

THE ANNUITANT

A PUBLICATION OF THE SIU CARBONDALE ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION

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FALL GENERAL MEETING HEARS SURS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR UPDATE

Bryan Lewis, SURS Executive Director, presented an informative overview of the status of SURS in his September 17 address at the Fall General Meeting. Selected data are presented below to illustrate what is happening with SURS related to funding and membership. SURS is the equivalent of Social Security for employees of public colleges and universities in Illinois. SURS provides retirement, survivor, death and disability benefits to all employees of public colleges and universities in Illinois. SURS serves 64 different employer agencies across the state. Our fall meeting allowed Lewis to meet SURS members and that was one of his goals for his first year. He had never traveled to southern Illinois before.

SURS Member Demographics reveal the following as of March 2015: 148,952 defined-benefit plan members; 19,545 defined-contribution plan members; 87,391 active and 81,106 inactive participants; 59,155 benefit recipients; 58% of SURS members held non-academic staff positions (technical, clerical, building services); 78% of retirees live in Illinois.

Member Benefits data include the following: SURS average monthly retirement annuity is \$3,182.64; 53% of monthly retirement annuities are \$2,600 or less; SURS paid \$2.1 billion in defined-benefit plan benefits in FY 2014.

Historical funding ratios in the 21st Century range from 88.2% in 2000 to 41.1% in FY 2012. FY 2014 funding ratio was 46.5%. The goal is to return to 88% funding.

SURS held \$17.28 billion in assets as of March 31, 2015. The portfolio is broadly diversified. Equities include U.S. (31.1%), Private (5.7%); Non-US (19.0%) and Global (8.0%). Fixed income assets amount to 20.3%. TIPS account for 3.8% while Emerging Markets Debt account for 1.0%. Real Estate amounts to 8.7%; Commodities 2.0%; Hedged strategies 0%; and Opportunity Fund (0.4%). SURS investment performance as of 3/31/15 for 1 year: 6.9%; 3 years 10.2%; 5 years 9.7%; 10 years 7.3%; 20 years 8.6%; and 25 years 8.5%.

Membership Growth shows a major change since 2000. In 2000 benefit recipients totaled about 30,000 while active participants totaled slightly above 70,000. In 2014 the benefit recipients totaled near 60,000 and active participant numbers were right at 70,000.

SURS funding comes from three sources: employee contributions, investment performance and state appropriations.

The SURS website (www.surs.org) includes a wealth of information. Some interesting data about SURS in the SIUC area include:

	All SURS Members	Active & Inactive	Benefit Recipients	Annual Net Benefits
Senator				
Luechtefeld	6334	4254	2080	\$65,151,389
Forby	6226	4179	2047	\$52,133,067
Representative				
Bryant	5409	3530	1879	\$61,552,368
Bradley	3819	2605	1214	\$29,788,363

As you can see, SURS annuitants have the potential to be very influential. Join with us in making our views heard!

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SUAACTION TO SEEK FEEDBACK ON LOCAL CANDIDATES

By mid February the SUAAction Board will meet to determine contributions for primary candidates and by September for general election candidates. To determine which candidates should receive contributions from SUAAction, the Board will rely on recommendations from SUAAction chapter chairs and from our lobbyists.

Local chapters should send their recommendations to the SUAAction Board with their recommendations as to which local candidates share supporting views with SUAA. (These two paragraphs are excerpted from the Board's new operating paper.)

To get feedback from our chapter, I will set up a meeting in early January to discuss our local candidates. Last year at an annual meeting, several people indicated that they were interested in being involved in this process. I will e-mail or call those people in our chapter as soon as I have an exact time and place for the meeting. If you didn't sign up for this activity and want to be involved, please contact me at cdonow@siu.edu or mail me at Potters Road, Makanda, IL 62958.

-Carolyn Donow, Vice Chair, SUAAction Board



Douglas Bedient, President
SIUC Annuitants Association

A message from the president

In the Doldrums!

As I prepare this piece in the middle of September I have been thinking about some of the situations that confront Illinois. We have political leaders who are at loggerheads over numerous issues. Everyone seems to agree that we have budget problems, but no one seems able to reach an agreement to work together to solve or even address the problems.

The situation is causing problems for many different entities. Murphysboro has suspended street improvements due to lack of funds. The Johnson County Highway Department is laying off staff and does not have funds to repair roads that usually are maintained in the summer. Union County is having similar problems. Good Samaritan Ministries is in dire straits due to the budget impasse that has shut off its state funding. Appeals for individual and local support have been issued. The Williamson County Board is considering suing the state to gain funds that are needed for many programs. Health departments in the area are reducing staffs and cutting programs once again due to funds not being provided. Most of us probably realize that funds for higher education have not been delivered and universities are preparing contingencies for reduced budgets.

In the midst of such problems in a September 10 *Southern Illinoisian story* Leslie Geissler Munger, the State Comptroller, reported that due to consent decrees, court orders, and current law Illinois will enter calendar year 2016 with about \$8.5 billion in unpaid bills. According to the Comptroller's website "The unpaid bill estimate does not include payments for higher education, employee-retiree health insurance, student MAP grants, some Lottery winners, commercial spending, and other bills that will not be processed until a budget is in place. Those payments could account for an additional \$4.3 billion in spending annually." On and on it seems to go!

Perhaps because Barb and I are traveling to Machu Picchu and the Galapagos Islands this fall I have been thinking about topics such as the equator, the Incas, Peru, hummingbirds, and the unique wildlife of the Galapagos. As I read I recalled from long ago the problems that some sailors used to encounter near the equator. The doldrums came back to my mind, and I began looking for some information to refresh my memory.

The doldrums is the region of calm winds, centered slightly north of the equator and between the two belts of trade winds, which meet there and neutralize each other. The calm could be a disaster in the times of sailing ships. Reports abound of ships that stalled in the area due to the lack of wind. This could go on for days or weeks. Rations and water could become short and lives were lost if the calm was of long duration.

The large amount of solar radiation that arrives at the earth in this area causes intense heating of the land and ocean. This heating results in the rising of warm, moist air; low air pressure; cloudiness; high humidity; light, variable winds; and various forms of severe weather, such as thunderstorms and squalls. Hurricanes also originate in these regions.

If a ship were to be becalmed sometimes nothing was done, and if the calm lasted long enough casualties began. Resorting to drinking ocean water set off horrible complications. But some captains found ways to deal with the doldrums. These take-charge captains would put out the ship's long boat(s) with a small crew who would tow the mother ship out of the dead air into fresh air. Not an easy task but much preferred to doing nothing.

Ships when becalmed would send stress calls to other nearby or passing ships. Calls for food and water were frequent. One episode told of a becalmed ship whose crew begged another to share water with them. The other ship's sailors shouted to lower buckets into the ocean. That seemed to be suicidal. But what the sailors did not know was that they were afloat in a virtual river of drinkable water flowing from the mouth of the Amazon River, which carries nearly 20% of all the earth's runoff water into the sea with such force that the fresh (or brackish but safe) water flows as far as 100 miles out into the Atlantic. Relief was at hand but the sailors did not know it.

The doldrums remind me of our current situation in Illinois. No action is being taken to alleviate our problems. Motor fuel taxes are being collected but cannot be allocated since no state budget exists. Plans for reductions at SIUC are reported in the September 23 *Daily Egyptian*. What a calamity! We need to remember next winter why some roads will be in worse than usual shape since maintenance and repair were not funded during the summer working season. Who knows what the SIUC cuts will harm! The budget pressures are growing much like the atmosphere near the equator. One can expect the solutions at some time to be like a storm, a squall or even a hurricane!

But is there anything else we can do besides wait? I think we can inundate our legislators and governor with requests to begin to at least address, if not, solve the problems. Demand that action be taken so that infrastructure, public health, food problems, and education are addressed! Join in helping SUAAction inform legislators and policy makers of our priorities! Let's be like those sailors in the long boats who took action and got out of the doldrums before squalls or hurricanes came along and made the situation even worse. Let's put our collective voices together and work to overcome the doldrums! Even in this difficult time I was pleased to see that Attorney General Lisa Madigan did not file an appeal of the Illinois Supreme Court decision that protected pensions and benefits! Something positive for us annuitants! I am reminded of the closing of many of Linda Brookhart's briefings and updates: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has."—Margaret Mead

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Douglas Bedient". The ink is dark and the signature is written in a fluid, personal style.

SUAA Capital Points from Springfield

Since the Senate and House of Representatives and the Governor have not yet settled on a basic budget for the state, no legislation or bills on our pensions and our benefits have been introduced.

There is NOTHING to report.

~ Bruce C. Appleby, SUAA State President

SUMMARY OF SUAA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR LINDA BROOKHART'S LEGISLATIVE REPORT GIVEN AT THE FALL MEETING OF SUAA ON NOVEMBER 13, 2015.

Generally, at each state meeting of SUAA, (in the fall and spring of each year) our Executive Director, Linda Brookhart presents a report on recent activity and current trends in the House and Senate. The principal theme of her report for the fall meeting reflected the current theme in Springfield: "Nobody knows what's happening or going to happen."

Linda and our principal lobbyist, Dick Lockhart, recently attended a meeting of the "Committee of the Whole" (made up of members of both the House and Senate) concerning higher education. She said it was attended by three university presidents - University of Illinois, Chicago State University and Western Illinois University - two community college presidents - Danville and Carl Sandburg, as well as two students who receive MAP Grants. She reported that the meeting was first delayed a number of hours before starting, and then when it did convene, many members were missing, and many others in attendance were not paying attention.

To quote her report: "The unfortunate part of this is that while there was good content in the testimonies, too many decisions makers were not available to hear it. The vote for the MAP Grants from the House could happen on December 2. But the Senate isn't scheduled to come back to Springfield until January 13, 2016." According to Linda, most of the legislators with whom she has spoken seem to favor passing of the MAP Grant funds, but she is still doubtful that approval will be possible until after January 13. According to Linda, "Right now and until January it takes a super majority which is 3/5ths to pass legislation. January 13th the vote returns to a simple majority. So there is no push to get anything done."

She did point out that there has recently been a restructuring of House and Senate Committees. "More Committees were created and Sub-Committees within those committees were also established, presumably for the undetermined future. The number of Committees and Sub-Committees in the Senate is now 60, and in the House, 84. 40 of the 59 State Senators will be on the ballot next year, some starting with 2-year terms and some starting with 4-year terms."

Health insurance is always a topic of conversation. Linda will be attending two meetings with CMS in the coming week to discuss the College Insurance Program and the State Health Insurance. She reported that Delta Dental, CIGNA and other service providers will stop paying claims due to the lack of money coming in from the State. Medicare Advantage should be in good shape.

Other issues such as 1) the Safe Harbor provisions set for Tier II, 2) there will most likely be no serious conversations about possibly taxing a portion of retirement income, 3) broadening the Sales Tax Base are all issues that are "in limbo" at this time.

Although somewhat informative, Linda's Legislative Report held out little hope for any major improvement in the short range. The membership is encouraged to check with the SUAA website - suaa.org - on a regular basis for further developments.

-Mike Hanes

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

DECEMBER 19, 2015 - COMMENCEMENT
JANUARY 18, 2016 - MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.'S BIRTHDAY HOLIDAY
JANUARY 19, 2016 - SEMESTER CLASSES BEGIN
JANUARY 19 - 22, 2016 - BOOKSTORE GREETING
JANUARY 20, 2016 - BLOOD DRIVE - STUDENT CENTER
MARCH 12, 2016 THROUGH MARCH 20 - SPRING VACATION

THREE SIUC ANNUITANTS ATTEND SUAA FALL MEETING AT ISU

-Thyra Russell, Vice President

On Friday, November 13th, Mike Hanes, Bob Radtke and I attended the SUAA's fall meeting at the Alumni Center on Illinois State University's campus. According to our membership numbers, we are entitled to have 3 directors attend this meeting. If we make our goal of 801 members by the end of the year, we will be entitled to have 4 directors at next year's fall meeting. The SUAA president, Bruce Appleby (yes, our Bruce Appleby) called the meeting to order and with the help of our parliamentarian kept the meeting moving and on time.

Our morning speaker was Illinois State Senator Jason Barickman representing the 53rd legislative district, which includes ISU. Barickman participated in the inaugural class of Governor Edgar's Fellows Leadership Program. His basic message was that the state government is paralyzed and there is a toxic environment. He spoke about the need for a balanced budget and said we would probably see some sort of tax increase next year. He is well aware of the need for higher education funding, but as we've read in the newspapers, we probably won't have a budget until January or later.

Next on the agenda was the approval of the 2015 annual meeting minutes and reports from the president, membership, foundation, executive director, auditor, and treasurer. Directors received written copies of most of these reports to share with their chapter boards. Discussion centered on the legislative platform for 2016, which should be available soon on the SUAA website: suaa.org under the heading Legislation.

Executive Director Linda Brookhart reported on the activities of the SUAA office, including a change in personnel. She reported that this fall meeting had a record number of attendees (101) and encouraged us all to contribute to the SUAA legal fund and SUAAAction and lead by example.

SIUC ANNUITANTS ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP NUMBERS INCREASE

I am pleased to report that as of November 9, our chapter had 793 members. This is an increase of 10 since I reported in our last newsletter. However, we must not stop in our efforts to gain additional members. The SIUC Annuity Association Board set a goal of at least 801 members by the end of December 2015. If we meet that goal, SIUC will have an additional director to serve on the SUAA Board of Directors (thus increasing SIUC's visibility in the state organization). The Board of Directors sets policy, defines goals and priorities, and has responsibility for the direction of the Association.

We hope you will assist in raising our membership to over 801 by the end of December. Applications and payments need to reach SUAA before the end of the year in order to have new members count. As you talk up joining remember what SUAA has done in the courts and in policy recommendations to protect our pensions and benefits. Also remember that current employees, spouses, and survivors have reason to join SUAA.

Please help us by contacting someone who is either working or retired but has not yet joined SUAA. Let them know that membership helps all of us protect our contractual rights. Tell them joining SUAA is a way of taking responsibility for their own future, of doing something now to make sure that their retirement pensions and benefits are there when they need them.

Contact me personally for additional information.

Thyra Russell, Membership Chair
457-7554 or trussell@siu.edu

SUAA FOUNDATION UPDATE

-Bob Radtke

Recent activities of the SUAA Foundation are primarily related to the Survivor Assistance Program and the Emergency Assistance Program.

With regard to Survivor Assistance the Foundation published a brochure detailing the steps that should be taken upon the death of a SURS member. Since then SURS has included this information on its website. On that site, click on "Life Events" and then on "Death of a Member" to obtain the relevant information. The Foundation is working with SURS on outreach efforts to publicize this information. With regard to Emergency Assistance, the program has been completely revised. It is designed to help chapters provide support for members facing a need for funds to cope with a crisis situation. Chapters may request assistance for individuals who have been SUAA members for five or more years. The amount of financial assistance is much more liberal and there are fewer restrictions than the old program. Forms and detailed instructions will be provided for chapters in the next several months.

When it is developed, the Foundation will also be providing SUAA funds to support a state wide, grass roots education campaign to provide accurate information to the public regarding our pensions and higher education in general. This seems necessary to counteract negative publicity being circulated about higher education and public employees and their benefits.

I also should mention that the SUAA Foundation is a 501c organization designed to support SUAA and its members. As such, it will happily and thankfully receive any contributions that you are willing to make.

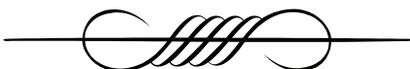
Chapter happenings

BLOOD DRIVE

~Mary Mantovani

The Annuitants Association Blood Drive was held on August 24 and 25, 2015. Donations were sparse – approximately 37 pints for the two days. A big thank you goes out to Georgia Kelley, Mary Mantovani, Jackie Mueller, Roberta Reeves and Lynn Smith for volunteering to work.

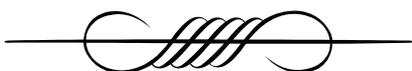
The next drive will be on Wednesday January 20, 2016, in the Renaissance Room, first floor at the Student Center. Come out and participate by donating blood that is always needed. Remember, your donated pint could save up to 3 lives. See you then.



NEW RETIREES TO BE RECOGNIZED IN DECEMBER

In past years, the University has recognized the current year retirees with a banquet or social gathering in the late summer or early fall. It has also been our Chapter's practice to publish the names of the new retirees in the November issue of our newsletter.

This year, however, the University has changed the scheduling of the event until December 7. Therefore, we have not been able to obtain the list to include in this issue. We hope to be able to add the list and recognize our colleagues in a future issue.



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

**YOUR CHAPTER NEEDS YOUR HELP
IN REACHING ITS GOAL OF 800 MEMBERS.**

RECRUIT A NEW MEMBER.

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

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Carbondale, IL 62901

GOLF

~KEITH MCQUARRIE

There was no golf outing held this fall. The number of golfers has dwindled resulting in too few people to hold the event. If you would like to see this activity continued and are willing to play and encourage others to do so, please contact Keith McQuarrie at Keithmcq@siu.edu.

SCHOLARSHIP

~Doug Bredient

Our Chapter has awarded four \$1,000 scholarships for years. Due to a glitch in the web posting announcement last year, the pool of applicants was smaller, and three awards were given. In an effort to preclude a repeat in 2016, two of our board members, Valerie Brooks Wallin and Mike Murray, are working with Imogene Beckemeyer, Chair of the Scholarship Committee, and its members. Last year Brenda Gilbert, David Koch, and Robert Swenson served. Denny Hays has also served recently.

Valerie is the Undergraduate Academic Advisor in the School of Art & Design and networks with other advisors who can help students learn of the scholarships. Mike Murray worked in the Foundation and is well versed in the procedures for these awards. We also hope that newsletter readers will assist in spreading the word to strong SIUC students they know and encourage them to apply.

In a recent conversation with Imogene, my belief in the importance of our scholarships was kindled. One of our alternate recipients was ultimately awarded a SIUC Annuitant Association Scholarship. The biology major/chemistry minor maintained a 4.0 GPA. Upon completion of the baccalaureate degree, she pursued her medical degree at Washington University. She has now finished that degree. The successes of our scholarship winners make it compelling to work to enlarge our membership so we can assist more deserving students. Please join in these efforts.

With the coordinated efforts of our Scholarship Committee, Chapter members, and Directors with experience with SIUC's scholarship awards, we are hopeful and optimistic that we will have a very successful 2016. Thanks to all who can assist with the process.

Details about the scholarships, applications, and time lines can be found at www.scholarships.siu.edu.

The Annuitants Association wishes its membership

*Happy Holidays and best wishes
for a prosperous New Year!*

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.

Total Eclipse over Makanda!

Start now to make plans for what you will do and where you will be on August 21, 2017.

On that day, there will be a total solar eclipse that will last the longest time (2 minutes, 41.6 seconds) of anywhere on earth in Makanda, Illinois.

And then, another event, so unusual that there are no odds on it, will happen. On April 8, 2024, there will be another total solar eclipse where the longest duration time (this time, more than 4 minutes) of anywhere on earth will once again be Makanda, Illinois.

It has been known for a long time that the best place in the world to see the 2017 eclipse is southern Illinois. Apparently, the motels and hotels of southern Illinois are all booked solid for the occasion. People who live in Makanda and who have an unobstructed view of the sky are being approached for rental of their homes or for letting people camp on their land or to let people set up their cameras and telescopes on their Makanda land.

SIU Carbondale is planning many events around the eclipse also.

If you want more information on these phenomenon, go to the web site makandaeclipse2017.com. This website will be updated and can lead you to more sources of information. For a map and more technical information, go to http://xjubier.free.fr/en/site_pages/SolarEclipseGoogleMaps.html.

The last time there was a total solar eclipse over Illinois was 1869. If you miss the one in 2017 or the one in 2024, there will be another total solar eclipse in Illinois on September 14, 2099.



ANNUITANT GREETERS WELCOME STUDENTS TO SIUC!

Greeters arrived at the Bookstore to find that the remodeling eliminated the storage areas for backpacks, brief cases, skate boards and all the other interesting items that students find necessary. The remodeling brightened the store and opened up sight lines so that the patio and woods were visible. All in all a nice change! Some of us wondered how students and their backpacks would traverse their way through the aisles but there were few problems of that nature. The cashiers were expeditious and the lines moved along nicely. We also noted that more and more students are purchasing their texts on-line and no longer deal with cashiers as they prepay for their purchases. We again noticed that textbook prices continue to soar! The days of low-cost books ended sometime back. We also learned that students were well trained. Many were removing backpacks as they entered and were somewhat astounded to learn we were not checking them. If the practice is ever reversed there will be quite a re-training requirement!

Thanks to all of the greeters who adjusted to the lack of check-ins and greeted students at the entry as well as visiting the book section of the store where they helped students find items that were required or helped them find assistance if needed. All in all it seems we had quite a successful program again this fall.

Greeters who volunteered for the fall included Marcia Anderson, Bruce Appleby, Beth Arthur, Susan Aud, Barb Bedient, Donna Cody, John Corker, Paulette Curkin, Carol & Dick Daesch, Ann Dillard, Bill Doerr, Carolyn Donow, Pat Eckert, JoAnn Flanigan, Nancy Fligor, Bill Gooch, Larry Good, Mike Hanes, Sandy Hostetler, Barbara Humphrey, Ann Karmos, Georgia Kelley, Dennis Laake, Mary Mantovani, Bill McMinn, Keith McQuarrie, Mike Murray, Susan Pearlman, Bob Radtke, Roberta Reeves, Thyra Russell, Lynn Smith, Emil Spees, Barbara Stotlar, Beverly Walker, Jan Waggoner, Joyce Webb, Trish Welch, Charlotte West, and Gordon White. Thanks to everyone who volunteered. If I omitted anyone, please correct me. Mark your calendars for January 2016 starting the day after the Martin Luther King holiday. We always welcome new greeters. Come and enjoy meeting students and either meet new persons or renew acquaintances with members and friends. If you have interest in coordinating this effort in the future, let me know. It is a great opportunity to meet many interesting annuitants! ~Douglas Bedient



Suzanne Schmitz, Emeritus Professor of Law, presented the 2015 Emeritus Lecture on October 27: “Rough Justice—Compensating 9/11 and Other Mass Catastrophe Victims.” Schmitz reviewed the tragic events of 9/11 and Congressional actions taken in their wake. An early act protected United and American Air Lines, and airports as well as security firms from liability for the deaths and destruction of 9/11. Once that legislation passed, questions about compensation for deaths and injuries from the attacks on the World Trade Center, the Pentagon, and Shanksville, PA arose. It did not seem fair that corporations were protected, but individual victims of the disasters had been ignored.

Congress established The Victim Compensation Fund to cover deaths and injuries sustained in the disasters as well as first responders such as firemen and police. As a condition of applying for compensation the applicant gave up the right to sue anyone but the terrorists.

Attorney Kenneth Feinberg was named Special Master of the Victim Compensation Fund. He was given extraordinary powers to deal with the cases. In addition, no budget amount was specified, but Feinberg had an open line of credit to deal with the applications. Victims were given 120 days to file an application.

Schmitz’ presentation explored various facets of justice and what plaintiffs often seek in their suits. The justice outcomes that many persons seek in their court actions include information, prevention-deterrence, compensation, accountability (acknowledgment of wrong), recognition of suffering, and apology. Using a DVD “Out of the Ashes: 9/11”, Schmitz presented selected video clips that demonstrated what several 9/11 victims hoped to achieve by applying for victim compensation or rejecting that action and going to court to file for civil justice. The clips and decisions were compared and contrasted with the various outcomes that claimants want as justice.

Over 7,000 applications were filed for victim compensation. Of these about 5500 were approved. Feinberg and his staff worked through these cases with great speed. The calendar called for them to be heard within 120 days. The average compensation paid was about \$2 million. A total of seven billion dollars was provided to injured persons.

The Special Master indicated that he did not think that the same process should be used again. However, similar procedures have been used for the BP oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico and the General Motors ignition switch problems. So special compensation funds may or may not recur as victims of various types of incidents seek justice.

Professor Schmitz suggested an alternate procedure that tends to address some forms of justice might result in more satisfactory outcomes. The alternate procedure is based on a medical malpractice model. In this model the outcomes include information, prevention, compensation, and apology.

The presentation was well received by the audience. Memories of 9/11 and its aftermath were refreshed. Schmitz led the group to consider the various outcomes of justice and how they were or were not addressed using the Special Master. Her suggestion of alternate ways to proceed provided much food for thought.



Professor Emeritus, Suzanne Schmitz, presents at the 2015 Emeritus Lecture

LOCAL SUAA MEMBERS ATTEND AUTOMOTIVE INSTRUCTION CONFERENCE

On October 8, 2015, Thyra Russell, Marcia Anderson, Carolyn Donow, and Joseph Kazda attended the Illinois College Automotive Instructors Association (ICAIA) Conference at the SIU Transportation Education Center (TEC) at the Southern Illinois Airport in Murphysboro, Illinois. SIU’s award winning Department of Automotive Technology hosted the semi-annual event in the new state of the art facilities that are housed in the TEC with SIU’s Aviation Technology, and Aviation Flight Programs. Automotive Technology has been involved and very active with ICAIA since its beginning in the early 1970’s with its faculty being both officers in the organization and presenters in many of the conferences over the years. The department hosted an earlier conference at its former facilities in Carterville and local SUAA members also made a presentation at that event.

Over 200 college automotive instructors from all over Illinois attended the conference which consisted of various training sessions and vendor displays. The technical training was provided by several automobile manufacturers and service tool and equipment manufacturers. The automotive equipment and tool vendors had a large display area available to demonstrate the latest in equipment and techniques. The SIU Annuitants Association chapter also had a booth in the display area and the local SUAA group spoke with many of the attending instructors regarding the importance of joining SUAA. The group was happy to report that a SIU faculty member and a SIU staff member attending the conference completed the necessary forms to join our local chapter. In addition, many instructors the SUAA group spoke to left the conference indicating that they would definitely pursue SUAA membership in their local chapters.

One fallout benefit of SIU hosting conferences like the ICAIA is it exposed over 200 instructors from all over the state with the educational and career development opportunities available at SIU. This very positive exposure can be a very important and effective recruitment tool in the future.

**-Joseph G. Kazda, Emeritus
SIU Automotive Technology**

SIU Carbondale Annuitants Association
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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 and click on “Join Now.”
- Go to the Annuitants Association website: 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
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