President’s View

The Power of One!

On Monday, April 30th, Sammy my 4-year old grandson and I were playing at Morton Park in Charleston. It was a nice, sunny, and windy day. There were lots of children in the park in addition to several parents, grandparents and other adults. There was an excessive amount of trash scattered all over, mainly empty cups, straws, candy wrappers, McDonald’s packaging and even 2-3 empty cigarette packages. I started picking up the trash and putting it in the many trash cans. Soon, Sammy joined me and we were both having fun to see who could dispose of the trash first. We usually do this every time we play in this park or any other similar setting. Later, Carlene, my wife joined us and we bought a Happy Meal for Sammy and sat at one of the Park’s tables while Sammy ate and played intermittently. We talked about how different the parks would look if all grownups would pick up trash, not litter and set an example for their children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and all the young people who observe them. How different would it be if they carried this practice further at home and every public place? We thought about how Sammy’s adult world will look if we continue the present trend of excessive consumption of resources and pollution generated that far.

The past and the present is the key to the future. Within the last 60 years, the U.S. population has doubled to over 300 million and the world population has increased by 3 billion during the last 35 years to now over 6.5 billion. Every individual uses more resources and, consequently, generates more pollution than previous generations. If the present trend continues, the world’s population will double within the next 50 years to over 13 billion. How will the world and the major cities look with double the present population?

We know that the Earth is finite in space, resources and capacity to dissipate pollution and
sustain life. When we looked at the Spaceship Earth from outer space, we did not see a gas station or a grocery store to stop at and refuel or re-supply. We are all passengers on the Spaceship Earth which has a limited capacity. We know that the Earth is a perfect system like our bodies, with limited potential. Every species which has overshot the capacity of the Earth has become extinct. We want to know when we will reach that limit. How will the world look as we approach the Earth’s limit to sustain life? What will Sammy’s world look like?

In many parts of the world that future is now, with widespread hunger and disease in Africa, parts of Latin America, and South Asia. Los Angeles was just declared the number one polluted city in the United States. Breathing L.A. air is equal to smoking 1.5 packets of cigarettes a day and two packets a day in Mexico City. In parts of China and Eastern Europe, air is so polluted that children need to be connected to oxygen tanks daily, where it is accessible, in order to reduce the possible adverse effects of air pollution on their brains and lungs in their developing years. While Sammy and other children were playing with energy and excitement in the park, Carlene and I contemplated whether any individual can do anything to change the anticipated future outcome if the present trend of population growth, resource consumption and pollution continues.

Alternatively, how will the world of our grandchildren look if each of us turns off lights and appliances when they are not needed saving only one kilowatt of electricity per person a day which would equal approximately 150 million kilowatts a day in the U.S. alone; turns off the water faucet when water is not being used saving just one gallon of water per person a day which would result in saving 190 million gallons of fresh water per day in the U.S.; and recycles most of the metal, glass, paper products and other recyclable resources. Extrapolate all these practices to other industrialized nations; if fewer resources are consumed, fewer resources will be discarded, less energy will be used to make resources, and consequently, less pollution will be generated. Imagine the health and economic benefits of all of these actions. Imagine what the world of our children and grandchildren would look like if every parent and grandparent would practice these measures.

In contrast with all other species, we have the power to adversely affect our environment as well as make corrections, although within a limited time. Solutions to most of our environmental concerns are in our hands with significant positive health and environmental consequences. The majority of us are very conscientious (concerned not only about ourselves but about all who are affected by our actions), and if we are convinced, we will make the moral and ethical decisions that will cause future generations to be proud of those who practiced stewardship of the Earth.

About 7:00 p.m. that Monday, with Sammy belted into the carriage on the back of my bicycle, we rode home and I became more hopeful that, collectively, we will rise to our best.

At our June 7th Chapter Meeting in the Neal Welcome Center, Allan Rathe, Coordinator of the EIU Recycling Project, will provide us with the significance of recycling and many practical ideas for implementing a plan.

Alan Baharlou, President

CHAPTER NEWS

At our chapter meeting on April 5, four international students entertained us all by discussing how their families impacted them, why they chose to attend EIU, and their impressions of central Illinois. Sue Songer, International Studies Adviser introduced Kinuko Tanaka (Japan), Hywel Davies (Wales), Abdoulaye Traore (Burkina Faso), and Carolina Pelaez-Morales (Colombia). They had several things in common, i.e. their parents encouraged their education, they all chose EIU because of a single relationship with someone at EIU who helped them when they inquired about coming here to school, and they all have quite a sense of humor. Their presentation was sincere, eloquent, and sometimes humorous, and we all enjoyed it.

The EIU Annuitants Association Scholarship is off to a great start. In addition to the $5000 our chapter donated to start the scholarship, we have received an additional $1077 from the following individuals: David and Joyce Maurer, Carlene and Alan Baharlou, Garret and Marilyn DeRuitter, Cal Smith, Richard and Ramona Wise, Bob and Pat Hill, David and Joyce Maurer in memory of Dorothy Hart, and Martha Hamand in memory of Lavern Hamand.

We would sincerely appreciate more donations to this scholarship that could benefit your child, grandchild, or great-grandchild. We will be presenting our first scholarship at the January 2008 luncheon. Contribution checks should be made payable to EIUAA Scholarship and sent to EIU Annuitants Association, Brainard House, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston IL 61920. Two plaques will be placed in the Neal Welcome Center. One will list the donors of $100 or more and the other will list the recipient and year of award. Please be generous and send your contribution now.

Alan Baharlou, Dale Wolf, Bob Whittenbarger, Ron Wohlstein, and Chris and Kenny Sims represented our
chapter at the Education Rally Day in Springfield on April 25. They joined the Illinois Education Association, University Professionals of Illinois, Illinois Higher Education Institutions and other SUAA chapters’ representatives in the Capitol Building where they listened to several remarks by representatives and senators, and universities and organizations presidents. The EIU Jazz Band provided entertainment. The rally was very well organized and was the largest education rally in Springfield ever. The purpose was to convey our message for adequate funding of education. EIU students, faculty, administrators, annuitants and SUAA had the largest group of representatives, and EIU was the only university that brought our mascot. EIUAA continues to avail ourselves of every opportunity to convey our message of support for education, our university, and our pension and benefit programs. Thanks to all who attended.

Linda Brookhart has been named the new Executive Director for SUAA, the SUAA Foundation, and SUAACTION.

CAMPUS AND COMMUNITY NEWS

William Perry, vice provost, at Texas A&M University in College Station, Texas, has been named as President of EIU effective July 1. He received his bachelor of arts in both mathematics and history from Park College (Missouri) and his master of arts and doctorate in mathematics from the University of Illinois. President Perry will speak to the EIU Annuitants Association at our October 4 meeting.

On May 2, a dinner reception was hosted by President Hencken for faculty and staff who retired this academic year. Alan Baharlou addressed the group and presented information to the retirees about our organization. The EIUAA wishes those EIU Faculty, Administrators and Staff who culminated their distinguished career in 2007 a happy and rewarding life. New annuitants are: Lois Luallen, Marilyn Lisowski, Kathleen Reed, Veronica Stephen, Karen Taylor, and Nancy Marlow. Second Row: Bob Wayland, Joseph Barron, Allen Davis, Melinda Lewis, Linda Crawford, Pat Graves, Kathy Bennett, Rosemary Harris, and Norma Harrell. Third Row: Tim Wilkerson, Robert Doyle, Brenda Sawyer, Robert Jorstad, Lou Hencken, and Wendy Meyer.


Roger Beck was awarded the Distinguished Faculty Award at the Spring commencement. He is a professor of African and world history and has taught at EIU for twenty years. Congratulations! In addition, his wife Ann and her sister were recognized on national television (CBS) recently for their third generation ownership of Flesor’s Candy Kitchen in Tuscola.

We need to hear from you! Please send your news bits to EIU Annuitants Association, Brainard House, 600 Lincoln Ave., Charleston IL 61920 or email them to annuitants@eiu.edu

NEWS FROM YOU

David Buchanan, professor of chemistry at EIU until 1994, retired as provost of Salisbury University, Salisbury, Maryland in Fall 2006. He had been provost for five years; prior to that, he was dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at West Chester University of Pennsylvania for seven years. His wife Susanna who is a retired M.D. is also retired and they plan to stay in Salisbury where they are enjoying bird watching from their deck looking over the Wicomico River and cruising on the Choptank River and Chesapeake Bay on their sailboat. He serves on a couple of advisory boards for university organizations. Travel includes visiting daughters Jenny in Austin, Texas, and Becky in Seattle, as well as U.S. and international spots. They appreciate the advocacy for SURS by the Annuitant Association.

Janis Gillis and her husband Loren celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on April 27. They have three children, ten grandchildren, and nine great-grandchildren. Congratulations!

Curtis Price, son of EIU annuitant Dallas Price, was knighted in February by Queen Elizabeth at Buckingham Palace. Curtis is the head of the Royal Academy of Music in London, the most distinguished conservatory in Europe. He is married to British composer Rhian Samuel. He has met all of the royal family and organized the music for Princess Diana’s funeral. Curtis received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from SIU and his doctorate from Harvard. He graduated from Charleston High School and many
years ago, I was second chair violin to his first chair in
the CHS orchestra. Congratulations Curtis!

Charles Rohn, retired dean of EIU’s College of
Education and Professional Studies, has joined EIU’s
Office of Philanthropy where he will help advance
philanthropy for EIU. Best wishes!

Billie Scott celebrated her 85th birthday on April
30. She has five children, and many grandchildren,
great-grandchildren, and one great-great-grandson.
Congratulations!

REMEMBERING FRIENDS

Zella F. Fudge, age 79, of Charleston, wife of
deceased annuitant Charles Fudge, passed away on
April 9. She is survived by two daughters, five
grandchildren, and three great-grandchildren.
Memorials may be made to the East Harrison Street
Church of God.

DOROTHY “DOTTIE” M. HART, age 86, of
Charleston, passed away on April 20. She is survived
by a sister and brother. She came to EIU in 1947 as a
substitute teacher for one year and stayed till she
retired in 1990. She taught in the physical education
department and eventually served as assistant to the
Dean of the College of Health, Physical Education and
Recreation. Memorials may be made to the EIU
Foundation, Dorothy M. Hart Memorial Scholarship.

MILDRED HOFACKER, age 89, formerly of
Charleston and Terre Haute, passed away on March 2.
Prior to coming to EIU to teach in the Department of
Communications, she was a professional actress and
worked with Jack Paar and Ross Hunter. She is
survived by two daughters, a son-in-law, and two
grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the
American Heart Association.

Retha McElwee, age 98, of Charleston, passed
away on April 5. She is survived by two sons, including
EIU annuitant Dwight McElwee, fourteen
grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and 13 great-
great-grandchildren. Memorials may be made to the
Hilltop Convalescent Center Activity Fund.

BERNADINE M. TALBOTT, age 90, of Hindsboro,
passed away on March 14. She retired from the
custodial services department. She is survived by two
sons, nine grandchildren, 21 great-grandchildren, and
sister Nelda Hudson, an EIU annuitant. Memorials
may be made to the Alzheimer’s Association.

C. WILLIAM WATSON, age 71, of Charleston,
passed away on March 27. He is survived by one
sister. Memorials may be made to the Coles County
Animal Shelter.

To find out more information about the EIU Foundation, check out their web page at:
www.eiu.edu/~found/