Willard plans for renovations – inside and out

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

It’s springtime in Illinois: Flowers are blooming, crops are sprouting and construction zones are popping up everywhere — including Willard Airport in Savoy.

In early May, the airport began a $3.1 million project to resurface the ramp on the south side of the terminal where airplanes load and unload passengers. According to Steve Wanzek, airport manager, the joints in the ramp have started to deteriorate, and, as a result the top layer of concrete must be stripped off and replaced.

Although a variety of refurbishments have been made inside the terminal — including renovating the cafe and adding escalators — since it was built in 1989, this is the first time the ramp will be renovated.

The majority of the work is being funded by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, with the state of Illinois and Willard Airport each paying 25 percent of the costs.

Wanzek said the ramp renovations will not affect service, as planes will use different gates while the construction is under way.

This summer, the entrance drive to the airport from U.S. Route 45 and the airport parking lot are being resurfaced as well.

“The road will always be open; we’ll do it one half at a time,” Wanzek said. “We’ll do the left side and keep the right open, and vice versa, and there will always be entrance open to the parking lot.”

The $1.4 million project is being funded by the state and by airport revenues.

Several other projects at Willard also are in the planning or design stages, including plans to replace the revolving doors at the terminal entrance. Passengers who have struggled to get into the terminal carrying bulky baggage or multiple bags will be glad to know that the airport plans to replace the current 8-foot doors with wider, 14-foot doors.

Wanzek said that the project, which is being funded by the $4.50 facility charge paid by airline passengers, is in the design stage and will be sent out for bids soon, then presented to the UI Board of Trustees for approval, possibly at the board’s July meeting. Although Wanzek had hoped the project could be timed to coincide with the ramp refurbishments, it’s likely that it will be slated for summer 2007, pending approval of the board of trustees.

Airport officials also are looking at replacing two of the three bridges that passengers use to board and disembark. One of the bridges is too short to reach down to regional 

Top-ranked research

Nick Holonyak Jr. (right), a John Bardeen Chair Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics, was the author of two papers selected by Applied Physics Letters as the top five most important papers published by the journal. Holonyak’s papers were published more than 40 years apart — in 1962 and 2003. Albert Feng, the Holonyak Chair of Electrical and Computer Engineering, was co-author of the most recent paper honored.

Happy landings

A pavement profiler machine (right) removes the top layer of concrete on a ramp at Willard Airport to prepare for resurfacing. The $3.1 million project, which began in May, is being funded mainly by a grant from the Federal Aviation Administration, with additional funding from the airport and the state of Illinois. The airport’s parking lot and access road also will be resurfaced this summer.

UI researchers produce two of ‘most important’ scientific papers

By James E. Klopoppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Two of the five most important papers published in the 43-year history of the journal Applied Physics Letters were written by UI researchers.

Nick Holonyak Jr., a John Bardeen Chair Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics at Illinois, was an author of both papers, which span the development of the light-emitting diode to the invention of the transistor laser.

As the American Institute of Physics celebrates its 75th anniversary this year, editors of the organization’s research journals were asked to select the five most significant papers published in each journal. In the case of Applied Physics Letters, thousands of papers were considered — not only for scientific content, but also for the impact a paper had, or might have, on industry or the general public.

The first of Holonyak’s chosen papers appeared in the journal’s Dec. 1, 1962, issue and reported the first semiconductor laser in the visible spectrum and the first visible light-emitting diode, which formed the basis for today’s high brightness light-emitting diodes.

“This may be the most important piece of work I’ve ever done,” said Holonyak, who was employed at the General Electric Co. in Syracuse, N.Y., at the time. Holonyak’s technician, Sam (Severio) Bevacqua, was the paper’s only co-author.

The second paper selected appeared in the Sept. 26, 2005, issue and reported the first-room temperature operation of a transistor laser. “I consider this a very important development and maybe — time will tell — a great development,” Holonyak said.

In addition to Holonyak, the paper’s co-authors were electrical and computer engineering professor Milton Feng, and post-doctoral research associate Gabriel Walter and graduate research assistant Richard Chan (now at BAE Systems).

The Illinois researchers first reported the demonstration of a light-emitting, hetero-

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Shifting makeup of Illinois population will affect policy choices

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

A look at the state’s changing demographics offers clues as to how Illinois law makers may handle public policy choices in the future, according to UI researchers.

While the overall population grew moderately between 1990 and 2003, increasing from 12.7 million to 13.1 million, the state’s ethnic and racial composition has changed dramatically. Both the number of Hispanics and Asian residents doubled, while the number of non-Hispanic whites decreased by 1.6 percent. The black population increased by 13 percent.

While 2.3 percent (about 290,000) of state residents dropped from 75 percent in 1990 to 66 percent in 2003. While blacks still constituted 15.2 percent (up from 14.9 percent in 1990), they are closely followed by Hispanics, who made up nearly 14 percent, up from 7.4 percent in 1990. Also rapidly increasing from a small base is the Asian population, growing to 5 percent of the state’s population, compared to 1.7 percent in 1990.

These demographic shifts are likely to have an impact on future policymaking on several issues, according to “The State of the State of Illinois,” a report issued by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Cedric Herring, a sociologist at IGPA, noted that Illinois residents place state spending before education as the most pressing problem facing the state. “Also, between 2002 and 2004, economic concerns such as unemployment have risen to special prominence,” Herring wrote.

Despite a strained state budget, a majority of respondents want the state government to increase spending in five areas: medical care, public health, job training, public schools and higher education. There is considerably less support for increased spending on prisons and highways, especially on new highways. State spending on the environment drew middling support.

There is a noticeable gap between the different groups on several issues. For example, 74 percent of the blacks and 61 percent of the Hispanics polled favored additional state spending on medical care, compared with 47 percent of white respondents.

Similarly, blacks (76 percent) and Hispanics (82 percent) were more likely than whites (48 percent) to support more state money for colleges and universities. “Because the proportions of African Americans and Hispanics in Illinois have increased, their opinions are now weighted more heavily in the formulation of public opinion in the state,” Herring noted.

He also wrote that many respondents “expressed a willingness to pay as much as $300 per year in additional state taxes to prevent cuts in state services and more than half were willing to pay at least $250 in more taxes to avoid cuts.”

Looking specifically at what taxes should be increased, 65 percent favored increasing corporate taxes, while only 27 percent favored increasing personal income taxes and 21 percent favored increased sales taxes.

Responses differed according to political affiliation and geographic location. Self-identified Republicans from Central and Southern Illinois were much less inclined to any increases. Expert analyses are offered in the IGPA report, including on health-policy issues, conservation policies and the “digital divide” separating black and Hispanic residents from white residents.

UI contributors include J. Fred Gieszt, an economist, writing on the state’s pension shortfall; Madhu Khanna, a professor of agricultural and consumer economics, writing on cropland conservation practices; Peter F. Mulhall, an adjunct professor in community health, writing on after-school services; economist Elizabeth T. Powers writing on child care centers; and Robert F. Rich, director of IGPA, writing on health-policy issues.

Herring contributed an essay on the growing disparity in computer training and knowledge between minorities and white residents. “We continue to train racial minorities for occupations with decreasing labor demands at the same time that we do not sufficiently prepare them for jobs that are opening up in sectors that lack skilled workers, especially in the computing profession,” Herring concluded.

The State of the State report can be downloaded at IGPA’s Web site at www.igpa.uillinois.edu/.

WILLARD, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
jets, which sit lower to the ground than larger aircraft, will be replaced with 750,000 enplanements by 2005. “There was some people saying that by August 1994, we would have 750,000 enplanements and we’d have to close Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul,” he said. “There were some people saying that by the end of 1994, we’d have 750,000 enplanements and we’d have to close Chanute Air Force Base in Rantoul.”

“We've been asking for Atlanta service for a while,” Wanzek said. “Atlanta is Del-ta’s biggest hub, so it connects to all their stateside and overseas flights, and it offers the greatest opportunity for us.”

Making waves
Debbie Piper, a staff secretary in mechanical and industrial engineering and a sophomore in LAS, designed a stained glass window that was installed in the reception area of the Center of Advanced Materials for Purification of Water with Systems on the second floor of the Mechanical Engineering Building. Piper, who once owned a stained glass studio, spent a week making the 3-foot by 3-foot window, which has an abstract design in shades of blue and green. The design is meant to focus on the water research done by the center.

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The transistor laser combines the function of a transistor and a laser by converting electrical input signals into two output signals, one electrical and one optical. “We’ve been asking for Atlanta service for a while,” Wanzek said. “Atlanta is Delta’s biggest hub, so it connects to all their stateside and overseas flights, and it offers the greatest opportunity for us.”

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UI microbiologist Carl Woese elected to Royal Society

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

UI microbiologist Carl Woese has been elected as a foreign member of the Royal Society, the world’s oldest and continuously active scientific academy in the world. Woese was among six newly chosen foreign members and 44 Fellows named May 19 by the Royal Society, which was founded in 1660. Among the foreign Fellows named with Woese were two Nobel Prize winners. Woese had won the 2003 Crafoord Prize in Biosciences from the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences, which awards the Nobel Prizes each year.

“The Royal Society is an ultimate scientific society,” said Woese, who holds the Stanley O. Ibberson Endowed Chair at Illinois. “It is a great honor to be chosen as a member of this great academy.”

In an announcement of the Royal Society cited Woese for his discovery of a third major division of life, the archaea (pronounced AR-kee-uh) that ranks equally with bacteria and eukaryotes (protozoa, fungi, plants and animals). “This resulted from his study of sequences of 16S ribosomal nuclear acid, which he has shown to be applicable to all living organisms,” the Society said.

Woese joined the Illinois faculty in 1964 after working at Yale University (1955-60), General Electric Research Laboratory (1960-63) and the Pasteur Institute in Paris (1962).

Northern Illinois administrator named head of Student Affairs

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

C. Renee Romano, the vice president for educational and student services at the University of Northern Iowa, has been named vice chancellor for student affairs at the UI, pending approval of the UI Board of Trustees during its teleconference meeting June 5.

Romano will begin her new duties at Illinois on July 1, succeeding William L. Riley, who has filled the position on an interim basis since the retirement of Patricia Eilers in August 2005.

“Renee impressed us all with her enthusiasm and vision for a true partnership between student affairs and academic affairs,” said Chancellor Richard Herman. “She is a great addition to the leadership here in Urbana.”

Romano, a native of Illinois, earned a bachelor’s degree in art in 1977 from Southern Illinois University at Carbon dale, a master’s degree in higher education in 1979 from SIU-C, and a doctorate in higher education in 1994 from Iowa State University.

Romano began her career in student affairs in 1979 at the University of New Hampshire. In 1980, she became the associate director of student affairs for the John E. “Jack” Heller, professor of agricultural and consumer sciences and consumer and environmental sciences.

John Keith Bouseman, 69, died May 13 at his Urbana home. Bouseman had been an entomologist for the Illinois Natural History Survey. He retired in 2003 after 45 years of service. Memorials: Natural History Survey Library Fund, 1816 S. Oak St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Kathryn R. Hill, 90, died May 20 at Mason District Hospital, Havana, IL. Hill worked in the College of Veterinary Medicine and also served as assistant to the dean in what is now the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. She retired in 1983. Memorials: First Presbyterian Church of Havana and IL College of ACES Scholarship Fund.

Lorraine Solander died May 24 in Chicago. Solander served as an assistant director of the Coordinated Science Laboratory.
Course explores using technology to encourage people to walk

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

These days, when people walk down the street “alone,” chances are they’re actually doing so in the company of remote others – connected by a cell phone or iPod.

Meanwhile, everyone – from doctors and researchers to television anchors and newspaper advice columnists – is drumming into our collective consciousness the benefits of a simple activity that had almost become obsolete in our car-acclimatized culture: walking.

This past semester at the UI, a group of students from diverse academic backgrounds – from computer science and electrical and computer engineering to painting, photography and music composition – pooled their talents in a course exploring ways to merge the art of walking with the culture’s emerging passion for portable electronic gadgets.

The course, “Mobile Mapping for Everyday Spaces,” was taught by art and design professor Kevin Hamilton, with assistance from visiting Canadian artists Simon Levin and Laurie Long, and Piotr Adamczyk, a student in human factors. The students’ experimental playground consisted of the grounds around campus as well as a few off-campus sites.

But their base camp was the Siebel Center for Computer Science.

Hamilton, who is among a new breed of visual artists who glides confidently between the dual, increasingly interconnected worlds of art and technology, serves as Siebel’s resident curator of art exhibits. For the past year plus, he has organized a series of shows at Siebel featuring work by emerging digital artists.

Hamilton said the “Mobile Mapping” course was an extension of a symposium he organized in spring 2005 in the art and design school called “Walking as Knowing as Making.” Both the symposium and the course explored the act of walking – which provides opportunities for observing and interacting with one’s environment – as an art form.

Hamilton said that while the academic world has been slow to embrace this concept, a number of artists – especially in Canada and Europe – have been creating public art projects based on walking for some time. He met Levin and Long, known for their collaborative public art on environmentally conscious themes, a few years ago at a festival in Canada.

The concept of walking as art, and the goals of the course, can best be summed up in Hamilton’s charge to his students at the beginning of the class:

“We want to create experiences for viewers/users that encourage them to walk. We want to do this because we believe walking to be uniquely suited to gaining awareness about one’s body, the world, and one’s relationship to others in that world.”

Hamilton said the aim was to introduce new technologies, such as global positioning systems, into the equation “because we believe there are some unique perceptual and social possibilities in technologically augmented movement.”

The students worked in four-person teams on two initial assignments, leading up to a final project. Their end goal, Hamilton said, was “to prototype a suite of inexpensive devices to be used in support of mapping everyday spaces while walking.” Throughout, they remained focused on four content areas: walking, mapping, collaboration, and locative media.

Besides taking orchestrated group walks and doing readings, students tackled projects that required them to try their hands at such challenges as “reverse engineering” – essentially taking apart cheap electronic toys and making new devices to augment a walking experiment. They also learned to use and incorporate into their work some of the latest online tools, such as Flickr.com, a Web-based photo-file-sharing database, and Wikis, communal Web pages where students and instructors can share course content.

The first group created a “walking score,” which resembled a musical score but included notations indicating the directions, pace and rhythm that walkers – outfitted with GPS units – were to follow. Walkers also carried digital cameras, and were cued by the score to snap pictures at various times. The GPS data and images were then posted on a Web site to create a visual collage that documented the walkers’ paths.

The next group featured a person who, outfitted with a portable lectern and microphone, took a walk while reading and recording a pre-selected text. After that, a second walker attached the device and listened to the recording while walking. In order to hear the text read at the correct speed, the second walker had to duplicate the first one’s pace.

The third group recorded audio files linked to specific locations along the sidewalk of the campus’s main Quadrangle. When walkers – outfitted with headphones, a GPS receiver and laptop computer with custom software – duplicated the recorders’ paths, they were able to hear exactly what the original walker-recorders had heard.

The final group outfitted one person in a backpack with portable speakers, and the other walkers, with sensors attached, were able to create a range of different notes, or audible sounds, triggered by each footstep. The result resembled an often-amusing improvisational dance set to self-generated "music.”

While it’s entirely possible that some of the ideas and devices the students invented could lead to the development of new consumer devices one day, “the real focus was on collaboration itself,” Hamilton said. “The students had to document everything with text and photos, and learn to work within a group dynamic.”

From Hamilton’s perspective, the course has been “a perfect melding of research and teaching.”

In the future, he hopes to draw in students and researchers from other disciplines as well, among them, faculty and staff members in a campus kinesometrics lab who are conducting research on walking and GPS technology.
Housing DVD helps incoming students get fresh start

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Erica Hernandez, a freshman majoring in theater, awakens in her dorm room, with a splitting headache, a sore throat and a cough. Hernandez doesn’t want to miss her psychology class that day – and thinks that she needs to see a doctor – but can’t remember the name of the campus health center so she can call for an appointment. So Hernandez does what any bewildered freshman might do: She calls mom.

Getting medical treatment for a minor illness is just one of the many situations that new students leaving the family nest for college may have to contend with – along with doing their own laundry and figuring out how to hook up their computers to the university network.

To help orient incoming students to life on campus and in the dorms, the Housing Division has created a DVD called “Startin’ Fresh” that has been mailed to the approximately 7,500 students who will move into university housing this fall.

Using a combination of video role plays and instructional segments, the nearly hour-long DVD shows new students what their first few days on campus may be like and outlines the resources that are available to assist them with academics as well as day-to-day living.

In the role-play segments, student actors deal with mundane problems, such as locking themselves out of their rooms, going to a dining hall for the first time and getting treatment for a minor illness at McKinley Health Center, as Hernandez does in the “Mom, I’m Sick – Or is There a Doctor in the House?” video. The video shows the viewer how to schedule a doctor’s appointment through McKinley’s Web site, and – from a first-person perspective, as if the viewer were Hernandez – walks the viewer into the health center for diagnosis and treatment by Dr. William Cifuentes and for a prescription, filled by pharmacist Dwayne Robinson.

Health educator Kim Rice, who helped develop the content for the McKinley segment, also appears in the video and discusses the various services that McKinley provides.

“I think that any way we can market to students and let them know what services are available to them is going to help them,” Rice said. “When they first get to campus, they’re inundated with all of the things that campus has to offer, and they may not choose to access health-care information immediately. … I think it’s important that they receive information in a variety of ways about the health and wellness services so that when they need those services, hopefully they’ll remember that those things are available.”
H.G. Wells’ cartoons offer window on second marriage

By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

ow does an imaginative but irascible writer – the future author of 100 books and the grandfather of science fiction – thank his literary partner and wife for her steady, selfless and sterling contributions to his career?

How does he ask for forgiveness when he’s behaved badly? How does he diffuse the time bombs of marital tensions that tick endlessly between them?

In the case of H.G. Wells, we now know. A new book shows and tells how the futurist-historian-novelist communicated these and a myriad of other intimate thoughts to Jane, his second wife – as stalwart a sidekick as any fiction-writer could dream up.

Over the course of their open and troubled marriage (1895-1927), Wells squiggled hundreds of enchanting, artful, ingenious, humorous and poignant cartoons for the second Mrs. Wells, and he did so whenever and wherever the mood struck – into the marginia of drafts, in correspondence, on scraps of paper and on presentation copies of his books to her. Then he tied the diminuendo of his books to his and Jane’s relationship and sometimes as a sidekick as any fiction-writer could dream up.

In this private picshua world, Wells and Jane had to play by his husband’s rules. Moreover, she also had to put her own literary dreams aside. Many of the picshuas feature Jane as “Mrs. Wells,” shortened forms of “husbinder.” Wells also sometimes represented his wife – and the mother of their two sons – as a “Babs,” shortened forms of “husbinder.”

In private picshua world, Wells could, among other things, openly and honestly acknowledge the difficulties in his and Jane’s relationship and sometimes even “negotiate his demands in nonsensical verse,” the Rinkels wrote. The cartoons offered a vehicle for the Wellses to laugh at themselves and their foibles, but one must wonder if Mrs. Wells was as amused as her Mr.

The author of “The Time Machine” and “The War of the Worlds” could be irritable, expressive, volatile, and petulant. Jane, on the other hand, was typically calm, reserved, a gentle and kind spirit, who helped her husband ascend to the highest rungs of literary and social success in Edwardian England and the world.

Wells may have resented some of her leadership, for he often drew Jane as a diminutive dictator, always in the lead, her husband in tow, full speed ahead on the job – whatever it was, from selecting wallpaper to editing stacks and stacks of manuscript pages.

She did run his life,“Mrs. Wells was always as amused as her Mr. Wells may have resented some of her leadership,” Margaret Rinkel said, but that was precisely how H.G. wanted it. However, in many areas of life, Jane had to play by her husband’s rules. Moreover, she also had to put her own literary dreams aside.

While his extracurricular activities were no secret, Wells’ penchant and talent for sketching has been largely unknown outside the world of Wells scholarship. The Rinkels note that Wells was a trained artist. Even earlier, as a sickly child, he wielded his pens to express himself.

The new book, “The Picshuas of H.G. Wells: A Burlesque Diary” (University of Illinois Press), is the first attempt to collect, organize and contextualize the masses of mini-drawings Wells doodled for Amy Catherine Robbins, whom he later would dub “Jane.”

The authors Gene Rinkel and Margaret Rinkel – themselves a literary couple – take over 132 such picshuas, a cockneyfied word Wells coined for “little pictures.” They sorted through more than 650 picshuas – a challenging project in itself because of Wells’ minuscule handwriting and artwork before making the final selection for the book.

Most of the picshuas were drawn from the H.G. Wells Collection at the UI, one of several special collections Gene Rinkel has curated for many years at Illinois. Margaret Rinkel is a former high school English teacher, who in her retirement has volunteered hundreds of hours to Illinois’ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, home of the Wells Collection, which is considered to be the largest and most important Wells archive in the world.

The picshuas take up many topics, from their domestic routines – gardening, travel, children, home-building, bicycling and “book production, to their domestic tribulations – namely, the husband’s bad habits, including abandonment and adultery. What the drawings share in common is their use of humor, an insiders’ humor that only they – and a few dogged scholars – would understand.

According to the Rinkels, the picshuas constituted a “non-confrontational attempt to inject humor into their relationship by creating a world of ‘let’s pretend.’ ” In this private picshua world, Wells could, among other things, openly and honestly acknowledge the difficulties in his and Jane’s relationship and sometimes even “negotiate his demands in nonsensical verse,” the Rinkels wrote. Theologically, the cartoons offered a vehicle for the Wellses to laugh at themselves and their foibles, but one must wonder if Mrs. Wells was as amused as her Mr.

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The authors Gene Rinkel and Margaret Rinkel – themselves a literary couple – take over 132 such picshuas, a cockneyfied word Wells coined for “little pictures.” They sorted through more than 650 picshuas – a challenging project in itself because of Wells’ minuscule handwriting and artwork before making the final selection for the book.

Most of the picshuas were drawn from the H.G. Wells Collection at the UI, one of several special collections Gene Rinkel has curated for many years at Illinois. Margaret Rinkel is a former high school English teacher, who in her retirement has volunteered hundreds of hours to Illinois’ Rare Book & Manuscript Library, home of the Wells Collection, which is considered to be the largest and most important Wells archive in the world.

The picshuas take up many topics, from their domestic routines – gardening, travel, children, home-building, bicycling and “book production, to their domestic tribulations – namely, the husband’s bad habits, including abandonment and adultery. What the drawings share in common is their use of humor, an insiders’ humor that only they – and a few dogged scholars – would understand.

According to the Rinkels, the picshuas constituted a “non-confrontational attempt to inject humor into their relationship by creating a world of ‘let’s pretend.’ ” In this private picshua world, Wells could, among other things, openly and honestly acknowledge the difficulties in his and Jane’s relationship and sometimes even “negotiate his demands in nonsensical verse,” the Rinkels wrote. Theologically, the cartoons offered a vehicle for the Wellses to laugh at themselves and their foibles, but one must wonder if Mrs. Wells was as amused as her Mr.

The author of “The Time Machine” and “The War of the Worlds” could be irritable, expressive, volatile, and petulant. Jane, on the other hand, was typically calm, reserved, a gentle and kind spirit, who helped her husband ascend to the highest rungs of literary and social success in Edwardian England and the world.

Wells may have resented some of her leadership, for he often drew Jane as a diminutive dictator, always in the lead, her husband in tow, full speed ahead on the job – whatever it was, from selecting wallpaper to editing stacks and stacks of manuscript pages.

“Mrs. Wells was always as amused as her Mr. Wells may have resented some of her leadership,” Margaret Rinkel said, but that was precisely how H.G. wanted it. However, in many areas of life, Jane had to play by her husband’s rules. Moreover, she also had to put her own literary dreams aside.

While his extracurricular activities were no secret, Wells’ penchant and talent for sketching has been largely unknown outside the world of Wells scholarship. The Rinkels note that Wells was a trained artist. Even earlier, as a sickly child, he wielded his pens to express himself.
Illinois Fire Service Institute

Fire College hosts open house

The UI Fire Service Institute will host an open house June 2 as part of its annual fire college. The open house allows the public to see the State Fire Academy and see fire-fighting demonstrations.

The public is invited to attend this free event, which will be from 7:30 until 10 p.m. Among the demonstrations, firefighters will tackle a staged live propane fire, extricate an accident victim from an automobile and show the explosive nature of an auto airbag. They will also demonstrate how quickly fire spreads and how rapidly a sprinkler system suppresses a fire. Attendees will also be able to tour the institute’s training ground.

The Annual Illinois Fire College is the oldest event of its kind in the United States. It is held at the institute’s facilities and training grounds and at specialized training locations throughout the state. More than 1,000 Illinois firefighters and emergency personnel are registered for this year’s fire college.

The Illinois Fire Service Institute is the statutory fire academy for the state of Illinois. In addition to training provided at the Champaign campus, the institute offers online classes and conducts and sponsors training throughout the state in the U.S.

For more information, go to www.fsi.uiuc.edu or call 333-3800.

Scurpil Museum

Storytelling concerts will be June 17

Bob Rod Sickler will present “Tacketty Boots and Other Old Tales,” a series of storytelling concerts on June 17 by renowned English storyteller Taffy Thomas. At 2 p.m., Thomas will present a free children’s program. At 7 p.m., he will perform the concert in addition. The cost for the evening event will be $5. For more information about the Scurpil Museum and other upcoming events, visit www.scurpilmuseum.uiuc.edu or call 333-2360.

Campus Recreation

Summer activities available for kids

Campus Recreation has summer activities for kids of all ages with no membership required. Swimming lessons are available for infants through age six at the Student Activity and Recreation Center (SARC) and at the Illinois Memorial Union. For Web class descriptions, schedules and fees, register at Member Services at CRCE through June 10. Forms available online. Call 333-3806 for information.

“Kids Outdoor Adventures” are designed for kids ages 8 to 14. Register at Champaign Park District, 706 Kenwood Rd. Call 333-2580 for more information. Activities include:

Kayak Clinic: June 7, 26 or Aug. 2; 10 a.m.-noon at Kaufmann Lake. Enrollment limit: 14; cost: $30
Horseshack Riding Clinic: June 14, 21, July 12, 26 or Aug. 9; 11 a.m., near Lodge, Ill. Enrollment limit: 14; cost: $30
Kayak Indoor Water Polo: Aug. 3; 9-11 a.m., Location TBA; Enrollment limit: 14; cost: $30

For more information, visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu.

Haircuts, manicures and more

Campus Rec hosts “Spa Night”

Campus Recreation will host “Amped 2: Spa Night With Rod Sickler” of the Rod Sickler Salon and Spa, from 6 to 9 p.m. June 15 at CRCE. Sickler will offer haircuts, manicures and other services. Registration will begin at 5:30 p.m. at Member Services at CRCE. Participants also can enter to win a spa basket. This event is free for UI students and Cam- pus Rec members and $3 for nonmembers.

Rod Sickler is a hair stylist and stage artist. The Rod Sickler Salon and Spa is located in southwest Champaign at 2711 West University Ave.

For more information on this event visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu or call 333-3806.

University Library

Online catalog downtime announced

The UI Library’s online catalog will be temporarily down starting Wednesday. The system is upgraded. This will not affect other online library services such as electronic databases, indexes and journals.

Two key dates will mark the beginning of the upgrade: Effective Wednesday afternoon, May 31, material from other I-Share libraries through the online catalog. UI users will still be able to place requests through the online catalog. Material due for renewal at the Library of Cape Cod. “On the Island” includes more than 75 original paintings, focusing only on the land but also capturing the life and spirit of the people.

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Achievements

A report on honors, awards, appointments and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members.

Business

Neil Pearson was named the Harry A. Brandt Distinguished Professor in Financial Markets and Options in May. He has been an IBEF Fellow in Finance since 2002. Pear- son is one of the country’s leading academicians in the field of financial economics. Mark Vonnahme was named the first holder of the Brandt Distinguished Professor in Financial Economics at the University of Illinois. Vonname spent more than 30 years in the insurance and financial services industries, retiring in 2003 as the CEO of finance. V onnahme spent more than 30

Yates is recognized with the 2006 Engineering Council Award for Excellence in Advising. His three-year term begins in July. According to the council’s Web site, “CHEA is a national advocate and institutional voice for self-regulation of academic quality and excellence in teaching. The UI Library’s online catalog will be temporarily down starting Wednesday. The system is upgraded. This will not affect other online library services such as electronic databases, indexes and journals.

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Activities:

- **Monday, June 4th**: Kid's Horseback Riding Clinic from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Champaign Park District. Registration fee is $60 per family or $25 per individual. 

- **Tuesday, June 5th**: Storytelling Concert: “Tackety Boots and Other Old Tales” with Taffy Thomas at 11:30 a.m. at the Mann Library. 

- **Wednesday, June 6th**: Itty Bitty Explorers Day Camp at 9 a.m. at the Krannert Center. 

- **Thursday, June 7th**: Kids’ Canoe Clinic at the Champaign Park District. 

- **Friday, June 8th**: Inline Skate Clinic at 1:30 p.m. at the Krannert Center. 

For more information, call 333-6068 or visit www.art.uic.edu/art/.