Two-drug approach might shorten painful labor, reduce Cesareans

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

The nationwide rise in induced labor and Cesarean deliveries could be eased by an experimental dual drug approach that not only speeds up labor but also reduces the risk of the cervix to women and reduces health-care costs.

A combination of RU 486 (mifepristone) and relaxin successfully hastened labor and prompted healthy delivery of pups in rats altered so that their reproductive system mimicked that of humans. RU 486, given alone, induced labor in the rats, but the cervix did not grow, leading to prolonged delivery and pup deaths. When relaxin was given subcutaneously, the cervix grew and softened (ripened), reducing delivery time and promoting healthy pups.

“If relaxin works in the human being, it will likely not only shorten the duration of painful labor, but also reduce the incidence of Cesarean sections,” said O. David Sherwood, a professor of molecular physiology, and Shuangping Zhao, a postdoctoral researcher in Sherwood’s laboratory, said that RU 486, an antiprogestrone, and relaxin, given alone induced labor in the rats but the cervix did not grow, leading to prolonged delivery and pup deaths. When relaxin was given subcutaneously, the cervix grew and softened (ripened), reducing delivery time and promoting healthy pups.

“Relaxin and the drug RU 486 (mifepristone) induce delivery and shorten labor in rats with modified, human-like reproductive systems. If relaxin works the same way when administered subcutaneously to women, it could lead to faster, safer deliveries and reduce the incidence of Cesarean sections.”

**Speedy delivery**

O. David Sherwood (pictured), professor of molecular and integrative physiology, and Shuangping Zhao, a postdoctoral researcher, have discovered that a combination of the naturally occurring reproductive hormone relaxin and the drug RU 486 (mifepristone) induces delivery and shortens labor in rats with modified, human-like reproductive systems. If relaxin works the same way when administered subcutaneously to women, it could lead to faster, safer deliveries and reduce the incidence of Cesarean sections.

**Combining excellence**

UI Provost Richard Herman, left, and Chong Chi Tat, provost at National University of Singapore, sign an agreement Feb. 3 at Singapore creating a joint PhD program in chemical engineering. The program builds on a joint master’s program that has been highly successful. “Each of the departments has great strengths, and combining the two will, we believe, result in a quality of education unmatched in this field anywhere,” Herman said.

See Herman’s full remarks at www.uiuc.edu/resources/singapore.html.

**Gates to visit campus Feb. 24**

Bill Gates, the chief software architect for Microsoft, will be on campus Feb. 24 to talk with students about computer science. He is scheduled to speak at 7 p.m. in Foellinger Auditorium. All tickets have been distributed to students through academic units across campus. The talk also will be broadcast; details about when and where will be forthcoming.

Gates intends to share with students his excitement for computer science, engineering and related disciplines. He also plans to provide an overview of work at Microsoft and in university research laboratories to solve some of the most difficult problems in computer science.

His talk at the UI is the first on a three-day, five-campus tour.

**UI president announces February 2005 retirement**

James J. Stukel, UI president since 1995, will retire effective Feb. 1, 2005, drawing to a close his 43-year affiliation with the university.

Stukel, 66, became the 15th UI president in August 1995.

A product of the College of Engineering on the Urbana campus, Stukel re-engineered the UI administrative structure, making it more efficient, and reinvested the savings into core missions of education, research and public service. Stukel oversaw a major expansion of the university, including the addition of the Springfield campus, $640 million in capital projects to enhance scholarship and research on all three campuses and a broader focus on economic development in Illinois through the transfer of research-based technology to private business and industry. Federal research grants and contracts to the university doubled in nine years under Stukel and the university fund raising set records in his tenure, more than $1.5 billion.

“I have been affiliated with the University of Illinois as a graduate student, faculty member, researcher and administrator since 1961, and it has been an exhilarating and satisfying relationship,” Stukel said Jan. 23 in announcing his decision to retire as president.

The opportunity to serve as president of this great institution has been an honor and a privilege. “Among the most remarkable things about this complex and comprehensive university is its people,” Stukel said. “The talent, creativity and drive of our students, faculty, staff and administrators distinguish the university as a world-class institution where great things are accomplished. The trustees are an invaluable resource for their loyal and vigilant stewardship. Our legions of alumni and generous friends provide the spirit and resources necessary for our margin of excellence.”

After next February, Stukel said he and his wife, Joan, plan to spend their time with their children and grandchildren on their sailboat in Chicago and at their vacation home. “But there is still important work ahead, and I will be actively involved with our university while the search for a new president is under way,” Stukel said. The university’s board of trustees will choose Stukel’s successor from a list of candidates.

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

The nationwide rise in induced labor and Cesarean deliveries could be eased by an experimental dual drug approach that not only safely jump-starts labor but also remodels the cervix to allow for speedy natural delivery, scientists report.

A combination of RU 486 (mifepristone) and relaxin successfully hastened labor and prompted healthy delivery of pups in rats altered so that their reproductive system mimicked the human reproductive system, UI researchers report in the January issue of the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology.

Relaxin, a naturally occurring reproductive hormone, was the key to the natural delivery, said O. David Sherwood, a professor of molecular physiology, and Shuangping Zhao, a postdoctoral researcher in Sherwood’s laboratory, said that RU 486, an antiprogestrone, given alone induced labor in the rats but the cervix did not grow, leading to prolonged delivery and pup deaths. When relaxin was given subcutaneously, the cervix grew and softened (ripened), reducing delivery time and promoting healthy pups.

“If relaxin works in the human being, it will likely not only shorten the duration of painful labor, but also reduce the incidence of Cesarean sections.” This would be very beneficial for women and reduce health-care costs,” Genentech experimented without success administering relaxin in the vagina as a topical treatment in the 1990s, hoping it would penetrate the epithelial cells, enter the bloodstream and reach target cells in the cervix. The investigators in the trials, done in Australia and Great Britain, noted that relaxin failed to enter the bloodstream and suggested that the lack of absorption was the reason the treatments failed.

Sherwood, also a professor in the College of Medicine, has studied relaxin’s reproductive role in rats, mice and pigs for 30 years. His laboratory has developed techniques to measure relaxin in the blood and investigate its activity during pregnancy.

“We believe the method of delivery is the key,” he said.

See SHERWOOD, Page 2
Births, mostly because of fetal stress resulting since 1989. A paper in the American Journal of Obstetrics and Gynecology last year reported more than 20 percent of U.S. childbirths involve third trimester hyperstimulation, requiring the presence of a skilled attendant, and sometimes leads to uterine rupture.

Sherwood’s lab and others have shown that relaxin, produced by cells and the cell organization of collagen fibers, which may explain the softening effect on the cervix. However, a little is known about the mechanisms whereby it promotes growth of the cervix.

Sherwood and colleagues have found that relaxin dramatically increases the ac

Sherriffs, from page 1

“Using relaxin and RU 486 offers promise of not only enabling delivery that is rapid and safe, but also relatively natural.”  O. David Sherwood

PIT grants to fund projects to enhance UI teaching

By Shafira Forrest

Assistant Provost and Director of the Provost’s Office and the Teaching Advancement Board recently announced the 2003-04 recipients of the Provost’s Initiative on Teaching Advancement grants.

Now in its sixth year, the PITA program assists UI students in teaching and/or implementing innovative projects in the areas of teaching development and assessment, and student learning enhancements that aid the scholarship of teaching and learning at the University.

Grant recipients for the 2003-04 academic year

Kim McDonough, professor of English as an international language, is teaching a course that explores and promotes research for graduate teaching assistants in the second language and foreign language departments. She is using the seminar’s impact on TA’s professional development as they investigate issues or concerns about teaching and learning that arise in their classes. She is especially interested in getting students to speak the target language more or implementing curricular innovations that arise in their classes. “Although it’s not required, there’s an emphasis on getting the TAs engaged in the class or department meeting outside the UI and to share their research with other teachers who might have similar questions or concerns,” McDonough said. “I think it’s important that the department and helps them to bridge that gap of seeing themselves as consumers of research versus producers of research — people who have a voice and something to share with their colleagues.

David Schjeiht, associate vice chancellor and director of continuing education, and Faye Leht, head academic advisor, are considering expanding their off-campus programs and have raised concerns about the feasibility of offering adjunct faculty. Said part-time faculty, many of whom do not live in the Champaign-Urbana area and work for other institutions on a part-time or off-campus basis, require quick turn-around of a PITA grant from last year, are developing an economical wireless polling system for large lecture courses that they hope will become the standard in multimedia classrooms on the Urbana campus. The commercial polling systems currently available use infrared technology, which has “fatal flaws” such as its limitation to one-way communication and its inability to pass through objects and people, Gladding said. The infrared units also can be too expensive for large classes because multiple receivers must be installed in classrooms to overcome the systems’ slow transmission and their susceptibility to “data collisions,” which often occur when large groups of students are transmitting signals. Mark Selen, professor of physics; Tim Stelzer, research professor of physics; and graduates of the Benny Benzakein Center, a program that utilizes radio frequencies and has base units and remote devices with microphones capable of sound amplification. When an instructor would poll a class using the new system, red and yellow LED indicators on students’ remotes would flash, showing the system’s capability to work as an “electronic base.”

SHERWOOD, from page 1

“I think in every species in which we’ve given relaxin, relaxin is so potent that it enters the blood, we’ve seen marked cervical growth and softening. Relaxin’s effects on the cervix, especially in a rat model that’s been being humanized after being administered in a way that we think and it reaches the cervix,” said the researcher. “Relaxin production increases as birth approaches and is detectable in many species, but in humans it declines, and it’s extremely low in the third trimester of pregnancy when relaxin is needed the most. Sherwood said. The skin of a typical 8-month old rat used in studies with antibodies to block relaxin’s actions in the late stages of pregnancy to prevent term delivery of a new mother.

Relaxin is not approved for use in humans. BAS Medical, a private company in California, recently purchased the rights to relaxin from the University of California. Several clinical investigators have reported that RU 486 can be used to induce delivery at term pregnancy. It has been found to ease delivery and reduce labor in the third trimester, but “with no clear reduction in the incidence of Caesarean sections and no clear benefit in the absence of medical necessity. Caesarean sections now account for about 25 percent of all births in the U.S. and will increase further from a failing of the cervix to soften and expand.

Labor currently is most often induced with oxytocin, prostaglandins or both. However, the result often is a SWIFT onset of contractions, and RU 486 alone never ripen for delivery, leading to Caesarean delivery. RU 486 alone is the only undesirable health side effects also are common in many women experience with these medications that are often utilized.

Sherwood and Zhao said that they envision relaxin being administered by means of a small infusion pump that is placed beneath the skin and that is programmed by the time that labor is induced with RU 486. “We believe that relaxin would be ideal for short-term use,” said Sherwood. “It would simply fill a late-term deficiency and be safe.”

Despite the hurdles, however, exists. Relaxin is not approved for use in humans. BAS Medical, a private company in California, recently purchased the rights to relaxin from the University of California. “It remains to be determined if BAS Medical will choose to explore the use of relaxin as an agent to facilitate labor,” said Sherwood. The researchers propose that relaxin could be used in place of dinoprostone (Prostin E1), which is not FDA-approved agent to soften the cervix in humans. Dinoprostone often causes uterine

Flash index of Illinois economy on the upswing

Corporate income tax receipts were strong in January, and sales-tax receipts recorded a small gain compared with the same month a year ago. Personal income tax was the weakest of the components, possibly reflecting the slow growth of employment during the last year of the fourth quarter, said Gietz said.

The Flash Index is a weighted average of growth rates in corporate earnings, consumer spending and personal income. Tax receipts from corporate income, individual income and retail sales are adjusted for population changes and seasonality rates are calculated. The growth rate for each component is then calculated for the 12-month period using data through January, said Gietz.

The research was funded by grants from the National Institutes of Health to both Sherwood and Zhao and by a Llabor Foundation postdoctoral fellowship to Zhao. Additional funding was available from the Office of the Provost and the Teaching Advancement Board.

Ildinois Inside Illinois, is an employee publication of the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois. It is published on the first and third Thursday of each month by the News Bureau of the campus Office of Public Affairs, administered by the associate chancellor for public affairs. Distribution is by campus mail. News is solicited from all areas of the campus and should be sent to the editor at least 10 days prior to publication. Entries for the calendar are due 15 days before publication. All items may be sent to multimedia@uiuc.edu. The campus main address is Inside Illinois, 807 S. Wright St., Suite 520 East, Champaign, Ill. 61820. The fax number is 217-244-0610.

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The walls of Galina Cotton’s tiny office give testament to her professional and personal interest in animals: Rats of various hues peer out from posters and two plush guinea pigs perch on a high shelf. Nearby is a patchwork mouse, framed in a wooden embroidery hoop, which Cotton confessed was a gift that her daughter received “until I begged her for it.” Cotton is one of two caretakers for the hundreds of research animals in the psychology building.

How long have you worked for the UI?

I have been at the university for five years, all in the same position. I was a waitress for 15 years before I came to the university. I took a computer class on the Internet and wanted to learn more. I went to Personnel Services and began comparing salaries and qualifications for different jobs. This was the first job I tested for, not really thinking they’d call me on it.

What do you do every day?

I take care of the laboratory animals. We’re kind of a service for the researchers and are there to speak for the animals, protect their health and make sure that they are not suffering, ever. We’re policing the researchers; we work for the department of time workers.

What kinds of research are you used for?

In the psychology building, there’s a lot of learning and memory studies as well as a study on estrogen vs. say. There’s a researcher studying Alzheimer’s disease and another study on mercury levels in fish and water. Fish eat other fish and the mercury levels get concentrated. Then people in certain places eat the fish and end up with health problems.

What kinds of skills does one need to do your job?

Common sense. Surprisingly, that doesn’t come as easily as you’d think. You have to have compassion but also an understanding that it’s better than an animal not suffer. It’s also nice to be personable because we get to know the people who work here and they trust us.

What do you like most about what you do?

The people and the freedom. I get my assignments for the week, and then every day I just do it. I can kind of change things around somewhat, I like that freedom. The job is kind of isolated but it gives you time to think, so it’s nice.

What’s the most challenging part about what you do?

Making sure that I see any injuries or disease on an animal. I have to go into a room with over 100 animals and inspect each one. One could be sitting on its tail, and you might overlook a sore on its tail until the next day, and you don’t want to miss things like that. Sometimes it’s hard because we have the animals scattered throughout the building and my boss and I are the only full-time workers.

What kinds of pets do you own?

We have a few pets at home – our poodle and a dusky conure. The sun conure is almost a year old, and we’ve had the dusky conure about two years. The dusky conure is green with a gray head. They are the most docile and sweetest parrots there are. The sun conure is more colorful, but what the dusky conure lacks in appearance she makes up for in her cuddliness.

What other things do you like to do?

I like movies and I like to read a lot. I’m reading cognitive works, which are related to my job. I like to spend time with my husband, Tory; our 16-year-old son, Anthony; and our 10-year-old daughter, Mariah.

—Interview by Shartia Forrest, assistant editor

Faculty and Staff appointments approved by UI Board of Trustees

By Shartia Forrest

Assistant Editor

At its Jan. 15 meeting in Chicago, the UI Board of Trustees approved the following faculty and staff appointments for the Urbana campus effective Jan. 16, 2004:

Elblass Bennamoun as head of the department of linguistics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Since 1999, Bennamoun has served as an associate professor of linguistics and will continue to hold that rank. Bennamoun earned a bachelor’s degree from Universite Mohamed V, Rabat, Morocco, in 1985; a master’s degree from University of California, Los Angeles; and a doctorate from the University of Southern California in 1992.

Steven Glenn Puempke as the director of the National Soybean Research Laboratory in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Puempke served as an associate director since Nov. 1, 2003, will retain concurrent appointments as associate dean for research, College of ACES, and professor of crop sciences, positions he has held since 1998.

William Bowman, 51, died Jan. 20 at Provencal Veterinary Medical Center, Urbana. Bowman was an auto mechanic in the Division of Planning, Construction and Maintenance for 27 years. Memorials: Provencal Covenants Transitions or Hospice divisions.

Betty L. Gordon, 79, died Jan. 22 at her Urbana home. Gordon worked at the UI for 29 years, mostly as a typing clerk for the Housing Division. She worked for seven years for a residence hall, and returned to the Housing Division in 1971 where she stayed until she retired in 1990.

Lorene Catherine Huls, 77, died Jan. 21 at Heartland Health Care, Paxton. Huls worked as a kitchen helper and dining room hostess at the Illini Union for 29 years, retiring in 1989. Memorials: Martin Luther Home, Champaign.

Louis Henry Dunn, 92, died Jan. 30 at ManorCare Health Care Services, Champaign. Dunn was the manager of laundry for the UI athletic department for 23 years.

Francis E. Hoffman, 86, died Jan. 30 at Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. She worked at the UI as a typing clerk from 1956-1959 and returned in 1964 until she retired in 1979.

Shirley M. Kiefer, 74, died Jan. 25 at Prairie Village, Rantoul. Kiefer was a typing clerk for applied life studies for 10 years, retiring in 1985. Memorials: NAMI of Champaign County, Champaign County Mental Health Center.

Gerald B. “Jerry” McNell, 77, died Jan. 22 at Prairie Village. McNell, 74 years as a typing clerk for the American Legion Post 203. He retired in 1987. Memorials: Parkinson’s Foundation or Temple Baptist Church, 1100 Broadmoor, Champaign, IL 61821.

Steve Glenn Puempke earned a bachelor’s degree from Michigan State University in 1971 and a doctorate from Cornell University in 1975. He served as interim director since March 2003, and has held appointments as assistant dean, and the director of the Office of Continuing Engineering Education since 2001. Robertson joined the faculty in 1995 and will continue to hold the rank of professor of materials science and engineering. Robertson earned a bachelor’s degree from University of Strathclyde in 1971, a master’s degree from Southern Illinois University in 1976.

Deaths
Molecular-level discovery could play role in development of antibiotics

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

UI chemists have uncovered the molecular activity of an enzyme responsible for naturally turning a small protein into a potent antibiotic known as a lantibiotic.

The breakthrough in van der Donk’s lab came in March 2003, when his doctoral students have tried since the late 1980s, when the genes involved in nisin’s biosynthetic pathway were sequenced, but efforts to make analogs in vitro had failed.

Lantibiotics are ribosomally synthesized and modified into a bacteria-fighting form after translation. One type of lantibiotics is modified by two proteins, while another type, scientists have proposed, is able to complete the transformation, forming cyclic regions with sturdy protease-resistant bonds at precise locations, with just one enzyme.

The finding in van der Donk’s lab and subsequent analyses in the research laboratory of Neil L. Kelleher, a professor of chemistry and co-principal investigator, confirms that one enzyme, LctM, alone can complete the modification.

The researchers were led to LctM, which is involved in the biosynthesis of lactacin 481, through trial and error as they tried to manipulate a peptide substrate. LctM, acting in the presence of adenosine triphosphate and ionized magnesium, selected specific serines and threonines for modification, allowing for a correct final structure of the material.

It was reported in 1999 that lantibiotics such as nisin are effective and elude resistance because they work like a double-edged sword. They form holes in the cell membranes and also bind to intermediate targets of a disease-causing bacterium. Hitting on two targets simultaneously reduces the risk of resistance occurring, van der Donk said.

“We are interested in antibiotics that are used commercially and that are not chemically made but derived from organisms, such as bacteria, that make them for us,” he said. “If nature makes these materials, wouldn’t it be great to understand and use the machinery we’ve found.”

The National Institutes of Health, Beckman Foundation and Burroughs Wellcome Fund supported the research through grants to van der Donk and Kelleher. Other contributors were research technician Olga Averin and doctoral students Leah M. Miller and Champak Chatterjee.

Photo by Bill Wiegand

Research details how the enzyme performs two biosynthetic reactions that lead to the formation of fused cyclic structures required for antimicrobial activity. The discovery unlocks a door that could lead to a new line of antibiotic compounds based on nature’s machinery, said Wilfred A. van der Donk, a professor of chemistry at Illinois.

The work was done using lactacin 481, a lantibiotic produced by one of several strains of Lactococcus lactis, a bacterium used in cheese production. Other lantibiotics are used to preserve other dairy products and canned vegetables. The lantibiotic nisin has been used for more than 50 years as an alternative to chemicals in food preservation in more than 40 countries without the development of significant antibiotic resistance.

“The use of antibiotics is an important area of medicine, because pathogenic bacteria are always in the environment,” van der Donk said. “It’s important to renew our arsenal of compounds that combat pathogens. With the development of resistance — the kind that occurs through evolution but also the kind potentially created on purpose — not just the kind that occurs through evolution but also the kind potentially created through genetic modification, allowing for a correct final structure of the material.

It was reported in 1999 that lantibiotics such as nisin are effective and elude resistance because they work like a double-edged sword. They form holes in the cell membranes and also bind to intermediate targets of a disease-causing bacterium. Hitting on two targets simultaneously reduces the risk of resistance occurring, van der Donk said.
University begins to assemble committee

By John Los
Student Assistant

James J. Stukel’s successor will be chosen by a search committee consisting of members elected by the University Senate Conference and the Senate Executive Committee. If precedent holds, the committee will consist of four faculty members from each campus, a student from each campus, one faculty member at large serving as the committee chair, and one representative each from the academic professional staff, the Alumni Association, the UI Foundation and the support staff. The committee will have one year to make its selection.

The process would be similar to the one implemented nearly 10 years ago to find a successor to former UI President Stanley Ikenberry. That search, led by a 20-person committee, ended after seven months of meetings and interviews with the selection of Stukel in February 1995.

Using the services of Korn/Ferry, an executive search firm in Dallas, the last committee reviewed nearly 150 names before thinning the list. Once there were six candidates remaining, the committee chair and UI Board of Trustees interviewed each candidate.

The University Senate Conference will make recommendations for the search committee to the UI Board of Trustees from the nominations of student and faculty members made by the Senators of each campus.

The Urbana-Champaign Senate will consider nominations to elect eight faculty members and two students at its regular meeting at 3:10 p.m. Feb. 16 in Foellinger Auditorium. The Senate Executive Committee asked the Senate’s Committee on Nominations to nominate 12 faculty members and four students to be considered by the full Senate from those who received nominations from the campus community.

Stukel as a fervent and effective champion of public higher education whose presence will be missed. Stukel last year completed a term as chair of the association’s board of directors.

The UI has made the following changes under Stukel:

▶ In 1995, merged Sangamon State University into the UI, becoming the UI at Springfield.
▶ Expanded the acreage of the east campus of UIC by about 50 percent and supported a south campus development of more than $1 billion.
▶ Established the office of Vice President for Technology and Economic Development to support the continuous improvement of technology management and transfer.
▶ Established Research Park LLC to encourage research, development and commercialization of the university’s intellectual assets, and to foster economic growth in the state.
▶ Created IllinoisVENTURES LLC to provide start-up services to faculty, students or staff inventors and entrepreneurs in creating companies that commercialize university-based technology, inventions and innovations.

The Center for Prevention Research and Development, Institute of Government and Public Affairs is searching for an individual at 50%+ time to direct the coordination of multi-level data systems for the Data Coordination Project. The Coordinator will lead a team of researchers and data analysts, supervise contractors, work closely with external clients and constituents, and communicate results from research projects in prevention and youth services. The Coordinator must have knowledge of data privacy, health services, evaluation, and use of maps and GIS systems in display data. Qualifications include a MPA, MPH or other social science field; 3-5 years of experience in coordinating multi-organization data and technology projects; skills in developing system specifications and statements of work; excellent written and verbal communications; ability to verify data, run basic statistics using SPSS, Excel, and Access; ability to manage projects with computing requirements and to read statistical reports and interpret output. Salary is dependent upon qualifications and experience. Please submit a letter of application, vitae, and names of three references to Chair, Coordinator of Research Programs Search Committee, CPRD, 530 Devonshire Drive, Champaign, IL 61820. For full consideration, applications must be received by February 12, 2004.

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STUKEL. From Page 1
candidates recommended by a consultative committee.

A hallmark of Stukel’s presidency has been his personal interaction with people in every region of the state on behalf of the university. Since taking office, Stukel logged more than 200,000 miles and conducted 50 daylong community visits across Illinois. The initiative was the first of its kind for the UI. Stukel also established Illinois Connection, a coalition to strengthen the relationship between the university and citizens of the state.

“Jim Stukel is a wonderful leader and person,” said Nancy Cantor, the chancellor of the Urbana campus. “It’s a pleasure to work with him. I’m impressed with his commitment to the university for so many years, and I’m grateful for his contributions.”

Board of trustees Chairman Lawrence C. Eppley hailed Stukel’s tenure as president and said his legacy is a diverse and vibrant institution that has withstood the rigors of a difficult economy through astute management.

“By every measure – the superior quality of our students, the excellence of our faculty and staff, the breadth of our public engagement, our commitment to economic development and the soundness of our endowment – Jim has succeeded in raising and preserving the exceptional quality of the University of Illinois,” Eppley said.

C. Peter Magrath, the president of the National Association of State Universities and Land-Grant Colleges, described Stukel as a fervent and effective champion of public higher education whose presence will be missed. Stukel last year completed a term as chair of the association’s board of directors.

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▶ Created IllinoisVENTURES LLC to provide start-up services to faculty, students or staff inventors and entrepreneurs in creating companies that commercialize university-based technology, inventions and innovations.
▶ Standardized all administrative and support systems across the university, the most comprehensive technology integration initiative undertaken by any American university at the time.
▶ Created UI-Online, which provides online course, degree programs and public service activities offered by the campuses. Currently, 7,000 students are enrolled in online courses.

Stukel, a native of Joliet, Ill., earned his bachelor’s degree in engineering from Purdue University in 1959. He received his master’s degree in 1963 and his doctorate in engineering in 1968, both from the Urbana campus.

Stukel launched his UI career as a teaching and research assistant at Urbana. He became a professor of engineering in 1975 and held a series of administrative posts until 1985, when he moved to UIC to become vice chancellor for research and dean of the graduate college. He was named chancellor of UIC in 1991, where he served until being named university president in 1995.

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The University of Illinois is an Affirmative Action/Equal Opportunity Employer.
Careers services staff members help students find their niches

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant editor

“It’s tough out there,” is the consensus about the job market these days. However, an expanded network of career services and online tools are helping students on the Urbana campus make successful transitions from learning to earning.

The Graduate College Career Services Office, which opened its doors the first day of the fall semester, was established as a comprehensive, interdisciplinary resource for graduate students. Director Rebecca Bryant and Amy Martin, visiting assistant director, provide individual advising, coordinate programs and provide information tailored to the professional development of graduate students.

A series of six core workshops and various ad hoc workshops are being offered each semester covering topics such as networking skills, writing resumes, curricula vitae and cover letters; non-academic job searches; and interviewing for jobs in academia and other sectors.

A workshop on transferable skills helps scholars with nebulous occupational paths identify their skill sets and correlate them with non-academic jobs.

“A historian with expertise on ancient Egypt may not be terribly important to a foundation, a company or a government agency, but that historian’s ability to do research, to conceptualize a very big problem, to organize data can be tremendously useful,” said Richard Wheeler, dean of the Graduate College.

GCCSO offers dual versions of every workshop, with one section tailored to students in science, technology, engineering and mathematics and the other section to scholars in the humanities, arts and social sciences.

Ten workshops were held during the fall semester and drew 420 participants.

GCCSO’s Web page (www.grad.uiuc.edu/CareerServices/) offers job search links, self-assessment tools and a comprehensive listing of professional-development events. Students can register for workshops online and receive confirmations and reminders by e-mail. A bi-weekly newsletter apprises students of upcoming events, non-academic career options and job postings, and provides links to career-related articles.

Wheeler got the idea to found the career services program after learning about a peer institution’s successful program and after examining the limited services available to Urbana’s graduate students. The Graduate College Career Advisory Committee, which was appointed by Wheeler, examined advising programs at peer institutions, gathered input from graduate students and faculty members and recommended that the program be established after a symposium and a series of pilot programs and services offered last spring received resounding approval.

“The committee really assessed the kinds of resources available to graduate students, particularly those in the humanities, social sciences and fine and applied arts, and found there was generally very little self-assessment tools and a comprehensive jobs as tenured faculty,” Bryant said. “Our office was created to fill that gap. Academe is one option, but there are other ways to find fulfillment and serve the community and the world beyond as well.”

Since the office’s Aug. 27 opening, the response from students, particularly those in the humanities, has been “overwhelmingly favorable,” Bryant said.

Staff have provided more than 186 counseling contacts through office visits and e-mail reviews of documents. More than 370 students also have subscribed to GCCSO’s listserv.

“After only about four months, I think we’re approaching the kind of capacity that I think we can sanely serve,” Bryant said.

“But that’s OK. I’m thrilled, and we’ll find a way to make it work.”

GCCSO will hold its second annual Symposium on Graduate Education Feb. 10 at the Illini Union.

“It gives us a chance to bring together graduate students, faculty, staff and experts from the outside world to talk about issues very fundamental to graduate education: why it exists, what its purposes are and what its goals and problems are,” Wheeler said.

“We need that kind of conversation to keep abreast of our students’ needs and what they’re thinking. I also think it’s important for them to hear from us that people are working hard to try to understand the needs of grad students.”

A career services office geared to the unique needs of students in the College of Fine and Applied Arts also opened its doors during the fall semester. Sara Jane Patterson, coordinator of career services, is a former music student and arts administrator.

St. CAREER SERVICES, PICT. 7

Symposium to focus on career choices

“Challenges, Choices, Careers” will be the theme of the second annual Symposium on Graduate Education to be held from 1 to 5 p.m. Feb. 10 in Illini Rooms A, B and C of the Illini Union.

The keynote speaker will be Maroesi Nerad, the director of the Center of Innovation and Research in Graduate Education and associate dean of the University of Washington, Seattle, Graduate School. Nerad, co-author of the study “Ph.D.s – Ten Years Later,” will share her ongoing research on career outcomes and opportunities for people with advanced degrees.

During a panel discussion following the keynote address, UI graduate alumni will talk about their diverse career paths in the corporate and not-for-profit sectors.

Three concurrent focus sessions will cover topics such as the challenges faced by dual-career couples, the transitions and stages of academic life from graduate school through tenure, and resources available to support graduate students.

All UI graduate students, faculty and staff members, alumni and interested members of the community may attend. Although the event is free, registration is required by Feb. 6 and may be done online at the symposium Web site, www.grad.uiuc.edu/CareerServices/Symposium/SymposiumHome.html.

Additional information about speakers and the symposium program also is available on the Web. The symposium is sponsored by the Graduate College.
CAREER SERVICES. FROM PAGE 6
While conservatives and design schools have offered career services for many years, only a handful of college programs exist in the United States, Patterson said.

Typical career services such as job fairs are not applicable in the arts; therefore, FAA’s programming will facilitate students’ exploration of occupational possibilities as opposed to linking them with potential employers.

“We certainly want to help them find jobs, but right now our mission is to help them figure out how to develop their career paths and explore all the options so they don’t leave here saying, ‘I’m going to be a dancer and that’s it,’” Patterson said.

“In five years, if they’ve broken those legs and can’t dance anymore, they won’t know what to do. We want them to start thinking about those possibilities in advance so that they’ve got a broader skill set. So, it’s not just students learning how to play the piano but they’re also learning how to teach and do administrative work, for example.”

The center recently implemented the Discover Career Exploration Information System, giving students online access to interest assessments, a skills survey and occupational and educational information.

John Rooney, Career Center director, noted that many students feel discouraged about their prospects of finding jobs in the current economic climate.

“What I like to tell students is there are companies that are hiring new grads, and those students who get the jobs are generally those who are prepared to do the job search, have a good sense of what they’re looking for and what they want, have prepared themselves well in terms of marketable, transferable skills and can articulate those to potential employers,” Rooney said.

In March, the Career Center and GCC-SO are co-sponsoring a new workshop on government jobs linked to a component on government jobs that has been added to the annual career fair for nonprofit organizations. A representative from the Society for the Advancement of the Biomedical Sciences, was an invited speaker at the Institute of Medicine annual convention. In June she was honored for contributing to the membership growth of the Society of Toxicologic Pathology.

Rex Hess, professor of veterinary biosciences, was an invited speaker at the 28th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Reproduction. He also served as one of the moderators at the combined meeting of the AAPP and the American Veterinary Medical Association annual convention. In Denver during the American Veterinary Medical Association annual convention.

Woman’s Town, professor of veterinary medical education, was appointed by the Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association to serve on its newly established strategic planning committee.

New textbook from the publishers of Equine Veterinary Journal, that is first ever devoted entirely to this topic. It covers the basic science of radiopharmaceuticals and scintigraphy in the horse, including sections on how to conduct examinations and interpret images, an atlas of normal and abnormal patterns of uptake, and chapters devoted to thoroughbreds, standardbreds, etc.

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achievements

A report on honors, awards, appointments and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members.

April. “Professor Moore is a tireless advocate of undergraduate education and has an outstanding teaching and service record,” said Gregory S. Girolami, head of chemistry. fine and applied arts

Jonathan Fineberg, professor of art history, was appointed by the Executive Board of the New England Chapter of the Fine Arts and Humanities, was an invited speaker at the Institute of Medicine. He also served as one of the moderators at the combined meeting of the AAPP and the American Veterinary Medical Association annual convention. In July he was an invited speaker at the 28th Annual Meeting of the American Society of Andrology. He was also an invited speaker at the Institute of Biological Sciences, Federal University, Belo Horizonte, Brazil, and the International Congress on Biology of Reproduction 2003, Ribeirão Preto, São Paulo, Brazil.

Gary Iwamoto, professor of veterinary medicine, was appointed by the Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association to serve on its newly established strategic planning committee.

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Scientists have discovered why polar mesospheric clouds over the South Pole are nearly two miles higher than those over the North Pole. A variation in solar radiation—a result of Earth’s elliptical orbit—is responsible, they say.

In the Jan. 29 online version of the journal Geophysical Research Letters, UI scientists and scientists from the British Antarctic Survey report new laser radar (lidar) measurements from Rothera, Antarctica, that support earlier findings concerning the puzzling heights of polar mesospheric clouds.

“We found that seasonal variations in cloud height are directly related to the vertical upwelling velocities in the mesopause region above the South Pole,” said Chester Gardner, a professor of electrical and computer engineering at Illinois. “The higher altitudes of the polar mesospheric clouds appear to be the direct result of increased solar radiation during the austral summer, when Earth is closest to the sun.”

Polar mesospheric clouds are the high, thin clouds that form high in the thin upper atmosphere. These clouds have little effect on the atmosphere, but radiate this heat into space in the thin upper atmosphere. “As carbon dioxide levels rise, we expect the upper atmosphere to get colder,” Gardner said.

“In addition, methane is broken up by the sun’s ultraviolet radiation, freeing hydrogen that can react with oxygen to form water vapor. As methane levels rise, more water vapor will be created,” Gardner said. “These two scenarios may explain why polar mesospheric clouds are being seen more frequently and over larger geographical areas.”

The formation of polar mesospheric clouds is a complex process that depends on temperature, water vapor and vertical wind structure of the mesopause region. Gardner said. As the cloud particles grow in size and mass, they slowly fall to lower altitudes where the combined effects of increasing atmospheric density and the upwelling air mass provide sufficient buoyancy to cause them to collect in thin layers.

Gardner’s group at Illinois made the first measurements of polar mesospheric clouds over the North Pole with an airborne lidar system in June and July of 1999. Six months later, the instrument was taken to the Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, where measurements were made during the 1999-2000 and 2000-2001 summer seasons. The polar mesospheric clouds above the South Pole were consistently one to two miles higher than those over the North Pole.

In a paper published earlier this year in the Journal of Geophysical Research, Gardner, Xinzhao Chu, a research scientist at Illinois, and Ray Roble, a senior scientist at the High Altitude Observatory of the National Center for Atmospheric Research in Boulder, Colo., compared the cloud measurements with predictions from a global circulation model of the upper atmosphere.

“The researchers used the NCAR Thermosphere-Ionosphere-Mesosphere-Electron Dynamics General Circulation Model to explore the temperatures and vertical wind distributions at the North and South poles,” said Patrick Espy, a senior scientist with the British Antarctic Survey. “Available water vapor is strongly influenced by the local temperature, and the mesopause temperature at Rothera was about 12 degrees Celsius warmer than at the South Pole.”

Although the clouds were lower at Rothera than at the South Pole, they were considerably higher than at similar latitudes in the Northern Hemisphere, Gardner said. “The variation with latitude in the Southern Hemisphere occurs because the vertical wind speed decreases with distance from the pole. But this doesn’t account for the difference in cloud height between the two poles.”

The seasonal variation in vertical wind speed is caused by Earth’s position in space, relative to the sun, Gardner said. Both the eccentricity of Earth’s orbit and the tilt of the planet’s axis create heating and cooling effects that either reinforce or counteract one another, depending on the time of year.

As summer approaches in the Northern Hemisphere, for example, the North Pole tilts toward the sun and receives more direct solar radiation. But, because Earth is moving away from the sun, this radiation also grows weaker, creating a counteracting effect. As summer approaches in the Southern Hemisphere, the South Pole tilts toward the sun, and the planet also moves closer to the sun. In this case, the two...
New algorithm speeds simulations of complex fluids

By James E. Kleopel

Computer simulations play an essential role in the study of complex fluids – liquids that contain particles of different sizes. Such liquids have numerous applications, which depend on a fundamental understanding of their behavior. But the two main techniques for studying complex fluids – the molecular dynamics technique and the Monte Carlo method – have limitations that greatly reduce their effectiveness.

As reported in the Jan. 23 issue of the journal Physical Review Letters, UI researchers have developed a geometric cluster algorithm that makes possible the fast and accurate simulation of complex fluids.

“The main advantage of the molecular dynamics method – its ability to provide information about dynamical processes – is also its main limitation,” said Erik Luijten, a professor of materials science and engineering at Illinois. “Many complex fluids contain particles of widely different sizes, which move at vastly different velocities. A simulation technique that can capture the motions of the faster as well as the slower particles would be impractically slow.”

POLAR CLOUDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE B-8

“During summer over the South Pole, the 6 percent higher solar intensity heats the lower atmosphere more, giving rise to greater vertical upwelling velocities,” said Gardner. “These high wind speeds are just sufficient to raise the clouds one to two miles higher than those over the North Pole.”

In addition to Gardner, Chu and Espy, co-authors of the paper were Graeme J. Nott, Jan C. Dittrich, Mark A. Clilverd and Martin J. Jarvis, all with the British Antarctic Survey. The National Science Foundation and the British Antarctic Treaty funded the work.

Assaults decline, robberies increase in UI reporting district

By Sharita Forrest

Aggravated assaults and batteries and criminal sexual assaults decreased while robberies and other sex offenses increased slightly in the UI reporting district during the Sept. 1, 2003 – Dec. 31, 2003, reporting period, according to statistics released late last month by the UI Division of Public Safety.

Aggravated assaults and batteries decreased more than 48 percent, with 35 crimes reported from period Sept. 1 through Dec. 31, 2003, compared with 68 such crimes during the same period in 2002. During that period in 2001, 40 aggravated assaults and batteries were reported.

In 2003, robberies increased by four to 21 incidents versus 17 the prior year and 11 during 2001. However, criminal sexual assaults declined during the 2003 reporting period, with nine criminal sexual assaults reported, relative to 11 such crimes during 2002. The 2003 figure represents a slight increase over the 2001 reporting period when eight criminal sexual assaults were reported.

It should be noted that the 2003 statistics for robberies, aggravated batteries and assaults includes crimes that occurred at Memorial Stadium when it was being used for Chicago Bears football games. Consistent with patterns observed in prior years, the majority of victims of aggravated assaults and batteries during 2003 were community residents rather than UI students or staff members. Likewise, UI students made up the majority of robbery victims during 2003 as they did in prior years.

Of the 44 victims of aggravated assaults and batteries during 2003, 70 percent were male, and the majority of victims were over the age of 21.

Consistent with prior years, more than half (54 percent) of the aggravated assaults and batteries during 2003 occurred between 1 a.m. and 3 a.m.

Alcohol appears to have played a significant role in violent crimes in the UI reporting district during 2003, as more than 77 percent of the victims, suspects or both involved in aggravated assaults and batteries or criminal sexual assaults had been drinking prior to the crimes.

There were nine reports of peeping toms and public indecency during the 2003 reporting period, an increase of two over the 2002 reporting period. During the same period in 2001, four of these offenses occurred.

The university crime report includes incidents that occurred in any part of the UI领土 extending from University Avenue on the north to Windsor Road on the south, Race Street on the east and the railroad tracks just east of Neil Street on the west.

On the eve of the 103rd anniversary of her death on Jan. 22, the woman whose name defined an age – probably the most famous woman of modern times – came to life in a new and myth-shattering biography.

The book, “Queen Victoria” (Palgrave), has been praised for its “fairness and cogency” by the American Library Association’s “Best Books List,” and as “sharply observed and excellently written” by History Today. In the introduction to his book, author Walter L. Arnstein, a historian of modern Britain and UI professor emeritus, concedes that the queen, as a topic, has been widely covered. Since her accession to the throne in 1837 at age 18, more than 500 books about her have been published. In the Library of Congress, only three women rank ahead of her in numbers of titles: the Virgin Mary, Joan of Arc and Jane Austen.

What provoked Arnstein to take up the gauntlet and write his own book was his frustration with several more-recent biographies about Victoria, which to his mind “have become so eager to provide an ‘intimate portrait’ and retrospectively to pigeonhole the personal personality that they have neglected not only the public face of Victoria presented both to her people and to her fellow monarchs but also the influence that she exercised on both people and events.”

Therefore, in his treatment of the monarch, and in his effort to present Victoria’s public face, Arnstein took up several neglected topics – among them Victoria’s religious views, constitutional role and connections with Britain’s army and with Ireland – to paint a portrait, in his words, of “not only a queen, but a personality and an adjective but also a multidimensional human being and an active player in the domestic politics and the international relations of the nineteenth century.”

Whenever possible, Arnstein used the queen’s own words “as a key to understanding both her character and the manner in which she understood the world in which she lived.” The queen, he observed, “is often wrong quoting,” and “to do so we drew from a vast amount of correspondence both to and from the queen and also of the queen’s own journals.

“By the time of her death, books and articles, pictures and engravings, coins and postage stamps had transformed the solitary princess into the single best-known person on Earth as well as into an adjective that dictionaries are unlikely to define as ‘archaic’ The U.S. Department of Energy and the National Science Foundation funded the work.

Book refutes misconceptions of Queen Victoria

By Sharita Forrest

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More than 100 years after her death, her personality continues to fascinate and her image remains engraved on our collective memory.” – Andrea Lynn, News Bureau
Is stress affecting your life negatively?
Four parenting workshops scheduled

Faculty and staff members may attend one or all of four Parentugged workshops to help reduce work and family stress in their lives. “Is Work Stress Affecting Your Personal Life? Creating Intentional Harmony” is the title of this year’s series set for Feb. 24 and March 2, 11 and 16 at the Levis Faculty Center.

Angela Wiley, university extension specialist in family life and UI professor of human and community development, will be the main speaker for each session. Wiley, co-author of “Intentional Harmony: Managing Work and Life,” teaches the topic statewide, and conducts research on work-life management and parenting. Other UI faculty members speaking at the workshops include Aaron Ebata, Patti Faughn and Debbie McClellan.


Advance registration is required. To register, call 333-7369, fax 333-9561, or e-mail noncredit@uiuc.edu.

Brown v. Board of Education
Library to host lecture Feb. 12

To commemorate the Supreme Court’s decision in Brown v. Board of Education, the University Library will host “American Apartheid and the Supreme Court: Understanding the Significance of the Brown Decision” at 4 p.m. Feb. 12 in Room 407 of the Levis Faculty Center.

Paul Finkelman, professor of law at the University of Tulsa, will discuss the social and legal status of racial segregation at the time of the Brown decision and why it was so important in ending segregation in the United States. A reception will follow the event.

Spurlock Museum
Native American events in February

The Spurlock Museum will celebrate Native American culture with several events during February.

For example, the Museum of Bone Dance drum concert will be at 1 p.m. Feb. 7. Admission is $5 and reservations are required. Call 333-2360.

Another jewelry maker Ben Yellowhorse will transform silver into works of art at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 11 in a free demonstration.

A Native American artist De Haven Solimon Chaffins will speak about her abstract paintings during a free lecture, “Fragments of the Underworld,” at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 13.

The jewelry demonstration and lecture are part of a series of events held in conjunction with the museum’s Focus Gallery exhibit “The American Indian Center of Chicago Celebrates 50 Years of Powwow.” These events are co-sponsored by the Cave Gallery, where Yellowhorse and Chaffin’s work will be displayed from Feb. 10 through March 20.

Personal experiences
Ally hosts panel at meeting

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students of color will discuss their personal experiences at the 12 p.m. Feb. 6 Ally meeting at 217 Illini Union.

Those attending the meeting will be given an opportunity to ask the panel questions, as well as engage the students in discussion.

For more information contact Jane Reid, 333-3704 or jereid@uiuc.edu, or Anita Hund at ahund@uiuc.edu.

Composers Festival begins Feb. 23

The 2004 UI Composers Festival, set for Feb. 23 to March 1, will offer five concerts featuring 28 compositions by guest, faculty and student composers performed by 12 performers and eight conductors. The festival is presented by the UI New Music Ensemble with co-directors Zack Browning and Steve Taylor.

Pieces for the festival will combine elements of high-tech music with music influenced by popular culture, electronic synthesizers, computer-generated sounds, non-Western sources and experimental aesthetics.

Guest composers for the festival are Don Davis and Vinko Globokar. Davis is best known as the composer of music for the “Matrix” film series. Globokar is recognized as a pioneer in experimental music and is both a composer and performer ontrum. Other guest artists include pianist Gloria Chang and soprano Kenny Walsh.

For more information, go to www.music.uiuc.edu.

WILL-FM
Station cancels ‘Second Sunday’ Concert

The Feb. 8 WILL-FM Second Sunday Concert featuring the Illinois Brass Quintet and Friends has been canceled because of the illness of one of the performers.

The art museum’s 1 p.m. gallery tour will take place as usual on Feb. 8 despite the concert cancellation.

The March Second Sunday Concert at 2 p.m. March 14 features Sergiu Luca, violin, with Ian Hobson, piano.

Kranert Art Museum
Conference examines transnational art

A UI conference will explore current artistic practices, focusing on artists who move among Europe, the Middle East, South Asia and the United States.

“Beyond East and West: Art in a Transnational World” takes place Feb. 6 and 7. Free and open to the public, it requires no registration and is being held in conjunction with the Kranert Art Museum exhibition, “Beyond East and West: Seven Transnational Artists,” which runs through March 28.

“Major artists and leading scholars” from throughout the United States will take part in the conference, according to the organizers, professors David O’Brien, art history, and David Prochaska, history.

Participating artists include Jananme Al-Ani, Y.Z. Kami, Walid Raad and Shafiaa Sikander.

Scholars include Fred Bobert, Hood College; Timothy Brennan, University of Minnesota; Holly Edwards, Williams College; Keya Ganguy, University of Minnesota; Salah Hassan, Cornell University; and Barbara Thompson, Dartmouth College.

UI faculty members include Evelyne Accad, French; Marilyn Booth, comparative literature; Okwui Enwezor, art history; Jane Kuznt, French; and Zohreh Sullivan, English.

The Feb. 6 sessions run from noon to 5 p.m. in the Pymy Auditorium of Temple Buell Hall; the Feb. 7 sessions run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. in 62 Krannt Art Museum.

Skyecraper Exhibit
Student tall building designs on display

Two new exhibitions offered by Partnersh Illinois: a UI initiative that promotes collaborations with agencies, organizations, governments, schools and communities to address critical societal issues.

• “Chicago Architectural Club Members Exhibition” is an annual show featuring sketches, drawings and photographs. According to the club Web site, the show will explore the history of Chicago architecture through a review of members’ current work.

An opening reception is scheduled from 6-8 p.m. on Feb. 6 at the gallery, 230 W. Superior St., Chicago. Gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday from noon to 5 p.m.

Community-based Learning Grants
Partnership Illinois seeks proposals

Faculty members and instructors are invited to submit proposals for Community-based Learning Grants, a new funding initiative that promotes collaborations with agencies, organizations, governments, schools and communities to address critical societal issues.

Proposals are being sought for components that integrate community-based learning experiences into new or existing undergraduate courses at the introductory and advanced undergraduate levels.

“Community-based learning is an important aspect of undergraduate education to give students experiences outside the classroom,” said Steve Schomberg, vice chancellor for public engagement and institutional relations, whose office administers Partnership Illinois. “Students can get experience interacting with the community through volunteering, but I believe a better way is through a structured learning opportunity.”

“We want to build upon the experiences of existing service learning programs such as the East St. Louis Action Research Project, which is sponsored by the College of Fine and Applied Arts, and Learning in Community, which is sponsored by the College of Engineering, and expand those opportunities throughout the faculty,” Schomberg said.

The grants will offer up to 10 awards of up to $15,000 for programmatic expenses such as graduate assistantships, faculty support, salaries or wages and communications.

Applications and proposal requirements are on the Web at www.pcr.uiuc.edu. Deadline for proposals is March 1.