

President's View

Mary Anne Hanner

Spring 2016

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Greetings from the Board of Directors of your EIU Annuitants Association! By the time you receive this, we sincerely hope that the most severe winter weather is past and that you are prioritizing your springtime activities.

As you consider those activities, be sure to make plans to attend the annual EIUAA luncheon on April 29. The reservation form for the luncheon is included in this newsletter. Julie Sterling and the Events Committee have planned a delicious meal and some unique entertainment by the EIU Speech Team for our members and their guests.

Thinking about guests—please consider inviting an EIU retiree or employee who is not a member as your guest to the spring luncheon.

If you bring a potential new member, you and your guest will be entered into a drawing for a gift card to a local restaurant. The drawing is sponsored by the Membership Committee, which includes Jone Zieren, John Flynn, John Best and me.

Your continued membership is the primary asset of EIUAA. Your annual dues of \$38 are shared with SUAA. The portion that remains in the EIUAA treasury supports the many activities of our chapter. As you know, you may pay your dues annually by check or you may elect to have \$3.17 deducted each month from your SURS annuity or from your monthly EIU salary (if you are a current employee). If you have not elected to use the SURS/EIU deduction for your dues,

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Brookhart Addresses EIUAA

John Kilgore and Audrey Edwards

At our March 3 chapter meeting, Linda Brookhart, Executive Director of SUAA, told annuitants that a new bill could resume pension holidays and outright raids on state pension funds. Both are discredited practices, widely viewed as responsible for the current pension crisis, itself a chief factor in the state's overall fiscal crisis.

The bill, SB 2789, proposed by Senate Minority Leader Christine Radogno (R) of the 41st district, is not expected to pass, but Brookhart offered it as an example of legislators' wit's-end desperation in the current budget impasse.

With the Democratic-majority legislature and the Republican Governor unable to reach consensus, the state has operated without a budget since July 2015. Spending has proceeded *ad hoc*, 90%

of it by court mandate, while state debt continues to climb and may reach \$12 billion by the end of this fiscal year. State universities and colleges have received no appropriation and are laying off employees while cutting services. Vendors and medical providers are waiting months to be paid. Since most are entitled to charge 1% monthly interest on unpaid bills, this is a wasteful way to do business, Brookhart said.

Last summer, many students throughout the state received promises of MAP-grant assistance. EIU has advanced the promised money to its students since August, but has waited in vain for promised repayment from the state. A bill that would have tried to hasten reimbursements was vetoed by

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EIUAA Officers

Mary Anne Hanner, mahanner@eiu.edu

Vicki Hampton, vhampton2323@gmail.com

Margaret Messer, kmesser@eiu.edu

Dianna Ensign, dlenign@eiu.edu

Henry Davis, hhdavis@eiu.edu

President, Membership Chair

Past President, Communications Chair

President-Elect, Scholarship Chair

Secretary

Treasurer

Phone Contact: Mary Anne Hanner, 217-346-2140

Web Page: <http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/executive.php>

Board Members

Julie Sterling, Vicki Hampton, Jill Nilsen, Scott Crawford, Mary Anne Hanner, Dianna Ensign, John Flynn, Margaret Messer, Jeffrey Lynch, Lora Green, Robert Whittenbarger

Committees

Communications: Vicki Hampton (Chair), Audrey Edwards, John Kilgore, Roann Kopel, Robert Whittenbarger

Events: Julie Sterling (Chair), Scott Crawford, Lora Green, Jody Horn, Ernie Secrest

Legislative: Jill Nilsen (Chair), Henry Davis, Sue Kauffman, Gail Mason, Jeff Lynch

Membership: Mary Anne Hanner (Chair), John Best, John Flynn, Joan Zieren

Nominations, Scholarship: Margaret Messer (Chair), Nancy Dole

CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT	VENUE
F April 29, 2016, 11:00 a.m.	ANNUAL LUNCHEON	Lifespan Center
Th June 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th July 7, 2016, 8:30 a.m.	EIUAA Chapter Meeting <i>(Dr. Daiva Markelis—Memoir Writing)</i>	Neal Welcome Center
Th Sept. 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center
Th Oct. 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m.	EIUAA Chapter Meeting <i>(President Glassman)</i>	Neal Welcome Center
Th Dec. 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m.	Board of Directors Meeting	Neal Welcome Center



News From Our Members

Charles G. "Doc" Eberly (Counseling and Student Development, ret. 2011) has been honored by the Association of Fraternity and Sorority Advisors with the naming of the Dr. Charles Eberly Oracle Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to *Oracle*, AFSA's peer-reviewed research journal. Further details can be found at <http://www.sigep.org>.

Richard D. Jacques (Communication Disorders and Sciences, ret. 2005) has finished writing a memoir, *A Kid's Chronicle: From High School Dropout to Ph.D.*, that is to be published in spring of 2016 and will be available at Amazon.com.

Jim Johnson (Dean, CAH, ret. 2009) and **Jeff Boshart** (Art, ret. 2014) are continuing to produce large-scale public sculptures and participate in gallery exhibitions while enrolled in sculpture classes in the EIU Art Department with Professor Matt Boonstra. Their work can be seen from Kansas to South Carolina. Jim currently has a solo exhibition in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, and Jeff will be installing a permanent sculpture on Hilton Head Island sometime this spring.

John Kilgore (English, ret. 2010). I have started keeping a blog, of all things, at blogspot.com. Google "the Idle Curmudgeon" and click for my opinionated takes on popular culture, politics, and English grammar.

Roann Kopel (School of Business, ret. 2010). We bought our RV in May 2012. Since then we have traveled through and/or camped in all but six of the lower 48. In the winter of 2013, we explored Florida, from the Keys up the west coast to Pensacola. The next winter we explored the east coast of Texas and centrally located San Antonio and Dallas. In winter of 2015, we traveled through Arizona.

This winter we returned to Mesa, Arizona for 3 months. We spent New Year's Eve on the Florida-Alabama border watching fireworks at the Florabama Bar and on New Year's Day participated in a polar plunge, again at the Florabama Bar. We celebrated New Year's with friends we met on our first RV trip.

Then we headed west to Arizona. Throughout our travels we have visited with pals from Charleston, Glenbard West high school buddies, and other friends and relatives along the way. It would be fun to get together with EIU annuitants also spending the winter in Arizona. So if you are near Mesa, send me an email at roannkopel@hotmail.com.

Helen Krehbiel (Music, ret. 1998). I moved to Hood River, Oregon in November 2014. The beauty of the landscape is breathtaking, with Mt. Hood to the south, Mt. Adams to the north,

and the mighty Columbia River in between. I live at Providence Down Manor and play lots of piano, bridge, pool, and pinocle, and enjoy many new friends! The greatest thing about my move is that I get to enjoy son Rodney, daughter-in-law Theresa, and Rory and Jasper, my two very special grandchildren, without packing a suitcase. I can listen to Rory and Jasper's weekly radio program every Tuesday night. It's a great place to visit! We are the kite surfing and windsurfing capital of the world, so I'm told, and this time of year is wonderful for skiing. If you travel this way, let me know!



Gail Mason (Communication Studies, Women's Studies, ret. 2010). I have been helping out with the IRS Volunteer Income Tax Assistance Program (VITA). Until the beginning of April, seniors and other taxpayers who earn \$53,000 or less may have their income tax returns prepared FREE at the Lifespan Center. Out-of-scope situations include farm property, rental property, and military income. For an appointment call 639-5150.

John Schmitt (Office of Development, ret. 2013). In November 2015 I spent 15 days in Peru and Ecuador. Visited Lima, Cuzco, Urubamba, Aguas Calientes, and Machu Picchu in Peru. Hiked the Sun Gate trail, which was a challenge, and also the Inca Bridge trail. Then on to Ecuador and the city of Quito and a flight to the Galápagos Islands, where I spent five days exploring the islands. A bucket list trip completed.



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Remembering Family and Friends

[FOLLOWING ARE BRIEF NOTICES ONLY. TO READ FULL OBITUARY OR LEAVE CONDOLENCES, VISIT WWW.JG-TC.COM AND CLICK ON "OBITUARIES."]

Dr. Carleton Edgar Curran, Jr. (History) died Sunday, November 15, 2015, at his residence.

Dr. Michael Alan Goodrich (Biology), 82, passed away Sunday, November 22, 2015, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Shirley Rose (Cox) Hollensbee (Booth Library), 77, of Hazel Dell, passed away on Friday, November 6, 2015, at Union Hospital in Terre Haute, IN.

Walter Herman McPheron (Maintenance), 93, of Mattoon, passed away on Friday, November 27, 2015, at Carle Foundation Hospital.

Betty George Muller (Physical Education), 90, of Scottsdale, Arizona, passed away peacefully on Tuesday, September 29, 2015.

Dr. Bill T. Ridgeway (Life Sciences), 87, of Charleston, passed away Saturday, November 7, 2015, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Richard Alan Stewart (Building Services), 66, of Charleston, passed away Sunday, December 6, 2015, at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

Paul Thennes (Buildings and Grounds), age 66, of Charleston and McHenry, IL, passed away on Saturday, November 7, 2015, at Blessing Hospital in Quincy, IL.

Carl Ernest Cartwright (Physical Plant), age 74, of Charleston, passed away on Saturday, December 12, 2015.

Judith D. "Judy" Kleiss Black (Physical Education), 63, of Tuscola, IL, passed away on December 25, 2015.

Nina Kathryn Kesler Burnett (Housekeeping), 95, of Johnston City, IL, passed away on Wednesday, December 23, 2015.

Dr. Bill Cloud (Physics), 92, of Charleston, passed away at Charleston Rehabilitation and Health Care Center on Wednesday, January 6, 2016.

Marjorie Lanman (Business), age 92, of Charleston, passed away on Thursday, January 28, 2016.

Suzanne Lynn Craig (Food Services), 65, of Janesville, passed away on Friday, January 29th at her residence.

Martin Donald Ignazito (Physical Plant), 77, of Charleston, passed away at his home on Wednesday, February 3.

Elizabeth Cassidy (Food Service), 88, of rural Charleston, passed away Thursday, February 25, 2015, at her home.

Our thanks to Dr. Alan Baharlou for collecting the obituaries.

President's View, from p. 1

please consider it. The automatic deduction significantly streamlines the dues accountability for EIUAA.

As you continue to read this edition of *New Horizons*, you will learn about the activities of the other committees of EIUAA and the numerous ways that these volunteers are serving you. But we need **YOU**, too! If there is a committee that interests you, let us know. If you think you would be a good addition to the Board of Directors, let us know. Your membership is our greatest asset, but your participation in EIUAA activities ensures sustainability and continued success!

Thank you for all you do for EIUAA, and I look forward to seeing you at the EIUAA luncheon on April 29.

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Brookhart Speaks, from p. 1

Governor Rauner, and an attempted veto override in the House failed by two votes on March 2.

And yet, said Brookhart, people still don't seem to realize how grave the situation is. "Everyone will realize it pretty soon," she remarked. "Your roads are going to fall completely apart." Already many vital social services have been cut or discontinued. The Capitol owes Springfield upwards of \$12 million for utilities, and the city has warned that it cannot continue to subsidize the state.

The crisis, in Brookhart's view, has been caused by "two men in power"—Governor Bruce Rauner and House Speaker Michael Madigan—"completely stopping the work" of the legislature as they struggle for control. Both men keep control of their blocs in the legislature through campaign contributions that enforce obedience. And some of Rauner's money is coming from out of state. "Legislators are....just scared, with what feels like a noose around their neck from the Speaker or the Governor."

What can EIUAA members do to help? Keep the pressure on, in Brookhart's view. "Keep those letters, post cards, and phone calls coming" to Rauner and Madigan and local representatives.

And of course, if you have colleagues—retired or still employed—who have not yet joined EIUAA, tell them that now is the time.

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Writing Your Own Obituary, or Maybe a Memoir

by Audrey Edwards

I had a good time writing my obituary recently. Does that sound strange? When I called the *Journal Gazette -Times Courier* to learn about their format, Clint Walker thought he had heard me wrong. (He usually gets obits from the deceased's funeral home.)

I had written an obituary about a family member before, so I knew the task has its bright side. While caring for my older sister during the last two months of her life, I reminisced with her, asking her about her first job, slipping in a question about where that job was located, recalling the time we made Christmas candles in the kitchen (Mom scraped up spattered wax for months). While we were sharing memories, I was gathering facts so I could write about her. By the time she died, I had finished her obituary and sent it to our siblings so they could add to or change it as they wished. One less thing to fuss over when the time came.

Writing about myself has proved interesting for other reasons. The psychologist Erik Erikson described eight stages of life development, saying the last stage is an opportunity to look back and see the overall meaning of one's life, ideally appreciating its value and resolving any lingering doubts. I thought writing my obituary would give me an opportunity to look back on my life and would be easy to do while I'm healthy.

I had no trouble with the basics—my birthplace, the names of my parents, brothers, and sisters—but my accomplishments looked like nothing much. My son, though, had a different reaction. "Mom! You totally switched careers so you could keep our family together!" And my husband said, "You're a good listener. I noticed that when I first met you." Turns out I am worth something to those I care about.

If you find you like writing your obituary, you might consider joining a memoir-writing group. Daiva Markelis leads a group on the second Tuesday of each month from 6-8 p.m., and Janet Messenger leads another group on the last Friday of the month from 1-3 p.m. You can find them at dmmarkelis@eiu.edu and mess@consolidated.net, respectively.

You're invited to hear Daiva's group read samples of their work at the July 7 EIUAA meeting. You never know where this will take you: my friend Patrick cared for his ailing father for seven years, in the process listening to a book's worth of World War II adventures. And

he's now getting them published!

Back to the *JG-TC*: That newspaper offers two kinds of obituaries, a basic five-paragraph version for \$40 (\$60 with photo) and a custom version, one that the family writes, for \$12 an inch. The basic version will include facts such as "She taught kindergarten for 50 years"; in the custom version, you can add, "Her five-year-old students loved her bright-colored shoes."

I'd vote for the shoes.

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KEEPING CONNECTED

EIU Homepage

<http://www.eiu.edu>

EIUAA Homepage

<http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants>

SUAA Homepage

<http://suaa.org>

EIU Newsletter

>EIU Homepage >>Faculty and Staff >>>University Newsletter

Central Management Services

Homepage: www.illinois.gov/cms/Pages/default.aspx

Benefits: 800-442-1300

State Rep. Reggie Phillips

811 W. Lincoln Ave. Charleston, IL 61920

217-348-1110

State Sen. Dale Righter

88 Broadway Ave. Suite 1, Mattoon, IL 61938

217-235-6033

Office of the Governor

<http://www.illinois.gov/gov/contactus/Pages/default.aspx>

217-782-0244

Capitol Fax

<http://capitolfax.com>



COMMITTEE REPORTS

Communications

Your communications committee has been busy piecing together this newsletter. We typically start a minimum of three months ahead of our publication date. Your feedback has been very gratifying to read!

Keeping the listserv (a program that automatically distributes email to names on a mailing list) is the duty of the committee chair. This involves adding emails of new members and removing those of deceased and non-renewing members. **It is very important that we have your current email address so that the listserv is accurate.**

—Vicki Hampton, Chair

Events

It's time to make your reservations for the EIUAA Luncheon, April 29 at the Life Span Center.

The reservation form is found in this newsletter, so please send it in as soon as possible. This event is always fun, especially when we get to visit with former colleagues. Talk it up to other annuitants. Make sure they are EIUAA members and are coming to the luncheon. Let's achieve the best attendance ever!

—Julie Sterling, Chair

Legislative

We have been carefully watching the budget impasse in Springfield and any

proposed legislation that might be detrimental to SURS retirees. Although there have been some recent discussions between Governor Rauner and Senate President Cullerton about pension reform legislation, that proposal (at this time) would not impact retirees.

The committee met with President Glassman and the University's legislative liaison, Katie Anselment, to talk about ways that EIUAA could help support the University's agenda in Springfield.

President Glassman suggested that letters and phone calls from our members to the Governor, the four legislative leaders, and local legislators would be helpful. As soon as we finalize the message that the President would like us to deliver, we will share that with you and provide you contact information for the legislators.

—Jill Nilsen, Chair

Membership

The Membership Committee continues to work in earnest to maintain and increase the membership of EIUAA. All of the current EIU employees are eligible to be members, and there are many annuitants who are not members. So there is lots of potential for new members, and we are looking for contact information on people who might like to join. In October, we had a table at the EIU Flu Clinic and greeted many retirees and current EIU employees. We handed out our brochures and

recruited 6 new members that day!

We will continue to recruit EIU employees by attending Staff Senate, the Civil Service Council, and Faculty Senate this spring. We will continue our "Free Lunch" campaign at the EIUAA luncheon and at each Chapter meeting. So bring an EIU retiree or employee who is not a member to our meetings and we will enter both of you in a drawing for a gift card to a local restaurant! We look to you, our fellow members, to encourage your friends and colleagues to join EIUAA. A membership form can be found on the website, or email Mary Anne at mahanner@eiu.edu, or we can mail one if you contact one of us.

—Mary Anne Hanner, Chair

Scholarship

The Scholarship Committee has worked for the last few months to revise the criteria for the EIUAA Scholarship, hoping to increase awareness of the scholarship and encourage more students to apply. The revisions have been approved and the recipient will be recognized at the Spring Luncheon in April. The new criteria and background information can be found on the Annuitants Association website:

castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/scholarship .

Ms. Nancy Dole has recently joined the Scholarship Committee and has been a great asset to our efforts.

—Margaret Messer and Nancy Dole,
Chairs

BULLETIN BOARD

Save Newsletter Costs! Help Us to Use EIUAA Money Wisely!

If the mailman still delivers your *New Horizons*, please help us save money. Just email us at mahanner@eiu.edu with the words *Subscribe by email* in the subject line (no need for a message). That way, we can send your next issue electronically. The money EIUAA saves will go to worthy causes such as protecting your pension and awarding scholarships!

Learn About the Academy of Lifelong Learning

We offer many programs that are currently enjoyed by annuitants. Go to eiu.edu/adulted/all.php and scroll down to **read our brochure**. Notice the **wine tasting** scheduled for June 17 at the Brickhouse Bar. Feel free to contact me!

—Marita Metzke, mjmetzke@eiu.edu, Director



Please join us for the 45th Annual EIU Annuitants Association Luncheon

Friday, April 29, 2016

Lifespan Center

11021 E. Co. Rd. 800N, Charleston, IL 61920-8632

Entertainment: The EIU Speech Team

MENU

- Ham and Roast Beef
- Mashed Potatoes and Gravy
- Green Beans & Corn
- Coleslaw & Noodles
- Coffee, Tea, and Lemonade
- Pies (sugar and sugar free), Rolls

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RSVP by returning the completed bottom of this form by April 15, 2016

Doors open at 11:00 a.m. with luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m.

If you bring a non-member to the luncheon and your guest joins us as a member (anyone is eligible), your names will be entered into a drawing for a free lunch at a local restaurant.

RSVP

Reserve _____ luncheon tickets at \$9.50 per person (includes gratuity)

Annuitant (name) _____

Annuitant (name) _____

Guest (name) _____

Enclosed is a check payable to EIU Annuitants Association for \$_____

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



EIU ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION
BRAINARD HOUSE
EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
CHARLESTON, IL 61920



**EIUAA sincerely thanks the EIU Foundation for
financial support that makes publication of the
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