Students benefit from online distance-learning options

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

At first glance, Sonya Chappell and Daniel Jacobsohn might not seem like typical college students: They have full-time jobs, children, and at ages 42 and 31, respectively, do not fall into the demographic that is often referred to as college-age.

But on the “virtual” campus of U of I Online, Chappell and Jacobsohn indeed epitomize typical students: adults age 30 or older seeking professional development or a career change who are precluded from attending traditional classes by geography, work or family responsibilities.

U of I Online courses enable Chappell, a staff secretary at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, to earn her bachelor’s degree in liberal arts and sciences, which she hopes to obtain this spring, nearly 15 years after she first began taking college classes.

U of I Online offers students about 400 different courses, including four complete bachelor’s degree programs, 14 master’s degree programs, a doctorate in pharmacy and numerous continuing education courses and certificate programs.

Some of the certificate and degree-granting programs are delivered entirely online, such as those offered by the College of Engineering as well as the master’s degree in global human resource development and the master’s degree in Library and Information Science, require students to visit the Urbana campus for orientation or other brief face-to-face sessions with their classmates and instructors.

Online classes are typically delivered by way of course management software such as Blackboard and WebCT, which is known as “Illinois Compass” on the Urbana campus. The academic units on campus design their own courses, choose the instructional media to deliver them and provide technical support for their students.

Classes may meet “virtually” on designated days and times using streaming media connections to broadcast instructors’ lectures and guest speakers’ presentations. Text-chat features allow students to ask questions of their instructors during class and even “whisper” private messages to one another, just as they might in a regular classroom.

At other times, students can log on at their leisure to view any archived lectures, assigned readings or other course materials. Using forums such as bulletin boards and text chat, students can discuss various concepts, post questions for instructors or teaching assistants and collaborate on team-based projects with colleagues hundreds or thousands of miles away. And just like their classroom-based peers, online students also have access to university resources on the library and tuition waivers, if they are university employees.

Students in the College of Engineering’s online master’s degree programs take exams that are proctored by officials in students’ workplaces or local areas, while students in the GHRD curricula earn their grades through individual and group projects.

Burks Oakley II, associate vice president, has universitywide oversight of U of I Online, and along with Jeff Harmon, director of marketing, helps the academic units launch, fund and market their programs. Online curricula are subject to a rigorous review and approval process at the departmental and college levels in addition to the Graduate College and the Office of Site DISTANCE LEARNING, Page 7

Exercise sharpens focus, decision-making of aging adults

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Aging adults who give up a sedentary lifestyle and replace it with a cardiovascular fitness regimen as simple as brisk walks reap greater focus and reduced decision-making conflict as they perform a variety of tasks, scientists say.

That conclusion comes from a study that utilized functional magnetic resonance imaging to measure changes in brain activity in adults ranging in age from 58 to 78 before and after a six-month program of aerobic exercise. The study, done at the U’s Urbana campus, appeared online and in the print publication, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Scientists, led by Arthur F. Kramer, a professor of psychology and researcher at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at Illinois, identified specific functional differences in the middle-frontal and superior parietal regions of the brain that changed with improved aerobic fitness. These changes allowed researchers to predict improvements in performance on a decision-making task.

The middle-frontal region of the brain is responsible for keeping goals of an activity in focus. The superior parietal area has been linked to many functions, including the spatial attention.

Participants of the aerobic-exercise intervention reduced their level of behavioral conflict in completing a computer-based task by 11 percent from pre-exercise levels, while the control subjects who performed stretching and toning activities achieved a statistically insignificant decrease of 5 percent.

Increasing brain power

New research by Arthur F. Kramer, a professor of psychology and researcher at the Beckman Institute, shows that six months of regular aerobic exercise changes the middle frontal and superior parietal regions of the brain, improving aging adults’ abilities to concentrate and filter out distractions.

The study used magnetic resonance imaging to measure brain activity in adults age 58 to 78.

Distinguished Teacher/Scholars

Two faculty members are honored for actively enhancing teaching and learning on campus. PAGE 4

Ethnography

Undergrads are being invited to design university-related projects and take part in a study of the UI. PAGE 6

Trustees postpone vote on Chief Illiniwek

UI Trustee Frances Carroll said she will not reintroduce her motion to retire Chief Illiniwek as the symbol of athletic teams on the Urbana-Champaign campus when the UI Board of Trustees holds its regularly scheduled meeting on March 11 in Urbana.

“I am a consensus builder, and it is important to me that consensus be reached on this topic before I bring it back to the board. Therefore, I am withholding the resolution,” Carroll said.

Carroll did not set a time frame for when the board should act on the Chief. Chief Illiniwek has been an iconic figure on the Urbana-Champaign campus since 1926. In recent years, the Chief’s presence has put the university in the news.

March 4, 2004
Vol. 23, No. 15
Robert J. Beals, 80, died Feb. 28 at the Medical Center in Beaver, Pa. Beals taught ceramic engineering at the UI for 15 years, leaving the university in 1962. He started as an assistant instructor in 1947 and was an associate professor when he left the university.

Mary Jane Camp, 82, died Feb. 19 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Camp worked as a library clerk at the UI from 1945 to 1960.

Arlyle “Al” Floyd Irwin, 62, died Feb. 20 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Irwin was an electronics engineer for the UI for 32 years, retiring in 1991. He worked in the Digital Computer System division of the Department of computer science. Memorials: Grace Lutheran Church, Champaign.

Beverly L. Dries, 62, died Feb. 18 at her home in Champaign. Dries worked at the UI as chief clerk in the Division of Risk Management for 30 years, retiring in 1990. Memorials: Emmanuel Lutheran Church, Champaign.

Eugenia Colee Lytle, 85, died Feb. 17 at The Carle Arbours, Savoy. Lytle was a clerk at the Carle Foundation in the department for 11 years, retiring in 1975. Memorials: Carle Arbours, 302 Burwash Ave., Savoy; 414, 302 Burwash Ave., Champaign; University of Illinois Board of Trustee Endowment, 307 W. University Ave., Champaign; the Alzheimer’s Association, 307 W. University Ave., Savoy, IL 61874; Carle Arbours, 302 Burwash Ave., Savoy; or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, Central Illinois Regional Office, 4411 S. 1st St., Champaign.

Memorial
A memorial service for professor emeriti Charlie Wert will be at 1 p.m. March 6 at McKirvin Presbyterian Church, 809 S. First St., Champaign. There will be a reception following at McKirvin Foundation. Wertz, 83, died Nov. 4 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Wert had been a faculty member in the UI metalurgical department from 1950 to 1990, retiring as professor emeritus. Memorials: The Morningside Institute or McKirvin Presbyterian Church.

Robert Omstein, 78, died Feb. 9 at Cleveland Clinic Hospital, Cleveland, Ohio. Omstein was an associate professor of English at the UI in 1958 and was promoted to associate professor in 1961 and professor in 1963. He left the UI in 1968. Omstein and his wife, Sarah L. Omstein, owned and operated the Bank of Fifth and Thirty, 157 E. 27th St., Cleveland, OH 44114; Community Re-Entry, 1468 W. 25th St., Cleveland, OH 44113; or any chapter of Habitat for Humanity.

Bonnie J. Shannon, 73, died Feb. 16 at her home in Rantoul. Shannon began working at the UI in 1985 as a secretary for the Benefits Center, retiring in 1994.

Barbara Rose Springer, 76, died Feb. 14 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Springer was a clerk typist in the agronomy department at the UI for more than 15 years, spending her last year as extra help. Memorials: Champaign County Humane Society.

Robert K. G. Carroll, 65, died Feb. 28 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana, Va. Warden was a clinical counselor at the UI Student Counseling Bureau. Memorials: University Baptist Church, 314 E. Daniel St., Champaign, IL 61801; or American Museum, 600 N. Lombard, Mahomet, IL 61853.

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UI students taking course work in the College of Applied Life Studies know whom to see when they need direction or just a quick sugar fix: Carol Firkins, academic adviser in the department of community health and coordinator of the internship studies. She’s been the winner of the Campuswide Award for Excellence in Advising Undergraduate Students (2002) and the ALS Academic Professional Excellence Award (2001), has developed a reputation for dispensing both good advice and sweet treats, as evidenced by the plaques on her office wall and the ubiquitous bowl of candies on her desk. “Even when they’re not coming in for a counseling appointment, the students will come in and get a Life Saver,” Firkins said. “I hand them out at graduations and sometimes I’ll send a bag to a class in one of our majors if I know they’re having a big test.” Firkins, who joined the UI staff in 1996, earned a bachelor’s degree in agricultural communications from the UI and a master’s degree in guidance and counseling from Eastern Illinois University.

Tell me about your job.
I’m responsible for advising about 350 students who are designated community health majors or who are in other departments but taking courses in community health. I’m also the coordinator for the internships. The students have a required 320-hour internship one semester, and right now I have 85 students placed in organizations such as the YMCA, the hospitals, nursing homes, McKinley Health Center, Planned Parenthood, the American Cancer-Society, Prairie Center, A Woman’s Place and Frances Nelson Health Center. Each site has a preceptor that the students job-shadow so they can learn about various facets of a job they’re interested in.

I help students choose classes, help them on their career paths and help them balance out their resumes in terms of volunteer activities and work experience. Plus, I have the students in two classes that I teach: Community Health 111, which is orientation, and Community Health 280, which is introduction to internship. It is a great job. I love what I do. Every day students come through my door with unique problems for me to help them with. They’re just a great, great group of students. They’re “people people” and they have big hearts. I’m so lucky to get to work with this group because they are so caring.

What’s the most challenging part of what you do?
Keeping track of all the students. I really like to get to know my students as individuals.

What’s your favorite part of what you do?
Working with the students and helping them find their niches. I consult with the professors and the contacts that I have to help the students find the right field for them. When the kids say, “Wow, this is what I am going to school for,” that’s probably the best part of my job.

What types of careers are they typically looking for?
Health care is such an open field right now that the list of the different fields our students can go into is endless. I’m always saying that for every part of the body and every disease there’s an organization that’s looking for professionals.

What kinds of activities do you enjoy when you’re not working?
I have three boys – 10-year-old twins and a 13-year-old – so sporting events, youth activities at our church and school activities occupy me a lot. I also bring my boys to our students’ activities such as theater and sporting events. A lot of the time my husband has younger siblings at home that they miss, so they enjoy seeing my boys.

Tell me about your involvement with IlliAAC.
It’s a group on campus that promotes and develops quality academic advising. We also support professional growth and provide a forum for discussion, debate and exchange of information. It’s open to academic advisers, faculty assistants, supervisor deans and different support people on campus who work with students. We meet two or three times a semester. We always have a fall training workshop for new advisers, and a spring professional development workshop that is open to all our members.

– Interview by Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

book corner

Lost stories of Underground Railroad

Long-lost stories about one of the most complex, secretive and dangerous successful collaborations among black freemen, slaves and white abolitionists are told in “Fleeing for Freedom: Stories of the Underground Railroad” by R. Dee. The editors of the book, George and Willene Hendrick, say they drew from the best accounts ever written by abolitionists who helped fugitive slaves escape to freedom on the Underground Railroad in the 30 years before the Civil War. The book brings together for the first time the voluminous writings of the two authors, chroniclers of the Underground Railroad: Levi Coffin, a Quaker abolitionist who worked in the Midwest, and James Still, a “home run” man – one of 18 children – who served as secretary of the Philadelphia Vigilance Committee.

Written by many authors, including the “Liberty Line,” the Underground Railroad never literally operated under ground, nor was it a railroad. Yet over three decades, and across all of the nation’s ingenuous transportation network of conductors, stations and depots managed to bring tens thousands of slaves – its “desperate ‘passengers’” – to freedom in the North and in Canada.

To keep the constantly changing network running, abolitionists recruited hundreds of helpers and designed untold numbers of escape routes by means of railroads and rivers. They employed various modes of transportation to move fugitives to freedom, including horse-drawn carts, buggies, wagons, trains, baggage cars, riverboats and domestic ocean-going vessels.

While most railroad “conductors” refused to reveal their methods, Coffin and Still kept extensive notes on their activities for the underground network and chronicled them in 700-page memoirs. The memoirs were published in the 1870s, but were largely forgotten “in part because of their daunting length.” said George Hendrick, an emeritus professor of English at the UI. Hendricks searched for the authors’ manuscripts and notebooks but never found them.

The Coffin and Still selections in “Fleeing for Freedom” are rich not only because they include narrative histories of slaves and first-hand accounts of the strategies, tactics and dangers of the Underground Railroad, but because they also include remarkable documents of the era, including court proceedings, letters, slave’s letters and newspapers articles and advertisements.

– Andrea Lyn, News Bureau
www.news.uiuc.edu/news/04/0213under.html

Help for current, future higher ed administrators

Dedicated to the leaders of the nation’s colleges and universities, “Career Aspirations & Expeditions: Advancing Your Career in Higher Education” is designed to help aspiring administrators look into higher education and current administrators advance their careers. Published by Stipes Publishing of Champaign, Illinois, the book was written after participants in the authors’ workshops urged them to share their career-shaping strategies with a larger audience.

The book begins by asking the reader to fill out a “Values, Stories and Questions” chart by listing personal values and examples of them enacted in the reader’s life. This chart is the foundation for the rest of the book, which walks its reader through portfolio-building, when and how to make career-changing decisions, selecting references, covering letters, interviewing and negotiating the details of a new job, and how to effectively use a career consultant.

In emphasizing the importance of personal values, Martin and Bloom focus in the effect of career change and advancement on the reader’s family, stressing each decision should be made with them in mind. The importance of one’s personal life is a strong theme in the text as the book tries to convince any mind the reader to make family a priority. There also is a chapter that adresses women and minorities and the obstacles they face. They discuss discrimination, mentors and patience among other things as well as being a woman or minority fits into the rest of the book’s teachings.

Included in the book are examples of cover letters and curricula vitae, an appendix of nationwide leadership opportunities and an example of a negotiation agreement. It’s in straightforward, direct ways like this that the book truly helps to cover every major facet of mobilizing oneself in the world of higher education administration.

– John Loos, News Bureau
www.stipes.com

job market

April 4, 2004

Academic Human Resources • Suite 420, 807 S. Wright St., MC330 • 333-6747
Academic Human Resources maintains listings of academic professional and faculty member positions that can be reviewed during regular business hours or online. For faculty and access employment opportunities, www.ahr.uiuc.edu/jobs/index.asp Current UI employees and students can receive email notification of open positions by subscribing to the academic jobs listserve. www.ahr.uiuc.edu/W2/jobs

Personnel Services • MC 652 • 523-1201
The Personnel Services Office provides information about staff employment online at www.peo.uiuc.edu. Paper employment applications or paper civil service exam requests are no longer accepted by PSO. To complete an online employment application and to submit an exam request, visit the online Employment Center.

March 4, 2004

Inside Illinois
By Shalita Forrest  
Assistant Editor

B ruce Litchfield, a professor of agricultural psychology at the University of Illinois, is being honored at the Annual Faculty Retreat for Active Learning Feb. 12 at the Illini Union.

The Teaching Advancement Board selected Litchfield and Thomas Schwandt as its Distinguished Teacher/Scholar for the 2003-2004 academic year, an honor to their curricula vitae: University Distinguished Teacher/ Scholar.

Litchfield will be developing a set of online instructional modules that will guide LINC participants and students from across campus in exploring concepts such as project management, leadership and the missions and needs of nonprofit organizations.

With the support of Provost Richard Herman and then Associate Provost Kayrh Mangeldorff, Litchfield initiated LINC; an interdisciplinary, project-based service-learning course that is now in its fifth pilot semester.

The course engages teams of up to 20 students with organizations or collaborative projects that address complex, longstanding social issues. Participating organizations include the TIMES Center; the East St. Louis Action Research Project; Cunningham Children’s Home; Swanw School; Habitat for Humanity, both the local affiliate and the international organization Global Community Village, which is based in Americas, Ga.; and North South University in Bangladesh.

The LINC course is far more than an opportunity for students to get out of the classroom and face during their careers. The course is open to all undergraduate and graduate students.

Exemplary teaching Thomas Schwandt, professor of educational psychology, was named a 2003-04 Distinguished Teacher/Scholar.

Throughout the program, administered by the Teaching Advancement Board and the Office of the Provost, Litchfield is researching collaborative partnerships and seminars at the University of Illinois at Chicago, in the program under the sponsorship of the American Evaluation Association.

Although Thomas Schwandt was named a Univer- sity Scholar in 1986, Litchfield has initiated several programs aimed at enhancing professional judgment and foster critical thinking, but Schwandt is curious how academic programs in practice fields such as teaching, social work and urban planning cultivate sound judgment in their students and which methods and dispositions they use. Schwandt also wants to explore whether professional judgment is practice- or discipline-specific or if the skills and dispositions have cross-disciplinary commonalities and can be transferred to other sectors.

“Fear that professional judgment and practical wisdom are in danger of being eclipsed by the growing concern with evidence-based and science-based practice,” Schwandt said. “One can legitimately read the science-based practice movement as an effort to make practice practitioner-proof, to devalue practical rationality by making scientific and technical rationality normative for practice.”

Schwandt’s research interests include examining issues at the intersection of moral-political and social scientific discourses and the philosophical foundations of interpretive/qualitative inquiry. In 2002, Schwandt received the Paul F. Lazarsfeld Award for contributions to evaluation theory from the American Evaluation Association.

In addition to his faculty appointment in the College of Education, Schwandt is a visiting lecturer in the Department of Management, Policy and Philos- ophy at the Copenhagen Business School, Denmark.

Schwandt also is spearheading the Carnegie Initiative on the Doctorate planning committee in the College of Education, a five-year project aimed at improving doctoral education at American universities. The UI’s department of educational, policy and philos- ophy was one of 14 college/school units in the country selected to participate in the program.

The College of Education named Schwandt a Distinguished Senior College Scholar for the academic year 2002-2003, an honor bestowed on select faculty members whose volume of work and quality of scholarship influence educational practices and advance the field of education.

Schwandt has written, co-written and edited eight books or monographs, 17 book chapters and 29 refereed journal articles.

Nominations for 2004-2005 Distinguished Teacher/Scholars due April 2

Nominations for the Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Program sponsored by the Teaching Advancement Board and the Office of the Provost, are due April 2. Applications for the program are due April 19.

The Distinguished Teacher/Scholar program honors and supports outstanding instructors who will take an active role in promoting learning on the UI campus.

For more information, go to www.provost.uiuc.edu/ departments/tab/distcall.html.

Two Distinguished Teacher/Scholars recognized

Enhancing learning (Bruce Litchfield, professor of agricultural engineering, is one of the 2003-04 Distinguished Teacher/Scholars. The annual program recognizes exemplary teachers and supports projects that envision to enhance student learning and pedagogy on campus. Litchfield is developing instructional modules for community-based learning courses.

Adapted from a story in Insideillinois March 4, 2004

As a Distinguished Teacher/ Scholar, Litchfield plans to continue his experience with Learning in Community (LINC), the community-based learning program he founded on campus, to provide a foundation for faculty members who want to integrate community-based learning into their courses.

Accumulate college credits for doing volunteer work. The concepts and skills that students instill through working on complicated issues with a diverse group of people prepares them for the types of issues and challenges they will face during their careers.

The course is open to all undergraduates and each student team is mentored by a faculty member or graduate assistant.

Litchfield said that students enjoy the opportunity to develop theoretical, classroom-based learning and work with peers from a variety of backgrounds and ma- jors as they apply their knowledge to complex problems.

Their first reaction is, ‘This is very different,’ and it takes some

Although the Distinguished Teacher/Scholar program honors carry the designation with them throughout their UI careers. A complete list of UI’s Distinguished Teacher/Scholars since the program began in 1990:

- Philip Buriak  
- O. Vernon Burton  
- Paul F. Diehl  
- James A. Gentry  
- Bruce Litchfield*  
- Michael C. Lusi  
- Shelly J. Schmidt  
- Thomas Schwandt*  
- Linda C. Smith  
- Joseph C. Squier  

* appointed this year

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EXERCISE. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
2 percent.
Previously, Kramer and colleagues had documented that aging adults do better cognitively if they are physically active than older people contain more white and gray matter.
The new study—the first involving an exercise intervention in human subjects along with state-of-the-art neuroimaging—focused on actual changes in brain function and the capability of previously non-active aging adults to improve their ability to ignore distractions. It ties brain changes to cognitive changes, Kramer said.
“We continue to find a number of cognitive benefits in the aerobic group that are very consistent with results found in the animal literature,” he said. “The brain circuits that underlie our ability to think—in this case to attend selectively to information in the environment—can change in a way that is conducive to better performance on tasks as a result of fitness. The kinds of tasks that we explored are similar to those encountered in real world situations such as driving a vehicle or any endeavor that requires a person to pay attention despite distractions.”

Results of aerobic-intervention programs in rats and mice regularly show biochemical changes, particularly in the production of a molecule known as brain-derived neurotropin factor, which serves to protect the brain and increase the connections between neurons and promote neurogenesis, he said.
The new paper looked at brain function involving gradually increasing periods of aerobic exercise for online version 
Ad removed for online version
By Andrea Lynn

March 4, 2004

Insidelines

Controlling material structure at nanoscale makes better thermal insulator

By James E. Kloppel

News Bureau Staff Writer

University students’ research projects explore their own university

“Closed look

Students, the consumers of education, may be uniquely qualified to evaluate how well a university is doing its job, according to Nancy Abelmann (right), professor of anthropology, and colleagues William Kelleher (left), professor of anthropology, and Peter Mortensen, professor of English, are inviting undergradu-

ate students, particularly those in the social sciences and the humanities, to design and conduct ethnographic research projects on various facets of the university. The initiative is organized to bring to undergraduates a “real benefit” of attending a large research university: the chance to do research that can be evaluated by faculty and peers and used by others.

The directors of the Ethnography of the University (EOTU) say they want student partici-

pants to understand that they, like students everywhere, have entered a university that has been “presenting and representing it-

SELFIlinois

self to others.” Ortegón said. “By making the individual layers only tens of a nanometer thick, we are able to control the thermal conductivity by changing the material properties of each of the layers,” Cahill said. “We were surprised to find that our thermal conductivity was not dominated by the atomic structure of the materials, but rather by the overall design of the nanolaminate. This suggests that we could use the nanolaminate design to control thermal conductivity at the nanoscale.”

The nanolaminates using a technique called time-domain thermoreflectance.

Thermal insulator Using a technique called time-domain thermoreflectance, graduate student Ruxandar Custescu is measuring the thermal conductivity of the thin-film nanolaminates synthesized in the lab of David Cahill, professor of materials science and engineering.

“Nanotubes do not couple well ther-

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The National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy funded the work.

CONTROLING MATERIAL STRUCTURE AT NANOSCALE MAKES BETTER THERMAL INSULATOR

By Andrea Lynn

March 4, 2004

Insidelines

Undergraduate students have been conducting research at U.S. universities for a long time but what happens when they are encouraged to do research on universities, particularly on their own? UI students and faculty members are working to discover how the an-

swer— or answers—to that intriguing ques-

tion, thanks to a new research and teaching effort, the Ethnography of the University (EOTU).

Last fall, EOTU faculty members began inviting undergraduate students, especially those in the social sciences and humani-

ties, to design university-related projects and to take part in a study of the university, giving students a chance to encircle them,” hoping to capture both “the
textual data and the analysis. Indeed, the project offers seasoned student researchers the unique opportunity to make a difference with their expertise and analysis. Indeed, the Ethnography of the University at large is committed to just this, Abelmann said: “student researchers making a difference.”

Students, the consumers of education, may be uniquely qualified to evaluate how well a university is doing its job, according to Nancy Abelmann (right), professor of anthropology, and colleagues William Kelleher (left), professor of anthropology, and Peter Mortensen, professor of English, are inviting undergradu-

ate students, particularly those in the social sciences and the humanities, to design and conduct ethnographic research projects on various facets of the university. The initiative is organized to bring to undergraduates a “real benefit” of attending a large research university: the chance to do research that can be evaluated by faculty and peers and used by others.

The directors of the Ethnography of the University (EOTU) say they want student partici-

pants to understand that they, like students everywhere, have entered a university that has been “presenting and representing it-

self to others.” Ortegón said. “By making the individual layers only tens of a nanometer thick, we are able to control the thermal conductivity by changing the material properties of each of the layers,” Cahill said. “We were surprised to find that our thermal conductivity was not dominated by the atomic structure of the materials, but rather by the overall design of the nanolaminate. This suggests that we could use the nanolaminate design to control thermal conductivity at the nanoscale.”

The nanolaminates using a technique called time-domain thermoreflectance.

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DISTANCE LEARNING, FROM PAGE 1

Continuing Education. The Committee on Extended Education and External Degrees, the preliminary evaluative committee, recently re-evaluates programs at five-year intervals.

“We wanted to make sure that the degree programs got online (convoyed) the same quality and accreditation they would get if they were here on campus,” said Laura Miller, interim coordinator of online programs, about the College of Engineering’s programs. To that end, the college records and digitizes faculty meetings and course-based lectures, then streams them over the Internet to its distance-education students.

Since inception in 1998, Engineering Online has certified 117 degrees; it has also awarded 15 certificates since implementing its certificate program in 2001.

“Students in the programs usually cannot come to campus, so they’re very excited about the opportunity to get a degree from a top-ranked institution without actually having to be here,” Miller said. “They really like being able to watch their lecture at 2 a.m. if need be. The feedback that I’m ally like being able to watch their lecture at

Toxin combination common in fish could impair motor skills

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Pups of female rats exposed to a combination of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and methylmercury (MeHg) slip and fall more often trying to maneuver on a rotating rod than do pups from non-exposed moms, scientists say.

The findings, published in the February issue of the journal Toxicological Sciences, come from a study focusing on the effects of combined exposure of the two commonly found environmental contaminants on motor function driven by the cerebellum.

“Because people are exposed to these toxicants by eating fish taken from ecosystems where these chemicals accumulate, our findings suggest that we should seriously consider the possible impact of their additive toxic effects on human health,” said Susan L. Schantz, a UI professor of veterinary biosciences.

Previous laboratory studies had suggested that the two chemicals act together to impair nervous system function. A study in February’s issue of the Journal of Pediatric

The research was done for the federally funded FRIENDS Children’s Environmental Health Center, a five-institution consortium based at the College of Veterinary Medicine at Illinois. Schantz is director of FRIENDS (Fox River Environmental and Diet Study), which is studying the effects of exposure to toxicants in fish being eaten in large quantities by Lao and Hmong refugees in Green Bay and Appleton, Wis.

In the study, female rats were exposed to just PCBs or just MeHg or to both chemicals, beginning four weeks before breeding and ending when their pups were weaned. See FISH TOXINS, PAGE 12.
Declarer Yourself! March 9

Declaration of Independence on display

The 2004 Declarer Yourself Campaign will be on the UI campus from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 9 in the Courtyard Café and Pine Lounge in the Illini Union.

The campaign is a non-profit, non-partisan campaign to energize young voters to register and vote in the 2004 election. During the Declarer Yourself campaign, a Declaration of Independence will be on display in the Pine Lounge, along with voter registration, touch-screen voting booths, giveaways and the chance for students to participate in a video contest.

There will be a spoken word show by the Declarer Yourself Poets and DJ J. Period, with messages about activism, voting in a democracy and the empowerment of a new generation. Former cast members from MTV’s “The Real World” and “Road Rules” will host the event.

Declarer Yourself is a one-year voter campaign and the current campaign is for the Declarer Yourself Indepen- dence Road Trip. The 50-city, cross-country tour of the Declaration of Independence and multimedia exhibit focuses on the youth relevance of the historic document.

March ALLY Meeting

Bridging the gap in the gay movement

Lydia Khuri, assistant coordinator for the Program on Intergroup Relations, will lead a discussion on “Bridging the Gap between Men and Women in the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Movement” at the March Ally meeting.

The meeting will take place at noon March 5 in Room 217 of the Illini Union. The ALLY Network works to help the development of all students regarding issues of sexual orientation and to improve the experience of LGBT students.

Center for African Studies

March ‘Meet the Author’ series

Throughout March, the Center for African Studies will host a “Meet the Author” series with three UI faculty authors who have written important studies. Each event will be from noon-1 p.m. in the Author’s Corner, second floor of the Illini Union Bookstore.

An Almut Lentsch, professor of gender and women’s studies, will discuss “The After Life is Where We Come From” (University of Chicago Press), on March 10. The book compares the childrearing practices of the Beng people of West Africa with the practices of Euro-American parents, and explores the effect culture has on how people rear children.

On March 17, Kwaku Kotang, professor of English, will discuss “Writing Ghana, Imagining Africa: Nation and African Modernity” (University of Rochester Press). His book focuses on Africa’s relations with modernity and the African nationalist theory by confronting the concept of “the African nation” and examining writings of Ghanaian intellectuals from the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

On March 24, professor of sociology, will discuss “Bringing the Empire Home” (University of Chicago Press). Magubane’s book tracks the colonial im- or home. It chronicles his life as a formative period in the nation’s development.

“How did South Africans become black?” she also looks at the stereotypes that begat a capitalist class and gender hierarchies in England and subhuman treatment of blacks in South Africa and considers how marginalized groups of both countries responded to these racial representations. For more information, go to www.afrst.uiuc.edu or call the Center for African Studies at 244-9927.

David C. Baum Lecture

Paradix of civil rights advances discussed

David Rudovsky, senior fellow at the University of Pennsylvania Law School, will deliver the spring lecture in the David C. Baum Memorial Lecture Series on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights. His presentation, “Civil Rights Litigation: The Paradix of Rights Without Remedies,” will begin at 4 p.m. March 11 in the Max L. Rowe Auditorium at 1102 S. Sixth St.

The lecture will address civil rights law since the landmark 1953 Supreme Court decision in Brown v. Board of Education. Rudovsky notes how controversies and the Court have expanded civil rights and liberties during the last 50 years, both institutions also have restricted or eliminated liberties and civil rights. His lecture is free and open to the public.

WILL TV rebroadcast

Remembering the music of World War II

Dan Pernino and some of his fellow musicians from the band Medicare 7, 8 or 9 join forces to present an evening of music in rebroadcast of “Remembering the Music of World War II” on WILL TV at 7 p.m. March 9.

Pernino served in the Southwest Pacific at the end of the war and was recruited to put together a band to entertain troops. Music played an important morale role in all wars,” Pernino said. “Soldiers were just starving for music.”

Military service veterans John Bromley (drums), Paul Karthaus (valve trombone), and John O’Connor (cornet) join Pernino on saxophone in a remembrance of the music that bolstered the troops. Vocalists Ronald Hedlund and Dona Vernette and an ensemble from The Chordale, under the direction of Jody Buley, perform “I’ll Be Seeing You,” “Jolting Joe DiMaggio,” “As Time Goes By” and “America the Beautiful,” among others.

Also performing with the band are Bill French (piano), Carl Johnson (clarinet and sax) and Josh Walden (string bass).

Personnel Services Office

Employee, dependent scholarships

Applications for Civil Service Employees and Dependent Students are available electronically at the Personnel Services Office home page, www.pso.uiuc.edu. Hard copies are available at the Personnel Services Office, 1321 S. Sixth St. Recipients must be students at UIUC.

In addition, a hard copy scholarship is available and applications can be obtained from Civil Service representatives Barney Perrino, Carl Johnson (clarinet and sax) and Josh Walden (string bass).

Personnel Services Office

Technology showcased March 12-13

Wild and wacky Rube Goldberg machines, robots fighting for possession of wooden blocks and more than 120 other fun-filled exhibits are among the attractions awaiting visitors to the 84th annual Engineering Open House at the UI.

The event, organized by students in the Engineering Council at Illinois, will take place from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m., March 12 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 13. The Illinois Engineering Open House is one of the largest technological showcases in the nation, with an estimated 10,000 visitors each year. This year’s theme – “Engineering Ingenuity” – emphasizes the creative process behind engineering.

A major highlight will be the 17th annual W.J. “Jerry” Sanders Creative Design Competition. In this year’s competition, student-built, remote-controlled vehicles will fight for possession of puzzle-like wooden blocks and arrange them to make a square. Approximately 24 teams will compete in the contest, which will be held both days in the Ken- ny Gynnasium Annex.

As in past years, food and entertainment – featuring local talent – will be located in “Area 51!” at the south end of the Engineering Quad. Student-led tours, highlighting some of the exhibits, will begin at approximately 30 minutes, will leave from Area 51.

Guide visitors containing a campus map and descrip- tion of the activities and exhibits will be available at the EOH headquarters booth in the Kenney Gymnasm Annex. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information, go to http://eoh.cen.uiuc.edu.

Singing out

In Concert With the Amasong Chorus

On March 30, Zine Magubane, professor of sociology, will be the guest conductor at the annual spring guest artist’s concert. The chorus, “The Amasong Chorus: Singing Out” also will be shown nationally on the PBS program “Independent Lens” on June 15.

The concert was the last performance by the chorus under the direction of Amasong founder Kristina Bowers. The documentaries of its king, the PBS program “In concert With the Amasong Chorus” will be broadcast on WILL-TV at 9 p.m. March 5. Following the concert, at 9:40 p.m., the station will broadcast Rosemstein’s docu- mentary about the lesbian/feminist chorus, “The Amasong Chorus: Singing Out.” It also will be shown on the PBS program “Independent Lens” on June 15.

Secretariat: seeks nominations

Office professional of the year

The Secretariat is seeking nominations for its 12th an- nual Office Professional of the Year award. To be eligible, nominees must have been a member of The Secretariat dur- ing the past year. The winner will be announced at an April 21 awards luncheon.

Nomination guidelines and forms are available at www2.uiuc.edu/ro/secretariat/OPTY_04.doc. Completed nomination forms should be submitted by March 17 to Debbie Kemphues, 204 Coble Hall, MC-322. Spurlock Museum

A ‘really big’ fund-raising auction

“The Hippo Auction,” benefiting the Spurlock Museum, will be held from 5:30-10 p.m. March 14 at the university’s new hippo. Other auction items include Asian carpets; dinners at local restaurants; a weekend B&B experience in San Diego; collectable art and jewelry; merchandise gift certificates; a catered Scandinavian dinner for eight; and hotel accommodation at Starved Rock State Park.

The annual auction is the major fund-raising event for the Spurlock Museum.
March 4, 2004

BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

the guild, which was founded in 1989.
At 5:30 p.m., auction items can be viewed and silent auction bidding begins. The inventive former restaurant owner, “Chef Jean Louis,” now head chef of the UI’s catering department, has created a champagne buffet menu for the occasion. Auction tickets are $35 per person. Sponsorships are $100 per person and each patron’s contribution is $250. For ticket information or to donate auction items, call Nina Lewis, 351-5940, or Robin Fossom, 333-7344.

IELP

Foreign language instruction offered
Online registrations for this year’s Intensive Foreign Language Instruction Program are now being accepted at www.ips.uiuc.edu/itc/ielp.html. The program offers classes in Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Korean, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Instruction runs May 17 through June 4, with classes meeting from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday. No classes will meet on Memorial Day, May 31.

Classes are open to current and retired employees of the UI (including graduate assistants) for $50, and to the general public for a fee of $75. Children under the age of 18 are not eligible to participate. No academic credit is given for instruction. Registration is accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis; certain languages and levels tend to fill quickly. For more information, contact Tim Barnes, tbarnes@uiuc.edu or 333-1990.

Inner Voices

Social Issues Theatre examines HIV/AIDS
Performances will be at 8 p.m. March 12 and 13 at the Aarmaey Fine Theatre, at 8 p.m. March 16 at the Florida Avenue Recreation Hall, and at 7 p.m. March 17 in the south recreation room of Allen Hall. A discussion with the audience follows. The performances are free and open to the public. For more information, call 244-5919.

Creative Writing

Art and Academic Life:  Faith, Ritual and Postnational Protest at U.S.-Mexico Border
Award-winning sociologist Pierrette Hon-dagneu-Sotelo, professor of sociology at the University of Texas at Austin, will present “Art and Academic Life:  Faith, Ritual and Postnational Protest at U.S.-Mexico Border,” sponsored by the university’s Women and Gender Studies Program. The symposium begins at 10 a.m. in 101 International Cultural Communication. For more information, visit the ARUPLA Web site at www.arch.uiuc.edu/openhouse.

Cultural Talk

Psychology, culture and politics featured
This year’s annual “Cultural Talk” at the UI will feature Chancellor Nancy Cantor; Jesse Delia, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker. The three will grapple with a range of issues relating to psychology, culture and politics beginning at 7:30 p.m. March 9 in the Colwell Playhouse of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Urbana.

The event, which is free and open to the public, requires advance tickets. Topics include the fundamental differences between men and women, the psychological underpinnings of violence and the role of the creative arts in American culture.

Cantor, the Johnstone Family Professor of Psychology at Harvard, is a prize-winning author who frequently writes for the popular press on subjects ranging from politically correct language to the genetic enhancement of human beings.

By human security we mean people’s ability to have a secure income, safety, health, access to education, freedom and dignity to live the life of their choice.” Summerfield said. “Thus, human security is freedom from want, freedom from fear and freedom to take action on one’s own behalf.”

(inner voice)

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CALENDAR

Wednesday, April 1

Meet the Author Series: Alma Adkins. Noon-5 p.m. Smith Hall.

Thursday, April 2

Symphoniae Sacrae: 17th Century Music. 3 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Friday, April 3


Saturday, April 4

Meet the Author Series: Patrizia Metzler, conductor. 5 p.m. 62 Krannert Art Museum.

Sunday, April 5

IPRH Film Series: "Do the Right Thing." Screening starts at 5 p.m. auditorium.

Monday, April 6

 diner: Tours: Japan House reservations, 333-0690; walk-ins welcome. Tours of the University Ave., Urbana. Phone 244-5312.

Tuesday, April 7

Arboretum Tours

Wednesday, April 8

"New Acquisitions: Carl Sandburg's America." 10 a.m. Rare Book and Special Collections Library, Spurlock Museum.

Thursday, April 9

Meet the Author Series: Patricia Hussey, writer. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign.

Friday, April 10

Meet the Author Series: Mary Lou Myers. Noon-5 p.m. Smith Hall.

Saturday, April 11


Sunday, April 12

Meet the Author Series: "Glorious Times". 7 p.m. Beckman Institute Cafe. "Glorious Times." Monday through Saturday.

Monday, April 13


Tuesday, April 14

Meet the Author Series: "Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Wednesday, April 15

Tuesday, April 14

"Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Wednesday, April 15

Meet the Author Series: Alma Gotthlieb. Noon. Author’s corner, second floor, Illinois Union

Thursday, April 16

International Coffee Hour. 2-4 p.m. Center on Democratic and Gender in Global Perspectives. Meet the Author Series: Kwan, Koong. Noon. Author’s corner, second floor, Illinois Union Bookstore. African Studies

Friday, April 17

Travel Adventure Series: "The American Indian Center." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Saturday, April 18

Tuesday, April 14


Wednesday, April 16

Meet the Author Series: Alma Gotthlieb. Noon. Author’s corner, second floor, Illinois Union

Thursday, April 16

International Coffee Hour. German. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign.

Friday, April 17

Annual Engineering Open House. 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign.

Saturday, April 18

Meet the Author Series: "The American Indian Center." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Sunday, April 19

Meet the Author Series: "Bach's Mass in B minor." 7 p.m. Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, 510 S. Wright St., Champaign.

Monday, April 20

Meet the Author Series: "Constructing Race: The Built Environment, Minimization and Racism in the United States." 8:30 a.m. Faculty Center. Continues through March 6. Center on Democracy in a Multicultural Society and Landscape Architecture, Fine and Applied Arts. 

Tuesday, April 21

"Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Wednesday, April 22

Meet the Author Series: Alma Gotthlieb. Noon. Author’s corner, second floor, Illinois Union

Thursday, April 23

Meet the Author Series: "Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Friday, April 24


Saturday, April 25

Meet the Author Series: "Constructing Race: The Built Environment, Minimization and Racism in the United States." 8:30 a.m. Faculty Center. Continues through March 6. Center on Democracy in a Multicultural Society and Landscape Architecture, Fine and Applied Arts. 

Sunday, April 26

Meet the Author Series: "Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Monday, April 27


Tuesday, April 28

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Wednesday, April 29

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Thursday, April 30

Meet the Author Series: "Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor's Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Friday, May 1

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Monday, May 4

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Tuesday, May 5

"Beyond East and West: Seventeenth Century China." 10 a.m. Visitor’s Center, Allerton Park and Conference Center.

Wednesday, May 6

Meet the Author Series: Alma Gotthlieb. Noon. Author’s corner, second floor, Illinois Union

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Sunday, May 31

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CALENDAR. FROM PAGE 11
1-5 p.m. Third Saturday of the month. For a group tour, 244-9934. Tea Ceremony: 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. 55/person.

Kranert Art Museum
The Fred and Donna Giess Education Center 11 a.m.-1 p.m. Tu-Th; Gift Shop: 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-Sa, 2-4:30 p.m. Su; Paletta Cafe: 8 a.m.-4:30 p.m. M-Sa, 2-4:30 p.m. Su.
Kranert Center for the Performing Arts
Interlude: Open one hour before until after events on performance nights. Wine tastings at 5 p.m. most Thursdays. Intermezzo Cafe: Open 7:30 a.m.-8:30 p.m. on non-performance weekdays; 7:30 a.m. through weekday performances; weekend from 90 minutes before until after performances. Promenade gift shop: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. M-Sa; one hour before until 30 minutes after performances.

Ticket Office: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, and 10 a.m. through first intermission on performance days.

Tours: 3 p.m. daily; meet in main lobby.

KCPA Ticket Office
10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, and 10 a.m. through first intermission on performance days.

Library Tours
Self-guided of main and undergraduate libraries: go to Information Desk (second floor, main Library) or Media Center (undergrad library).

Meet Salesroom
102 Meat Sciences Lab 1-5:30 p.m. Tu & Th; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. F. For price list & specials, 333-3484.

Robert Allerton Park
Open 8 a.m. to dusk daily. “Allerton Legacy” exhibit at Visitors Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 244-10135. Garden tours, 333-2127.

organisations

Classified Employees Association 11-45 a.m.1 p.m. first Thursday monthly. 244-2466 or sbtlin1@uiuc.edu. www2.uiuc.edu/vocesav.

Contra Dancing
www.prairienet.org/contra/ or contra@uiuc.edu.

French Department: Pause Café
5-6 p.m. Thursdays. Espresso Royale, 1117 W. Oregon, Urbana.

Illini Folk Dance Society
8-10 p.m. Tu & Sa, Illini Union. Beginners welcome, 398-6868.

Italian Table
Italian conversation Mondays at noon, Intermezzo Cafe, KCPA. 244-10135.

Lifet ime Fitness Program
7 p.m. M-F. K-F. Kinetology, 244-5983.

Normal Person’s Book Discussion Group

PC User Group
For schedule, call Mark Zinac, 244-1289, or David Harley, 333-5656.

Scandinavian Coffee Hour 4:45 p.m. W. The Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

The Deutsche Konversationsgruppe
1-3 p.m. Wednesday. The Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

Secretariat
11:30 a.m.1 p.m. Third/Wednesday, Illini Union. 333-1574, mdavis@uiuc.edu or www.uiuc.edu/vo/secretariat.

VOICE
Petry and fiction reading. 7:45 p.m. Second Thursday of each month. The Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

Women’s Club
Open to male and female faculty and staff members and spouses. 351-9930, jadynath@uiuc.edu or http://wcc.uiuc.prairienet.org.

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CONTACT DORIS DAHL (dkdahl@uiuc.edu) WITH ADVERTISEMENTS.