force appointed by Illinois General Assembly, the **cost** to taxpayers of state-funded pension benefits **is less than the private sector**, and less than public pensions in neighboring states

How many of you reading this article, receive \$100,000 or more in pension payments a year? The Chicago Sun-Times used “outrageous pension payment” and made the following suggestions in order to reduce the future pension burden on the public and help the state manage its financial crisis. Among the suggestions is to

increase employees pension contributions by 5 percent from the present 8% to 13%. In addition, require public employees to start paying for at least some of their retirement health benefits.

Dear Colleagues, the Chicago Sun-Times is one of many media outlets in Illinois that have targeted our pension and the health care benefits for us and our survivors with outrageous statements to sidetrack the possibility of a progressive income tax base so that millionaires would pay a small amount more in taxes than middle and low-income taxpayers would. We urgently need your help and support.

Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor

CHAPTER NEWS

On October 8, 2009, members of the EIU Annuitants Association gathered at the Neal Welcome Center for a 9:00 AM chapter meeting. Dale Wolf, president, opened the meeting by inviting those present to share with the group any recent events, such as birthdays, anniversaries or travels. Dale introduced the Board Members for 2009-10. Dale will continue as President, Jayne Ozier as Vice President as, Jane Johnson as Secretary, Ron Wohlstein as Treasurer, Ellen Keiter as Membership Chair and Alan Baharlou as Newsletter Editor.

Dr. Williams Perry, EIU President, was then introduced. He began with thanking the annuitants for all they do and have done for the University. With the target enrollment each year for the University being at 12,000, he announced that the current enrollment stands at 11,966. Community Service and Integrated Learning continue to be a focus for the administration. The new Textbook Rental Center is on target to be finished sometime this fall, and it will be opened for business for Spring 2010. Ground breaking for the Renewable Energy Center will be in early November. With no stimulus money in the future, EIU will be operating on the same budget as 2006. Guests present for this meeting were Julie Waller from AAA Insurance and Valerie Karr of the Red Cross.

Next to address, the group was Illinois Representative Chapin Rose. Rep. Rose addressed the budget situation in the State. There will be many ups and downs. The deficit has accumulated over 7 years, and it will take time to fix it.

After a short break, Dale introduced Will Hine who then introduced Janna Overstreet, Director of Program for Academy of Lifetime Learning. This program provides educational opportunities for all ages. As an incentive for annuitants to participate in the offerings, they are offering a reduction in fees for annuitants' membership of \$20 instead of present \$35. She advised the group to be sure to put "annuitant" on application.

Dale reminded all that the annual Annuitants luncheon will be held January 22.

Respectfully submitted,

~Jane Johnson, Secretary

Campus NEWS

- **As we informed in you in our September issue of New Horizons, Dr. Jill Nilsen, Vice President for External Relations, after 33 years of service to the University, has announced her retirement, effective Dec. 31, 2009. We want to welcome Jill to the Annuitant rank.**
- **The EIU High Tech Modern Textbook Rental Services Building is near Completion**

The EIU's newly constructed high-tech, spacious Textbook Rental Services building located on the east side of the Carmen Hall will be ready to be occupied by the beginning of Spring Semester 2010.

- **Ground breaking for the Renewable Energy Center located on east of campus took place on Friday November 20.**

Eastern again gets top ranking

For the 10th consecutive year, Eastern Illinois University has been named one of the top Midwestern public universities in its class by U.S. News & World Report. EIU is ranked 11th among all Midwestern public universities offering a full range of undergraduate degrees and some master's degree programs. The region encompasses Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, South Dakota and Wisconsin. In addition, EIU continues to tout the highest freshman retention rate and the highest graduation rate among all Illinois public universities in its class.

STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS

- Due to the state's budget crisis, universities & public schools, as of this date, have not received the FY 2009-2010 first payment of their budgets that should have been transferred by July 1, 2009. In order to manage their budget crisis many universities (including Eastern) and school systems are in the process of implementing a furlough procedure that will require all their employees (staff, faculty, administrators) to take a month off without pay. This is in addition to postponing many hirings and implementing operational budget & staff cuts.
- The Charleston Unit One School District, with which many of us are very familiar, is in severe financial crisis. They are discussing cutting many critical positions, postponing hiring, and implementing operational budget cuts.

At this time, most of you would agree that it is virtually impossible to compete and thrive successfully in today's society without an education beyond high school. In order to do this, our youth must have access to a strong, innovative educational system K - 12. The long-term affects of huge budget cuts in education is alarming to those who grasp the impact of these cuts on the prospects for our children, grandchildren and our nation. It is increasingly vital to our nation's well-being in the world that our youth be well educated, productive citizens, equipped to become the leaders of tomorrow. They are our future.

Pension Related Legislations

There were a number of legislative bills affecting SURS that were introduced this spring. Among the most important were P.A. 96-0043 that will, for the most part, provide SURS with the full- certified state contribution for FY 2010. Signed into law on July 15, 2009, P.A. 96-0043 authorized the state of Illinois to sell 3.46 billion dollars in General Obligation Bonds with the proceeds payable to the **five** state retirement systems to pay the state's FY 2010 state obligation. The total state obligations for FY 2010 to SURS is **\$702,514,000**. The contribution that SURS will receive from the bond sale is in accordance with the contribution requirement outlined in the 50-year funding program under which the retirement systems have been funded since fiscal year 1996.

Pension Systems Modernization Task Force, which was created by House Joint Resolution 65 of the 96th General Assembly. Comprised of 19 members, 11 of whom are appointed by the Governor and 8 of whom are appointed by legislative leaders, the Task Force was required to hold at least one hearing a month between June and October of 2009. The Task Force will review and analyze:

- The level of the current pension benefit structure in Illinois as it compares to other states in the geographical region and to other states that have systems that are not coordinated with Social Security.

- The public policy implications of changing pension benefits on the state’s ability to attract and retain public employees, teachers, and university professionals.
- The level of benefit programs currently being offered in the private sector of our state.
- The long-term costs of our current systems including the expected increase in benefit payments, the effects of continued under performance in the funds’ investment portfolio, and the effects of increasing life expectancies on our state-funded systems.
- Which pension benefits in Illinois should be modernized.

The Task Force will report its findings to the General Assembly and the Governor. The Illinois Retirement Security Initiative (SUAA is a member), sorted out the findings that was released as follows which some members of the Task Force did not want voters and taxpayers to know:

- The **cost** to taxpayers of state-funded pension benefits **is less than the private sector**, and less than public pensions in neighboring states;
- The **level** of benefits when compared to 85 public employee retirement systems nationwide are average;
- Seventy-eight percent (78%) of funds’ beneficiaries **do not receive Social Security**, meaning their pension is their sole source of retirement income;
- Changes or **cuts to future benefits will not reduce [by one penny] the state’s debt** for past benefits already earned (the “unfunded liability”), nor **lower required pension payments** in the near term;
- The primary **cause of the state’s unfunded liability is the state’s “decades-long failure to make its full employer contribution to the systems,”** even as participants continue to pay their own significant share;
- The state should consider **a new payment schedule** to replace the 1995 funding “ramp,” and **new revenues** are required, (The full report can be found at www.SUAA.org.)



NEWS FROM YOU



EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

Dr. Mac Corley (who retired as an economics professor in 2003) was inducted to The EIU Athletics Hall of Fame as a Friend of Athletics, having worked to raise funds for athletics while also volunteering time at track meets.

Dr. John Guzowski The Polish Cultural Club of Greater Hartford bestowed their 2009 Cultural Achievement Award to Dr. John Guzowski, Professor Emeritus Eastern Illinois University English Department. Dr. Guzowski grew up in immigrant and refugee neighborhoods mostly Holocaust survivors in Chicago. His poetry remembers their experiences in slave labor camps in Nazi Germany. These stories as well as the experiences of his parents are reflected in his books "Language of Mules", "Lightning and Ashes", and "Third Winter of War: Buchenwald". The latter volume was nominated for the Pulitzer Poetry Prize 2008.

Joe Carey (formerly a professor in the Department of Education) recently moved into an assisted living facility in Surprise Arizona. He would love to hear from his friends and former colleagues. His new address is:
An Enchanted Assisted Living
15924 W. Mauna Loa Lane
Surprise, Arizona 85379

Evelyn & Elwood Grissom, Celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary last August. Their parents were Jack & Iessie Volk & Zettie & Oris Grissom. They have 3 children; Gary, Brenda & Susie, 8 grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Grissom is a EIU retired electrician & Evelyn retired from Norge/Fedders corp.

Eileen & Gene Wingle, Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary. They have one daughter Cynthia & one son Todd. Both Eileen & Gene are retired EIU staff.

Margaret & Gerald (Hank) Pierson, Celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary last October. They have 4 children; Margaret, Emily, Nancy & Jim. They have 6 grandchildren. Hank is a retired EIU professor and Margaret retired from Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center.

Cheryl & Bill Lair, Celebrated their 40th wedding Anniversary on Saturday November 21. Their parents are Jim & Margaret Lair & Doris Pinkston & late Fred Weber. They have 3 children; David, Heather and Patrick. Bill is managing editor of Journal Gazette/Times-Courier. Cheryl is an Optometric assistant.

Mary McElWee Coutant, of Charleston celebrated her 90th Birthday on October 14. She is the daughter of William W. & Emma Turman Merritt. She married Albert Coutant. Her children are Carol, Larry & Alan. Mary has 6 step grandchildren and 3 step great grandchildren. She was employed for 30 years at EIU as secretary and catalog editor and 14 years as the secretary of Coles County Farm Bureau

Sharon Johns, of Charleston Celebrated her 80th Birthday on November 6. She is the daughter of Earl and Mary Moody & she married Raymond John. She is the mother of Daughter Sharon and one grandchild. She retired from EIU.

Remembering Friends



Dalias A. Price, age 96 of Charleston died on Saturday October 3. He was son of late Fred Joseph and Rose Price. He was married to Lillian for 65 years. Dalias is survived by 4 sons; David, Curtis, Kent and Roger and 6 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren. Dr. Dalias Price was a Geography Professor at Eastern Illinois University. From 1958 until he retired in 1980. During this period, he was best known as the Official U.S. Weather Bureau Observer for Coles County. In 2005, he received the prestigious Thomas Jefferson Award. Dalias was Chair of Geology/Geography Department from 1958-1071.

Merv (Coach) Baker. It has been several weeks since the entire community of Charleston and the state of Illinois laid to rest one of its most renowned and loved citizens. Mervin (Coach) Baker is a legendary figure who touched many people's lives with compassion, caring, humor and integrity during his distinguished career. Fortunately, we see the same leadership qualities, honor and integrity in his son, Ken Baker.

Dr. Lahron Helgeson Schenke, age 89 of Charleston, passed away on Wednesday (September 23, 2009) at his home. Lahron is son of the late Otto and Charity (Helgeson) Schenke. He married Phyllis Langner on April 4, 1942 and they have shared more than sixty-seven years of marriage and friendship. In addition to Phyllis, he is survived by his daughter; Pamela Atteberry. Lahron served with the United States Air Force during World War II and was an instructor at both Scott and Langley Air Force Bases. From 1963 until his retirement in 1983, Dr. Schenke was a Professor of Education at Eastern Illinois University.

Lawrence Barrie Hunt, age 77 of Charleston, died on Tuesday (September 22, 2009) at his home. He is survived by his loving wife, Shirley (Frame) Hunt whom he married in 1955, their daughter, Jenny and partner Bette; their son, Jeff Hunt; their granddaughter, Sierra of Charleston; his brother, S. Jackson Hunt his sister-in-law Mona Jones. He was a U.S. Air Force pilot and taught biology in Kenosha, Wisconsin and at Eastern Illinois University until his retirement in 1989. He dedicated his rural property, Warbler Woods, as a registered state nature preserve. He was a member of several biological and conservation organizations and was a fifty-year volunteer bird bander for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

Stella Louise Campbell, age 91 of Charleston, passed away on Monday (November 16, 2009) at Hilltop Convalescent Center in Charleston. Stella is the daughter of the late William H. and Louvina (Hughes) Loving. She was married to Clarence S. Campbell who preceded her in death in 1987. She is survived by four children; Clement Campbell, Robert Campbell, Sandra Heminghous and Marsha Petty, and 9 grandchildren and 13 great-grandchildren. She began her employment at the Charleston Brown Shoe Company but later accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University in the Food Services Department where she remained until her retirement.

Hazel Maxine Duzan, 83, of Oakland passed away Sept. 24, 2009. She married Marvin Wayne Duzan. He preceded her in death. She is survived by children: M. Sue Campbell, Linda M. Smith, Stan E. Duzan, Ray L. Duzan and Carol A. Coffman; 13 grandchildren: 23 great and 2 great great grandchildren; & 5 brothers: Owen, Dale Swinford, Jim Swinford, Aaron Swinford and Don Swinford and one sister, Edna Pearl. She worked in food service at Eastern Illinois University from where she retired.

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We want to express our sympathy to the following Annuitants

Margaret Cravey died March 14, 2009. She is the daughter of Harry and Altha Parker McCarter. She married Gerald T. Cravey on June 12, 1943. She is survived by daughters, Georgia Ann and Altha Jane and sister-in-law,

Valeria Smith. She knew the importance of nature and enjoyed tramping wild areas to observe birds and wildflowers. With her guidance, the family created exhibitions of seashells, geodes, fossils, arrowheads, toads and turtles.

Alvin Wingler, 79 of Arcola, died at 2:45 a.m. Monday, August 31, 2009 at his home surrounded by his family. He was united in marriage to Dona Warren. Besides his wife Dona, he is survived by 1 daughter, Marie ; 2 sons, Tony ; Tim Wingler ; **3 brothers, Gene Wingler and wife Eileen of Oakland**; Jerry Wingler ; Lew Wingler and 12 grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren.

Albert "Gabby" Giberson, age 70 of Charleston, passed away unexpectedly on Friday (October 23, 2009) at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. He married Kay Titus & shared more than forty-eight years of marriage and friendship. **In addition to his wife Kay** (an EIU annuitant), Albert is survived by his daughter, Lore two grandsons, Joshua and Jay and two great-grandchildren, Jakob and Makenzie Steury.

Hazel M. Brown, 98, died on September 23, 2009. She is the daughter of Talmage V. and Helen (Trager) McDade. She married Tony Garnet Brown. Surviving are two sons: John "Bud" Brown and Max D. Brown one brother: **Walter McDade (EIU Annuitant)**, Eight grandchildren, eleven great-grandchildren, eleven great-great-grandchildren.

Lois Louise Fuller, age 84 of Fairgrange, died September 24, 2009. , a daughter of the late Ira and Myrtle Reynolds. She married Charles Robert Fuller & shared sixty-four years of marriage and friendship. In addition to her husband she is survived by four daughters, Sue White, Diana Groff and Debra Barker, and Marsha Hatcher eleven grandchildren, twenty-six great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; **a twin sister, Iris Moffett of Charleston (EIU Annuitant)**;

Linda Kay Funk McGill, 59, of Knoxville, Tenn. died Tuesday (Sept. 22, 2009). She was the daughter of Glen and Bonita Funk of Casey. She married Clifford McGill; he survives. Other survivors include one son, Earl McGill; mother, Bonita Swartz; one brother, **Harold Funk of Casey (EIU Annuitant)**; two sisters, Carol Blanchard and Sharon England.

EIUAA CONTACT INFORMATION

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



Please join us for the
39th Annual EIU Annuitants Association Winter Luncheon
Friday, January 22, 2010

St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, Moriarty Hall
Madison Avenue and 9th Street Charleston, IL

By completing and returning this Form by January 8, 2010

Doors open at 11:00 am and serving begins at 11:30 am.

Parking is available in adjoining lot.

Please enter by the west door and register on arrival.

Entertainment will be provided by Coles County Barbershop Quartet.

Menu (catered by Niemerg's Steakhouse of Effingham):

Choice of roast beef or grilled chicken

Twice-baked potatoes, green beans, corn, cole slaw, noodles, rolls, fruit pies

Sugar-free dessert, iced tea, lemonade, or coffee

Cost: \$8.00 per person (incl. gratuity)

Please RSVP by January 8, 2010

Reserve _____ luncheon tickets at \$8.00 per person with the following entrée choices (beef or chicken or sugar-free dessert)

Annuitant (name) _____ Entrée-dessert choice _____

Annuitant (name) _____ Entrée-dessert choice _____

Guest (name) _____ Entrée-dessert choice _____

Enclosed is a check (payable to "EIU Annuitants Association") for _____

Mail to
 EIU Annuitants Association Luncheon
 Brainard House
 600 Lincoln Avenue
 Charleston, IL 61920