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Jayne Ozier, President
Ellen Keiter, Membership Chair
Frank McCormick, Secretary

Julie Sterling, Vice- President
Barb Funk, Treasurer
Alan Baharlou, Newsletter Editor/
Legislative Chair

Financial support of EIU Foundation is appreciated

LOOKING AHEAD

On Thursday April 14, 2011, at the Chapter Meeting in the Neal Welcome Center, Dr. Bill Weber, Eastern Vice President for Business Affairs, will give an overview of EIU’s Strategic Planning Process. Following that Cameron Craig, 2010-11 EIU Professor Laureate, Geographer, Climatologist, and Director of the EIU Weather Center will be our featured speaker.

MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EIUAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
April 14 2011	Neal Welcome Center	June 2, 2011	Neal welcome Center
July 14, 2011	Neal Welcome Center	September 8, 2011	Neal Welcome Center
October 13, 2011	Neal Welcome Center	December 1, 2011	Neal Welcome Center

PRESIDENT’S VIEW

Greetings Everyone! What a winter we’ve had! I love seeing the yellow feathers on the gold finches and seeing the daffodil, tulip, and crocus leaves with anticipation of the beautiful blooms. Our travels to the Neal Welcome Center EIUAA Chapter meeting should be easy and pleasant compared to our January luncheon.

At our April 14, Chapter Meeting, Vice President of Business Affairs Bill Weber will give an overview of EIU’s strategic planning process. As valued stakeholders, he has invited us to participate in the strategic planning process. We will have a sign up sheet for all interested in attending the session with the date, time, and location. For more

information, you may go to www.eiu.edu/strategicplanning.

After VP Weber's presentation, 2010-11 Professor Laureate Cameron Craig, geographer, climatologist, and Director of the EIU Weather Center will be our featured speaker.

Likely, we will not have the opportunity to hear from our SUAA lobbyist or representatives. Our meeting is the day before the legislatures last day in session prior to their spring recess, April 16-26. Generally, all representatives and lobbyists are in Springfield on that day. However, the break does provide a good time for annuitants to share face-to-face information with our representatives in their local offices. Your phone calls, letters, and e-mails are also very important means of communication.

As always, your efforts to recruit new EIUAA members are essential. Every new member helps protect our pensions and benefits.

Enjoy the beautiful signs of spring and take care of yourselves,
S. Jayne Ozier, EIUAA President

Message from EIUAA Membership Chair

A Brief Q & A Related to Your Membership

What is SUAA?

SUAA, the State Universities Annuitant Association, is an advocacy organization whose *only* mission is to work on behalf of all participants in and beneficiaries of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). This includes all current employees, retirees, spouses, and survivors affiliated with Illinois public universities and community colleges.

How are EIUAA and SUAA related?

EIUAA is one of over fifty chapters of SUAA. Your membership in EIUAA automatically makes you a member of SUAA as well. Of your \$30 in annual dues, \$25 goes to SUAA and \$5 to our local chapter. If you join or renew through SUAA, your membership in EIUAA is also activated or renewed.

What does SUAA do?

The organization maintains a small office staff in Springfield near the State Capitol. These staff members continually monitor issues related to retirement benefits, build working relationships with legislators and other government officials, provide testimonies and documentation to policy makers, and keep members informed of legislation affecting retirement benefits. SUAA also cooperates with other groups on matters of mutual interest while remaining true to its sole purpose of protecting retirement benefits of SURS participants.

Your membership dues support all of this important work. Thank you for doing your part to keep our voice in Springfield strong and effective!

Ellen Keiter
EIUAA Membership Chair
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Editor's Message

How Illinois State Government Got the Best Pension Deal in the Nation,

Public employees' pensions have been the topic of intense discussions, debates, and controversy, in our neighboring & nearby states of Wisconsin, Indiana & Ohio and are brewing in other states. These states have implemented drastic actions exclusively at the expense of public employees. In addition, they implemented policies denying their public workers one of the most fundamental American principles, the right of public employees to select representatives to negotiate on their behalf.

In spite of a constitutional law requiring Illinois to meet its obligations to public employees' pensions, the state has figured out how not to do that and faces the possible challenges, problems, and crises of other states. Simply put, Illinois did not meet its full obligations from the start. Illinois pension code allows State and local governments to avoid paying the required contributions for employees' retirements on time & Illinois did exactly that. Year after year, the State postponed making its full obligation and some years declared a Pension Holiday and paid no contributions at all.

The Pew Center Study on States ranks Illinois as having the most underfunded public pension plan in the nation. At the end of the current fiscal year on June 30, 2011, legislative analysts project the five retirement systems for which State government is responsible will need roughly \$131 billion to cover benefits already earned by public workers, with only \$46 billion in expected assets (which are mainly employees' contributions & investment interests) to cover these costs. The other \$85 billion represents the unfunded liability; an obligation the State must meet but for which no funding source exists and which the State never pays. Do you believe Illinois will ever pay its \$85 billion in obligations? None of the legislators we have talked to believe that will ever happen. Therefore, the State of Illinois ends up having the best pension deal in the US and, most likely, any other place in the world where they have public or private employees' pensions. I assume Illinois legislators knew what they were doing in 1940 when they chose Defined Benefits instead of Social Security or Defined Contributions for their public employees' retirement benefits. The latter two options would have required under penalty of United States law that the State pay its share each month on time.

In conclusion, Illinois has enjoyed and benefited from the labor of hundreds of thousands of workers for over sixty years without being required to match those workers' monthly contributions to the State Pension Fund, which would have been mandatory under Social Security or Defined Contributions.

Alan Baharlou,
Newsletter Editor & legislative Chair

Chapter News

EIU Annuitants Association celebrated their 40th year in existence on January 21, 2011 with a luncheon and entertainment in St. Charles Borromeo Church in Charleston.

We enjoyed an exuberant, humorous and melodious performance by the Four Voices Entertainment (Annuitant Al Horney with four voices, rhythm section and sound staff).

Alan Baharlou paid a tribute to William H. Zeigel one of the founders of State Universities Annuitants Associations (SUAA) on September 20, 1971 and Eastern Illinois University Annuitants Associations (EIUAA) on September 27, 1971. William Zeigel was the second president of SUAA and first president of EIUAA. William Zeigel was also one of the group members responsible for passage of the Illinois Constitutional Guarantee of Public Employees Pensions. We awarded the EIU Annuitants Association Scholarship to Kaylee Hackney and Dale Wolf was recognized as the Annuitant Ambassador of the year by Patti Stratton, Executive Director of the EIU Foundation. Guests were EIU President William Perry and Linda Perry, Vice President of the University Advancement Bob Martine, State Senator Dale Righter, Executive Director of the EIU Foundation, Patti Stratton, Nancy page EIU Foundation Philanthropy and Representative Rose's aide.

The EIU Annuitants Association March 3, 2011 Executive Committee meeting deliberated several issues among which was the Evaluation of January 21, 2011 Luncheon. The meal, entertainments & table arrangements all were excellent. However, there has been a request that the luncheon be moved from January to October to alleviate the threat of bad weather and better traveling for those away from the area. Discussion followed with a suggestion to have the banquet in April or late March. It was agreed to check with the Church on availability in the spring on any day of the week in 2012, not necessarily having it on a Monday or a Friday

Campus NEWS

- **EIU has raised \$42.56 million -- 85 percent of its \$50 million goal -- through "EI&U: The Campaign for Eastern," the largest fundraising effort in EIU's history. The campaign theme is "Expect Greatness," and officials do just that.**

"We are very grateful for the strong support we've received so far, and I am confident that we will continue to benefit from the public's generosity," said EIU Vice President for University Advancement Robert Martin, who also praised volunteers for helping make the campaign a success. The campaign focuses on four priorities: students (funding scholarships); faculty and staff (attracting and retaining world-class faculty, as well as supporting research, creative projects and service activities); capital improvements (including building a new science center, courtyard spaces and a Lantz Arena gateway); and programs (including developing centers that would focus on

specific subjects, with possibilities such as autism, entrepreneurship and innovation, ethics, financial health, geographic information systems and remote sensing, humanities, student community service and wellness).

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- **Dr. Mary Anne Hanner, Dean of College of Science will be retiring at the end of June 2011. Mary Anne received her Bachelors & Masters Degree in Speech Pathology from EIU and her Ph.D. in Educational Administration from Indiana State University.**
- **Mary Anne came to EIU in 1981 as Faculty in the Communication Disorders & Sciences Department. In 1989 she became the Director of EIU Speech Language Hearing Clinic and later became Chair of the Department. In 2000 she became Acting Dean for College of Sciences and then beginning July of 2002 she became the Dean of College of Sciences.**
- **Mary Anne has received many awards and recognitions among which are: Gold Alumnus of Indiana State University Honors of the Association of the Illinois Speech Language Hearing Association, EIU Graduate Student Mentor Award, and EIU Woman of Achievement Award. Mary Anne is Lifelong resident of Oakland with husband Dale.**
- **Associate Dean of the college Dr. Godson Obia has been appointed as the Interim Dean**
- **The new Eastern Illinois University's Textbook Rental Services Building will bear the name of Louise M. Grado. He taught elementary education at EIU from 1955 until his retirement in 1989. Grado was also acting head of School Elementary & Junior High School & Then head of the newly formed Department of Elementary & Junior High School Education & remained in that position until he retired .**
- **EIU President Bill Perry has testified on behalf of Eastern & other State Universities to be partially funded based upon performance in front of State Senate Appropriation & House of Representative Higher Education Committees & Illinois Board of Higher Education. This method of funding involves appropriating state funds based on university performance at certain criteria, including retention rates, graduation and academics. Eastern performance is among the highest in all of these areas among state's public universities.**

STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS

There are many bills being called in the respective committees in this month. We will see what survives the committee hearings before the first spring break which begins the evening of St. Patrick's Day. The numbers of bills have been seriously reduced, but remember this doesn't mean that the subject matter goes away. April and May will be quite long in legislative session terms. Issues that are being followed are: elimination of tuition waivers for children of university employees, College Insurance Program, State

Health Insurance, pension changes for those currently working, taxing of pension income, COLAs, etc

Two relevant issues: the current state employees' and retirees' Pension and Health Care Benefits are now being discussed by Illinois Legislators. Senator John Cullerton, president of the Illinois Senate, has proposed to tax state employees' pensions. Cullerton said he might want to tax retirees with pensions of more than \$100,000. Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan outlined many of the decisions the Illinois General Assembly must face during the current legislative session. He warned there likely will be proposals to reduce pension benefits for current State employees. However, as of this time, no bills regarding these changes have been introduced in either the Illinois House or Senate.

There also have been several proposals to increase Health Care premiums for State Employees. The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) awarded a contract to Mercer Benefit Consultant Company for the study of the cost of healthcare provided to State retirees. Among other things, the company will be looking at household income as one of the resources for the report. Other factors will be looked at such as: surveying other states to see what is offered to retirees, private sector health insurance, how to establish fees, flat fees, etc. It seems that the targets are those who are retired (age 55 - 65), working in other employment and not as yet Medicare eligible. The Company will provide its report by April 25th.

Illinois use of Death Penalty Ends-Governor Quinn signed the legislation on March 9, abolishing the death penalty in Illinois.

QUALITY CARE HEALTH PLAN CHANGES

Changes to the Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP) are being implemented, effective March 1, 2011. These changes are being put into place to encourage plan participants to utilize in-network providers, which, in turn, should lower the state's overall costs for running the program. The following changes will be made to the plan:

- 1. The 25-mile rule will no longer apply.**
- 2. All services received from out-of-network providers will be applied only to the out-of-network \$4,400 individual/\$8,800 family out-of-pocket maximum.**
- 3. All services received from in-network providers will be applied only to the in-network \$1,200 individual/\$3,000 family out-of-pocket maximum.**
- 4. Charges for all out-of-network services will be covered at 70 percent of the usual and customary after the plan year deductible.**

The bottom line. . . Plan participants receive enhanced benefits resulting in lower out-of-pocket costs when receiving services from a QCHP network provider. Questions or concerns regarding these changes can be directed to CMS at 1-800-442-1300.



NEWS FROM YOU



EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

Doris Grant celebrated her 93rd Birthday on February 25th. Doris is the daughter of Harry & Rosa Roberts. She married Russell Grant now deceased. Doris was employed in Food Service at EIU

Helen Hanner of Oakland Celebrated her 90th Birthday on February 5th. Helen is the daughter of James H. & Maude Gross. Her family moved to Oakland area in 1936. She married Howard Hanner on Jan. 15, 1940. Helen is the mother of 3 Children, Max (Carolyn), Dale (Mary Anne) & a daughter Shirley (Gene)

Ed and Judy Moll celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in July 2010 on a western Caribbean cruise with their sons Doug and Jeff and Jeff's family (wife Maridee, son Jackson and daughter Addison). They are in good health, busy, and happy.

Remembering Friends



Daniel E. (Dan) Thornburgh, 80, passed away on Thursday, January 13, 2011. Dan first came to Eastern Illinois University in 1959 as director of information. From 1965 to 1984 he served as the chairperson of the nationally accredited Department of Journalism which he was instrumental in creating. He then became the director of University Relations and then retired as the assistant to the president in 1992. Surviving are his wife, Adrienne; three children, four grandchildren, two sisters. Some of Thornburgh's community involvement included serving on the Charleston City Council from 1973 to 1977, serving as a long-time member of the e Charleston Rotary Club and as a district governor for Rotary, and being a member of the Coles County Historical Society and the Lincoln-Sargent Farm Foundation.

Douglas Robert Di Bianco, 68, of Charleston, died Sunday, February 6, 2011 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. He is survived by his wife and their daughter, Danielle Lillian DiBianco of Chicago. Doug received his Doctorate Degree in Music Education from the University of Illinois. He taught Music Appreciation and Non-Western Music in the Music Department at EIU for 32 years, and recently retired in June 2010. He helped to found the LGBAU student organization on campus, now called EIU Pride.

Robert Barford, 76 passed on December 10, 2010, at Hilltop Convalescent Center in the presence of his family. He is survived by his wife, Judy; sons Paul (Carol) Miles of Charleston, Ian (Anna), daughter Mary and dozens of nieces and nephews and their children continue to live in Milwaukee. Bob completed his doc. He won National Endowment for the Humanities fellowships to Princeton U. and to the U. of Freiburg, torate specializing in ancient (Greek) philosophy. He joined the philosophy department at EIU in 1968. . After retirement in 1998, Bob taught three times for the Maastricht Center for Transatlantic Studies, Netherlands

Max Burton Ferguson, age 94 of Charleston, died of heart complications on Monday, January 3, 2011 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Max is survived by Bernice HUS WIFE OF 69 YEARS; two sons, J. Alan Ferguson and M. Curtis Ferguson; & one daughter, Jane Ellen Ferguson. He spent 4 years in the Force. He earned his Ph.D. in Physiology at the University of Iowa. He and Bernice then moved to Charleston in 1950 where he joined the teaching staff at Eastern Illinois State Teachers College as a Professor of Physiology until his early retirement in 1975.

Dr. Carl Edward Emmerich, age 79 of Charleston, passed away on Monday, February 14, 2011 at his home. He married Norma E. Sanden on December 30, 1962 and they shared 46 years of marriage prior to her death on July 7, 2009. Carl was a United States Air Force Veteran having served during the Korean War. He was awarded his Doctorate of Education in 1968 from Penn State University. Dr. Emmerich began his teaching career at Eastern Illinois University in 1963 and was a familiar figure on the EIU Campus for the next thirty-eight years.

Dr. Earl Doughty, Jr., age 83 of Alton and formerly of Charleston, went home to be with his Lord and Savior on Thursday, December 30, 2010 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. He married Ora Yuvonne Hoffard on July 3, 1949 and they celebrated forty-two years of marriage prior to her death on August 28, 1991. He later married Charlotte Kinder on October 6, 1996. He is survived by his wife Charlotte Doughty and her children and their families; three daughters, Brenda Duzan, Vicky O'Neil and husband Mark, Rebecca Furry and husband Brian eight grandchildren,; three great-grandchildren. He served in World War II Occupation Forces in Japan. He received his Doctorate's Degree in Education. Dr. Doughty taught at E.I.U. on a full-time basis from 1963 until his retirement in 1987 and in a part-time capacity until 1992

Christiaan J. Beurskens, age 70, passed away in the presence of his loving family on Tuesday, January 18, 2011 at his Charleston home. Chris was a veteran of the United States Air Force serving from October of 1963 until August of 1967. He received his Bachelors degree from Eastern Illinois University and his Masters degree from Boise State. For more than twenty years Chris was employed with Eastern Illinois University as a computer programmer.

Hazel Pearl Bough, 95, of Charleston, passed away Friday, January 21, 2011 at Hilltop Convalescent Center. She married Virgil Bough in 1935; he preceded her in death November 4, 1985. She is survived by their children: Arthur (Marge) Bough , Julia (Bill) Furry , Darlene (Larry) Wooten , and Pee Wee (Georgia) Bough ; one daughter-in-law: Mary Bough; brothers: Roy (Opal) Woodyard L, Leo (Norma Jean) Woodyard s, Ray (Ethel) Woodyard , and Willis (Irene) Woodyard . Nine grandchildren and nine great-grandchildren also survive.

Richard Grey Swartzbaugh, 71, of Charleston, died Saturday, December 18, 2010, at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. He married Dorothy Louise Stoepfelwerth, October 27, 1962; she survives. Also surviving are their children: Alfred Walter ,Richard Andrew, Anne Elizabeth Swartzbaugh-Anderson, and Frederick Allen Swartzbaugh Two grandchildren: Cassidy Anderson and Larissa Dorothea Brandl; as well as one sister: Mildred Limmer; and one brother: Ed Swartzbaugh , also survives. Richard was preceded in death by his parents and one brother: Jeffrey Swartzbaugh. Richard was an assistant professor of Sociology/ Anthropology at Eastern Illinois University

Dr. Laszlo “Leslie” Tivadar Andre, J.D., age 96, passed away on Saturday, March 12, 2011 in San Antonio. Dr. Andre was born in Budapest. With his wife, Helen and son, they emigrated to the United States in 1956. Laszlo received a Masters in Library Science from Western Michigan University and went on to teach Library Science at Eastern Illinois University until his retirement as a full Professor in 1983. After the death of his wife in 1998, Laszlo married Eva Varga . Dr. Andre is survived by his wife, Eva; son, Laszlo and wife, Jane, grandson, John D. Andre and wife, Karla and 3 great-grandchildren, Hayden, Adam and Payton Andre.

Howard W. Fortney, 91, of Tolono passed away at 12:23 P.M., Friday, January 21, 2011 at Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. He married Ruby Starwalt &. She preceded him in death on April 2, 2008. Surviving are a sister, Dorothy Hughes, three sister-in-laws; Mr. Fortney served four years in the United States Army during [World War II](#). He was employed by , Eastern Illinois University

Robert Dean Pierce, age 72 of Charleston, passed away on Wednesday, December 15, 2010 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. . He married Wanda G. Shafer on August 19, 1962 and for the past forty-eight years they have shared a loving marriage and a devoted friendship. In addition to Wanda he is survived by his sister, Willetta Jones and husband Phil. Bob was a 1957 graduate of Charleston High School and furthered his education at Eastern Illinois University. He later became an employee of E.I.U. devoting thirty years to their Food Services Department.

Shirley Melton, passed away Tuesday, Dec. 14. Mrs. Melton was the office manager for Alpha Sigma Lambda, a national honor society for nontraditional adult students. Funeral arrangements are pending; they will be posted here when information is available

Marina Su-Chin Yu, 91, of Charleston, IL, a retired Eastern Illinois University PE professor of 25 years, died January 29, 2011. She was born in Shangtung, China. She came to the U.S. in 1958. Marina Yu, wife of the late Tseng-Shen Niu, is survived by daughters, Annie Niu Ho, Angela Niu and Anita Niu; 10 grandchildren and 4 great-grand children

We want to express our sympathy to the following Annuitant

Alberta June Fite, 93 died Saturday, Dec. 4, in Oklahoma City, Okla. She was the widow of former EIU president [Gilbert Fite, who died July 13, 2010](#) Gilbert & Alberta married in 1941. While they lived in India in 1962-63 and 1969-70, she helped care for the poor, working with Mother Theresa of Calcutta. The Fites lived in Charleston during his presidency of Eastern from 1971 to 1976 After graduating from nursing school at the Dakota Wesleyan University and Methodist State Hospital, she took care of a gravely ill young man who turned out to be her eventual husband. She is survived by four sisters, one brother, two sons, six grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Marie L. Kaufman, age 95 of Charleston, Illinois, died Wednesday, January 26, 2011 in Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center. Mrs. Kaufman is the daughter of the late George and Eva (Kirschweg) La Chance. She was married to Joseph R. Kaufman on Aug. 8, 1940. A retired railroad engineer and U.S. Army WW II veteran who served in the European campaign, Mr.

Kaufman predeceased her July 5, 1982. She worked part-time as a newspaper stringer for the Daily Mining Gazette in Houghton, Michigan in the 1940s, and the Milwaukee Sentinel in the 1960s, and was known by her friends as "Scoop". She also worked part-time as a clerk at Radio Shack in Terre Haute in the 1990s. She is survived by her daughter, Susan J. Kaufman and her daughter's domestic partner, Marlaine L. Francis,

Catherine S. Grigoroff, 85, of Charleston passed away Thursday, December 16, 2010 at Sarah Bush Lincoln Health Center, She married Waldo Grigoroff June 26, 1948 in Harrisburg, he survives. Also surviving are seven children: Marta (Dave) Slaughter, Karen (Bob) Murphy, Marc Grigoroff , Chris Grigoroff, Jana (Bill) Schulenburg , Dana (Brian) Christianson and Scott Grigoroff (Shelly). Twenty-one grandchildren and six great-grandchildren

Harriett J. Steele, 87, of Charleston, passed away Sunday, January 23, 2011 at Hilltop Convalescent Center She married Sidney R. Steele, September 23, 1944, in Cadiz, OH; he preceded her in death November 24, 2007. Surviving are their children: Harvey Steele (Mary Beth), Janet Steele (Paul Twigg) . Two grandchildren: Kara Steele and Allison Steele also survive. She was preceded in death by two brothers and two sisters. Harriett had worked at Eastern Illinois University as an Office Associate in Duplicating Services and as a Laboratory Technician in the Chemistry Department.

James A Walker, Jr 39 passed away at his home on December 19, 2010. He is survived by his mother, Mary Alice Walker of rural Lerna, IL Three sisters, Michele Myerscough (Paul), Martha Walters (Steve), Juanita L. Jones, a brother, Jimmy Walker James was a United states Navy Reserve Veteran. He was employed as systems engineer with Jupiter Network.

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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Dear Annuitants,

If you receive the Newsletter in hardcopy, we request that you help us save our limited funds and resources by receiving it via e-mail, if it is possible. If you are willing to do that, please send me an e-mail (abaharlou@eiu.edu) to let me know.

If you do not receive up-to-date information regarding pension & health care benefits, that means I do not have your e-mail address. If you send me your e-mail address I e-mail you these information using BCC so no one else sees your e-mail address.