Composer hits musical ‘target’ with local premiere Feb. 17

Local premiere
Keeril Makan, a professor of composition/theory in the School of Music, collaborated with singer Laurie Rubin on a composition titled “Target,” which will be performed at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on Feb. 17. The composition explores various aspects of the U.S. military’s presence in the Middle East and received its world premiere at New York’s Carnegie Hall last October.

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

Throughout history, composers, painters, poets and other artists have gone to the well of current events and politics to draw inspiration for their art. Times of revolution and war have yielded emotionally charged, particularly powerful works, from Beethoven’s “Fidelio” to Picasso’s “Guernica.”

Current world conflicts – notably, U.S. military intervention in Afghanistan and Iraq – were on Keeril Makan’s mind last year when he was tapped to participate in a highly competitive and innovative workshop sponsored by Carnegie Hall’s Weill Music Institute. So the UI professor – who joined the School of Music’s composition/theory faculty last fall – embraced the opportunity as a means of contributing to the ongoing cultural and political discourse about the United States’ military presence in the Middle East. The result was an intense and emotionally charged 13-minute composition for soprano, clarinet/bass clarinet, percussion, violin and cello titled “Target.”

The piece received its world premiere last October at New York’s Carnegie Hall; locally, it will be performed on a program presented by the New Music Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Makan was commissioned to create the piece as one of eight composers, four singers – in the John Harbison/Dawn Upshaw Workshop for Composers and Singers. Harbison, one of the nation’s best-known contemporary composers, and Upshaw – a world-class soprano – are longtime collaborators. The pair launched the experimental workshop to serve as an incubator of sorts for a select group of emerging composers and singers. In effect, they hoped to serve – by example and experience – as cheerleaders for the collaborative creative process.

Harbison and Upshaw initially spent a few days listening to audition tapes of more than 250 singers and composers before whittling the list down to eight. In May, Makan and his “match,” mezzo-soprano Laurie Rubin, joined the other three pairs in New York, where they spent several days working together, observing, and soaking up tips and practical advice from the masters. The composers had been asked to bring a short draft of their proposed compositions to the first meeting. Makan, who had traded e-mail and recordings with Upshaw, presented by the New Music Ensemble at 7:30 p.m. Feb. 17 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Makan was commissioned to create the piece as one of eight composers, four singers – in the John Harbison/Dawn Upshaw Workshop for Composers and Singers. Harbison, one of the nation’s best-known contemporary composers, and Upshaw – a world-class soprano – are longtime collaborators. The pair launched the experimental workshop to serve as an incubator of sorts for a select group of emerging composers and singers. In effect, they hoped to serve – by example and experience – as cheerleaders for the collaborative creative process.

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**Trustees approve tuition, fee hikes; re-elect Eppley as chair**

By Sabrina Cornish

UCI News Bureau

The UI Board of Trustees approved across-the-board tuition and fee hikes at its Jan. 20 meeting to help meet a portion of the $47 million shortfall that is expected in the university’s budget during the coming fiscal year.

“We believe the tuition increase recommendations are justifiable and praiseworthy,” said Chester Gardner, university vice president for academic affairs.

The nonguaranteed tuition rate for undergraduates (most tuition and fees) will go up by $21 at Urbana-Champaign; $185 per semester at Chicago; and $122.50 at Springfield.

Guaranteed tuition rates for new undergraduates will increase $291 at Urbana; $256 per semester at UIC; and $285 at UIS.

Tuition rates for freshmen who entered the university in fall 2004 will remain unchanged as a result of a state law that went into effect this fiscal year that mandated that state universities guarantee the same tuition rate for entering freshmen.

While the tuition increases are expected to generate about $29 million, there will still be a financial gap, a fact that was troubling for some trustees, who suggested a higher tuition increase might be needed.

“I am concerned the tuition increase is falling short. I’d rather bite the bullet now,” said Trustee Robert Spertling.

President James Stukel told board members that state support for higher education is not likely to increase and there are few places to seek new funding.

“We’ve never had a reduction in state support such as the current one,” Spertling said.

The administration already has cut its budget as deeply as it can without eliminating programs, Stukel said, and he cannot see a way to maintain the quality of many programs without enough funding, saying that “the scope of the university will be the tough issue.”

Spertling said he is concerned about the university’s future if state appropriations are not increased.

“The plan revisions included a new ice arena for the area from University Avenue to Air

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On the Job Felice Long

Five people have been chosen to receive honorary degrees during the UI’s 134rd commencement on the Urbana-Champaign campus on May 15 at the Assembly Hall. The speaker has not yet been announced.

The honorary-degree recipients:

■ Archie Clemins, the president of Capital Technologies Inc., Boise, Idaho, and former commander in chief of the U.S. Pacific Fleet; honorary degree of doctor of engineering.

A four-star admiral when he retired from the Navy in 1999, Clemins received a UI Alumni Achievement Award in 1998. His military accreditations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit with six gold stars, and the Meritorious Service Medal. He is a graduate for major integrators and technology companies in the United States and Asia, and he advises the Department of Defense on classified programs and serves on the board of several start-up companies and the governor of Idaho’s Science and Technology Advisory Board. He earned his bachelor’s and master’s degrees in engineering at the UI.

■ Hanke Grateau, associate managing editor of Chicago Tribune; honorary degree of doctor of letters.

Grateau, who began her journalism career in 1975 working for the Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist Mike Royko, has won numerous awards for her work as a reporter, including the 1993 William H. Jones Award for Investigative Reporting and the Golden Bell Award of the Mental Health Association of Illinois for outstanding coverage of mental health issues.

“A special claim to fame for Grateau was editing the investigative project, ‘Gate to Gridlock,’ an examination of congestion in the nation’s commercial air travel system, which won the 2001 Pulitzer Prize for explanatory journalism,” wrote UI journalist professor Bill Gaines in his letter nominating Grateau.

■ John Houbolt, retired chief aeronautical scientist and consultant, NASA Langley Research Center; honorary degree of doctor of engineering.

Houbolt, a member of the National Academy of Engineering, and of the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics, and holder of many university and company patents, was honored for his work on the orbital rendezvous, guidance, and control aspects of the Apollo 11 moon landing.

■ An African proverb states, “It takes a village to raise a child,” but in the case of Felice Long, a secretary III in the African-American Cultural Studies Program, communal support has helped her reach a goal she has been pursuing for many years: a college degree. This May, Long expects to receive her associate’s degree from Parkland College, a degree that she has been working toward a class or two at a time. During the spring 2005 semester, Long is attending Parkland full time in addition to her full-time job on campus and family responsibilities. But Long credits the support and encouragement of her family, co-workers and the students she works with in helping her achieve her success.

Tell me about your career here at the university. I worked here since 1991. I started in computer science as a secretary. I worked in the academic office until I transferred to the Bruce D. Nesbitt African-American Cultural Studies Program in 2001.

My responsibilities include processing forms in Banner and doing all the department’s accounting tasks and the student payroll. I hire and supervise student workers, order supplies and food for programs and receptions, make hotel and travel arrangements, reserve vehicles and reconcile the P-card.

We have a Black History Month program, and I send letters out to all the schools inviting them to the program, and I process their payments.

When is your Black History Month program and what does it involve? It will be held on Feb. 28. We invite elementary and middle schools to a performance related to Black History. Our program this year is called “Sankofa: the Choice.”

What’s the most challenging part of your job? I would say Banner, but not everything about Banner is challenging and the job aids help tremendously. I really enjoy my job. It’s given me a lot of experience. I’ve been able to learn many different responsibilities in the short time I’ve done this job.

What do you enjoy most about your job? Continuing education, working with the students and the relationships among the staff. We’re like a big family. I feel I have benefited from working here because the programming is very informational and I have learned a lot. I enjoy watching the students conquer their goals, and I really enjoy when they graduate and come back to see me. That is always a joy.

What do you like to do away from work? I’m taking classes at Parkland to get my degree in general studies and will graduate in May. Then I’m going to go to Eastern Illinois University to get a bachelor’s degree in the Career and Organizational Studies Curriculum. School takes up a lot of my spare time and any other spare time I have I spend with my kids. I also love to shop.

What’s motivated you to keep working on your degree all these years? My children motivate me. You always look at how your parents live and think do I want to live like that or do I want a better standard of living? I want my children to set their goals high. If I set my goals high, hopefully my children will set their goals higher than mine.

I stopped working on my education when I had my children and then I decided to go back to school and finish what I started. There’s light at the end of the tunnel because I’ll get my associate’s degree in May, and hopefully a bachelor’s soon and a master’s on down the road. I know it’s taking me a long time to finish my associate’s degree, and it may take me many more years to complete all my educational goals, but I have completely dedicated myself to achieving them.

Another good motivator for me was to have the staff I work with encourage me to keep going. Everybody in the department always has encouraged me to continue with my education. I think that’s a blessing to have people work with encourage you to get your education.

— Interview by Sharita Forrest Assistant Editor

Honorary degree recipients chosen for commencement
Embrace your regrets and move forward, psychologist says

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Have regrets? Don’t push them away. Harness them and move on as a smarter person, says Neal Roese, a UI professor of psychology.

Roese tackles the sometimes touchy topic in his new book “If Only: How to Turn Regret Into Opportunity” (Broadway Books/Random House). Roese, in everyday language, uses easily recognizable examples from his own experiences, from recent politics and history, and from literature and the movies. He gives perspective by putting the examples into the context of the last 15 years of research, including his own.

Regrets, in the language of psychology, are “the emotional offspring of counterfacutials, which represent information contrary to the facts and come in two forms,” Roese says. “One allows people to learn that a particular action was not, in fact, the wiser choice, and, therefore, they can improve their performance in later situations. The other is uplifting because they realize an action could have been worse.”

From counterfacutials comes recognition of possibilities, out of regret comes hope for the future, and the essence of human cognition is a set of interlocking mechanisms designed to identify, understand, and fix the problems, both big and small, that appear along the road of life,” Roese wrote in the introduction to his book. Counterfacutials, he continues, are “the emotional offspring of ‘What if’ and, in turn, motivated by regret over his bowling to mosh pressure and deliberately losing a boxing match. ‘I could have been a contender instead of a bum, which is what I am,’ doctor-knockout Malloy said. His big regret drives him to work for change.

Regret is rooted to counterfacutial thinking.

ACADEMIC CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Before the end of the semester is for them. There’s a long stretch of time between Labor Day weekend and the Thanksgiving break, so we thought it would be beneficial to take a three-week break during the middle of October to reduce the number of final exam periods from 19 to 18, which would give students an extra day to study.

Removing Saturday from the final-exam schedule also would reduce the number of final exam periods from 19 to 18, which concurs with the spring semester’s calendar. Accordingly, removing the Monday and Tuesday vacation days from the Thanksgiving break and rescheduling them for the middle of October would reduce the number of five-day instructional weeks from 13 to 12, although the number of instructional days would remain the same.

The task group’s recommendations also include scheduling the final day of classes on a Wednesday, followed by Reading Day on Thursday, with final exams beginning on Friday. Unlike the current schedule, final exams would not be held on Saturdays, which would give students an extra day to study.

While mild regret is useful for driving new action, he said, severe regret “can be the first step toward mental illness.” Roese conurs with the spring semester’s calendar.

The week of Thanksgiving is “ground zero” for developing the academic calendar, Aminmansour said, and with the current calendar, the fall semester begins 13 weeks prior to Thanksgiving and final exams are scheduled to end on Saturday three weeks after Thanksgiving week.

If the suggested calendar changes might result in fall classes beginning before Aug. 22, under the new policy, classes would begin Monday 12 weeks prior to Thanksgiving week and final examinations would end on the Friday four weeks after Thanksgiving week. This change also would eliminate any potential pay and contract conflicts for personnel who are paid monthly on the 16th.

Moving forward \Regrets serve a necessary psychological purpose, according to psychology professor Neal Roese, author of the book “If Only: How to Turn Regret Into Opportunity” (Broadway Books/Random House). According to Roese, thoughts about bad decisions in the past can spur people to take corrective actions or to improve their performance in future situations.

While mild regret is useful for driving new action, he said, severe regret “can be the first step toward mental illness.” Roese’s research has found that people like you might blunder,” Roese wrote. “The list therefore offers a cautionary note, signaling which areas of life in which to exercise the greatest care.”

In new research, Roese has found that the opportunity for improvement influences regret. When opportunity disappears, brain mechanisms work actively to mitigate regret, but when opportunity persists, regret pushes people toward corrective action. The research explains why education is the No. 1 regret of Americans. “You can always go back to school,” he said.


Inside Illinois
Spring 2005 Publication Schedule

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Satellite data reveal immense pollution pool over Bihar, India

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Scientists studying satellite data have discovered an immense wintertime pool of pollution over the northern Indian state of Bihar. Blanketing around 100 million people, primarily in the Ganges Valley, the pollution levels are about five times larger than those typically found over Los Angeles.

The discovery was made by researchers analyzing four years of data collected by the Multi-angle Imaging Spectro-Radiometer (MISR) onboard the Terra satellite. Lofted into orbit on Dec. 18, 1999, Terra is the flagship of NASA’s Earth Observing System Program.

“This study is the most comprehensive and detailed examination of industrial, smoke and other air pollution particles over the Indian subcontinent to date, and reveals how topography, meteorology and human activity help determine where these particles are concentrated,” said Larry Di Girolamo, a UI professor of atmospheric sciences and a co-investigator on the MISR mission.

“MISR is the first instrument to make high-resolution, multi-angle radiometric measurements of Earth from space,” Di Girolamo said. “By measuring reflected sunlight at nine angles, we can accurately determine the amount of particulate matter, including that generated from man-made pollution, in the atmosphere.”

While high pollution levels were found over much of India, a concentrated pool of particles was discovered over Bihar, a largely rural area with a high population density. A large source contributing to the Bihar pollution pool is the inefficient burning of a variety of biofuels during cooking and other domestic use. Particles in the smoke remain close to the ground, trapped by valley walls, and unable to mix upward because of a high-pressure system that dominates the region during winter.

“The result is a pollution episode that can affect both human health and local climate,” Di Girolamo said. “The airborne particles can damage delicate lung tissue, and by altering the radiative heating profile of the atmosphere, the particles may change temperature and precipitation patterns.”

Prior to the MISR study, atmospheric models had predicted a tongue of pollution extending across the middle of India. The MISR observations, however, show the pollution lies much farther north.

“These models are very important to us, as they are used to forecast pollution episodes and climate change,” Di Girolamo said. “The fact that model results don’t match the MISR observations suggests there are problems in the models or the model inputs that need to be fixed.”

The role of airborne particles remains one of the largest uncertainties in atmospheric modeling. In addition to modifying local climate, the particles can interact with clouds and change the cloud properties. This is particularly important, since clouds have the greatest radiative forcing on the climate system.

“The Bihar pollution pool must be having a tremendous impact on the local climate and the health of the approximately 100 million people that reside within this pool,” Di Girolamo said. “Our long-term goal is to better predict the occurrence of these pollution episodes and their impact on public health and local climate.”

The work, funded by NASA, involved collaborators from Illinois, the Jet Propulsion Laboratory, the National Center for Atmospheric Research and Scripps Institution of Oceanography and will be published in the journal Geophysical Research Letters.
Poet’s latest collection inspired by Caribbean paintings

By Andrea Lynn

Like the mangroves that splash across his beloved spiritual home, the islands of the Caribbean, the poems in Laurence Lieberman’s latest collection are colorful, lush, seductive and rich with cultural and restorative qualities.


The title poem interprets and expands on Greaves’ painting “Carib’s Leap: New and Selected Poems,” will be published in the fall by Peepal Tree Press.


By Andrea Lynn

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COLOSSUS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Rubin prior to that first face-to-face meeting, brought along a complete draft of his score. As a result, the piece would be challenging for the assignment, Makan concedes that he arrived at the workshop harboring some skepticism. He was not enthusiastic about the project, but “golly, it looks like it’s going to work, there is no more fun in acceptance, Lieberman concedes he is searching for answers that are much closer to home.

“I guess that I’m partly trying to learn something about myself,” he said. “My own personal identity is tied up in this.”

Lieberman explained that “every artist is constantly in search of his own private mythos. Defining that personal mythology is central to the adventure of one’s ongoing work.

“It was to work with a vocal component. “If you have text,” he learned, “it helps structure the composition for you. It was a very positive experience that made real for me the expressive potential of the voice.”

Both halves of the composer-singer team will be reunited on Feb. 17, when Rubin visits the UI to reprise her performance of “Target” during the Krannert Center performance. She also will perform UI music professor Erik Lind’s piece ... “And where you are in what you are not.”

Is this initial collaboration the first of many? Will Makan and Rubin follow along the same path established by mentors Har- darson and Upshaw?

“We’re discussing it … hopefully, we can work more collaboratively in the future,” Makan said.

Meanwhile, the wheels of the UI composer’s latest collaborative project are already in motion – but in a slightly different direction. Last month, he met with cho- rographer Benjamin Levy to discuss plans for a dance project commissioned by San Francisco’s ODC Theater. Work on the project will continue this summer, with the premiere set for next December.

The joy in the work is not just the finished product or getting to a place where you know it’s working.

“It’s the whole gamut of the adventure of finding the material, finding your focus, and taking the shaky steps toward a possible culmination.”

“Hour of the Mango Black Moon” is being distributed by Independent Publishers Group of Chicago. Lieberman’s “Carib’s Leap: New and Selected Poems,” will be published in the fall by Peepal Tree Press.

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Ruinous effects of meth use on rural families documented

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

In its destructive effect on rural families and their children, methamphetamine may be in a class of its own, based on the first study from an ongoing research project in seven Central Illinois counties, conducted by UI researchers.

If the children of alcoholics often find themselves in a “thunderstorm” of family problems, then the drug methamphetamine brings a “tornado” by comparison, says one of the researchers. The professionals and caregivers who pick up the pieces often lack the knowledge or resources to deal with the children’s trauma and its consequences, the study found.

“These kids are at a very high risk for mental health and substance-abuse disorders, and yet we have very little descriptive information about their psychological development and well-being,” said Wendy Haight, the Illinois social work professor who is leading the research.

Despite the spread of methamphetamine use since the late 1980s, and in Illinois for at least a decade, this study may be the first to look at the culture and family dynamics it creates, especially in rural areas, and the effect of that on the children of users, Haight said. “Even though our study is rooted in a particular community, it has wider implications in terms of how we approach this problem, looking at the unique rural context,” she said.

Everyone dealing with the problem, from social workers to teachers to police, “is grasping at straws,” according to Linda Kingery, a social work graduate student and one of the project researchers, as well as a child welfare worker in the counties studied. Everyone is looking for answers, she said, “and that’s why this research is so relevant.”

The study found situations of profound neglect and abuse, physical danger resulting from in-house manufacture of the drug, and parents teaching their children criminal behavior and a paranoid distrust of authority.

The same rural isolation that makes it easier to hide the manufacture of the drug also makes it easier to hide evidence of child abuse and neglect, the researchers noted.

They heard stories of 10-year-old children becoming surrogate parents to younger siblings, as their parents went through days-long highs, often accompanied by psychotic symptoms, followed by crashes and days of sleep. Parents making the drug in their homes exposed their children to toxic fumes and the danger of explosions or fires. Some asked their children to steal items needed for making the drug or to stand guard, armed with a gun, looking out for police or other authorities.

One positive found in the research was the response of the community. “What we’ve seen is that in the rural community, the community steps up,” Kingery said. “When you have a small community, they know who’s doing what, and what these kids are going through, and the schools just constantly step up to the plate.”

Educators with suspicions about what is going on in a child’s family will make allowances for them staying after school, or providing for basic necessities, and the children often are eligible for free breakfast and lunch programs. “All of that may be completely up for grabs when they get home,” Haight said.

Haight and her research colleagues interviewed 35 people who had regular contact with children of methamphetamine-abusing parents, including 18 child-welfare workers, seven foster-caregivers, six counselors, a state’s attorney, a police officer, and an elementary school principal.

Social impact Professionals and caregivers often lack the knowledge or resources to help children of methamphetamine users cope with the culture and family dynamics that their parents’ substance abuse creates, according to a study led by Wendy Haight (right), a professor of social work. Teresa Jacobsen (left), a professor of social work, and graduate student Kathryn Sheridan co-authored the report.

They also reviewed relevant local records and conducted about 90 hours of field work over six months, including 17 mornings or afternoons shadowing a child-welfare investigator on visits to rural homes. They also interviewed 12 children in foster care whose parents had abused methamphetamine.

The study was done in collaboration with the Charleston field office of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, which covers the counties of Clark, Coles, Cumberland, Douglas, Edgar, Moultrie and Shelby Counties. The office handles about 100 hotline reports of child maltreatment per month, and about a quarter involve parent methamphetamine abuse.

An article on their study, “In These Bleak Days: Parent Methamphetamine Abuse and Child Welfare in the Rural Midwest,” will be published in an upcoming issue of the Journal Children and Youth Services Review. (The article is in press and available online at www.childwelfare.com/kids/cysr.htm.)

Co-authors with Haight are Teresa Jacobsen, also a professor in the School of Social Work; James Black, a psychiatrist with Methodist Medical Center in Peoria and an adjunct professor in the university’s College of Medicine; Kingery, a child-welfare worker in the Charleston field office of DCFS; and Kathryn Sheridan and Cray Mulder, graduate students in social work. ◆
Professor using four stories’ worth of windows to display art

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

James Warfield is giving new meaning to the phrase “picture window.” In what he describes as something of a “guerilla exercise,” the UI emeritus professor of architecture recently appropriated a four-story bank of windows on the south facade of the UI’s Flagg Hall, transforming the windows into an “off-the-wall” display space for 65 “exploded” sketchbook images.

“Exploded,” in this context, is Warfield’s euphemism for “blown up” – as in “enlarged.” The artwork, which fills the windows of the former residence hall located at 1207 S. Fourth St., consists of 3 x 4 foot reproductions of 8 x 10 inch on-site studies made by Warfield during 40 years of professional travel throughout the world.

The exhibition, “Dancing Lessons From God,” will be on view through March 19 and may be best viewed while driving north on Fourth Street between Peabody and Gregory drives in Champaign. Warfield said the exhibition title is derived from a quotation by author Kurt Vonnegut: “Peculiar travel suggestions are dancing lessons from God.”

The exhibition’s images, which date from 1963 to 2004, were copied from research journals and sketchbooks created on location in destinations that have included Australia, Bolivia, China, Ecuador, Greece, Mali, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Tibet and Turkey. Warfield drew some of the sketches while pursuing field research in vernacular architecture; others, while coordinating study-abroad programs in China, Greece, Mexico and Turkey.

Warfield traces his inspiration for displaying the sketches in such an unorthodox manner to a couple of sources. For starters, he said, he just wanted to mark an “eerie” milestone in his career.

A deeper motivation, however, was his interest in exposing students to the rapidly vanishing art of sketching by hand. “Computers are dominating architecture education today,” he said. “And that’s a fine thing. You can do things with computers that you couldn’t do otherwise. But drawing is something that’s falling by the wayside. It’s good for students to see the sketches. If they don’t see this, they don’t know it exists.”

Although Warfield also is a masterful photographer who believes the camera is an invaluable documentation tool for scholars of vernacular architecture, he maintains that sketches still serve an important purpose in the field. “To me, sketching is an intellectual exercise,” Warfield said. “The wonder and beauty of travel sketches is that they are subjective and interpretive. They are about travel, about thinking, about seeing.” And, he added, “for architects, the ability to ‘see’ is paramount … to understand not only what is physically there, but also to interpret and to imagine.”

Since the exhibition went up last week – just as students were returning to campus after the winter break – responses to it have surpassed Warfield’s own imagination and expectations. “Students are coming up to me, wanting to do independent study to learn this skill,” he said.◆

Travel sketches A unique exhibition by James Warfield, emeritus professor of architecture, features 65 “exploded” sketchbook images in the windows of Flagg Hall. The art will be on view through March 19 and may be best viewed while driving north on Fourth Street between Peabody and Gregory drives in Champaign.

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Heartfelt wishes Denise Davis (front), a secretary III, and Coralyn Beem, a police training specialist, stamp handmade valentines to be sent to U.S. troops overseas as part of a card drive led by the Champaign radio station WBGL-AM (91.7). Seven staff members at the Police Training Institute made and signed 400 cards, which thanked the soldiers for their service. Sherry Holzner, a staff secretary at PTI, coordinated the effort and donated the materials.

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‘Asian Americans and the Law’ UI conference runs Feb. 3-5
Scholars from the United States and abroad are gather- ing at the University of Illinois Law Library, 357 E. Clark St., Feb. 3, for a confer- ence on “Asian Americans and the Law.”

The conference features 13 academic panels, comprising among others, the university’s law school faculty and staff, as well as scholars from institutions and universities around the country. Highlights include a keynote speech by an expert on race and ethnicity in the legal profession, and two symposia, one on the law and Chinese American law, and another on the law and Vietnamese American law.

Information about the conference, including schedules of panels and participants, can be found on the University of Illinois Law Library’s website: www.law.uiuc.edu.

Veterinary Medicine
Pet Lovers’ Expo is Feb. 12
In honor of the seventh anniversary of the CARE Helpline, the UI College of Veterinary Medicine will host a Pet Lovers’ Expo from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 12 at the Veterinary Medicine Basic Sciences Building atrium.

The Companion Animal Related Emotions Pet Loss Helpline, which provides telephone support services, offers a forum for the college that developed to provide support to people experiencing the actual or anticipated loss of their companion animal.

Work by architects and architecture students will be featured, including work by Cheryl Weber, adviser for the CARE Helpline and coun- selor at the veterinary teaching hospital, and other helpline specialists.

At 1:30 p.m., the Canine Rehabilitation Program will demonstrate how dogs gain strength and functionality with state-of-the-art therapy and equipment. At 2:15 p.m., vis- itors can meet the resident birds of prey from the Wildlife Medical Clinic.

The Champaign County Humane Society will have adopted and available, and visitors can buy Valen- tine’s Day treats for their canine or feline sweethearts or purchase a Clay Paws kit to make a permanent cast of a special paw.

For more information about the CARE Helpline and the UI Veterinary Teaching Hospital, visit www.cvm.uiuc.edu.

Survey Research Laboratory
Free seminars offered on survey research
The Survey Research Laboratory will host seminars on survey research methodology during the spring semester from 1 to 5 p.m. Wednesdays, through March 2 in Room 196 Lincoln Hall. These seminars are free to uni- versity faculty and staff members and students. Advance registration is requested; further information about the program will be available at www.srl.uiuc.edu.

Remaining seminars:

More information about each seminar is available at www.srl.uiuc.edu. To register, e-mail kristj@uiuc.edu or call 333-4273. Include your full name, e-mail address, department and whether you are a faculty member, staff member or student. Register early; space is limited. Sugges- tions for additional topics can be sent to youngc@srl.uiuc.edu.

 Jury Livespace art gallery

Three new exhibitions open in Chicago
Figurative and abstract art will be on display at three exhibitions Feb. 4-26. At 1, the Courtyard galleries of the Chicago Cultural Center, 78 E. Washington St., the exhibit, "Ellen Levine: Figurative and Abstract," will feature contemporary figurative and abstract paintings, prints and drawings by Ellen Levine. The exhibit runs through March 17, 2005, and will be open during normal cultural center hours: noon to 10 p.m. Thursday through Saturday, noon to 7 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and noon to 5 p.m. Sunday.

In the Rotunda, "Vera's House: An Altered Life" will feature the work of Vera, a suburban Chicago woman who has been living with Alzheimer’s disease for the past 15 years. The exhibit, which runs through March 17, 2005, will feature art by Vera, who has been working with art therapists at the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research at Rush University Medical Center.

In the Sculptural Garden, "O.T. ": A Research Tour of the Chicago Cultural Center's Permanent Collection," will feature the work of O.T., a person with Down syndrome, who has been working with art therapists at the Center of Excellence for Alzheimer’s Disease Research at Rush University Medical Center.

Fridays from 1:30 to 2:30 p.m., there will be a guided tour of all three exhibitions featuring a talk by a local artist or art educator, followed by a Q&A session.

For more information, call the Cultural Center at 312-744-6630, or visit www.chicagocultural.org.
Fineberg said the film “traces how, over the course of the century, art provided a place in which to re-imagine America, to visualize what we were and wanted to become.”

“Twentieth-century American artists continually challenged an inherited sense of self and society to invent an original relationship with the world around them,” he said. “Venturing into their creative processes, ‘Imagining America’ highlights the common thread of how artists use art to examine and interact with the realities of their personal experience and their unique historical moment.”

The film’s content is presented in three chapters. In the first, the work of such artists as Thomas Cole, Georgia O’Keefe and Robert Smithson is presented in an effort to define and understand an American sense of nature. The second chapter considers themes of reinvention and identity – on both a personal and national scale – and focuses on contributions by Jackson Pollock, Jean-Michel Basquiat and Cindy Sherman. The final segment, which draws on the art of Andy Warhol and David Wojnarowicz and others, documents ways in which artists have helped us re-interpret our cultural self-image and identity in a mass-media dominated world.

In addition to presenting a rich feast of visual imagery and archival footage, the documentary includes on-camera commentary by Fineberg and a number of notable art historians, curators and artists. Among them, UI art history professor Rachael DeLue; former School of Art and Design faculty members Katherine Manhorn and Buzz Spector; and former Krannert Art Museum director Josef Helfenstein.

“Imagining America” is a co-production of MUSE Film and Television, Public Media Inc., Funny Garbage and Perry Films. Major funding for its production was provided by the Terra Foundation for American Art and the Henry Luce Foundation, with additional support from the UI, the Rockefeller Brothers Fund, the Whitney Museum of American Art, and the National Endowment for the Arts.

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**Deaths**

Clark U.J. Altig, 63, died Jan. 20 at Baptist Memorial Hospital, South Haven, Miss. Altig was an elevator mechanic for the Division of Operation and Maintenance for 12 years, retiring in 1997.

Howard Kent Birnbaum, 72, died Jan. 23 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana, Ill. Birnbaum, a professor emeritus of materials science and engineering, joined the Illinois faculty as a professor of metallurgical engineering in 1961. He served as the director of the Department of Energy’s Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory on the Illinois campus from 1987 until his retirement in 1999. Memorials: Sinai Temple; The Jewish Federation; or the Hillel Foundation.

Josephine F. Bogard, 85, died Jan. 23 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Bogard was a film inspector at the UI for 10 years, retiring in 1982.

Russell E. Brown, 80, died Jan. 21 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Brown worked at the UI as a storkeeper in the chemistry department, retiring in 1981 after 35 years. Memorials: St. Matthew Catholic Church Building Fund, 1303 Lincolnshire Drive, Champaign, IL 61822; or American Legion Post 24, 705 W. Bloomington Road, Champaign, IL 61821.

Donald Arthur Lee, 72, died Jan. 21 at The Carle Arbours, Savoy. Lee was a senior specialist in automated education for the Computer-Based Education Research Lab when he retired in 1992. He worked at the UI for 35 years also serving as a research associate and research physicist for many years at the Coordinated Science Lab.

Michael Levine, 68, died Dec. 22 at Kaiser Hospital of Santa Theresa, San Jose, Calif. Levine joined the UI faculty in 1977 as a professor of educational psychology and retired in 2003.

Shirley Jane Perry, 83, died Jan. 20 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Perry was a librarian at the UI Library from 1950 to 1967. Memorials: Ken Perry Scholarship in Accountancy Fund, UI Foundation, Harker Hall, 1305 W. Green St., MC-386.

Harold Robert (Hal) Reinhart, 84, died Jan. 22 at his home in Crestline, Ohio. Reinhart was general director from 1955 to 1967 and executive director of the University YMCA from 1967 until 1981.

James E. Sexson, 78, died Jan. 20 at Chautauqua Nursing Center, Willowbrook. Sexson was a film distribution and maintenance specialist at the UI Film Center for 22 years, retiring in 1991. Memorials: the music department of Highlands Presbyterian Church, 1901 W. 58th Place, La Grange, IL 60525.

Ruth Shaw, 78, died Jan. 27 at Sunset Home in Quincy, Ill. Shaw retired in 1989 as secretary for the UI School of Social Work. Memorials: Camp Point United Methodist Church and Alzheimer’s Association of Central Illinois, 639 York, Room 200, Quincy, IL 62201.

**Memorial**

Robert Reid, 64, died Dec. 15 at his Champaign home. A memorial will be held in his honor at 2 p.m. Feb. 5 in Pylm Auditorium of Temple Hoyne Buell Hall. A reception will follow in the atrium.

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calendar 

Feb. 3, 2005

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InsideIllinois

Entires for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Suite 520 East, Champaign, IL 61820, or to insideill@uiuc.edu or insideil@uiuc.edu.

The online UIUC Events Calendar is at www.uiuc.edu/uicalendar.

Note: Indicates Admission Charge

Feb. 3 to 20