

SOUTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY EDWARDSVILLE

STAFF SENATE NEWS

AUGUST 2011 EDITION

www.siu.edu/ugov/staff

2011 ICE CREAM CABARET



The start of a new school year brings us fresh beginnings, Welcome Week and of course the University Staff Senate Ice Cream Cabaret! Please join us on Friday, September 2nd in the Morris University Center Meridian Ballroom. The festivities are scheduled from 11:30 am—1:00 pm and include a variety of ice cream and topping selections as well as local entertainment and door prizes!



Tickets are \$3 for students and \$5 for all others and are available for purchase from Staff Senate members, the University Governance Office and the MUC Information Desk. As always, all proceeds from the Ice Cream Cabaret go to the Staff Senate Scholarship Fund.



Your SIUE Staff Senate Officers

President

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Michael P. Hamil
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Treasurer

Jesse B. Harris Jr.
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Univ Governance Secretary

Vicki Kruse
650-2770
staffsenate@siue.edu

The University Staff Senate meetings are open. Non senate members are always welcome. For more information please contact Vicki Kruse in the University Governance Office at 650-2770.

A complete list of your Staff Senate Members may be found on our website at www.siu.edu/ugov/staff

The Staff Senate is always interested in your questions, comments, or concerns. Contact us at: staff-senate@siue.edu

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door prizes (if we have omitted anyone, please accept our apologies):

Friends of Lovejoy Library—Gift bags with books and chocolate

Kurt & Melanie Schoenborn—Wine

Todd Bartholomew—Potted Flowers

Michael Pulley & Linda Wense—Bird Houses

You asked for it, you got it!



2011 Staff Senate Brown Bag Lunch Series

On October 15, 2010 the Staff Senate requested topics of interest for future brown bag lunches from the SIUE community. Responses included: Library services and how to use the Library's resources, preparing for retirement - financially and emotionally, Government Pension Offset, Banner system's user functions for staff and faculty, Compensation Processes for Open Range and Administrative, Professional staff, The Gardens and SUAA.

The Senate has held brown bag lunches this year covering six out of the seven initially requested topics. Preparing for retirement is still in consideration. Attendance to date for the current brown bag series has reached at least 156.

Sessions most attended were the SUAA, www.suaa.org, presentations by Linda Brookhart about pensions and insurance; a very timely event with the State of Illinois attempting to make changes to the current retirement system affecting state university pensions.

The presentation by Sherrie Senkfor, Director, Office of Human Resources, about compensation was another well attended brown bag. Ms. Senkfor is making transparency a priority, and the improved Human Resources website <http://www.siu.edu/humanresources/> is a clear example of her commitment. She explained the process of how compensation works and answered questions from attendees about topics such as longevity, sister or peer institutions used in comparison studies, PDQs (Position Description Questionnaires) and the Position Management Committee, known as the PDQ Committee and its functions.

The presentation by Lydia Jackson from Library Instruction about Library services was very informative. The Library website is like a treasure map leading to a gold mine of resources. If you haven't been on the Library website <http://www.siu.edu/lovejoylibrary/>, it is worth checking out and worthy of your 'favorites' list.

The Banner presentation was helpful for those seeking to learn how to check their leave balances and how to enter vacation and sick leave taken.

The Gardens, <http://www.siu.edu/gardens/> was another great brown bag when Doug Conley presented 'Greenspace: Why public gardens matter.'

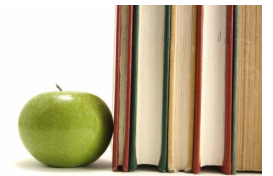
And on July 7th a Webinar was presented to provide information concerning the Windfall Elimination Program (WEP) and the Government Pension Offset (GPO). This was an informational pre-recorded video provided by the Social Security Administration. If you were unable to attend this brown bag but are interested in the information, you may view the presentation by clicking here: [Social Security Online Webinar](#). The presentation is 55 minutes long and may be paused and restarted as often as needed.

Dr. Jesse B. Harris, Jr. and the Staff Senate Executive Committee introduced the University Staff Senate Brown Bag Lunch series on October 31, 2008. One of the goals was to provide beneficial information to employees. A total of 125 employees met at these first Brown Bag lunch meetings from October 31, 2008 through March 19, 2009. Topics discussed were the Constitutional Convention with Professor Brian Harward from the Political Science department, State Universities Annuitants Association with Linda L. Brookhart of the SUAA and the Windfall Elimination Provision and Government Pension Offset by Mr. John Nehrt from the Alton Social Security Office.

We hope to be able to continue to provide information through the Brown Bag Lunch Series, and welcome any ideas or suggestions from the SIUE community.



University Wide Tidbits



WE ARE ONE, we are the e

At the June Staff Senate meeting Student Government President Nolan Sharkey presented information about the We Are One campaign which encourages the entire University community to work together to promote tolerance and acceptance of others and to celebrate diversity. The Staff Senate has endorsed this campaign and will assist in encouraging participation in the 'We Are One' events that will be hosted by Student Affairs during the upcoming school year. Please join us in signing the oath promising to celebrate diversity as we work together to ensure that everyone is accepted for who they are, and differences are embraced. Only then can true unity be obtained.



Links of interest:

- [SIUE Employee Discounts](#)
- [State University Annuity Association \(SUAA\)](#)
- [State University Retirement System \(SURS\)](#)
- [Illinois General Assembly](#)
- [Illinois General Assembly—Senate Schedules](#)
- [Illinois General Assembly—House Schedules](#)
- [United States Social Security Administration \(SSA\)](#)
- [State Employees Group Insurance Info \(CMS\)](#)
- [SIUE Employee Benefits \(HR\)](#)
- [State Universities Civil Service System \(SUCSS\)](#)
- [Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act \(FERPA\)](#)
- [Parents of SIUE Students](#)

AQIP

The Academic Quality Improvement Program (AQIP), which infuses the principles and benefits of continuous improvement into the culture of colleges and universities, is being guided by the University Quality Council (UQC) in conjunction with accreditation standards set forth by the Higher Learning Commission. A campus-wide initiative will be focused on staff engagement with students. All departments should receive more information in the near future. If you'd like to learn more about AQIP, please visit the website of the [Higher Learning Commission](#) and the SIUE page on [Academic Innovation and Effectiveness](#).

The University Staff Senate (USS) represents Civil Service and Professional Staff of SIUE. Employees who are represented by labor organizations as well as employees who are not represented can participate on the University Staff Senate, its panels or committees. For more information, contact the USS at staffsenate@siue.edu or call the Governance office at 650-2770

University Staff Senate Upcoming Events

- September 1—USS Meeting MUC Mississippi Room (9-11)
- September 2—Ice Cream Cabaret MUC Meridian Ballroom (11:30-1)**
- October 6—USS Meeting MUC Mississippi Room (9-11)
- November 3—USS Meeting MUC Mississippi Room (9-11)
- December 1—USS Meeting MUC Mississippi Room (9-11)

Have you ever been interested in reporting news? Now's your chance! If you are interested in providing campus-wide information for a future newsletter, please contact Co-Editors Jackie Candela at bcandela@siue.edu or Jo Gibson at jgibson@siue.edu



Would you like to help make a difference?

The University Staff Senate Scholarship Selection Committee has a spot to fill for an Open Range staff member. The scholarship committee plays a very important role by reviewing scholarship applications to fairly and accurately determine who will receive the allotted scholarships each semester. If you're interested in being a part of this crucial process, please contact the University Governance Secretary at extension 2770.

There is also a seat open on the Staff Senate for a Negotiated & Prevailing member (a staff member belonging to any union). If you are interested in filling this position please contact the University Governance Secretary at extension 2770.

Think Green—Please do not print your e-mails unless you really need to