Going high tech

New animal facilities will benefit researchers

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Right on the heels of celebrating a century of agricultural research, the Urbana campus dedicated animal facilities on the South Farms that administrators and faculty members hope will keep Illinois at the forefront of agricultural research and teaching well into another century.

The campus’s new beef and sheep units were dedicated at a ceremony on Sept. 1, just a little more than a year after the groundbreaking. The $10 million complex includes eight cattle barns, a sheep barn, an office building, a feed mixing unit and a house for students to live.

The new barns, some of which are still under construction but slated for completion during the next several weeks, will be home to approximately the same number of cattle (600-650) but slightly fewer sheep (approximately 100 total) than the old facilities. Although the new cattle and sheep units, which comprise 53,000 sq. ft. and 19,000 sq. ft. respectively, are significantly larger than the old facilities, they will require less manual labor, said Neil Merchen, head of the department of animal sciences.

“The types of technology that we have available now for housing the animals, handling the manure and feeding the animals are a little bit different now than they were in 1920,” Merchen said. “The fact is, even though the technologies are available now to do a lot of those things with a lot less hands-on effort, it’s very difficult to implement that technology in facilities that were designed 80-plus years ago.”

As part of a sustainable agriculture initiative, the complex features a $2 million manure-handling system that is designed to constrain odor, a concern raised by neighboring homeowners when the university announced plans to move the South Farms from the original site along St. Mary’s Road to the new site near South Race Street and Old Church Road in Urbana.

Slotted flooring in the barns will allow waste to drop through into pools of water beneath the buildings that will sweep it to enclosed storage tanks. The solids and liquids will be allowed to settle and be removed from the area’s constituents.

The beef and sheep units at the South Farms’ new location in southwest Urbana (photo inset) contain state-of-the-art systems for feeding animals and removing waste. A computerized system will enable Larry Berger, a professor of ruminant nutrition in the department of animal sciences, above, and other researchers to collect precise data on individual animals’ feed consumption and how different kinds affect growth rates.

Study suggests stress of task determines if estrogen helps cognition

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Does estrogen help cognition? Many women ponder that question as a quality-of-life issue while deciding on estrogen therapy since it has been linked to potential disease complications. Now, a new UI study suggests that the stress of any given task at least partially determines if hormones will help the mind.

Reporting in the August issue of Behavioral Neuroscience, four researchers show the introduction of a single stressor – water temperature – into a water maze prompted opposite responses among female rats with either high or low levels of estrogen and progesterone.

“Water temperature totally reversed who did better,” said Janice M. Juraska, a professor of psychology and of neuroscience. “Proestrous rats, which have high hormone levels, did better when the water was warm, presumably because they were less stressed. Estrous rats did better when the water was cold, presumably because they are not as prone to get stressed during this time.”

Estrous rats are fertile and ready to mate, while estrous rats have low hormone levels and won’t mate. For the study – funded by a grant to Juraska from the National Science Foundation – 44 female rats were divided into four groups. The two groups of rats in proestrus and the two groups in estrus had to learn the route and swim to a sub-

High tech

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Holonyak was born in Urbana, Illinois, in 1927, where he graduated from the University of Illinois in 1948. He earned his Ph.D. in physics in 1951 at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. After serving in the Korean War, Holonyak joined the faculty at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 1952. He became a professor in 1973 and retired in 2001. Holonyak was a pioneer in the development of semiconductor devices and a leader in the field of silicon electronics. He was a key contributor to the development of the first practical light-emitting diode, which was later commercialized as a key component of solid-state lighting.

Holonyak was a prolific inventor, with over 200 patents to his name. He was a member of many professional societies, including the American Physical Society and the Materials Research Society. He was also a member of the National Academy of Engineering and the National Academy of Sciences. Holonyak received numerous awards for his contributions to the field of electronics, including the National Medal of Science and the IEEE Edison Medal. He was also a recipient of the Order of Merit of the German Federal Republic.

Holonyak was a dedicated teacher and mentor, and he mentored many students who went on to become leaders in their own right. One of his most famous students was Brian bowls of the University of Illinois, who later became a professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Holonyak also mentored many other students who went on to make significant contributions to the field of electronics.

Holonyak was a humble and modest man, who was known for his dedication to research and his commitment to education. He was a devoted family man and enjoyed spending time with his family. He was also an avid gardener and enjoyed spending time in his garden.

Holonyak is survived by his wife, Patricia, and his daughter, Melissa Mitchell. He is also survived by his son, Nick Holonyak, Jr., and his daughter, Melissa Mitchell. He is also survived by his son, Nick Holonyak, Jr., and his daughter, Melissa Mitchell.
‘Land ethic’ linked to attitudes of use vs. conservation

By Melissa Mitchell

Stewart believes that everybody from the real-estate marketing boards to the SUV-driving mall shopper has a stake in the ‘land ethic’ whether they know it or not.

Most people, however, “acquire” the dominant cultural ethic, which tells us that in the urban, workaday world we have no connection to nature,” said Stewart, a UI professor of leisure studies. That connection is there, he maintains, and is reflected in individual lifestyle choices. For example, a person’s choice of transportation to and from work can indicate his or her land ethic. “Taking mass transit or bicycling has less impact on the earth’s resources compared to driving alone in a car,” Stewart said.

In reality, people’s beliefs about the right to interact with nature vary based on their personal and cultural values: “Land ethic” is a complex, idiosyncratic value about the relationship between communities and the natural world that is reflected in one’s lifestyle choices and behaviors.

Midewin planning process in 2000-01. The participants were given disposable cameras and instructed to photograph places, people and environments that were important to them. After the photos were processed, participants discussed their images during one-on-one, on-site interviews with the researchers. Photos included images of churches and other community gathering spots, festival, wildflowers, backyard gardens, canals and adjacent lands, and even a raccoon and a turkey. After interviews were completed, Stewart examined the photos in conjunction with text from the transcribed interviews and served as the study’s primary analyst.

Midewin National Tallgrass Prairie located on the site of the former Joliet Arsenal appears in the current issue of the journal Landscape and Urban Planning.

Stewart described Midewin (pronounced mill-DAY-VIN) as a “long-term restoration project encompassing the conversion of more than 15,000 acres into a restored prairie.” Operated by the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, the area—which is expected to evolve slowly—is intended for recreational and educational use by bikers, hikers, bird-watchers, and other nature enthusiasts.

Stewart said the Midewin planners are in the initial phases of managing the restoration. They also are developing a seed bank and envision the site as becoming the world’s largest collection of prairie-plant seeds. That goal may be 50 to 100 years away. Said by them, the preserve likely will be surrounded by urban development “and probably will be vacated in much the same way as we appreciate the Grand Canyon today.”

In the Midewin study, Stewart and co-authors Derek Lichtert (Urban Ill.) Park Districts) and Kevin Larkin (White Mountain National Forest, Laconia, N.H.), employed a research method called photo elicitation to develop an understanding of the land values of 25 individuals residing at workshops held in conjunction with the land ethic. Participants were given disposable cameras and instructed to photograph places, people and environments that were important to them. After the photos were processed, participants discussed their images during one-on-one, on-site interviews with the researchers. Photos included images of churches and other community gathering spots, festivals, wildflowers, backyard gardens, canals and adjacent lands, and even a raccoon and a turkey. After interviews were completed, Stewart examined the photos in conjunction with text from the transcribed interviews and served as the study’s primary analyst.

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NEW faces 2004

DALE BAUER
professor of English
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Education: Ph.D. (English), University of California-Irvine.
Teaching: In the fall, she will teach English 410,  "Introduction to Afro-American Studies," and 490, "Africana Theories."
Research: She is completing a study on African American writers and their tropes for writing about sexuality. She also has just written a book on teaching African American fiction and the history of white and black professors.

LEE ANNE FENNELL
associate professor of law
College of Law
associate director of the Illinois Program in Law and Economics
Education: LL.B., University of Virginia; J.B.L., Baylor University.
Teaching: land use planning and property law.
Research: Her teaching and research interests include property, natural resources law, state and local government law, education law, law and economics (including behavioral law and economics and game theory), and law and literature.

CHRISTY LLERAS
assistant professor of human and community development
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
Education: Ph.D. and M.S. (sociology), Pennsylvania State University; B.A. (sociology), University of North Carolina.
Teaching: a graduate course on community studies in the fall and 410, "Family Diversity in the United States." In the spring.
Research: Interest in understanding how ethnic and racial issues affect children's school success. "Dr. Lleras' analysis of the cognitive processes and school behaviors that contribute to successful school achievement of minority students promises to provide a strong scientific basis for social policy and school reform," said Robert Hibbs Jr., head and professor of human and community development. "We are fortunate to have this talented faculty member to enrich students' perspective on the foundation of racial and ethnic differences."

DAVID SUSSMAN
assistant professor of philosophy
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
Education: Ph.D., University of Chicago; B.A. (philosophy), Swarthmore College.
Teaching: This fall, he will be teaching an upper-level course, 422, "Recent Developments in Ethics." And a Discovery session of 105, "Introduction to Ethics."
Research: moral philosophy, moral psychology, social and political philosophy and the philosophy of science. "We are delighted to have been able to bring him away from Princeton," said Richard Schachts, head of philosophy and the Judson Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences. "Sussman is a brilliant young moral philosopher with a real flair for interesting topics and issues. ... He has a knack for finding things of importance that others have missed, both in his own philosophy more generally, and for exploring them insightfully and truthfully. And he is reputed to be as fine a teacher and colleague as he is a philosopher and scholar."

DAVID QUINTO-POZOS
assistant professor of speech and hearing science
College of Applied Life Studies
Education: Ph.D., University of Arizona at Tucson; B.S. (sign language interpretation/religious studies), University of New Mexico.
Teaching: 199, "Language and Culture of Deaf Communities."
Research: Dr. Quinto-Pozos is among the most promising, and uniquely qualified, young researchers in signed languages in the country," said Ron Chambers, head of speech and hearing science. "Through his Latino heritage, he is a natively bilingual speaker of Spanish and English. He has native fluency in American Sign Language (ASL) and Moderate Royeux in Mexican Sign Language (LSM). His multilingual abilities guarantee his effectiveness with a foreign signed language, and string quantitative and qualitative research skills, allow him to expand his research beyond American Sign Language to include other signed languages."

JENNIFER HAMER
associate professor in the Afro-American Studies and Research Program, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
Education: Ph.D. (sociology), University of Texas, Austin; M.S. (sociology), Texas A&M University; B.S. (sociology), University of Texas at San Antonio.
Teaching: She will develop a suite of sociological courses that focus on the African-American community and the black family. She also will teach 100, "Introduction to Afro-American Studies," and 490, "Africana Theories."
Research: She will develop a suite of sociological courses that focus on the African-American community and the black family. She also will teach 100, "Introduction to Afro-American Studies," and 490, "Africana Theories."

LAMARR W. COLBERT
associate professor of aquatic and fishery sciences
Research Engineering Laboratory
Education: Ph.D. and M.Eng. (civil engineering), Pennsylvania State University; B.S.C.E. (civil engineering), Y Earkwick University; Int'l Jordan.
Teaching: "Introduction to Transportation Engineering" and, later, pavement rehabilitation and pavement design courses.
Research: "Dr. Colbert is not only a traffic researcher in the transportation area, but also brings needed leadership that will enable ATEC, to do to the real test as a national center for transportation research," said Richard P. Jones, head and professor of civil and environmental engineering. "He is well known nationally and internationally in the field of transportation infrastructure research. His research productivity and accomplishments are noteworthy and significant; his teaching is exceptional and his service to the professional community substantial and meaningful."
Colloidal adsorbent removes natural organic matter from water

By James E. Klosek

News Bureau Staff Writer

Microbial degradation products and other forms of organic matter can make water look, smell and taste bad. Natural organic matter also can foul membranes used in water treatment plants, significantly reducing their efficiency.

Now, a polymer-based colloidal adsorbent developed at UI offers an environmentally friendly and cost-effective way of removing troublesome natural organic matter from municipal water supplies.

“Natural organic matter can react with chemical disinfectants such as chlorine to produce carcinogens and other contaminants in our drinking water,” said Mark Clark, a professor of civil and environmental engineering at Illinois and a researcher at the Center of Advanced Materials for Purification of Water With Systems on campus. “Ensuring a safe and clean water supply without forming dangerous byproducts is a major problem.”

One solution, he said, is to remove some of the harmful bacteria by using advanced filtration processes that utilize synthetic membranes made from polymer. But chlorine would then be needed, which would reduce the formation of potentially dangerous chlorinated compounds. The problematic membrane fouling from natural organic matter could be avoided by adding the new colloidal adsorbent.

Several years ago, Clark and Robert Riley, a polymer chemist with Separation Systems Technology in California, invented a method of producing a colloidal adsorbent from polysulfone — the same organic polymer used for water purification membranes. A patent was issued late last year.

To create the cleaning colloids, Clark and his students inject a solution of polysulfone into water under controlled mixing conditions. The polysulfone precipitates into colloidal particles about 30-60 nanometers in diameter, which then aggregate into clusters about 12-30 microns in diameter.

The porous nature of the clusters is perfect for trapping natural organic matter, Clark said. The very high surface area of the particles also creates a large adsorption capacity.

“The particles work better than activated carbon for collecting natural organic fouling,” Clark said. “The colloids can be easily regenerated chemically, and they significantly reduce membrane fouling.”

Not all natural organic matter fouls membranes, however. “A large percentage passes through the membrane with no problem,” Clark said. “Only about 3 to 10 percent of the material actually causes a problem.”

Now that the researchers have trapped the offending material in their adsorbent, they want to analyze it with advanced organic chemistry techniques.

“We want to identify the material and characterize the nature of its interaction with the adsorbent,” said Clark, who will discuss the colloidal adsorbent at the 228th American Chemical Society national meeting in Philadelphia. “Then we can look for ways to further improve both the adsorbent and the membrane.”

The National Science Foundation and National Water Research Institute funded the work.

Low-cost fibers remove trace atrazine from drinking water

By James E. Klosek

News Bureau Staff Writer

A new generation of high surface area porous materials for removing atrazine from water supplies has been developed by UI researchers. The low-cost and wear-resistant fibers also can remove the harmful chloroform contaminants atrazine and trichloroethylene, both byproducts of the commonly used chlorine disinfection process.

“We’ve shown that we can remove all these impurities to well below the maximum contaminant levels established by the Environmental Protection Agency,” said James Economy, a professor of materials science and engineering at Illinois. “Having increased pore size and higher surface area, these fibers work much better than commercially available granulated activated carbon.”

Atrazine is one of the most widely used herbicides in the United States. More than 75 million pounds of atrazine are applied annually. Spread on farm fields and residential lawns to control weeds, atrazine can work its way into local waterways and municipal drinking supplies. Millions of Americans unknowingly ingest atrazine with their tap water.

“Because atrazine is toxic to humans, the Environmental Protection Agency has established a maximum concentration level of three parts per billion,” Economy said. “By tailoring the pore size and pore surface chemistry of our fibers, we can achieve this limit.”

To make their fibers, Economy and Illinois research scientist Zhongren Yue begin by coating fiberglass assemblies with a polymer solution and a chemical activation agent. Then, under mild heat, the polymers cross-link, creating pores about 50-50 angstroms in size. By controlling the chemistry, the scientists are able to tailor the fibers for specific target molecules, such as atrazine.

“Our chemically activated porous fibers are nearly eight times more effective at removing atrazine to below EPA standards that commercially available activated carbon,” Economy said. “In fact, our fibers can remove atrazine to well below one part per billion. And our fibers can be easily regenerated under modest conditions.”

Yue discussed the fibers and presented the latest test results at the 228th American Chemical Society national meeting in Philadelphia. The technology has been patented.

Fiber researchers Roy Xia, left, and James Economy, a professor of materials science and engineering, and research scientist Zhongren Yue developed a chemically activated porous fiber that can filter toxins such as chloroform, trichloroethylene and the herbicide atrazine out of drinking water. By tailoring the size and surface chemistry of the pores in the fibers, they have been able to achieve atrazine levels that are far below the limit set by the Environmental Protection Agency.

Faculty promotions approved

In July, the UI Board of Trustees approved faculty promotions that became effective Aug. 21. Thirty-five promotions to professor without change in tenure and 38 to associate professor on indefinite tenure were granted. In addition, four faculty members received tenures without change in rank. For a full list of promotions, see the Illinois News Web site, www.news.uiuc.edu/ii/04/0902/promos.html.

Inside Illinois
Sept. 2, 2004

Inside Illinois
Sept. 2, 2004
UI Concert Choir

9:11 observance performance

The UI Concert Choir will present a Sept. 11 observance performance, beginning promptly at 9:11 a.m. on that date, in South Hall.

The 22-minute observance is free and open to the public.

According to Karl Kramer, the director of the School of Music, the start time of the program coincides with the exact time that American Airlines Flight 11 crashed into the north tower of the World Trade Center in New York City on Sept. 11, 2001.

The solemn observance will feature just two musical pieces — both performed in their original Latin — and no readings or speeches, according to Concert Choir conductor and UI music professor Chester Albee.

The program opens with Gregorio Allegri’s “Miserere,” a setting of Psalm 51 composed for the choir of the Sistine Chapel and performed just once a year during Holy Week. Following the performance of “Miserere,” at 9:05 a.m. — the approximate time that United Airlines Flight 115 slammed into the south tower of the World Trade Center — a moment of silence will be observed. The choir will then intone “O vos omnes,” by Tomas Luis de Victoria.

“At the conclusion of the Victoria, people may stay and reflect, or leave,” Albee said.

Office of Publications and Marketing

Student/Staff Directory forms due Sept. 17

Retirees and people working for UofA/UofL staff directories who want to be included in the 2004-05 Student/Staff Directory as well as people who want to suppress their home addresses and/or phone numbers from publication are being asked to submit their requests online by Sept. 17.

Those who want to suppress their directory information must complete and submit online forms, even if they have submitted suppression requests in the past. Past requests are no longer valid because of the conversion to the Banner software system.

Paper forms can no longer be accepted. People without Internet access are asked to visit their local public libraries to submit their information.

Forms are available at www.will.uillinois.edu (click on student/staff directory forms under the announcements header). For more information, contact the Office of Publications and Marketing at 367-0530 or by e-mail at opendir@uiuc.edu.

UI community design center

Civitas launches new art gallery

The UI community design center, Civitas, recently launched its new art gallery space with an exhibition of photographs by Granville Hotchkiss titled “Urban Textures.” The exhibition is on view through Sept. 30.

Borich, a UI graduate student in urban and regional planning and student director of Civitas, said her work is based on concepts from John Stilgoe’s book “Understanding Urban Images.” Borich described the images of “urban images” as “photographs of surfaces found in everyday urbanism,” and said they are intended to instigate vision “to ponder the reasons urban elements evolve — and remain — as they appear.”

Civitas, 112 W. Main St., Urbana, opened to the public last year. Its multidisciplinary mission, according to Borich, includes function as “an example of good urbanism while serving as a resource about good urban design principles.”

Along with the addition of an art gallery, the center — which is open to the public and available as an informational workspace — now includes free wireless Internet access.

More information about Civitas is available on its Web site at www.urban.uillinois.edu/civitas.

WILL-PM

“Second Sunday” season begins

The Illinois Brass Quintet kicks off the new season of free WILL-PM “Second Sunday Concerts” at 2 p.m. Sept. 12 with The Illinoise Brass Quintet performing a diverse program from Bach to Brahms, classical to jazz, at the Krannert Art Museum and Kolodin Positions. Festival works will include selections from “Animal Babies,” by trumpet virtuoso and composer Anthony Plog, based on poetry of Ogden Nash. The narrator in this performance will be Kathleen Corbin, actress and dean of the UI College of Fine and Applied Arts. A special work will be performed in observance of the third anniversary of the Sept. 11 attack.

Members of the Illinois Brass Quintet are Michael Ewald and Ronald Romm, trumpet; Kaminskas Machulis, horn; Elliot Chasanov, trombone; and Mark Moore, tuba.

Krannert Art Museum curator Michael Center will lead a Second Sunday Gallery Tour at 1 p.m. before the Sept. 12 concert.

The rest of the season features a mix of styles and performers. “Variety is the key to the upcoming ‘Second Sunday’ season,” said Paul Wurick, executive producer of the concert series. Festival artists this semester include pianist Iain Hobson with members of Strings of Camera (Oct. 10); Champagne Urbana native and former Stravinsky piano awardee Zoolit Begone (Nov. 14); clarinetist J. David Harris performing chamber music for woodwinds and brass (Dec. 12). For a full schedule go to: www.will.uillinois.edu.

Each concert will be broadcast live on WILL-PM (900 AM) in Champaign-Urbana.

WILL-PM “Second Sunday Concerts are a joint venture of WILL-PM, the UI School of Music and the Krannert Art Museum.

Two sizes with keys

Campus map available

An updated version of the campus map found in the Student/Staff Directory is available from Facilities and Services’ Printing Department. The map is available in two sizes with corresponding keys. Call 367-0428 for more information.

Washington University in St. Louis

NSF Regional Grants Conference

The first National Science Foundation Regional Grants Conference of fiscal year 2005 will be held in St. Louis, and hosted by Washington University on Oct. 4-5 with optional Fall Law sessions on Oct. 3.

NSF representatives as well as faculty members, researchers and grant administrators representing regional colleges and universities will participate.

Three-day conference is important, especially for new faculty members, researchers and administrators who want to gain key insight into a range of current issues at NSF including the state of current funding, new and current policies and procedures, and pertinent administrative issues.

NSF program officers representing each NSF directorate will be on hand to provide up-to-date information about specific funding opportunities and to answer questions.

For additional information regarding program content, including a complete agenda, contact the NSF Policy Office, Division of Grants and Agreements at 703-292-6281, or by email policy@nsf.gov.

For logistical information including conference registration, lodging, etc. go to: http://cme.wustl.edu/NSF/.

11 to 3 p.m. Sept. 9

Library to host Fall Festival

The University Library is hosting its first Fall Festival in the Main Library Plaza and Marshall Gallery from 11 to 3 p.m. Sept. 9. The event includes a self-guided library tour, the chance to see-journal a display from Rut Books, Library Listings Bingo (Quiz Questions), a chance to vote for My Favorite Library, a call to nominate items in The Library Should Buy, and a special appearance by “Bob the Books.”

Center for Advanced Study Fall lectures announced

Focus on monsters and artificial life; the struggles of China’s rural-urban migrants; and what we can trust and not trust about our memories will all be among the topics early this fall in lectures sponsored by the Center for Advanced Study at the UI.

Other lecture topics will include female sexuality, the future of U.S. relations and family/state relations in the Middle East and South Asia.

The lecturer on memory is part of a touring “Memory Project” sponsored by CAS. The other lectures are part of the center’s Miller/Comin series, begun in 1979 and supported with funds from the George A. Miller Endowment and several co-sponsoring campus units. The Miller/Comin lectures provide a forum for discussion on topics spanning the university’s many disciplines.

All CAS talks are free and open to the public.

• Sept. 8, “What’s the Matter With Memory,” by Elizabeth Loftus, Distinguished Professor of Psychology and Social Behavior at the University of California, Irvine. Her lecture begins at 4 p.m. in the Knight Auditorium at the Spinkthor Museum.

• Sept. 9, “Kinsey and the Future of Female Sexuality,” by Elizabeth Grosz, a professor of women’s and gender studies at Rutgers University. Her talk begins at 7:30 p.m. in the Knight Auditorium at the Spinkthor Museum.

For additional information, go to www.cas.uillinois.edu/millercomin.html.
calendar of events

2nd to 9th Sept.