Changes to strengthen College of Communications

By Shantha Forest
Assistant Editor

The Department of Central Manage-
ment Services announced May 3 that it
will reopen the bidding process for
health-insurance carriers for the con-
sign fiscal year, which begins July 1,
following an outsourcing of protests by
lawmakers, state employees and other
concerned citizens who were upset to
learn that Health Alliance Medical
Plan would not be available next year. CMS
announced recently its decision not to offer
Health Alliance in FY05 after reviewing
bids from Health Alliance and other in-
surance carriers.

CMS officials agreed to conduct the
bidding process for FY05 health-insur-
ance carriers again but did not indicate a
time frame for that to happen, said James
Davito, director of benefits at the Urbana
campus.

Neither did CMS officials commit to
extending the Health Alliance contract for
a particular period of time, although some
media reports that the contract was being extended for several months,
Davito said.

CMS officials did say that the recent
bidding and selection process had taken
six months’ time. However, they said that
much of that time was preparatory work that would not need to be repeated,
perhaps shortening the time required for
a second round of bidding and selection.
Thousands of UI employees and retirees
remain in limbo, wondering whether
they will be able to remain with their
Health Alliance HMO health plan next
year. Health Alliance, based in Urbana,
provides health-care coverage to about
90,000 state employees, retirees and their
families, including about 7,000 faculty and staff members at the three
UI campuses. Health Alliance has an
exclusive contract with Carle Clinic and
Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana.

People affected by the decision to
drop Health Alliance rallied outside the
state capitol on May 3 prior to a meeting
on health-care-benefit selection by the
House of Representatives State Gov-
ernment Administration Committee. UI
staff attended the committee meeting
to provide information and respond to
questions about the impact of this action
on UI employees.

Davito has communicated to the
state’s Department of Central Manage-
ment Services that this decision is a
concern for many of our employees and
for the University of Illinois, and we
have encouraged a review by CMS of
the decision to drop Health Alliance,”
President James I. Stukel said in a
May 1 e-mail to the campus.

Norman Denzin, chair of the Urbana-
Champaign Senate Committee on Facul-
ty Benefits, had urged people to contact
Health Alliance, Central Management
Services, Gov. Rod Blagojevich and
See HEALTH ALLIANCE, Page 9

Parking improvements, new
decks require rate increase

By Shantha Forest
Assistant Editor

Give ‘em an inch and they may try to
park in it, especially if that inch is in a con-
gested area of the Urbana campus.

And beginning July 1, permission to park in that
spot will cost a bit more, according to new rates
recently announced by the Facilities & Services park-
ing department.

Rates will increase 7.5 percent next fiscal year, to
$370 annually for faculty/staff permits and $312 for school-year student permits.
Permits for departmental/24-hour spaces, evenings and motorcycles will increase as
well, however, charges for bagged meters and day meter tags will remain unchanged,
as will costs for metered parking and park-
ing citations.

Since 1995 faculty/staff permits have increased from $225 to $345, and some faculty members think that is too much,
although campus officials say those rates are barely covering the costs of the parking program and are far lower than motorists pay at peer institutions.

Parking rates on campus have been the
same for the past two fiscal years, despite
recommendations in the parking master plan, which indicated that permits should increase by at least 12.5 percent annu-
ally through 2009 and that metered parking
should be raised to a dollar in order for the
campus to cover operating costs for the
parking program and finance construction of parking decks around campus to meet
the ever-growing demand for parking.

Administration chose not to enact the
parking plan’s recommended rate hikes in
FY03 and FY04 because the campus community
already was feeling the pinch of the state’s lag-
ging economy, said Bob Kelly, director of park-
ing.

However, Kelly said, 7.5 percent increases are unavoidable for FY05 and FY06 to keep pace with rising operating costs,
and the addition of two new parking decks in
central campus and finance construction of the
parking deck just east of the Beckman Institute that is scheduled to open in June.

“Now that we’ve got this deck coming
on board, we’ll pick up a $1.4 million bond debt in FY05 that we didn’t have last year,”
Kelly said. “And even though we will use
some of our reserves to help pay for that,
we’re still going to be short next year.”

The $26 million north campus parking
deck comprises six levels with more than
1,500 rental spaces, including 150 metered
spaces. Negotiations are under way with
various retailers and restaurants to lease
20,000 gross square feet of commercial space on the ground level of the
deck.

“Leasing of those spaces will not only provide much needed services to the north
campus, it will help defray the debt costs
See PARKING, Page 12

Fostering success

The Irwin Academic Services Center
has become an important resource for
the more than 550 student athletes
representing the UI campus.

Campuswide
honors

Awards for excellence in teaching and advising
were presented at the Honors Banquet
on April 26.

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In This Issue

May 6, 2004
Vol. 23, No. 19
**Trustees meet by phone in executive session**

The Executive Committee of the UI Board of Trustees met by phone in executive session on May 6, 2004, in order to assist in the selection of a successor for President B. David Ward. The meeting was called to order at 11:00 a.m. by Trustee Larry S. Thomas, Chair of the Executive Committee, and adjourned at 12:05 p.m. by him.

The Committee discussed the appointment of the search committee to assist in the selection of a successor for President B. David Ward. The Committee authorized the appointment of the following members to the search committee: Trustee L. Max Zyskind, Chair; Trustee Larry S. Thomas; Trustee S. John Pomeroy; Trustee Stephen D. Levey; Trustee Robert L. Davies; Trustee C. David Cianfrone; and Trustee Gary A. Slatkin.

The Committee also received input from the Executive Committee of the University of Illinois at Chicago about their search for a new president.

Trustee Hansa R. Hedlund, Chair of the Committee on Trustee Development and Advancement, reported that she had attended the meeting of the Illinois Association of Universities and Colleges (IAUC) Board of Directors on April 21 and 22 in Champaign-Urbana, IL.

Trustee R. Charles DeWitt, Chair of the Committee on Academic Human Resources, reported that he had attended a meeting of the Committee on Diversity and the Search Committee for the Dean of the School of Law on April 20.

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Center offers services to help student athletes succeed academically

By John Loos

Located in what was once the Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity house, the Irwin Academic Services Center has housed its own version of student counseling through the extensive educational assistance it provides to the approximately 300 student athletes representing the UI. The center promotes academic excellence, health and wellness issues, community outreach and intramural sports.

“The center (provides) an opportunity for our student athletes to have a place where they can get some productive studying done,” said Tom Michael, the assistant athletic director for academic affairs. “We have computer labs here; they can meet their tutors here; we have academic counselors here. And, it gives an opportunity for athletes to intermingle.”

Most of the services the center provides begin with one of its six academic counselors. Those counselors are divided up by sport and, along with advising on class choices and basic schedule-shaping, they interact with a student’s departmental advisor, assist them in finding resources on campus, and setup communication lines between the student and their professors.

“We basically have a liaison between the academic department and advisors and professors,” said Kathy Kaler, a counselor who also serves as the life skills coordinator for the center. “It’s important for these professors to know who the student athletes are, that they care about the classes and that they really want to do well.”

The center is equipped with 45 computers and several study areas designed to give the student athlete an optimal study environment. There also is a career area with information on companies interested in hiring student athletes as well as information on writing resumes and tips for being interviewed. The center places a strong emphasis on helping student athletes find a career upon graduation, Michael said.

While the center opened its doors in 1996, its genesis was in 1994 when the UI purchased the old Kappa Alpha Psi house at 402 E. Armory, a $1.5 million gift from the Irwin Family Foundation intended for the consolidation of all academic services for student athletes.

“It’s been unbelievable what kind of support the Irwin Foundation has been able to give this facility and to provide those services that really help to put them in a position to be successful,” Michael said.

The center also maintains support from the community in the form of professionals who volunteer their time to lead workshops for student athletes. The workshops cover everything from nutrition to time management to financial planning to ballroom dancing or dinner etiquette. Each is designed, through consultation with the student athletes and coaches, to help students learn about a topic that may be pertinent or helpful to them in their post-collegiate careers and lives.

There are also workshops for incoming freshman athletes designed to acclimate them to life as a college athlete. “We’ll cover alcohol and sexual responsibility, budgeting, dealing with the media … anything that we think might help them make a successful transition to the life of a college athlete,” Kaler said.

Another unique feature to the center is the 39-member Student Athlete Advisory Board. With representatives from each of the 19 UI sports, the board typically meets once a month and functions as an outlet for discussion of problems and concerns in the life of a student athlete. This is one direct way that the center strives not to create more pressure in the student athletes’ lives, but to make the necessity oblige a student athlete fun easier to carry.

“There are a lot of demands on the student athlete to begin with and we don’t want to add to that,” said Kaler. “We want to help in their growth and their development while they are here. So it’s really important that they see us as a resource for as long as they want to work with us.”

Not only do the student athletes recognize the center as a helpful resource in their college careers, but they also see it as more than that has been envisaged at its inception. Still the size of a basic fraternity house, a structure that generally houses about 50 people, the center accommodates 550 “members.” This results in study areas and computer terminals filling up rapidly on any night.

“We are tight on space right now and that’s a direct reflection of the number of student athletes using the building,” Michael said. “That’s a great problem to have.”

One unique and self-created side effect of the extensive use the center sees is a distinct camaraderie developed between athletes and teams of different sports. Michael says, “If you are a basketball player in the early ’90s, recognizes such opportunities are created by having all of the student athletes’ academic resources under one roof.”

“New student athlete support system for student athletes at their events,” he said. “It’s not just your small group of teammates you interact with, now you get to know other people in other sports. And I think that’s as important as anything we could provide here.”

Gene that plays key role in replicating viruses halts inflammation

By Jim Bartee

News Bureau Staff Writer

All scientists studying vaccinia virus, a close relative of smallpox, have determined that a gene necessary for virus replication also has a key role in regulating inflammation, a crucial anti-viral immune response of host cells.

The discovery, reported last month in the Journal of Virology, potentially broadens the knowledge base of how all poxviruses cause disease and how they may be restrained by interventions against them, said Joanna L. Skler, an assistant professor of microbiology in the College of Medicine.

“We can find out how the virus evades the immune response and learn more about the signals the virus uses as necessary for replicating within the host cell, then we can figure out how to inhibit them and halt the ‘viral replication,’” she said.

That 911 fear of biomonitoring by means of the deliberate introduction of smallpox, now hypothesized to occur as a new, safer vaccine against the deadly disease, which was eradicated as a naturally occurring danger in 1977. Some U.S. medical workers and military personnel have received vaccinations made with live vaccinia virus, while those who received smallpox normally experience disease complications, including death, are possible among immunocompromised individuals.

The vaccinia virus genome is 97 percent genetically identical to the smallpox genome, making it an ideal model virus to use in the laboratory to understand how smallpox and other dangerous pox viruses function, Skler said.

In their research, Skler and Xiao-Li Jia, a research specialist in microbiology, found that a 5.2kb segment of vaccinia virus DNA containing six genes was responsible for inhibiting a key cellular transcription factor called NF kappa B (NF-κB).

NF-κB serves to turn on or off host cell genes involved in anti-viral immune responses and inflammation.

The researchers then sought to determine what specific genes in the segment inhibit NF-κB activation. To carry out the study, they introduced individual genes from the 5.2kb segment into a mutant virus vector that activates NF-κB.

They infected human and rabbit cell lines with the new recombinant vaccinia and measured NF-κB activity levels. They found that the recombinant viruses containing the introduced K1L gene prevented degradation of the cellular inhibitor of NF-κB, thus inhibiting NF-κB’s ability to induce immune responses.

Since the 1980s it was known that K1L was necessary for vaccinia virus replication. The additional function of K1L, as determined in the new study, suggests that viruses may need to inhibit NF-κB and shut off at crucial times to regulate replication.

Understanding the molecular machinery involved may make it possible to eventually manufacture safer vaccines derived from vaccinia and vaccinia-based vaccines for HIV by specifically manipulating genes, Skler said.

Because the K1L gene inhibited NF-κB activation in numerous cell types, the researchers subsequently have found a second protein that inhibits NF-κB. They are suggesting there may be multiple genes at work, Skler said.

“These viral proteins are present in smallpox, monkey pox and many other pox, and they are very homologous,” she said. “We know how these proteins function, we can start figuring out why smallpox and monkey pox cause disease.”

The Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust of Illinois, Skler said, funded the research.

Academic support

Under the direction of Tom Michael, assistant athletic director of academic affairs, the Irwin Academic Services Center brings together student athletes and counselors from 27 athletic programs at the Urbana-Champaign campus, offering academic support as well as guidance and community outreach.

Balancing act

Eugene Kaler, academic counselor and life skills coordinator for the Division of Health and Fitness Affairs, talks with a student athlete about class choices and basic schedule-shaping, at the Irwin Academic Services Center. Kaler, a former counselor at a community college, said he likes the competitive spirit coach at a community college.

“Now student athletes support other athletes and teams of different sports,” he said. “We’ll cover alcohol and sexual responsibility, budgeting, dealing with the media … anything that we think might help them make a successful transition to the life of a college athlete.”

“Engineering students support other students at their events,” he said. “It’s not just your small group of teammates you interact with, now you get to know other people in other sports. And I think that’s as important as anything we could provide here.”
New Sousa archivist revitalizing collection, planning monthlong festival

By Andrea Lysa
News-Room Staff Writer

The John Philip Sousa collection on campus is in the spotlight this month with the creation of the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music. The new collection is named after the world-renowned composer and conductor of the U.S. Marine Band, who was also a University of Illinois band leader in the early 1900s.

Schwartz is planning to expand the Sousa collection, which already includes material such as Sousa’s scores, compositions, and program books. He hopes to eventually include more documents related to Sousa’s life, such as letters, photographs, and diaries.

The Sousa Archives and Center for American Music will be housed in the Library of Congress and the National Museum of American History. The library and center will include a wide range of materials related to Sousa, including his personal and professional papers.

The collection will be open to the public, and visitors will be able to access the materials online. Additionally, the library and center will host a monthlong celebration of Sousa’s life and work, which will include concerts, lectures, and other events.

In the future, Schwartz hopes to increase the size of the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music to include more materials related to Sousa and other American music. He plans to work with other institutions and organizations to expand the collection and bring Sousa’s legacy to a wider audience.
Faculty and staff members honored for excellence in teaching and advising

The University of Illinois campus last week honored a group of faculty and staff members for excellence in teaching and advising.

The Campus Awards for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching are given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, a $2,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Teaching, a $3,500 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Advising Undergraduate Students is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Advising Undergraduate Students, a $3,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, a $2,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Teaching is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Teaching, a $4,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Human resources and environmental sciences is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Human resources and environmental sciences, a $1,500 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research, a $2,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Research is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Research, a $3,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, a $3,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Advising, a $4,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Advising, a $2,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Advising, a $3,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research Advising, a $2,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Research Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Professional Research Advising, a $3,000 award.

The Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research Advising is given to employees who have demonstrated outstanding teaching ability in the classroom and have made significant contributions to improved instruction, as well as in enhancing teaching and learning on the campus. During the past year, these employees will receive the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Professional Research Advising, a $2,000 award.
Disciplines unite to improve East St. Louis neighborhood

By Melissa Mitchell
Newswise Staff Writer

Although they typically function independently from each other, architects, landscape architects and urban planners sometimes cross paths while engaged in community development or urban renewal projects.

But rarely do they begin working together from the start, according to Lynne Dearborn, a UI architecture professor. “So many of the times I’ve worked for doesn’t work that way,” she said. “Instead, we find things out in the project... things that you thought, ‘That’s great, let’s do that and end up costing more money to resolve.’”

With more cooperation among the different parties early in the process, such cost overruns might be avoided, she said.

Helping students of architecture, landscape architecture and urban and regional planning appreciate how professionals from all three distinct, but interconnected disciplines, can benefit from a more cooperative approach was just one of many lessons to emerge from a course Dearborn co-developed and co-taught with urban and regional planning professor Stacy Harwood and landscape architecture professor Louise Larson. Cheers, too, may be better served by such arrangements, the students learned.

The studio-based course, “Reimagining the Future at the South End Neighborhood,” recently received one of two 2004 Education Honor Awards from the American Institute of Architects. The award was presented at an evening event held by the Association of Collegiate Schools of Architecture earlier this month. Harwood, who co-taught the course with Larson and Dearborn, missed the award ceremony because she was recognized the course as “an exceptional model program to provide service-learning opportunities involving more than one discipline.”

“The South End Neighborhood is the most affected area in the largest city in the northeastern part of Illinois. It has been identified with a number of problems: heavy crime, low income, drug use, drug muggings, sanitation, high unemployment and many other issues,” Harwood said. “So this is a perfect problem for a collaborative study.”

Model homes were constructed in the area, a kindergarten was improved, streets were repaved, trash was removed and trees were planted. The students and residents of the neighborhood worked together to create a report that will be used by city officials to help them make recommendations for improvements. The students also were called upon to determine the feasibility of improving the parks and streets in the area.

The first two goals of the studio-based course, “Evaluating the Future in the South End Neighborhood: To Improve Community-based Technical Assistance to the South End New Development Organizations, with the ultimate goal to produce a neighborhood plan proposal; and to teach university students about community-based design and planning.”

The teaching team developed two primary goals to “provide service-learning to the South End New Development Organizations (SENDO), with the ultimate goal to produce a neighborhood plan proposal; and to teach university students about community-based design and planning.”

The goals were achieved, in part, during class trips to East St. Louis, where students learned the history of the area and saw the differences between the city and the surrounding suburbs. The students also participated in workshops on team building and problem solving. They also met with SENDO members and sought their input.

“The folks involved in SENDO made this project possible,” Harwood said. “We welcomed to our homes and brought them drinks.”

In the end, students from the 2003 class delivered a presentation to the common cold or the disease that serves as a working framework for design. That document notes a “week in progress,” according to Harwood, who said that SENDO and staff researchers have facilitated the transition from planning to implementation. The planning document to identify new projects, some of which are very promising.

Dearborn, Harwood and Larson noted that the students were able to challenge students from different disciplines to think and work outside the lines in a way that would not have been possible otherwise.

The students also were asked to write papers about the course and the students’ community design plan for SENDO is available on the Web at www.arch.uiuc.edu/events/news/ 04_08_04.  

Technique uses humidifier to create nanocomposite materials

By James E. Knippel
News Writer Staff Writer

In what may sound like a project from a high school science fair, scientists are using a household humidifier to create porous spheres a hundred times smaller than a red blood cell. The technique is a new and inexpensive way to chemically modify or infuse water waves, the researchers say.

In the home, ultrasonic technology can be used to humidify air. The high-frequency ultrasound generator – an ordinary household ultrasonic humidifier – produces sound waves, the researchers say.

“Normally, the chemical effects of ultrasound (called sonochemistry) are the result of reactions between gas bubbles that collapse in an otherwise inert liquid,” said John L. Lynn, professor of history, gave the keynote lecture at the annual meeting of the Society for Military History in Washington, D.C., on the topic “Is There Any Value in the Trauma of a Wayward Man?”

Brigitte Paggen Kelly and Jean Thompson, professors of English, have been invited to teach and read at the Italian University’s Writers’ Conference on the Bloomington campus from June 27 to July 2. Kelly will teach poetry workshops while Thompson will lead fiction workshops.

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications was awarded the Dell Centers for Research Excellence Award by computer company Dell Inc. on April 28. Dell’s president and chief operating officer, Kevin Rollins, came to the UI campus to present the award.

Ray S. Kyo Robbins, president of the University of the Year 2005 at the UI Police Department’s awards ceremony. April 30. Acme was honored by his peers who cited him for his outstanding leadership qualities and his ability to inspire those around him.

Other UI award recipients: Markmanship: Officers; William Smoot (first place), Jeff McCracken (second) and George Sandbach (third).

Cecil Coleman Award: Ileana Hamed, health educator, Counseling Center.

Citizen Communications: John Horton, assistant to head, crop science, and Bob Russian.

Community in Policymaking Award: Officers George Sandbach and 552 ACHIEVEMENTS, Page 12

The resulting droplets are carried by a furnace, where the organic part burns away, leaving the oxide nanospheres

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The resulting droplets are carried by a furnace, where the organic part burns away, leaving the oxide nanospheres. These nano part burns away, leaving the oxide nanospheres. These nano
Building Spaces: The $58 million North Campus Parking Deck, located just east of Illinois Avenue along University Avenue, is scheduled to open by early June. The six-level deck adds more than 1,500 parking spaces to the supply on campus.

PARKING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

May 6, 2004

On the deck, in turn, that helps us light rate escalations,” said Thomas Shagay, coordinator of the parking and facilities department at the University. “This is the first time we’ve had a full year of parking rates under the current model, so it’s important to track the data and see how it affects our budget. The parking master plan, which was developed in 2003, will continue to be used to evaluate parking rates at current levels, rejected the implementation of a proximity-based parking program and proposed different rates based on users’ salaries and whether they park in the campus core or at off-site lots. After the assessment was remanded to the faculty benefit committee for clarification. The Senate Committee on Campus Operations presented a resolution, which was amended during debate and ultimately passed.

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MAY 6, 2004

Flash Index of Illinois economy breaks 100 barrier for first time in three years

By Melissa Mitchell

A new economic index for Illinois breaks through its century-old plateau, with a strong showing for the state’s third-quarter results.

“Flash” is now at 100.3, which is above the long-term level, the dividing line between a sluggish and vigorous economy. April’s reading of 100.3 suggests that the Illinois economy is continuing on a stronger path.

The Flash Index is a composite of the state’s economic data, including personal income, employment, and retail sales.

The results are compiled monthly, and they are used by policymakers, researchers, and the general public to make informed decisions about the state’s economic health.

The Flash Index is important because it provides a snapshot of the current state of the economy, allowing policymakers to respond quickly to changes.

The Flash Index is also used by businesses to make strategic decisions about investments and hiring.

The Flash Index is calculated by the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and is published by the Journal of Economic Perspectives.

In the third quarter of 2023, the Flash Index for Illinois was at 100.3, which is above the long-term level, the dividing line between a sluggish and vigorous economy. This is the first time in three years that the Flash Index has exceeded 100.

The Flash Index is composed of several components, including personal income, employment, and retail sales. These components are weighted based on their importance to the overall economy.

Personal income and employment are the most important components, each contributing about 40% of the overall index. Retail sales contribute about 20%.

The Flash Index is calculated using a statistical model that takes into account the most recent data and adjusts for seasonality. This ensures that the index accurately reflects the current state of the economy.

The Flash Index is used by policymakers and researchers to make informed decisions about the state’s economic health.

The Flash Index is calculated monthly and is available for download on the University of Illinois website.

For more information, please visit the Flash Index website at http://www.illinois.edu/flashindex.
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Professor outlines case for media reform

Robert McChesney and other reformers have been talking for years about media politics, but few were listening. In 2003 a system that was created by and run for increased concentration was a principal motive in decision and the challenges they face as young African-American women. The Krannert Center announces 2004-05 performance season

A "Fabled" wave of talent will be cascading down upon the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts with its 2004-05 performance season. Committed to the presenting of international, world-class artists whose creative gifts are extraordinary and whose engagement with the community is vital, Krannert Center’s 2004-05 season features two more performances: Native Americans to be donated May 17 through June 18.

To order tickets:
- By Mail: An offer order form is included in each brochure and may be mailed to the Krannert Center office.
- By Telephone: Call 317-556-6000 and SLP at 515-243-2852. If you are deaf, hard of hearing, or speech-impaired, please call TTY 337-276-2989.
- By Fax: Send order in the following format: Order Number: 9251; First Name: Your Name; Last Name: Last Name; Address: Address; Zip: Zip Code; Phone: Phone Number; Email: Your Email Address; Credit Card Type: Credit Card Type; Credit Card Number: Credit Card Number; Expiration Date: Expiration Date; Your Signature: Your Signature. Please make checks payable to Krannert Center. Check should be sent to Krannert Center, 505 E. Indiana Ave., Bloomington, IN 47408.

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Friday, June 4, 2004

Music

6 Thursday
Master of Musical Arts Recital: Sara Koons, oboe. 5 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital: Jooseok Kim, piano. 7 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital: Aaron Brizuela, trom- pet, and Kyle Adelinin, horn. 7:30 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

8 Friday

Master of Music Recital. Tracey Ford, soprano. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital: Maureen Marchik, violin. 7:30 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Saturday
Superstate Concert Band Festival. Peter Griffin, coordi- nator. 8 a.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. School of Music.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital: Delta Marsen, soprano. 5:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Master of Music Recital. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

7 Tuesday
Master of Music Recital. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Master of Musical Arts Recital: Andrew Watkins, percussion. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Wednesday
Master of Music Recital. Robert McKean, conductor. 4 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Graduate String Quartet. Diana Flesser, coordinator. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Thursday
Master of Music Recital. Yoon-Shin Yoon, piano. 5 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Master of Music Recital. Cristin Laxand, violin. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

23 Sunday
Concert of a 17th Century Italian Oratorio. 7:30 p.m. McKinley Presbyterian Church, 805 S. Fifth St. Champaign. Baroque Artists of Champaign-Urbana.

Films

Friday
"Son of the Bride" (Argen- tina). 7:47 p.m. Laffer Theater, University of Illinois, Champaign. New International Film Series.

Sports

Saturday
Tickets on sale today, go to www.fightingillini.com.

Theatre

2 Saturday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. U. of I. Main Library/Underground.

6 Tuesday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

7 Tuesday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

20 Friday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

Theatre

23 Sunday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

24 Monday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

28 Friday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

Food

23 Sunday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

25 Tuesday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

30 Saturday
Open House. 12 noon-4 p.m. Main Library.

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