UI names 16th president
B. Joseph White named UI president during election-day receptions

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

While millions of Americans were out casting their votes for U.S. president, university officials announced the next UI president. B. Joseph White, who will become the 16th president of the UI, was introduced to the Urbana-Champaign campus Nov. 2 at a late-afternoon news conference at the Illini Union, following an announcement earlier in the day in Chicago.

In introducing White to Urbana, UI Board of Trustees Chairman Lawrence Eppley said that from an initial pool of 150 candidates and five finalists “one person emerged as the clear choice, and he’s with us today.”

White will take over as the university’s top administrator on Feb. 1, upon the retirement of James J. Stukel, who has served as the UI’s president since 1995. The trustees are expected to approve White’s appointment at their next meeting, Nov. 11 in Urbana.

White is the Wilbur J. Proportz College Professor, a professor of business administration and a research professor in the Life Sciences Institute at the University of Michigan. His area of expertise is leadership, management and organizational matters.

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Clear choice B. Joseph White, who has been selected to become the UI’s 16th president, delivers his first speech on the Urbana campus during a news conference Nov. 2. Current President James J. Stukel, who is retiring in February, and Interim Chancellor Richard Herman were among the UI officials who welcomed White to the Urbana campus. White and his wife, Mary, visited Urbana after his selection was announced earlier in the day in Chicago.

Europeans view U.S. missile-defense system with interest, skepticism

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

With the Bush administration poised to announce activation of its missile-defense system by the end of the year, the European community is eyeing the program with equal doses of interest and skepticism, according to Julian Palmore, a UI professor who specializes in international security issues.

The latest debate over the merits of the United States’ ambitious, multi-tiered missile-defense plan boiled over recently — especially among the British — as media reports surfaced, alleging that British Prime Minister Tony Blair had reached a confidential agreement with the United States to install missile interceptors at the Fylingdales Royal Air Force base in North Yorkshire. Palmore said possible closed-door deals aren’t the only sources of concern for Europeans, many of whom have broader reservations about the wisdom of forging missile-defense pacts with the United States.

“That is a perception that the U.S. concern over ICBM attack is overblown,” said the professor, who has dual faculty appointments in the UI mathematics department and the campus’ Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security. Palmore’s assessment of the European perspective on the proposed, multi-billion-dollar U.S. missile defense — which initially includes deployment of interceptors in Alaska and California — is scheduled for publication in the December issue of the journal Defense & Security Analysis, in an article titled “Missile Defense and Europe: WMD and Terrorism.”

Many of Palmore’s conclusions are based on his participation in a conference organized by the U.S. State Department in the United Kingdom last May. The conference was convened at Welton Park, Steyning, West Sussex, he said, to gain a European perspective on the U.S. missile-defense program and to gauge interest in possible future cooperation and collaboration with the United States. Participants included officials from governmental and non-governmental agencies and international commissions, representatives of private industry, and academics.

In his journal article, Palmore presents a historical overview of U.S. and European concerns about threats posed by terrorists and so-called rogue nations armed with conventional and unconventional weapons. He also outlines the Bush administration’s motivations and plans for the rapid deployment of a defensive program aimed at shielding the nation from a potential nuclear attack.

“The missile-defense systems proposed by the United States in 2004 are of interest worldwide,” Palmore wrote. “European interest in these U.S. systems takes two forms: One form is informed skepticism to the development of national missile defense systems; the other is curiosity and a willingness to investigate the extent to which other nations can join the United States in the development and deployment of missile defenses both as regional defenses and for U.S. national missile defense.”

At the conference in England, Europeans expressed a number of concerns about the U.S. missile-defense system, he said.

“Principally, they seem to view missile defense as a black hole for money and they remain to be convinced of its worth,” said Palmore.

According to Palmore, many Europeans have reservations about forming missile-defense pacts with the United States and believe that U.S. concerns about possible ICBM attacks are unfounded, said Julian Palmore, a professor of mathematics and in the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security.

Missile defense Many Europeans have reservations about forming missile-defense pacts with the United States and believe that U.S. concerns about possible ICBM attacks are unfounded, said Julian Palmore, a professor of mathematics and in the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security.
Senate approves merging kinesiology, community health

By Sheila Forrest
Assistant Editor

The departments of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Life Studies may be merged if a proposal passed unanimously by the Urbana-Champaign Senate also is approved by the UI Board of Trustees.

At its Nov. 1 meeting, the Senate endorsed a proposal from the Senate Commit- tee on Educational Policy to combine the departments. The new department would be called the department of kinesiology and community health for its first year and a permanent title to follow later in the year. The merger was recommended by a task force appointed by Tanya Gallagher, dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, to determine if the two departments could merge. The Senate approved the proposal, which has been approved by the UI Board of Trustees.

Fulbright Scholar grants awarded

By JohnLoos
New Bureau Student tritneres received from the United States have received 2004-2005 Fulbright Scholar grants. They join 800 other Americans who have received the grants to travel and conduct research abroad. The U.S. Department of State is the major sponsor of the Fulbright Scholar Program, with full selection made by the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

The new grant recipients and their institutions are:

■ Pat Askew, vice chancellor for stu- dent affairs, visited Japan from June to July 2004. He received the grant to work on the development of a life cycle of education to support its impact and learning across all people from different back- grounds.

■ Jeffrey E. Brotherton, a senior re- search specialist in the department of crop sciences, has been selected to teach the University of Zambia in Lusaka, since August and will stay through December. He is lectur- ing on the concept of food safety and its impact on human health.

■ Eriko Kalpieni, professor of geog- raphy, visited the College of Medicine in Bintan, Malaysia, from July through Oc- tober. As part of the African Regional Re- search Program, he conducted research on AIDS in Malaysia, particularly the vulner- abilities of different genders.

■ Robert Davies, professor of po- litical science, will visit the Vienna Uni- versity of Economics and Business Ad- ministration from March to June of 2005. He there will research Europeanbicsmianand legislative policies.

■ Laurie Reynolds, professor of law, has been visiting the Portuguese University in Lisbon since September and will stay through December. She is lectur- ing on the relevance of municipal law in a federalist system.

Eileen B. Barthol, 79, died Oct. 18 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Barthol was a secretary IV for university- wide student services for nearly 17 years, retiring in 1997. Memorials: Wesley United Methodist Church, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801.

Edward M. Belden, 89, died Oct. 12 at Meadowbrook Health Center, Urbana. Belden was a clinical physician at the UI School of Medicine from 1972 to 1978. Memo- rials: to benefit children with cleft lip and palate birth defects – The Smile Train, 24th Ave., Suite 2, New York, NY 10016, or Alzheimer’s Disease and Re- lated Disorders Association, Greater Illi- nois Chapter, 7409 Golf Road, Suite 1015, Schaumburg, IL 60194-2761.

Cheryl K. Reynolds, 57, died Oct. 25 at her home in Urbana. Reynolds had been a cook for the UI Faculty Senate for nearly 12 years. Memorials: to benefit children with cleft lip and palate birth defects – The Smile Train, 24th Ave., Suite 2, New York, NY 10016, or Alzheimer’s Disease and Re- lated Disorders Association, Greater Illi- nois Chapter, 7409 Golf Road, Suite 1015, Schaumburg, IL 60194-2761.

Lucille Clark “Pepper” Roberts, 71, died Oct. 21 in Carmel, Ind. Roberts was a library assistant at the Urbana Public Library for nearly 30 years. Memorials: to benefit children with cleft lip and palate birth defects – The Smile Train, 24th Ave., Suite 2, New York, NY 10016, or Alzheimer’s Disease and Re- lated Disorders Association, Greater Illi- nois Chapter, 7409 Golf Road, Suite 1015, Schaumburg, IL 60194-2761.

CarolAnn Smith, 62, died Oct. 17 at Our Lady of Lourdes Regional Medical Center, Lafayette, Ind. Smith was an assistant dean of the UI College of Law for nearly 13 years, resign- ing in 1997.

David L. Swanson, 60, died Nov. 1 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Swan- son, a professor of speech communication, had been the head of the speech commu- nication department from 1994 until 2001, when he was appointed to a faculty post at the University of Nebraska. He also had been director of graduate study in the department from 1992 to 1994, and was associate head of the department from 1983 to 1994. Swanson joined the UI faculty in 1972.

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Five at UI named AAAS fellows
By Jim Barlow News Bureau Staff Writer
Five UI faculty members from the Urbana-Champaign campus have been awarded distinguished AAAS Fellowships by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: C.K. (Tim) Ganssler, Paul B. Kelter, Harris A. Lewin, Benjamin Wah and John H. Weaver.

Election as a fellow is an honor bestowed upon members by their peers. This year 308 members were elevated to this rank because of their efforts to advance science or its applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished. The fellows were announced in the Oct. 29 issue of the Journal of Science, which is published by AAAS.

Ganssler, special counsel in the Office of University Counsel and adjunct professor in the College of Law, was selected “for sustained contributions to the national debate over improving the practical handling of ethical, legal, professional and administrative issues as they affect scientific research and the academic research environment.”

She was named assistant vice chancellor for research in 1984 and has served the campus in numerous positions. Her work has included use of technology transfer, managing conflicts of interest and human-subject protection.

She also served as campus research standards officer, dealing with allegations of professional misconduct by faculty and students. She has served on the Committee on Research Integrity of the Association of American Medical Colleges and on the University Commission on Research Integrity.

Kelter, director of the division of general chemistry, was selected “for energetic and effective leadership in chemical education, both at the college and high-school levels, for excellence in teaching, and for daring to believe that all students can learn.”

Before coming to Illinois in 2003, Kelter served as an educational specialist for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration and on the faculty at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and the University of North Carolina at Greensboro. He also has led numerous workshops with schoolteachers in Nebraska, North Carolina and Wisconsin.

Lewin, the director of the Institute for Genomics and Biocomputing, was chosen “for seminal studies on the genetics of cattle in immunogenetics and genomics.” He joined the department of animal sciences at Illinois in 1984. Lewin also is a leader of a project that is sequencing the cattle genome and striving to determine the origin, evolution and function of cattle genes.

Wah, the Franklin W. Woeltje Endowed Professor in electrical and computer engineering, was elected as a fellow “for outstanding contributions to the theory and applications of nonlinear optimization.” Before joining Illinois in 1985, Wah was on the Purdue University faculty. In 1988-89, he served as a program director at the National Science Foundation. In addition to his focus on nonlinear optimization, Wah has served as an investigator for several research projects.

Weaver, the Donald B. Willett Professor of the College of Engineering, was chosen “for seminal studies on the physics and chemistry of surfaces, interfaces and nanostructures.” His name appears on two patents, and he has written more than 500 peer-reviewed research papers.

Weaver joined the Illinois faculty in 2000 and is a professor in two departments: materials science and engineering, and physics. He previously served on the staff at the Synchrotron Radiation Center at the University of Wisconsin-Madison and on the faculty at the University of Minnesota.

The election of AAAS Fellows began in 1874. This year’s fellows will be honored during the AAAS annual meeting in Washington, D.C., in February. AAAS, a non-profit organization founded in 1848, is the world’s largest general scientific society.

Rise in UI flash index of Illinois economy suggests stagnation at end
By Mark Reutter News Bureau Staff Writer
The UI Flash Economic Index rose last month to 102.6. The index was at 102.2 in September.

The results suggest that the Illinois economy has broken out of the stagnation that it occupied during the first eight months of this year.

“The state economy now is growing at a rate that would be expected at this stage of the economic expansion that followed the 2001 recession,” said J. Fred Gierz, the UI economist who released the Flash Index each month.

Individual- and corporate-tax components of the Index were up in real (inflation-adjusted) terms from the same month a year ago, while sales-tax receipts were virtually unchanged. Corporate taxes, which measure corporate profitability, have performed particularly well in the last several months.

The Flash Index is a weighted average of Illinois growth rates in corporate earnings, consumer spending and personal income. Tax receipts from corporate income, personal income and retail sales were adjusted for inflation using the federal government's price index.

Growth rates are calculated. The growth rate income, personal income and retail sales are compared with their value in the same month a year ago, while sales-tax receipts were virtually unchanged. 

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What’s left unsaid about sexuality and schools can be harmful

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

Sexuality is not an easy topic for discussion as it relates to schools, but what is left unsaid can cause a lot of harm, says Cris Mayo, a UI professor of education and the author of a new book.

Discussions about issues of sex and sexuality, even if potentially divisive, are necessary to deal with discrimination against gay and lesbian students, to show them compassion, and to practice the ideals of democracy, says Mayo, author of “Disputing the Subject of Sex: Sexuality and Public School Controversies” (Rowman & Littlefield).

“Sexuality is increasingly addressed by public schools, but it is often addressed in a way that marks sexual minorities as only quasi-legitimate members of the school community,” she wrote in the introduction to the book.

Schools continue to see “enormous rates of harassment and violence” against sexual minority students, and their dropout rate is three times that of heterosexuals, she said. Many schools are caught, often by law, between trying to protect those students from harassment while also barring discussion of gay and lesbian issues in the curriculum.

The message is “on the one hand, ‘You’re protected’; on the other hand, ‘We must never speak of this again,’ ” Mayo said.

Mayo originally began her research by looking at the New York City school system and its response to the spread of AIDS in the mid-1980s. She speculated that the high rate of HIV infection among the city’s adolescents had forced the schools to produce a model curriculum that addressed sexuality, IV drug use and other related issues. “I had hoped that the AIDS crisis would have begun a major overhaul in the way schools looked at youth and sexual identity,” she said.

That was not the case, however. Mayo found that conservative voices had stymied the changes she had hoped to find. “So I became interested not so much in what the policy looked like as how the policy came to be and how it was wrangled over.” She explored controversies over sex, AIDS and gay-inclusive multicultural education, looking at how communities, schools and sexuality have collided. Her book uses case studies, interviews with students and analysis of curricular materials to help readers understand how these educational controversies play out and the power dynamics involved.

The central point of her book, Mayo said, is that “sex and sexuality are not private concerns, they are public policy concerns” when it comes to schools. “Sexual minorities ought to be protected in a democracy in the same ways that we have tried to protect other kinds of minority status,” she said.

“I think the first key assumption has to be that there are gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people in your community already. You are not going to educate them out of existence, you are not going to stop them from growing up, and you are not going to stop them from being involved in your schools. You need to recognize that, in fact, they are already there.

And if you understand that you’re not looking at an outsider you can keep out, and you’re not looking at a deviant insider you can change, then you have to accept the fact that people are there as rights-bearing fellow citizens.”

Public school controversies Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender students are disenfranchised by public school policies and curricula that fail to directly address the concerns of sexual minorities, says Cris Mayo, professor of education and author of a new book, “Disputing the Subject of Sex: Sexuality and Public School Controversies” (Rowman & Littlefield). Issues of sex and sexuality are public policy concerns that schools need to address in order to show respect for LGBT students and help protect them from harassment and violence, Mayo said.
Anti-business movies reflect makers’ dislike of bosses who control films

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

Why do moviemakers seem to delight in taking big business over the coals, a U1 law professor asks.

In big-budget movies such as “The Insider” (1999), “Erin Brockovich” (2000) and “Silkwood” (1983), corporations are depicted as harmful to society and as shadowy antagonists to a crusading hero or heroine.

The conventional take is that Hollywood likes to side with the “little guy” for purposes of drama and audience appeal. Another explanation is that Hollywood is simply to the left politically and hence anti-business.

But such explanations don’t answer some of the peculiar aspects of anti-corporate bias revealed in Hollywood movies, according to Larry E. Ribstein, the Corman Professor of Law at the Illinois College of Law. “Filmmakers display little concern with workers’ problems and only rarely blame firms’ social irresponsibility on the fact that capital control rather than labor is in control,” he wrote in an essay available through the Social Science Research Network.

What’s more, films with anti-business themes are the product of big business. “Why would they attack themselves?” Ribstein asks.

His answer: It is not business per se that moviemakers object to, but to the businesspeople who control their films. “Filmmakers’ main problem with capital being in control seems to be that the filmmakers are not.”

In support of his thesis, Ribstein runs through an array of movies that portray business as “the enemy of the people,” but with a coyness that makes the depictions of corporate “evil” more a plot device than Marxist analysis.

“Many films are less concerned with identifying the mechanism of evil than with showing how the creative types expose the evil. Filmmakers therefore need only produce some peril, which functions like Alfred Hitchcock’s ‘McGuffin,’ rather than ascribing blame for it,” Ribstein wrote.

The depiction of corporate evil often is dramatized through agents of the law. In both Clint Eastwood’s “Pale Rider” (1985) and in “Open Range” (2003), the marshal is “a lampoon of law,” favoring whatever side pays him. “Since the capitalists have the law on their side, the people must rely on film heroes, liberated from the capitalists, to represent the cause of justice,” according to the Illinois professor.

The film heroes appear to be proxies for the moviemakers who toil at the behest of the moneymen. Typically, the only good businessperson portrayed in movies turns out to be an artist or other visionary who seeks more than cold cash. This was made explicit in “Executive Suite” (1954) where Don Walling, a hands-on factory manager played by William Holden, faces off against unsavory bean-counter Loren Shaw, played by Frederic March, for the soul of a furniture company.

“Walling wins by smashing one of the company’s news, cheaper chairs and convincing Barbara Stanwyck, who holds the deciding vote, that the company’s financial success lies in producing smash-proof chairs, … leaving no room for Loren Shaw and his fellow heartless capitalists.”

According to Ribstein, “Every moviemaker to some extent makes a Faustian deal in order to produce her art. Even moviemakers such as Woody Allen, who have secured significant independence from major studios, still rely on outside financing and so must be conscious of monetary constraints on their art. Since the constraints are so central to their ability to function as artists, it is not surprising that the resulting frustration or resentment emerges in their work.”

The producers and financiers in control of Hollywood studios apparently let this theme run through so many movies “because they do not care what their films say as long as they’re making money.”

But such is the power of cinema that the negative portrayal of corporate America fuels populist sentiment for more government regulation of business, Ribstein concluded. “Certainly unions’ cause was helped by Sally Field’s spunky performance in ‘Norma Rae,’ people were more likely to care about corporate pollution after ‘Erin Brockovich’ and ‘A Civil Action,’ and takeover and insider-trading regulation got more sympathy after ‘Wall Street.’ ”

Ribstein’s film analysis is an outgrowth of his years of scholarship in the area of business law. He is the author of the books “Unincorporated Business Entities” and “Business Associations” used by law schools throughout the country. In addition, he is the co-author of the leading multi-volume treatises on partnership law and on limited liability companies.

By Andrea Lyon
News Bureau Staff Writer

Using cutting edge “tools of discovery” and a diamond-sharp new process called data-mining, information scientists at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign are beginning work that eventually will help scholars carve out new literary knowledge in the works of writers across languages, cultures and time.

The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation is funding the two-year, nearly $600,000 multi-institutional project, which John Unsworth, dean of Illinois’ Graduate School of Library and Information Science, will lead.

In his winning project, titled “Web-based Text-Mining and Visualization for Humanities Digital Libraries,” Unsworth expects to produce software “for discovering, visualizing and exploring significant patterns across large collections of full-text humanities resources in digital libraries and collections.”

The collections he’s focusing on are at Illinois, Tufts University, the University of Virginia and other universities.

In traditional “search-and-retrieval” projects, scholars bring specific queries to collections of text and get back more or less useful answers to those queries, Unsworth said.

“By contrast, the goal of data-mining, including text-mining, is to produce new knowledge by exposing unanticipated similarities or differences, clustering or dispersal, co-occurrence and trends.”

During the last decade, he said, many millions of dollars have been invested in creating digital library collections. Thus, today, terabytes of full-text humanities resources are publicly available on the Web. One terabyte, Unsworth said, equals 1,000 gigabytes, or enough storage for 300 feature-length films in digital form.

Those collections, dispersed across many institutions, “are large enough and rich enough to provide an excellent opportunity for text-mining.”

By creating the Web-based software tools, we aim to make those collections significantly more useful, more informative and more rewarding for research and teaching.”

With its roots in statistics, artificial intelligence and machine learning, data-mining has been around since the 1990s. And statistical analysis of humanities texts is “one of the older activities in humanities computing,” Unsworth said. “People have been doing it in authorship-attribution studies, for example, for most of the last half of the 20th century.

“Data mining per se – discovering patterns in large textual data sets – is not something that’s been done much in the humanities. Our project may not be a ‘first,’ but it is an early entry into the field, certainly.”

Unsworth said he intends to build on data-mining expertise at GSLIS and on “several years of software development work” that has been done at the UI’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications, in particular, work developing the D2K (Data 2 Knowledge) software in Michael Welge’s Automated Learning Group.

“This project relies on Michael’s D2K, and could not happen without it,” Unsworth said. “We’re grateful for his participation.”

Nor is this the first GSLIS project to build on D2K. Unsworth said. The National Science Foundation and the Mellon Foundation has funded Stephen Downie, a young scholar in GSLIS, to use D2K in a music information retrieval project.

With data-mining tools, Unsworth said, you first select a body of material that you think is important in some way, next select features of those materials that you similarly think are important, and then “map the occurrence of those features in the selected materials to see whether patterns emerge. If patterns do emerge, you analyze them and from that analysis emerges – if you are lucky – new insights into the materials.”

“In the project we plan to explore thousands of works by hundreds of authors,” he said. “Part of the experimentation will be to determine what features are meaningful at what level of generality, what subsets present the richest veins for data-mining and what methods expose the most interesting patterns at the scope of the project.”

Unsworth said that he and his team of researchers know literary scholars are interested in the works that make up the data set he proposes to use – British and American literary texts of many types, mostly from the 19th century – and he knows that the features they’ll be identifying are “features of interest,” especially structurally.

What we don’t know, because this is an experiment with a tool of discovery, is what interesting patterns we will find as we map these features across this body of works. It is, therefore, a bit of a leap of faith to accept the assertion that interesting patterns will emerge, but I do make that assertion and I am comfortable doing so.

“To date, we haven’t had a tool that exposes patterns in literary texts at the level of granularity and the scope that we propose in this project, but we know that the D2K tools work at that scope and granularity with other kinds of data, and we know that literature – and language itself – exhibits some meaningful patterns at every level we can observe, so it seems reasonable to hypothesize that new levels of observation across larger scopes of literary text at higher resolution, with respect to textual features, will expose meaningful patterns that haven’t been visible before.

“From there, it will be up to literary scholars to analyze, interpret and explain those patterns, and in a very general way, that activity is the advance in literary scholarship that we assume will emerge from this project.”

Additional project partners in humanities research computing are Stephen Ramsay, English department at the University of Georgia; Matthew Kirschenbaum, English department at the University of Maryland, and fellow at the Maryland Institute for Technology in the Humanities; and Tom Horton, computer science department at the University of Virginia.

The new Mellon grant is the second major grant Unsworth has won this fall. With co-project investigator Beth Sandore, associate university librarian for information technology planning and policy at Illinois, he won nearly $3 million over three years from the Library of Congress to take part in a massive project to save at-risk digital materials nationwide. Through the grant, the UI Library and the U of I Graduate School of Library and Information Science will take a leadership role in the National Digital Information Infrastructure and Preservation Project. ◆
UI tutors make a difference in Champaign-Urbana community

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

Every week during the school year, stu-
dent tutors head out by the hundreds from the UI campus to the Champaign-Urbana community – to schools, after-school pro-
grams, or even one adult education center.

Some students will be tutoring one-on-
one, others with small groups. Their focus will be on reading and math, the skills that are key to all other school success.

The UI stu-
dents are part of the America Reads/America Counts pro-
gram, one op-
tion for Federal Work-Study em-
ployment on the

Illinois campus. As many as 600 of about 1,500 work-study students will participate in the program during the school year, earn-
ing at least $8.50 an hour and working an average of six to eight hours a week.

According to Orlo Austin, director of the Office of Student Financial Aid, it may be the largest America Reads/America Counts program campus program in the country supported by work-study funds.

It’s big at Illinois “because we like it, we believe in it,” Austin said, and because lo-
cal school leaders were strong on it from the start, in 1997. That’s when America Reads was initiated during the Clinton ad-
ministration, with America Counts follow-
ing several years later.

It didn’t hurt that the program was free for school districts. “When you tell them that they can hire tutors and it doesn’t cost them anything, that resonated,” Austin said with a smile.

The tutors provide additional attention to children who need it, helping teachers make the best use of their class time, said Preston Williams, deputy superintendent of the Urbana School District, which is using about 150 UI tutors this fall. The college students also bring energy, often a “wide-
eyed, we can conquer anything” enthusi-
iasm, Williams said.

Among the most energetic are probably those planning to teach as a career, or who realize they should be. For Jill Pitcher, a sophomore from Newton, Ill., being a tu-
itor “is what made me go into education,” she said.

Starting out undecided, with some thoughts about majoring in psychology, Pitcher said it took just one fall semester of tutoring as a freshman to persuade her that she’s now majoring in math and minoring in sec-
ondary education, with plans to teach math in a high school.

She was influenced by the kids: “...It was just a really cool feeling to know that I was possibly making a difference in their life,” she said.

She also was influenced by the young teachers at Franklin Middle School in Champaign, seeing how excited they were to be teaching, and how they made connec-
tions with their students.

Angie Brix, the student financial aid administrator who coordinates the UI pro-
gram, said enthusiasm like Pitcher’s is not uncom-
mon, even among those majoring in non-teaching fields such as business or engineering. “Sometimes it’s just a nice escape. It’s away from the university, and they are doing something that matters, and the kids are excited to see them when they see them,” she said.

For students sometimes stressed by classes at a competitive place such as Illi-
nois, tutoring may be the highlight of their day or week, Austin said.

Tutoring on general reading skills always has been the focus of the America Reads portion of the program, but that focus was sharpened this year at the UI with a new and specific emphasis on the development of reading fluency.

“The importance of fluency is that it pro-
vides a bridge between word recognition and comprehension,” said Bonnie Armbruster, a professor of education on the local America Reads/America Counts advisory panel, who promoted the emphasis on fluency. Children who haven’t developed fluency “can’t see the forest for the trees,” where the “trees” are individual words and the “forest” is comprehension, Armbruster said. They’re spending so much of their mental energy on “decoding” individual words that they have little left over for understanding what they’re reading, she said.

America Reads can play a key role be-
cause its tutors, with little training, can provide the guidance and feedback neces-
sary in the practice of “repeated reading,” a powerful way to improve fluency that requires children to read passages aloud several times, Armbruster said. It requires time and individual attention that classroom teachers often don’t have, and yet the tutor can get the satisfaction of seeing the child’s fluency improve.

“The training is minimal, and the reward is tremendous,” Williams said, having seen the results for kids through UI research con-
ducted in Urbana schools.

Jesse Rathgeber, in his America Reads/America Counts experience, didn’t get to spend any time with kids, but that didn’t bother him in the least – even though the se-


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**Staff members recognized for long service**

Poole misses UI colleagues, but ‘busier than ever’ during retirement

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

When Jean Poole graduated from Eastern Illinois University with a bachelor’s degree in education in 1971, the job market for teachers had dried up. Several months later, she accepted what she thought would be a stopgap clerical job at the UI’s Urbana campus.

“When I started, I had no idea I would stay forever,” Poole said. “I remember sitting there on Nov. 1, 1971, thinking I’ll stay here a couple of years until a teaching job opens up, then I’ll take my retirement and I’ll have a nest egg to start with.”

Thirty-three years later, Poole retired from the UI.

During her lengthy career at the university, Poole worked in a number of clerical positions around campus, including the college of Business, Labor Arts and Sciences, and Veterinary Medicine; the Fire Service Institute; the University of Illinois ATLAS; and the Small Homes Council before landing her final job as administrative secretary to three faculty members.

And when the possibility of retirement first began looming, Poole was apprehensive, she said, wondering how she would ever fill the time. However, after her mother and brother died within four months of one another in 2001, Poole began viewing retirement in a different light.

“My brother was the age I am now, 56, when he died,” Poole said. “And I began to think ‘there’s a whole world out there that I haven’t been a part of’ I want to be able to do some of those things, like travel, while I’m still young enough to enjoy myself.”

For years, Poole had attended the travelogues presented by faculty and staff members on campus, vacuantly fulfilling her wanderlust through the photographs and stories of others.

In May 2004, after retiring on April 1, Poole fulfilled a lifelong dream by taking a trip to Europe. After visiting a friend in London for a week, she joined a tour group that visited Florence, Paris, Rome, Venice and Switzerland during the next two weeks.

Poole and her friend attended the Royal Windsor Horse Show in Great Britain, where they saw Queen Elizabeth II, but one of the highlights for Poole was viewing the Lion of Lucerne, the sculpted lion in Lucerne, Switzerland, that poignantly commemorates the Swiss guards who died defending Louis XVI in the attack on the Tuileries in 1792.

“I had wanted to see it ever since I read about it as a kid,” Poole said.

In addition to traveling and filing photographs albums with pictures of the places she has visited, Poole has been involved in home-maintenance chores, such as painting and redecorating her Champaign home. She also belongs to an informal gourmet cooking club among women in her neighborhood who regularly dinners.

“I’m busier now than I was when I was working,” Poole said. "I’m traveling more than I ever have. I’ve just been having a real good time this year. I haven’t been a part of a group before. I’ve just been having a real good time this year. I haven’t been a part of a group before."

Poole still keeps in touch with some of the students.

Kammin doesn’t miss BSW ‘night life’

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Building service worker foreman John Kammin was looking forward to his retirement. A year before his Oct. 1, 2003, retirement date, Kammin bought a camper and was eager to do some traveling once he left the full-time work force, perhaps going west to California to see the redwood forests and the Grand Canyon or east to see Massachusetts and Connecticut.

But Kammin’s travel plans were curtailed this summer after his wife, Pam, broke her foot and found it difficult to get in and out of the camper. So most of Kammin’s camping this past year has been with the Cub Scout troops he leads, and the trips have been closer to home, destinations such as Camp Robert Drake near Oakwood, Ill., and Turkey Run State Park in Indiana.

Kammin became involved with scouting several years ago when his grandchildren were scouts.

“They’re no longer in it, and I can’t find someone else to take over and I hate to see the program just die,” Kammin said. “I think it’s a good program; it teaches kids good values. We have quite a few boys in it from the area. They all have a good time, but it takes up a lot of my time.”

Kammin served as a program director for one of the scout day camps for several years. This past year, he took over as round table commissioner, which involves monthly meetings with all the pack leaders in the local district, where they share information about running their packs and activities for their scouts. In addition to being Cubmaster for the Homer pack, Kammin also leads the Webeloes and the Tiger Cubs.

Along with scout meetings two or three times each week, Kammin has been busy organizing the packs’ annual popcorn sale. A trailer loaded with popcorn has taken up residence next to the camper in Kammin’s driveway on a quiet cul-de-sac in Homer.

In addition to scouting activities, while working the 11 p.m. – 7 a.m. “deep night” shift at UI, Kammin also served as a bus driver for the Homer Schools for about 10 years as a firefighter for several years. As do many age, Kammin primary source of emotional support. His 88-year-old mother now resides in a home. Mom to each other is at all times by phone.

Kammin also put a new roof on his house, had his garage modeled his home, converting a garage room and utility. With all of those reno- in Homer.

Kammin joined Services in 1964 and served for several years in his position with the receiving a BSW from the University of Illinois.
Grider enjoys spending more time with family

By Sharita Forrest

Grider found the environment stimulating and worked her way up through the ranks to clerical positions of increasing responsibility and then to coordinator of special events at the college, but “it haunted me for nearly 20 years that I hadn’t completed my degree requirements,” Grider said. “I found some doors of opportunity closed to me because I didn’t have a college degree. And I knew at some point I’d be telling my children about the importance of having an education, and I didn’t want to have a double standard by not reaching my own educational goals.”

With the encouragement of her husband, Danny, the support of the college and the assistance of the employee tuition waiver, Grider resumed her undergraduate studies in 1992 and earned a bachelor of arts degree in general studies through EUI’s College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1993.

While returning to college at the age of 40 with the added responsibilities of a full-time job and three young children “wasn’t the easiest thing I’ve ever done, it really made a difference in my life,” Grider said.

So when Grider was promoted to director of personnel, she felt a special connection with the civil-service staff workers who were struggling to support families and advance in their careers. One of Grider’s initial priorities in her new job was to review and reclassify 24 of the 36 civil-service clerical positions in the college. As a result, 23 of those positions were reclassified and promoted within a two-year period. Grider also addressed problems with inequities in the administration of policies and procedures by writing the college’s first policies and procedures manual. And Grider encouraged other employees to better themselves by taking advantage of opportunities for further education and training.

“I consider it one of my great accomplishments — working with that group of people to help with their personal and professional growth,” Grider said. “They will be here long after many of the faculty members and administrators have come and gone. I will always look back with a tremendous amount of appreciation for being given the opportunity to help people reach their dreams and learn how to balance jobs and home-front issues, to help people see how far they can grow. Often, these are people who can’t see it for themselves. People remember that connection, they carry it forward and make that connection with others.”

While Grider said she looked forward to retiring, one of the biggest challenges she has faced has been moving forward without seeing the faculty and staff members who were an integral part of her daily life for so many years. Grider said that retirement is giving her the opportunity to spend more time with her children — Jeff, a senior in speech communication at UI, and Christina and David, a senior and a sophomore respectively at Centennial High School — and to make “long overdue” trips to visit relatives in Kansas City, Mo., and Denver.

In addition to home-maintenance tasks such as cleaning and organizing, Grider said she is "desperately trying to get through the last Harry Potter book," part of a set she received as a gift from David.

Although officially retired, Grider returned to campus Oct. 4 as an academic hourly employee in the Office of Business and Financial Services, where she is working on academic professional and civil service positions and assisting with electronic transmissions of appointments.

However, Grider has not given up on her initial aspiration of teaching and is considering working as a substitute teacher. "I would like to get into the classroom somehow," Grider said.

But Grider, a self-described "Mickey Mouse freak," has another, more puckish aspiration: to work at the "happiest place on earth" — Walt Disney World. "I used to tell people I was going to retire because I wanted to direct people to Cinderella’s Castle," Grider said. "I’d love to work on Main Street USA selling Mickey Mouse figurines."
Munching microbes could cleanse arsenic-contaminated groundwater

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Microbial processes ultimately determine whether arsenic builds to dangerous levels in groundwater, say UI researchers. Remediation may be as simple as stimulating certain microbes to grow.

Arsenic contamination is a serious threat to human health. In the Ganges Delta of Bangladesh, for example, chronic exposure to arsenic has been linked to serious medical conditions, including hypertension, cardiovascular disease and a variety of cancers.

“The threat extends to Central Illinois, where there are very high levels of arsenic contamination in a number of wells,” said Craig Bethke, a professor of geology at Illinois and corresponding author of a paper to appear in the November issue of the journal Geology. “We also discovered important links between the amount of organic material dissolved in the groundwater and the concentrations of sulfate and arsenic.”

The researchers analyzed water from 21 wells at various depths in the Mahomet aquifer, a regional water supply for Central Illinois. “The Mahomet aquifer was produced by a glacier, which pulverized and homogenized the sediments,” Bethke said. “As a result, arsenic sources that leach into the groundwater are pretty uniformly distributed.”

Surprisingly, however, arsenic concentration varied strongly from well to well, Bethke said. “Concentrations may reach hundreds of micrograms per liter in one well – which is enough to make people very sick – but fall below detection limits in a nearby well.”

The concentration of arsenic varied inversely with the concentration of sulfate, the researchers found. Methane concentration also varied with the sulfate content.

“We believe this reflects the distribution of microbial populations in the aquifer system,” said graduate student Matthew Kirk. “Our analyses suggest the aquifer is divided into zones of mixed microbial activity, some dominated by sulfate-reducing bacteria, others by methanogens.”

Sulfate-reducing bacteria will consume sulfate and reduce it into sulfide. The sulfide then reacts to precipitate arsenic, leaving little in solution.

If the sulfate-reducing bacteria run out of sulfate, methanogenic bacteria take over as the dominant metabolic force, Kirk said. Because methanogenic bacteria don’t produce sulfide, there is no precipitation pathway for the arsenic, which then accumulates to high levels in the groundwater.

“In the Mahomet aquifer, the balance between the amount of organic material and the amount of sulfate that leaches into the groundwater appears to control whether the water becomes contaminated,” Kirk said.

“Where the supply of sulfate is high relative to organic matter, sulfate remains available and sulfate-reducing bacteria keep arsenic levels low. But, where the supply of organic matter is high relative to sulfate, the sulfate has been depleted, and arsenic may accumulate.”

What does this mean to people living in Illinois?

“The majority of wells in Central Illinois belong to individual homes and farms,” Bethke said. “Lacking effective water treatment and testing, private wells are more at risk of arsenic poisoning.”

There is good news, however. The researchers’ findings suggest that groundwater contaminated with arsenic might be easily identified and remediated.

“Unlike detecting the presence of arsenic – which generally requires a sensitive laboratory analysis – testing for sulfate is simple and straightforward,” Bethke said. “If all waters containing sulfate are safe, as in our dataset, then measuring sulfate level would be an easy but reliable field test to identify safe drinking water from unsafe.”

Adding sulfate to naturally contaminated groundwater might be a simple but effective method to sequester the arsenic, Kirk said. “The bacteria are already present, so all you have to do is stimulate them.” Sulfate salts, he said, are inexpensive, readily soluble and easily obtained.

In addition to Bethke and Kirk, the team included UI geology professor Bruce Fouke, research scientist Robert Sanford, graduate students Jungho Park and Gusheng Jin, and Illinois State Water Survey project scientist Thomas Holm. The U.S. Department of Energy funded the work.

Water safety Sulfate-reducing bacteria may help control arsenic concentrations in groundwater, and testing sulfate levels may provide reliable indicators of whether water is contaminated with arsenic, according to a study co-written by research scientist Robert Sanford (left) and Craig Bethke, professor of geology. The study appears in the November issue of the journal Geology.

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UI PRESIDENT, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

White said his primary motivation for accepting the UI presidency was his love of leadership work. “I’m thrilled to take on the challenge of leading the university in the years ahead.” White said. There’s nothing that I enjoy more than working with a group of people who have a shared vision, mission and values, who love their organization and set high aspirations together and then do hard work every day. It’s a great individual effort and a great team effort that achieves great things. That’s been the most satisfying set of experiences in my lifetime. To be offered the opportunity, the privilege, to be the next in the relay race of leadership that has produced this great university is just irresistible to me.”

White has had a nearly 30-year affiliation with Michigan, which began when he was a doctoral student in business administration and included appointments as a professor of organizational behavior and industrial relations, as dean of its business school for a decade and as interim president during 2002. From 1993-2001, White served as president of the U. of M. William Davidson Institute, a center for economic and business development in emerging market economies.

In addition to his scholarship, White brings a wealth of experience in the private sector to his new job as UI president, including six years’ experience as a vice president with a Fortune 500 manufacturing company, Cummins Engine Co. Inc. He also serves as an independent director or trustee of several companies, including Equity Residential, Gordon Food Service and Kelly Services, and as board chair for several health-care organizations, including the U. of M. Health System and St. Joseph Hospital, Ann Arbor.

In welcoming White to campus, Stukel said: “It’s so very clear to me that we have a new president who’s going to do spectacular things. For nearly 140 years, this university has been led by 16 different presidents, and this president to be is special. Joan and I have been honored to spend a decade working with you, crying together, cheering together and hopefully making it a better place as the 15th president and spouse. And today I believe this university has made a wonderful leap forward in its selection of Dr. Joseph White and Mary, as president and spouse.”

Eppeley praised the 19-member consultative search committee and its chair, College of Business Dean Avijit Ghosh, for their efforts in helping select the new university president.

To help the Whites “jump start their search for the essence” of the university, Interim Chancellor Richard Herman presented them with a copy of faculty member Lillian Hoddeson’s book, “No Boundaries.” He also presented them with several items bearing the Illinois logo, including a blue-and-orange tie and orange polo shirts “to ensure you are dressed appropriately,” Herman said.

Over the previous weekend, White said he and Mary had discreetly visited the Urbana campus and were “bowled over” by its beauty. They were equally impressed with the President’s House, soon to be their new home on Florida Avenue in Urbana, which they had seen for the first time the day White was introduced to the UI campus as the new president.

White and Mary are the parents of two adult children and also have two grandchildren. Their daughter Audrey, who recently graduated from Michigan and now works as a high-school librarian in Vermont, was excited that her father had accepted the presidency at UI because of the university’s world-class library, White said.

Whites, 57, a Detroit native, was raised in Kalamazoo, Mich. He earned a doctorate in business administration from Michigan in 1975 and also holds a master’s degree in business administration, with distinction, from the Harvard Business School and a bachelor of science in international economics, magna cum laude, from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service.

Euros, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EUROPEANS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

The United States is extremely sensitive about technology transfer,” Palmore said. “These export controls limit technology transfer to the extent that a lot of time has to pass before permission is given to companies or agencies to share relevant information on the U.S. missile-defense systems with European allies’ governments and companies,” he said.

Other issues of concern among the Europeans involve the geographic placement of interceptors and the logistics of coordinating command-and-control procedures.

An even more basic, unresolved problem for all parties concerned, Palmore said, is “the issue of the effectiveness of a ground-based missile defense against a sophisticated attacker using intercontinental ballistic missiles.”

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“This initial objection was raised by the Union of Concerned Scientists and others in a study over the effectiveness of the ground-based interceptor plan for national missile defense,” he said. “The use of countermeasures to missile defensive put by an attacker on board an intercontinental ballistic missile is a formidable obstacle to overcome.”

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Brief Notes

Spurlock Museum
Lecture by British museum curator
Ian Jenkins, the senior curator in the department of Greek and Roman antiquities at the British Museum, will be this year’s speaker for the Spurlock Museum Dr. Allan C. Campbell Family Distinguished Speaker Series. His talk, “Return to Cnidus: Digging in Southwest Turkey,” will begin at 7 p.m. Nov. 12 at the Spurlock Museum Knight Auditorium. Admission is free and the public is welcome.

For more information about the Spurlock Museum, go to www.spurlock.uiuc.edu or call 333-2360.

Campus Recreation
Memberships, personal trainers available
UI Campus Recreation’s fall 2004 midsemester memberships are now on sale and will be valid through Jan. 16. Members (18 years or older) have full access to all available facilities, reduced program rates and special clinics.
Campus Recreation also offers a variety of personal-training services. Options include individual, buddy, sport-specific and Eldercare personal-training programs. Personal training is available to students, Campus Rec members and nonmembers, and the community.
To purchase a membership or to sign up for a personal-training program, stop by any Campus Recreation Member Services, 140 E. El St. For questions on either service, visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu or call 333-3806.

Second Sunday Concert
Pianist to perform at 1:30 p.m.
Upcoming to the public is the next free concert from the Iowa Center Institute of Music. The two concerts this fall will be part of WILL-FM’s Second Sunday Concert series and will be broadcast live on WILL-FM (90.1 in Champaign-Urbana) with host Vincent Trauth.
Zsolt Boglar will play pieces from the romantic and last romantic eras, including Scarlatti’s sonatas, a Bach sonata and Beethoven’s Sonata No. 17 in D minor.
Boglar has won many accolades, including first-place finishes at both the Hungarian Musician Association Competition and Boston Musician’s Association Competition. In August, he won the 2005 Allegro Vivo competition near Vienna.

Geology
Lecture to discuss Mars exploration rover
The recent Mars exploration rovers and their discover
ties will be discussed at 4 p.m. Nov. 12 in Room 228 of the Natural History Building. The lecture will be presented by professor R.E. Arvidson of the McDonnell Center for the Space Sciences at Washington University in St. Louis.
In January, the Mars rovers “Spirit” and “Opportunity” landed on the red planet and have been operating ever since. “Spirit” has found evidence of continu
ing interaction with water vapor and ice and thin films of water with surface rocks and soils, in addition to indica
tions of water in the form of ice under the Martian surface. “Opportunity” has found layered rocks dominated by evaporate materials. These rocks provide evidence of an ancient, warm, wet climate.
The lecture is part of the geology department’s Collo
quium Series and is free and open to the public.

November Ally meeting
Student programming to be discussed
The November Ally meeting will be from 12-1:30 p.m. Nov. 5 in Room 4061 in the Illini Union. This month’s topic will be “Student Programming Around Race and Sexual Orientation” and will feature four panelists from cultural education or 333-3704.

Paraprofessional/technical job group (EEOS)
Staff member need to fill SAC vacancy
The Staff Advisory Council seeks a civil-service staff member to fill a four-year term on the representative for the paraprofessional/technical job group (EEOS). Eligi
ble candidates should send a list of their qualifications to kerrin@uiu.edu. The role of the SAC and a list of eli
gible positions for the EEOS job group can be viewed at www.pso.uiuc.edu/Sac/default.htm.

Music, dance, food and more
Festival to observe Thai traditions
The Thai American Insight and the Thai Student Associe
tion will host the “Thai Loy Kratong Festival” from noon to 5 p.m. Nov. 7 at University YMCA.

Festival attendance is free and open to the public.

Guide to buying children’s books
Books make great gifts, but picking the perfect books for your favorite youngsters can be daunting.
Now just in time for the holidays, staff members of the review journal The Horn Book of the Horn Book of the Horn Book have created a guide to help gift-givers navigate the bookstores for wildness of full shiny new children’s books.
According to the guide, a success for a book, The Guide Book to Gift Books offers brief annotations for more than 250 of the best books for children. Listed books have all been recommended in full Bulletins from the last three years of the magazine.

To purchase a membership or to sign up for a personal-
training program, stop by any Campus Recreation Member Services, 140 E. El St. For questions on either service, visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu or call 333-3806.

A shiny new book

German astrophysicist to talk Nov. 17
Reinhard Genzel, director of the Max Planck Institute for Extraterrestrial Physics in Garching, Germany, will talk about black holes during a talk Nov. 17 at the UI.
Genzel, who also is a professor of physics at the Univer
sity of California at Berkeley, will present the seventh talk in the UI department of astronomy’s Icko Ijen Disting
guished Lectureship. The lecture, “Massive Black Holes, or Gravity Strikes Back,” begins at 7 p.m. in Foellinger Audi
torium. The talk is free and open to the public.

“Reinhard Genzel is the leading authority on the obser
vational evidence for the existence of black holes,” said John Kinney, the chair of the department. “With a research career spanning more than three years and are verified as currently in print. They are listed in the bibliography in the book. More information is available on the Web, https://net files.uiuc.edu/ro/www/ThaiStudentsAssociation/

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The Staff Advisory Council seeks a civil-service staff member to fill a four-year term on the representative for the paraprofessional/technical job group (EEOS). Eligible candidates should send a list of their qualifications to kerrin@uiu.edu.

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Attendees will learn more about Thai culture with cultural displays, games, dance and music performances and Thai cuisine.
More information is available on the Web, https://net files.uiuc.edu/ro/www/ThaiStudentsAssociation/ or contact Patrich Sukod, sukod@uiuc.edu or 721-1588.

The doors will open at 7 p.m. and the show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are now on sale at Allerton Union Ticket Central or by phone at 333-5000. For more information, visit www. hornbook.org or www.hornbook-star-course.com.

Baum David Lecture
What Americans mean by freedom
On Nov. 10, Orlando Patterson, a sociologist at Harvard University, will deliver the annual David C. Baum Memo
rial Lecture on Civil Liberties and Civil Rights at the UI College of Law. His talk is titled “What Americans Mean by Freedom (And What It Means for Democracy),” will be

Winged Triton,” by Salvador Dalí, circa 1970, bronze

The Kranes art Museum joins museums around the world this year with programming that encourages the exploration of the cultural heritage of Spanish surrealist artist Salvador Dalí. At the UI, curator Gisela Carbonell-Coli has drawn works from Kranes’s permanent collection for a new exhibition: “Of Rocks and Tides: Salvador Dalí and the World of Imagination.” The show is on view through Feb. 13.

Troubled waters
Water-management issues featured
Water-management issues featured

“Troubled Waters in a Globalizing World: Community, Property and Conflict Over Water” is the theme of the Joint Area Studies Centers Symposium, the first of three symposia planned over the next three years to explore the management issues at the UI.

“Troubled Waters” in a Globalizing World

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Calendrier, from page 14

“Winter in the Woods.” Lunch at Allerton House. 11:30 a.m. or 1:30 p.m. Convention Center, Allerton Park. More info: reservations: www.allerton.uiuc.edu.


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