Herman named Urbana chancellor

By Sharita Forrest  
Assistant Editor

Richard Herman, who has served as interim chancellor since June 2004, was named the next chancellor of the UI’s Urbana campus by President Joe White on April 19.

White’s announcement drew a standing ovation from the crowd of 100 or so members of the campus community who had assembled in the Illini Union’s Pine Lounge for the event.

The news came on the heels of a special meeting of the UI Board of Trustees April 16 in Chicago, at which time 20 finalists from top American universities were presented.

“Today I am pleased to announce the selection of a superb group of finalists from top American universities,” Anderson said. “We were very impressed with the quality of leaders that we were able to attract to this position. It was a talented field; a field that made competition really tough.”

Herman, who responded to the announcement in a voice sometimes choked with emotion, prefaced his remarks by saying that “to become chancellor of this great university is not my achievement, it is my privilege.”

President White, Chairman Eppley and the board of trustees have awarded me a trust I will not break. I promise to them, to students and faculty, and to the people of Illinois that I will always serve the university with the highest possible level of integrity.”

By Sharita Forrest

Herman named Urbana chancellor

Herman was honored with the prestigious Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award. 

Pensions discussed during forum

By Sharita Forrest  
Assistant Editor

The reforms that Illinois Gov. Rod Blagojevich has proposed for the five state-funded retirement plans in FY06 are unfairly targeting the pension programs as the source of the state’s fiscal problems, according to the pension programs’ advocates who spoke at a forum April 18 at the Illini Union titled “SURS Retirement Pensions Under Fire.”

“Because of their service the Illinois pension crisis roiling Illinois, which has caused Gov. Rod Blagojevich to propose cutting billions of dollars of anticipated retirement benefits to future state employees, has been a long time coming,” Giertz, a professor of economics, faults the historic use of the pension funds to plug shortfalls that, temporarily masked the cost-of-living adjustment for retirees’ employee costs at state agencies and school districts have been shifted to the pension system through such devices as early retirement programs.

The governor also proposed changing the pension formula for future employees ($89.8 billion) and what the programs are legally obliged to pay out in pensions to current and retired employees ($89.8 billion).

Pensions discussed during forum

State pension crisis: Changes in finance management needed

By Mark Reutter

November 21, 2004

The pension crisis roiling Illinois, which has caused Gov. Rod Blagojevich to propose cutting billions of dollars of anticipated retirement benefits to future state employees, has been a long time coming.

For at least 20 years and across four governorships, Illinois hasn’t been paying enough into its five pension funds to cover its retirement obligations to state workers, schoolteachers, judges and university employees.

The upshot has been a wave of accumulated shortfalls that, temporarily masked by high stock-market returns in the 1990s, has returned with greater force.

This year the state faces $1.8 billion in retirement and debt-service contributions to the pension systems, and contributions are expected to jump to $2.3 billion in fiscal 2006.

Solving the pension crisis will require “broad-based changes” in the way the governor and Legislature manage state finances, according to J. Fred Giertz, a UI expert.

Giertz, a professor of economics, faults the historic use of the pension funds to plug holes in the state budget and laments how employee costs at state agencies and school districts have been shifted to the pension system through such devices as early retirement programs.

“The accelerating cost of funding Illinois’ public pensions is a manifestation of the state’s fiscal problems rather than the root cause,” Giertz wrote in an article in the current issue of Illinois Issues, published by the UI Springfield Center.

“Focusing narrowly on public pensions will lead to inferior solutions to the state’s underlying fiscal weaknesses,” Giertz said.

“Soon the state of Illinois must face the prospect of making large and painful cuts in major state programs — not just cuts in pension benefits decades in the future — or finding additional permanent revenue sources.”

Illinois ended fiscal year 2004 with a 60.9 percent funded ratio, which left a $35.1 billion gap between the cash assets of the retirement programs ($54.7 billion) and what the programs are legally obligated to pay out in pensions to current and retired employees ($89.8 billion).

“Only West Virginia is below Illinois in terms of its unfunded pension ratio.

Blagojevich has recommended various ways to reduce pension costs, including cuts to the retirement benefits of future employees.

The panel members told the crowd of about 70 retirees, faculty and staff members and media representatives that the state constitution, which prohibits reductions in state employees’ pensions, would protect current retirees and employees from most of the changes the governor has proposed, although future employees and retirees would be dramatically affected.

Giertz said that “although the chances of this passing are low,” the benefit reductions to SURS could adversely affect the university’s ability to recruit new faculty and staff members.

The governor proposed reducing pension benefits beginning in FY06 to help the state grapple with a budgetary deficit and more than $43.5 billion in unfunded pension liabilities.

The governor’s plans include raising the eligibility ages for unreduced early retirement, reducing the imputed interest rate for SURS’ members’ investments, eliminating the “money purchase formula” — one of two formulas used to calculate SURS pensions — and capping the state’s liability for end-of-career raises at 3 percent per year.

The governor also proposed changing the cost-of-living adjustment for retirees from 3 percent annually to the rate of the Consumer Price Index, and applying it only to the first $12,000 of benefit.

Pensions discussed during forum

On the Web

www.news.uiuc.edu/ii

April 21, 2005

Vol. 24, No. 19

Cover story on Richard Herman, the new chancellor for the Urbana campus. Herman had served as interim chancellor since June.

State pension crisis: Changes in finance management needed

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France honors UI history professor and others

Four named Goldscholar Scholars

Four UI students are among 32 Goldscholars nationwide.

The scholarships are given to UI students in their junior or senior academic year. The recipients are chosen by a team of faculty members from the UI campus. The scholarship is intended to help students pursue their education in the department of history.

By Andrea Lynn

News Bureau Staff Writer

Richard Herman, UI history professor, has been named Chevalier dans l’Ordre des Palmes académiques, a French honor given by the French Ministry of Education.

The award recognizes Herman’s contributions to the study of French history. He has taught at the University of Illinois for 31 years and is the current chair of the department of history.

Herman’s research focuses on the history of the French Revolution and the role of women in society during that time.

“Richard Herman is a leading scholar in the field of French history,” said UI Provost Richard Brodhead. “His research on the French Revolution has been widely recognized and has contributed significantly to the understanding of that period.”

Herman has published numerous articles and books on the French Revolution, including “The Women of the French Revolution: An Annotated Bibliography” and “Women in the French Revolution.”

Herman has also served as an advisor to several French and American universities, including the University of Paris and the University of California, Berkeley.

In addition to his teaching and research, Herman is a respected member of the French community in Illinois.

Robert Keller, UI assistant provost and dean of students, said Herman’s award is well-deserved.

“Richard Herman is a dedicated scholar and teacher,” Keller said. “He has made significant contributions to the study of French history and has earned the respect of his peers around the world.”

Herman received his Ph.D. in history from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1974. He joined the UI faculty in 1979 and has been a member of the department of history ever since.

Herman’s current research focuses on the role of women in the French Revolution and the impact of political uncertainty on gender roles.

He has been a member of several scholarly organizations, including the Society for French Historical Studies and the American Historical Association.

Herman is a past president of the Society for Eighteenth-Century Studies and has served on the editorial boards of several scholarly journals, including the Journal of Modern History and the Journal of the History of Ideas.

Herman’s work has been supported by numerous grants from the National Endowment for the Humanities and the Social Science Research Council.

He has received several awards for his teaching and research, including the University of Illinois Teaching Award and the University of Illinois Faculty Scholar Award.

Herman is a member of the American Historical Association and the Society for the Study of French History.

He lives in Champaign with his wife, Laura, and their two children, Emily and John.
On the Job Reita Dalton

Reita Dalton has worked as an inventory specialist in the Psychology Building at the UI for the last 15 years. She grew up in the Champaign-Urbana area, and moved to New Mexico due to respiratory problems. While there, she took several undergraduate courses. After eight years her allergies still hadn’t cleared up, so she decided to move back to Champaign to be closer to her family. Since that time, she’s taken on a lot of responsibilities, both at work and in various clubs, but family remains the most important part of her life.

Tell me about your job.

Basically the job has grown around me. I started out just doing a little bit of freight work and a little bit of inventory work. Everything else has just been piled on as the years go by. When somebody retires they aren’t replaced. When somebody gets different job duties, I get a few new ones. So it’s just an as-needed position.

Can you describe some of your daily responsibilities and what your job entails?

I manage incoming and outgoing freight and inventory. Biannually we have to locate the inventory as people move it from room to room and building to building. I am also the checkout person for the instructional equipment. Students and staff check equipment out for the classrooms that don’t come fully equipped. I also do the recycling for the building. And I handle the confidential paperwork that needs to be shredded.

Have you done any additional projects outside your job description?

I actually organized and coordinated the replanting of the atrium about 5 years ago. Our tree in there was so old it was falling out of that big planter because of the weight of it. So I talked with the horticulture department and they worked with their students for a fall and spring project. They didn’t have much of a budget, so our department split the cost to buy the plants while their students did the work. It really turned out gorgeous. Of course this building is 35 years old and I kind of take it on as a personal item – it’s like having your own home, you have things to maintain.

What have you learned while working here?

I found out that some of the scrap we send out, like an old desk, they take it out and bulldoze it. We don’t just take it out and bulldoze it. I’ve found out that some of the scrap we send out, like an old desk, they take it out and bulldoze it. We don’t just take it out and bulldoze it. What do you like best about your job?

One of the reasons I like my job is that I get to meet a lot of the staff and students. I actually organized and coordinated the replanting of the atrium about 5 years ago. That was a really fun project.

Tell me about your job.

I’ve been here for almost 25 years. Our organization is the International Order of Odd Fellows in the Rebekah Lodge, which is the age level any more. If they were to call, I’d be there. But I do work a lot with my grandchildren, so that will be fun.

By Andrea Lynn

News Bureau Staff Writer

Six professors and six graduate students have won fellowships for the academic year 2005-2006 to the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the UI. They will spend the year engaged in research projects that consider “Belief,” IPH’s theme for the year. Fellows also will participate in the year-long Fellows’ Seminar and will present their research at the IPH annual conference in late spring 2006.

The Illinois Humanities Post-Doctoral Fellows:
• Robert A. Yelle, Ph.D. earned in 2002 in the history of religions at the University of Chicago, “Legal Fictions: Genealogies of Law, Religion and Rhetoric.”

Matt Bunzl, IPH director, said that the “Belief” theme should allow the new fellows to consider how belief is a foundational category of human existence.

“It suffuses every aspect of life from the sacred to the secular, from the banalities of everyday experience to the greatest depths of philosophical reflection. Belief reaches across the most diverse domains, yet its many meanings seem to divide into two broad categories. One is belief in conjunction with religion – an infinitely complex and varied phenomenon that has accompanied, perhaps since the dawn of human existence across space and time.”

Belief also has wide and varied functions beyond the field of religion, said Bunzl, an anthropology.

“In the broad sense, it denotes our conviction or acceptance that certain things are true,” Bunzl said. “This expansive sense reaches into all aspects of human experience, where it seems to govern daily activities as much as any form of scientific inquiry.”

Faculty Fellows are released from one semester of teaching. They also are asked to submit a proposal for their award year, or the year immediately following it on a topic related to their fellowship.

“I am grateful to the students who offer a stipend and a tuition waiver from IPH.”

All IPH Fellowships, including the Post-Doctoral Fellowships, are expected to remain in residence on the UI campus during their award year.

Applications for IPH Fellowships are typically distributed in the early fall for the following academic year, and UI faculty and graduate students are invited to apply for the awards, which each year focus on a different theme. The theme for 2006-2007 will be “Beauty.”

NSF-supported information about the fellowship programs, go to to www.iph.uic.edu or contact IPH director Bunzl or associate director Christine Canzian at 217-333-7913.

Six professors, six students win humanities fellowships

UI geography professor wins Guggenheim Fellowship

By Andrea Lynn

News Bureau Staff Writer

Bruce Rhoads, a UI professor of geography, has received a 2005 Guggenheim Fellowship.

He is among 186 artists, scholars and scientists to be selected in the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation’s 81st annual competition. Winners are chosen on the basis of their “distinguished achievement in the past and exceptional promise for future accomplishment,” the foundation said in its April 7 awards announcement.

Rhoads, the head of the U. of I. geography department, won for his project on flood dynamics of river confluences – his “longstanding research interest,” he said. He will pursue the fellowship while on sabatical leave during the academic year 2005-2006.

“Confluences are fundamental components of the structure of natural river networks,” Rhoads said, “yet earth scientists are only beginning to understand the dynamics of physical processes at these important locations in river systems.”

Rhoads’ research activities will include initiation of a project supported by the National Science Foundation examining 3-D flow structure, patterns of erosion and deposition, and mixing at large-river confluences.

“The project involves collecting field data on the Wabash River and numerical modeling of fluid dynamics and sediment transport. We are still working on the NSF-dedicated computer code, and we expect to have the first complete runs of our model next summer.”

However, Rhoads noted work on confluences of small streams, comparing results of those studies with the large-river study “in the hopes of identifying important scaling relations for confluence dynamics,” he said.

Interview by Sarah Scalica
News Bureau Student Intern
Eight staff employees honored with CDSA

By Sarah Scalda
News Bureau Student Intern

Eight staff employees were honored with the Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award at a banquet held at 5:30 p.m. April 12 at the Peacock Room dining hall. The award recognizes exceptional performance, and each recipient was awarded $2,000 and a plaque. Recipients’ names also are inscribed on a plaque displayed in the Personnel Services Office.

Permanent staff employees with at least two years of service or retired employees in status appointments during the calendar year can be nominated for the award by faculty, staff members or students. A committee appointed by the chancellor recommends finalists. The chancellor gives the final approval.

Diane Arnold works as a communications specialist III for Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services. In this position, Arnold is responsible for a variety of tasks, including administration of the telecommunication services on campus, adapting the Voicemail system, working with the university police and serving as a consultant for telecommunications services. Her tasks are essential in ensuring the continuing success of the campus communications system. In addition, her work extends beyond every day phone services, and contributes to the public safety efforts for the campus community through her database of all campus emergency phones.

Arnold also has become a valuable resource for telecommunications unit coordinators across campus because of her in-depth knowledge and understanding of the communication technologies. “One of the joys of working with Diane is that she is willing to share her knowledge, and she’s infinitely patient with others when (they) don’t pick up on that knowledge the first time,” said Jay Geislinger, network administrator for the Research Park and Enterprise Work at CITES.

Arnold’s technical proficiency also helped CITES during the transition to the new billing and operations management system. “Diane was the trailblazer in figuring out how to perform critical functions in the new system and the subsequent training of the rest of her group,” wrote Mona Heath, division director for customer support services at CITES.

Arnold served as a mentor for the campus Voicemail system, also invited Arnold to serve on a board of the national user’s group. In this position, she had the opportunity to meet others who shared the availability of facilities and features needed by the UI and other national customers, which reflected positively on the UI community.

Cynthia Dodds has worked at the UI since 1994 as the administrative coordinator for the Center for Bio- physics and Computational Biology and coordinator of a myriad of tasks to help maintain the program. She has played an important role in tasks from administering grants to nominating students to fellowships.

Among other things, Dodds monitors the progress of graduate students from the time they apply for admission until they graduate and are awarded their degrees. She also coordinates biophysics recruiting weekends and social events. “In a program where most of our students and faculty members are scattered across the campus, she is the glue that holds the program together,” wrote Martin Giesebe, professor and director of the Center for Biophysics.

Dodds has become a valuable resource for graduate students and staff members who have traveled from across the country. Students seek out Dodds for both personal and academic advice because of her friendly demeanor and professionalism. Amir Mirarefi, biophysics graduate student and president of Illinois Biophysics Society, said: “Cindy has provided insight, been supportive of the students’ initiatives, helped students to address their concerns and has served as an integral liaison between the students and numerous faculty members.”

In 1996, she created “Cindy’s Guide to Living Cheaply in Champaign-Urbana” at the request of biophysics students who wanted tips from a native. Since that time, several other departments have mimicked her guide and distributed it to incoming graduate students. It is so popular, that an online copy was made available through the biophysics Web site in 2000.

Lyneese Ellis is the assistant manager for Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services. During her time at the UI she has been essential in coordinating communication services for new buildings and major events, in addition to providing consulting and training for CITES telecommunication services to campus customers. Mona Heath, division director for customer support services at CITES, summarized Ellis’ extraordinary performance in her nomination: “People look forward to opportunities to work with Lyne because of her responsiveness, wonderful attitude and the care with which she does her work.”

In the last year, Ellis has been responsible for several major projects. She helped determine the needs, costs, and development of new facilities and technologies used in the Thomas M. Siebel Center, the new computer science research building. While arranging the voice communication services for the new building, she also managed to coordinate all the communication services needed for the December 2003 Christian conference that was held at the UI.

In the last year, CITES also adopted a new billing and operations management system. Ellis worked extra hours and helped co-workers in order to meet deadlines and learn the new system.

In addition, she provides excellent customer service with her friendly attitude and attentiveness. “Her helpful demeanor and willingness to go the extra mile has won her the highest praise from my staff,” wrote Beth Scheid, director of communication technologies at CITES. Even when problems arise or timetables change, Ellis is able to get the job done. Scheid went on to say that campus clients have described Ellis as “a saint,” “unflappable,” “steady as a rock” or their “sanity check” because she is “the calm at the center of the storm, combining the ability to perform with excellence, a strong desire to learn and to help others, as well as (to) solve problems creatively,” wrote Susan Orban, electrician for Electrical Maintenance and former apprentice to Hinrichs. His ability to troubleshoot and fix problems has won Hinrichs the title of “rescue man” from Orban, who points out that everyone goes to him with questions because of his experience and expertise in a wide range of electrical areas.

Over the years, Hinrichs has adapted to advances in technology in order to increase his own skills. In addition, he takes on apprentices in order to help them master the trade. His patience and team attitude made Orban feel like she was working with Hinrichs, instead of for him. Robert Fritz,依然CDSA, Post 5
Kenny Martin is a building service worker for Facilities and Services, and is the foreman in the Architecture Building. In this position Martin is responsible for keeping the building organized and presentable. Martin does an exceptional job of maintaining the building, making life easier for the students and staff that use the building, according to Rhonda Frank, secretary in the Architecture Undergraduate Office. “We can all count on him,” said Frank, who serves as the liaison between staff and Martin when problems arise.

In a program that often requires long, late hours for students, the building is used 24 hours a day, seven days a week, but Martin takes the initiative and stays ahead of the work so that students can continue to be productive. According to Frank, Martin has a wonderful attitude, is very friendly and has gotten to know some of the students. This contributes to a positive work and teaching environment. Frank wrote, “Officers and classrooms in hallways have been swept and cleaned and details attended to right on schedule – with a pleasant smile.”

Image and appearance are very important aspects of architectural design. It is important to adhere to a high standard of cleanliness in order to uphold the principles of design, especially with alumni and architects visiting the building with their critiquing eyes. Pamela Hohn, executive assistant dean in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, points out “having a clean, order building lets parents, alumni and other visitors know that we care about them, we care about our students, and we are good stewards of university property.” Martin does an exceptional job of creating a positive image of the college, and continues to create a welcoming environment with his superior maintenance and friendly demeanor.

Angela Midkiff works as a secretary IV, serving as assistant to David Schejbal, the associate vice chancellor and director of the Office of Continuing Education. In this position, she works with Schejbal on a variety of tasks, including overseeing office affairs and resolving administrative needs. Since Schejbal’s job involves many off-campus responsibilities, Midkiff steps up when Schejbal is gone to make sure everything runs smoothly.

“Angie promotes positive morale by displaying a congenial, supportive attitude and providing service to others,” Schejbal wrote. Her positive attitude has had a great positive on the staff and the campus. Midkiff understands the importance of establishing interpersonal relationships, and she makes an effort to learn as much as she can about people. This directly helps create a friendly environment. It has also proven vital to the environment. It has also proven vital to the school through tours, attendance of conventions, and weekly egg sales with the public. “He is one of those naturally charismatic humans that can talk to anyone about anything,” wrote Pamela Utterback, research assistant in animal sciences.

In an animal-handling lab he teaches, Utterback has become a valuable resource and mentor. Students often approach him for advice on post-undergraduate options. Neal Merchen, head of animal sciences, recognized Utterback’s abilities to help others. “He is one of those naturally charismatic humans that can talk to anyone about anything,” wrote Pamela Utterback, research assistant in animal sciences.

He also has proven to be a resource for graduate students traveling from other states or countries, and has tried to make them feel welcome at the UI. This genuine interest in other people has gained Utterback the respect of his peers, the community and the students with whom he works.

Melissa Warmbier is a secretary IV in the department of agricultural and consumer economics. She is responsible for providing administrative support to the department, coordinating a wide range of workshops and maintaining material for the Farm Analysis Solution Tools software group. In addition, she has become the primary contact and administrative coordinator of activities in the Center for Farm and Rural Business Finance Center.

Warmbier has become a valuable resource for the 15 professors she assists, and many rely on her vast knowledge. She has taken the initiative to learn new computer programs and sharpen her computer skills, and her increased efficiency helps the department run smoothly. As Bruce Sherwick, professor in agricultural and applied finance, wrote, “Efficiency” and “Melissa” have nearly become synonyms in our department.”

Over the last few months, Warmbier also was asked to move to the department head’s office to fill a vacancy. During this time, she filled the position while also managing her other responsibilities. She is now permanently assigned to the new office because of her hard work and diligence. “Melissa is an incredibly hard worker who also has brought a refreshingly positive and enjoyable attitude to the office,” wrote Robert Hansen, head of agricultural and consumer economics.

Annually, Warmbier also coordinates and manages all aspects of Farm Analysis Solution Tools training programs, which have been very successful. Through her continuing efforts, she has created a positive public image for both the department and the UI.
Students sleep in class with professor’s blessing

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

With final exams just around the corner, stress levels are rising for college students everywhere. But at the UI, said White, in addition to teaching students to recognize red flags when they are stressed out, he also wants to teach them life skills – ways to handle stress levels to prevent them from becoming overwhelming.

“I believe this is the first class in the world to teach students how to relax through sleep.”

At a university, we traditionally focus on just teaching knowledge-based subjects. This has to be changed. We have to teach students life skills – ways to handle the stress they will encounter out in today’s fast-changing world.”

Staff members Jean Ascoli, an architect in the Planning Division of Facility Services, and Siew Szetho, a program and projects manager, commented on how much better their knees felt after a few Qi-gong sessions.

“The class really opened my eyes to how we can move and feel better,” said Szetho, who believes the exercise also helps loosen muscles in her neck and back that get strained sitting hunched over a keyboard at work.

Ascoli, who likes to incorporate an hour of what she calls “gentle exercise” – walk, slowly, Qi-GONG, PAGE 7

UI president shares life lessons during lecture on ethics

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The important thing in life is simply to be able to look yourself in the mirror every morning without flinching.

That was the advice university President Joe White said he received from his father while he was growing up and that he passed on to College of Business students when he delivered the 2005 Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership.

White, who holds an appointment as the James F. Tow- er Professor of Business and Leadership in Ethics and Leadership, addressed students and other members of the campus community on April 11 at Wohlers Hall.

Recent scandals such as those involving domestic diva Martha Stewart, former Enron chairman Kenneth Lay and the Arthur Andersen accounting firm have created a “train wreck” and “crisis of confidence in American business leadership, and we’re all paying the price,” White said.

Exploiting – instead of avoiding – finan- cial conflicts of interest in pursuit of per- sonal gain was the single overarching trans- gression in the corporate scandals of recent years, White said, and he urged students not to miss the abundant lessons these scandals teach about the consequences of failing to live up to seemingly simple principles of honesty, adherence to the law and upholding one’s responsibilities to stakeholders.

White, an independent director or trust- ee of several companies, cited an incident from his own experience that occurred dur- ing the 1990s when he was the dean of the business school at the University of Michi- gan. Sam Wiley, an alumnus of Michigan and board chairman of Sterling Software Co., had committed to giving $50 million for construction of a building bearing his name on the Michigan campus.

Although White initially agreed to join the company’s board, after attending his first board meeting he realized his ability to serve as an independent voice on the board would be eclipsed by his primary re- sponsibility to the university and his subse- quent relationship to Wiley as an alumnus and major donor. The board appointment, which White believed was motivated only by Wiley’s generosity and mutual respect, would be tainted if people were to interpret it as quid pro quo for supporting Wiley’s decisions as board chair.

White said that forgoing the directorship was the right choice in the long term because “a clear conscience is truly priceless.”

Financial conflicts of interest abound in professional life, White said, and he urged students to be “high integrity profession- als and persons” throughout their lives, no matter how great the temptation might be to pursue short-term personal gain.

“It won’t be easy,” White said, “but it will serve you extremely well. Your most
April 21, 2005

Directors and auditors to be more attentive

Changes in corporate America, prompting from the scandals also is fostering positive small businesses, White said the backlash the law may be substantial, especially for companies. While the resultant costs of internal control practices in publicly traded rate governance, financial disclosure and established stringent guidelines for corporals of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which passage the intense pressure to perform – to

earnings – has unintended consequences, to manage costs and drive American value of wealth attainment. At odds with their colleagues and with the concurred, saying that it may put people students than teaching ethics as an isolated courses would be more beneficial to stu lessons into accounting or business and other dilemmas will arise. Integrating lessons into the core curricula and illustrat ing for students how conflicts of interest

management, the result being optimum health of the body and mind,” Zhu said.

The gentle movements, easy postures, and simple meditation techniques of this powerful healing method bring about a balanced energy flow, the result being optimum health of the body and mind,” Zhu said.

The Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership. He told students at the College of Business: “Your most valuable assets are your integrity, your independence, your reputation and your peace of mind.”

In responding to a question about how the university might better prepare students to navigate the murky waters of the business world, White said that he believed integrity is “forged at an earlier age than college.” However, faculty members could reinforce basic values by weaving ethics lessons into the core curricula and illustrating for students how conflicts of interest and other dilemmas will arise. Integrating these lessons into accounting or business courses would be more beneficial to students than teaching ethics as an isolated subject, White said.

When another student said that choosing to do the right thing involves courage, White concurred, saying that it may put people at odds with their colleagues and with the American value of wealth attainment.

“The intense pressure to perform – to grow a business, to manage costs and drive earnings – has unintended consequences, including the temptation to cheat in pursuit of economic gain,” White said.

One consequence of the corporate scandals of the past several years was passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, which established stringent guidelines for corporate governance, financial disclosure and internal control practices in publicly traded companies. While the resultant costs of the law may be substantial, especially for small businesses, White said the backlash from the scandals also is fostering positive changes in corporate America, prompting directors and auditors to be more attentive of and research in Qi have been criticized as a ‘pseudoscience.’”

Zhu is among those who suspect further research will dispel such concerns. In particular, the UI kinesiologist wants to iden tify scientific means for understanding why Qi-gong works, as well as procedures for measuring results quantitatively.

To that end, Zhu is collecting data from class participants for ongoing research. “We measure self-reported stress levels every other Thursday – at the beginning and the end of the class,” Zhu said.

He is hopeful that the data will support some of the conclusions that he and other proponents of Qi-gong have arrived at through practice and observation. Among other things, he said, “We believe that Qi, like muscular strength, is an ability and function that everyone has. With a little training, everyone can feel and benefit from Qi.”

“Everybody says, ‘I don’t have time to exercise,’ but there are no excuses with Qi-gong. You can do it while watching TV or waiting on the bus. I call it the ‘21st-century exercise.’”

University President Joe White talked recently during the Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership. He told students at the College of Business: “Your most valuable assets are your integrity, your independence, your reputation and your peace of mind,” he said.

and counterbalance the competitive pressure felt by staff.

Another unintended consequence of the law is it is enhancing the cachet of auditors and boosting salaries, White said.

“What a great time to go into the accounting and auditing profession,” White said.

The Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership is named in honor of Richard Leighton, who attended White’s presenta tion, and his wife, Grace. The Leightons donated the funds to endow the lectures.

Qi-Gong, Continued From Page 6

valuable assets are your integrity, your independence, your reputation and your peace of mind.”
A tribute to support staff members across campus during Administrative Professionals Week.
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Ad removed for online version
Geologist digs deep – the Pito Deep, 6,000 meters beneath the ocean

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Late last January, while most people were battling winter’s cold and snow, UI structural geologist Stephen Hurst left for a monthlong cruise in the South Pacific. It was no vacation, though. Hurst joined a team of scientists, engineers and technicians who set sail from Easter Island to explore the Pito Deep, a rift in Earth’s crust nearly 6,000 meters deep.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, the expedition had as its goal to probe the ocean crust, and gain a better understanding of how it was created.

“Pito Deep is one of the few locations where such investigations can be made,” Hurst said. “The rift is on the boundary between the Easter Island microplate and the Nazca plate, in an area where tectonic movement is pulling the crust apart.”

Unlike rifts caused by sea-floor spreading, at Pito Deep there is no fresh magma obscuring the chasm. As a result, the crust is exposed like a split watermelon. The naturally occurring cross-section offers scientists an opportunity to study the structure of the ocean crust and how it formed.

Hurst rendezvoused with the rest of the scientific team on Easter Island. While awaiting final preparations, he had an opportunity to explore the quarry where most of the island’s famous stone heads, or Moai, were carved.

“The quarry is spectacular,” Hurst said. “There are approximately 300 Moai scattered throughout the quarry area, in various stages of completion. Some are 40 feet long. While the workmanship may not equal that of Michelangelo, the Moai are still very impressive.”

When all was made ready, Hurst and the others boarded the Atlantis (host ship for the 24-hour cruise to Pito Deep, which is about 350 miles north and slightly east of Easter Island. Having participated in six similar cruises, Hurst was involved with many technical operations of the expedition, from preparing bathymetric maps to analyzing photographs to diving in Alvin.

The floor of Pito Deep lies about 1,500 meters deeper than Alvin can safely dive, but this was not a problem for the researchers. “The bottoms of these canyons are usually filled with sediment and debris from rocksides,” Hurst said. “For our studies, we wanted to collect rocks from the steepest, not the deepest, part of the chasm.”

The descent takes nearly two hours. The pilot and two “observers” spend the time talking, listening to music or rechecking the equipment.

“You can’t sit back and enjoy the view,” Hurst said, “because there is no view. Sunlight doesn’t penetrate the ocean much past the first 100 meters, so for nearly the entire ride down it’s dark as night outside.”

To conserve battery power, Alvin’s powerful floodlights are rarely used during the descent. Because of the cramped space and limited view, each prospective observer is tested for claustrophobia before being allowed on a dive.

During the dive, the water temperature falls from about 80 degrees Fahrenheit at the surface to close to freezing at depth. Separating the sub’s occupants from the cold water is 2 inches of titanium hull, which also offers protection from the crashing pressure.

“Because of the enormous pressures we experience, it’s not uncommon to find Alvin’s hull festooned with net bags filled with Styrofoam cups and mannequin heads at the beginning of a dive,” Hurst said. “The water pressure squeezes them to a tiny fraction of their original size, making neat souvenirs of the dive.”

The researchers have about five hours to explore the abyss and collect rock samples from the cliff face before Alvin’s power runs low and they must float to the surface.

A veteran of 19 dives, Hurst said each dive is unique. “In addition to some spectacular outcrops, this time I saw a deep-water holothurian for the first time. A very unusual type of sea cucumber, the animal was deep purple, translucent, with a bright pink fluorescent patch and a fringe around the top that waved back and forth. The creature was peacefully swimming at a depth of 3,700 meters.”

There also was a moment of consternation on one of his Pito Deep dives, when a pilot-in-training accidentally shut off Alvin’s power. “In an instant, all was dark and quiet,” Hurst said. “Fortunately, the master pilot quickly restored power.”

Although data analysis will take many months, Hurst said the expedition’s preliminary results are positive. The researchers found the types of rocks they were looking for – rocks from the base of the ocean crust.

“We discovered that Pito Deep has a sort of layer cake geology,” Hurst said. “Like frosting on a cake, the top layer consists of horizontal lava flows. Beneath that is a layer of vertical dikes – the conduits through which the lava flowed. Beneath that is the now solid magma chamber at the base of the ocean crust. And beneath that lies the mantle.”

It may be years before Alvin is scheduled to return to Pito Deep. But when it is, Hurst said he will be ready for another cruise to the South Pacific. ◆

Deep-sea diving

Stephen Hurst, above, peers into Alvin, the deep-sea submersible that was used on a recent exploration of the Pito Deep, a rift in Earth’s crust nearly 6,000 meters deep. At right, Hurst, a veteran of 19 dives, holds ‘hands’ with Alvin. The scientists collected rock samples and explored the abyss.
New program aims to keep seniors mentally active and thriving

By Craig Chamberlain

Byline

Puzzles, brain-teasers, games and creative problem-solving. For many, they’re a fun diversion, but could they also help keep seniors mentally vibrant as they age? One researcher, Elizabeth Stine-Morrow, thinks maybe they could, and has been trying out her theory this school year with a new program called Senior Odyssey.

More than 50 seniors, age 60-plus, have been participating. Their big event comes April 23, with their first annual tournament. Senior Odyssey is part of a two-year research study at the UI, a first attempt to apply the concepts behind a program designed for the young, Odyssey of the Mind, to a new audience of retirees. The funding comes from a $45,000 grant from the National Institutes of Health.

Stine-Morrow, a professor of educational psychology, has built her career studying how aging affects reading, memory and learning. She was exposed to Odyssey of the Mind almost a decade ago, when her son, then in fifth grade, got involved in the program, and she signed up as a coach.

“It was just a really neat program,” Stine-Morrow said. “I just thought some of the seniors participating in our research would just love the kinds of things we were doing.”

The original program aims to develop creativity and problem-solving skills in students from kindergarten through college, through both cooperative team-oriented exercises and competitive events.

Stine-Morrow sought to develop a version that would cater to seniors, help keep them mentally and socially active, and even delay certain age-related declines.

“As a society, we put younger people in educational settings where they’re always challenged, they’re always cooperating or competing with other people to accomplish a goal, they’re always having to work intellectually,” she said. “We generally don’t afford this opportunity to older adults.”

Stine-Morrow ran a short pilot program last spring, then advertised in the summer for participants in the current program, which has run through the fall and spring. The participants were given a battery of tests, then split up into small groups that would meet in weekly one-hour sessions, each led by a student coach employed by the program.

One of those signing up to participate was Jean Sattazahn, who came to the program after seeing an ad in the paper and then calling to check it out. “I was told that it involved playing games – I love games – and solving puzzles – I love doing that too,” she said. She recruited a friend, Margaret Rinkel, to join her, and the two have driven from their homes in MahOMET to the Illinois campus every Tuesday for their weekly session.

For Rinkel, “the idea of creative problem-solving with a small group drew me in,” she said. When she taught high school English, she liked to design games to liven up the study of grammar.

Sattazahn and Rinkel were assigned to a group with Mary Cornell and Betty Towley, from Urbana. They’ve come to call themselves the “MENSA Blondes,” and have even designed their own group T-shirts.

In the weekly sessions, the facilitator takes the group through a progression of various brain-teasers, puzzles and word games designed to work different abilities. Kutzko said the problem-solving challenges were among the things she enjoyed about the weekly sessions. “I like thinking outside the box,” she said. “I would come when the program is over.

One potential drawback to that analysis may be that the program attracts many seniors who already are engaged and active, “who are squeezing this in between their golf game and their volunteering,” Stine-Morrow said. As a result, any effects may be smaller or harder to measure, she said. “The challenge for us is to bring in the couch potatoes.”

The Senior Odyssey Tournament is free and open to the public, and will be held from 9 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. on April 23 at the Champaign Park District’s Hays Center, 1311 W. Church St., Champaign. Anyone interested in participating in next year’s Senior Odyssey program can call 217-244-7931 or e-mail program coordinator Jeanine Parisi at jparisi@uicne.edu.

Steve</ref>
Getting down to business  Rita Schulte, membership director at WILL-AM-FM-TV, is a student in the Executive MBA program. Schulte, who is responsible for about $2 million in donations at WILL, each year, said that she was prompted to study for an MBA because there is an increasing need for the nonprofit sector for people who understand management principles.

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Point-contact spectroscopy deepens mystery of heavy-fermion superconductors

By James E. Kloppele
No. Are you kidding?

Theoretical understanding of heavy-fermion superconductors has just slipped a notch or two, says a team of experimentalists.

Researchers from the UI and Los Alamos National Laboratory recently used a sensitive technique called point-contact spectroscopy to explore Andreev reflection between a normal metal and a heavy-fermion superconductor. Conventional theories cannot account for their data, the scientists report.

"According to conventional theories, the Fermi velocity mismatch between a normal metal and a heavy-fermion superconductor is too large for Andreev reflection to occur," said Laura Greene, a Swamlund Endowed Chair in Physics, who measured and reproduced Andreev reflection that occurred between a normal metal and a heavy-fermion superconductor. "If the mismatch were not so large, the light might be reflected in a normal fashion. The larger the mismatch, the more the electrons will be reflected and the less transmitted."

Similarly, when a metal and a superconductor are in good electrical contact and have different Fermi velocities (the speed of electrons at the Fermi energy), some of the electrons will be reflected in a normal fashion. The larger the mismatch, the more electrons will be reflected and the less transmitted.

"Facing a pension crisis a decade later in 1995, the state enacted a law to bring the pension systems up to 90 percent of full funding by 2045, but left the actual funding of the pension systems in the hands of the Legislative appropriators. This was not an oversight, but the result of the legislative process," Green said.

Underfunding of the pension systems can be traced back to when James Thompson was governor. "This was done explicitly during the austere budget days of the 1980s when Gov. Thompson and the General Assembly chose to direct available state resources to other state programs rather than to pensions. This was not an oversight, but a conscious policy decision."

As a result, most of the governor’s efforts are directed at reducing pension benefits far in the future. Although his proposals are likely to be vetoed in the long run, the savings are being counted by the Blagojevich administration in the current year’s budget.

In a sense," Giertz concluded, "this is a double loss for the state. Pensions are again being used as a device to defer costs, while at the same time they are blamed for creating the state’s fiscal woes."

The five defined-benefit pension systems have 311,000 active members with 172,000 retirees covered by Social Security. Weiss said.

"The state of Illinois has never put in the normal actuarial cost of pension programs," Giertz said, in talking about the state’s history of underfunding its retirement programs.

"Had we done that, our pension system would have been a profit center for the state, and the state could actually take money out and reduce its contributions."

"Brady urged people to contact the governor and legislative leaders to encourage them to consider the pension reforms as a separate bill -- and not as part of the FY06 budget package."

"It’s disheartening to me that they’re going to do it that way because it’s not going to give you folks a chance to be involved in the process," Brady said.

The event was sponsored by the Union of Professional Employees, the Association of Academic Professionals and the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees Local 3700, three of the groups that represent campus employees and faculty members.◆

Shedding light on superconductors

Research by Laura Greene, a Swanlund Endowed Chair in physics, has measured and reproduced Andreev reflection that occurred between a normal metal and a heavy-fermion superconductor, contrary to conventional theory. Greene, whose research team included physicists Tony Leggett, presented the team’s findings at the spring meeting of the American Physical Society in Los Angeles during March.

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"The state of Illinois has never put in the normal actuarial cost of pension programs," Giertz said, in talking about the state’s history of underfunding its retirement programs.

"My feeling is that as long as people are enrolling in Social Security as a retirement benefit, they are going to become part of the Social Security system."

"It’s a zero sum game," Brady said. "If you take money out of one area and put it into another, the pensions will have to pick up the slack."
brief notes

WILL-TV

H olocaust survivor tells her story

WILL-TV is sponsoring a local visit by Marion Blu-
menthal Lazan, a Holocaust survivor and the author of the young-adult book “Four Perfect Pebbles.” Lazan will tell her story of hope and tolerance at 7 p.m. on April 27 at Champaign’s First United Methodist Church, 210 W. Church St. The evening will include a screening of excerpts from a documentary about her life and a reception. Lazan says her story is one Anne Frank might have told had she lived. She wrote a column to tell her story as many people as possible before all the witnesses to the Holocaust are gone. Lazan will be a guest on WILL-AM (580) during “Af-
ternoon Magazine” at 1:15 p.m. on April 27. In addition, WILL-TV will broadcast a documentary, “Marion’s Tri-
umph: Surviving History’s Nightmare,” at 8 p.m. on April 29, for which Lazan was a consultant. The documentary features first-hand accounts of survivors because he thought it would have more of an impact on students. WILL-TV is sponsoring the program, which is bei-
ing distributed to public television stations nationwide by American Public Television. A teachers’ guide is available at aptronline.org and at www.will.uiuc.edu/education/learn-
ing/default.html.

For more information about Lazan, go to www.fourper-
fecetpebbles.com.

Lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender

Online survey examines campus climate

With support from the Office of the Chancellor, the Civil Rights Commission on Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Concerns is conducting a campus sur-
vey to learn about the climate at the UI for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people. Students and faculty and staff members, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity, are requested to do the online survey, which takes about 15 minutes to complete and can be taken any time before May 6. In order to limit the survey to members of campus, the survey is on a secure site and is only accessible with a NET-
ID. For additional sites, visit www.will.uiuc.edu.

For more information, contact James Hall, jinhall@uiuc.
edu or 333-5471.

Vintage Vinyl Sale

Drop off used music, equipment

WILL radio is seeking donations of working stereo equip-
ment as well as used records, tapes and CDs for its Vintage Vinyl Sale. The sale will take place May 21 at Lin-
coln Square Mall in Urbana.

Spurlock Museum

Concert to raise money for tsunami relief

A concert of international music will take place from 1 to 3 p.m. April 30 on the front lawn of the Spurlock Mu-
seum. Donations are suggested to help raise funds for tsu-
nami relief in Sumatra, Indonesia. The concert will feature talempang, the gong and drum music of West Sumatra, and abra, the figure two music of Zapahuay. This event will be presented by local music ensembles in association with the Indonesia Students Club. In case of rain, the concert will be held in the museum.

More information and registration forms are available from Jenny Fraser, 356-0151.

Local conference

European modernism and information society

Scholars representing disciplines as diverse as architec-
ture, urban planning, science, technology, cultural studies and library and information science will gather May 6-8 at the UI for a conference on “European Modernism and the Information Society: Informing the Present, Understanding the Past.”

The conference, which will take place at the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is sponsored by GSLIS in association with the European Union Center, and with support from the University Library, the Office for the Associate Provost for International Affairs and the Delmas Foundation, New York.

Conference organizer W. Boyd Rayward, a professor of library and information science, said the scholars will dis-
cuss “ideas and related institution-building activities of a group of early 20th-century European thinkers – strongly modernist in outlook – about how best to create, dissemi-
nate and manage publicly available information.” Rayward said those figures include Viennese philosopher Otto Neur-
ath, Scottish sociologist and urban planner Patrick Geddes; the group known as the English Fabians; and novelist and journalist H.G. Wells. Conference participants also will focus on the work and ideas of lesser known, but histori-
cally important, figures such as Paul Otlet, Ferdinand van der Haeghen, Ernst Gehrcke, Franz Maria Feldhaus and Dietrich Brücke, a German group associated with chemist Wilhelm Ostwald.

Rayward said, “The conference and events associated with it will offer a challenge to widely held assumptions about the origins and nature of today’s globalized, ‘post-
modern’ information society.”

Also on the conference program will be a documentary film about Otlet, “The Man Who Wanted to Classify the World: From Index Card to the World City,” by award-win-
ing Belgian filmmaker Franscesc Levy. Theater Adhoc will present an experimental theater group from Amsterdam, also will participate in the conference.

More information about the conference, including reg-
istration, times and locations of events, is available on the Web at www.lis.uiuc.edu/conferences/EuroMod05/.

Education Conference looks at qualitative inquiry

The first International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry will be held March 5-7 at the UI. The conference is being
initiated by Norman Denzin, professor in the Institute of Communications Research at Illinois, and others who think the definition of “good science” is being constricted by many governments and funding agencies in the U.S. and other coun-
tries. Denzin argues that these constrictions are detrimental to both research and scholarship.

He and others are raising their voices to object. Present-
ers from more than 45 nations are expected to attend the conference, presenting more than 650 papers over the three-
day event. The theme for the conference is “Qualitative In-
quiry in a Time of Global Uncertainty.”

Many governments are enforcing a quantitative, “evidence-based,” biomedical model of research, which empha-
sizes controlled experiments and number-gathering, said Denzin. They are restricting funds for qualitative research, which emphasizes observation and often seeks to record the voices of marginalized populations.

“These regulatory activities raise fundamental issues for scholarship and freedom of speech in the academy,” he said, and the issues cut across fields as diverse as education, communications, health care, social science, business and law.

One of the most prominent examples is the “No Child Left Behind” legislation in the U.S., which requires fre-
quent testing and pressures schools to raise test scores.

“We want a national and international conversation about how we want science to play out in the public arena in these critical times. We don’t want to be marginalized. We feel we have an important voice, and under current legisla-
tion we are not given that voice,” he said.

The conference schedule is at www.q2005.org.

Allerton Park Visitor Center

Allerton hosts plant sale April 30

The Allerton Plant Sale will take place April 30 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Allerton Park Visitor Center. The sale will feature a variety of quality plants including: perennials for sun or shade, fragrant lilies, butterfly-loving shrubs and fragrant orchids. In addition, unique drought-tolerant plants and other plants difficult to find in Central Illinois will be available. The event also will feature “Ask the Expert.” Participants can bring a picture or diagram of landscape problems and experts will suggest solutions. For those interested in vegetable gardening, heirloom and traditional vegetables will be available on May 14 at the park visitor center.

April 29-30

Spread of free-market policies discussed

A conference on “Fetishizing the Free Market: The Cul-

tural Politics of Neoliberalism” will be held April 29 – 30. Most of the sessions will be at the Levis Faculty Center, and the event is free and open to the public.

The meeting will take a global and comparative approach and focus on globalization, race and ethnic identities, queer politics, violence and citizenship. The geographical em-
phasis will focus on Africa, East and Southeast Asia, Latin America and the United States. According to Michael Roth-
berg, director of Illinois’ Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory and one of the conference planners, the speakers are experts in their fields and represent an array of disciplines. These include: American studies, anthropology, cultural studies, history, literary studies, political science, queer studies, sociology and women’s studies. The conference also will include a film by Alan Klima of the University of California at Davis on the economic crisis in Thailand, which emphasizes small organizations. The film will begin at 7:30 p.m. on April 29 in room 101 of the Armory.

More information is at http://criticism.english.uiuc.edu. ♦

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On portraiture and photography

A rare glimpse of the Arctic world — through the eyes of artists and commercial photographers close to that world — is on view through June 18 in the exhibition “Mapping Situ: Portraiture and Photography” at the UI’s Krannert Art Museum. Organized by artists Wael Baud and Akrum Zaatari, the exhibition includes a range of images and presentation methods — from passport photos of residents of Tripoli to a video projection based on group portraits of soldiers. Above, detail from Beach Series (Revolting) by Studio Shehrazade, the photos by Lebanese photographer Hashem el Meziane, dated from 1949-55 and are from the archives of the Arab Image Foundation.

calendar of events

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1. Calendar from page 16
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**CALENDAR:**

**April 20, 2005**

- **Monday:**
  - Lecture: Eduardo Dato, 12:30 p.m., Grainger Center. Talk on the making of the first computer music piece. **School of Music.**
  - Lecture: Christopher O'Reilly, 10 a.m., Colwell Playhouse. "Beyond the Fifth Harmony." **School of Music.**

- **Tuesday:**
  - Lecture: Aviva Eisenberg, 12:30 p.m., Illini Union. "Human Connection in the Age of Malaria." **School of Music.**
  - Lecture: Janet Bergstrom, 10 a.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**

- **Wednesday:**
  - Lecture: Ian Schneller, 12:30 p.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**
  - Lecture: Andrew Carnegie, 10 a.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**

- **Thursday:**
  - Lecture: Paul Brodene Smith, 12:30 p.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**
  - Lecture: Maria Lassnig, 10 a.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**

- **Friday:**
  - Lecture: Karen Barad, 12:30 p.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**
  - Lecture: John Barnes, 10 a.m., Illini Union Auditorium. "The Quest for the Millennium." **School of Music.**