

# **R.A.I.C. NEWSLETTER**

## **May 2006**

### **UPCOMING EVENTS:**

**MAY 31 – MACOMB ILLINI CLUB IS HOSTING A BEER & WINE TASTING FEATURING ILLINOIS WINES – MORE INFO BELOW**

**JUNE 8 – NEXT RAIC BOARD MEETING IN LENA, IL – BEACHES RESTAURANT – 6:30 PM**

**JUNE 22 – ANNUAL RAIC PICNIC AT THE ARMER SWANSON FARM – 6:30 PM – DETAILS AND RESERVATION FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

**JULY 27 – RECEPTION FOR RAIC SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS AT THE SCHOOL OF MEDICINE – 7:00 PM**

**AUGUST DATE TBA – RIVER CRUISE ON THE ROCK RIVER IN OREGON, IL. SEE ARTICLE IN THIS NEWSLETTER**

**SEPTEMBER 1,2,3 – ON THE WATERFRONT BEER TENT**

**CHECK OUT OUR RAIC WEBSITE!!!**

Information about our scholarship program is now on our web page. If you know of any high school grads that are applying to the U. of I., please alert them to our scholarships.

The RAIC website features information about our club, as well as upcoming events and club projects. (Rockfordillini.com)

### **DONATIONS TO THE ALICE CAMPBELL ALUMNI CENTER STILL BEING ACCEPTED**

The club purchased a 24" by 24" paver that has been placed on the patio to this new alumni center on campus. The paver has our club name and our geographical region engraved upon it. We are still accepting donations to defray the cost of this paver. This will be a permanent recognition of one of the best Illini clubs in the state. We want generations of Illini to know about our support of the university here in the northern counties. Send any amount you care to donate to Laura Goodin, 3114 Carefree Drive, Rockford, IL 61114.

*We thank the following members for their donation to our RAIC paver:*

Jerry & Janet Beger  
Sam & Carol Darby  
Dave & Judy Johnson  
Karen Johnson  
Joann Polito  
Walter & Mary Sturm  
Wes Winter & Connie Gritton-Winter

### **ALUMNI CENTER NOW OPEN**

The Alice Campbell Alumni Center is now open. Whenever you are on campus you can visit the one building that is dedicated to all of the alumni of the University of Illinois. The RAIC paver is located on the north patio of the center.

### **IS IT TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP?**

If you are a current member and the date on your address label says "9/05", this means that your annual dues are past due. Those who do not pay will not continue to receive newsletters about our club activities.

# **R.A.I.C. NEWSLETTER - January 2006**

## **PRESIDENT WHITE RECEPTION**

The April 18th reception for University of Illinois President Joseph White was an outstanding event! President White gave us some insight into his vision for the university. He appears to be a very approachable and dedicated president with strong leadership skills. There were many special guests at the event, including two members of the Board of Trustees: David Dorris and Devon Bruce. Sid Micek, president of the University of Illinois Foundation, and Loren Taylor, President of the Alumni Association, were also present. Another special guest was former basketball player and current radio broadcaster, Jerry Hester, who works for the U. of I Foundation. The university sent many important representatives to this reception, making this a very memorable event. Over 125 people were in attendance.

## **I FUND**

For those of you who enjoy our University of Illinois athletic teams please consider giving to the I Fund. Any amount is appreciated. There are many levels of involvement, from \$100 on up to several thousand. Each level provides some benefits to donors regarding tickets, parking, etc. The main benefit however is the pride in assisting with the high cost of athletic scholarships and helping the university provide quality teams in a variety of sports. The university ranks in the top 20 when you review the total athletic program. Many of our teams have Big Ten and national success. Tennis, women's soccer, wrestling, gymnastics, and, of course, basketball come to mind. None of that is possible without the financial support of our fans and alumni. Individuals can contact the I Fund at 217-333-6595 or go on-line. Donations can be made by check or credit

## **ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS**

A board of 15 individuals, who reside in our geographical area (Winnebago, Boone, Ogle and Stephenson Counties), organizes the events and operations of our club. The RAIC Board meets approximately 6 times per year to review finances and organize events of interest for our Illini friends. Board members serve for three years, with five board positions up for review every year. Please consider being an RAIC Board Member. Contact any of the board members below if you are interested in more information or want to attend an up-coming board meeting.

President – Jerry Beger – 226-0824

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:**

Patti Bishop - 815-885-3042

Dean Coppernoll - 815-734-6345

Sam Darby - 885-3219 (Past President)

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 (TV games,

Special Events)

# **GO ILLINI!!!**

# RAIC Family Picnic on June 22

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 near 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 will also be raffling Illini items 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 - \$7.50 • Children - \$5.00

We are inviting local high school seniors who plan to attend the University of Illinois (around 200 students) and their families. We will be providing them with "goodie bags" to take to school in the fall.

Fill out the attached flyer and mail it in by June 16 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.*

✂ —————

## Family Picnic at Swanson Farm

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (\$7.50) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 12) (\$5.00) Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of meat: \_\_\_\_\_ Boneless porkchop \_\_\_\_\_ hamburger \_\_\_\_\_ hotdog

(Please indicate number ordering which meat)

Send reservations by Friday, June 16 to:

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



# RAIC. NEWSLETTER - May 2006

card.

## **DINNER CRUISE ON THE ROCK?**

The RAIC Board is considering a new event for our membership. Near the Maxson Riverside Restaurant in Oregon, IL, dinner cruises are offered that take you by the Statue of Chief Blackhawk. That statue was designed by Loreda Taft, the same man who created the Alma Mater statue at Illinois. Cost for a two-hour cruise on the Pride of Oregon, dinner, and a presentation on Indian folklore would be \$32 per person.

Another option would be to have a steak dinner at the Whiskey River restaurant with the folklore presentation and no cruise for about \$13.00 per person. The board would like to plan an event like this sometime in August if there is interest. If interested, contact Connie Gritton-Winter at 815-745-2049 by June 5th so more definite plans can be made at our next board meeting.

## **ANNUAL RAIC PICNIC ON JUNE 22 - 6:30 PM**

This is a chance to bring the family and "get down on the farm". The Swanson Farm is located at the intersection of Perryville Road and Harrison Avenue, southwest of Friday's Restaurant. The cost is \$7.50 for adults and \$5.00 for children. Everyone is to bring a dish to pass, but everything else is provided. The meat choices are butterfly pork chops, hamburgers, and hot dogs. Drinks and Mr. Mike's potato chips will also be on the menu, along with some wonderful dishes brought by our members and guests. We will have some games to enjoy, and it is a chance to meet some of our local students who will be attending the university in the fall. All local area incoming freshman and their parents are invited to this event. The club will provide

each with "Welcome to the Illini Family" goodie bags. A reservation form for the picnic is included in this newsletter.

A major focus of this event is a casual event where families can come and get to meet and know fellow Illini. *So please join us!!!!*

## **BEER AND WINE TASTING EVENT**

If you don't mind a little driving, the West Central (Macomb) Illini Club is hosting a wine and beer tasting event on May 31. They will be featuring Illinois wines from wineries operated by Illinois alums. For more info contact Karen Blakeley at karen.blakeley@verizon.net

***On the Waterfront . . .*** Don't forget to save an afternoon or evening to work a shift at the RAIC Beer tent at Rockford's On the Waterfront. The past several years this event has brought in \$1500-\$2500 to help support our annual scholarships. It takes many volunteers to help pull this off. Laura Goodin would appreciate a call letting her know you will be willing to help.

***It's time once again for Illini Day at Wrigley Field!*** This year's event will be held on Sunday, May 28th. Even if you can't attend the game in person, it is always fun to catch the game on tv and see the university represented in the activities. Head Football Coach Ron Zook will be throwing out the first pitch and Head Men's Basketball Coach Bruce Weber will be singing the 7th inning stretch.

*Any ideas on activities you'd like to see the RAIC club organize? At their board meetings the group is always trying to come up with new thoughts for a variety of events - if you have an idea, give a board member a call.*

# 2005/06 RAIC Membership or Renewal Form

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

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

(    ) Alum      (    ) Parent of UI Student      (    ) Friend/Fan  
(    ) \$15 Individual Membership      (    ) \$25 Couple Membership

Membership in the University of Illinois Alumni Association does not include membership in the Rockford Area Illini Club and vice versa. We coordinate activities with the Alumni Association, but we are separate organizations. Please share an invitation to join our club with a friend who would like to support the University of Illinois and its students, as well as be informed about ILLINI activities in the area. 75% of these dues go to our scholarship fund. LIFETIME MEMBERSHIPS ARE AVAILABLE.

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

*Note: The expiration date of your membership appears in the upper right corner of the mailing label.  
To keep receiving this newsletter and notices of upcoming events, you need to keep your membership current (i.e. 9/06 expiration), so if you haven't sent yours in, please do so now!*

**ROCKFORD AREA  
ILLINI CLUB**  
ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS  
P.O. Box 8282, Rockford, IL 61126

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