



ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB

NEWSLETTER June 2010

UPCOMING EVENTS: Mark Your Calendars

Thursday, June 17, 2010 @ 6:30pm
RAIC Annual Picnic (see details in
this newsletter and/or the web-
site)

Saturday, June 12 - Deadline for
Scholarship Applications

Thursday, July 22 @ 7:00pm
Scholarship Winners Reception at
the College of Medicine

Thursday, July 29 @ 7:00pm New
Student Roundtable also at the
College of Medicine

Friday, August 13 @ 6:30pm
Dinner Cruise on the Rock River,
leaving from the Maxson Manor in
Oregon, IL

Sat., September 11 - First home
football game

Spring Dinner Review

We hope you were one of the 50 members and guests who enjoyed meeting and listening to Dr. Rob Rumbelow, the University's new Director of Bands. Our spring dinner took place on April 28 at the Forest Hills Country Club. Rob assumed his position on February 1, 2010, after being chosen through an international search of the world's

best musical talent. He is recognized as an exceptional conductor, arranger, composer, and lecturer. His knowledge and enthusiasm were apparent as he talked about the rich history and tradition of our band program. The University has 13 different bands under Rob's leadership and his goal is to maintain this band program at its premier status among the nation's music programs. This was his first speaking engagement with an alumni group and he extends his heartfelt thanks for the opportunity to meet with our club. Dr. Rumbelow is the fifth band director at Illinois in our 105 year music history and the program appears to be in good hands.

New RAIC Board Members Sought

Don't wait to be asked. If you want to help plan events and make decisions for our club submit your interest to John Paulsgrove for possible nomination to the RAIC Board. We have openings each year and would love to have new faces at our board meetings.

RAIC Annual Picnic at Swanson's Farm on June 17

This event will include games and activities followed by our cookout with pork chops and hamburgers. Bring a dish to pass and any special beverage that you want. Lemonade and water are provided. Cost is \$10 for adults and \$7 for students and children. You can buy tickets on the website or through the flyer in this newsletter. Scholarship applicants and their families are especially encouraged to attend. Activities begin at 6:30 p.m. at the farm on 6903 Harrison Avenue in Rockford.

R.A.I.C. NEWSLETTER - June 2010

Scholarship Reception - July 22

We will be hosting our scholarship winners and their families at the U. of I. College of Medicine on July 22, 2010 at 7:00 p.m. All RAIC members are invited to attend this informal event and meet these very outstanding students from our area high schools.

There will be some refreshments as well as brief remarks from RAIC Board members.

New Student Roundtable

Each year we give incoming U. of I. students and their parents an opportunity to hear from current students and parents. This is a great networking opportunity and will give these new Illini families a jump start to their Illini experience. Scheduled for July 29, there will be a brief opening session and then two discussion groups will be formed - one for students and one for parents. Any questions that these new Illini families bring will be answered. This is a very valuable experience. If you are one of these families or know of families who have a student attending the university for the first time this fall, share this opportunity with them. It will be time very well spent.

Dinner Cruise on the Rock River

We have scheduled a Dinner Cruise on the Rock River for Friday, August 13. The cruise embarks from the Maxson Manor Restaurant just off Rte. 2 in Oregon, Illinois at 6:30 p.m. Our vessel is the Pride of Oregon, a traditional paddlewheel boat that is unique in northern Illinois. The 15-mile journey will take us by our other famous chief, Chief Blackhawk, which is the largest concrete monolith in the country. Boarding begins at 6:30 p.m. with a 7:00 p.m. departure. There are beverages and a filet mignon dinner awaiting our group. The cost is \$35 per person for club members and \$40 for non-members. We enjoyed this same cruise several years ago and it brought rave reviews. Reservations are needed by August 1. The form appears elsewhere in this newsletter.

ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

A board of 15 individuals, who reside in our geographical area, organizes the events and operations of our club. Board members serve for three years, with five board positions up for nomination every year. If interested, contact John Paulsgrove at the number listed below.

Pete Bultmann of Winnebago is serving as our website coordinator. He can be reached at 217-341-7282.

All 815 area code.

President - Randy Benjamin - 721-6450

Vice President - Jim Waddell Jr. - 885-2556

Secretary - Connie Gritton-Winter - 745-2049

Treasurer - Laura Goodin - 637-1447

Membership - Karen Johnson - 229-1365

Media Liaison - Brandon Reid - 985-5416

OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:

Jerry Beger - 226-0824 - Past President

Brian Lyons - 962-0001 - Special Events

Dean Coppernoll - 734-6345 - Special Events

Phil Dierstein - 877-7693 - Scholarships

Dr. Bill Erickson - 332-5919 - Special Events

Dave Johnson - 397-3118 - Scholarships

John Paulsgrove - 332-5580 - Newsletter

Jim Reid - 226-4952 - Game Watches &
Strategic Planning

Beth Rydberg - 282-1636 - Special Events

*The Board tries to plan a variety of events
throughout the Stephenson, Winnebago,
Boone and Ogle County area.*

*New ideas are always welcome,
just give one of the above people a call!*

MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE

Class of 2010 - free membership for a year

Classes of 2005-09 - \$10 individual/\$15 family

All others - \$20 individual/ \$35 family

Lifetime Memberships -

\$200 individual/ \$350 family

You can now pay your membership dues on line with a credit card by using our website, or you can contact Karen Johnson at 1364 Featherstone Road, 61107, or e-mail her at: katlady217@aol.com Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires and renew if necessary.

This newsletter has also been sent to all of the graduating high school seniors who are headed to Champaign/Urbana this fall. We hope you will find an upcoming activity you'd like to attend - NOTE SPECIAL THINGS FOR YOU AT OUR ANNUAL PICNIC! Parents we hope you will decide to become a member and stay in touch with area Illini activities.

Have alumni friends in the area?

If you know anyone who are alumni of the U of I or are supporters of the Illini, please encourage them to become members of the RAIC. Contact our member chair, Karen Johnson, and she will be happy to send them a copy of this newsletter. Or pass on the top portion of the last page of this newsletter which includes a membership form. Perhaps gift them with a membership for the first year - we think they will be hooked and continue to be a part of our group. The more members, the more activities we can support and the healthier our treasury to help us support more scholarships!

USE THE RAIC WEBSITE

Everything you need to know about the club is featured on this website, including up-coming events, history of the club, current club projects, and featured articles. You can also purchase Illini gear and renew your membership on the site. The new site has a more modern look, with additional features, including some members-only features (such as an on-line member directory). Our website will continue to be <http://www.rockfordillini.com>. All of the events described in this newsletter can be found on the website.

RAIC AWARDED OUTSTANDING CLUB

For the 4th time our club was awarded the "Outstanding Alumni Club" award for large clubs by the University of Illinois Alumni Association. We have been recognized in 1996, 2002, 2006, and now in 2009. Be proud to be an RAIC member!

Please send us your email address

We now have many email addresses from our members and we will be doing much of our communication electronically in the future. We will continue with a newsletter, but hope to be able to use email and our website more fully. For those who have not yet sent us your email address, please do by sending it to our club email address - rockfordillini@hotmail.com.

Club Networking

We would like to organize monthly or bi-monthly networking events which would be scheduled in advance and announced on our website, via email, and/or in the newsletter. Things like a "happy hour" gathering, a wine-tasting, or going to a community event would be examples. The date and time would be communicated and anyone who wanted could attend and meet other Illini. Ideas for such activities are welcomed as well as anyone who would like to organize or host an event. Just contact Randy Benjamin at 815-721-6450, if you have an idea.

TEAMFANSHOP.COM

Our club has established a relationship with this company which will provide us (at no cost) with our own on-line store of officially licensed Illini merchandise. All sales made through our store link will provide our club with a 10% commission on items sold. Order your Illini gear on our website and support the club!

DONATIONS FOR RAIC PAVER

We continue to accept donations for the club paver located at the new Alice Campbell Alumni Center on Lincoln Avenue in Urbana. We paid for the club paver long ago, but our donations have not quite matched our outlay of funds. You can send donations to our club treasurer.

Support the RAIC Scholarship Program

Each year, the Rockford Area Illini Club provides scholarships to incoming freshmen at the University of Illinois from our four county area. The quantity and amount of the scholarships is entirely dependent upon the funds available each year. We have been fortunate over the years through event income and donations to be able to provide multiple scholarships of \$1,000 or more. In 2009, the club maintained the value of the scholarships at \$1,000 (plus a special \$1,500 scholarship), but had to reduce the number of scholarships to three. In 2010, the club has decided to award five scholarships, but reduce the value of each scholarship to \$800.

Providing these scholarships to deserving area freshmen is one of the critical missions of the Rockford Area Illini Club. To help support this mission, while providing additional benefit to our club members, you can now make donations to our scholarship fund through the University of Illinois Foundation. Donations made through the UIF for Rockford Area Illini Club scholarships benefit alums as:

****Donors will receive an official tax receipt for their gifts to the U of I.**

****Donor's gifts will be credited to their record in the University, Foundation and Alumni Association donor database for recognition and acknowledgment of their total support to the University and its students.**

****Donors can be assured their transactions will be handled securely with the upmost attention to insuring their gift will be spent for the scholarships they are supporting.**

If you would like to make a gift to the Rockford Area Illini Club Scholarship fund through the University of Illinois Foundation, there are two ways to do so.

If you would like to mail a check for the RAIC Scholarship fund, please make your check payable to the UIF, noting Rockford Scholarships on the memo line, and mail the check to the attention of:

Cindy Schweighart
UIAA
Alice Campbell Alumni Center
601 South Lincoln Avenue
Urbana, IL 61801

If you would like to use your credit card, you can go to <http://www.rockfordillini.com>, and on the menu bar, point to "Scholarships" and then click on "Donate". Click on the orange button in the lower right corner of the donation page and you will be directed to the UIF page that is dedicated to Rockford Area Illini Club Scholarships.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Randy Benjamin or Jim Waddell.

RAIC Family Picnic on June 17

This is an event designed for the whole family and is an opportunity to meet and visit with fellow Illini in the area. All attending last year had a great time, so please plan to join us (rain or shine)!

Once again it will be held on the Armer Swanson farm located on the southwest corner of Perryville and Harrison in Rockford (opposite corner of TGI Fridays and the Cherryvale Mall. Our activities begin at 6:30 p.m. and will include games, contests, and possibly a small farm animal petting zoo. We also have a special game planned to help support our scholarship program.

The club will provide the meat, table service, lemonade/ice tea, tables, and chairs. We ask each family to bring a dish to pass and their own adult beverages, if desired. A small fee is being charged to cover costs. Adults - \$10.00 • Children - \$7.00

We are inviting local high school seniors who plan to attend the University of Illinois (around 150 students) and their families Each student will receive a "goodie bag" to take to school in the fall.

Fill out the attached flyer and mail it in by Wednesday June 9 as we need to know how many will be attending so we provide sufficient meat and drink.

If you have questions, call . . .

Connie Gritton Winter at 815-745-2049 or Karen Johnson at 815-229-1365.

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Family Picnic at Swanson Farm

Names (as you like them to appear on name tags) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

Number: _____ Adults (\$10.00) _____ Children (under 12) (\$7.00) Total: _____

Choice of meat: _____ Boneless porkchop _____ hamburger _____ hotdog

(Please indicate number ordering which meat)

Send reservations by Wednesday, June 9 to:

Connie Gritton Winter, 14392 W. Blair Rd., Winslow, IL 61089, phone 815-745-2049

More Reasons to Renew Your Membership or Join RAIC -

Beyond those mentioned in this newsletter, some of the other RAIC activities throughout the Year . . .

Big 10 Kickoff Dinner

Held in September all the area Big 10 Clubs have a get-together to kickoff the football season

United Center Trip

Each year we purchase tickets, charter a bus and attend the basketball game held at the United Center!

Fighting the Winter Doldrums Event

In January/February we host an event to help fight cabin fever. Usually this is a "musical" event, inviting one of the groups from campus to come to Rockford and entertain us.

TV Game Watches

We all know it is great fun to attend a sporting event in person. But that isn't always possible or practical - so each year we schedule several football and basketball tv game watches at one of the area sport bar/restaurants. An informal, drop-in event, the more the merrier!

Reservation form for August 13 Dinner Cruise on the Rock River

(Please check elsewhere in this newsletter for full details.)

Names (as you like them to appear on name tags) _____

Address _____

Phone _____

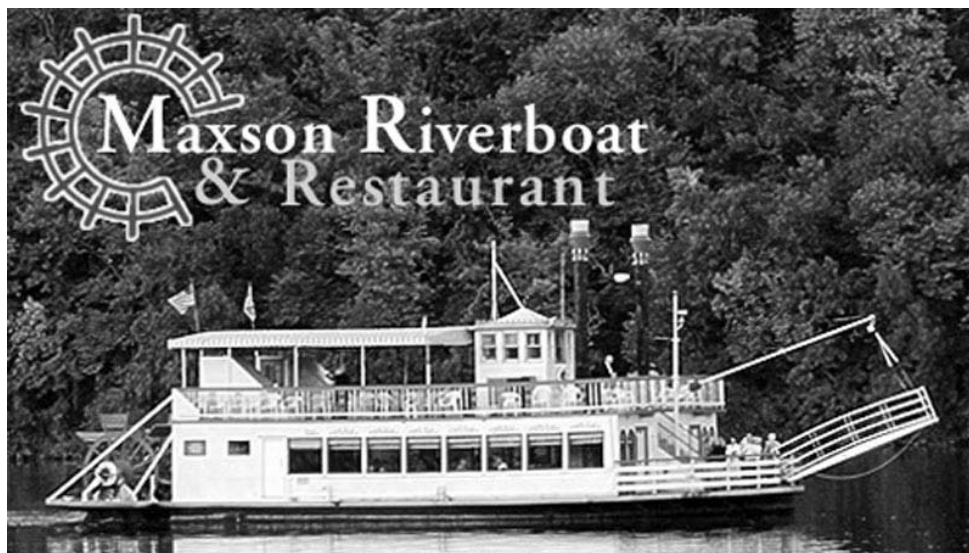
Number: _____ Members (\$35.00) _____ Non-Members (\$40.00) Total: _____

Make checks payable to RAIC.

Send reservations by August 1 to:

to Jim Waddell, 5048 Telluride Court, Caledonia, IL 61011

If you have any questions regarding this event,
please contact Jim Waddell at 815-323-2366.





ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB

ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
NORA, IL
PERMIT NO. 1

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

Connie Gritton Winter
14392 W. Blair Rd.
Winslow, IL 61089

2010/11 RAIC Membership or Renewal Form

Please make your check payable to RAIC (Rockford Area Illini Club)

Name _____

Address _____

Phone: _____ E-mail: _____

☐ Alum ☐ Parent of UI Student ☐ Friend/Fan

☐ Class of 2010 - Free for One Year

Classes of 2006-2009: ☐ \$10 Individual Membership ☐ \$15 Couple Membership

Annual Membership: ☐ \$20 Individual Membership ☐ \$35 Couple Membership

Lifetime Membership: ☐ \$200 Individual Membership ☐ \$350 Couple Membership

Mail membership to: Karen Johnson, 1364 Featherstone Rd., Rockford, IL 61107; 815/229-1365

Remember you can also renew or join online at www.rockfordillini.com