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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

On Thursday April 8, 2010, at the Chapter Meeting in the Neal Welcome Center, House Representative Chapin Rose will provide a comprehensive overview of relevant Annuitants' & University's legislative activities. After that, Rachel Fisher, Director of Student Community Services at EIU will provide an overview of her office's services to the Community and University.

### MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EUIAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
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      SPRING 2010**

It is easy at this time of year to think more about outside activities than it is to think about pensions, health care and what events are occurring in government that could affect our lives. I know I would prefer to dwell on the former. I believe that we can do both!

Not only should we care about what happens to our own lives and benefits, we should care about those that will follow us and also those that have not even begun to work as yet. We, as current annuitants need to care about protecting the rights and benefits of those that have yet to obtain retirement status or even their first job in Illinois. These people can be at risk for fewer and/or lower benefits than those that have come before each of them.

One of the ways we can continue to help is to have strong local chapters throughout the state beginning here at EIU. Our membership has remained solid but level in recent months. We need to add members from both the retired as well as the currently- working ranks. In other words, we need your help.

We had a wonderful attendance at the January mid-winter luncheon so let us now all have a common goal of bringing in new members during this coming spring and summer. Encourage them to join, to attend a chapter meeting, check out photos of friends and to read the information at the website ([www.eiu.edu/annuitants](http://www.eiu.edu/annuitants)).

Our next chapter meeting will be on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup> at the Neal Welcome Center. We begin at 9am and we should each make an attempt to bring a friend or, at least, to tell someone about the meeting. Please remember that persons need not be retired to join or to attend any of our meetings. Rep. Chapin Rose will be in attendance to update our audience about the state of events in Springfield. It is always of interest. I look forward to seeing many of you in April.

*~Dale Wolf, EIUAA President*

### ***FROM THE EDITOR***

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#### IMAGINE IF . . . . .

To begin with, I want to mention that the following are nothing new to you. The State of Illinois is a great state endowed with significant natural and human resources, some of the most advanced higher learning and research institutions in the world, and a rich history. Therefore, the present budget crisis is mainly due to management approach. For example, consider the Pension underfunding which is of high interest to most of you. On February 27, I informed those of you whose e-mail addresses I have, that according to the Pew Center, Illinois is at the bottom of the eight states (WA, ND, CO, KA, OK, PA, NJ, and IL) in the Union that made less than 75% of the required by law contributions to its pension system. Universities in the state are all proposing significant tuition increases. School systems have already cut many staff positions and programs; social organizations that assist children, the poor and elderly, have cut human services, laid off staff, and reduced working hours.

So far, there have been no proven, tested solutions on the horizon from Illinois Legislators, who, for the last three decades to now, have caused the present crisis. The out of power party is using the state's budget crisis to advance their agenda, mainly proposing pension, medical, and human services cuts. The political party in power, which bears responsibility for this crisis too, also proposes cuts in spending and more borrowing. As I write this article, I am listening to Governor Quinn's Annual Budget Speech. He is repeating some of the same solutions that both parties have been promoting, plus a 1% Income Tax Surcharge. There is no great incentive to resolve the budget crisis as long as both parties can take advantage of the crisis. Middle and low-income families' suffering will most likely continue until the November General Election and even then, no one is predicting a sound solution to the budget crisis

Imagine, if the State of Illinois had met the contractual obligations that we agreed to when we were hired - that we contribute 8% of our salary each month to SURS for our retirement benefits and that the state match that required amount each month in lieu of paying social security. Imagine if the state and our contributions had been invested by SURS. We would have more than adequate funds to take care of our contractual retirement benefits. While **we** have to imagine that, many states (i.e. Montana., Idaho, Wyoming, West Virginia., Maine, and

Louisiana.) did exactly that.

Now, some legislators are talking about **pension reforms**. By that, they do not mean to make all parties involved in the pension contract **meet** their obligations. Employees have already met their obligations. No, they are seeking ways to **forfeit the state's** contractual obligations made when employees and retirees were hired without a mutual negotiations or consensus as normally followed for changing any employment contractual agreement. Imagine the repercussions if the state did that. Considering fairness, do employees also have the same right to forfeit some of their obligations that were agreed on when they were hired? If that happened, for example can a department chair turn down faculty for promotion or tenure because they have not met some of their agreed on obligations? The implications of the state forfeiting **their** contract obligations are being discussed among interested parties. Many of us have tried to explain the tangible and intangible consequences of that to legislators. To date, that discussion has not had much positive effect on action or votes.

**Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor**

***NONMEMBERS, PLEASE READ!***

**As this issue of New Horizons goes to press, the Governor and state legislators in Illinois are actively debating how to deal with the state's huge financial deficit. It is all but certain that reducing state university employee benefits will be proposed as one cost-cutting measure.**

**The situation is serious enough that, for the second time in less than a year, we are issuing a special appeal to all nonmember retirees to join the EIU Annuitants Association (EIUAA) which will also make you part of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA)..**

**At this critical time, having a strong advocacy voice in Springfield is more vital than ever. SUAA provides that voice by working diligently on behalf of all of us to protect and preserve our pensions and benefits. By joining, you will be providing important support for that effort.**

**To become a member, simply complete the enclosed membership form (LAST PAGE OF THIS DOCUMENT) and send it in the postage-paid envelope provided. Please note that your annual dues of \$30 can either be paid by check or by authorizing a \$2.50 per month deduction from your SURS annuity.**

**Thank you!  
Ellen Keiter  
Membership Chair**

## CHAPTER NEWS

On Friday January 22, 2010, we celebrated the EIU Annuitants Association's 39<sup>th</sup> year in existence in the St.

Charles Borromeo Catholic Church Moriarty Hall in Charleston. A large number of annuitants, current employees, and their families and friends participated in a very festive occasion. The Coles County Barbershop Singers entertained the guests. State Senator Dale Righter and Jim Littleford, Charleston School System Superintendent provided information regarding legislative re-distributing Boarders in Illinois and School System 's budget crisis respectively. Mary McElwee was awarded the EIU Annuitant of the Year by the EIU Foundations for her volunteer Services. Nicole Dallas, was awarded the EIU Annuitants Association Scholarship. Nicole is the daughter of Lisa and John Dallas. She is majoring in Early Childhood Education. You can see the pictures of the Occasion on our website [www.eiu.edu/annuitants](http://www.eiu.edu/annuitants) then click on the on the left side of Home Page on Chapter Meeting, Annuitant Ambassador and EIUAA Scholarship.

## CAMPUS NEWS

- **Dr. Bonnie Irwin the current EIU Honors College Dean will replace Dr. Jim Johnson as the Dean of College of Arts and Humanities starting July 1, 2010. Dr. Jim Johnson retired at the end of June 2009.**
- **Bob Martin started his responsibilities as the Vice President for University Advancement, February 1, 10 replacing Jill Nilsen who retired December 31, 09.**
- **The EIU High Tech Modern Textbook Rental Services Building is near Completion and it will be occupied at the end of this semester.**
- **The Renewable Energy Center building located on the east side of campus is progressing well.**
- **Due to the state's budget deficit, Eastern, like all other public universities in the Illinois, is facing the most critical financial crisis since its establishment in 1895. However, so far the administration, faculty, and staff have been doing a superb job managing the crisis without adverse effects on the academic programs.**

## STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS

While all of you living in Illinois are familiar with the state's huge budget deficit, many of our out of state Annuitants may not be as aware of the Illinois budget crisis.

The major issue currently being discussed by all public organizations in Illinois is how to manage the impact of severe budget crisis (nearly 13 billion state budget deficits) without

significantly changing their services and functions. Public universities have frozen hiring, travel, equipment purchases and many other budget reduction measures including eliminating programs. Almost all universities, including EIU, have developed furlough policies to ask their employees to take several days of leave without pay. If it were not for the Federal Government Stimulus Funds, the situation would have been much worse. Now that fund is almost gone, all universities in the state are contemplating significant tuition and fee increases and at the same time are expressing concerns regarding the affordability of higher education for middle and low-income families. SURS FY-2009 Annual Report shows that 46,810 persons receiving benefits and 73,699 persons still working. In other words, so far, contributions by those SURS members who still are working, and investments of those funds are barely maintaining for a while longer the monthly pensions of retirees. The average state retiree's annual pension is \$20,000. As you all know, the state chose not to participate in Social Security because Social Security was more expensive than the pension system. Social Security would have cost the state 15 percent tax on payroll.

### **Pension & Health Care Related Legislations**

After February 2, primary elections Illinois legislators are back in session arguing how to manage state's nearly 13 billion budget deficits. Most proposals are along party line and tailored for next November General Election. The proposals generally are to cut state's budget, seldom specific where to make these cuts. There is also a bill ( HB4706) introduced by Representative Winters (R – 68) to take the 50% tuition waiver from those employed at the State funded universities. Winters has now decided to add an amendment that would limit the change to new hires only. However, IFT, IEA, AFSCME, UPI, SEIU, AFL-CIO and SUAA have expressed strong opposition to this bill HB4706.

SB365 Amendment #1 introduced by Senate President Cullerton provides that a member of the General Assembly may forfeit the privilege of nominating persons in any year for a General Assembly Scholarship. Senator Michael Frerichs stated in his testimony that each legislator can award up to eight tuition waivers per year. The cost to the University of Illinois alone for General Assembly Scholarship is \$9 Million.

Governor Quinn, proposed the new health care premiums and a range of other cuts, \$2.1 billion altogether, throughout state government to help deal with a record \$13 billion state budget deficit. The governor plans to seek legislation to enact the changes in retiree health benefits. However, AFSCME believes the changes can't be made without state officials first negotiating the proposal with the union. However, Quinn aide Alka Nayyar said bargaining isn't necessary. For 60 percent of state retirees - those 65 or older who are covered by Medicare and use their state insurance as supplemental coverage - Quinn's plan would institute a \$4-per-month premium for managed-care coverage. The charge for coverage through a preferred-provider organization would be \$50 per month. For most retirees who are younger than 65 there would be new monthly premiums of about \$290 for individual coverage through a managed-care plan and \$500 a month through a PPO. For your information, the average total cost to insure a Medicare-eligible state retiree is \$347 a month. The average total premium for insuring younger state retirees is \$804 a month, said Michael Moss, administrator of the Finance Division at the Illinois Department of Healthcare and Family Services. As you recall, last

year the state for the first time instituted premiums of \$11 to \$19.50 per month for the dental coverage. Quinn didn't negotiate those premiums with AFSCME before putting them into place. AFSCME filed a grievance. The case is still pending.



## NEWS FROM YOU



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### EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

**Judy (Baker) Jenkins**, (former EIU Benefits Manager) after intensive training in December 2009 received her FRA Certified Locomotive Engineer License. Judy joins a small sorority of female locomotive engineers in the country. She operates an SD40-2, 3000 hp, turbo charged diesel and trained pulling gondolas full of rock to the P&L yards in Princeton, Kentucky and then pulled empty gondolas back to the rock quarry.

**Karl-Ludwig and Judith H. Konrad** celebrated on December 6, 2009 with great pride their 30th anniversary of becoming American Citizens on December 6, 1979.

**Pearl Thompson**, who was a sub foreman in EIU Housing celebrated her 90th Birthday on February 23, 2010. She is the mother of 3 children, 4 grandchildren and 6 great grandchildren. She is the daughter of Ida and Sam Paul and married "Chalkie" Thompson on September 26, 1940.

**Margaret (Johnson) and Walter Lowell**, Celebrated their 65<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on January 18<sup>th</sup>. Walter was former Dean of Health, Physical Education and Recreation at Eastern. Lowells are parents of 5 children, 14 grandchildren and 16 great grandchildren.

**Ruth (combs) and Jack Howrey**, Celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on March 13. Howrys are parents of 4 sons and they have 6 grandchildren

## Remembering Friends



**Billie D. Scott, 87,** of Charleston, died Wednesday, February 17, 2010. She married Harry K. Scott; he preceded her in death, April 12, 1984. Surviving are 4 daughters, one sister, 15 grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 1 great-great-grandchild. She retired as a cook from Eastern Illinois University.

**Dennis G. Carey, age 56,** Mattoon, IL, passed away at 5:10 a.m., Wednesday, December 2, 2009. He married Theresa D. Edwards. She survives. Other survivors are 2 daughters, 3 sons, a brother, 2 sisters, and 6 grandchildren. Mr. Carey served with the United States Marine Corps from 1970 to 1976.

**Dorothy Ann Hacker, 73,** Martinsville, IL, died Monday Nov. 30, 2009 at her residence. She married Jay Dean Hacker; he died in 2005. Survivors include 2 sons, one daughter, 3 brothers, 7 grandchildren; and 4 great-grandchildren. Mrs. Hacker was employed with the Eastern Illinois University kitchen staff.

**Dr. Clayton Eugene Tucker-Ladd, 78,** of Shiloh, Ill., died at home, Tuesday, January 5, 2010 in Shiloh. He obtained his PhD in Clinical Psychology from the University of Iowa, was the former Director of Counseling and Testing at Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, and Professor of Psychology and Chairman of the Psychology Department at Eastern Illinois University at Charleston. He also served his country in the US Marine Corps during the Korean War. Dr. Tucker-Ladd was, for many years, involved in the Memory and Aging Project at Washington University Medical Center in St. Louis, MO. Clayton requested that upon his death, his brain be donated to Washington University Medical Center to further advance its research efforts. He is survived by his wife Patricia, 8 children and 7 grandchildren.

**Dr. John Cecil Guckert, 88,** formerly of Charleston, IL died on Sunday, November 29 in Florida. He married Joyce Pierson. He is survived by his wife, two daughters, two son-in-laws and two grandchildren. He completed his Ph.D. in Education and Middle East History at Ohio State. Dr. Guckert accepted a tenure track position at Eastern Illinois University in 1968 where he taught for many years until retiring. He served in navy and was assigned duties as a landing craft officer of troops and supplies as part of the invasion force of Okinawa in 1945 and subsequently served as part of the initial occupation force of Hiroshima.

**Jeffrey O. Hoover, age 41** of Charleston, died on Saturday November 28, 2009 due to injuries sustained in an automobile accident. In 2007 Jeff joined Bob Spoo's Panther Football staff as offensive line coach and run game. This Football Season, Jeff was also a valuable part of the Panthers success as the OVC Champions with four players named to the OVC first team and six to the OVC second team coordinator. Jeff married Penny Sunshine on January 30, 1993 in Sacramento. They have two children, Cole Davis Hoover and Lauren Elizabeth Hoover, both at home.

**Joseph Carey** died December 5, 2009. He is survived by his wife, Lou Carey his daughter Marjorie Crowe and son Mark Carey. His son, Philip, preceded him in death.

**Sue Coates, age 65**, of Mattoon, IL died on Friday, December 11, 2009, at the Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center in Mattoon, IL. Survivors include one brother, 4 sisters, and 9 nieces and nephews. She was a current employee of Eastern Illinois University Telecommunications Office in Charleston, IL

**Norma Jean Clark Chappell, 83**, of Summerville N.C., died January 26, 2010. Her career of 36 years in education included 24 at the college level in Taiwan, William Carey College, Hattiesburg, MS and Eastern Illinois University. In addition to her husband, Bernard, she is survived by one daughter, one son, one stepson, one brother, 4 grandchildren, two step-grandsons and many nieces and nephews.

**Raymond Earl Catron, age 89** of Charleston, died on Sunday December 13, 2009 at his residence. He married Margie Beabout on June 14, 1941- forty-nine years of marriage prior to her death on May 1, 1990. He later married Beatrice (Neal) Byrd on September 12, 1992 and she preceded him in death on June 25, 2002. Raymond is survived by 4 daughters, one stepson and daughter, 20 grandchildren; 4 step-grandchildren and 23 great grandchildren. Raymond was a United States Navy Veteran serving during World War II. Raymond was an employee of Eastern Illinois University for more than thirty years and retired as Chief Engineer of the Power Plant.

**Rita C. Bennett, 94**, of Casey, Illinois died on Wednesday, December 23, 2009. On August 27, 1937 she married Harry C. Bennett He passed away in December 1, 1978. Survivors include one son, and one grandson. Mrs. Bennett was retired from Eastern Illinois University in Douglas Hall

**Thomas Harold Lahey, 82**, of Charlottesville, died Saturday, August 29, 2009. He taught Education Psychology at Eastern Illinois University. Surviving him are his wife, Cornelia Lahey of Charlottesville; two sons, a grandson, and a sister-in-law.

**Wesley Eugene Ballsrud**, age 88 of Charleston, died on Wednesday December 23, 2009 at his home. He married Mildred Schoengrund on October 3, 1942 and they shared sixty-seven years of marriage. In addition to Mildred, he is survived by 5 children, 11 grandchildren, and 3 great-grandchildren. Wes was a World War II Army Veteran. Wes accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University in 1964 where he served as the Chairman of the Accounting Department until his retirement in 1987. He also owned and operated Ballsrud Consulting Services, a bookkeeping and tax business which he operated out of his home



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## EIUAA CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more information about the EIU Foundation, check out our web page at  
[www.eiu.edu/~found/](http://www.eiu.edu/~found/)

EIU Annuitant Email Address  
[annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu)

EIU Annuitant Association Web Page  
[www.eiu.edu/annuitants/](http://www.eiu.edu/annuitants/)

**EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION**  
Brainard House, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston, IL 61920-3099  
**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ENTIRE FORM.**  
**INFORMATION SECTION**

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_  
Street Address/P.O. Box \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

**Above information will appear in the EIU phone directory unless you indicate otherwise.**

Please check whether you are:  Former EIU Employee  Current EIU Employee  Surviving Spouse  
If former/current employee, give EIU Department \_\_\_\_\_ Employed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
If presently married, give spouse's name \_\_\_\_\_

Please check if your spouse is:  Former EIU Employee  Current EIU Employee  
If former/current employee, spouse's EIU Department \_\_\_\_\_ Employed from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_

**DUES SECTION (Three Options)**  
**Dues are \$2.50 per month effective 1/1/2010**

**1-  I am an annuitant and wish to BEGIN paying dues (\$2.50 per month) by dues deduction.**

If this line is checked, please double the deduction (\$5 per month) to pay my spouse's dues.

*To begin having your SUAA and EIUAA dues deducted from your monthly annuity check, please sign the statement below, provide your Social Security number (requested by SURS), and return to the address above.*

I hereby authorize the State Universities Retirement System to deduct each month the amount certified by the EIU Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association at the current rate of dues. Dues of \$30 per year will be deducted at the rate of \$2.50 per month. I understand that dues deduction will continue until I inform SURS by a signed statement that I wish to stop automatic deduction.

**2-  I am a current EIU employee and wish to BEGIN paying dues (\$30 per year) by dues deduction.**

If this line is checked, please double the deduction (\$60 per year) that would also pay my spouse's dues.

*To begin having your SUAA and EIUAA dues deducted from your payroll check, please sign the statement below, provide your Banner E# and Social Security number, and return to the address above.*

I hereby authorize Eastern Illinois University to deduct the amount certified by the EIU Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association at the current rate of dues. Dues of \$30 per year will be deducted from one payroll check per year. I understand that dues deduction will continue until I inform EIU by a signed statement that I wish to stop automatic deduction.

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Social Security Number\*\* \_\_\_\_\_  
(SIGN ONLY TO BEGIN DUES DEDUCTION)

Banner E Number \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*Providing your SSN speeds the process for dues deduction since it uniquely identifies you to SURS/ EIU. If you prefer, we can process your request with only the last four digits.

**3-  I AM PAYING DUES BY CHECK. CHECK # \_\_\_\_\_ Amount \$ \_\_\_\_\_**

I want my spouse to be a member; I am enclosing \$60 payment.

To pay your yearly dues by check, return this form with a check for \$30, payable to **EIU Annuitants Association**, and return to the address listed above. Additional payments are required each year to continue your membership, and you will receive notification.