Peer groups influence early adolescent bullying

By Shalita Forrest
Assistant Editor

In the perilous world of adolescents, standing head and shoulders above the rest can feel more like a gypsy curse than the result of genetics.

For 14-year-old Tabitha, a student at Urbana Middle School, her classmates’ teasing about her height was causing her self-esteem and grades to plummet until she met Christine Merle, her mentor in the Champaign-Urbana One-to-One Mentoring Program.

Merle, a professor of veterinary clinical medicine, is one of several university faculty and staff members who mentor schoolchildren through the program.

Begun in 1994, the program matches adult volunteers with youth in the Champaign-Urbana schools. Teachers and counselors recommend students for the program who may be underachieving academically, have poor attendance or exhibit poor self-esteem.

“We’re looking for average kids who for some reason aren’t being successful, the ones that I see as the ‘falling-through-the-cracks kids,’” said Terry Morgan, eighth-grade guidance counselor at Urbana Middle School. “Maybe it’s the quiet kid who’s sitting there not particularly noticed.”

The study of middle-school aggression appears in the January/February issue of the journal Child Development.

The same peer effect held true for physical fighting, but the findings fit with what researchers call the “homophily hypothesis,” which holds that individual behavior is influenced by the groups they’re part of.

“This is the first time that we can actually show that the homophily hypothesis holds for both bullying and fighting (among early adolescents), but it is much stronger and explains much more about bullying,” Espelage said. “The study shows that for bullying there was a significant peer pressure effect.”

WHY MENTOR?
Youth with mentors are:

- 46% less likely to begin using illegal drugs
- 27% less likely to begin using alcohol
- 33% less likely to engage in violence

Peer groups influence early adolescent bullying

NY Times reporter to speak at commencement

Barry Bearak, a New York Times reporter and a winner of a Pulitzer Prize for international reporting, will speak at commencement ceremonies May 18 at the Assembly Hall in Champaign.

Bearak’s work was cited by the Pulitzer committee for “his deeply affecting and illuminating coverage of daily life in war-torn Afghanistan” in 2001. Among his other honors are a George Polk Award for Foreign Reporting, the first prize of the South Asian Journalist Association for outstanding story of the year and the Mike Berger Award, given by Columbia University for reporting about New York City.

Bearak earned his master’s degree in journalism at Illinois. While at Illinois, he won the graduate fiction prize and wrote for the Daily Illini.

Prior to joining the Times in 1996, Bearak was a reporter for 14 years for the Los Angeles Times and six years for the Miami Herald.”

“The sheer number of Mr. Bearak’s prestigious journalism awards attests to his remarkable talent and dedication,” said Ron Yates, head of the UI journalism department.
By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Anthony J. Leggett, a UI professor of physics, has been selected as a recipient of the 2002/2003 Wolf Prize in Physics. He shares the prize with Bertrand I. Halperin of Harvard University and I. E. Pitarke of the Russian Academy of Sciences. Leggett, 64, who holds the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Chair of Physics and is a professor in the Center for Advanced Study, is being recognized for his theory of superfluidity of the light helium isotope at very low temperatures, for his exploration of macroscopic quantum coherence and for his contribution to the study of dissipation processes in quantum systems, that cannot be ignored in practical applications.

Leggett’s groundbreaking theoretical work has helped provide a better understanding of both high-temperature superconductivity and low-temperature superfluidity (frictionless flow). He was cited in the announcement of the 1996 Nobel Prize in physics for assisting the prize winners in their interpretations of the experiments that led to a breakthrough in low-temperature physics. His areas of research also have included foundations of quantum mechanics and the thermal and acoustic properties of glass.

A native of London, Leggett earned his doctorate in physics from Oxford University in 1964. He worked at Illinois as a postdoctoral research associate from 1964-5 and again in 1967. He returned to Illinois and joined the faculty in 1983.

Leggett has achieved many honors, including being named a fellow of the Royal Society, the American Physical Society, and the American Institute of Physics. He is an honorary fellow of the British Institute of Physics. He also is a member of the National Academy of Sciences, the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and the American Philosophical Society.

Leggett has been awarded the Max-well Medal and Prize and the Simon Memorial Prize of the British Institute of Physics, and he is a foreign member of the Russian Academy of Sciences.

Based in Israel, the Wolf Foundation was established in 1976 by the late Ricardo Wolf, a German-born diplom- at and philanthropist who immigrated to Cuba and served as Cuban ambassa- dor to Israel, where he died in 1981. Wolf prizes are awarded annually in recognition of outstanding achieve- ments in physics, chemistry, mathematics, medicine, agriculture and the arts. Each prize consists of a $100,000 honorarium.

Israel President Moshe Katsav will present the awards in Jerusalem on May 11.
on the job  
rick schoell

Rick Schoell, executive director for government relations and director of federal relations, University Office of Governmental Relations, has spent his 16-year career as a liaison between the university and state and federal legislators. Schoell earned a bachelor’s degree in history and political science and a master’s degree in political science from the University of Iowa. In his spare time, Schoell enjoys reading about American history and political and government leaders. He also is a fan of jazz and the Pittsburgh Pirates.

What does the office of government relations do?
Our principal job is to promote the university’s interests at the federal and state levels. I work very closely with the [university] president and the three campus presidents we will work with to advance the interests of the institution, with a host of national organizations. We monitor legislation and lobby legislators about laws and issues that affect the university. We work aggressively to structure laws in ways that most benefit our students. We’ve been involved in issues such as student aid, budgetary matters, reporting of campus crime statistics and changes to immigration laws because of Sept. 11.

In December, President Bush signed a bill that will double the National Science Foundation’s budget. How might this affect the Urbana campus?
It’s particularly important to the Urbana campus because it is the number one recipient (in terms of universities) of NSF support. For the fiscal year 2001, we got about $80 million in NSF research funds. Last year, it was more like $90 million to $100 million. If the NSF doubles its research budget, it only stands that we would compete successfully for those additional resources, whether they are in the form of individual investigative grants or support for centers like the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

What are the priorities for your office for 2003?
To obtain the best operating and capital budgets we can, once we see what the new governor’s agenda is, and find ways to advance the interests of Illinois, from agriculture to transportation and everything that falls in between. We’ll also be working at the federal level to augment our research and student-aid programs. In a recent Faculty-Student Senate meeting, some of the senators expressed concern that homeland security and immigration legislation will adversely affect the numbers of prospective faculty members and students. Could you comment?
On the immigration side, the federal government is requiring universities to be more vigilant and comprehensive in their monitoring and administration of foreign faculty [members] and students. With that presumable comes some sacrifice of convenience and maybe civil liberties, and that’s where the tensions are. It’s going to be more difficult to travel and get extended stays for research purposes. I think they are potentially right – that it may be more difficult to attract foreign scholarship and education.

The Personnel Services Office provides information about staff employment online at the personnel services office. Faculty members can access the academic jobs listserve. Look under Career Information at: http://webster.uihr.uiuc.edu/ahr/jobs/faculty/ahrjobrg1.htm. Prospective employees and students can receive a e-mail notification of open positions by subscribing to the academic jobs listserve. Under Career Information at: http://webster.uihr.uiuc.edu/ahr/default.aspx?urban. The Personnel Services Office provides information about staff employment online at http://www.pso.uiuc.edu. Paper employment applications or paper civil service exam requests are no longer accepted by PRC. To complete an online employment application and to submit an exam request, visit the online Employment Center: https://hrnet.uihr.uillinois.edu/panda-cf/employment/index.cfm.

Understanding virtual reality
William Sherman, NCSA senior research programmer, and Alan Craig, NCSA research programmer, have co-written “Understanding Virtual Reality: Interface, Application and Design.” The book arrives at a time when the technologies behind virtual reality have advanced to the point that it is possible to develop and deploy meaningful, productive virtual reality applications. The goal of this thorough, accessible ex-ploration is to help you take advantage of this moment, equipping you with the understanding needed to identify and prepare for ways VR can be used in your field, whatever that field may be.

By approaching VR as a communications medium, the authors have created a resource that will remain relevant even as the underlying technologies evolve. You get a history of VR, along with a good look at systems currently in use. However, the focus remains squarely on the application of VR and the many issues that arise in the application design and implementation, including hardware requirements, system integration, interface techniques, and usability. This book also counters both exaggerated claims for VR and the view that would reduce it to entertainment, citing dozens of real-world examples from many different fields and presenting (in a series of appendices) four in-depth application case studies.

book corner

sites once occupied by the ancient people who created some of the pre-Columbian world’s most exquisite art, largest ground drawings, most ingenious hydraulic engineering and most intense “trophy hunting” of human heads, are identified and explored in a new book by a UI professor of archaeology.
Helaine Silverman’s “Ancient Nasca Settlement and Society” (University of Iowa Press) is the first extended study of the ancient Nasca sites in what today is southern Peru. The book combines field research with postmodernist theory to illuminate the Nasca people’s “social construction of space and meaning” through their manipulation of natural settings and creation of built environments. Throughout, she challenges current anthropological theories and practices.

“Ancient Nasca Settlement and Society,” by Helaine Silverman (University of Iowa Press 2002)


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commerce and business administration

Seven faculty members in the College of Commerce and Business Administration received faculty fellowships in recognition of their research and professional accomplishments and their contributions to teaching, curriculum development and pedagogical innovations.

The holders of the three-year Faculty Fellowships: Bryan Cloyd, accountancy; Arthur Anderson Fellowship in Accountancy; Kathryn Kadous, accountancy; Caterpillar Fellowship; Steven Michael, business administration; Schoen Fellowship in Entrepreneurship; Neil Pearson, finance; Investors in Business Education (IBE) Fellowship; Marjorie Shelley, accountancy; Deloitte & Touche Scholarship in Accountancy; Brian Wansink, business administration; Julian Simon Memorial Faculty Fellowship; and Zhijie Xiao, economics, IBE Fellowship.

The program was established in November to complement the college’s endowed chair professorships.

The Dads Association recently presented its annual Certificate of Merit Awards.

Barbara Cicone, an admissions and records officer for the department of computer science, was named outstanding staff member. Cicone was honored for her commitment to students in her role in supervising the department’s academic office.

Journalism professor Walter Harrington was honored as outstanding faculty member for his work in teaching and nurturing students.

Kory Langhofer, a senior in political science from Urbana, was named outstanding student, and the campuses chapter of Habitat for Humanity was honored as outstanding student organization.

engineering

William S. Hamment, professor of chemical engineering, has won the 2002 National Association of Science Writers (NASW) “Science in Society Award” in the radio category for his program “Engineering and Life,” broadcast on WILL-AM (580).

David A. Langs, professor of civil and environmental engineering, has received the American Concrete Institute’s Wason Medal for Most Meritorious Paper. Langs was honored for “Creep, Shrinkage, and Cracking of Reinforced Concrete at Early Age,” which he co-wrote.

The award was founded in 1917 by Leonard P. Wason, past president of ACI International. Formal announcement of the election will be made at the ACI convention in Vancouver, in March.

Jean Ponce, professor of computer science, was elected a fellow of the Institute of Electric and Electronic Engineers for his contributions to geometric shape representation in computer vision.

Mohit Randeria, George A. Miller Endowment Professor in Physics, received two prestigious international prizes in physics.

The International Center for Theoretical Physics in Trieste, Italy, awarded him the 2002 P.W. Anderson Prize in Condensed Matter Physics. It recognizes outstanding and original contributions in physics and mathematics in a specific field of interest.

In addition, he received the 2002 S.S. Bhatnagar Prize for Physical Sciences, awarded by the Council of Scientific and Industrial Research of the Government of India, for outstanding scientific contributions made primarily in India during the past five years.

NAMD, a molecular dynamics code for high-performance simulation of large biomolecular systems developed on campus, was among the winners of this year’s Gordon Bell Awards — the optics of supercomputing — at the SC2002 conference held in November in Baltimore.

NAMD — developed in collaboration by computer scientists Laxmikant Kale, Robert M. Skeel and lead programmer James C. Phillips — represents a marriage of cross-disciplinary research and software technology, aimed at harnessing the nation’s fastest supercomputers to decipher the tiny components of living cells. It is distributed free of charge to thousands of scientists in industry and academia around the world, quickening the pace of drug discovery and other vital research to unravel biological processes.

NAMD was developed by the Theoretical Biophysics Group, directed by physicist Klaus Schulten, at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, with support from the National Institutes of Health and the National Science Foundation.

The Gordon Bell Awards were established in 1988 to stimulate future advances in parallel computing applications by recognizing major achievements.

fine and applied arts

Anne D. Hedeman, professor of art history, has been named the editor for three years of Gesta, the journal of the International Center of Medieval Art.

She also is professor of music, was awarded the title of Doctor Honoris Causa from the Academy of Music of G.Dima, one of the oldest and most prestigious universities, located in Cluj, Romania, the second largest city.

liberal arts and sciences

Phillip A. Newmark, a researcher in the department of cell and structural biology, is one of five recipients nationwide of a 2002 Damon Runyon Scholar Award.

The three-year $300,000 award from the New York-based Damon Runyon Cancer Research Foundation supports the development of outstanding scientists as they establish their own independent research laboratories. The group has been sponsored Jan. 1.

The award is designed to boost Newmark’s efforts to identify the genes involved in the tissue regenerative abilities of the human flatworms in their recovery from wounds.

Julian I. Palmore, professor of mathematics, who also has a faculty appointment in Illinois’ Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security, has been named associate editor of the journal Military Operations Research, of the Military Operations Research Society, Alfred L. Mau- va. He was previously guest editor for a special issue of that journal.

He also was guest editor of a special edition of Defense and Security Analysis on missile defense systems (September 2002) and was invited to guest edit for another special edition which would focus on U.S.-China relations (Decem- ber 2003).

Palmore was invited to join and is now a member of the editorial boards of Defense and Security Analysis as well as the journal Central European Journal of Mathematics.

Scott Silverman, professor of chemistry, will receive the Basil O’Connor Starter Scholar Research Awards from the March of Dimes Foundation. This award is designed to recognize young scientists embarking on their independent research careers, and was given to Silverman for his research on the structural basis of RNA-protein interactions underlying fragile X syndrome.

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is honoring several staff members and academic professionals for outstanding contributions to the college. The awards will be presented Feb. 20.

The LAS Academic Professional Award will be presented to Susanne Aref, manager of services and adjunct lecturer of statistics and of natural resources and environmental sciences; Jenny Barrett, senior research programmer, psychology; and Christine Catanzarite, associate director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

Manasa Healy, administrative secretary, psychology, received the LAS Nancy McCoven Distinguished Service Award. Named for a former administrative assistant and a professional scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, was noted for “groundbreaking studies elucidating mechanisms of selective hormone action on neural circuits during development and determining the basis of neurontomalous plasticity in the intact brain.”

Fahrbach earned a bachelor’s degree from the University of Pennsylvania, a master’s from Oxford University and a doctorate (1985) from The Rockefeller University.

AAAAS, which publishes the journal Science, was founded in 1848, it is the world’s largest general scientific society with 134,000 members in 130 countries and 272 affiliated societies. Election of fellows, who are nominated by their peers, began in 1874.

Two UL scientists

By Jim Barlow

News Bureau Staff Writer

UL scientists Nick Holonyak Jr. and Susan E. Fahrbach are among 291 people selected as 2002 fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

The new fellows will be formally recognized Feb. 15 for their contributions that advance science or foster its applications at the Fellows Forum during the AAAAS annual meeting in Denver.

Holonyak was chosen for “pioneering contributions to the realization of high-performance visible light-emitting diodes (LED) and injection lasers based upon ternary and quaternary compound semiconductors.” His development of the LED occurred while he worked for General Electric before joining the Illinois faculty in 1963.

He holds a John Bardeen Chair in electrical and computer engineering and physics. The chair, endowed by the Sony Corp. of Tokyo, recognizes two-time Nobel Prize winner John Bardeen. Holonyak studied under Bardeen and earned his doctorate from Illinois in 1954.

Fahrbach, a professor of entomology and a professional scientist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, was noted for “groundbreaking studies elucidating mechanisms of selective hormone action on neural circuits during development and determining the basis of neurontomalous plasticity in the intact brain.”

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The LAS Staff Award was presented to Carolyn Cornwall, secretary IV. School of Chemistry; Sherbani Lupu, lecturer; and Mae Donaldson, accountant II, psychology.

state geological survey

Subhash Bhagwat, senior mineral econo- mist with the Illinois State Geological Survey, was awarded a Fulbright Senior Special- ist grant in economics at Technische Universität Berlin FU Fakultät VI Bauingenieurwesen und Angewandte Geowissenschaften Institut. This new program offers two- to six-week grants to leading U.S. academics and professionals to support curricular and faculty development and institutional planning at academic institutions in 140 countries. The program supplements the traditional Fulbright Scholar Program begun in 1946.

Staff members of the Illinois State Geologi- cal Survey were honored at an awards cer- eemony in December. Emeritus clay miner- alogist Herbert Glass received the survey’s Lifetime Distinguished Achievement Award. Other honorees: Bob Bryant, as- sistant supporting scientist, for outstanding contribution to survey safety; the drilling team of Jack Aud, Steve Wildman, Matt Thompson and Chris Wilson for special achievements between August and September; Antigone Dixon-Waren, assistant professional sci- entist, and Steve Gustison, supporting sci- entist, for outstanding new staff members; see ACHIEVEMENTS, Page 5.
At the beginning of this year’s Campus Charitable Fund Drive, we knew that the current state of the economy would have an impact on our campaign. However, with two years of million-dollar-plus successes behind us, the campus goal was set at $1 million, and our volunteers went to work. Once again, our faculty and staff exhibited the compassion and dedication that truly makes this a caring community.

In spite of tight budgets and a downturn in the economy, our faculty and staff rallied to help those less fortunate. By the end of the campaign, our faculty and staff raised $1,084,641, well in excess of our goal.

Each year I marvel at the commitment, dedication and generosity of our faculty and staff, and each year I am reminded of how privileged and honored I am to live and work in such a caring community. Thank you again for your kindness and generosity.

Nancy Cantor
Chancellor
By Craig Chamberlain

News Bureau Staff Writer

You could tell at the start that this course would be different.

To open the first lecture session, Professor Bruce Litchfield recruited eight students to come up front for a teamwork demonstration. He arranged them in a circle, then asked them to toss a tennis ball around in a way that included each person. He then added more tennis balls to the mix, then a small rubber ball, then a rubber ducky, then one of those long skinny rubber chickens used in comedy bits.

Just when some students were thinking this was all just for laughs, Litchfield stopped the group juggling and asked the class to reflect on the elements of teamwork involved. He then brought the volunteers back up front to do it again, but the last item slid it across the circle to the second, and then it stayed, while everything else kept flying.

Lessons learned: Teamwork requires focus, communication, organization, practice, adjusting to personalities. It also requires the ability to deal with unclear goals and unforeseen obstacles, like the chair.

Further reflections on teamwork, in this lecture session and the next, would come from short clips from films such as "Toy Story 2," "Ocean's Eleven" and "Chicken Run." Litchfield, an innovative and award-winning teacher, doesn't lecture much in his lectures.

Students in this new, project-based, service-learning course called Learning in Community (LINC) would need these lessons and others during the coming fall semester. Each had signed up for a team that would work with one of nine nonprofit organizations, among them several local schools, an African-American women's group, a community development project in East St. Louis, and for international flavor -- an environmental project in Bangladesh (no travel required).

On each team, they would tackle a semesterlong project, working with students from various majors, and with staff members or volunteers from the nonprofit, or "client."

And unlike many in other classes, the students would not be given a specific problem to solve. They would have to work out for themselves, in consultation with the client, what their project would be for the semester, the scope of it, and how they would accomplish it. They would also have to learn how to work as a team, dealing with communication issues, personality conflicts, and budget and time constraints. At the end, they would have to accept there would be no right or wrong answer, no "nice round number when you're done," said Ann Finnegan, LINC's program manager.

In other words, it's a lot like projects in the real world, said Litchfield, a professor of agricultural engineering and the director of LINC. "It's messy, and we expect it to be messy."

LINC is modeled in significant ways on a program called EPICS (Engineering Projects in Community Service), which began at Purdue University seven years ago and has since spread to at least 10 other schools. The idea of doing something like it at Illinois began in the spring of 2001 when Jon Dolle, then a senior majoring in general engineering and philosophy, brought it up with Litchfield.

Dolle had had an interest in community service since work trips to Appalachia during his high school years in Cincinnati. At Illinois, he had found Alternative Spring Break, a student organization that sponsors spring break service trips. He eventually became interested in service-learning, courses that combine education with community service, and sought to encourage more of it at Illinois.

As Litchfield, Dolle and others developed what would become LINC, they decided to make it campuswide and interdisciplinary, unlike EPICS, which was based in engineering. With funding from the Office of the Provost, the course debuted as a pilot program a year ago with 20-some students and a single client, the local Habitat for Humanity chapter, a nonprofit building of low-income housing.

Three project teams were established, dealing with energy-efficient home design, the group's modest storage warehouse and its public Web site.

Among the students in the pilot course was Matt Joost, a civil and environmental engineering major from Swansea, Ill., and a junior at the time. He now thinks the course was the best he has had so far, although he had serious doubts at the beginning. He thought he wasn't qualified and it wasn't what he had expected. Also, "because the class, I thought that I despised group work," he said, associating it only with homework problem-solving.

But Joost, working on the warehouse team, would learn he liked working in a group, at least this kind of group, and would find the course suited to the way he liked to learn. "Basically, we were learning the things we needed to know to do our project run smoothly and then we used what we learned right away. This plays into my learning style because I need to learn something and then use it and make it my own for me to retain it," he said.

That's something that's central to the idea of service-learning, Litchfield said. "The thinking behind service-learning is you can learn from someone else by being in partnership with them," Litchfield said.

A new course called Learning in Community (LINC) teams students with nonprofit organizations to develop service projects. Bruce Litchfield, a professor of agricultural engineering, is the director of LINC. Unlike similar programs on other campuses, LINC is campuswide and interdisciplinary. "The thinking behind service-learning is you can learn from someone else by being in partnership with them," Litchfield said.

For more information about LINC, go to www.linc.uiuc.edu/whatis.html

A similar perspective came from one of Joost's teammates, Soroush Raychaudhuri, an electrical engineering major from Greece, N.Y., who graduated in August. "Usually, you are in a class to better yourself; in this case, you are working for someone else. Every one in the group wanted to do a good job because they knew Habitat was depending on them," he said.

Holly Nye, Habitat's volunteer warehouse manager and a graduate student in the Medical Scholars Program, saw that motivation demonstrated through the numerous Saturdays the warehouse team spent on the project. They not only traveled to Springfield, Ill., to research another group's operation, but they helped clean out and organize the existing space, which was important, Nye said.

"You really don't know what the challenges are until you physically get into a space and try to find something, or try to move something from place A to place B," she said. In the process, "the class was able to come up with ideas on how to do things that would never have occurred to me."

Among the team's accomplishments was a rack the students designed for holding landscaping tools and plans for organizing both the storage space and the storage trailers used on construction sites. They also found and adapted software for use in tracking inventory and produced extensive research on what would be needed in a larger warehouse facility.

The skills in teamwork, leadership, project management and other intangibles that students might learn through LINC are skills highly valued by employers, Finnegan noted. In fact, she said, Purdue reports that some recruiters now look for students who have been through EPICS, the program upon which LINC is partially based.

But she, Dolle and Litchfield also hope the course will influence students to look more broadly at how they can use their education, beyond just in their jobs. "A course like this provides the opportunity to see unique ways in which the skills they develop in the classroom can be connected to a wider range of settings," Dolle said.

"When students graduate from here, they have tremendous potential to do good, and I'm most sure they always think about it in that way," Litchfield said. "They see a responsibility to contribute to the global society."
Effie Gray Bailey, the department of animal sciences. She began her student involvement in 1984 as a laboratory assistant II for Memorial Hospital. Bailey worked at the UI since 1980. Bailey retired in 1993 as a senior research engineer in the Manufacturing Sciences Laboratory and Materials Research Laboratory. He retired in 1990 as a senior research engineer with 19 years of service. Peter E. Carlson, 65, died Dec. 18 at ManorCare Health Services, Urbana. Carlson was a building service worker in the UI Division of Operation and Maintenance when he retired last year. He worked at the UI since 1966. Helen L. Colbert, 79, died Jan. 3 at her home in Savoy. Colbert worked as a secretary for the UI Institute of Aviation for 32 years, until her retirement in 1991. Memorials: American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor’s choice.

Beulah J. Drom, 89, died Jan. 15 at the Carle Arbours, Savoy. Wascher was an admissions counselor II for the UI College of Law when she retired in 1984 after 41 years of service. Memorials: St. Peter’s United Church of Christ, Champaign.

Vivian L. Wood, 82, died Dec. 24 at the Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Wood had worked as an admissions and records officer II at the UI College of Law from 1952 until 1983. Memorials: American Diabetes Association or the UI Small Animal Clinic.

Charles H. Anders Sr., 88, died Dec. 7 at his home in Sidney. Anders retired from the UI in 1984 as a laboratory assistant III for the department of animal sciences. He began his student involvement in 1984 as a laboratory assistant II for Memorial Hospital. Bailey worked at the UI since 1980. Bailey retired in 1993 as a senior research engineer in the Manufacturing Sciences Laboratory and Materials Research Laboratory. He retired in 1990 as a senior research engineer with 19 years of service. Peter E. Carlson, 65, died Dec. 18 at ManorCare Health Services, Urbana. Carlson was a building service worker in the UI Division of Operation and Maintenance when he retired last year. He worked at the UI since 1966. Helen L. Colbert, 79, died Jan. 3 at her home in Savoy. Colbert worked as a secretary for the UI Institute of Aviation for 32 years, until her retirement in 1991. Memorials: American Cancer Society or a charity of the donor’s choice.

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Changes in estate tax law of little consequence to most, scholar says

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

Somewhere in the corridors of Capitol Hill, the important needs of elderly Americans were shunted aside for a change in the federal tax code that will have no consequence for the vast majority of senior citizens, according to a noted scholar of elder law.

Richard L. Kaplan, a UI law professor, examines the history of how ending the estate tax in 2001 became a paramount issue in Washington and “distracted attention from issues that are far more pressing for older Americans.”

The passage of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act in May 2001 revised the tax on the transfer of a person’s wealth to his survivors, including the complete repeal of the tax in 2010.

“This illustrates that particular provision takes effect as scheduled is highly conjectural at this point, but the indisputable point is that substantial congressional and presidential attention was focused on an issue that affects a very small minority of older Americans.”

While the revision of the estate tax was characterized by members of both parties as a major benefit for older Americans, it is questionable whether the estate tax “is even an issue for seniors, since it does not affect them, only their survivors.”

Estate tax revision Richard L. Kaplan, a UI law professor, says that while the revision of the estate tax was characterized by members of both parties as a major benefit for older Americans, it is questionable whether the estate tax “is even an issue for seniors, since it does not affect them, only their survivors.”

High-tech tools give designers the ability to create plans in 3-D

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

For centuries, architects have been designing three-dimensional spaces based on two-dimensional drawings and plans. From those designs, models, then buildings, eventually are constructed.

But what if architects were able to design in 3-D right from the start?

Joy Malnar, a UI professor of architecture, and students in her graduate design studio explored that process last semester in an immersive virtual reality CAVE environment. Working with ShadowLight, an application developed by National Center for Supercomputing Applications researcher Kalev Lextar, students are creating designs in the CAVE, an immersive VR theater located at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

“They take away the experience of thinking and planning with virtual reality tools, their design project has the potential to solve a real-world problem. The students, working in five-person teams, designed plans for a park-like expansion of a 2 1/2 mile-long shoreline area along Chicago’s north shore. They were instructed to design an area that included a gateway and other landmarks; pathways for pedestrians, bicyclists and in-line skaters; and water features – which would feature a series of man-made lagoons and islands – that has been endorsed by Chicago Mayor Richard Daley, and by 48th ward Alderwoman Mary Ann Smith, who met with the class to discuss the city’s goals for the project.

“The problem in that area is that there are not enough parks,” Malnar said. “The shoreline is protected from bad weather, and there is no place for pedestrians or bicyclists. Smith’s ward is one of the densest in the city, and land there is very expensive. So, to create these islands with landfill – for instance, dirt taken from tall-building construction sites in the Loop – is not that realistic. If the students’ designs aren’t realistic, Malnar believes the students’ ‘CAVE explorations are invaluable. ‘They take away the experience of thinking in 3-D,’ she said. And that ultimately will help them ‘to work as better architects’ – faster.”

The students’ designs will be on view at I space, the university’s Chicago gallery, through Jan. 25.

Preschool curriculum uses stories and art to build a love of books

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

Preparing preschoolers to read – and to love reading – means more than molding their Ps and Qs.

It means nurturing excitement about stories, sparking the imagination, “really building a whole history of positive experiences around books,” says Susan Fowler, a UI professor of special education.

Especially for kids who may later have trouble “unlocking the code” of reading, it may determine whether they give up or keep trying.

One way to make sure they don’t quit, according to Fowler and Beverly Lewman, co-developers of a curriculum for preschoolers, is to read good stories again and again. Even five days in a week. Contrary to common belief among many teachers, children don’t get bored or impatient with the repetition, said Lewman, a special education researcher at Illinois. Instead, through the daily repetition, “It becomes their story. By the end of the week, they can practically tell it themselves. They go home and tell their family about it. They just love that same story every day.”

The story-a-week approach is at the center of Lewman and Fowler’s curriculum, called SPARK (for Skills Promoted through Arts, Reading and Knowledge), now being used by more than 50 programs in eight states, with a curriculum and training guide published in the fall of 2001 (Redleaf Press).

Also central to the SPARK approach are activities in art, music and make-believe – all natural interests for preschoolers – used to reinforce a different concept each day, drawn directly from the story.

Lewman and Fowler started work on SPARK almost 10 years ago, with a grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Another DOE grant five years ago, after field-testing in area classrooms, gave them the means to duplicate the model around the country.

“We wanted to figure out a way that we could convince special education teachers to teach more like regular early childhood teachers, so that children who were slow learners could be included with other children in typical classroom activities,” said Fowler, also dean of the College of Education at Illinois.

As a consequence, estate tax reform is often cast as an elders’ issue, despite the fact that no one pays estate tax while he or she is alive, and neither does that person’s surviving spouse.

Much more pressing for older people is plugging the loophole in 401(k) plans that permit employees and retirees to invest most or all of their savings in an employer’s corporate stock. In 1996, an attempt was made in Congress to prohibit employees from placing 401(k) assets in a single stock, but a coalition of corporations beat back the measure.

“But what if architects were able to design in 3-D right from the start?”

Fowler and Beverly Lewman, keep trying.

Especially for kids who may later have their peripheral vision and sense of touch virtual reality tools, their designs are constructed.

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“The advantage of this virtual reality environment is that it permits a closer approximation of the real world than traditional two-dimensional drawings,” Malnar said. “And because you are immersed into the full-scale model rather than looking down on a small-scale model – a human scale, eye-level analysis can occur.”

And, she said, as designers move through the CAVE space and draw using a wand tool, their peripheral vision and sense of touch is activated, aiding in the design process.

The CAVE has been used as a visualization tool for scientists and researchers working in a variety of academic disciplines, as well as by artists, but Malnar said she doesn’t believe any other schools are “using it to this level of creativity” for architecture applications.

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University Primary School
Applications now being accepted
University Primary School, an early childhood gifted education program that serves preschool, kindergarten and first-grade children, will be accepting applications through March 21 for the 2003-2004 academic year.

An informational meeting will be held from 7 to 8 p.m. Feb. 13 in Room 26 of the Children’s Research Center, 51 Gentry Drive. Champaign. Child care will be provided.

For more information, contact Nancy B. Hertsgaard, director, at 333-3996, or pick up an information packet in Room 98 of the Children’s Research Center.

Recruiting employees through the Internet
Additional E-Recruiting workshop
The University Office of Human Resources is offering additional sessions of the popular “Get Hooked On E-Recruiting!” workshop. The free half-day workshop covers the fundamentals of employment recruiting by means of the Internet. It is designed to help departments integrate e-recruiting into their general employment recruiting strategies. Participants receive an e-recruiting guide and job aids for reference after the course. The Urbana workshop is scheduled for 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Jan. 30 in Room 210 Tech Plaza. Registration is limited. Visit http://urmt.ahr.illinois.edu/art-cl/typingsessions or call 333-2590.

Women, ages 60 to 80
Participants needed for health study
Black or white women, 60 to 80 years old, are needed to participate in UI research that examines how activity levels, balance and gait impact the overall health of older women.

Participants in the study will be paid for completing questionnaires and performing physical assessments of gait and balance. Transportation can be provided.

For more information, contact April Bell, 265-9848 or AGBell@kines.uiuc.edu.

Research methodology featured
Free seminars on survey research
The Survey Research Laboratory (SRL) is conducting a series of seminars on survey research methodology from noon to 1:20 p.m. Wednesdays beginning Feb. 5 in Room 106 Lincoln Hall. Seminars are free to UI faculty and staff members and students. Advance registration is required. More information is available at www.srl.uiuc.edu. To register, e-mail kruskew@srl.uiuc.edu or call 333-4273. Include name, e-mail address, department and if you are a faculty or staff member or a student. Space is limited.

The seminars: Feb. 5, Introduction to Survey Design; Feb. 12, Questionnaire Design; Feb. 19, Mail Survey Methods; Feb. 26, Survey Sampling; March 5, Web Surveys; March 12, Survey Interviewing; March 19, Survey Data Analysis.

benefits briefs
Enroll in February for supplemental disability coverage
During February, benefit-eligible employees may enroll in the voluntary supplemental long-term disability plan with guaranteed acceptance. This plan supplements the SURLS disability benefits.

The SURLS disability benefit does not begin unless the employee has at least two years of service credit if the disability is due to an illness. The monthly benefit under SURLS is 50 percent of base salary, and payment continues until an amount equal to 50 percent of earnings while in the system has been paid. The supplemental plan provides an additional benefit amount up to 66 2/3 percent of covered monthly earnings, and is payable until age 65 or normal retirement age. For more information visit www.urmt.ahr.illinois.edu/panda/cf/benefits/index.cfm?Item_ID=106.

If an employee did not select this coverage when first hired, the open enrollment period is the only other time enrollment is guaranteed. Enrollment at other times is subject to proof of good health. Payroll deductions begin in March and coverage will be effective March 1, 2003.

A representative from Prudential Insurance Company of America will be conducting enrollment meetings on at 10 a.m. and 2 p.m. Feb. 5 in Room 404, Illini Union. For more information, contact the Benefits Center, 333-3111.

WILL-TV: ‘Beyond Burden’ Rewards of caregiving featured
A new WILL-TV local production, “Beyond Burden: Caregiving as a Basic Human Need,” will be broadcast at 8 p.m. Jan. 30.

A group of people not only need to get care, they have a need to give care as well, said Kimberlie Kranich, outreach coordinator at WILL and producer of the program that introduces viewers to people and organizations who have taken extraordinary action around caregiving.

Hosted by Amy Gadja of the UI College of Law, “Beyond Burden” will include taped profiles of caregivers and their recipients, and a live in-studio discussion about caregiving. Viewer phone calls will be welcome.

Campus Recreation
‘Expo,’ Health Fest dates announced
Two upcoming events will provide information about campus recreation services as well as personal health and wellness.

“Ree Expo,” scheduled for Jan. 29 at IMPE, will provide information on facilities and services offered by the Division of Campus Recreation. Information tables will be staffed from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 4 to 6 p.m. with refreshments provided. This event is free for UI students and faculty and staff members with i-cards. For more information, call 333-3806.

“Health Fest 2003: Focus on You” will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Feb. 4 at IMPE. Participants will have access to health and wellness professionals from both campuses and the community. More than 60 vendors will offer free assessments, screenings, information, demonstrations, raffle prizes and more. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call 333-3510.

Information on these events and other campus rec activities also is available at www.campusrec.uiuc.edu.

Division of Campus Parking
Free parking offered with CashKey
The Division of Campus Parking is offering five hours of free parking with the purchase of a CashKey, a programmatic key that provides a cashless way to use campus parking meters.

CashKeys may be purchased at Campus Parking, second floor of the Public Safety Building. More information is available at Campus Parking, by calling 333-3530 or online at www.parking.uiuc.edu.

Non-credit course offered
English for non-students
Any adult in the community who has limited English proficiency and is not a UI student may enroll in a noncredit English course offered by the Division of English as an International Language.

The 10-week course begins Feb. 24, meeting from 1 to 2:30 p.m. Monday through Thursday of each week. There is a $50 charge for the course.

Enrollment is limited, and those who appear most likely to benefit from the course will be given priority. Individuals interested in taking the placement test from 1 to 2 p.m. Feb. 10 or 11, can sign up in 3070 Foreign Languages Building or by calling 333-1506.

Kranert Art Museum
Three new exhibitions open
Three new exhibitions will open on a staggered schedule throughout January at the UI Kranert Art Museum. All three will be on view through April 13.

Already open is “The Idea of Landscape in the Western Tradition: Works From The Permanent Collection.” Curated by UI art history professor Rachael DeLue, the exhibition features paintings, photographs, works on paper and glassware, and explores the diverse ways in which European and American artists have interpreted and represented the idea of landscape during the past 300 years.

Opening on Jan. 24 is “The Beginning of Seeing: Tribal Art and the Pictographs of Adolph Gottlieb.” The exhibition brings together Gottlieb’s personal collection of non-Western art and his pictographs. An opening reception, free and open to the public, is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on Jan. 24.

An exhibition walk-through and discussion with museum director Josef Helfenstein will be at 10 a.m. Jan. 30. The third exhibition opens Jan. 31. “Creativity in Print: Artistic Interactions Throughout the Work of Edward Weston” is curated by Jordana Mendelson’s art history students. The exhibition is part of the “Featured Works” series that highlights works from the museum’s permanent collection. The show explores the relationships between Weston and many of his photographic subjects, among them, Ansel Adams, Anita Brenner, Jean Charlot, and Igor Stravinsky.

For information about events corresponding with the exhibitions, go to www news.uiuc.edu/news/03/ 0109kamevents.html.

School of Art and Design
Art courses for adults, children
The School of Art and Design has announced its spring Studio Spectrum courses and Saturday art classes for children.

Adults interested in watercolor or ceramics can register for one of two Studio Spectrum classes being offered from 6 to 9 p.m. on Tuesday evenings beginning Feb. 4. Both courses are designed for beginners or those with intermediate skills. Registration is $35.

A spring art class for children will be offered Saturday mornings – 8:30 to 10 a.m. or 10:30 a.m. to noon – beginning Feb. 1. The 12th and final session will be an exhibition of work by students. Classes will be organized for children in preschool/kindergarten (minimum age 4 1/2) through 12th grade. Registration is $75.

For more information, contact Carole Smith at 333-1652 or by e-mail at cssmith2@uiuc.edu

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Not too late to register
Faculty Retreat to be Jan. 27
“The Scholarship of Teaching and Learning” will be the focus of the ninth annual Faculty Retreat on Active Learning. The event will take place Jan. 27 at the Levis Faculty Center.

The retreat will bring faculty members together to learn about and discuss best practices in teaching at the college level. Following keynote speaker Lee S. Shulman, president of the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching, there will be concurrent sessions featuring Carnegie Scholars presenting their successful Scholarship of Teaching and Learning projects.

These scholars will team with Illinois faculty members to explore how these projects can have an impact on teaching in many disciplines.

Faculty members should call 333-2880 to register.
UI scientists: Climate change will affect carbon sequestration in oceans

By James E. Kloppe

The direct injection of unwanted carbon dioxide deep into the ocean is one suggested strategy to help control rising atmospheric carbon dioxide concentration, but like the problems associated with the long-term storage of nuclear waste, finding a safe place to sequester the carbon may be more difficult than scientists first anticipated.

Because the atmosphere interacts with the ocean, the net uptake of carbon dioxide and the ocean's sequestration capacity would be affected by a change in climate. Just how effective carbon sequestration would be, in light of projected climate change, has not been studied before. Indeed, estimating the impact of carbon injection is complicated because of a limited understanding of climate and oceanic carbon cycle feedback mechanisms.

Through various feedback mechanisms, the ocean circulation could change and affect the concentration of carbon dioxide in the ocean basins and the ocean circulation patterns themselves. Jain said: "As sea-surface temperatures increase, the density of the water decreases and thus slows down the ocean thermohaline circulation, so the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide also decreases. This leaves more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, exacerbating the problem. At the same time, the reduced ocean circulation will decrease the ocean's ability to store carbon dioxide." Jain and Cao found that this effect is more pronounced in the Atlantic Ocean.

Future climate change could affect both the uptake of carbon dioxide in the ocean basins and the ocean circulation patterns themselves. Jain said: "As sea-surface temperatures increase, the density of the water decreases and thus slows down the ocean thermohaline circulation, so the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide also decreases. This leaves more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, exacerbating the problem. At the same time, the reduced ocean circulation will decrease the ocean's ability to store carbon dioxide." Jain and Cao found that this effect is more pronounced in the Atlantic Ocean.

Tucking away excess carbon dioxide in the oceans, the net uptake of carbon dioxide in the ocean basin and the ocean circulation patterns themselves, Jain said: "As sea-surface temperatures increase, the density of the water decreases and thus slows down the ocean thermohaline circulation, so the ocean's ability to absorb carbon dioxide also decreases. This leaves more carbon dioxide in the atmosphere, exacerbating the problem. At the same time, the reduced ocean circulation will decrease the ocean's ability to store carbon dioxide." Jain and Cao found that this effect is more pronounced in the Atlantic Ocean.

Most classes begin the week of Feb. 3. For more information, call 337-1500.

Human Resource Development

The Source catalog available

Secretaries, assistants and clerks will be honored April 23 at the 2003 Administrative Professionals Day Breakfast at the Chancellor Convention Center. Tracy Knofla, co-owner and featured presenter for "High Impact Training," will speak on "Thriving in Chaos." The program is from 8 to 10 a.m.

This and other professional development workshops are included in HRD's spring catalog, "The Source." Go to www.hrd.uiuc.edu for workshop details and register online. Call 333-8442 or e-mail hrd@uiuc.edu with questions or to get a catalog.

Brown Jubilee Commemoration

RFPs due for campus celebration

The Brown Jubilee Commemoration Committee is planning the campus commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the UI's Brown Community Classes. The committee's decision in Brown v. Board of Education and is requesting proposals for scholarly and creative projects related to that decision.

Grants ranging from $5,000 to $20,000 will be made available on a competitive basis to fund research projects, lecture or seminar series, creative arts exhibits, works or performances, workshops, panel discussions, or other scholarly/creative works.

More information on the RFP or on the work of the committee is available from Rose Ann Miron at ramiron@uiuc.edu. The RFP may be downloaded from the committee's Web site, www.admin.uiuc.edu/brown_jubilee. Proposals are due by 5 p.m. Feb. 14. Decisions on the proposals will be announced by March 15.

Vigilance in Same Sex Relationships

Arms network to host meeting

The Ally Network will hold a meeting Feb. 7 to discuss "Violence in Same Sex Relationships." The 90-minute meeting will begin at noon in Room 209 Illini Union. For more information, contact Jane Reid at the Counseling Center, 333-3137, or Pat Morey at the Office of Women's Programming, 333-3137. Refreshments will be served.

Krafft Center for the Performing Arts

Arts survey results released

The arts impact the economy of Champaign County in a big way, according to results of a survey commissioned by the Krafft Center for the Performing Arts.

Purchases made by artists and arts organizations—which then filter through the local economy—create direct and indirect effects valued at $33.7 million, according to the "Working Together" survey conducted by the Illinois Arts Alliance Foundation. The value is even higher, according to the foundation, when commercial arts venues, individual artists and audience spending associated with arts attendance are considered.

Survey respondents included 123 local artists and 44 arts organizations.

"Improving the quality of life is perceived as the single most important contribution that the arts provide to people in Champaign County," said Julia Fabris, IAAF's deputy director and "Working Together" program director.

Among the survey's other findings:

• Nearly 80 percent of arts organizations and arts groups spent more than $1.5 million for basic services from local businesses.
• Forty-three percent of responding artists have sought support from local businesses; most report almost always receiving a positive response.
• Seventy-three percent of arts organizations and 54 percent of individual artists supplement educational programming in the schools and offer classes or workshops as part of their primary mission.
• Nearly 70 percent of respondents contribute to civic and community organizations and support annual community events.

A survey summary and a more detailed report is available from Tammey Kikta, 333-6282, or t-kitka@uiuc.edu.

Help for financial planning

Credit union offers workshops

During February, the UI Employees Credit Union has two free financial services workshops for UI employees (credit-union members and non-members). Feb. 4, "Long-term Care"; Feb. 19, "Retire with Confidence."

Workshops begin at 7 p.m. at the Credit Union, 2201 S. First St., Champaign. Reservations are required. Call 278-7768 or e-mail mlf@uiuecu.org.
Events honoring Martin Luther King Jr. continue this week

Two movies and an all-day symposium on diversity and racism will take place in the classroom and across campus. 

**Friday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. “Violence in Same Sex Relationships” by Mass: New Directions in Latino/a studies emphasizing racism and diversity; and Corrada of the University of Denver, who will discuss they're anti-racist. Other speakers at the training session include Robert Corrada of the University of Denver, who will discuss legal education at Howard University Law School from the 1990s through the 1940s and its implication for teaching and learning about race today; Mary Romero of Arizona State University, who will analyze trends in Latina/o studies emphasizing racism and diversity; and Kelley Wells, Evergreen Valley College, who will talk about teaching diversity as an element of critical thinking. To register call 333-2880. More information is available at www.conted.uiuc.edu/diversity.

**Saturday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. “In the Beginning: The Rebuilding of Sceing Tribal Art and the Photographs of Adolph Gottlieb.”

**Sunday**


**Monday**

**7:30 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Do Your Homework.”**

**Tuesday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Prosperity.”**

**Wednesday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Looking for Ali.”**

**Thursday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Congo.”**

**Friday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Jackie Robinson.”**

**Saturday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“Interpreting Our History.”**

**Sunday**

**7 p.m.** 292 Armory. **“African Mythology.”**
mentoring, continued from page 1

ask for a little bit of encouragement.

social problems in the community.

kids,” Morgan said. “I think for some stu-

are the highlights of their school weeks.

provide adult companionship and emotional

engage in activities of their choice, perhaps

staying with them until the student gradu-

gram but are relegated

been referred to the pro-

rently have mentors. Ad-

Mentoring program as sixth-graders, although some sev-

ing something and needs a little extra push.”

“kind of a prankster.”

School student whom Cook describes as

“influence for some

them in school.”

Tabitha's grades have improved, and so

Merle taught and met Merle's coworkers in

or other people who are directly respon-

lems, such as being bullied by other stu-

“it's a major

juice and baked goods; and

11 a.m.-2 p.m. M-F. East

end of Law Bldg.

Ice Area Open Skate

11:20 a.m.-1:30 p.m. M-F;

second floor, NR corner. For

reservations, 333-0690; walk-

interlude: KCPA

Open 7 a.m.-8 p.m. M-F; non-

performance nights. Wines are tastings at 5 p.m. most Wednesdays.

Intermezzo Cafe: KCPA

Open 7 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on

non-performance weekdays; 7 a.m. through weekday performances; weekends from 90 minutes before until after performances.

help them see how they can better them-

selves,” Cook said.

Barbara Linder, the program coordina-

tor, and the guidance counselors try to pair up adults and children

who share common in-

terests. Merle seemed to be an ideal match for Tabitha.

“One of the things

Tabitha and I had in hand is that we're both very tall,” Merle

said. “She's almost as tall as I am, and I'm

about six feet. So I knew what it was like at

her age.”

Tabitha, who loves animals, also aspires to be a veterinarian someday. She espe-

cially enjoyed a job-shadowing day where she came to campus, monitored a class

Merle taught and met Merle's coworkers in

the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Since entering the mentoring program, Tabitha's grades have improved, and so

have her self-esteem, her relationships with her peers and her parents, and her attitude

toward school.

“I'm getting As and A-pluses right now.

I wasn't doing too well before,” Tabitha

said. “Now I go to my classes and I have fun and I learn. I don't care what people say

about me anymore.”

For the past year, Cook has been mentoring Coreyawn. 12. an Urbana Middle

School student whom Cook describes as “kind of a prankster.”

Although he's a little while for the two to

bond, Cook has become an integral figure in the boy's life. Coreyawn's teachers and

guardian call upon Cook when Coreyawn

has academic difficulties or social prob-

lems, such as being bullied by other stu-

dents on the bus.

“Sometimes kids can't tell their parents or other people who are directly respons-

ible about some of the things that are going on in their lives,” Cook said. “I think he's

confident in me of some of the things that might interfere with him learning in school.

Having that object person as a confidant helps.”

Coreyawn’s teachers have noticed that he follows instructions better, com-

pleting his assignments and being less of a class clown, Cook said.

“If he makes a mistake, he acknowled-

edges what it is and through talking he says

he feels will help correct the mistake.

So he's owning up to his own responsibility a little more,” Cook said.

Watching Coreyawn undergo positive changes has been a rewarding experience for

Cook, who shared Coreyawn’s excite-

ment when he scored well on a test and

when he earned a spot on the basketball

team.

The responses of mentors almost whole-

heartedly is that they feel that they get more

than they give,” Linder said. “The mentors

say that they go back to work refreshed and

energized. They also benefit from the rela-

tionship of having someone that looks for-

ward to seeing them. It’s a real boost when you

walk into a room and a kid’s face lights up.

Merle said Tabitha “grounds” her and

the hour that they share each week helps her combat workday stress by helping her focus

on the positive aspects of life such as family and friends.

In return, Tabitha expresses her affec-

tion and appreciation by crafting small gifts such as drawings, a bookmark, decora-

tions for Merle’s office.

“In the note she sent with her Christmas

card, Tabitha said she hoped that we would

always stay friends even after high school.”

Merle said. “She’s not giving me much of a choice, and that’s fine with me.”

INTERESTED IN BECOMING A MENTOR?

to become a mentor, request an application from Barbara Linder, the program coordinator, 337-0853 or 367-3156, or by e-mail at

linderba@cmi.k12.il.us.

A training session for new mentors is scheduled for Feb. 6, and the

goal is to have 25 new mentors ready for placement in the Champaign-

Urbana elementary and middle schools.

Volunteers must participate in an interview/screening session, provide personal references and agree to a criminal background check.

Mentors attend an initial two-hour training session and are invited to attend other training sessions, usually brown bag lunches and breakfasts, as needed. Mentors also receive a 45-minute orientation to the school immediately prior to their first visit with their student.

University employees may use an hour of release time for community service activities like mentoring.