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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

Bill Mabe, SURS Executive Director will be the featured Speaker for our October 13, 2011, Chapter meeting in the Neal Welcome Center.

MEETING DATES COMING UP

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETINGS: (8:30 am)		EIUAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETINGS: (9 am)	
October 13, 2011	Neal Welcome Center	September 8, 2011	Neal welcome Center
January 12, 2012	Neal Welcome Center	December 1, 2011	Neal welcome Center
April TBA, 2012		March 8, 2012	Neal welcome Center
July 12, 2012	Neal Welcome Center	June 14, 2012	Neal welcome Center
October 11, 2012	Neal Welcome Center	September, 13, 2012	Neal welcome Center
		December 6, 2012	Neal welcome Center

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Greetings to you. We certainly have been on a “benefits roller coaster” over the past six months. Thanks to your SUAA/EIU memberships and communications, central Illinois annuitant health insurance needs were heard. On August 31, 2011, the Illinois Chief Procurement Officer approved the extension of your current health insurance coverage through June 30, 2012.

If you are dissatisfied with your health carrier plan, you may change it during a Special Enrollment Period. The enrollment period will be October 10 through October 28, 2011, with the changes effective December 1, 2011. You will receive a postcard from Central Management Services (CMS) with details. Remember: **“Members who change health plans will be required to satisfy all health plan and prescription deductibles associated with the**

new health plan, even if they had already satisfied the deductible under the previous health plan.” (Taken from CMS website on September 1, 2011)

The high attendance at our summer insurance meeting was great. I hope you can continue to participate in our meetings.

On October 13, 2011, Mr. William Mabe, the SURS Executive Director, will deliver the “State of the State Universities Retirement System” address with a question/answer period at our Chapter Meeting in the Neal Welcome Center.

Our January 12, 2012, meeting will feature Eastern Illinois University President Bill Perry. Included in his “State of the University” address will be goals identified through the strategic planning and an update on the “performance-based budgeting” process.

Soon we will notify you of our Annual EIUAA Chapter Luncheon April 2012 date and time. Since we had such icy, cold weather conditions this year, your Board decided to change the date from January to April.

As always, keeping informed about the economy and Illinois governmental activities is essential. Through e-mail, we provide information in a timely manner. However, at times a mailing is necessary.

If you retired within the past five years, we may not have your mailing address. Please send us your mailing address. If some of your friends no longer have access to e-mail, please ask them to contact us. Throughout the “insurance upheaval”, I relearned how important it is to “take care of others”. Communication is an excellent way to help all.

Take care of yourselves,
S. Jayne Ozier, EIUAA Chapter President

Message from EIUAA Membership Chair

MESSAGE TO MEMBERS

On behalf of the EIU Annuitants Association, thank you very much for your membership. You obviously recognize the importance of supporting the advocacy efforts of the State Universities Annuitants Association. You and your fellow members are an absolutely vital element of SUAA’s collective voice.

For those of you whose memberships expire annually, please continue to respond positively when you receive a renewal notice. If you followed the Illinois General Assembly’s budget discussions during the Spring 2011 session, you know that they included reducing state universities employees’ pension and healthcare benefits as a means of helping to cure the state’s fiscal problems. Those discussions are continuing and, if anything, proposals to cut our benefits seem to be finding wider support among legislators. Please continue to do your part to keep SUAA’s voice opposing these

measures as forceful and effective as possible.
Thank you again for your membership.

Ellen Keiter, Membership Chair
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Editor's Message

Vigilance!

As you are aware, due to Illinois' nearly \$13 billion budget deficit and \$82 billion in unpaid pension obligations, the state employees' contractual benefits have become easy targets. A flurry of proposals and bills have been introduced in the Illinois House & Senate to significantly change & reduce current state employees' and retirees' benefits, so far with no success, but they are persistent.

Similarly, state agencies under the new contract have attempted to reduce access to healthcare providers', particularly for East Central and Southern Illinois state employees and retirees by eliminating contracts with health care providers in this region. However, one of our country's greatest rights, the right of citizens to vote and be counted became a significant factor delaying this adverse health care change. The vigilant citizens in Eastern and Southern Illinois who were affected by limiting their access to health care providers, overwhelmed legislators with mails, e-mails and telephone calls. Since for these legislators staying in the office is their livelihood, they decided overwhelmingly to postpone the healthcare providers' elimination in these affected areas until a fairer and more reasonable decision is made. Once more, we saw the power of informed, vigilant, and persistent citizens' influence in a democratic system. Before summer recess, the legislators discussed two bills to require current state employees to pay twice the current rate for their pension and a significant increase in their health care premiums. Again, due to strong reactions by citizens, they postponed further discussions until next fall.

We hope that you will remain informed, vigilant, and prepared to react quickly to any adverse attempts by the legislature. Due to their continued large membership numbers, Current state employees and retirees have very strong organizations for their advocacy .However, individual reactions from constituents are the most powerful as has been shown repeatedly.

Alan Baharlou
EIUAA Newsletter Editor & legislative Chair

Chapter News

- I. After calling the meeting to order and cordially welcoming Association members and guests, President Ozier encouraged Annuitants and guests to “keep informed” regarding pending CMS changes in our health care options and pension and healthcare premium changes by the legislators. She thanked our newsletter editor Alan Baharlou for the timely updates he continues to provide via e-mail on this and other matters of interest to EIU’s annuitants

- II. Dr. Bill Weber, Vice-President for Business Affairs, offered an overview of Eastern’s Strategic Planning process. He noted that **Phase 1** of the process (appointment of a 25-member steering committee co-chaired by Bill Weber, Assege HaileMariam, and Ken Baker) was completed in January 2011. In progress is **Phase 2**, in which groups of EIU stakeholders are being given opportunities to engage in “SWOT” (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats) sessions facilitated by members of the steering committee. The sessions are designed to solicit “ideas and feedback” from EIU’s various communities of stakeholders concerning EIU’s “core values, the current and future challenges we face, and the critical issues we must proactively manage.” A SWOT session for **EIUAA stakeholders** (facilitated by Vice-President Weber and Professor Grant Sterling) was held on April 21
Dr. Weber noted that a full description of the Strategic Planning process may be accessed from the EIU home page by scrolling down to the “**Featured @ EIU**” column on the right-hand side of the page and clicking on “**Collaborative Strategic Planning.**” There one may learn that in **Phase 3** the steering committee will distill the information gathered from stakeholders into “three or more strategic priorities.” Members of the Steering Committee will then prepare a “concept paper” on each of the identified priorities. In **Phase 4**, members of each of the stakeholder groups will meet to review and discuss the concept papers – the desired outcome being “the creation of a preferred future for the university that can be distilled into a university vision statement.” In the final stage of the process (**Phase 5** – “The Goals Conference”) the steering committee will meet to “draft strategic goals for each of the concept paper themes and [develop] action plans to achieve each of the identified goals.” Following review by (and responses from) the President’s Council and the campus community, the steering committee will “finalize the goals and action plans” in a “concise” and “clearly written” strategic plan that will be presented to the Board of Trustees during their January 2012 meeting.

- III. **Presentation by Professor Cameron Craig (EIU Professor Laureate):** In a presentation entitled “Surviving Nature’s Wrath,” Professor Craig (Department of Geography/Geology) explained (a) the natural processes which give rise to severe

weather events and (b) the resources he makes available to students pursuing the Geography/Geology Department's broadcast meteorology minor.



Campus NEWS

- **Illinois Lawmakers visiting energy center see EIU 'vision become a reality'**

Illinois state legislators toured the EIU 's New Renewable E Energy Center at the invitation of state Rep. Chapin Rose, Thursday September 2. The Center has been supplying all of the steam for the climate control and domestic water needs on campus since June.

"Between (the solar panels) and the turbine we will nearly offset all the electricity it takes to run the plant," Reed said of the Renewable Energy Center. The two sets of solar panels are located on the south side of the center and can be shifted to the best angles for facing the sunlight.

The center houses a biomass gasifier that is fueled by wood chips..The wood chips are supplied from logging operations, sawmills and other sources. However, research will be conducted into using locally grown plants and other sources of biomass. EIU officials hope that the Renewable Energy Center will become a focal point for classroom education and for academic and commercial research into using biomass as an alternative energy source. They have discussed plans for developing an adjacent research center.

- **EI & You Campaign has raised \$ 46.1 Million.** During the Annual Faculty Reception on Wednesday August 31, President Perry said the Fundraising Campaign for Eastern has raised approximately 46.1 million toward its \$ 50 million goal. This is the largest capital campaign ever conducted on campus encompassing all areas of academics and athletics. "The participation of our own faculty & staff in giving to EIU jumped 75 percent in one year" Perry said, adding that EIU had several departments with 100-percent participation.
- **Outcomes-based funding passed by the Illinois Legislature. The legislation** reforms state funding for Illinois colleges and universities by appropriating state monies based on how the school performs at certain criteria, including retention rates, graduation and academics. In evaluating schools for outcomes-based funding, the IBHE and universities will come together to agree on the terms. President Bill Perry has been a supporter of this method since last year. In August, Perry wrote a letter to the Finance Study Commission highlighting his

main reasons for pushing this effort.

In his letter, Perry notes Eastern only received \$4,566 per full-time student in 2008, based on university figures. This is the lowest of state funding among the six four-year public master's institutions in Illinois. However, Eastern had the highest student retention rate and the second highest graduate rate among the six institutions that same year. Perry also testified on behalf of outcomes-based funding in front of the Senate Appropriations II Committee on March 9.

Dr. David K. Smith Professor of History was chosen as Eastern's 2011-2012 Faculty Laureate -- an honor

presented by the Council on Academic Affairs. As such, and in addition to his duties as a full-time faculty member, Smith will spend the coming school year as the university's official spokesperson on the importance of a general/liberal education.

His first opportunity was at 9 a.m. Friday, Aug. 19, when he delivered the keynote address at this year's Convocation, a welcoming ceremony for incoming students.

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- Gary Reed was chosen the 2010-2011 Daily Eastern News Person of the Year. Gary is the director of Facilities Planning and Management, and he and his staff keep this university running on a daily basis. Repairs, building service workers, recycling, engineering and construction projects are just some of the jobs handled by Reed and the Facilities Planning and Management office
- Dr. Michael Cornebise, Department Chair of Geology and Geography at Eastern, was honored with the Distinguished Geographer Award April 29. The Distinguished Geographer Award is presented at the Illinois Geographical Society's annual meeting, which took place at Western Illinois University April 28-30. Cornebise studies the population and migration issues of people in cultural areas, and looks at their geographical factors.
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Dr. David Raybin, Professor English at Eastern for 30 years was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award. Raybin is a leading scholar in the field of Chaucer studies, and a teacher recognized within and outside his department,. The Award recognizes excellence in teaching, research and service and Raybin's career at Eastern exemplifies this."

STATE & COMMUNITY NEWS

As I informed you in the March Issue of New horizons, Illinois House & senate debated many bills focusing on state employees' contractual benefits mainly pension and health care. 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. No

bill has been introduced so far in this regard.

State's decision to contract with Blue Cross Blue Shield as a health care provider for state employees instead of the current Health Alliance and Personal Care drew great deal of objections by both state employees, retirees and legislators. Blue Cross Blue Shield does not have any health care providers in East Central and Southern Illinois. The Department of Healthcare and Family Services extended Health Alliance & Personal Care contracts to September 30, 2011 instead of June 30, 2011.

Bill 178-Illinois Legislators also passed **Bill 178** which would keep existing state contracts with Health Alliance and other health insurance providers for two more years. The measure In addition to overturning the recent contract awards, the health insurance procurement process would be reopened and various insurance contracts would be rebid and it would also strengthen the role of the General Assembly in managing future state contracting decisions. The Illinois Commission on Government Forecasting and Accountability (COGFA) after reviewing the contracting procedures selecting Blue Cross & Blue Shield Unanimously approved the content of Bill 178. Governor Quinn vetoed Bill 178. It seems that both Illinois House and Senate will override Governor's veto when they return after summer recess in October. The uncertainty is continuing but we are hopping for a positive outcome

SB512 – Pension Reform which nearly doubles the monthly pension contributions for those who are currently working was debated extensively before legislators summer recess. The Bill will be discussed over during fall Veto Session.

SB 175-Further deliberation of SB175_– increase of State Health Insurance Premiums for university and State retirees, was also postponed until next fall. Premiums would be based on a person's pension income, length of time with the state and age at retirement. Those with higher pension incomes would pay more. People who work longer for the state before retiring get a break under the theory they are closer to qualifying for Medicare. For people on Medicare, the state health plan is a supplemental policy, and the state's cost to insure Medicare-eligible people is dramatically lower -- \$300 a month versus \$800 for someone in the fee-for-service plan.

Someone with a pension of \$15,000 to \$30,000 a year could pay as much as \$4,400 a year or as little as \$777, depending on other factors like length of service and age at retirement.

The most significant community event is the beginning of Eastern Illinois University's Fall Semester. The City of Charleston is renewed with excitement and Its population is nearly doubled. Along with significant cultural, entertainment & sports activities, business picks up.



NEWS FROM YOU



Marilyn Switzer continues to enjoy spending her winters in Venice/Nokomes, FL, spring and fall in Morton, IL, and summers in Frankfort, MI. She and daughter Betsy enjoyed a cruise from Tampa to Mexico in February 2011.

EIU Annuitant Colleagues express heartfelt congratulations

Dr. Edward "Mac" Corley has been recognized as outstanding member of the EIU Foundation for 2010. Mac has been the Panther Club fund drive individual leader for five consecutive years, raising nearly \$50,000 during this period. He won four consecutive fund drive MVP awards (2005-2008), and this year earned the Membership Development and Phone Warrior awards. He's been a volunteer official at EIU track meets and a marshal at the IHSA Boys and Girls State Track Meets for 25-plus years, has been an EIU commencement marshal, and currently is an EIU Annuitant ambassador at the Neal Welcome Center and a volunteer member of the Foundation's finance committee. He retired in 2003 after 36 years as a professor of economics at EIU. He is currently a member of the EIU Annuitants Association Executive Committee Board

Raymond W. Morris of Charleston Il celebrated his 90th birthday on Aug. 20. He was born Aug. 17, 1921, in Mattoon, the son of John and Marie Morris. He married Madonna Buser on Dec. 14, 1941. His children are Gary (Jeri) Morris of Mattoon and Lori (Kenny) Counts of Arcola. He has three grandchildren and six great-grandchildren. Morris was employed at Eastern Illinois University Housing.

Pat (Franklin) Morgan of Charleston celebrated her 85 birthday on May. She was born in Mattoon, Illinois on May 26, 1926. She married Earl Morgan, now deceased. Pat is mother of 3 children, John, Rick & Jay (deceased). She has 6 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren. She retired from EIU Food Service.

Fern & John Calhoun of Charleston Celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary on August 19. They married August 19, 1961 in Mattoon. Fern and John have 5 grandchildren and two great grandchildren John is retired from EIU and fern is employed by Wall-Mart

Ramona & Stephen Shrake celebrated their 40th Wedding Anniversary on June 6. Ramona & Stephen married in Shelbyville in 1971. They have twin daughters Lora and Lisa both reside in Dubai, United Arab Emirates. The couple have two grandchildren. Stephen is Associate Director, Design & Construction at EIU. Ramona is the co-owner of sticher's Express in Mattoon

Ronda & John Dively Jr recently celebrated their 25th Wedding Anniversary. They were married August 23, 1986. John is Chairman of Education Administration at EIU. Ronda is an Associate Professor in English Department at Southern Illinois University

Remembering Friends



Glenn Williams, 84, of Colorado Springs, Colo., formerly of Charleston, died April 28, 2011. the son of Glenn and Ellen Williams. He married Joan Libben in 1948; she died in 2005. He was also preceded in death by two children. He was in the Navy from 1944 to 1946, serving on a submarine in the Pacific. He completed his PhD degree in 1960 at [Ohio State University](#) and accepted a position at Eastern Illinois University as professor of Philosophy. In 1961 he was elevated to Associate Dean the thence to Vice President for Student Affairs. Dr. Williams retired in 1992 and moved, with his wife Joan, to Colorado Springs

Claire E. Krukenberg, 71, of Charleston died Monday (June 20, 2011) at his residence. Dr. Krukenberg joined Eastern's mathematics faculty in 1968, retiring in 2001. He served as department chair from 1996 until his retirement

William Evan Hubschmitt, 62 of Charleston passed away Wednesday, June 29, 2011, at Odd Fellow Rebekah Home Harmony Center. No funeral services will be held because Bill chose to donate his body to science. Bill is survived by his wife Qing Hubschmitt, and two daughters Lara Jones of Portland, Oregon and Jing Yi Gao of Charleston, IL, and one granddaughter Mabel Jones. He was on the art faculty at EIU from 1996 until 2011. He was a noted artist and educator and former chair of the Art Departments at both Eastern Illinois University and the State University of New York College at Oneonta.

Craig Kent Coultas, age 68 of Charleston passed away on Wednesday, April 6, 2011 at Barnes Hospital in St. Louis. He married Ellen Cummings on August 19, 1972 in Basco, Illinois. Kent is survived by Ellen, his loving and devoted wife and best friend of thirty-eight years; three children, & three grandchildren Mr. Coultas was a retired groundskeeper at EIU. Among his survivors are his wife, Ellen, who works in the Office of the Vice President for Business Affairs.

Fairy M. Lanman, 96, of Charleston, passed away Sunday, August 21, 2011 at Hilltop Skilled Nursing and Rehabilitation Center. She married Oryl C. Lanman, September 18, 1942 in St. Charles, MO; he preceded her in death, February 7, 1969. She is survived by four children Nine grandchildren and fourteen great-grandchildren She had retired as a Building Service worker from EIU in 1980 and had previously worked at Brown Shoe Company.

Herbert Reid Huber, 91, of St. Louis, Missouri, formerly of Mattoon and Charleston, passed away on Saturday, July 30, 2011. Herb was born on September 3, 1919 in Charleston the son of George and Ella Huber. He married Mary Katherine Paule on December 27, 1945. She passed away in 1978. He later married Madeline Blair who also preceded him in death. Survivors include his four children one grandson. Herb was a [WWII](#) veteran with the American Air Corp serving in the Pacific Theater. He worked 29 years for the Mattoon Journal Gazette and retired after 10 years at Eastern Illinois University

Linda L. "Pud" Hildebrand Jennings, 60, of rural Charleston, passed away Wednesday, May 18, 2011 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She married Bill Jennings, May 23, 1991. He survives. "Pud" was a 20 year employee of Hi-Cone, and was currently working at Eastern Illinois University.

Martha T. Hamand, age 91 of Charleston, died on Monday, March 21, 2011 at St. Vincent Hospital in Indianapolis. a daughter of the late Arnold P. and Myrtle R. (Richardson) Tendick. She married Lavern M. Hamand on June 9, 1942 and they enjoyed a loving marriage and friendship until his death in 1992. Martha is survived by three children, She taught English for many years at the Villa Grove and Monticello High Schools during the 1940s. At Eastern Illinois University she was an instructor in the English department, a position she held for twenty years and until her retirement in 1982.

Rev. Norman Greer, who had been a member of the EIU Communication Studies faculty from 1995 until his retirement in 2009, passed away Saturday, June 18, in Conyers, Ga. He was 57 and had been battling ALS disease for the past several months.

Paul Lewis Ward, age 83 of Charleston, passed away on Monday, June 13, 2011 at his Charleston Rehabilitation and Health Care Center home Paul was a United States [Army](#) Veteran. He received his Ph.D. from [Ohio State University](#). He taught at both Ohio State and Rio Grande and was a Professor of English at the University of Nevada in Reno prior to coming to Charleston. He arrived in Charleston the summer of 1966 and was a Professor in the Educational Psychology and Guidance Department at Eastern Illinois University from 1967 until his retirement in 1992.

Dr. Robert Charles Snyder, 77, of Hudson, formerly of Charleston, died Aug. 10, 2011, at his residence. He is the son of Millard and Genevieve Williams Snyder. He married Jackie Boal. He later married Ann Eumurian in 1998; she survives. Other survivors include two sons, two daughters, two stepsons and eight great-grandchildren. Mr. Snyder was formerly employed with Eastern Illinois University as a professor of music

Virginia Aileen Plunkett, 79, of Charleston, passed away Thursday, July 14, 2011 at her home.. She is the daughter of AnnaBelle Grace (McKelly) Smart and Thomas Edward Smart. She married Michael Alexander Plunkett in 1955. He preceded her in death, August 3, 2000. She is survived by their 5 children & and four grandchildren: Virginia received her Bachelors and Masters Degrees from Southern Illinois University. She retired from Eastern Illinois University as a Dietician.

Evelyn G. Herman 84, of Charleston, passed away Thursday, September 1, 2011 September 1, 2011 at Charleston Rehabilitation and Health Care Center. Evelyn is the daughter of Arthur and Alice Grace (Gordon) Jasper. She married John Herman, December 20, 2004; he survives. She had retired as a telephone operator/supervisor at Eastern Illinois University after more than 32 years.

We want to express our sympathy to the following Annuitant

Kurt Vaughn Jaenike, 54, of Fresno, CA passed away on Monday, August 8, 2011. Kurt graduated from Charleston HS, received his bachelors degree in Political Science at Eastern Illinois University, and earned a degree in law at the University of Nebraska. He followed his dream to practice law in California, where he was a respected bankruptcy lawyer for almost 30 years. As a twin, Kurt always had a special place in his heart for his other half, Kristen. He is survived by his parents, Vaughn and Ruth Jaenike of Charleston, IL; one brother, & three sisters

Josephine Katherine Cougill, age 89 of Charleston passed away on Wednesday, February 23, 2011 at Charleston Rehab and Health Care Center. Jo married William "Mino" Cougill on September 3, 1938 in Indiana and they shared forty-six wonderful years of marriage, friendship and family prior to his death on November 12, 1984 Jo was a daughter of the late Carl C. and Sylvia Jane (Enlow) Cohoon. She is survived by 4 children and 8 grandchildren and 10 great grandchildren and 8 great grandchildren.

Dorothea Vaupel McDonald, 91 passed away on August 24th 2011 at Rosewood Care Center. She was the eldest child of Arthur and Mary Cralley Vaupel She married Aviation Cadet Walter H. McDonald, EIU faculty Annuitant on December 24, 1943, He survives. Dorothea's career was in education, teaching school counseling in the High Schools in the Charleston and Mattoon IL school systems. After retirement in 1982 she used her counseling tools in Hospice and leading work shops entitled "Aging with Grace, Hope and Humor". She is survived by her husband, three sons and their wives.

EIUAA CONTACT INFORMATION

To find out more information about the EIU Foundation, check out our web page at

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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.

Dear Colleagues, if you are not a member of EIU Annuitants Association please consider joining. Membership is one of strongest assets in the advocacy of our benefits'. Cost is only \$2.5 per month. To complete the form click on the following length. **<http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/membershipform.pdf>**