

CHAPTER UPDATE

Volume 4-#12

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"Our dilemma is that we hate change and love it at the same time; what we really want is for things to remain the same but get better." Sydney J. Harris

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1. Calendar

Illinois General Assembly releases calendar

<http://www.ilga.gov/house/schedules/default.asp>

<http://www.ilga.gov/senate/schedules/default.asp>

SUAA Executive Committee- January 23, 9:30 am, SURS

SUAA Executive Committee-February 27, 9:30 am, SURS

Board of Directors Meeting- March 13, 2007, Kishwaukee CC

March 7- Governor's Budget Address (rescheduled)

Lobby Day- April 25, 2007, Springfield- Notice Date Change!

3. Christine Batty Joins SUAA



Christine Batty joined the SUAA staff on January 2, 2007 as the first full time Membership Secretary. Christine's duties include providing support by handling all chapter membership processing activities. Before starting at SUAA Christine worked for two years at Prairie State Bank and Trust as a Customer Service Representative and Marketing Assistant while completing her BA. Christine graduated from Springfield High School in May 1999 and then moved to Godfrey, Illinois for a short time while completing her Associates in Arts at Lewis and Clark Community College. Her Bachelors Degree brought her back to Springfield where she studied Visual Arts and Communications. Christine received her BA in Communications in May 2006. Future plans include beginning to work on an advanced degree likely in an MBA program.

4. Poshard Speaks to Higher Ed Coalition

Former teacher, legislator, congressman, Illinois governor candidate and now SIUC President, Glen Poshard attended yesterday's Higher Education Coalition meeting and offered some important comments to any interested in the future of higher education. He began by giving a history lesson. At the beginning of this nation, education was provided only to those of wealth at Christian based universities located in the Eastern U.S. Education expanded beyond the wealthy via the Morrow Land Grant Act signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln in 1862. George Morrow created the Land Grant University System (Illinois first) that opened up education for anyone wanting a higher quality of life. Since then government has understood the importance of education to self, society, the nation and the world. Poshard states this is no longer true with our state and federal government today. He cited the lost of \$13 billion in federal scholarship funds last year and state cuts to Illinois institutions of higher education. Even more startling was his statement that those in higher education do not want to engage politically, resulting in a misunderstanding among political leaders that may not know the value education plays in a modern society. When coupled with an unengaged constituency (parents, students, trustees, retirees, alumni, business community) there is serious trouble on the waterfront.

Another point made was that many today are not clear about what education does for the society and that includes political leader that fund public education. Higher educational institutions do not pull together to present a clear concept of what is done behind the ivy covered walls. Put simply he says that the purpose of education is to educate the next generation of Americans.

His observation led the coalition to begin putting together a plan to address issues leading to the decline of higher education. Make this your call to reflection and action.

Not to pile on top of this observation, it appears there is movement to work on funding issues for secondary education. There is no report of similar interest for higher education.

6. Are you connected yet?

Are you informing your members and active employees?

Advocacy Center

SUAA Blog. Go to SUAA.org and click on the blog icon in the upper left hand corner to talk to your fellow retirees or active SURS members.

SUAA Advocacy Center on the SUAA web site at www.suaa.org/SUAA. [Encourage members to sign up today to receive action alerts.](#)

Those of you who use e-mail can use the SUAA web site <http://www.capwiz.com/suaa/state/main/?state=IL&view=myofficials#0> to find your representatives.

SUAA Talk

To subscribe (or unsubscribe) for the SUAA list serv go to
<http://lists.eiu.edu/mailman/listinfo/suaatalk>

For loads of useful information about SURS including demographic data go to:
http://www.geocities.com/johnt_suaa/

SURS

Complete details on Governor's Pension Reforms

www.surs.org

Illinois University Employees List Serv

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/illinoisuniversityemployees/>

Save Our Pensions

This web site provides teachers information about TRS but applies to SURS as well

<http://www.saveourpensions.orgt>