



New Horizons

EIU ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION NEWSLETTER

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Dale Wolf, President
Ellen Keiter, Membership Chair
Jane Johnson, Secretary

Jayne Ozier, Vice- President
Ron Wohlstein, Treasurer
Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor

Financial support of EIU Foundation is appreciated

LOOKING AHEAD

At the June 4, 09 Chapter Meeting in the Neal Welcome Center, Cindy Roberts, Executive Director of Coles County Habitat for Humanity will provide a comprehensive overview of Coles County Habitat for Humanities contribution to build simple, decent, affordable housing for people in need, regardless of race or religious affiliation. Cindy will also explain the many different ways people can join and participate to make this goal possible.

MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EUIAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
Oct 8, 2009	Neal Welcome Center	August 6, 2009	Neal Welcome Center
January, 2010	39 th Annual Luncheon	Nov. 12, 2009	Neal Welcome Center

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

As good weather continues to advance into our part of the world, our organization continues to advance in the quest for additional membership. We announced an increase in numbers at the last chapter meeting and would be pleased to do so again this summer. Please remember to tell your friends, colleagues, etc., that membership is not restricted to retirees. It is definitely for the current employees that also wish to have their voices heard in Springfield. The form to join can be obtained at the EIU website under annuitants.

Eastern Illinois University had an exceptional turnout for the recent Rally Day in Springfield. The Annuitants Association did have representation and reported that the day appeared to be a success. New Governor Pat Quinn did appear and spoke to those in attendance.

The next EIUAA Chapter meeting will be on Thursday, June 4th at the Welcome Center. We will again have refreshments beginning at 8:30am with the meeting start time of 9:00am.

We feature Habitat for Humanity with guest speaker Cindy Roberts providing an overview and volunteer options. In addition, we will have an update from Springfield with Sue Kaufman and an interesting presentation from Terry Weidner concerning "Geocashing." We hope you can be with us on June 4th.

Be sure to also checkout the website for more information as well as photos from the April Chapter Meeting.

~Dale Wolf, EIUAA President

FROM THE EDITOR

Dear Colleagues,

This session of the Illinois legislature along with the New Governor Pat Quinn is faces one of its most challenging issues; how to manage and resolve nearly a 12 billion dollar State budget deficit. There have been many bills and proposals introduced in the various legislative committees to be deliberated regarding this issue. Many of these attempt to reduce and or modify state employees' pensions and health care (State Universities Retirement System –SURS, Teachers Retirement System-TRS, State Employees Retirement System-SERS, General Assembly Retirement System -GARS, Judges Retirement System –JRS). Governor Quinn also has proposed to change state's flat income tax in which every income level pays the same rate to a progressive one in which higher income individuals pay a higher rate and or increase every income levels rate. There have been statewide demonstrations locally and in Springfield by SUAA, TRS and AFSCME against the adverse effects of these legislative bills to manage the state's budget deficit at the expense of employees' benefits, particularly health care and pensions (that employees have already paid for). We request that you help by expressing your oppositions to your legislators, governor and by writ letters to your local Newspapers. The legislative decisions will not be known until the end of May (end of session) and then The Governor makes his decision regarding approval or disapproval of the legislation and a possible veto session. We will inform you of every outcome.

Alan Baharlou, EIUAA Newsletter editor

FOR YOUR INFORMATION

We have initiated a segment with each issue of the New Horizons, called "For Your Information" printing articles relevant to Annuitants' interest. We invite our readers to write such articles for publication. The following article by Cindy Roberts Executive Director of Coles County Habitat for Humanity provides you with a comprehensive history of the organization and significance of services and contributions by volunteers.

"Building Houses, Building Hope--Successes and Challenges"

In May 1989, under the leadership of Al Joyner, a group of dedicated people in Coles County met to discuss the possibility of forming a Habitat for Humanity affiliate. Their dream was fulfilled when, on September 4, 1990, COLES COUNTY HABITAT FOR HUMANITY (CCHFH) was approved as an affiliate of Habitat for Humanity International. The affiliate had its first groundbreaking on August 4, 1990 at 521 N. 11th Street, Charleston, IL. The house blessing for this first house was on July 20, 1991. In 2003, CCHFH held its first "Blitz Build"—a one-day construction-intensive event during which the walls and roof for the Partner Family's home were raised.

Habitat homes are a "hand up, not a hand out" as the Partner Family (homeowner) assumes a no-interest mortgage and contributes their "sweat equity" in building their home and other Habitat homes.

As of January 2009, the affiliate has renovated one house in Oakland, IL, and completed construction of over twenty-one new houses, about equally divided between Mattoon and Charleston, Illinois. To date, CCHFH has made possible for 33 adults and 52 children to have a safe, affordable home to call their own. Eighty percent of the original Habitat homeowners still live in their home.

Up until 2006, the affiliate averaged a one-house-per-year build. At that time, CCHFH made a commitment to transition from building one house per year to three houses per year. For the past two years that commitment has been met.

Since its beginning, the affiliate has been blessed not only with generous donors and construction volunteers, but also individuals who partner with each new Habitat family to help build their house. Annual fund raising events like Habifeast, Four for the Fourth, and the Dale Double Memorial Annual Golf Tournament have been supported enthusiastically by the community. CCHFH has received grants from foundations and corporations to help fund the construction of Habitat houses. Sources of these grants have included the Lumpkin Foundation, Charleston Charitable Foundation, Dow Chemical and Thrivent Financial for Lutherans.

In March of 2008, CCHFH made the bold move of purchasing the old USDA building on State Street in Charleston. This building will house the offices, warehouse, meeting room and work area for CCHFH. In addition, the building will become the new home for Charleston Area Churches Food Pantry and Coalition for People in Need. This facility will allow these worthy organizations to better serve the deserving, low-income residents of Coles County. Renovation is currently underway to bring the facility up to current standards which will reduce energy consumption and will allow these organizations to devote the majority of their funds to support their missions.

Cindy Roberts, Executive Director of Coles County Habitat for Humanity

CHAPTER NEWS

A large number of members and guests met at the Neal welcome Center for our April 9, Chapter Meeting. Linda Brookheart Executive Director of SUAA, Dr. Bill Perry EIU President, and Dr. Susan Kaufman on behalf of AFSCME were presenters. Linda and Susan brought the participants up to date on Illinois legislative activities in Springfield regarding our pension and health care related bills and proposals.

Linda said SUAA is strongly advocating a new pension plan for city colleges and HB 2624 to allow pre-1980 retirees who do not get 3% COLA, to receive it.

Following that presentation, President Perry spoke to the group. Dr. Perry said he is excited about the caliber of student taught at EIU. He also thanked the Annuitants for the work done in Springfield on behalf of EIU and services on campus. A question was asked about what part, if any, of the stimulus package would be coming to EIU. Dr. Perry reported that 1.6% of the money coming to the State will be going toward higher education.

Our chapter had the largest number of participants in Springfield on the April 22 lobby day. For the first time in such an occasion Governor made a presentation to rally participants and I personally talked to Governor Quinn regarding concerns of increasing our health care premium and pension status.

Former EIU VPAA Terry Weidner and I represented our chapter as delegates at the Illinois Senate Conference on Civic Engagement on May 11, 2009. The objective of the conference was to discuss leadership, civic engagement and how generations can work together.

Campus NEWS

Dr. William Weber Named EIU's Vice President for Business Affairs

Although Bill Weber has spent the better part of the past two decades dealing with academic issues facing Eastern Illinois University, he feels confident about his abilities to perform the duties of vice president for business affairs. Bill was chosen from nearly 40 applicants in a national search that began after Jeff Cooley,

who served as vice president for business affairs since 1999, announced his Dec. 31, 2008, retirement. Bill will be responsible for the supervision, coordination and administration of the Budget Office, Business Services, Information Technology Services, Human Resources, Facilities Planning and Management, Environmental Health and Safety, Records Management, and the broad areas of service related to these units.

Presidential Reception Honoring 2009 EIU Retirees

On April 29 in a Presidential Reception the following EIU Retirees were honored for their years of services: Teresa Bennett, Michael Clayton, Larry Cannon, Sharon Curry, Jeri Doty, Dr. Charles Costa, Richard Edwards, Dr. Russell Fisher, Norris Fields, Allan Horney, Sandra Gossett, Dr. Ebrahim Karbassioon, Mary Jo Grasl, Dr. Susan Kaufman, Carol Hawkins, Barbara Kuykendall, Douglas Hicks, Charles Miller, Russell Letner, Dr. Terry Perkins, Louise McCrary, John Smith, Julie McDivitt, Dr. Carol Stevens, Carol Morgan, Dr. Deborah Wolf, Sandra Ryan, Anne Zahlan, Karen South, Jone Zieren, Max Swango, Julia Abell, Myrna Thomason Joseph Allison, Sammy Jones

EIGHTEEN EIU FACULTY WERE AWARDED TENURE

The EIU Board of Trustees awarded tenure to the following individuals, effective with the 2009-2010 academic year: Donna Binns, English; Julie Chadd, technology; Thomas Gerard Costello, business; James A. Davis, geology/geography; Sace Elizabeth Elder, history; Terri A. Fredrick, English; Teresa A. Freking, secondary education and foundations; Karen F. Gaines, biological sciences; Melissa L. Jones, special education; Karla Kennedy-Hagan, family and consumer sciences; Hui Li, economics; Mei-Ling Li, special education; Mildred M. Pearson, early childhood, elementary and middle level education; Joy Lynn Russell, early childhood, elementary and middle level education/special education; Jad (James David) Smith, English; Brent Walker, kinesiology and sports studies; Kraig A. Wheeler, chemistry; and Richard F. Wilkinson, family and consumer sciences.

STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS

There have been many bills and proposals, offered in this year's Illinois Legislative sessions in an attempt to reduce the state's estimated \$12 billion budget deficits. Following are very brief descriptions of those that affect our pension and health care. Those of you whom I have e-mail addresses for, should have already received details of these proposals and latest issues affecting our benefits. If you have not received them, that means I do not have your e-mail address. Please send me an e-mail using the e-mail address that you want future updates send to. My e-mail address is abaharlou@eiu.edu

Overhaul of SURS Board of Trustees Membership

Gov. Pat Quinn approved a state pension system overhaul. The Law removes the boards of four pension and investment agencies and adopts tougher ethics rules. In case of SURS, according to the new law, rather than the Governor appointing all SURS Board of Trustees Members, University Annuitants will elect two members, current employees elect four members, and Governor appoints four members. The Board will be chaired by Chair of Illinois Board of Higher Education.

Two-Tiered Pension System

Quinn told reporters in Springfield that he's looking at a two-tiered pension system to maintain current

employees' benefits but offer a less-sweet deal to new workers. The proposal will increase the new hires monthly contributions to their pension, instead of the preset 8% to 10%.

Health Care Premium Proposed Increases

Governor Quinn has proposed the following premium increases for those who are on Quality Care and Managed Care (i.e. Health Alliance, Personal Care) insurance without Medicare.

Quality Care Non-Medicare insured at present \$12.98 to \$582.71, one dependent at present \$197.74 to \$297.35, two dependents at present \$231.94 to 336.66.

Managed Care Non- Medicare insured at present \$11.18 to \$432.27. No increases for one or two dependents.

Income Tax Credits

In the stimulus plan that President Obama Signed provides a one-time payment of \$250 for Social Security beneficiaries and recipients of some other federal benefit programs. The non social Security recipients will be issued through income tax credits in the second year of the economic recovery: 2010



NEWS FROM YOU



EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

Ed "Mac" Corley will be inducted into the EIU Athletics Hall of Fame in November as a friend of athletics based on his long support of the EIU Panther Club. During the annual fund drive, he was the top fund raiser for four years. He also received the 2006 Glen Hesler Award for Outstanding Contribution to Intercollegiate Athletics at Eastern Illinois University. He has served as a volunteer for EIU track and field meets and has been a Marshall for the IHSA Boys and Girls State Track Meets for over two decades.

Birdina Gregg to celebrate 90th Birthday

She was born March 21, 1919, in Louisville, Ky., The daughter of the Rev. E. R. and Louise Beucler. Se married Forrest Gregg on Aug. 10, 1941. Berdina was employed at Booth Library at Eastern Illinois University. She retired in 1994.

Mr. and Mrs. Russell E. Waltrip of Charleston celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary Waltrip and Barbara K. Rogers were married March 26, 1949. The couple are retired from Eastern Illinois University. He is the son of Paul "Beanie" and Francis Waltrip. She is the daughter of Elmer and Florence Rogers.

Mr. & Mrs. Willard DeLong of Mattoon celebrated their 40th wedding anniversary. They were married March 9, 1969. He is the son of the late Oris and Hazel DeLong. She is the daughter of the late Lawrence and Ruby Steele. Delong is retired from Eastern Illinois University

Jo Ann and Jon Laible After 45 years in Charleston, Jo Ann and Jon Laible have moved to Florida! Their new address is 480 Avalon Blvd., Miramar Beach, FL 32550 and email is jmlaible@yahoo.com. They will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary on June 14 with their children in the upper peninsula of Michigan at their summer cottage. Jo Ann and Jon enriched the lives of many with their dedicated service to Charleston and Eastern. They will be missed by their many friends.

Remembering Friends



Catharine Smith of 85 Of Newburyport, Massachusetts passed away peacefully at home with her family at her side on April 23, 2009.. She met her husband of 62 years, P. Scott Smith, at Cornell University where she received her masters' degree in genetics. Catharine spent most of her adult life in Charleston, Illinois, where she taught courses at Eastern Illinois University. She was actively involved in the community, including being president of the League of Women Voters, chairperson of the Coles County Planning Commission, a precinct committee chairperson, and a volunteer for Meals on Wheels. Catharine is survived by her husband Scott of Newburyport, her son Charles Crandall Smith, her daughter Karen and three grandchildren, and one granddaughter.

Donald Rex Snider of MATTOON 71, passed away on April 15, 2009. Rex was son of the late Ralph and Faye E. (Bennett) Snider. He was united in marriage to Dixie St. Clair. In addition to Dixie he is survived by four children, and eleven grandchildren, Donald was for twenty years was an electrician at Eastern Illinois University.

Jimmy Shonkwiler, 63 budget director at Eastern from 2003 until his retirement in 2007, passed away. Before his hiring at Eastern in 2003, Shonkwiler held the position of faculty specialist at the University of Missouri-Columbia. He married Penny Huchel on June 20, 1988, in Mahomet. He is survived by his wife, Penny, of Champaign; daughter Shawn McLaughlin of Ottawa; two grandchildren, Declan and Lena McLaughlin, also of Ottawa.

Steve E. Fletcher of CHARLESTON, 61, of rural Charleston, died on Friday, April 24, 2009 surrounded by his friends and loved ones. He married Vickie Sue Stewart, September 15, 1978. she survives. Also surviving are two sisters Steve was a building services worker at Eastern Illinois University. He was a Vietnam Era veteran of the U.S. Army.

Olive 'Bernie' Linder- CHARLESTON, 88, passed away on Friday, March 27, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Hospital, Charleston. IL. she married Richard Martin Linder. They celebrated 50 years of marriage before his death in October, 1990. She worked as a cook (13 years) for a fraternity on the Eastern Illinois Campus and was also a House Mother for a sorority at EIU. Survivors include: a son, Terry Linder and a daughter, Brenda Douglas 7 grandchildren.

Edward S. Sawtelle 78 of Terre Haute died on March 24, 2009. Survivors include his wife of 56 years, Dolores Eichen Sawtelle, daughter, Catherine Thorp, sons, Stephen, Thomas, Robert, 14 grandchildren and 2 great-grandchildren. Edward worked at Eastern Illinois University as Director of Personnel, from where he retired.

We want to express our sympathy to the following Annuitants

Lois Genevieve Shouse Matzner 93 Of Savoy died March 2009. She Married Gerhard Carl Matzner in 1944; he preceded her in death. Survivors include 3 Children, Douglas Matzner, Kenneth Matzner, and Carol Stewart.

Charles E. Black, CHARLESTON - age 90, passed away on Monday (April 6, 2009) He was united in marriage to Ruby Green on July 6, 1940 in Charleston. Ruby preceded him in death on April 25, 1973 and he later married a good friend Klara June (Percy) Hudson on July 29, 1974. They shared twenty-seven years of marriage prior to her death on August 25, 2001. Charlie is survived by eight children, including **Tanya Ferguson,**

Edna Geneva Warren, 84, of Charleston died on March 11, 2009 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. She married John William Warren; he died in in 1989. Survivors include one son, Gary Warren of Mahomet; **one daughter, Kathy Cartwright of Charleston;** four grandchildren; and four great-grandchildren. She also was preceded in death by one brother and one sister. Mrs. Warren worked as a seamstress in Arcola and later at Wal-Mart in Charleston.

Kenneth E. Coffey Sr., age 87 and lifelong resident of Ashmore, passed away on March 30, 2009. **He was united in marriage to Wanda Swinford Coffey** on June 29, 1947 and they have been a blessing to one another for more than sixty-one years. In addition to Wanda, Kenneth is survived by four sons, Gary, Terry ,Tom and Randy Coffey , eleven grandchildren, seven great-grandchildren; five brothers, a sister, Ann McClure and numerous nieces and nephews and their families.

Virginia A. Ashbaugh, age 88 of Brocton passed away, on March 30, 2009 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon. On February 18, 1939 she married Russell O. Ashbaugh in Brocton. He preceded her in death on February 28, 1992. Survivors include two daughters, **Arlene Louise Hudson of Charleston (daughter of Virginia),** and Violet Ann McMillan, one son, Russell Lee Ashbaugh ,five grandchildren, six great-grandchildren, and many nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her husband, and two brothers.

EIUAA CONTACT INFORMATION

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

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