New catalyst removes harmful perchlorate from groundwater

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

UI scientists have developed a new chemical catalyst that uses hydrogen gas to efficiently remove and destroy harmful perchlorate from contaminated groundwater.

Found in solid-rock fuel, roadside flares and fireworks, perchlorate is a dangerous contaminant that can disrupt thyroid function by interfering with the uptake of iodine. Infants and fetuses are believed to be particularly at risk from the effects of perchlorate exposure.

Because perchlorate is readily soluble in water, it can be transported vast distances in groundwater or rivers. A plume of contaminated groundwater from a manufacturing plant near Las Vegas, for example, reached the Colorado River and spread throughout the Southwest. Cleanup could take decades.

“Perchlorate has been recognized as a significant environmental contaminant in U.S. water supplies, and its physical and chemical properties pose a serious challenge for remediation,” said John Shapley, a professor of chemistry at Illinois and co-developer, with graduate student Keith Hurley, of the new catalyst.

Efforts at remediation using naturally occurring microorganisms or existing pump-and-treat technology are too complicated, too energy intensive or too slow to be practical, Shapley said.

The new catalyst is composed of two metals – palladium and rhenium – supported on activated carbon. The catalyst operates at room temperature under normal atmospheric pressure, and does not dissolve in water.

“In catalytic operation, the rhenium removes an oxygen atom from the perchlorate molecule in what is called an atom transfer reaction,” Hurley said. “Meanwhile, the palladium activates the gaseous hydrogen atoms so they will react with the freed oxygen. What’s left is harmless chloride and water.”

The catalytic reaction continues as long as there is both hydrogen gas and perchlorate contaminant present.

“What’s left is harmless chloride and water,” Shapley said. “Our catalyst would take a concentrated stream of perchlorate and get rid of it altogether.”

Remains of St. Louis founder’s home believed to have been located

By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

Archaeologists believe they have found the Illinois home of the founder of St. Louis.

What had been thought to be a priest’s residence near the French colonial village of New Chartres, in present-day southern Illinois, “appears instead to have been owned by a series of merchants during the mid-1700s, before it was sold to a young merchant from New Orleans – Pierre Laclede, the founder of the city of St. Louis,” says Robert Mazrim, a UI archaeologist.

So particularly at risk from the effects of perchlorate exposure.

Remains of St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede lived in the now defunct village of New Chartres, near Fort de Chartres, in the Mississippi River floodplain near modern Prairie du Rocher, Ill., was “the Illinois home of St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede has been determined. Above, French coins found in the now defunct village of New Chartres, in southern Illinois, date back to the 18th century. The contemporary nickel provides a sense of scale.

This Issue

Teacher/Scholars

This year’s Distinguished Teacher/Scholars will lead discussion sessions to inspire teachers to develop team projects that invoke civic engagement, cross-disciplinary collaboration or new roles.

Mental stimulation

Participants receive a free taste of higher education – and college credit – for humanities courses taught through the Odyssey Project.

Wellness walk

About 1,000 people stepped out Sept. 29 for the “Second Annual Walk Toward Wellness – Building Communities Through Walking and Wellness,” a 3,000-step, 30-minute walk around campus. Previews Linda Rotelli and the Allgood Chimes kicked off the walk, which began on the Quad. The event, created by the Culture of Wellness Committee last year, promotes health through walking and other activities. Campus Recreation also is sponsoring the “Walk tober Pedometer Challenge” this month. Teams of five to 10 individuals must register by noon Oct. 11 and then will compete for awards by tallying their weekly steps. The four-week program is free. For more information, go to www CampusRec.uiuc.edu/wellness/pedometer.html.

Illinois home

According to UI archaeologist Robert Mazrim, the Illinois home of St. Louis founder Pierre Laclede has been determined. Above, French coins found in the now defunct village of New Chartres, in southern Illinois, date back to the 18th century. The contemporary nickel provides a sense of scale.

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Vol. 26, No. 7
Oct. 5, 2006

For Faculty and Staff, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
At its first meeting of the 2006-2007 academic year, the Urbana-Champaign Senate conferring with the deans and provosts at all three campuses and thus far have identified about a dozen academic programs that might be offered. Tenured faculty members at the three campuses would design the programs, help develop online courses, establish requirements for student admissions and instructor credentialing, oversee and periodically evaluate the Global Campus and be encouraged—and offered financial incentives—to teach the courses. Tenure-related issues as well as shared governance processes are among several key academic issues to be addressed before the Global Campus receives accreditation, the letter said. White and Gardner proposed a deadline of December 2008 for resolving those issues.

Chancellor Richard Herman said that the Global Campus “has been the cause of considerable consternation,” and added: “I think there is a noble idea here. . . . I think the goal of the effort we have to have—only that we do with the planning and dedication that we can, and should, undertake at this time. This body needs to be counted for it – more accessible. It’s up to us to see if we can meet that challenge and how large an enterprise we can, and should, undertake at this time. That body needs to be counted on to help guide the future of this institution.”

The SEC and the Global Campus Task Force will host a town hall meeting about the Global Campus from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 16 in Room 1025, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. In other business, Herman reported that the freshman enrollment of 7,180 was very close to projections for the fall semester 2006, and that minority enrollment achieved an all-time high of 14 percent African-American students and 19 percent Latino students. Administrators are working with the colleges to finalize their strategic plans and intend to have “full debate on many issues,” Herman said. During AY06-07, departmental administrators will focus heavily on improving the educational experience for undergraduates and integrating student life with learning.

Nicholas Burbules, SEC vice chair, is chairing the Senate Review Committee. SEC chair Vernon Burton urged senators to review the recommendations in the previous five reviews, which will be posted on the senate’s Web site, www.senate.uiuc.edu, and encouraged senators to suggest means for improving shared governance on campus.

The senate also approved two proposals. One proposal replaces the existing eight concentration areas under the business administration with five bachelor’s degrees in science majors; another proposal establishes four specializations in the master of business administration.

In a Sept. 22 letter to Bodenhorn, President B. Joseph White to suspend the submission of the Global Campus proposal to the UI Board of Trustees to defer action on the proposed online degree program at the UI Global Campus Initiative in the fall. This was supported by the University Senate’s Administrative Committee and the.ui Board of Trustees to defer action on the submitted proposal until the fall semester of 2006.

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

ARCHAEOLOGY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
primary French outpost in the mid-18th-century Illinois Country, ” said Thomas Emerson, the director of ITARP. The military garrison and the residents in the town of New Orleans sent a formal request to the French government in 1778 to bring their supplies by way of the Mississippi River to build what would become a trading empire.

“Locating Laclede’s house puts a face on an individual who was critical to the formation of St. Louis,” Emerson said.

“This is a unique opportunity because St. Louis didn’t exist,” said Mazrim, who has been destroyed by the downtown development, unfortunately, with little attempt to preserve or recover these important archaeological remains.”

Little of Laclede's personal life is known. He was born in France and was a partner in a New Orleans trading firm before venturing to “Upper Louisiana” in the early 1760s. He was thought to have lived in New Orleans for 14 years, and died in 1778 early 1760s. He was thought to have lived in New Orleans for 14 years, and died in 1778.

Mazrim said that “comparatively little” modern archaeological study has been conducted of French colonial domestic sites in Illinois.

“While major excavations have been conducted near Fort Massac and Fort Charcheries, fewer than 10 domestic sites have been examined.” In 1998, ITARP crews conducted small-scale excavations within the eastern limits of the townsite examined at the Ghost Horse Site encountered remains of an 18th-century structure associated with the French colonial village of New Charters. The struc- tural remains at the site consisted of a large complex of wall trenches and a sub-floor cellar once associated with a vertical log structure,” said Mazrim, who is writing a book about French colonial archaeology in Illinois, and have a deadline of December 2008 for resolving those issues. The SEC and the Global Campus Task Force will host a town hall meeting about the Global Campus from 9-11 a.m. Oct. 16 in Room 1025, Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. In other business, Herman reported that the freshman enrollment of 7,180 was very close to projections for the fall semester 2006, and that minority enrollment achieved an all-time high of 14 percent African-American students and 19 percent Latino students. Administrators are working with the colleges to finalize their strategic plans and intend to have “full debate on many issues,” Herman said. During AY06-07, departmental administrators will focus heavily on improving the educational experience for undergraduates and integrating student life with learning.

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On the Job

David Jones

David Jones, an equipment service supervisor, and his staff members in the Division of Campus Recreation say that if a fitness equipment manufacturer wants to test their products, the company should place the products in Campus Recreation facilities. According to data collected by Campus Rec, more than 88 percent of students utilized Campus Rec facilities at least once during a recent academic year. Jones, too, was put to the test a few years ago, when the company that built the+equipment as a Thrusurec service technician for almost 29 years downsized, leaving him without a job, shortly before Thanksgiving Day 2003. Despite the upheaval that transition caused, Jones said he is “hooked thick” with his position at Campus Rec, which he began in October 2004. It enables him to spend less time on the road and more time with his wife of 35 years, eight children and eight grandchildren. Jones earned a degree in electronics service from Franklin Technical Institute.

Tell me about your job.

I supervise the fitness equipment maintenance operations for Campus Recreation. I supervise a staff of four people, who repair a vast amount of strength and conditioning equipment — treadmills, elliptical trainers, bikes, steppers, free-weight strength equipment and selectorized equipment, which allows the user to select the amount of weight. Currently, Campus Recreation has a combined 20,000 square feet of strength and conditioning space at CRCE (Campus Recreation Center East) and the east wing of IMPE (Intramural-Physical Education building). When the IMPE remodeling is finished, the strength and conditioning space will total 42,000 square feet, making it the largest in the country for university recreational facilities. This will allow us to drastically increase the amount of cardiovascular equipment — to about 60 treadmills, 80 ellipticals, 50 bikes, 30 steppers and numerous other pieces — to offer about 10,000 square feet of space for group training.

CRCE is open from about 6:30 a.m. to midnight Monday through Thursday, and is busy from opening to closing. About a month ago, we had nearly 6,000 students come through in one day. We have one treadmill at CRCE that logged more than 15,000 miles in roughly 18 months.

My staff members and I have been trained and certified by the various manufacturers to service the equipment. I’m in the process of building a database of the equipment repairs and the associated costs to help determine reliability and cost effectiveness of the different brands.

What do you enjoy most about your job?

Coming to work and finding new challenges. What dignitary might come through our doors today? Just recently, the architect that built CRCE brought a group from another university to tour the building. We strive to maintain what is known as the “wow” factor. If freshmen walk in and say, “wow!” we’ve done our job.

What are your interests away from work?

One word: family. There’s always a phone call: “Hey, grandpa, guess what?” My summer was filled with preparations for our son’s beautiful wedding. I’ve viewed all my work as a means of serving people, most of all my family.

At my previous job, I learned about the downsizing on a Thursday, and that next Sunday I joined the leaders of our church, First Christian Church in Champaign, for prayer before service and asked that God would put me exactly where he wanted me to be, wherever that was. I interviewed three or four dozen places, and took numerous Civil Service tests at the UI. Nothing seemed to pan out, but then on Sept. 30, 2004, Campus Rec offered me a job.

A few months later, a family member was diagnosed with a serious illness and that next year was filled with surgeries, treatments and recuperation. I am thankful to have a job that allows me to be close to home.

We have two daughters currently living at home, but who are out of high school. For holiday dinners, it’s common to seat 20-25 people — including family members and a few friends — around a table. It’s fun. In my spare time, I enjoy singing in the choir at church, working with my wife researching our family tree and hunting for geocaches, “treasures” that people have hidden for other people to locate with global positioning systems.

— Interview by Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

UI scholar: Explosive growth of file-sharing groups not sure sign of success

By Mark Routier
News Bureau Staff Writer

File-sharing communities have experienced explosive growth in recent years. YouTube, started in May 2005 so that people could share and download videos, now attracts 100 million visitors a day, while Gnutella and Kazaa, for music sharing, are attracting users at an increasing pace. Web sites differ from traditional chat-room and other message-based Internet communities in two ways, according to Mu Xia, an assistant professor of computer science at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

“Users in these communities have no social ties to one another, and there is little or no verbal communication between users,” Xia said. “What communication exists mainly comes from users offering or seeking services or assistance. Such loose ties among members make the sustainability of such networks difficult to ensure.” Xia said, for example, a user could lose the ability to download content if the user left the community. “So, if the operator of the site should care negatively affect a site’s viability.”

“Even when a community experiences growth as explosive as YouTube, it is not clear how these communities work,” Xia said. “For investors, valuing the long-term investment prospects of these communities requires understanding how its members’ behaviors and interactions affect the site.”

To study this question, Xia and colleagues Wenjing Duan from George Washington University and Yun Huang and Andrew B. Whinston from the University of Texas at Austin collected data from music-sharing networks based on the Internet Relay Chat (IRC) protocol. They analyzed data from more than 300 million individual user activities between March 2001 and May 2006.

They discovered that IRC sharing networks can be divided into two types of “free riders,” who provided content, had a dominant influence on the growth of the site. “Free riders” never contributed and are thought to need no value from a site’s viability.

But Xia’s group found that the impact of free riders depended on their numbers and how they engaged with sites. The more free riders used a site, the more likely a sharer would continue to share content. But the more free riders used a site, the more likely it is that a sharer stops sharing.

The commercial implication of these findings was that creators of online sharing sites were encouraged to charge all types of users to join, even if some of them may not contribute any content. Xia said. “The more of our citizens free riders will be an reason for potential contributors to join. At the same time, the operator of the site should carefully monitor free riders’ download activities and should consider imposing an upper limit to their download volume or bandwidth.”

Xia also recommended that sharing sites provide more ways for contributors to interact with other users. “For example, recognition of some sort always has a positive impact on sharer retention, even if it is as simple as adding a special mark in front of user names.”

The researchers’ working paper is titled, “Unravel the Drivers of Online Sharing Communities: An Empirical Investigation.”

Osher institute to provide a center for lifelong learning

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

Curious minds over age 50 will soon find new opportunities to learn and explore, thanks to the establishment of an Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at the UI. The university has been awarded a $100,000 grant from the Bernard Osher Foundation to establish the institute this year, with the possibility for renewals of the grant each of the next three years, followed by consideration by the Bernard Osher Foundation to award an endowed grant of at least $1 million.

The university is planning to locate the home for the institute within the redevelopment of its Orchard Downs property, as part of an intergenerational, living-learning community, according to Kathleen Holden-Pecknold, the director of the new institute. The UI institute will join a network of more than 90 Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes established throughout the U.S. since 2001, Holden-Pecknold said. “Each institute hosts a lifelong learning program developed specifically for adults over 50, each benefits from a strong university connection and support, many engage emeritus faculty along with active faculty and peer leaders, and all offer a diverse repertoire of intellectually stimulating courses,” she said.

“The university community is delighted to be joining the Osher network,” said Richard Herman, the chancellor of the Urbana campus. “We believe that our interests and resources will allow us to enhance the intellectual and cultural lives of our campus and community citizens over 50 years of age, and we are grateful to the Bernard Osher Foundation for this opportunity.”

More Information about the
Bernard Osher Foundation is online at www.osherrfoundation.org

Holden-Pecknold said this was an opportunity for the university to strengthen its outreach to potential contributors to the institute. “The university already has a strong track record of reaching beyond the walls of traditional college classrooms with community-based courses and with research aimed at improving the intellectual enjoyment, wellness, physical fitness and mental acuity of older adults of every age,” she said.

The university also benefits from strong relations with the cities of Urbana and Champaign and with local agencies, she said.

The first priority in organizing the institute, Holden-Pecknold said, will be to bring together the organizations and individuals already providing extensive lifelong learning and healthy aging opportunities in Champaign County. The goals of that discussion, and of the alliance she hopes would result, would be to organize an integrated community approach to serving people over 50, to expand the reach of current providers to potential audiences, and to provide feedback to Osher and to the UI adviser on the best way to use lifelong learning resources.

For additional information, contact Holden-Pecknold at 333-6394 or kpecknold@illinois.edu
Distinguished Teacher/Scholars will focus on the scholarship of teaching and learning

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The Teaching Advancement Board recently selected Bertram C. “Chip” Bruce and Kim C. Graber as its Distinguished Teacher/Scholars for the 2006-2007 academic year. The program recognizes outstanding faculty members who actively enhance teaching and learning on campus and the program supports innovative projects that recipients develop as part of the selection process. Distinguished Teacher/Scholars serve as consultants and mentors to other faculty members and departments seeking to explore new instructional methods and revitalize their teaching programs. Bruce and Graber will be honored at the Annual Faculty Retreat for Active Learning on Feb. 9 at the Illini Union.

Bertram C. “Chip” Bruce, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education and of bioengineering in the College of Engineering, said that certain courses and instructors that he encountered during his collegiate career instilled in him a sense of teaching rather than a love of learning. “I took a lot of courses that I never wanted to go to again, and I never wanted to see the professor again,” Bruce said.

So, Bruce, who also teaches in the Center for Writing Studies and the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, was moved to graduate student and former high-school English teacher Suizhen Chen was so inspired by his Inquiry-Based Learning course that she chose to take it twice. “That meant a lot to me, that she really understood that learning has no top to it and it’s never ending, that you can come back to something and go deeper and further,” Bruce said.

In Kim C. Graber’s Qualitative Research Methods course, groups of students develop projects that engage community members in some form of physical activity for about two months and collect data on the process. Last year, a group of graduate students in the class, which contains both undergraduate and graduate students, also studied Graber’s teaching methods – and whether the projects actually enhanced undergraduate learning.

“I learned a lot,” said Graber, who is a professor of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Health Sciences. “I discovered what worked and what required improvement” and received valuable feedback that she otherwise might not have gotten, Graber said.

“I don’t think I’ve met anyone who cares more about teaching than Kim does,” said Gardner Rogers, former program coordinator for the Ethnicity of the University, a cross-campus project that sponsors undergraduate research about the UI. Graber is teaching the Qualitative Methods course as an EOTU course this fall.

Bruce and Graber share a passion for teaching and learning, and for connecting pedagogy with experiences outside the university. Graber has published widely on teacher socialization, teacher education and research methods, and was an invited key-note speaker at the 2002 Healthy Schools Summit in Washington, D.C., an event aimed at addressing childhood obesity that was presided over by Dr. David Satcher, former U.S. Surgeon General. Bruce, who has published extensively on learning and technologies, developed The Inquiry Page, a collaborative virtual environment used to support students’ EOTU projects that engage community members in new roles for teachers and students.

Distinguished Teacher/Scholars

The Distinguished Teacher/Scholar Program, sponsored by the Teaching Advancement Board and the Office of the Provost, honors and supports outstanding instructors who take an active role in promoting learning on campus. Although the appointment lasts one year, honorees carry the designation with them throughout their UI careers. A complete list of honorees since the program’s inception in 1999:

Bertram C. Bruce, curriculum and instruction, bioengineering
Philip Butnak, agricultural engineering
O. Vernon Burton, history
Cleora D’ArCY, crop sciences
Paul F. Dietl, political science
James A. Gentry, finance
Kim C. Graber, kinesiology and community health*
Gail E. Hawisher, English
Steve Helle, journalism
Paul Kelter, chemistry
J. Bruce Litchfield, engineering
Michael C. Loui, electrical and computer engineering
Lenny Pitt, computer science
Robert Reid, journalism (posthumous award)
Shelly J. Schmidt, food chemistry
Thomas Schwandt, educational psychology
Lisa C. Smith, library and information science
Joseph C. Sizer, art and design
Arlette Willis, curriculum and instruction

*Appointed this year

Teachers leading teachers
Kim C. Graber and Bertram C. “Chip” Bruce are the 2006-2007 Distinguished Teacher/Scholars. Bruce is a professor of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Health Sciences; Bruce is a professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education and of bioengineering in the College of Engineering. Bruce and Graber are leading a series of discussion sessions on the scholarship of teaching and learning that they hope will inspire participants to develop new projects that involve civic engagement, cross-disciplinary collaboration or new roles for teachers and students.

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Fall 2006 Publication Schedule

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Solar energy viable in Illinois under right conditions, data indicate

By Eva Kingston
Illinois State Water Survey

Although costs for photovoltaic technology are too high now in comparison with power supplied by traditional utilities, the potential to make solar power economically feasible exists on a smaller scale, according to data released Sept. 7 by the Illinois State Water Survey and the UI.

“Production costs of electrical power from the sun for typical Illinois residences or businesses currently cannot compete with power purchased from utilities but can become attractive for remote locations or if subsidies and tax breaks are available,” said Bob Scott, a meteorologist with the water survey who has been studying the issue with Angus Rockett, a UI materials science and engineering professor.

Energy from photovoltaic modules or solar cells is a source of renewable power with high growth potential in parts of the United States, they said. Operational solar arrays exist in southern states, mostly in the South where cloud cover is less frequent.

“Solar cells is a source of renewable power because of solar array per year in Central Illinois,” Scott said.

Using information from a solar power array in Arizona as a template for power output, Rockett and Scott examined current solar cell efficiencies and retail prices, and then applied solar data for Illinois to estimate power output potential for small to medium solar arrays in Illinois - averaging about 180 kilowatt hours per square meter of solar array per year in Central Illinois.

Because of the capital costs of generating the energy used by typical homeowners and the typical solar radiation that occurs in Illinois, solar power isn’t cost-efficient now in Illinois. “Photovoltaics are cost-effective for small remote applications, such as powering billboards, but not for homes or businesses, at least not without incentives,” Rockett said.

The cost-effectiveness of photovoltaics will increase significantly if subsidies, tax incentives, and economy-of-scale discounts in both module and balance-of-system costs are available to reduce initial system price. Such incentives are available now for wind-turbine installations in Illinois.

Last year, Gov. Rod Blagojevich proposed a Sustainable Energy Plan that would require Illinois electric utilities to provide 8 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2013 and boost investment in energy-saving programs. The proposal has accelerated the development of wind farms and prompted the Illinois Commerce Commission to consider renewable energy requirements and expansion of programs to reduce energy use.

Blagojevich recently announced a comprehensive long-term energy plan that would replace Illinois’ dependence on foreign oil with homogenous alternatives.

Consider the size of the array needed, additional equipment required, and interest on a 20-year loan to fund the warranted life of the equipment. Rockett estimates that costs could be as high as 50 cents per kilowatt hour, much higher than the 11 cents per kilowatt hour local utilities today charge homeowners for power.

Research indicates that solar power could be acceptable in other applications. Net metering - selling unused generated power back to a utility -- would lower cost differences. In addition, extending commercial power to remote locations requires the additional cost of transmission lines. The cost of installing a half-mile of transmission lines equals the cost of a solar array capable of generating 625 kilowatt hours per month. “Solar power generation is a viable option at today’s current prices for those needs,” Rockett said.

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Last year, Gov. Rod Blagojevich proposed a Sustainable Energy Plan that would require Illinois electric utilities to provide 8 percent of their electricity from renewable sources by 2013 and boost investment in energy-saving programs. The proposal has accelerated the development of wind farms and prompted the Illinois Commerce Commission to consider renewable energy requirements and expansion of programs to reduce energy use.

Blagojevich recently announced a comprehensive long-term energy plan that would replace Illinois’ dependence on foreign oil with homogenous alternatives.

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Inside Illinois continues its tradition of introducing some of the new faculty members on campus and will feature at least two new colleagues in each fall issue.

**NEW faces 2006**

Rachel J. Whitaker  
assistant professor of microbiology  
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Education:** Ph.D. (microbiology), University of California, Berkeley; B.A. (biology, science in society) Wesleyan University, Connecticut.

**Teaching at Illinois:** Whitaker will develop a course, “Molecular Approaches to Microbial Ecology,” which she will teach fall 2007.

**Research:** Her research focuses on microbial ecology at the molecular level. “Rachel Whitaker is a brilliant young microbial ecologist who has the unusual ability to bridge the gulf between evolutionary population genetics and prokaryotic molecular biology,” said John Cronan, head and professor of microbiology. “In her doctoral work she presented the strongest evidence to date demonstrating that geographical isolation plays a role in structuring natural populations of microbes (this was counter to the prevailing opinion). She has since developed approaches to study population dynamics at a detailed genomic level and will apply these tools to the study of populations of microbes found in extreme environments.”

Youfu (Frank) Zhao  
professor of phytobacteriology in the department of crop sciences  
College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

**Education:** Ph.D. (plant pathology), Oklahoma State University; M.S. (plant pathology) and B.S. (plant protection), Zhejiang (Agricultural) University.

**Teaching at Illinois:** Zhao will teach a course on the molecular biology of host-pathogen interactions and another in phytobacteriology.

**Research:** “Dr. Zhao’s research will focus on the genetics of host-pathogen interactions and host resistance, with an emphasis on diseases of importance in Illinois,” said Robert G. Hoeft, head and professor of crop sciences. “He is especially interested in identifying potential new virulence factors which contribute to pathogenesis during interactions with the host plant.”

**correction**

In the last issue of Inside Illinois, the college for one of our New Faces was incorrect. Christopher M. Grindrod, assistant professor of speech and hearing science, is in the College of Applied Health Sciences.
Ad removed for online version
Ceramic microreactors developed for on-site hydrogen production

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

UI scientists have designed and built ceramic microreactors for the on-site reforming of hydrocarbon fuels, such as propane, into hydrogen for use in fuel cells and other portable power sources.

Applications include power supplies for small appliances and laptop computers, and on-site rechargers for battery packs used by the military.

“The catalytic reforming of hydrocarbon fuels offers a nice solution to supplying hydrogen to fuel cells while avoiding safety and storage issues related to gaseous hydrogen,” said Paul Kenis, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at Illinois and corresponding author of a paper accepted for publication in the journal Lab on a Chip, and posted on its Web site.

In previous work, Kenis and colleagues developed an integrated catalyst structure and placed it inside a stainless steel housing, where it successfully stripped hydrogen from ammonia at temperatures up to 500 degrees Celsius.

In their latest work, the researchers incorporated the catalyst structure within a ceramic housing, which enabled the steam reforming of propane at operating temperatures up to 1,000 degrees Celsius. Using the new ceramic housing, the researchers also demonstrated the successful decomposition of ammonia at temperatures up to 1,000 degrees Celsius.

High-temperature operation is essential for peak performance in microreactors, said Kenis, who also is a researcher at the university’s Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

When reforming hydrocarbons such as propane, temperatures above 800 degrees Celsius prevent the formation of soot that can foul the catalyst surface and reduce performance.

“The performance of our integrated, high-temperature microreactors surpasses that of other fuel reformer systems,” Kenis said. “Our microreactors are superior in both hydrogen production and in long-term stability.”

Kenis and his group are now attempting to reform other, higher hydrocarbon fuels, such as gasoline and diesel, which have well-developed distribution networks around the world.

The research team includes Kenis and graduate students Michael Mitchell and Christian. Funding was provided by the U.S. Department of Defense, Army Research Office, National Science Foundation and the UI.

Flash index of Illinois economy unchanged, indicating strong growth

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

The UI Flash Economic Index for September remained unchanged from its August level at 106.4.

The index has been very stable during the first three quarters of 2006, fluctuating within a two-point range.

The results indicate that the Illinois economy shows no signs of slowing, even though there is concern at the national level that the economy may be losing some momentum.

“The state is experiencing strong but sustainable growth,” J. Fred Gieretz, the Illinois professor of economics who compiles the data, said Oct. 3.

Two components of the Flash Index (individual income-tax and corporate tax receipts) were up modestly in real terms last month from the same month last year, while sales-tax receipts were virtually unchanged.

The Flash Index is a weighted average of state growth rates in consumer spending, corporate earnings and individual income. Tax receipts from these categories are adjusted for inflation before growth rates are calculated. The growth rate for each component is then calculated for the 12-month period using data through Sept. 30.

Index readings above 100 mean the economy is growing, while readings below 100 mean the economy is contracting.
**agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences**

George C. Fahey Jr. has been named the UI’s first Kraft Foods Human Nutrition Endowed Professor. The endowed chair is part of a recent permanent endowment from Kraft Foods North America to the Division of Nutritional Sciences in the UI College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. The goal of Fahey’s research program has been to define the role of fiber and other fermentable carbohydrates on gastrointestinal tract physiology and health.

**CITES**

Two communication projects produced by Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services received recognition from the Association for Computing Machinery’s Special Interest Group on University and College Computing Services for excellence in the development of useful and attractive publications. The CITES Security Web Site received an Overall Award in the category of “Electronic How-to Guides” and the entry, “CITES Your IT Connection: A Campaign to Introduce Incoming Students to IT Services at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Spring Through Summer 2006,” was awarded second place in “General Service Campaign Materials.”

**continuing education**

Lynn Smith, graphic designer for the marketing department at the UI Office of Continuing Education, received a Continuing Education Support Specialist Award from the University Continuing Education Association for her excellent contribution to the field of continuing education.

The UCEA Mid-America Region Celebration of Excellence program recognized Smith’s contributions in helping create and improve the Web site and brand identity for Continuing Education and its divisions, which are now clearly identifiable as divisions of OCE rather than separate units. In addition, Smith designed improved interpretive signs and displays at Allerton Park that provide educational information and enhance visitors’ experiences.

**engineering**

Harry Hilton has been appointed the 2007 Charles E. Schmidt Distinguished Visiting Professor at Florida Atlantic University. He will remain at the UI, give occasional seminars at FAU and be available for graduate student consultations. Hilton and Y.K. Lin, Eminent Scholar and dean of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at FAU, will undertake cooperative research projects and are preparing a joint grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. Hilton is professor emeritus of aerospace engineering and senior academic lead for Structural/Solid Mechanics at the Technology Research, Education and Commercialization Center at UI’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

**liberal arts and sciences**

Peggy Miller, professor of psychology, was awarded a Radcliffe Institute Fellowship, a highly competitive program that provides yearlong residencies to award-winning writers, artists, scientists and other scholars. Miller was selected as one of 13 women and 37 men out of more than 700 applicants. Her project is titled “Cultivating Children’s Self-Esteem: Discourse and Practices of Self-Enhancement.”

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**achievements**

A report on honors, awards, appointments and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members.
Environmental effects of biofuels crops must be weighed

By Charles Warwich
Illinois Natural History Survey

Biofuel advocates should not ignore the potential ecological side effects of crops being developed to produce such fuels, a UI researcher says in an article published Sept. 22 in Science.

While there is a great need for stable, non-polluting energy alternatives that reduce U.S. reliance on foreign fuel sources, research on these new energy sources developed by agronomists must be balanced by collaborating with ecologists who can help address the environmental risks of biofuels production, says S. Raghu of the Illinois Natural History Survey in Champaign (a division of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources). Raghu is the lead author of the Science article that analyzes the environmental issues involving biofuels. He holds adjunct appointments at Illinois in the department of entomology and in the department of natural resources and environmental sciences.

Demand for alternative energy sources recently was given added impetus by the federal Renewable Energy Initiative, which calls for the identification of biofuels crops as energy sources. However, this initiative may be in direct conflict with a previous presidential directive, Executive Order 13112, which attempts to protect the U.S. from the importation of potentially invasive species unless benefits outweigh potential harms. Ironically, the very attributes that make certain plants ideal biofuel candidates also make them potential invasive species when they are introduced into our environment, Raghu said. Ecologists warn that a number of crops being considered for biofuels, including the exotic grass Miscanthus s giganteus, could damage the environment as invasive species because of characteristics such as rapid growth, low pest incidence and efficient water utilization.

“The authors point out that even native biofuel species (such as Panicum virgatum, also known as switchgrass) can become invasive when they encroach upon habitats in which they are not endemic,” she said.

Parent’s conversational style contributes to child’s security

By Phyllis Pickelsimer
Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

Parents who use a particular conversational style with their children — drawing them out to elicit detailed memories about past shared events and to talk about emotions — contribute to the child’s secure attachment, sense of self-worth, and eventual social competence, says a UI study published last month in a special edition of Attachment and Human Development.

“As soon as children start talking, parents develop conversational patterns with their kids, and different parents have very different patterns,” said Kelly K. Bost, a UI professor of human development. In the study, Bost and her colleagues compared the conversational styles of 90 mothers and their 3-year-old children with assessments the scientists had made in the home of the children’s attachment security. The research confirmed that mothers of securely attached children use a more elaborative conversational style than those of insecure children.

“In elaborate conversations, parents provide rich detail and lots of background information and try to get their child to provide new information from his memory as the conversation goes on,” Bost said.

“Experts believe elaborate conversations aid in memory development, foster the ability to organize and tell personal stories, and promote a sense of shared history with the parent,” she said.

“These conversations are much easier and more evident in secure parent-child relationships in which parents are sensitive to their children’s communication. Children are also more likely to participate in the conversation,” she said.

“And a secure parent-child relationship also provides a framework for future relationships with peers and romantic partners,” she said.

But Bost wanted to know something else: Why do some parents use an elaborate conversational style while others do not?

In a separate measure, Bost asked the mothers to participate in an adult attachment interview, which assessed the mothers’ attachment experiences.

“We found that the mothers’ experiences, their own attachment beliefs, also contributed to the child’s security in the home. When mothers had secure relationships with their parents, they were more likely to respond sensitively to their own children, suggesting that these behaviors are intergenerational,” she said.

“The mother’s own attachment and conversational style both contributed to the child’s attachment, but they contributed different things to the child’s security, Bost said.

“Adult attachment wasn’t related to mothers’ use of elaboration in conversation, instead, the mothers’ own attachment security helped them to talk more openly about positive and negative emotions. That openness is an important social skill to hand down to children because labeling and understanding emotions are very important for any kind of social relationship,” she said.

Parents should try to incorporate both elaboration and open talk about feelings and emotions into conversations with their children, she added.

“When you pick your son up at school and ask about his day, try to pull him into the conversation and be responsive to his communication. Keep asking open-ended questions – get him to elaborate. If you can provide an emotional touchstone from years past, do that too,” she said.

“It’s important because, through our conversations, we’re helping our children organize their life experiences in their minds, understand them, and be able to tell people about them,” she said.

The study was funded by the National Science Foundation. Co-authors are Nana Shin and Brent McBride, UI department of human and community development; Geofrey L. Brown, UI department of psychology; Brian E. Vaughn, Auburn University; Gabrielle Coppola, Universita G.D. Annunzio di Chieti; Manuela Verissimo and Ligia Monteiro of the Instituto Superior de Psicologia Aplicada; and Byran Korth of Brigham Young University.
Digital fingerprints could combat multimedia piracy

By Maureen Wilkey
ECE Student Intern

While police use fingerprints to determine who stole a piece of property or handled a murder weapon, engineers may soon be able to use digital fingerprints to determine who pirated a multimedia file.

Negar Kiyavash, a UI doctoral student in electrical and computer engineering, is helping in the battle against multimedia piracy. Her recent paper, titled “On Optimal Collusion Strategies for Fingerprinting,” won the Best Student Paper Award in the multimedia signal processing area at the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech, and Signal Processing (ICASSP) in Toulouse, France.

Kiyavash won a $500 prize for her paper and is planning to continue her research on the subject for several more years.

Pierre Moulin, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and a researcher at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, is co-author of the paper. Moulin and Kiyavash have been researching theory and applications for digital fingerprinting. For instance, one could make each copy of a DVD or music file slightly different so that if it is tampered with, engineers can determine who the culprit was. A strong challenge to digital fingerprinting is mounted when two or more people collude to create a forgery that combines their individual copies, so that this forgery cannot be easily traced to the colluders involved.

“The first step is to find what the worst attack is,” Kiyavash said. “The best way for colluders to avoid being caught is to try to make the forgery as close to the original as possible, to reduce the visibility of the fingerprints.”

Kiyavash said that the more people collude, the harder it is to determine who colluded. According to Moulin, much research went toward identifying the maximum number of colluders that the fingerprinting system can cope with, i.e. the system can detect the fingerprint of at least one of the colluders.

“There are definite limits to what we could identify.” Moulin said. “For instance, depending on the nature of the media signal, we could be successful if there are as many as 100 colluders, but not 1,000.”

Kiyavash said that the more users there are, the less robust the fingerprinting system is, and the harder it is to identify a colluder. There is a tradeoff between the number of users and the number of colluders you can tolerate.

While Hollywood is already using the technology, especially in limited release films, Kiyavash said the technique is relatively new, and she is looking forward to improving it over the next few years.

“It’s very mathematical. Information theory, signal processing and coding theory, all play a central role and they are all very close to my heart,” Kiyavash said. She will finish her doctorate this fall and will continue her research as a postdoctorate fellow at the university in the spring.

“The applications go far beyond the movie piracy. Any multimedia content or form of intellectual property that you can imagine can be subjected to collusion attacks ….”

– Negar Kiyavash

Pirates, beware A paper co-written by Negar Kiyavash (right), a doctoral student, and Pierre Moulin, a professor, both in the department of electrical and computer engineering, recently won the Best Student Paper Award in the multimedia signal processing area at the International Conference on Acoustics, Speech and Signal Processing held in Toulouse, France. The paper, titled “On Optimal Collusion Strategies for Fingerprinting,” discusses methods for using digital fingerprinting to trace pirated multimedia files.
Supernova radioisotopes show sun was born in star cluster

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

The death of a massive nearby star billions of years ago offers evidence the sun was born in a star cluster, say UI astronomers. Rather than being an only child, the sun could have hundreds or thousands of celestial siblings, now dispersed across the heavens.

In a paper accepted for publication in the Astrophysical Journal, astronomy professors Leslie W. Looney and Brian D. Fields, and undergraduate student John J. Tobin take a close look at short-lived radioactive isotopes once present in primitive meteors. The researchers’ conclusions could reshape current theories on how, when and where planets form around stars.

“Another problem with this pathogen is that it has a very low infective dose. It only takes between 10 and 100 cells to cause an infection, so it’s impossible to achieve a safe level of the pathogen once it gets on the product. At this point, we need to concentrate on avoiding a crop’s exposure to the pathogen as the produce is being grown,” he said.

Martin said the California spinach outbreak appears to have been caused by contaminated cow manure used by organic producers. “A very low percentage of cattle are always infected by this strain of E. coli. If fresh manure from those cattle is used as fertilizer, there’s an outbreak in the making.”

Growers should also be careful about the water they use on the plants. “If farmers irrigate with water from a lake close to a dairy farm, that can also be a potential source of infection,” Martin said.

Another technique that has excellent potential in the fight against E. coli 0157:H7 is a really virulent strain. In most cases, rather than being the exception, could be the rule, the astronomers said. Planetary system formation should be understood in context.

“We know that the majority of stars in our galaxy were born in star clusters,” Looney said. “Now we also know that the newborn solar system not only arose in such a cluster, but also survived the impact of an exploding star. This suggests that planetary systems are impressively rugged, and may be common even in the most tumultuous stellar nurseries.”

The work was funded by NASA and the National Science Foundation.

Blown outward, bits of this radioactive material mix with nebular gas and dust in the process of condensing into stars and planets. When the solar system was forming, some of this material hardened into rocks and later fell to Earth as meteorites.

The radioisotopes have long since vanished from meteorites found on Earth, but they left their signatures in daughter species. By examining the abundances of those daughter species, the researchers could calculate how far away the supernova was, in both distance and time.

“The supernova was stunningly close; much closer to the sun than any star is today,” Fields said. “Our solar system was still in the process of forming when the supernova occurred.”

The massive star that exploded was formed in a group or cluster of stars with perhaps hundreds, or even thousands, of low-mass stars like the sun, Fields said. Because the stars were not gravitationally bound to one another, the sun’s siblings wandered away millennia ago.

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Foodborne pathogens difficult to remove from produce

By Phyllis Picklesimer
Agricultural, Consumer & Environmental Sciences

Will you ever feel comfortable eating fresh spinach again? All raw agricultural products carry a minimal risk of contamination, said a UI scientist whose research focuses on keeping foodborne pathogens, including the strain of E. coli found recently on spinach, out of the food supply.

That won’t keep Scott Martin, a UI professor of food science and human nutrition, out of the food supply. “Another technique that has excellent potential in the fight against E. coli 0157:H7 is a really virulent strain. In most cases, rather than being the exception, could be the rule, the astronomers said. Planetary system formation should be understood in context.

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Course offers chance to learn and earn college credits for free

By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

In a small public library not far from a university campus, talking is encouraged, and animated discussions not only are tolerated, they are provoked.

In fact, the voices in the classroom, just a few steps from the circulation desk, resound with the energy and excitement that comes from exploring new intellectual worlds.

The Odyssey Project has come to Champaign – to the Douglas Branch Library on the city’s north side – and from all reports, it is a sensation and a voyage of discovery for the five teachers – humanities professors at the UI and for the 24 students – all women, from age 18 to 72, most of whom have never had the opportunity or the money to pursue higher education.

Qualifying by virtue of their commitment to the course, of being at least 18 years old and able to read a newspaper in English, and of living at or near the poverty line, the women are receiving a year of college courses in the humanities for free. In addition to tuition, books, transportation and even day-care services, those who complete the course will earn six credit hours that can be transferred to the school of their choice.

For Sherri Gillespie, 41, the program couldn’t have come at a better time.

“It added a whole new element to my life – in fact, it’s changed the dynamics of everything,” said Gillespie, a single mother who had a year and a half of college some time ago but who cannot work now because she is suffering from Boecher’s meningitis (a rare and chronic inflammatory disease that has her now using crutches.

“Every once in a while you have to move the furniture around in your living room. I feel I have to do that for my brain, too.”

There’s another reason Gillespie is making the effort to attend classes two nights a week: “I strongly believe that going back to college is a very good example to set for my teenage daughter.”

Buying into the Odyssey Project is, in fact, a personal test for Gillespie: to see if her health could handle “getting back in the college scene, adding some mental stimulation and adhering to a new routine and schedule.”

For Keri Hogue, a single mother of two, ages 2 and 7, and a full-time employee at a local cap-and-gown factory, this was “the opportunity of a lifetime, a blessing.” The classes are not only helping her build her reading and writing and critical thinking skills, “but also my self-esteem,” said Hogue, 24.

“This opportunity makes me feel like I’m doing everything that I’m capable of doing. I’m able to take care of my kids. I’m able to work. And I’m even able to say, ‘I have class tonight.’ You know, that feels good.

“There’s just so much more I want out of life and for my children, and this is helping me take the next step, preparing me for when I’m ready to start college.”

At year’s end, the students will have taken four courses in the humanities: literature and philosophy this semester, American history and art history next semester, with critical thinking and writing spanning both semesters.

The Illinois Humanities Council, with funding from the state and elsewhere, is partially supporting the new Champaign-Urbana course and three others in Chicago and Springfield.

The C-U Odyssey Project is sponsored by the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, with substantial assistance from the Office of the Chancellor.

These programs and some 46 others nationwide, often with different names, operate in partnership with the Bard College Center for the Humanities, a unique educational program for low-income adults begun in the early 1990s.

“This is a great thing,” said Dale Bauer, the Odyssey literature professor and an expert in 19th- and 20th-century American literature. “I’m proud to be part of it and proud that the Chancellor’s Office is funding it.”

Bauer said she decided to teach in the Odyssey Project because she and her brother were the first in their family to attend college, “so I know how important it is intellectually and psychologically to go to school.”

The wide range of ages among students in the Odyssey course is making for a unique pedagogical experience, Bauer said.

For example, during a recent discussion of Zora Neale Hurston’s short story “Sweat,” one of four or five names, operate in partnership in Chicago and Springfield.

“Every once in a while you have to move the furniture around in your living room. I feel I have to do that for my brain, too.”

For Dale Bauer, left, professor of English and of gender and women’s studies, and John Marsh, lecturer in English, are two of the five humanities professors involved in the C-U Odyssey Project, which offers one year of free college credit courses to women at the poverty level in Champaign-Urbana.

“Just being with UI professors is exciting,” said Hogue, who hopes to put her new skills and knowledge to practice in the field of criminal justice.

As for Gillespie, an artist and papermaker who hopes to start a gift-card business, the Odyssey experience is “just invaluable.”

Marsh believes the American university has become the default home of the humanities, “and thus, is partly responsible for making them available to all citizens.”

He said that when he found out about the Odyssey Project shortly after he completed his poetry anthology, he was “extremely predisposed to it.

So are Hogue and Gillespie.

“Just being with UI professors is exciting,” said Hogue, who hopes to put her new skills and knowledge to practice in the field of criminal justice.

As for Gillespie, an artist and papermaker who hopes to start a gift-card business, the Odyssey experience is “just invaluable.”

Bauer, the literature professor, also has a few hopes regarding the Odyssey – “the greatest of which is that we will emerge as a community of intellectuals at the end of the semester.”

““Every once in a while you have to move the furniture around in your living room. I feel I have to do that for my brain, too.”

Sherri Gillespie, Odyssey participant
Scientists explain mechanism in aquaporins

By James E. Kleoppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Using computer simulations and experimental results, researchers at the UI and the University of Arizona have identified a key component of the gating mechanism in aquaporins that controls both the passage of water and the conduction of ions.

Aquaporins are a class of proteins that form membrane channels in cell walls and allow for water movement between a cell and its surroundings. A number of aquaporins, including aquaporin-1, have been found to function as ion channels, as well.

“Understanding the molecular mechanism behind gating in membrane channels could lead to more effective protein engineering,” said Emad Tajkhorshid, a professor of biochemistry at Illinois and a researcher at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

In work funded by the National Institutes of Health, Tajkhorshid and co-workers show that the same protein can be used as a water channel or an ion channel depending on the signaling pathway activated in the cell. The scientists report their findings in the September issue of the journal Structure.

Taking advantage of the known crystal structure of aquaporin-1 and the power of molecular dynamics simulations, the researchers explored the central pore as a candidate pathway for conducting ions. Gating of the central pore is controlled by a number of charged residues in a row, the substitution caused an almost complete removal of ion conduction, but had no appreciable effect on water passage.

“Knowing the mechanism gives us a new handle to control the opening or closing of the central pore,” Tajkhorshid said.

The work highlights a close interaction between simulation and experiment. Based on their simulation results, the researchers designed a mutant in which two arginines in loop D were replaced by two alanines. In laboratory experiments performed at Arizona, the substitution caused an almost complete removal of ion conduction, but had no appreciable effect on water passage.

Walter K. “Nick” Crook Jr., 50, died Sept. 24 at Vandalia Medical Center, Vandalia. Crook was a kitchen laborer in the Housing Division from 1978 to 1992.

Carol J. Downs, 68, died Sept. 18 at East Morgan County Hospital, Brush, Colo. Downs worked at the School of Social Work for 11 years as an adjunct professor.

Harold G. Halcrow, 94, died Aug. 13. Halcrow was head of the department of agricultural economics at the UI from 1957 to 1970. He retired as professor emeritus in 1981.

William Hoggard Sr., 67, died Sept. 15 at Wayne Memorial Hospital in Goldsboro, N.C. He worked at the UI for 17 years, retiring in 1996 as a chief flight line attendant.

Mary Agnes Sayles McLean, 74, died Sept. 17 at Heritage Nursing Center, Champaign. McLean worked in food service at the UI for five years.

Eugene C. Ray, 81, died Sept. 29 at his Urbana home. Ray worked at the UI for 32 years, retiring in 1980 as a building service worker for the Housing Division. Memorials: Monticello United Methodist Church.
Honoring academic professionals

CAPE nominations due Oct. 27

Nominations are being sought for the 2007 Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence Award. The award honors academic professionals who have made outstanding contributions to the UI campus and beyond. The purpose of the award, as well as criteria, eligibility requirements and nomination procedures can be found at www.ur.uiuc.edu/cape/index.htm. Chancellor Richard Herman encourages the campus community to nominate employees whose responsibilities reflect the broad range of jobs held by academic professionals on campus. The deadline for submitting nominations is 8 a.m. Oct. 27. E-mail Elyne Cole (e-cole1@uiuc.edu) with any questions.

UI Library

Donations for gaming collection needed

The Undergraduate Library is seeking donations of functional video games or consoles and video-game related literature for the collection, one of the first of its kind for academic libraries. Gaming collections and services are advancing as valuable tools for education and research. The library’s gaming collection supports a variety of interdisciplinary programs and scholarly research on campus as well as the needs of students interested in gaming for class work and other activities. For more information about the collection, visit www.library.uiuc.edu/gaming/ or contact David Ward at 244-2856 or dh-ward@uiuc.edu.

Allerton Park

Fall family activities announced

Allerton Park will host several family activities this fall. The Survey Research Laboratory is seeking nominations for the sixth annual Robert Ferber Dissertation Award and the Seymour Sudman Dissertation Award, both for excellence in survey research as part of a doctoral dissertation. Eligible dissertations will involve either methodological research related to surveys (including the broader area of cognition that can be applied to survey research) or will be based on primary survey data collection on any topic. An award of $2,400 will be given to the winner of each award. All UI doctoral candidates who have successfully defended their proposals prior to Dec. 1 are eligible. Applications are due no later than Dec. 1. Awards will be made in early 2007. For more information, go to www.srl.uiuc.edu.

UI Press

Winning books displayed through Oct. 33

The UI Press will host the 2006 Book Show of the Association of American University Presses. Fifty winning book designs and 34 winning covers will be on display from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. through Oct. 13 at the press. A reception will be from 4 to 6 p.m. Oct. 5.

The winning entry of the UI Press is “The Test Drive,” by Avital Ronell, and designed by Richard Eckersley.

The Environmental Council

RFP: improving campus sustainability

In conjunction with Facilities and Services, the Environmental Council is seeking proposals from student-faculty teams to address campus sustainability issues. Up to five awards of $5,000 to $15,000 will be made. Proposals are due Nov. 13.

For examples of topics and more information, visit www.environ.uiuc.edu/FSRFPhp.htm.

Assembly Hall

Marching Illini perform in concert Oct. 15

The UI’s Marching Illini will perform its 17th annual concert at Assembly Hall at 3 p.m. Oct. 15. Tickets are $7 in advance and $9 the day of the performance. The Marching Illini, which performs at all home Fighting Illini football games, will perform classic Illini anthems and highlights from their football halftime presentations in a theatre style in the Assembly Hall. Tickets are available at the Assembly Hall box office, Ticket Central at the Illini Union or by phone at 333-5000.

Centennial celebration of Women’s Club

Coach Weber to speak Oct. 18

The UI Women’s Club will continue to celebrate its 100th anniversary with a luncheon from 11:30 a.m.–1 p.m. Oct. 18 at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. UI men’s basketball coach Bruce Weber will speak and answer questions from the audience.

The club is a social organization whose members support the university and meet to socialize throughout the year. It was founded on Sept. 25, 1899, and meets to raise funds for scholarships. The club is open to women and men through the University of Illinois Foundation Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

An Evening with Poe

7-9:30 p.m., Oct. 14; $5 per adult, $3 per child under 12. Non-scary Halloween attire is encouraged. Local storytellers will take the stage in the Allerton music barn.

Pumpkinpalooza

11 a.m.–5 p.m., Oct. 15; free admission; some activities require a small fee. Activities will include pumpkin-carving, stenciling, scarecrow building, pumpkin carving and decorating, children’s games and crafts, raffle, hay-rack rides, craft vendors, food, pumpkins, gourds and other produce for sale.

Halloween Spooktacular

5-9 p.m. Oct. 29; $5 per adult, $3 per child under 12. Non-scary Halloween attire is encouraged. Local storytellers will take the stage in the Allerton music barn.

Ghost Story Concert

7:30 p.m., Oct. 14; $5 per adult, $3 per child under 12. Local storytellers will take the stage in the Allerton music barn.

Annual book sale is Oct. 25-26

The University Library Annual Book Sale is 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 25 and 26 in the Marshall Gallery (east foyer) of the main Library building. The sale includes hardcover books ($3), paperback books ($2), trade paperbacks ($1), books ($3), paperback books ($2), trade paperbacks ($1), rare and special edition books. All proceeds will benefit the library’s collections. For more information call 244-1354.

Assembly Hall

Sardel Patty Christmas show is Dec. 8

Sardel Patty will perform at the Assembly Hall Star Theatre at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 8. Patty is the most awarded female vocalist in contemporary Christian music history. Her albums have sold more than 11 million units, including three platinum and five gold recordings. See BRIEFS. Page 16

Medieval Studies hosts conference

The Program in Medieval Studies will present “The New 11th Century” on Oct. 13-14. This conference will bring together a group of the most innovative scholars in 11th-century studies including historians, art historians, literary specialists and musicologists to reconsider the period and its significance within a modern, interdisciplinary perspective. Speakers include Gerd Althoff (history, Westfälischen Wilhelms-Universität), Simon Barton (School of Modern Languages, University of Exeter), Susan Boynton (music, Columbia University), Thomas Daly (art history, University of Wisconsin), Stephen Jaeger (Germanic languages and literatures and comparative literature, U of U), Marcia Kupfer (art history, Johns Hopkins), Megan McLoughlin (history, U of U), Eustathios Paipianou (classics, Brown University), Carol Symes (history, U of U) and Renee Trilling (English, U of U).

The conference is free and open to the public and will be held in the Foreign Languages Building and Temple Hoye Buell Hall. It is co-sponsored by the Program in Medieval Studies, department of history, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities. For more information contact Megan McLoughlin, megmclau@uiuc.edu or 244-2084.

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European Union Day

Ambassador of Finland will speak Oct. 17

Pekka Lintu, the ambassador of Finland to the United States, will share his views of the current state of the European Union during EU Day activities at the UI on Oct. 17.

Lintu, who holds the EU’s six-month rotating presidency, will speak at 11 a.m. on the third floor of the Levis Faculty Center. His talk, free and open to the public, is part of the UI’s seventh annual EU Day, sponsored by the UI’s European Union Center.

“EU Day is an important tradition on the Urbana-Champaign campus,” said Robert Pahre, a professor of political science and recently appointed director of the center. “The ambassador represents the European Union, America’s most important global partner in both economic and political affairs.”

Pahre said the 25 states constitute the world’s largest economy.

“The relations between the United States and EU also affect the outcome of important conflicts in North Korea, Iran and the Middle East,” he said. “These questions of global wealth and security affect all of our lives.”

The UI center’s goal in organizing the annual event, Pahre said the 25 states constitute the world’s largest economy.

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The UI center’s goal in organizing the annual event, Pahre said, is “to inform the public of what the EU is, what it does, and how it matters for Americans.”

Law School Day

Law schools on hand for students

Representatives from more than 100 law schools are expected to be on hand to talk about their law schools and about the process of finding and applying to law school during Law School Day, hosted by the UI on Oct. 17.

The event, which is free and open to the public, will take place from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Illini Union in rooms A, B and C.

Students also will be able to pick up applications, brochures, financial-aid information and other materials. The event is sponsored by the Midwest Association for Pre-Law Advisers, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Pre-Law Club, both at Illinois.

For more information, call Sharon Cox at 333-4923.

Smithsonian Affiliations

Apply for Visiting Professional Program

Smithsonian Affiliations is accepting applications for the spring 2007 cycle of its Visiting Professional Program. Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 20. Museum, archive and library professionals as well as others interested in preservation and cultural heritage are invited to apply.

The UI became a Smithsonian affiliate organization last year.

Since its founding in 2002, the program has provided opportunities for professional growth and development to 19 staff members from 13 affiliate organizations.

Visiting professionals are selected to come to the Smithsonian for a spring or fall residency to work with Smithsonian staff members in a subject area or on a project applicable to their institutional and professional goals.

Only two candidates per affiliate per fiscal year may be awarded a Smithsonian Affiliations Intern Partnership and/or Visiting Professional award.

Interested individuals should e-mail Scott Schwartz at schwartz@uiuc.edu for application information.

Kranert Uncorked

Women’s Club hosts networking event

The UI Women’s Club will sponsor a networking event during Kranert Uncorked, a wine-tasting event from 5-7 p.m. Oct. 5 at the Kranert Center for Performing Arts.

The club also will participate Nov. 2 and Dec. 7. The event is free and snacks are provided. For more information e-mail Carrol Bunick at abunick@uiuc.edu.

‘Spanish Time’

Children’s programs will be in Spanish

Storytelling, live music, sing-alongs and other activities for children – presented in Spanish – will be featured twice monthly beginning in October as part of a library-based community-outreach program organized by the UI.

“Spanish Time,” for children ages 4 to 9, is free and open to the public. The program is co-sponsored by the UI’s Center for Latin and Caribbean Studies, Champaign Public Library and Urbana Free Library.

In Urbana, activities planned this fall will be held on the second Saturday of the month (Oct. 14, Nov. 11 and Dec. 9) at 2 p.m. in the children’s department of the library, 210 W. Green St.

In Champaign, the event will be offered on the third Saturday of the month (Oct. 21, Nov. 18 and Dec. 16) at 10:30 a.m. in the meeting room at the Douglass Branch Library, 504 E. Grove St.

The theme for the first program will be “Day of the Dead” (or “Dia de los Muertos”), the festive Latin American holiday in which family members honor their ancestors.

According to Renata Johnson, outreach coordinator for the UI center, the program was developed to fill a need for more Spanish-language programs outside the classroom.

For more information, call Johnson at 244-2790 or e-mail renata@uiuc.edu. At Champaign’s Douglass Branch, e-mail children’s librarian Amanda Raklovs, araklovs@champaign.org and at the Urbana Free Library, Barb Lintner, director of children’s services, blintner@tufl.info.

Campus Recreation

Spa Night is Oct. 5 at CRCE

The Division of Campus Recreation will host Spa Night at the Campus Recreation Center-East from 6:30-9 p.m. Oct. 5.

Rod Sicker Salons will provide a night of mani-pedi’s, massages and hair cuts along with a DJ playing music all night.

Registration begins at 5:30 p.m. The event is free to UI students and Campus Recreation members. Non-members can participate with a $7 registration fee. For more information, visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu.

IPRH

‘Area Studies’ to be discussed Oct. 10

A panel discussion about “The Future of Area Studies” at the UI is scheduled for 3 p.m. Oct. 10 at Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

The event is free and open to the public.

Matt Bunel, director of IPRH, will chair the panel discussion. Participants, all professors at the UI include Nancy Abelmann, director, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies; Jean Allman, director, Center For African Studies; Marilyn Booth, director, Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies; Donna Buchanan, director, Russian, East European and Eurasian Center; and Dana Goldman, interim director, Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies.

Applications must be postmarked by Oct. 20. Museum, archive and library professionals as well as others interested in preservation and cultural heritage are invited to apply.

For more information visit www.iprh.uiuc.edu or contact IPRH, the event sponsor, at 244-3344.
**Multimedia performance**

Privacy and surveillance are hot topics in today’s post-9/11 world and not surprisingly, the interrelated themes are creeping into America’s entertainment sphere as well. The Builders Association— a New York-based performance and media ensemble – and chec – a New York- and London-based visual arts and media studio – tackle the issue head on in "Super Vision" at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 6 and 7 in the Tryon Festival Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The multimedia performance incorporates animation, video and surveillance technologies to portray the interconnected lives of three characters trying to keep it together in an increasingly digital, data-driven world.
11 Sunday

Sunday School at the University

12 July

July 4th Independence Day

13 Friday

Women’s Volleyball vs. Ohio State University

14 Saturday

Football vs. Ohio State University

15 Sunday

Baha’i Dance Company.

16 Monday

Japanese National Dance Company.

17 Tuesday

Philippine National Dance Company.

18 Wednesday

Japanese American Dance Ensemble.

19 Thursday


20 Friday

Workshop: "Being Asian American: Being Asian American."

21 Saturday

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

22 Sunday

Women’s Softball vs. Indiana University

23 Monday


24 Tuesday


25 Wednesday


26 Thursday


27 Friday


28 Saturday


29 Sunday


30 Monday


31 Tuesday


American Chemical Society.

Jazz Forum.

Jazz Band II.

6 p.m. Central Time.

7:30 p.m. Memorial Hall.

7:30 p.m. Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

8 p.m. Central Time.

8:00 p.m. Central Time.

8:30 p.m. Central Time.

9/10p.m. Central Time.

9:30 p.m. Central Time.

10 p.m. Central Time.

10 p.m. Central Time.

10:30 p.m. Central Time.

11 p.m. Central Time.

11:30 p.m. Central Time.

12:00a.m. Central Time.

1:00a.m. Central Time.

2:00a.m. Central Time.

3:00a.m. Central Time.

4:00a.m. Central Time.

5:00a.m. Central Time.

6:00a.m. Central Time.

6:30a.m. Central Time.

7:00a.m. Central Time.

8:00a.m. Central Time.

9:00a.m. Central Time.

10:00a.m. Central Time.

11:00a.m. Central Time.

12:00p.m. Central Time.

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10:00p.m. Central Time.

11:00p.m. Central Time.

12:00a.m. Central Time.
“Forget What You Thought Was Beautiful”
An exhibition by New Cata
go through March 4.

“From the Beyond: A Col-

“Cosmic Consciousness: The
Gregory St., Urbana. Noon-5
Noon-3 p.m. Thursday, 10 a.m.-

“Pride of the Illini: The Illinois

“From the Beyond: A Col-

“Suspender Interventions: Selec-
Through Oct. 22

“Surealist Interventions: Selec-

“Homecoming Comeback
Through Oct. 31.

“Where Animals Dance”
Through March 4.

“Whimsical Interventions:
To arrange a tour, 333-7579.

“Robert Allerton Park
Open 8 a.m. to dusk daily.

“From the Beyond: A Col-

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