



**ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB**

## **NEWSLETTER**

**May 2011**

### **FUTURE RAIC EVENTS:**

<b>JUNE 2</b>	<b>ANNUAL CHICKEN DINNER</b>	Tour of old waterfront brewery building (Peacock Brew House) with architect Gary Anderson followed by dinner on site
<b>JUNE 25</b>	<b>ANNUAL PICNIC</b>	Tour of the Hunter Haven Farms near Pearl City, IL. This is an 800 cow dairy farm run by an Illini family. See article and reservation form in this newsletter.
<b>JULY 14</b>	<b>Scholarship Reception 7:00 p.m.</b>	University College of Medicine at Rockford
<b>JULY 21</b>	<b>New Student Roundtable 7:00 p.m.</b>	University College of Medicine at Rockford
<b>SEPT. 2-4</b>	<b>OTW BEER TENT</b>	Volunteers needed - contact Scott Sanders at 815-713-9804 or <a href="mailto:scott@sanders-design-group.com">scott@sanders-design-group.com</a>

### **SPRING DINNER, JUNE 2 TOUR OF PEACOCK BREW HOUSE**

The club has moved our annual spring dinner to Thursday, June 2 at 5:30 p.m. Illinois alum and local club member, Gary Anderson, will provide a tour of this old brewery building that is being renovated by Gary and his associates. This waterfront building will feature restaurants, a basement brewpub, a riverside marina and 11 residential lofts. The tour will be followed by dinner on-site as we help celebrate the grand opening of the Brewhouse at 200 Prairie Street in Rockford. Since we need to provide a count of how many will be attending, please reserve your spot by contacting Karen Johnson at 815-229-1365 or via email at [Katlady217@aol.com](mailto:Katlady217@aol.com).

### **CARAVAN PROVIDED A FUN EVENING WITH BRUCE WEBER**

On May 5 approximately 100 Illini alums and fans attended the Illini Caravan and were treated to a fun evening with head basketball coach, Bruce Weber. Bruce signed countless autographs during the first hour and then provided his analysis on the past



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basketball season as well as a summary regarding the potential of next year's team. The Rockford Country Club provided an array of tasty food items during the social hour preceding Coach Weber's remarks. Former Illini athletes Perry Range (basketball) and Marshall Starks (football) were in attendance.

## ERICKSON FAMILY AWARDED THE 2011 ILLINI SPIRIT AWARD



*Bill and Babs Erickson and Ginny Erickson are pictured with Coach Bruce Weber following the presentation of the 2011 Illini Spirit Award.*

During the Illini Caravan event, the club awarded this year's Spirit Award to the Erickson family – Ginny, wife of Illini basketball All-American, Bill Erickson; Dr. Bill Erickson (son); and his wife, Babs Erickson. This family was largely responsible for the founding of our club back in the 1960's and for revitalizing it in the 1980's. The contributions and overall involvement of the Erickson family have been enormous and were reviewed at length during the presentation at the Caravan.

*Congratulations to Ginny, Babs, and Dr. Bill Erickson. Our club extends a thank you for all of their loyalty and service over the years.*

## ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB OFFICERS & BOARD MEMBERS

*All 815 area code if not designated.*

President - Jim Waddell Jr. - 885-2556

Vice President - Dave Johnson - 397-3118

Secretary - Connie Gritton-Winter - 745-2049

Treasurer - Laura Goodin - 637-1447

Membership - Karen Johnson - 229-1365

Media Liaison - Brandon Reid - 985-5416

Website Coordinator - Pete Bultmann

217-341-7282

### **OTHER BOARD MEMBERS:**

Randy Benjamin - 721-6450

Jerry Beger - 226-0824

Phil Dierstein - 877-7693

Dr. Bill Erickson - 332-5919

Brian Lyons - 962-0001

John Paulsgrove - 332-5580

Beth Rydberg - 282-1636

Scott Sanders - 713-9804

## ***Thank You . . .***

The following thank you note was received from Ginny Erickson following the presentation of the Spirit Award to her family.

*Rockford Area Illini Club,*

*What a wonderful surprise for the Erickson family! We have enjoyed so many of the activities and events sponsored by the RAIC and enjoyed being part of the Illini Spirit. My husband, Bill, would be as proud of the chapter - how successful and strong it has become. Many alums worked hard to form it. My deep thank you for this honor, the "Illini Spirit Award".*

*Ginny Erickson*

## **JUNE 25 ANNUAL PICNIC WILL BE VERY UNIQUE!**

Our annual picnic event will be held on Saturday, June 25, at the Hunter Haven Farms south of Pearl City, Illinois. The Block family members who own and operate this farm are Illinois graduates. The day's activities will include a tour of this large 800 cow dairy farm at 11:00

a.m., followed by a picnic dinner at 1:00 p.m. Cost will be \$3 for kids and \$5 for adults and this will provide drinks and a pork chop sandwich, hamburger or hotdog. Each family is asked to bring a dish (salads, veggies, or dessert) to share. There will be pony rides and games for the kids as well.

Please meet at the dairy facility for the tour (directions in reservation form elsewhere in this newsletter.) The 11:00 time allows visitors to see cows being milked during the tour. Hunter Haven features a methane digester which processes the cows' "by-products" into electricity, cow bedding and fertilizer, making them a very "green" dairy farm.

The picnic will be held in the enclosed stable arena at the home of Doug and Edie Block located across the road from the dairy - so we will be good to go rain or shine! Comfortable walking shoes or tennis shoes are recommended for this event.

### ***CAR POOL BEING ORGANIZED***

For those wanting to car-pool to this event we will meet up at the extreme southeast corner of Cherryvale Mall (south of Sears) at 9:15 a.m. that Saturday morning. Please contact John Paulsgrove at 815-871-4416 or 815-332-5580 if you plan to car-pool or need more details. The farm is located on Hwy. 73 four miles south of Pearl City (travel west on Hwy. 20 to Hwy. 73) and is about a 1¼ hour drive from Cherryvale Mall.



*Aerial view of Hunter Haven Dairy.*

Please use the registration form in this newsletter. Reservations are needed by June 16 to provide enough meat/supplies for this event.

*This is a very unique opportunity - especially for all you "city folk" out there! So join us on the 25th of June.*

## **STUDENT EVENTS IN JULY . . . SCHOLARSHIP RECEPTION & NEW STUDENT ROUNDTABLE**

All club members are welcome to attend either or both of our student events in July at the University of Illinois College of Medicine at Rockford. Both events begin at 7:00 p.m. and refreshments will be available. On July 14, we will meet and honor our 2011 scholarship winners and their families. It is always uplifting to meet these talented future Illini and their parents. On the following Thursday, July 21, we will offer once again our New Student Roundtable, also at 7:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for any in-coming Illini student and their parents to learn about student life at the University and ask questions that they may have. There is a session for students, led by current or recent Illinois students, as well as a session for parents. If you know of any families that will be sending a student to Illinois in the fall, invite them to this event. Those who have attended in the past have found it very beneficial.



*Scholarship applications were mailed to all incoming freshmen for the fall of 2011 earlier this month. The deadline to have them to Dave Johnson, our scholarship committee chair, is Saturday, June 11. If you know any of these students, please encourage them to apply for one of our RAIC scholarships!*

## **OTW BEER TENT VOLUNTEERS**

Once again the club will be selling beverages at the On The Waterfront Festival this coming Labor Day weekend. Longtime chairperson of this event, Laura Goodin, is transferring the organizing of this activity to Scott Sanders, one of our newer board members. We certainly appreciate her efforts over the years to make this a very successful event for the club. As always, we will need volunteers to man the tent for Friday, Saturday, and Sunday (Sept. 2-4). This is our main activity in providing funds for our scholarship program – one of the many reasons we are regarded as one of the premier alumni clubs in the country. We will need approximately 40 volunteers over this weekend with 4-hour shifts of 3-4 people selling beverages. Volunteers in the past have enjoyed this opportunity to assist our club's most important function – supporting local students who are attending the university. You can contact Scott Sanders and indicate your interest in helping out in any of the following ways: cell- 815-713-9804, work phone – 815-969-9917, or email – [scott@sanders-design-group.com](mailto:scott@sanders-design-group.com)

## **INTERESTED IN BECOMING CLUB BOARD MEMBER?**

Every year we have new additions to our RAIC Board. Board members serve for 3 years and are involved in planning club activities for the year. We usually meet 5-6 times per year to organize traditional activities and plan new ventures. If you are interested in serving, please contact John Paulsgrove at 815-871-4416 or email: [illinigrover@aol.com](mailto:illinigrover@aol.com)

## ***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.

## **MEMBERSHIP DUES STRUCTURE**

Class of 2011 - free membership for a year

Classes of 2006-10 - \$10 individual/\$15 family

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

Lifetime Memberships -

\$200 individual / \$350 family

You can now pay your membership dues online 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](mailto:katlady217@aol.com).

***Check your mailing label to see when your membership expires and renew if necessary. Many memberships are due for renewal on September 1!!!!***

*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 our board members a call with your suggestion.*

# RAIC Family Picnic on June 25

This is an event designed for the whole family and is an opportunity to meet and visit with fellow Illini in the area. And this year we are taking it to a new level - along with the potluck dinner you have the opportunity to tour one of the most successful and well-managed dairy farms in northwest Illinois.



This year's picnic will be held at Hunter Haven Dairy Farm owned by Doug and Tom Block who, along with their wives Edie and Mary, will be our hosts for this special event. The dairy is located at 17990a IL Rte. 73, Pearl City, Illinois. From Rockford or all towns east, take Rte. 20 (remember when approaching Freeport to follow the Rte. 20 sign that says "Galena".) Travel west of Freeport to Rte. 73 and turn left (the town of Lena is to the right.) Travel south through the town of Pearl City. The dairy is located 4 miles south of Pearl City on the west (right) side of the road. You will see the dairy facilities located on a rise up a lane. (The Stephenson County/Carroll County line sign is immediately before you turn down the dairy's lane.) *For more on the dairy and the day's activities and schedule, check the article elsewhere in this newsletter.*

The club and Blocks will provide the meat, table service, lemonade/ice tea, tables and chairs. We ask each family to bring a dish to pass and any other beverages, if desired. A small fee is being charged to cover costs. Adults - \$5.00 • Children - \$3.00

We are inviting local high school seniors who plan to attend the University of Illinois (around 200 students) and their families. Each student will receive a "goodie bag" to take to school in the fall.

Fill out the reservation form below and mail it by Thursday, June 16 as we need to know how many will be attending so we may provide sufficient meat and drink.

*Questions, call Connie Gritton Winter at 815/745-2049; email: cgritton@hughes.net*

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## Family Picnic at Hunter Haven Dairy

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

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Adults (\$5.00) \_\_\_\_\_ Children (under 12) (\$3.00) Total: \_\_\_\_\_

Choice of meat: \_\_\_\_\_ Boneless porkchop \_\_\_\_\_ hamburger \_\_\_\_\_ hotdog  
(Please indicate number ordering which meat)

Send reservations with check made out to RAIC by Thursday, June 16 to:

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

\_\_\_\_\_ I am a freshman who will be attending the U of I this fall. (Name: \_\_\_\_\_ )

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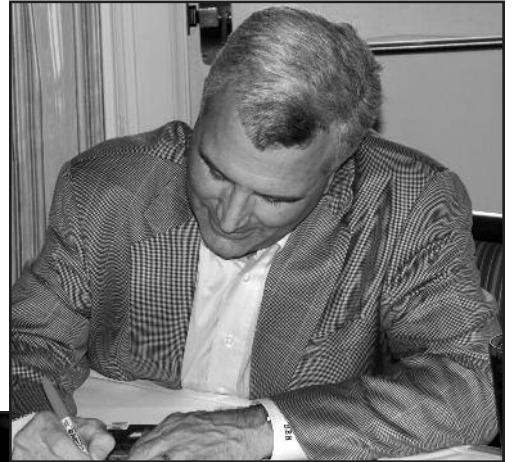
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# *At the Caravan*





# ROCKFORD AREA ILLINI CLUB

ALUMNI & FRIENDS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

PRSRT STD  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
NORA, IL  
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## CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

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

## 2011/12 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 2011 - Free for One Year

Classes of 2007-2010: ☐ \$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](http://www.rockfordillini.com)***