



NEW HORIZONS SPRING 2014 ISSUE

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Jill Nilsen, President

Vicki Hampton, President-Elect

Frank McCormick, Secretary

Barb Funk, Treasurer

Board Members

Scott Crawford, Dan Carpenter, Mac Corley, Robert Jorstad, Ellen Keiter, Doug Sloat, Julie Sterling, Mary Anne Hanner



## LOOKING AHEAD: MEETING DATES

EIUAA CHAPTER MEETING (8:30 am)		EIUAA EXEC. COMMITTEE MEETING (9 am)	
		March 6, 2014	Neal Welcome Center
<b>April 3 Annual Luncheon*</b>	Lifespan Center, Charleston	June 12, 2014	Neal Welcome Center
July 10, 2014	Neal Welcome Center	September 11, 2014	Neal Welcome Center
October 9, 2014	Neal Welcome Center	December 11, 2014	Neal Welcome Center
<p><b>*On Thursday, April 3, 2014, the EIU Annuitants Association will celebrate 43 years of its existence with a luncheon in The Lifespan Center, 11021 E County Road 800N, Charleston. All EIU annuitants, employees, friends and families are welcome. See the form on the last page to make reservations.</b></p>			



## PRESIDENT'S VIEW

Greetings to all!

Happy 2014! I hope that the snowy winter will soon fade and we will be enjoying a great spring in central Illinois!

Much has happened with the EIU Annuitants Association since our last newsletter was published! A revised constitution was adopted last fall that took effect January 1. Julie Sterling completed her presidential year and continues to serve the Association as past president. We extend our heartfelt thanks to her for her strong and dedicated leadership as president. Vicki Hampton now serves as President-Elect, and Barb Funk and Frank McCormick continue in the roles of Treasurer and Secretary. Jayne Ozier completed her tenure on the Board of Directors and Mary Anne Hanner joined as the newest member.

We have also formalized several committees. Vicki chairs the Communication Committee. Julie chairs the Events Committee. Ellen Keiter chairs the Membership Committee and Bob Jorstadt chairs the Scholarship Committee. I chair the Legislative Committee. We are looking for chapter members who are interested in serving on one of these committees. Please consider sharing your time and expertise on behalf of EIUAA!

EIUAA partnered with the EIU Benefits Office and Representative Brad Halbrook to host two informational sessions regarding health insurance changes which impacted many of our retirees. On the day before Thanksgiving, with temperatures in single digits, we had more than 750 annuitants attend! Janice Bonneville, Deputy Director of Central Management Services, provided the presentations and answered questions from the attendees. Thanks to all who were involved in making the day a success!

In December, the Illinois General Assembly passed a bill that diminished your pension benefits. Governor Quinn signed the bill that is now Public Act 98-599. The law changes the way that your

Automatic Annual Increase (also known as COLA) is calculated. It also increases the retirement age of active employees, puts a cap on pensionable earnings, and decreases the monthly contribution of active employees. The State University Annuitants Association (SUAA) is filing a lawsuit to fight this legislation. EIUAA supports SUAA's action and has made a contribution from our chapter to its legal fund. Your EIUAA Board of Directors encourages all members to consider supporting this fund with a monetary contribution. Your future financial security is at risk. All gifts, regardless of size will support the litigation fight.

Mark your calendars for our annual Annuitant Luncheon on Thursday, April 3, at the Lifespan Center. Great food, great entertainment, but, most importantly, great company will be enjoyed by all!!

Finally, this issue of the newsletter will be Alan Baharlou's final one as editor. Alan has served as editor for many years and, in that role, has provided every member with pertinent and timely information. He has served this organization with distinction and has worked tirelessly on your behalf. Please extend your personal thank you to Alan! He will continue to support the newsletter by providing the names of our deceased member. Thanks, Alan!!

See you at the luncheon!

In service,  
Jill F. Nilsen  
President, EIUAA

Donations towards fighting SB1 can be mailed to:

**SUAA Legal Fund**  
**217 E. Monroe St. , Suite 100**  
**Springfield, IL 62701**

All contributions will be used for the expenses of the legal challenges.

**WE ARE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER! JOIN THE EFFORT TO SECURE YOUR FUTURE!**



**MESSAGE FROM EIUAA MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE**

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You are receiving this newsletter because you are a current member of the EIU Annuitants Association. We extend our sincere thanks for your continued membership. Chances are, you know of friends or colleagues who are eligible for membership in EIUAA but haven't yet taken that step. Please encourage them to join. There is strength in numbers, especially as we converse with our legislators! Basic information about EIUAA for prospective members, including how to join, can be found in the "Membership Corner" below.

Not sure about your own membership status? Contact us via email ([annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu)) or phone (217-345-3462) and we'll be happy to help.

— **Ellen Keiter, Chair, EIUAA Membership Committee**

## **MEMBERSHIP CORNER**

- What is the EIU Annuitants Association?
  - EIUAA is the local, EIU chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA).
  - Membership is open to all persons in the State Universities Retirement System (SURS), including EIU retirees, active employees, their spouses, and survivors.
  - EIUAA/SUAA is an advocacy organization dedicated to preserving and protecting the retirement benefits of all SURS participants and beneficiaries.
  - More information on what the organization does on behalf of members can be found on the websites for EIUAA ([www.eiu.edu/~annuitants](http://www.eiu.edu/~annuitants)) and SUAA ([www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org)).
- How do I join EIUAA/SUAA?
  - Download a printable membership form at [here](#).
  - Fill in your personal information.
  - Choose one of two convenient payment methods:
    - Annual payment by check (\$36.00) payable to EIU Annuitants Association
    - Monthly deduction (\$3.00) from annuity or payroll
  - Mail the form with your check or signature to
    - EIU Annuitants Association
    - Brainard House
    - 600 Lincoln Avenue
    - Charleston, IL 61920
  - To request a form for yourself or someone else, send an email to [annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu) or call 217-345-3462.



### **EDITOR'S MESSAGE**

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This is my last issue as the editor of *New Horizons*. I feel fortunate and honored that I have had the privilege to serve our annuitants during the last nine years as President, Vice President, Newsletter Editor and Legislative Chair. I want to take this opportunity to thank the EIU Foundation for their support in providing the EIUAA chapter a generous annual donation to manage our printings and mailings. I also want to express our gratitude to the Center for Academic Technology Services for helping us to establish and maintain a very informative web page. I also want to express our gratitude to the EIU Board of Trustees for extending to annuitants the same privileges in using university resources as current employees.

We accomplished all of this through the collective effort of all of us working together. As the oldest Chapter of State Universities Annuitants Association (SUAA), we are fortunate to have been served by very dedicated, visionary, committed officers in our advocacy of EIU Annuitants. Our first President, William Zeigler, was also among a few organizers responsible for passing the Pension Protection Clause at the 1970 Illinois Constitutional Convention. During the past two years, we have been faced with some of the most challenging tasks in protecting our healthcare and pension benefits. Now, in cooperation with Illinois teachers and employees, we are focusing on a court fight to prove that the recent pension legislation (SB1), reducing the pension significantly for both retirees and current employees, is unconstitutional. This is a very costly court fight (see our President Jill Nelson's relevant information in this issue). Besides being fortunate to have dedicated people who pursue our interests, such as Jill Nilsen

with her years of experience and persuasive abilities, we also must have adequate funds to meet the court costs.

However, the most tangible and effective voice we have is our membership numbers. Do whatever you can to help. I will continue to serve our EIU annuitants and employees in whatever way possible. One of the most memorable moments for me is when I receive news of your wedding anniversaries and birthday celebrations, awards and recognitions, or when I am saddened by news of the passing of our members or their loved ones. Eastern has been promoting the concept that all of us; faculty, staff, students, retirees and alumni all “WE ARE EIU” and always remain EIU.

—Alan Baharlou, EIUAA Newsletter Editor



## CHAPTER NEWS

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The most recent chapter minutes can be found at [here](#).

### **Annuitants' Email Addresses — Please Help!!**

The Eastern Illinois University Annuitants Association has begun using a listserv to store email addresses of all members. This enables us to have one central location for this information, makes it easy for us to update, and thus provides consistency for distribution of pertinent information about what is going on with legislation, health care, insurance, and so forth.

#### **What you need to do if you are NOT receiving emails:**

1. If you are not receiving emails (and you are a member), contact Vicki Hampton ([vhampton@consolidated.net](mailto:vhampton@consolidated.net)) and send her your current email.
2. Please keep your inbox clean. If your inbox (or mailbox) is full, your mail cannot reach you and it bounces back to us.
3. If you have a power of attorney and you wish for that person to also receive emails from the annuitants association, please contact Vicki Hampton ([vhampton@consolidated.net](mailto:vhampton@consolidated.net)) and state this in the email and provide the name and email of your power of attorney.
4. If you have a child or other person that you wish to also receive emails from the annuitants association, please contact Vicki Hampton ([vhampton@consolidated.net](mailto:vhampton@consolidated.net)) and state this in the email and provide the name and email of this person.

If you do not have access to email to provide the above, please mail this information and the explanation of what you want to Vicki Hampton, 723 Olean Pl, Charleston, IL 61920.

### **YOUR EIUAA WEBSITE    [Check Us Out](#)**

Please visit your EIUAA website (<http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants/>) and keep updated as to what is happening with your annuitant organization. Please send any email address changes to [annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu).

## Website navigation:

On the left side of the home page you will find a panel which contains all the links to continue to other areas of interest:

- **Home** — this will return you to the EIUAA homepage; top-right will have information posted as to next meeting; the middle of the page will contain any information that we feel is critical.
- **Who We Are** — historic background of how EIUAA began
- **Constitution** — current constitution
- **Policies** — specific policies agreed upon by the board
- **Officers** — current officers
- **Board of Directors** — annuitants who currently serve as your representatives; terms are three years and renewable for an additional three years.
- **Newsletter** — most recent newsletter
- **EIUAA scholarship** — information and application form for our EIUAA scholarship
- **Membership Form** — current form, which can be printed and shared with non-members
- **Donor Recognition** — donors for the EIUAA scholarship
- **Chapter Meetings** — dates for the current year of all chapter meetings; most recent chapter meeting minutes; pictures of most recent chapter meetings
- **Board of Directors Meetings** — dates for the current year for the board meetings
- **Committees** — committees (beginning in 2014) for various tasks of the organization
- **Annuitant Ambassador** — description of our ambassador volunteer program; list of members who have been designated “Ambassador of the Year” for their volunteer work
- **Archives** — minutes of previous meetings; previous *New Horizons* newsletters
- **Campus Events** — highlight of events focused on annuitants
- **Survivors’ Assistance Guide** — helpful guide to assist you in your time of need with questions about survivor benefits and other issues
- **Annuitants & Emeriti Privileges** — helpful information about many things that you have access to as an annuitant
- **For Your Reading** — current information about SUAA, SURS, EIUAA, legislation



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## Eastern Recognized for Fire Safety Initiative

EIU has received statewide recognition for its proactive approach to fire safety on campus. The university spent more than \$10.5 million dollars on the total multi-year project, which involved the installation of fire sprinkler systems and fire alarm systems in all 28 of the university’s residential buildings on campus

## EIU Dominates OVC Football Awards

The nine first team All-OVC selections are the most by an EIU team since joining the league in 1996.

Jim Garoppolo, quarterback, was selected OVC Player of the Year and Dino Babers was selected Coach of the Year (he has moved to Bowling Green).

## **EIU Receives Single Largest Gift in University History**

Eastern Illinois University has received the largest single gift in university history, according to Vice President for Advancement Robert Martin. The \$3.68 million gift from the estate of Paul L. Ward, a professor of Educational Psychology at EIU from 1967 to 1992, will provide scholarships for students majoring in counseling and student development, Martin said.

## **EIU President Perry's Comments regarding the State's New Pension Law (SB1)**

"The argument is that the Constitution states these benefits are contractual in nature and can't be arbitrarily changed," President Bill Perry said. The changes to the pension system limit the amount of money pension-holders will receive and will be "financially devastating" to many current annuitants, as well as to employees retiring in the future. "The changes have fundamentally affected our employees' belief that the state government can keep contractual obligations," Perry said. "Trust has been broken."



### ***CELEBRATING OUR FRIENDS***

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**Diane Blair** of Charleston celebrated her 80th birthday on January 25<sup>th</sup>. She worked at Sea Lion Caves in Oregon; was an English teacher in Roseburg and Glide, Oregon; and served as a guidance counselor at Charleston High School; and retired from Eastern Illinois University, where she worked in publications.

**Jeffrey Boshart**, EIU professor of art, has been named the 2013 Illinois Professor of the Year by The Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching and the Council for Advancement and Support of Education.

**Dave Maurer** has served as Annuitant Ambassador at the Neal Welcome Center since the beginning of the program. He also serves on the boards of the Illinois State Historical Society and the Coles County Historical Society.

**Joyce Maurer** volunteers with the Charleston Soup Stop program.

**Al "Dick" Moldroski** of Charleston has retired from Eastern Illinois University after serving on the Art faculty for 30 years. Dick also taught art at Southern Illinois University. The recipient of various awards for exhibitions of painting and drawing, Moldroski served on various departmental and university committees at Eastern, including the steering committee for the "Make Room for Art" campaign, which resulted in the construction of the Burl Ives Art Studio Hall on campus.

**Dale Wolf**'s dedication to his community throughout the years on behalf of students, educators, community residents, colleagues and friends has garnered him the Charleston Chamber of Commerce's award for Outstanding Citizen of the Year.



### ***REMEMBERING FAMILY AND FRIENDS***

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**Ron Amyx** passed on Thursday, October 17, 2013. He married Z. Kay Fudge on May 28, 1967, and they celebrated 46 years of marriage. Ron was employed as a broadcast engineer at Eastern Illinois University for WEIU Television and Radio.

**William F. Buckellew** of Charleston passed away on Thursday, November 14, 2013. Bill was the son of the late Franklin and Verla (Haworth) Buckellew. Bill and Lois Ann Soliah were married for 61 years. Dr. Buckellew was a professor and administrator at Eastern Illinois University until his retirement in 1988. He served in various positions including Director of Outdoor Education and Physical Education at the EIU Laboratory School. He was a teacher of Statistics, Research and Kinesiology. He was also chair of the Physical Education Department.

**Barbara Lee Coats** passed away Tuesday, December 17, 2013. She was united in marriage to Virgil Eugene “Lefty” Coats for 56 years. Barbara was a switchboard operator at Eastern Illinois University for 35 years prior to her retirement.

**Bessie E. Donley**, 89, of Charleston passed away Saturday, January 11, 2014, at her home. She was united in marriage to Glenn E. Donley for 56 years. Bessie retired from EIU, where she had served as head cook for many years.

**Lois A Downs** passed away Friday, January 17, 2014. She was united in marriage to Dale Downs, June 3, 1956, at Indianola, Illinois; he survives. Also surviving are their sons, Alan Downs and Dan Downs.

**Reta Bernice Ferguson** passed away on Friday, October 4, 2013. Bernice was the daughter of Johnny B. and Mamie (Gibson) Morrison. She married Max B. Ferguson on March 28, 1942. After 69 years of marriage, Max passed away on January 2, 2011.

**Jonnie K. Hudspath** of Sullivan passed away on Wednesday, August 7, 2013. Jonnie was the daughter of John and Frances Robinson Frankell. She had been a clerk typist for the Psychology Department at EIU.

**June Marie Krutza** passed away on December 25, 2013. After earning her Ph.D. from The Ohio State University, June joined the Art faculty at Eastern Illinois State College in 1952. She taught Art Education and High School Art at the Buzzard Lab School. Ceramics was her love. She was honored with a Distinguished Faculty Award in 1987. Professor Krutza retired from Eastern Illinois University in 1989.

**James E. Martin** passed away on Thursday, December 19, 2013. His employment included teaching at Harvard, Illinois, High School and military dependent schools in Korea, Japan and Germany. He served 24 years (1968-92) as Registrar at Eastern Illinois University.

**Walter L. McDade** passed away on Thursday, November 21, 2013 . He married Zeta Mary Grissom on February 14, 1942 and they were blessed with 71 years of marriage. He was an employee of Midstate Foundry in Charleston for 33 years and then of Eastern Illinois University for 10 years.

**Russell Marion Pierson** passed away on November 16, 2013. He served his country during World War II. Peggy Pierson is his sister.

**Jeanine Cullen Reynolds** passed away on Thursday, January 16, 2014. She married Howard (Gundy) Reynolds on July 20, 1947. He died on June 23, 1997. She retired from Eastern Illinois University in 1986.

**Owen Edgar Stanfield** passed away on Friday, December 6, 2013. Owen was a son of the late Speed and Lottie (Pearcy) Stanfield. Owen was a World War II United States Army Veteran. Following his military service, Owen was employed at EIU for 31 years with the last 16 years as Superintendent of Grounds.

**Maxine Roberta Suess** passed away on Tuesday, December 17, 2013. She married Edwin E. Suess, and they shared 62 years of marriage. Maxine retired from Moore Business Forms in Charleston before accepting a position with Food Services at Eastern Illinois University.



**Robert W. Weidner** passed away on November 17, 2013. Bob was the only child of Oswald and Minnie (Giencke) Weidner. He enlisted in the Army on November 19, 1942. Bob served in World War II in a MASH unit in Europe. After teaching at the high school level for several years, Bob obtained his Ph.D. in music in 1960. Bob served as a music professor at EIU from 1965 until he retired in 1993.



## *SUAA NEEDS TO GO VIRAL! (A message from the Executive Director)*

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The most modern definition of Viral is "an e-mail message, usually in the form of advertising, that contains elements that make recipients want to forward it to others." Since many of SUAA's members do not participate in email, the organization is quite reliant on word of mouth — the old fashioned way of relaying information.

I point this out because SUAA has triumphs to tout! Most recent is the Legal Fund to fight the implementation of Senate Bill 1 (PA 98-0599). Over two years ago a legal fund was established in anticipation of pension reform being passed by the legislature. While we all fought the good fight, it was inevitable that pension reform would no longer be delayed.

In January, the SUAA Executive Committee approved signing a letter of agreement with the law firm of Maduff & Maduff, LLC, in Chicago. Those of you who attended the 2013 SUAA Fall Meeting in Bloomington met attorney and partner Aaron Maduff. Mr. Maduff is joined by SUAA's own attorney John Carr to represent certain plaintiffs in the lawsuit supported by SUAA.

The plaintiffs chosen for the lawsuit are all from Champaign County — more specifically, the University of Illinois Urbana Champaign and Parkland Community College. They are representative of all who are currently contributing to the State Universities Retirement System and those, of course, who are now beneficiaries.

At this writing, there have been five lawsuits filed — two in Cook County and three in Sangamon County. SUAA will be the sixth lawsuit filed. We already know that all lawsuits will be combined at some point. Rumor has it that they will be heard in Cook County. However, so far this is only a rumor. It is important that all lawsuits be heard first in the counties in which they were filed.

Having many lawsuits is advantageous to the participants in and beneficiaries of the State funded pension systems. Each lawsuit represents significant differences within each pension system. For instance, most members of the State Employees Retirement System are coordinated with Social Security and contribute to a defined benefit plan. SURS is the only system that has a Traditional Plan, Portable Plan, and a Self-Managed Plan. It is also the only system that has the Money Purchase Formula. Therefore, having attorneys that represent the individuals in each pension plan becomes significant in overturning SB 1 (PA 98-0599).

Contributing to the lawsuit is crucial. You might think of it as protecting tomorrow today or investing today so you can rest comfortably tomorrow. All contributions go directly to the cost of the lawsuit. It is a restricted fund. There will be no refunds. However, the lawsuit could go to the Federal Court. We are likely just getting started.

Thinking backwards, the next issue to bring to your attention is the first lawsuit filed in Cook County by Maduff & Maduff, for those who signed an Irrevocable Election to receive "cost-free" health insurance

by giving up the benefit improvements provided by Public Act 90-65. This went into effect in July of 1999 when Public Act 91-395 was signed into law. In order to benefit, an employee had to have less than 20 years of service upon retirement. The lawsuit is still pending. SUAA kept the inclusion of these retirees out of all pension legislation that related to health insurance choices for over two years. However, a once supportive Central Management Services decided to include the signees of this contract in the July 2013 costs for health insurance. Therefore, a lawsuit was filed on behalf of those who signed the Irrevocable Election protecting them from future health insurance costs.

Reaching back a little further (but not very far) was SUAA's Ballot Initiative to defeat Constitutional Amendment 49, our largest undertaking. And, to date, our biggest reward, as we did defeat CA 49. In short, CA 49 would have required a three-fifths vote for pension decisions including all 7,000 local units of government; it did nothing to aid Pension Debt or the normal cost of Pension Funding; and it would have increased the volume of litigation. It was ambiguous; affected those who provide services including police and firemen; and would have hindered economic growth and endangered education in Illinois. It would have been an amendment to your pension protection under the Illinois Constitution.

In the coming few months, watch for Pension Reform Presentations; regional meetings that provide the unveiling of the proposed SUAA Constitution and By-laws; and legislative up-dates along with primary and general election information. Mini-briefings will start again soon, as the legislators will be back in Springfield beginning on February 18th. One issue coming forward will be whether the State Income Tax increase will sunset as legislated or continue beyond December 31, 2014.

If all were told, the new State sponsored Medicare Advantage Plans under UnitedHealth Care are not all going well. If you have had a problem, please let the SUAA office know by calling 217.523.4040 or by emailing [linda@suaa.org](mailto:linda@suaa.org). Help us sort out and fix any misunderstandings with the current coverage.

In closing, check the [SUAA website](#) frequently. Contribute to the SUAA Legal Fund, either on the SUAA website using PayPal, or sending your contribution directly to SUAA Legal Fund, c/o SUAA, 217 East Monroe Street, Suite 100, Springfield, IL 62701. Get engaged; keep informed.

A quick reference for all of you to use — SURS is your pension system. The system cannot advocate on your behalf. SUAA's business **IS** advocating on behalf of all participants and beneficiaries of SURS. SURS and SUAA have an unbeatable relationship. We ask that you support SUAA, SUAAction, and of course, the SUAA Legal Fund. Please applaud SURS as their staff also works diligently for you.

As those currently working begin to recognize the importance of SUAA and our retirees work to develop their communication skills in this "new" world of technology, going viral will be like second nature. But until that day comes, SUAA will need to depend on the membership to verbally shout out the importance of SUAA!

We need more of you going viral! We need more of you using your voices! We need to grow SUAA!

—Linda Brookhart, SUAA Executive Director

**Please join us for the 43rd Annual EIU Annuitants Association Luncheon**

**Thursday, April 3, 2014**

**Lifespan Center**

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



RSVP by completing and returning this form by March 20, 2014

Doors open at 11:00 a.m.

Serving begins at 11:30 a.m.

Entertainment will be provided by

**Dr. Jemmie Robertson, Assistant Professor of Trombone and Euphonium, Eastern Illinois University**

**Dr. Jonathan Bowman, Instructor of Piano, Eastern Illinois University**

**Christine Robertson, Adjunct Assistant Professor of Voice at Millikin University**



### **Menu**

(Catered by Martin's IGA of Effingham)

Boneless Chicken Breast and Roast Beef

Mashed Potatoes and Gravy

California Blend Vegetables

Coleslaw

Noodles

Coffee, Tea and Lemonade

Pies (sugar and sugar free), Rolls

**Cost: \$8.50 per person (incl. gratuity)**

**Please RSVP by March 20, 2014**

**Reserve \_\_\_\_\_ luncheon tickets at \$8.50 per person)**

**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**



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/)

EIU Annuitant Association Mailing Address

**600 Lincoln Ave Charleston IL 61920**

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