

pencil points

News worth noting from your credit union.

From The President



Dear Members,

The headlines will scare you. At least one brokerage house has been bought for pennies on the dollar. Consumers who were high risks for mortgage loans are losing their homes, and the lenders who wrote the mortgages are losing money. Several banks who issue credit cards are, without warning, increasing cardholder interest rates to increase profits (see the associated story in this newsletter). The Federal Reserve has jumped in to cut interest rates and shore up the stock market, and try to avoid a recession.

And here at Academic Employees Credit Union (AECU), things are running smoothly.

While many for-profit companies take on unnecessary risks and increase costs to consumers to maximize profits for their stockholders, the credit union answers to you, our member-owners. Our financial performance and security are affected only by the soundness of our policies and the loyalty of our members.

Our focus on people instead of profits is one of the fundamental differences between your credit union and banks.

Another difference is that we want you to have a say in the way AECU is run. Every year, you are invited to attend our annual meeting (see the annual meeting story in this newsletter). Those attending get first-hand information regarding the credit union's financial performance, new services we may offer in the future, and an opportunity to elect your board of directors.

Did you know our board and committee members are volunteers? They receive no compensation for serving or attending meetings like board members at most banks receive. This ensures their focus is solely on making sure the credit union is serving its members effectively while practicing sound financial management. That's why the credit union usually offers better loan rates, fewer fees, and often better savings rates than other institutions.

You can rest assured that your money is safe at the credit union for another reason...federal deposit insurance. Credit unions fund their own deposit insurance through the National Credit Union Administration (NCUA), a federal government agency that protects your credit union deposits like the FDIC protects bank deposits. NCUA is the strongest, most highly capitalized of the federal deposit insurance funds. There is no safer place for your money.

We hope you can join us at the annual meeting, so you can see for yourself how the credit union is different – and we think, better – than the banks.

With Great Appreciation,



Sky Poindexter
President

Join Us At The Annual Membership Meeting

Friday, May 2 • 5:30 p.m. at Smithton Middle School

Come celebrate membership at AECU's annual membership meeting, May 2, at Smithton Middle School. The meeting will include dinner, election of officers, door prizes and more. Door prize tickets will be given to the primary account owners only. Joint owners or other guests in attendance are welcome, but are not eligible for prize drawings.

The cost is \$3 per person, to offset the cost of the meal. You must make reservations in advance. Membership and reservations will be checked at the door.

Please complete the reservation form below and return it to the credit union office by Monday, April 28. We must receive payment for your reservations by April 28. Sorry, no refunds.

We look forward to seeing you!

Annual Meeting Reservation

(Please print)

I will attend the Academic Employees Credit Union 72nd Annual Meeting.

Enclosed is my check or share draft for \$_____ for _____ reservation(s).

Please deduct \$_____ for _____ reservation(s) from my share (savings) account.

Please deduct \$_____ for _____ reservation(s) from my share draft (checking) account.

X _____
Signature

Your Name

Your Member Number

List Joint Owner(s) or other Guest(s) you have in your reservation total above:

Please mail or deliver to arrive at the credit union by Monday, April 28:
Academic Employees Credit Union
Attn: Annual Meeting
2804 W. Ash
Columbia, MO 65203

Don't Face Spring Break Broke... Open A Vacation Account Now

Did you spend your spring break this year at home, scraping windshields and shoveling snow, because you lacked the cash to go to a warmer climate? Or, did you enjoy a great spring break at the beach or in the mountains, but now are bummed 1842-00 because all of your credit card charges are coming due?

Plan ahead for a great spring break next year by opening a Vacation Savings Club Account now. You can automatically put a little money aside each pay period, and you'll earn interest on your savings throughout the year.

By the time next spring comes around, you'll have the cash to enjoy yourself without the guilt and expense of credit card debt.



Extreme Makeover: MasterCard® Edition!

If you hold an AECU MasterCard — or were thinking about getting one — you've got a lot to look forward to.

First of all, we'll be unveiling a new, lower interest rate, for many members. That's a lower, FIXED rate, not a teaser rate. This summer, we'll also offer you an opportunity to transfer balances from your higher-rate credit cards to your Academic Employees card.



Several Big Banks Are Playing Games With Cardholders

A recent article from *BusinessWeek* illustrated how several large banks are blindsiding their cardholders.

At least one major credit card lender sent letters in mid-January notifying some responsible cardholders that it would more than double their rates to as high as 28%, without giving explanations for the increases, according to copies of five letters obtained by *BusinessWeek*.

In recent years, many card companies have turned to a practice called "risk-based pricing," in which they raise a regular paying consumer's rate because of a decline in the person's credit score. But some larger banks reportedly have now begun raising rates arbitrarily based on information not available to consumers.

Analysts say the bank's move is obviously aimed at racking up profits. If you have a credit card from a large bank, be sure to check your recent statements closely to be sure your rate hasn't been increased for no apparent reason.

Since credit unions are not-for-profit institutions, you will never see your rates arbitrarily increased. If you are affected by the sudden rate increase from the large bank card issuers, contact us to see how we can help. We may be able to transfer your balance to a lower-cost credit union credit card.

Article courtesy of MSN Money.

An International Incident:

Special Olympics Coach Takes Bocce To China, To Gold, And To The State House

When it comes to bocce (BO chee), no one is more passionate than AECU Board Chairman Frank LaMantia.

"Even more than playing bocce, I love the excitement and experience of passing the sport to others," said LaMantia. His excitement for the game has led him to volunteer to teach the game to Special Olympics athletes as well as teach classes for the Parks and Recreation Department.

LaMantia coached Columbia's two-person Special Olympics bocce team. He devoted many hours to prepare the team to compete at the Special Olympics in Shanghai, China. To say they performed well is an understatement.

"I believe the results of them winning two Gold Medals in the World Cup says it all," declared the proud coach. "You can tell that they were confident, they had pride, self-esteem, learned the strategy of the game, and most of all they had FUN."

In January, Frank LaMantia and the Special Olympics Bocce Team were honored by the State House of Representatives.

The credit union thanks Mr. LaMantia for making a difference.

Member Goes Green To Get Green

Congratulations to Lesley Thalhuber! Lesley signed up for e-statements and won \$25 in our recent promotion. Ms. Thalhuber and all e-statement users will enjoy:

- The convenience of having their statement available on the second business day of the month.
- The security of password-protected, encrypted e-mail, and a dramatic drop in the opportunity for fraud. (More than 80% of identity theft is caused by stolen paper mail!)
- The environmental satisfaction of saving countless trees and further reducing their carbon footprint.

E-statements are the smart alternative. Check out more information on our Web site: www.academicecu.com.

INFOBOX

Rates

We are always evaluating our rates to ensure they are competitive. Visit www.academicecu.com for our most current rates.

Holiday Closings

Monday, May 26 Memorial Day

Friday, July 4 Independence Day

Remember Our New Thursday Hours

Please remember that our lobby and drive-up services will not open until 10 a.m. Thursday mornings so we can hold staff training sessions.

With your ATM/Debit card and our online [CMYCUINFO](http://www.academicecu.com) service and our audio VRU (1-888-228-2824), you can still manage your accounts even when we are closed.

Account Number Search!

Can you find your account number hidden in this issue of Pencil Points? If so, contact us by **June 30, 2008**, to claim a great prize for winning our hidden account number search!

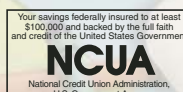


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www.academicecu.com

24 Hour VRU
(Voice Response Unit)
1-888-BCTCU24
(1-888-228-2824)



Office Hours

Lobby

Monday, Tuesday,
Wednesday, Friday:
9 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5 p.m.

Drive Up

Monday & Tuesday:
8 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.

Thursday: 10 a.m. – 5:15 p.m.

Friday: 8 a.m. – 6 p.m.