

R.A.I.C. NEWSLETTER

March 2007

UPCOMING EVENTS:

**APRIL 11 - ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER
WITH SPEAKER JIM EDGAR, FORMER
GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS**

**JUNE 14 - FAMILY PICNIC AT THE
SWANSON FARM**

**JULY 19 - RECEPTION FOR SCHOLAR-
SHIP WINNERS AT ROCKFORD SCHOOL
OF MEDICINE**

**JULY 26 - ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION
FOR INCOMING STUDENTS AND PAR-
ENTS ALSO AT THE SCHOOL OF
MEDICINE**

**LABOR DAY WEEKEND - BEER TENT AT
ON THE WATERFRONT**

CHECK OUT OUR RAIC WEBSITE!!!

Almost everything you need to know about the club is featured on this website, including up-coming events, history of the club, and current club projects. (Rockfordillini.com) Information on our scholarship program will be posted soon.

GAME WATCHES AT OLD CHICAGO

Looks like the Illini will join the "Big Dance". If we have any game watches during the tournament, we will send out the word on the website. Our game watch

on the 21st was sad because of watching the Chief's last dance. We cheered his final moments and sang Illinois Loyalty with the crowd at the game. Beating Michigan boosted our spirits somewhat.



The club's first spirit award was presented to Josh Benning (second from left), manager of Old Chicago, at one of our game watch parties. Also pictured are board members, left to right: John Paulsgrove, Jim Reid and Dave Johnson. Our thanks to Josh and all the others at Old Chicago for being such great hosts.

MEMBERSHIP

We currently have approximately 560 members in the club. Our membership dues continue to be \$15 per person or \$25 per couple per year. Please contact Karen Johnson with any names at 1364 Featherstone Road, 61107, or e-mail her at: katlady217@aol.com

Your address label indicates when your membership ends. If you have a "06" on your label, this will be your last newsletter!

ON-LINE APPAREL SALE

Check out www.cafepress.com for some club apparel. The club receives an amount for every item sold. It is the only way to buy RAIC clothing! Support the club and show your membership proudly.

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THE OTHER GUYS PERFORMANCE

A large turnout of Illini attended the dinner and concert by the comedy octet known as The Other Guys on February 2nd at the Forest Hills Country Club. The group blended humor with their wonderful voices. New songs, as well as traditional Illini favorites, were performed during the evening. The guys mingled with the crowd and seemed to enjoy their time with us. They showed no signs of fatigue despite giving several concerts that particular day.

OUR ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER WILL FEATURE JIM EDGAR, THE 38TH GOVERNOR OF ILLINOIS

On Wednesday evening, April 11, we will host our annual Chicken Dinner. This year we have moved the event to the Clock Tower Resort. The resort has recently gone through some renovation with the addition of an indoor water park and new carpeting throughout. Our event will take place in the Wallingford Center Ballroom. We expect a large crowd, given the popularity of ex-governor Edgar. He will be speaking on Government, Politics, and Public Policy and will share some of his experiences during 30 years in state government. Jim Edgar is now teaching at the University of Illinois.

We will be opening this event to the public as well, so get your reservations in as soon as possible. Check out the flyer in this newsletter. The cost is \$30 per person for the event. The deadline for reservations

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. 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 nomination every year. Please consider being an RAIC Board Member. We have a couple of vacancies coming up this summer. Let us know if you are interested in serving. We always are looking for new people.

Co-President – Jerry Beger - 226-0824

Co-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:

Randy Benjamin – 633 - 4350 (Fund Raising)

Patti Bishop - 815-885-3042

(Member Spotlights)

Dean Coppernoll - 815-734-6345

(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,
Special Events)

Tad Rodenbeck - 289-0245

Waterfront Tent)

is April 4th.

We will begin with a social hour at 5:00 p.m., followed by our chicken dinner at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Edgar will begin his remarks at 7:15 p.m.

BEER TENT DURING THE "ON THE WATERFRONT" FESTIVAL

Again this Labor Day Weekend we will be hosting a beer tent to raise funds for our scholarships. This will be our 7th annual beer tent participation and we have raised over \$9000 towards our scholarship efforts. Each year our five scholarships cost us over \$3300. Over the years we have assisted many students in our four-county area. Let Laura Goodin know if you and some of your friends want to work the tent this fall.

Member Spotlights

"Member Spotlight" is a new feature aimed at keeping our Rockford Area Illini connected and highlighting some of the great individuals among us. Look for additional members in the "Spotlight" in future RAIC Newsletters. If you would like to submit yourself or a fellow RAIC member to be featured please contact Patti Bishop at 815-885-3042 or pbishop@insightbb.com.

Karen Blake Ruffner and her husband Blake are two of our newest "Lifetime Members" of the RAIC!!! She and Greg (U of I 1974) have been married for 32 years and are parents to Blake (2004) and Amy (Class of 2008). Karen attended the University of Illinois 1972-1975, graduating with a B.A. in English Education. Karen states that "great teachers and mentors" inspired her to pursue a career in education and she currently works as the Reading Assessment Coordinator for the Rockford

Public Schools. Additionally, Karen is working on a doctorate in Educational Leadership to be completed May 2008.

Where do you volunteer your time? Holy Family Church, Ingrassia-Confer Dictionary Committee, and RAIC On the Waterfront.

Interesting places you have traveled? With best friends from U of I to ski out West and other trips to France, England, Italy, Switzerland, and Carribean

Favorite UI restaurant? Papa Del's

Best UI memory? Attending a football game with our best friends from UI, their daughter (2004), our son and our daughter.

Favorite place on the UI campus? Sitting outside at the Union looking out at the Quad.

What activities were you involved in while at UI? Intramural sports, student government, StarQuest, Phi Kappa Phi

Something interesting about you people may not know? I grew up on a farm.

Proudest moment? The births of my children

Favorite movie? "All the President's Men"

Favorite Book? The Hero's Journey by Brown and Moffett

Favorite Meal? Cold pizza for breakfast

Biggest pet peeve? Untruths

Biggest challenge? That there are only 24 hours in a day

Something you cannot live without? My family and friends

Describe yourself in one word? Responsible

Something exciting coming up? Blake is marrying Laura Kelley (U of I 2005) this August. Amy did an internship with the Department of Homeland Security in Washington D.C. this past fall semester and is studying abroad in Switzerland this semester. University of Illinois has been an important part of our lives for over 30 years!

2007 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!*

