

# THE ANNUITANT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SIU CARBONDALE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

VOLUME 2015, NUMBER 1

APRIL 2015

## SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING SCHEDULED APRIL 17



### News and Views: One Trustee's Perspective

Dr. Donna Litton Manering of Makanda, a veteran southern Illinois educator and current SIU Board Trustee, will be the featured speaker at the Spring General Meeting and her talk is entitled *News and Views: One Trustee's Perspective*.

Manering was appointed to the SIU Board of Trustees in March 2011. She currently serves as vice-chair of the Board, and member of the Board's Executive, Academic Matters, and Finance Committees. She also serves as the Board's representative to the State Universities Civil Service Merit Board and Board of Directors, Southern Illinois University Foundation, alternate representative to the Joint Trustee Committee for Springfield Medical Education Programs, and Board of Directors, the Association of Alumni, Former Students and Friends of Southern Illinois University, Incorporated.

She is a three-degree graduate of SIU Carbondale, earning her doctorate in Education Administration in 2000, her master's in Special Education and Elementary Education in 1977, and her bachelor's in Special Education and Elementary Education in 1974. She also holds a Superintendent Certificate, awarded in 1998, and a General Administrative Certificate, awarded in 1989.

Manering's experience includes 21 years teaching in the Carbondale Elementary School District, including as a first, third, fourth and fifth grade teacher; special education resource teacher; and academic talent resource teacher. Between 1980 and 1986, she also taught sections of SIUC courses to area gifted education teachers. From 1986 to 1998, she taught a curriculum and instruction course for SIUC undergraduates.

From 1994 to 1995, Manering was the junior/senior high school principal in the Cobden, Ill., District #17, where she also served as chair of the District Technology Committee and was an administrative member of the Parent Advisory Committee. She served as assistant superintendent for curriculum and instruction in Carbondale Elementary School District 95 from 1995 to 1999, and was a member of the school district's administrative negotiations team.

Manering's experience includes extensive service to the Illinois Education Association-NEA (IEA-NEA). From 1985 to 1994, she was a negotiator for the Carbondale Education Association, including serving as chief negotiator between 1990 and 1994. She served as the IEA-NEA director of higher education and student program from 1999 to 2005, and from 2005 to 2008 was the director of program development for the IEA-NEA.

Donna and her husband, Greg, have two sons and two grandchildren.

Everyone is encouraged to attend the Spring General Meeting and to hear Dr. Manering's talk. A luncheon will be served following the meeting in the atrium at the Dunn-Richmond Center. For members in the Carbondale area, to register for the luncheon please complete and return the registration form included in this newsletter. Others may contact Holly Rick at 618-453-6689.

## EMERITUS FACULTY ORGANIZATION TO MEET APRIL 17

~ BILL WRIGHT

The Emeritus Faculty Organization will hold its regular Spring meeting on Friday, April 17, at 8:30 a.m. at the Dunn-Richmond Center. The program will be presented by Craig Hinde, Immediate Past President of the Stage Company. The title of his presentation is *The Stage Company: 33 Years Old and Counting*.



CRAIG HINDE

Craig was one of the founders in 1982 of The Stage Company, an all-volunteer community theater (formerly known as the Jackson County Stage Company, Inc.). Over the Company's 33 years, he has played many roles on and off stage. In 1983 he was instrumental in acquiring a rent free lease from the Bank of Carbondale for its old building on the corner of Main and Washington Streets in Carbondale. He served as project director for the renovation of that building into a 96 seat theater. More recently he was one of those actively involved in procuring the Varsity Theater for the Stage Company and the Varsity Center for the Arts. He served as treasurer of the Stage Company from 2007 to 2010 during the busy years of acquiring and renovating the Varsity, and as President from 2010 to 2014. He is also on the Board of Directors of the Varsity Center for the Arts.

Craig is now retired from his occupation as a film and video producer. He has won over 22 national awards for his media projects.

### INSIDE THE COVERS

#### FEATURES

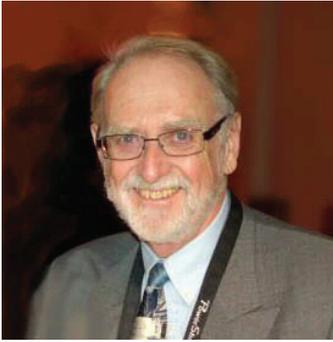
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## *A message from the president*



**Douglas Bedient, President**  
SIUC Annuitants Association

Greetings!

As 2014 neared its end I found myself thinking of some of the tragedies that were part of the year. An airliner is shot down over Ukraine; two planes disappear in the Indian Ocean or somewhere; Ebola plagues Liberia, Guinea, and Sierra Leone and appears in the U.S.; Ferguson, MO, Cleveland, OH and NYC are in the news after shootings and resulting riots. Was there good news in the world in 2014?

I came across an article where Secretary of State John Kerry talked of three memorable Thanksgivings in his life. He was 11-years old when he bicycled through the Brandenburg Gate into East Berlin and found himself in deep trouble. At age 26 Kerry marked the holiday with five fellow sailors and a lukewarm plate of scrambled egg on a patrol boat in Vietnam. In 2007, he spent Thanksgiving weekend with Nelson Mandela.

Kerry is “thankful this year for a world that proves near miraculous change is possible. Where Cold War rivalry gave way to a united Germany and a democratic Europe, where war-torn Southeast Asia became a magnet for growth and where the era of apartheid ended with the dawn of a new era marked by reconciliation and truth.”

Late in the year I ran across a *Wall Street Journal* column that added another perspective as I reflected about 2014. Bret Stephens traced the fracking revolution that has resulted in turmoil in petrochemical markets and the lower gas prices we enjoy. He believes that this revolution resulted because entrepreneurs such as George Mitchell and Harold Hamm experimented in myriad ways to free gas and oil deposits in shale formations. Stephens grew up outside the U.S but is an American citizen. He is intrigued that so many Americans bellyache about the state of their schools, their polarized, paralyzed politics, mounting fiscal burdens and predictions of impending decline. Stephens has always “been struck by the disconnect between American achievement and self-perception. To this day I find it slightly amazing, that in the U.S., I can drink water straight from the tap, that a policeman has never asked me for a ‘contribution’, that nobody gets kidnapped for ransom, that my luggage has never been stolen...”

Stephens contrasts autocracies that cultivate their chess champions, piano prodigies and nuclear engineers as they mobilize their top 1% to accomplish tasks. “The quandary is what to do with the remaining 99%.” The autocratic answer is to administer, dictate and repress.

“A free society that is willing to place millions of small bets on persons unknown and things unseen doesn’t have this problem. Flexibility, not hardness, is the true test of strength. Success is a result of experiment not design. Failure is tolerable to the extent that adaptation is possible. This is the American secret, which we often forget because we can’t imagine it any other way.”

Looking back at 2014 we annuitants might also celebrate the Court decision that will result in the return of health insurance premiums in 2015. That ruling has led some pundits to expect the changes in retirement legislation to also be overturned. SUAA has been a major player in contesting the health insurance charges as well as changes in retirement policies. If you do not receive SUAA’s legislative updates, go to [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org) and enroll so that you receive these updates with current happenings concerning pensions and benefits. The legal contests consume resources. When you receive your health insurance payments, please consider contributing a month or two of your premiums to the SUAA Legal Fund so we will be able to continue the work to protect pensions and benefits.

2015 will bring many challenges. We await details of what Governor Rauner’s budget plans will involve and we await another state Supreme Court decision concerning retirement benefits. We need to emphasize that our education system is a major way to place the bets on persons unknown and things unseen so that our society continues its exceptional progress that is sometimes obscured by competing problems and crises.

Among my good news in 2014 was a Board of Directors that works to make our organization serve its members better. Thanks to each for their service. We continue to ask you to help us grow our SUAA membership. Our Chapter is growing, but we have much potential to grow even larger. Join in these efforts. We have some new legislators to educate about retirement promises and lobby against retirement changes that place the major burden on retirees who did their part to make promises realized. Best wishes to each of you for 2015!

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas Bedient". The ink is dark and the signature is written on a light-colored background.

# SUAA Capital Points from Springfield

First: if you want to keep up with what is going on in Springfield on a regular basis, be sure you're a member of SUAA and be sure you're on the SUAA listserv. Then, you will receive the SUAA MiniBriefings. In these, our Executive Director, Linda Brookhart, gives you a run-down on what is happening, has happened and might happen regarding your pensions and benefits. In addition, the SUAA web site has all the court materials relating to the health insurance premiums class action lawsuit.

You need to constantly tell yourself that Governor Rauner's proposals and comments are only that. Any changes in the laws that have effect on us must be passed by the Senate and House and the Governor. The Governor's proposals are talking points that will be discussed and argued and amended. (And the arguments promise to be interesting, as Senate President Cullerton has called Rauner's budget "unworkable" and "unconscionable.")

It is important to note here that on March 11, the Illinois Supreme Court heard final oral arguments on the constitutionality of Senate Bill 1, the bill that would reduce and impair our pensions. Watching the hearing on my computer (it was streamed live), I came away feeling we are winning. The questions to the Solicitor General seemed to clearly be in sympathy with the presentations by SUAA's attorney and others. It seems apparent that the Supreme Court ruling will hold the law unconstitutional. No date has been set for an announcement of the decision. The web was alive with comments on the Supreme Court hearing and the majority of comments seem to agree with my assessment here.

In writing about the Kinerva case, which upheld our contention that making us pay for our health insurance was unconstitutional, Justice Freeman wrote that the constitutional guarantee was "... aimed at protecting the right to receive the promised retirement benefits, not the adequacy of the funding to pay them."

During the campaign, Rauner seemed to indicate that he would push for all current employees to switch from the current defined benefits pension plan to a 401(k) plan. However, his budget as proposed did not include this idea. If all current employees were forced into a 401(k) pension plan then no money will go toward the current liability (which some now refer to as \$111 billion). Rauner has said current workers should get the benefits they have earned thus far, but that current employees should go into the as yet undefined Tier III, the new level for new employees, which will not give the same benefits current to Tier I employees.

A bill of great concern to all university employees is House Bill 403, which would repeal the current 50% tuition waiver for university employees' children. Last year (2014), 2,156 students were provided the 50% tuition waiver, state wide. It has been part of the package of benefits which new employees (civil service, a/p, and faculty) have found attractive. I worked with several people who told me the tuition waiver was a factor in their taking employment. No state funds are involved in this program, as it is run and maintained by the universities. If you or someone you know is counting on the tuition waiver, inform them of this bill and keep a watch on it.

There are almost 20 bills already presented to the new legislature which deal with some aspect or other of pension and benefits. Most of those will die an ignominious death. Some point to possible future fights: i.e. House Bill 134, which would create a Tier III of new employees (hired after July 1, 2015), who would receive diminished benefits.

This is, to me, one of the great dangers in all the talk and all the ideas being thrown around. The recruitment of highly qualified civil service and a/p and faculty is vital to a university's future growth. For years, the public universities and community colleges of Illinois have been able to use the retirement system as an incredibly strong recruitment tool. When I first came to SIUC, my father looked at all the papers I was presented with and told me he thought I should give SIUC serious consideration, because of its great retirement program. I can only hope that the fathers of future applicants can continue to give this sound advice.

Taking away the benefits promised in the Constitution of the state, removing the tuition waivers, not maintaining the retirement systems, and now acting as if even expecting a pension is fiscally unsound. . . .

Oh, Illinois, my Illinois . . . where are you going?

Bruce C. Appleby  
Immediate Past President, SIUC AA; President, SUAA

## CONTACTS FOR LOCAL STATE LEGISLATORS

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Thank you to all who contributed to our Political Action Committee during 2014. Statewide contributions were up in this election year, and SIUC's contributions were up, too. Total contributions to SUAAction during 2014 were \$183,068, somewhat above the 2013 total of \$162,146. Since 2014 was an election year, the increase is not surprising, especially given the pressures that we retirees in Illinois are feeling.

The first year that SUAAction started, the SIUC Chapter set an annual goal to raise \$10,000. We still haven't reached that goal but, for the first time, we came within a few dollars. Our total amount donated during 2014 was \$9,780.

The next SUAAction fundraising letter will be mailed to all members this spring (at this writing on March 4th, I'm not sure spring will ever come), and a follow-up letter will be mailed in the fall. Please continue to be generous with your contributions so that SUAA can remain active in expressing our concerns to legislators.

Under our new by-laws, approved this year, the SUAAction Committee no longer has co-chairs. Louis Anderson (KKC) is Chair, I am Vice-Chair, and Jim Carlson (ISU) is Secretary/Treasurer of the Board of Directors for SUAAction.

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## SIUC MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS

SIUC membership in SUAA has increased over the past year. At the end of January 2015, our chapter had 777 members, an increase of 36. Board members and others have been encouraging their friends and colleagues to join SUAA. They realize that numbers do count when it comes to working with legislators and lawmakers in fighting to protect our pensions and benefits. It is important that we continue to support SUAA in this effort. Won't you contact someone about joining SUAA?

How does our membership compare with other state universities? Here is a glimpse of where we stand as of January 2015:

- SIUC had 777 members (641 retired, 58 actively employed and 78 other, e. g., surviving spouse)
- Illinois State University had 1349 members (1029 retired, 160 actively employed and 160 other)
- Eastern Illinois University had 731 members (598 retired, 76 actively employed and 57 other)

When I reported membership data in September 2011, SIUC had only 716 members, while Illinois State had 1393 and Eastern had 711. Thanks to our Board members and YOU, our chapter had the largest increase in total members. But with the challenges that might be forthcoming, we need to encourage both current employees and retirees to join SUAA. Reminder: As of January 2015, SUAA annual dues were increased by \$2, which means our chapter dues are now \$39 a year or \$3.25 a month. \$6 is reimbursed to the chapter to be used for local activities.

Please contact me personally if you or someone you know needs help with the membership application.

Thyra Russell, Membership Chair  
457-7554 or [trussell@siu.edu](mailto:trussell@siu.edu)

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## EMERITUS FACULTY ORGANIZATION IN NEED TO FILL TWO VACANT POSITIONS

The SIUC Emeritus Faculty Organization Board would like to fill two vacant positions on its Board. The positions are Faculty Senate Representative and Graduate Council Representative. Each position would involve attending many or most of the meetings of the faculty organization and providing communication between the faculty organization and the Emeritus Faculty Organization (EFO). The EFO has two meetings per year, preceding the two meetings of the SIUC Annuitants Association. The EFO Board meets two or three times a year. If you might be interested in either position and/or would like more information about the EFO Board, please contact Bill Wright, President of EFO, at [wrightbp1@frontier.com](mailto:wrightbp1@frontier.com) or 618-549-6134.

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

APRIL 17 - EMERITUS FACULTY MEETING - 8:30 A.M., DUNN-RICHMOND CENTER

APRIL 17 - SPRING GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING - DUNN-RICHMOND CENTER

APRIL - 18 - 8 A.M. - 3 P.M. - SPRING FLEA MARKET -SIU ARENA PARKING LOT - SPONSORED BY CIVIL SERVICE COUNCIL

MAY 4 - GOLF SCRAMBLE, CRAB ORCHARD GOLF CLUB. REGISTRATION 7:30 A.M.

MAY 16, 2015 - COMMENCEMENT

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# Chapter happenings

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

~Mary Mantovani

The SUAA Blood Drive was held on January 21 and 22, 2015. A total of 66 pints was collected – a little short of the two day goal set at 73 pints. A big thank you goes out to Georgia Kelley, Mary Mantovani, Jackie Mueller, Nancy Pfaff and Roberta Reeves for volunteering to work.

The next drive will be in late August 2015. Remember: giving a pint of blood can help save 3 lives.

## **SCHOLARSHIP**

The SIU Carbondale Annuitants have funded four \$1,000 scholarships for years. Part of the funding results from the Bookstore Greeter Program. Interest from our endowment account supplies the remainder of the funds. Imogene Beckemeyer chairs the Scholarship Committee in exemplary fashion. She is ably assisted in the review of the applications by Brenda Gilbert, David Koch, and Robert Swenson. Mike Murray will be serving as a liaison between the Committee and the Board of Directors. We invite our members to publicize the scholarships and encourage students they know to apply. Imogene can supply information about the process. Scholarship winners for 2015 will be announced this spring.

## **GOLF**

~KEITH McQUARRIE

A Spring 2015 Golf Scramble has been scheduled for Monday, May 4, 2015, at Crab Orchard Golf Club, with a rain date of Monday, May 11, 2015. Cost for the 18 hole event is \$29.50 for the golf and cart (payable to the course), plus \$5 for prizes. After the round is completed we will have lunch (chicken salad, chips and drink = \$7.) All fees are payable at registration (7:30 A.M.). Tee time is 8:00 A.M. If you have questions or want to confirm that you will join us, please call Keith at 618-559-9664 or email at keithmcq@siu.edu. Please spread the word and encourage others to field a team – we always have a great time!

**SUAA MEMBERS – Please help make our VOICE in Springfield stronger. Every new member raises the VOLUME!**

**RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.**

*The Annuitant* newsletter is published three times a year by the SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association and the Department of Human Resources, Southern Illinois University Carbondale.

Editor-in-Chief, Nancy Hartman

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## **BOOKSTORE GREETERS**

~Doug Bedient

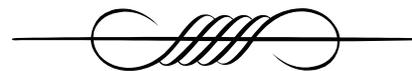
**BOOKSTORE GREETERS ARE FLEXIBLE!!!**

You may recall that greeters were slated to be greeters this term and would not be involved with backpacks and other items that students check when they enter the Bookstore. The Bookstore hired workers to staff the operation, but it soon became evident that lines would form and the process would be slow. We learned one thing for sure! Our annuitants who volunteer do not ignore problems and situations that need attention.

We continued to direct customers to the check-in area but the greeters began to assist the staff. Some greeters assisted with receiving student items and others began to operate the return part of the process. Lines were soon eliminated. Greeters dealt with the ebb and flow of the process. Serving as greeters when that was called for and helping with the receiving and returning of items when that was useful. The work was not what I had advertised. But most greeters seemed pleased to have a variety of tasks to perform. Thanks to all who volunteered to assist. We have one of our scholarships funded due to this project.

Greeters who volunteered included Ann Dillard, Bob Radtke, Mike Hanes, Jim Tyrrell, Carol King, Kay Brechtelsbauer, Judy Rawls, John McIntyre, Carolyn Donow, Bruce Appleby, Thyra Russell, Robert Reeves, Mary Mantovani, Susan Pearlman, Bill McMinn, Pat Eckert, John Corker, Keith McQuarrie, John Bobell, Nancy Hartman, Fred Moehle, Roland Person, Kathy Fahey, Ann Karmos, Dennis Laake, Dick Bradley, Joyce Webb, Marcia Anderson, Lynn Smith, Emil Spees, Georgia Kelley, Rick and Joan Erickson, Beth Arthur, Monica Wilson, and Barb Bedient! Thanks to each of you for your service! If I omitted any volunteer, my apologies and please let me know so that my record will be correct.

I will discuss the program with numerous volunteers to assess our strengths and weaknesses and then meet with the Bookstore Manager to review what was accomplished. Stay tuned for announcements concerning next fall! Again, thanks to all who supported the program!



**We Are All In This Together**

**Go to SUAA.ORG to keep informed on current state-wide efforts and legislative actions being conducted to protect your pension and benefits.**

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## Spotlighting The Carbondale SUAA Chapter Board Members

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Our Chapter is most fortunate to have a dedicated slate of officers and Board of Directors. You may notice their names in the newsletter, but we want you to connect names and faces and also learn a bit about their careers, families and interests. Anyone of these persons can provide information about SUAA and its programs and initiatives. As President I feel so lucky to serve with a group of persons who are serious about helping SUAA protect pensions and benefits, are committed to their work as an officer or director, provide feedback concerning various issues and questions, and work to develop consensus among the Board of Directors. I think you will find the individual uniqueness and background of each board member helps us to serve the many different constituencies that our membership represents.

### CHAPTER OFFICERS

#### DOUGLAS BEDIENT ~ PRESIDENT

Joined the SIUC Learning Resources Service faculty in 1971 and was cross-appointed to the College of Education. Transferred to Curriculum and Instruction in the early 1990s and taught in the instructional development specialty area as well as supervising field placements of teacher ed students. Likes to read, travel, and be involved in educational, service, and church activities. Doug and his wife Barb have two children and ten grandchildren residing in Indiana and Connecticut.



#### THYRA RUSSELL ~ VICE PRESIDENT

Retired Associate Dean, Morris Library after 31 years of service. Active member of the SIUC Women's Club, Antiques & Collectibles Interest Group & Co-Director of Grace United Methodist Church's annual GRACE RACE.



#### DON STUCKY ~ TREASURER

Served as Professor and Chair of Plant and Soil Sciences in the School of Agriculture for 15 years. He and his wife Mary reside in Carbondale. They are avid Saluki basketball fans. They have two children, Diane Humer who lives in Warrenville, Illinois and Mike Stucky who lives in Shoreview, Minnesota. One of their four grandchildren, Eric Humer, is attending SIUC.



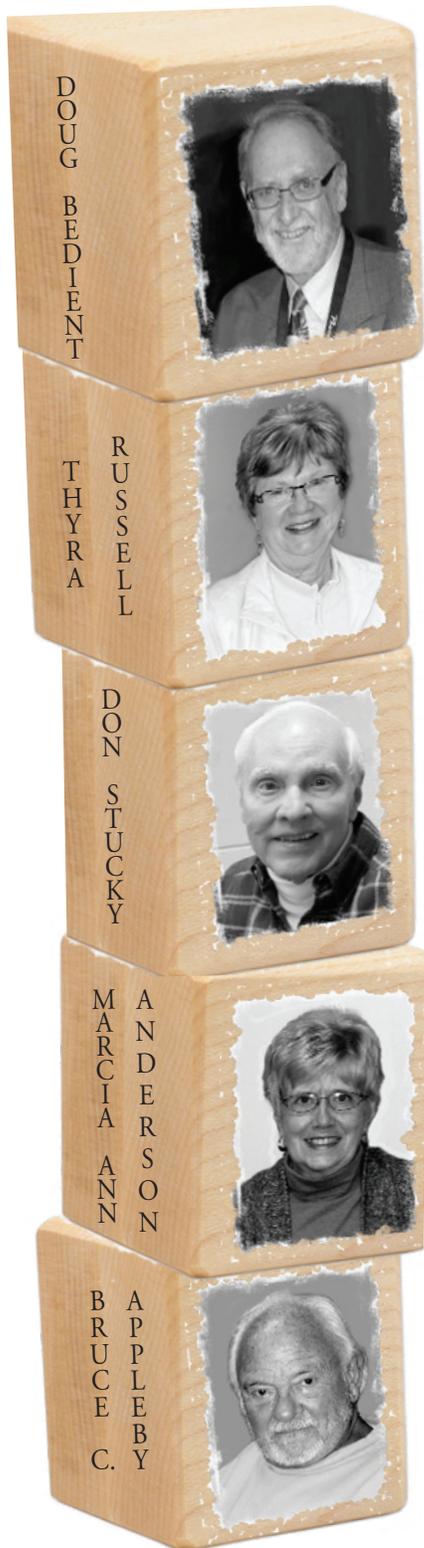
#### MARCIA ANN ANDERSON ~ SECRETARY

Retired after 39 years at SIUC as Professor in the Department of Workforce Education and Development. Served on Faculty Senate and Graduate Council while employed. Native of Nebraska. Daughter and family reside in High Point, North Carolina. Does volunteer work with social services organization in Marion and continues involvement with professional associations in my field.



#### BRUCE C. APPLEBY ~ IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT & PRESIDENT OF SUAA'S EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Professor Emeritus of English has been retired 20 years. Currently, he is immediate past president of the SIUC chapter of SUAA (for the second time) and is President of SUAA's state wide organization. Locally, Bruce represents our chapter on the SIUC Joint Benefits Committee and the Recreation Center Advisory Board.



## BOARD MEMBERS

**PAT ECKERT ~**

Worked at SIUC for 35 years. During her time at SIUC she was a coordinator in the Division of Continuing Education, an instructor in Health Care Management for the College of Applied Sciences and Arts and directed a national demonstration project for college alcohol programs for the Student Health Center. During her time at the Student Health Center she was part of the original staff hired to develop the Wellness Center. She was also active in the AP Council at SIUC. Pat also did consultant work in substance abuse prevention. She and her husband, Jerry Molumby, reside in Carbondale and have a variety of interests, including classic cars. On summer days some may see them driving their 1955 Ford Thunderbird.

**BILL WRIGHT ~**

Retired from the Department of Computer Science as Professor and Chair in 2003, after 33 years at SIUC. Retirement activities include traveling, hiking, and badminton. Formed a corporation in 2012 to manufacture and market a newly patented implement for tractors.

**JAY BROOKS ~**

Served as the Superintendent of Building Services and was employed at the Physical Plant for over 32 years. He was a member of the Civil Service Council for over 15 years and president of the group for five years. Jay also served as the SIUC representative on the Employee Advisory Committee to the Merit Board for 9 years and the State Universities Retirement System Member's Advisory Committee for 6 years. In addition he was a member of two Chancellor Search Committees. In retirement, Jay and Mary Jane enjoy traveling. They have two sons that they are extremely proud of: Aaron who is 33 and Jonathon who is 30. Both sons as well as Mary Jane are SIU alum. Jay enjoys volunteering, including Meals on Wheels and working with First Presbyterian Church in Carbondale. He also enjoys writing and has a blog entitled the Happy Traveler.

**HOLLY RICK ~ SUAA CAMPUS SUPPORT CONTACT**

Began SIUC employment in 2003 at the Student Center Business Office and transferred to Human Resources in 2005 and is currently a Human Resources Representative. She provides campus support services for the Association and enjoys assisting the membership. She is married with 3 sons, 3 daughters-in-law and 4 granddaughters. Before her employment at SIUC, she worked at Kroger for 20 years at three different locations in Carbondale.

**TRISH WELCH ~**

Emeritus Professor/Department Chairperson for Animal Science, Food and Nutrition. Enjoys learning history through travel, golf and historic resorts, musical theater and sporting events at SIU. Likes to attend any activities in which grandchildren or nieces and nephews actively participate.

**LYNN SMITH ~**

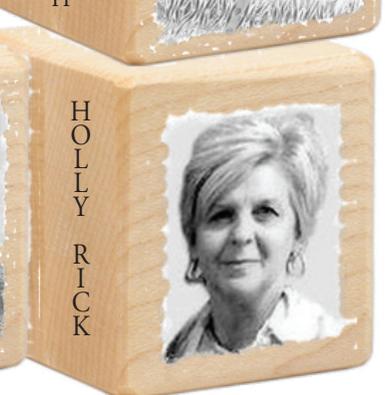
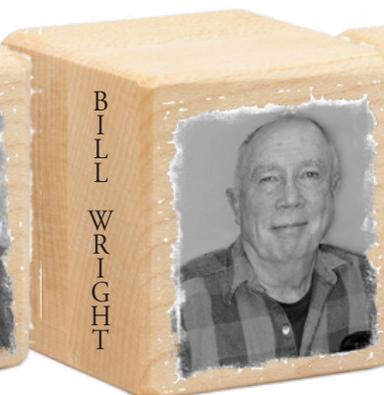
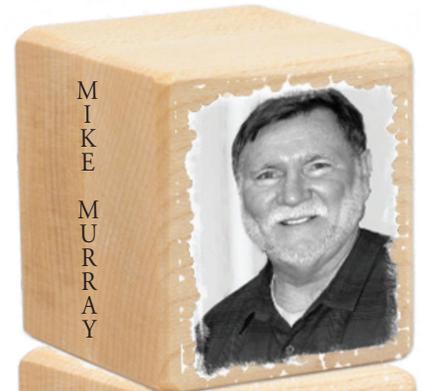
Served as a faculty member and chair of Curriculum and Instruction. Her instructional and research specialties were in reading, elementary/middle level education, and mentoring. She is active in Lutheran higher education activities; sits on the Alumni Association Board for Valparaiso University; and on the Cornerstone Foundation Board, which is associated with Lutheran Social Services of Illinois. She has two children and one grandchild; Charles, his wife and daughter reside in Indianapolis, and Clare, who resides in Carbondale.

**VALERIE BROOKS WALLIN ~**

A/P Council Representative to Annuitants Board of Directors. Academic Advisor in the School of Art and Design for 10 years as well as assistant advisor for 9 years. Knitting is her passion when time permits. Married to a self-employed blacksmith and they enjoy one dog and three cats. Currently building a house that is time-consuming.

**MIKE MURRAY ~**

Mike has been associated with SIUC for 35 years. Besides earning both his masters and doctorate from the University, he has served as director of corporate relations for the SIU Foundation and as associate director of Career Services. Mike and his wife of over 45 years, Susan, live in Makanda township. Together they have three children and five grandchildren. Interests, besides SUAA, include being a trustee on the Bates Foundation board, Brehm School Foundation board member, Hope Light Project board member, and 24 / 7 "grandpa-on-call" lifetime member.



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202109

**MEMBERSHIP MATTERS**

**If you are associated with SIU Carbondale...**

You should join the State Universities Annuitants Association. SUAA serves all participants and beneficiaries of the State Universities Retirement System (SURS). SUAA is the only advocacy organization focusing solely on preserving pension and healthcare benefits for current employees and retirees of public universities and community colleges. It is important that everyone—retired and current employees, spouses, and survivors—become a member of SUAA. The annual fee is \$39.

***Ways to join:***

- Go to [www.suaa.org](http://www.suaa.org) and click on “Join Now.”
- Go to the Annuitants Association website: [annuitants.siu.edu](http://annuitants.siu.edu) and click on “Membership Information.” Payment options include automatic dues deduction, annual payment by check, or automatic payroll deduction (current employees only). Automatic dues deduction is encouraged because it eliminates the need to be contacted annually by SUAA.
- Call the SUAA Office at 217-523-4040

To those who are already members of SUAA we thank you. To those who have not yet joined, please consider joining today. We need to protect our pension and benefits.

Thyra Russell  
 SIU Carbondale-AA Membership Chair  
 457-7554 or [trussell@siu.edu](mailto:trussell@siu.edu)

**SIU CARBONDALE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION  
 BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
 JIFFY DIRECTORY**

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