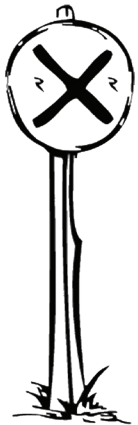


ALL ABOARD!



WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK!



Senior Professionals
of Illinois State University...
a University and Community Partnership



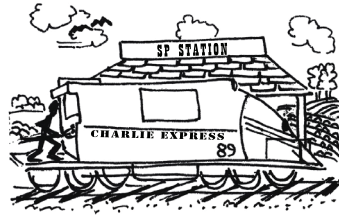
LAYING THE TRACKS

Senior Professionals began with a simple idea and a persistent man. The idea—to provide a program for retirees to interact with Illinois State University students. The man—**Charles W. Bolen**, semi-retired Dean of the College of Fine Arts at Illinois State University. The year was 1989.

ISU President Thomas Wallace invited Charlie to research what other universities were doing to develop such a program for seniors. Charlie visited several schools, including Eckerd College in Florida, where he learned about their retiree mentor/student mentee program.

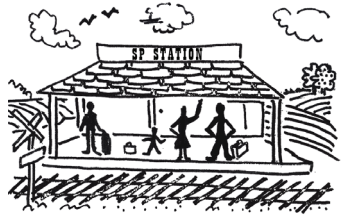
STOKING THE ENGINE

Charlie called together a group of community retirees to discuss possible program ideas. The original Senior Professionals board consisted of **Charlie Bolen, J. Lewis Bailen, Frank Matsler, Mark Sherman, William Dunbar, Wendell Oliver, Richard Stewart, Jean Hiestand, Richard Perkins, and Calvin Stockman**. They met with Director of the Honors Program Ira Cohen, Provost **David Strand**, and President Wallace and decided on two primary goals—1) a mentoring program between retirees and students in the Honors Program and 2) classes for retired people that would provide an opportunity to explore history, political science, cultures, and religions, with no tests or papers to write.



Members each made a \$100 annual donation to help defray office costs. Later, the monies also provided funds for mentoring programs.

The organization was attached to the College of Continuing Education, within the Office of the Provost. Subsequently it was passed to Professional Development, with Stacy Marshall-Kern as head of the unit. This arrangement provided a home base as well as office equipment and staff. Charlie was hired as the first director. When he fully retired in 1995 from ISU, **Norma Ashbrook** was hired as the organization's director. Upon her retirement in 2000, **Anita Revelle** replaced Norma. The program is now housed in Conference Services, with Becky Lee-Rich as Director.



TAKING ON PASSENGERS

The founding members reached out to others in the community, searching for people who were active in the community and who were willing to participate in Senior Professionals programs. Those who joined became adjunct professors—with no compensation, of course, but with faculty perks, such as parking permits, library privileges, and recreational opportunities. By 1999, membership reached 100.

STAYING ON BOARD

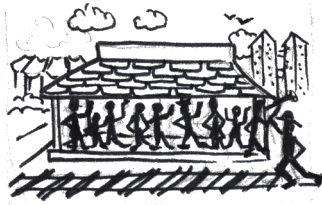
It's been quite a ride
We have set new timetables
We added more passengers
So stay on board—toot, toot, more adventures in the next 20 years!

Thanks to the following people who contributed their remembrances for this booklet: Charlie Bolen, Jana Edge, Ernie Hoffman, Pearle Jeffries, Frank Matsler, Ann Nolte, in memory, Mark Sherman, George Eovaldi, and Chuck Steen.

Thanks to the 20th Anniversary Committee: Chair, Barb Allsup; Committee members, Karen Ament, Bonnie Bernardi, Judie Bey, Jan Holder, Ernie Hoffman, Pearle Jeffries, Peg Kirk, Paula Leifel, Frank Matsler, Ann Nolte, in memory, Anita Revelle and Mark Sherman.

April 2009

While the number of women members has grown through the years, adding people of various races, backgrounds, and careers to the roster is important to develop diversity.



DRIVING IN THE GOLDEN SPIKES

The Senior Professional program is involved in the State of Illinois Life-Long Learning Coalition, a group of universities and community colleges that share ideas and recognize the outstanding achievements of their programs. Director, **Anita Revelle** served as chair of its board from 2002

through 2008. The following are awards presented to Senior Professionals and Illinois State University from the Illinois Life-Long Learning Coalition.

- 2007 Outstanding Volunteer, **Bill Cockrell**
Outstanding Professors, Jim Bortell/John Freese
Outstanding Intergenerational Program, BLACK S.T.A.R.R.
Outstanding Brochure, Melissa Bush, Conference Services
- 2006 Innovative Award, Senior Professionals Marketing Study
Outstanding Professor, Art Corra
Intergenerational Award, Senior Professional Mentoring Program
- 2005 Innovative Award, ISU Tours
Outstanding Volunteer, **Pearle Jeffries**
Outstanding Brochure, Melissa Bush, Conference Services
- 2003 Outstanding Professor, Jamal Nassar
Innovative Award from the Illinois Council of Continuing Higher Education, Mock Interviews

PULLING UP TO THE NEW STATION

In the fall of 2008, the home of Senior Professionals moved to the Illinois State University Alumni Center on North Main Street, Normal. The newly renovated facility is not only beautiful, but offers ample parking, large classrooms and meeting rooms, and equipment access. These features will allow the organization to expand its membership and classroom attendance.



Most early members were men. In 1990, two women were added to the roster: **Flo Armstrong** and **Anne Nolte**. **Jana Edge** became the first woman chairperson in 2005. Today, eight of the 14 board members and 34% of the membership are women.



RELAXING IN THE CLUB CAR

While adult enrichment classes are open to the public and mentees are included in some events, special events are provided for members, spouses, and guests.

For example, Senior Professional Presents features a member making a presentation on his/her career field, trip, or volunteer activity. Bus trips have included member **Ken Holder's** art exhibit in Springfield, Chicago's First Amendment Museum, the Chicago Board of Trade, the play Jersey Boys, and the Lewis & Clark exhibit in St. Louis.

Local tours have included the Central Illinois Regional Airport, the cardiac floors at both local hospitals, the Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, the ISU golf course, the renovations at Schroeder Hall, the Caterpillar Technology Lab in Turner Hall, and Milner Library.

Annual Banquets have been held since inception as a way to celebrate Senior Professionals' achievements. The Presidential Lunch began as a way for members to meet with the ISU President each year. In 1996, mentees were included for the first time. In 2010, the banquet and luncheon will be combined.

Since 1997, Summerfest has served as an annual get-together at the Davis Lodge at Lake Bloomington. In 2007, it moved to the Sugar Grove Nature Center in Funk's Grove.

POSTING TIMETABLES

Senior Professionals added Academy of Seniors (AOS) to supplement the existing Mornings with the Professors (MWP), directed by Dr. Barbara Wallace, wife of President Wallace. A mailing went out to 7,000 retirees in Bloomington/Normal and netted 65 students for MWP and 10-25 students for each Academy class. And of course, coffee and cookies added a social aspect to the very first learning experiences.

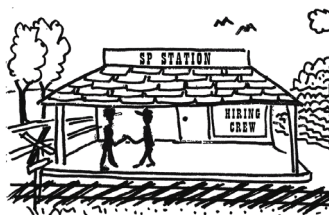


Twenty years later, a brochure is sent semi-annually to 2,500 prospective attendees. In addition, class descriptions and schedules are listed on the Senior Professional Web site and in the newsletter. Over 800 retirees attend classes each year.

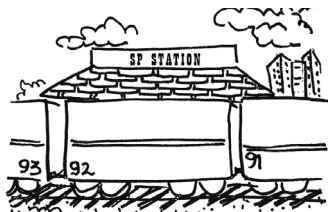
HIRING THE CREW

Class presenters in the early 1990s included:

- Paul Holsinger, *The Life and Times of McLean County*
- Jamal Nassar, *The Middle East: Past, Present, and Future*
- Graham Jones, *Biochemistry: The Chemistry of Life*
- Anne Nadakavukaren, *Environmental Policy: Eco-Scam or Eco-Catastrophe*
- **Harold Gregor**, *Painting Illinois Prairiescapes*
- Thomas Simon, *Democracy and Social Injustice*
- Ron Pope, *Failure of Communism and Russia's Future*



ADDING ON CARS



Because students are a primary focus of Senior Professionals, a number of programs have been initiated for members to interact with Illinois State University students, faculty, and staff.

Mentoring—From the beginning in 1989, mentoring has been a major goal of the organization. In the second year, the board authorized the selection of two Honor Student

mentees to each receive a \$1,000 award, and the winners shared some of their accomplishments with the attendees at the annual banquet. The award is now called the Charles W. Bolen Award in honor of the organization's founder. In 1997, the number of awards was increased to three. In 1998, several activities were added to enhance the Mentoring Program—an annual pizza party, a fall sandwich supper, and a spring social. In 2009, there are 95 mentor/mentee matches.

Passages—In 2000, members of Senior Professionals were asked to become involved in Passages: New Student Orientation, the welcoming activity for new students at ISU. In 2008 32 Senior Professionals participated.

Mock Interviews—1998 marked the beginning of the Mock Interviews Program with 13 Senior Professionals interviewing 20 students. In 2004, **Paul Shaffer** and **Anita Revelle** met with Athletic Director Perk Weisenburger, and the interviews were made compulsory for all junior athletes. In 2008, 93 athletes were paired with 48 Senior Professionals.

Job Fairs—In 2007, the Career Center approached Senior Professionals to help at the annual student Job Fair, serving as ambassadors who welcome employers and handle questions from students. Twelve members participated in 2008.

Service Learning Awards—In 2007, the board decided to grant up to \$500 for Service Learning Projects to registered student organizations. This effort allowed the organization to connect with the University's American Democracy Project, which promotes service learning. The first year, the two winners were BLACK S.T.A.R.R., who worked with Baby Fold students adjusting to public schools, and

The Theatre Education Association, who provided funds and expertise to help small schools present one-act plays.

Lifestyle Floors—In 2005, a suggestion was made for Senior Professionals to work with the University's Lifestyle Floors in the residents halls. Contact was made and about 15 members connected with the Resident Assistants on various floors (such as history, nursing, and education) in order to help obtain speakers for the students. The program was abandoned after two years, and in 2008, Senior Professionals became a resource available to the Office of Residential Life.

HIRING ENGINEERS

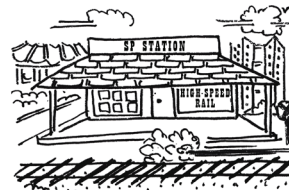
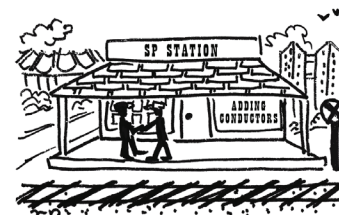
The board consists of nine elected members for a term limit of six years and five committee chairs for a term limit of three years. The board elects its chair each year.

Previous Senior Professional board chairs to date are:

1989-1995	Charlie Bolen—Founder Emeritus
1996-1999	Ernie Hoffman
1999-2002	George Eovaldi
2003-2004	Chuck Steen
2004-2006	Jana Edge
2007-2009	Pearle Jeffries

ADDING CONDUCTORS

Under the leadership of Ernie Hoffman, in 1997 Stacy Marshall-Kern facilitated a board retreat to examine the mission and goals, budget, and structure. Committees were created. The first appointed committee chairs were **Ed Lundeen**, Education; **Joe Van West**, Membership; **George Eovaldi**, Mentoring; and **Dave Wiant**, University Relations. The Special Events committee, chaired by **Pat Groves**, was added in 2000. Currently 84 people serve on the five committees.



PICKING UP STEAM

The Senior Professionals train has been picking up steam for 20 years now. Membership is 183 and growing. Members who participate on the board and/or in the mentoring and mock interview programs now total 273.

Recently, the number of classes expanded from 10 to 13 per year, and classes and activities are now offered throughout the year to accommodate members and community retirees who travel.

One goal of Senior Professionals is to continue to expand membership. Current members are asked to encourage their friends and colleagues to join by explaining the benefits and enjoyment derived from Senior Professionals.