

## Fall 2015

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## President's View

Vicki Hampton

**W**elcome to the 2015 Eastern Illinois University Annuity Association (EIUAA) fall newsletter.

We have had a successful year. Working through our parent organization, SUAA, and the We are One Coalition, we won the fight to restore full retiree health benefits and even obtained repayment of improperly collected premiums. Then in a second decision, the Illinois Supreme Court unanimously overturned SB1, protecting the Automatic Annual Increase that keeps our pensions from eroding over time. Those dollars you so generously gave to the SUAA legal fund were well spent!

But the fight is not over. We anticipate another round of pension overhaul bills to surface if and when the budget issue is resolved.

At press time, Illinois has no budget, which is affecting all of us as well as Eastern Illinois University. President David Glassman discussed the impact on Eastern during his talk at our October chapter meeting. (See accompanying article.) The budget impasse could especially affect those who are under the self-insured health-care option; you should have received an email on this from Linda Brookhart, Executive Director

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## President Glassman Addresses EIUAA

**A**t EIUAA's October 8 Chapter meeting, EIU President David Glassman introduced himself and spoke about Eastern's current fiscal emergency.

A native of St. Paul, Minnesota whose parents operated a hardware store, Glassman was the first member of his family to attend college. When he told his parents he had decided to study anthropology, "They did what any good parents would: they said, 'What are you going to do with that?'"

But Glassman went on to earn a PhD in Anthropology and held academic posts at Virginia Tech, the University of Southern Indiana, and most recently at Bradley, where he was Provost. His own background taught him the difference college could make for students of modest means, and in seeking a university presidency, he wanted to help a younger generation have the same kind of

experience.

Glassman took over the reins in June and soon learned that "the budget demanded immediate action. I was staring at a \$13 million dollar deficit, and I couldn't possibly wait to consult all the people who needed and deserved to be consulted."

Largely through attrition and cutbacks in personnel, Glassman's administration has brought the \$13 million shortfall down to just \$1 million, a figure he hopes to whittle down further as the fiscal year continues. But he cautioned that EIU's actions so far have been premised on expecting state funding to be cut back by just 6.5%. The governor has asked for a cutback of 31.5%. A reduction of anything like

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**EIUAA Officers**

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**Jill Nilsen**, jfnilsen52@gmail.com

**Mary Anne Hanner**, mahanner@eiu.edu

**Dianna Ensign**, dlensign@eiu.edu

**Henry Davis**, hhdavis@eiu.edu

**President, Communications Chair**

**Past President, Legislative Chair**

**President-Elect, Membership Chair**

**Secretary**

**Treasurer**

**Board Members**

**Barb Funk, Julie Sterling, Mac Corley, Vicki Hampton, Doug Sloat, Jill Nilsen, Scott Crawford, Mary Anne Hanner, Dianna Ensign, Henry Davis, John Flynn**

Contact Information: <http://castle.eiu.edu/~annuitants/executive.php>

**CALENDAR**

**DATE**

**EVENT**

**VENUE**

Th December 10, 2015, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

Th January 28, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

Th February 25, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

EIUAA Chapter Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

Th March 2, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

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

Neal Welcome Center

Th September 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

Th October 6, 2016, 8:30 a.m.

EIUAA Chapter Meeting

Neal Welcome Center

Th December 8, 2016, 9:00 a.m.

Board of Directors Meeting

Neal Welcome Center



## A Gift To Your Heirs: Preparation for a Death in the Family

By Audrey Edwards

It's not quite as much fun as a day at the beach. Nevertheless, preparing for a death is a gift you can give your family — and perhaps yourself if you plan to act as executor.

When organizing your family's affairs, a valuable asset is EIUAA's own *Survivors' Assistance Guide*, compiled by EIUAA past president Alan Baharlou. The *Guide*, available at [edu.edu/annuitants](http://edu.edu/annuitants), explains procedures to follow and shows samples of forms you may need to complete.

The *Guide* recommends that you send items 1-5, below, to SURS well before a death. If you are retired, you have already filed items 1-4 as part of the retirement process. However, you may need to change your beneficiaries or their addresses from time to time.\* You might also want to send item 5, power of attorney forms, so another person can talk with SURS on your behalf.

1. Updated beneficiary forms, complete with current addresses of all beneficiaries (separate forms for SURS and for Minnesota Life);
2. A copy of the member's birth certificate;
3. A copy of the birth certificate of all survivors: spouse, civil union partner, minor or disabled children, and/or income-dependent parents;
4. A copy of the marriage/civil union certificate or dissolution of marriage paper;

5. Copies of power of attorney forms for finances or property, adoption papers, and/or guardianship papers. These forms will enable SURS to speak with your spouse or another person on your behalf.

Another helpful paper is TIAA-CREF's list of steps to take in settling an estate. This checklist, which TIAA provides to all of its investors, provides space for listing the locations of major documents so an executor will be able to find them when they are needed.

Again, thanks to Alan Baharlou for compiling EIUAA's *Survivors' Assistance Guide*. As suggested by the *Guide* and by TIAA-CREF, doing what you can before a death will make things easier later. Much later, we hope!

—Audrey Edwards

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\* To update beneficiary information or to report a death, call

- SURS 1-800-275-7877
- Metropolitan Life 1-888-202-5525
- TIAA-CREF 1-800-842-2776



*Are you on our Listserv  
mailing list? If not, email  
[annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu)  
to receive important  
announcements.*



## News From our Members

**Dan Carpenter** (Building Services). In late April I drove out to Surprise, Arizona to help my nephew and his family move back to Illinois. The road out took me to Las Cruces, New Mexico, White Sands National Monument, and Tucson, where I took care of a bad oil “leak” that was really just a plug left loose by the mechanic after my last oil change. We caravanned back to Illinois, in four vehicles, in about three days. In May, on an errand down to Collinsville, I felt a burning in my chest and ended up having an emergency angioplasty with two stents installed. I was released from the hospital in Maryville about 21 hours after the procedure and luckily have had no problems since.

**Linda Coleman** (English). I spent a good part of this summer doing what I’ve been doing with great pleasure since I retired in 2012—participating in the Osher Lifelong Learning Institute Illinois program. Housed at the University of Illinois, OLLI offers to folks 50 and over an amazing range of study groups and classes throughout the year. I’ve taken classes on Art of the Renaissance, Theories of War, Jazz, and Microbes, to name a few. When I retired, I wondered where I’d find that high that I’d known as a teacher. I found the place and it’s a splendid experience. Here’s a [link: http://olli.illinois.edu/index.html](http://olli.illinois.edu/index.html)

**A.D. “Doug” Davis.** (Physics). Had great fun this summer teaching Physics 212, Electricity and Magnetism and Optics, at UIUC. The course uses **SmartPhysics**, a text the Physics Education Research Group developed there. It is the most technologically advanced, technologically connected course that I have seen.

**Ruth Dow** (Family and Consumer Sciences). Leaving Naperville on his 82nd birthday in July, Chuck and Ruth Dow taught nutrition, gardening, and solar cooking on a mission trip to El Salvador.

**Cheryl Hawker** (Mathematics). Cheryl has been recognized as the Eastern Illinois University Foundation’s 2014 Annuitant Ambassador of the Year. She served as volunteer ambassador at the Neal Welcome Center, assisting visitors, guests, and students who come in to complete scholarship paperwork.

**Richard Hummel** (Sociology). Richard Hummel continues as editor of the *Journal of the German Gun Collectors*

*Association*. Contact him at [dkhummel@gmail.com](mailto:dkhummel@gmail.com) to see a recent issue.

**Jackie Joines** (Business and Applied Sciences). My husband and I have opened a consignment auction business on the square in Oakland, IL in the historic Columbian Building. Sales are held monthly.



**Karen Larvick** (Music). Karen Larvick and her husband Russ Greenhagen enjoyed a June vacation in England and Scotland. Karen also performed a program of piano fantasies, solos and duets, on September 2 at First Presbyterian Church in Jefferson City, MO. She continues teaching piano in her home studio.

**Marita Metzke** (Lifelong Learning). In July, the Academy of Lifelong Learning took a field trip to the 5-Acre Day Lily farm near Tolono for an education on the genus *Hemerocallis*. Rod Kroemer, one of the owners of the farm, showed the group the ideal ways to plant, dig, divide, and maintain day lilies. A tour of the property featured more than 400 day lily cultivars in full blossom!

**Bill Schnackel** (Housing and Food Services). Ever thought about owning alpacas? We are liquidating our herd due to health problems and changes in our family status. Contact me at [Bill\\_schnackel@yahoo.com](mailto:Bill_schnackel@yahoo.com) and I will deliver an alpaca for free.

Sadly, our son Chase died on June 9. Many of you may remember Chase as a fun-loving, bright individual who loved people and computers. We had a private family funeral on June 14 followed by a memorial service on June 18.

**James Secrest** (Alumni Affairs). James and his wife **Eneatha** celebrated their 25<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on, June 22.

**Mrs. & Mr. Donald Smitley** (Education). Mr. and Mrs. Smitley celebrated their 55<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 18.

**Virginia Tate** (Education). Virginia Tate of Charleston, an EIU Laboratory School teacher for 40 years, celebrated her 101<sup>st</sup> birthday on August 21.

**Andrew M. White** (Mathematics). I continue to work with gifted children in grades 4-6 at Jefferson School in Charleston. I

have ten classes each week (five on Monday and five on Wednesday). I have my own classroom and am having fun working with these exceptionally bright kids in the areas of mathematics and junior great books. This is the seventh year I have volunteered my services to the Charleston School District. I invite anyone who wishes to observe or participate with us to stop by the school.

**Dale Wolf** (Admissions). Debby and I made the trek over to Australia and New Zealand in March and April of this year.

Spent nearly four weeks down under. I was named recently to serve once again as Panther Club President. I served in this capacity back in 2006. The new term is for 2015-2016.

**Judith A. Young** (Information Technology Services). Melanie Mills and I, along with our group of hiking women, hiked in southern Utah this summer. Wow, how beautiful it is in that part of our country!

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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](http://WWW.JG-TC.COM) AND CLICK ON "OBITUARIES."*]

**Deloris Ruth Stanford** (Elementary Education), age 92, of Charleston, passed away peacefully on Wednesday, April 15, 2015.

**Hal Ray Ruyle** (Building Services), age 79, passed away peacefully on Friday, April 17, 2015.

**Robert Stanton Jones, Sr.** (Building Services), age 89, of Charleston, passed away on Friday, May 1, 2015.

**Harley "Gene" Gill** (Building Services), age 92, of Mattoon, passed away Tuesday, June 16, 2015.

**Mary Alice Morgan** (Music), age 96, of Mattoon, passed away on Thursday, June 25, 2015.

**J. "Camille" Compo** (Office of Budget and Planning), age 73, passed away on June 20, 2015.

**Janice Louise Hooser** (Buzzard Laboratory School) passed away on August 23, 2015.

**Vincent Peter Gutowski**, (Geology/Geography), age 70, of Charleston, passed away on October 5, 2015.

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**President's View, continued from p. 1**

of SUAA.

On a brighter note, it was wonderful to see so many of you at the annual spring luncheon. We have already booked next year's event at the LifeSpan Center for Friday, April 29, 2016.

We have a new membership category – Supporter. A supporter is anyone (other than a spouse) who would like to join our annuitants group. This person could be a family member, someone with power of attorney, or a friend who would like to keep informed about issues that affect you. A new membership form with this category can be found at [http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/membership\\_form.pdf](http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants/membership_form.pdf)

Please send us your email address if you are not already on our listserv (if we don't have your email address, please send it to [annuitants@eiu.edu](mailto:annuitants@eiu.edu)). Communicating with you is key!

Your board members for next year are:

- |                               |                                |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Mary Anne Hanner (President)  | Vicki Hampton (Past President) |
| Margaret Messer (Pres. Elect) | Hank Davis (Treasurer)         |
| Dianne Ensign (Secretary)     | Julie Sterling                 |
| Jill Nilsen                   | Scott Crawford                 |
| John Flynn                    | Lora Green**                   |
| Jeff Lynch**                  | Robert Whittenbarger**         |

(\*\* - new for 2016)

Please consider volunteering time as an Ambassador at the Neal Welcome Center. The Foundation donates to our group, allowing us to send you this newsletter and to use the facility for our meetings. Contact Nancy Zytka at [nrytka@eiu.edu](mailto:nrytka@eiu.edu) or 217-581-7388.

Please use our website ([castle.eiu.edu/annuitants](http://castle.eiu.edu/annuitants)) to keep up to date with your association.

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Glassman, continued from p. 1

that magnitude could cause irreparable harm.

The situation has been complicated, Glassman noted, by the state's "unprecedented" failure to pass a budget, something that makes academic and institutional planning extraordinarily difficult. "We will do what's necessary to keep this university great, but we have to know what we're working with."

Illinois' fiscal year is one third over, but so far Eastern has received no money at all from the state. It has had to rely on funds from other sources — largely tuition — to operate. The MAP grants on which about 2,000 students depend have not yet been paid, so EIU has been "floating them the money, and trusting the state to pay it back."

When he speaks to outside groups, Glassman said, he emphasizes the state's need to solve its budget woes. "There is a social contract between the state and the university, for the good of Illinois, and we at Eastern are doing every bit of our part to keep it. We are trusting the state to do its part and be the partner it has always been."

All-consuming budget worries can make it hard to think about the future, Glassman said, but he does have a vision for Eastern. The school needs to concentrate on "recapturing our local and regional market that we have lost," through re-energized recruitment efforts and careful academic planning that emphasizes career preparation. The liberal arts are "still the foundation of everything," but students need to have a sense of the sorts of career they can seek after four years.

EIU's new president closed by telling us what we can do to help: Dispel rumors, give EIU a good image, and get the word out to prospective students what a great school this is!

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From the Membership Committee

The EIUAA Membership Committee continues to recruit new members from current EIU employees as well as new and current retirees. We were at the EIU Flu Shot Clinic on October 14th to distribute lollipops to those receiving the shots AND to recruit new members. We hope we saw you and you got your lollipop!

In the upcoming months, the Committee also hopes to meet with the Staff Senate, Faculty Senate, and Civil Service Council to let them know about EIUAA and SUAA and the important work that we do to protect the benefits of SURS annuitants.

We will continue our Free Lunch giveaway, so bring a non-member to a chapter meeting and we will draw a name for a gift card to What's Cookin'. We gained three new members from that initiative this year!

You can assist EIUAA by talking to your friends who are not members about the importance of EIUAA/SUAA in protecting our benefits. Our success in defending our benefits in the recent lawsuit was due in large measure to the responses from the members. Your voice matters and more voices make a bigger impact.

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Health Insurance Note



As state budget negotiations continue, Illinois Medicare Advantage and EIU-affiliated HMOs have agreed to continue paying claims to health providers on their original schedule. Members on these plans should not see any significant change or impact due to the ongoing budget impasse. This is not the case for those who have Quality Care (Cigna) and Delta Dental among others. The state pays the direct cost for these programs and is currently not sending payment to providers. At this time, we have not received word of providers demanding upfront payments. If you learn of a provider requiring upfront payment, UPI has asked that you notify one of its officers as quickly as possible. Contact Pat Tracy, UPI Secretary [ptracy@upilocal4100.org](mailto:ptracy@upilocal4100.org).

## Getting to Know You

### A Portrait of Marita Metzke

by Audrey Edwards

**M**arita Metzke took a roundabout path to becoming program coordinator for EIU's Academy of Lifelong Learning. She began her college studies at Eastern, moved to Kansas, and returned to town 25 years later.

Marita grew up in Dwight, Illinois, a farming community of about 4000 people. "My parents were not college graduates," she says, "but learning was one of their highest values." Her father, an electrician, taught her the science behind his craft; her mother, a homemaker, conveyed a sense of responsibility and organization that was invaluable in her career.

Marita first came to EIU as a 17-year-old freshman. Eastern was a close-knit community that reminded her of her small hometown. "It was just what I needed," she says.

After two years at EIU, Marita took time off to help her family following her mother's death. Resuming her studies, she switched to Northern Illinois University. "It was a large, diverse world," she recalls, "very different from Eastern." Upon graduation, Marita worked in the business world for many years, eventually earning a master's degree in management from Baker University in Kansas.

Then she returned to Charleston. "Seeing Eastern again after 25 years," she says, "I was dumbstruck by its beauty—the trees, the flowers, the buildings. It had a beauty I didn't really see when I was 17."

Marita started work at EIU in 2011. Her first step at the Academy of Lifelong Learning was to conduct a survey of community members' wishes and needs. Survey results led her to add courses at little or no cost and to offer membership perks such as one free course, of the member's choosing, every semester. On her watch, the Academy has grown. "Over the last full year," she says, "we had 1100 registrations for 65 courses."

Marita sees the Academy of Lifelong Learning as a way for community members to investigate topics they have always wanted to know more about. They may even want to offer a presentation on a favorite topic. Plans for 2016 include a vegetarian recipe swap and tasting session, a first-person dramatization of a WAC's life during World War II, and a discussion of Southern Illinois travel with authors Larry and Donna Mahan on their book, *20 Day Trips in and Around the Shawnee National Forest*.

If you have an idea for an activity you would like to take part in or present, please feel free to contact Marita at 581-5114 or [academy@eiu.edu](mailto:academy@eiu.edu).

A final note: Marita joined the EIU Annuitants Association in 2013 even though she is far from ready to retire — proof that people can and do become members even before retirement!

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*We hope to make "Getting to Know You" a regular feature of New Horizons. If you know of someone who has an unusual life story or has made a difference to EIUAA, please email Audrey Edwards at [atedwards36@gmail.com](mailto:atedwards36@gmail.com).*

## Keeping Connected

**EIU Homepage**

<http://www.eiu.edu>

**EIUAA Homepage**

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

**SUAA Homepage**

<http://suaa.org>

**SURS Homepage**

<http://www.surs.org>

**EIU Newsletter**

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

**CMS Homepage**

<http://www2.illinois.gov/cms/Pages/default.aspx>

**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

**TRAIL Retiree Healthcare Seminars**

[http://www.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/trail/Documents/Trail\\_Seminars\\_2015.pdf](http://www.illinois.gov/cms/Employees/benefits/trail/Documents/Trail_Seminars_2015.pdf)

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

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