Program aims to make reading more fun for children in China

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

What could an English-speaking American reader expect to discover from studying how Chinese learn their language? And what might he and his colleagues have to offer as a result?

For one thing: A new program to make books and reading more fun for Chinese children, and a publishing company started in order to produce the materials and train teachers how to use them.

The company is just 4 years old, but its “shared book” program already is in use with 250,000 children ages 3 to 5 in more than 8,000 kindergarten classrooms across urban China. There are about 60 million Chinese in that age group.

“Chinese is not an easy language to learn to read,” says Richard Anderson, who has led a research project at the UI since the early 1990s on the process and psychology of learning to read Chinese. He also is the director of the UI Center for the Study of Reading.

For most Chinese children, Anderson said, the process of learning to read begins in first grade with the literacy being introduced among Chinese characters, largely through drill and practice. They are expected to memorize 1,200 characters by the end of second grade and 2,500 by the end of sixth grade.

And the Chinese don’t have a strong tradition of reading to their preschool-age children or doing other activities connected with reading Chinese, said Anderson, who also is a professor of educational psychology. Their books for young children tend to be highly formalistic and “not designed to be really exciting fiction,” he said. They are not books young children can learn to read themselves.

Anderson and his colleagues, from both the UI and Beijing Normal University, sought to design a program that would create a foundation for literacy, but also would encourage young children to read more and to read for pleasure.

“We wanted them to feel it was worth the trouble. We wanted to build in them an intrinsic motivation for reading. … We wanted children to become really excited by reading. That they see in there during those first tough several years of school,” China is fertile ground for a program such as this because literacy is becoming essential for many jobs in the nation’s growing economy. In addition, most couples now have only one child, the result of the country’s population policies, Anderson said.

“Making sure your child gets a good education is a very, very high priority,” he said.

The seeds for the research project in China were planted in the early 1980s, as the nation was opening up to the West. Anderson visited China with a group of educators.

Connections made then eventually led to doctoral students and research grants from Beijing Normal to come to work with Anderson and his Illinois colleagues.

Over more than a dozen years, the “Learning to Read Chinese” project, with sites at Illinois and Beijing Normal, has done extensive work on the psychological processes involved in learning the language.

“We’re among those at the leading edge of cross-cultural studies of learning to read,” Anderson said.

The project has researched issues related to how children perceive and process speech and the structure of written characters, as well as the factors that might hold back some children from learning to read.

What they’ve found, along with other researchers moving in that direction, is similarities in the way children learn to read each language, Anderson said. “It’s amazing the extent to which the processes that are the same, or at least highly similar, between Chinese and English, considering that our languages are going to have significant trouble learning to read, Anderson said.

In both cases, the findings echo the results of research on learning to read in English.

Reading Chinese is fun-damental

The shared book program developed by Richard Anderson, a professor of educational psychology and director of the Center for the Study of Reading, helps Chinese kindergartners learn to read Chinese characters, to develop oral language facility and encourages children to read for pleasure.

Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Illinois Informatics Initiative: www.informatics.uiuc.edu

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Town Hall meetings Illinois Informatics Initiative

All meetings begin from 1:30 p.m. in the board room of the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, except as noted.

Oct. 19 Oct. 20
Oct. 24 Oct. 25
Oct. 31* Nov. 21

*in the east half of the boardroom of the alumni center

Sweet retirement

Eighty-four faculty members and academic professionals retired last year. Two retirees share their stories.

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Special guests

Four visiting dignitaries — a quartet of extremely rare Stradivarius stringed instruments — come to campus to celebrate American Music Month.

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For I3 discusses Global Campus initiative

By Shaffra Forrest

At an Oct. 16 forum about the Global Campus initiative, faculty members posed questions and made suggestions on how the $20 million project might be scaled up to serve more students.

The primary stimulus for founding the Global Campus, which will cost about $20 million over five years, was a disinterested student, said Chester Gardner, special assistant to the president.

“We have a shot at being pre-eminent. A lot of our markets – and to ensure it wouldn’t be a fling – the enterprise was to provide access to capital for making the Global Campus a for-profit entity. The Global Campus, which will cost about $20 million over five years, was a disinterested student,” Gardner said.

“Focusing on the high-demand programs will keep our competitive advantage,” Gardner said.

Mary Estella Williams, 85, died Oct. 12 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Williams was a building service foreman, retiring in 1997 for 29 years, retiring in 1997. Memorials: Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Memorials: First United Methodist Church, Urbana or the American Cancer Society.

Lola Linda Lee Anderson, 65, died Oct. 12 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Anderson was a staff secretary, retiring in 1999 after 28 years of service. Memorials: Provena Covenant Hospital campus.

Alice A. Fescus, 81, died Sept. 27 at McKee Medical Center in Loveland, Colo. Fescus was a chief accountant in accounting when she retired in 1984. Memorials: Chapel of the Interlude or the American Cancer Association in care of Kilbourn Funeral Home, 1102 N. Lincoln Ave., Loveland, CO 80537.

Charles Frederick, 93, died Oct. 2 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Frederick retired from the UI Physical Plant in 1974. Memorials: Sidney C. Whiteside Memorial.

Thomas “T.J.” Howard, 70, died Oct. 9 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Howard worked for the UI power plant since 1969. Memorials: Provena Covenant Medical Center.

David F. Huxhold, 65, died Oct. 1 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Huxhold was a telecommunications service worker for more than 30 years. Memorials: American Cancer Society.


Mary Estella Williams, 85, died Oct. 1 at ManorCare Health Services of Champaign, Ill. Williams worked for food services at the UI for 43 years. Memorial: Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Memorials: First United Methodist Church, Urbana or the American Cancer Society.

Memorials

A memorial service for James W. Carey, 87, who died Oct. 1, will be held at 12:30 p.m. Oct. 16 at the University of Illinois Alumni Center, Champaign. The service will be open to the public, but memorials may be sent to the University of Illinois Alumni Association, 100 N. Gaffey St., Champaign, IL 61820. Eulogies: Oct. 1 at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology in Champaign. Memorials: 100 N. Gaffey St., Champaign, IL 61820. Eulogies: Oct. 1 at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology in Champaign. Memorials: 100 N. Gaffey St., Champaign, IL 61820.

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On the Job: Jim Donaldson

Jim Donaldson is prepared for the worst. When he’s not working his day job for the garage in the Facilities and Services Division, he is a part-time firefighter, emergency medical technician and member of the Illinois State Emergency Medical Response team. Donaldson has been working in the university’s garage for 28 1/2 years.

Tell me about your career at the university.

I started out as a garage attendant, then worked my way up through the ranks to mechanic and then became supervisor in 1998. We take care of all the equipment that’s needed to keep the university running. We deal with all of the units on campus. We service about 2,300 pieces of equipment – anything from weed trimmers, to generators, pickup trucks, semi-trucks, forklifts and tractors. If you can think of it, the university’s got one somewhere.

In the garage, we have 11 mechanics, two auto-body repairmen, four day-garage attendants, and six night garage attendants.

What’s the oddest thing you’ve worked on? And have you ever been given anything you couldn’t fix?

There’s nothing we haven’t been able to work on so far. Mechanical engineering had some propane vehicles that we worked on once. Probably the oddest thing we’ve worked on so far is a compost turner. It is 8 to 10 feet wide and 12 to 14 feet tall. It hooks on the front end of a bulldozer, which pulls it through the compost. It picks the compost up, churns it and lays it back down.

Aside from work, what activities are you involved in?

Right now, I am an emergency medical technician intermediate. I’m going to take (what is known as) a bridge class so I can get oriented to the new curriculum that’s coming out next year. I’ll learn how to administer additional medications on top of what I can administer now.

I’m a part-time firefighter in Piatt County, and I’ve been doing the firefighting almost nine years. We got called out once when a university employee’s barn was on fire. It had a bunch of equipment in it – tractors and stuff – but we couldn’t do much more than save the foundation.

Why did you get into firefighting?

It was just something that I wanted to do. I tried to get on with the city of Monticello fire department, but it just never worked out. I had already started working here (at Illinois) by the time they finally called me.

I’m also on the state Emergency Medical Response Team and am the assistant coordinator for the Emergency Management Agency in Piatt County.

I got called out to go to the south side of Chicago, and spent a day and a half this summer assisting at a cooling shelter they’d set up at McCormick Place. There were about 150 people there who were without power on a 99-degree day. We helped serve food, provided basic medical exams and helped people obtain medications, if they’d forgotten to bring theirs with them.

Have you had to do any disaster preparedness drills?

We just had a drill recently where we set up a decontamination unit. We went through a full-scale exercise, a six-hour drill, during the fall of 2005 where there was a supposed failure at the Clinton power plant. There was a cloud that was heading toward various towns, and we had to communicate what was going on. That was an eye-opener.

What do you enjoy doing when you’re not working or handling emergencies?

I just enjoy relaxing. I do a little woodworking. I’ve made decorative cages, a clock, a bookshelf, a snowman decoration for the yard and a gun-display cabinet.

~ Interview by Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

NEW faces 2006

Angelia Nedic
assistant professor of industrial and enterprise systems engineering
College of Engineering

Education: Ph.D. (mathematics and mathematical physics), Moscow State University; Ph.D. (electrical engineering and computer science), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; M.S. (mathematics), University of Belgrade; B.S. (mathematics), University of Montenegro.

Teaching at Illinois: Nedic will teach Senior Design (GE 494/495) and courses in control systems.

Research: “Nedic has an excellent track record and two Ph.D.s plus several years of real-world experience working with defense and homeland security,” said Deborah L. Thurston, interim head of the department of industrial and enterprise systems engineering. “She has a deep and broad grasp of how things fit together, especially of how we can build our new department.”

Nedic’s research interests include linear and nonlinear optimization, convex and nonconvex optimization, stochastic dynamic programming and approximations, large scale decision systems, duality theory and applications, and parallel and distributed algorithms.

Michelle Nelson
professor of advertising
College of Communications

Education: Ph.D. (advertising), UI; M.A. (journalism and mass communication) and B.S. (English literature), University of Wisconsin at Madison.


Research: Gender and cross-cultural consumption and communication, consumption rituals, entertainment media, product placement, consumer decision-making, strategic market communications, citizen-consumer, ethnography and persuasion.

“Professor Nelson’s work exhibits a mastery of a variety of methodological, quantitative, qualitative and interpretive approaches,” said Norman Denzin, College of Communications Scholar and research professor of sociology and of communications who was interim head of advertising at the time Nelson was hired. “Professor Nelson has established a strong national and international presence. In addition, she has professional experience in the field of advertising and marketing, and she will bring those experiences into the classroom and envelop them in her research. Dr. Nelson fills a critical need in the department of advertising’s undergraduate professional curriculum and in advertising’s professional master’s track program, and she will bring stability and balance to advertising’s newly developing doctoral program.”

William C. Olivero
professor of surgery
College of Medicine

Education: M.D. and B.S., UI.

Teaching at Illinois: Olivero will assist in the delivery of the basic science curriculum to first-year medical students and contribute to the clinical component of the medical curriculum, including the Internal Medicine Residency Program. He also will be a contributing lecturer in the bioengineering and neuroscience programs. Olivero will work with UI and Carle Clinic to provide clinical care as a neurosurgeon and to collaborate with the UI neuroscience program.

Research: Olivero’s main areas of research have been in brain tumor, hydrocephalus and brain cooling. His new appointment with Carle Clinic Association and UI will allow him to explore a new area of interest, functional magnetic resonance imaging of pain.

“Dr. Olivero brings hands-on experience with neurologic function and disease to all stages of our medical and graduate curricula,” said Brad Schwartz, regional dean of the College of Medicine. “With his expert guidance, students will more clearly understand the connection of basic cellular and molecular mechanisms to human health and disease.” Olivero also will work to establish a research presence at Carle Foundation Hospital.
Ex-WILL fundraiser has full to-do list, including work for stations

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

On a warm October morning, Deborah Day, former director of development at WILL AM-FM-TV, answers the door of her Urbana home wearing a T-shirt and a pair of khaki shorts. Apologizing for her appearance, Day explains that she needs to spend hours in her yard preparing her garden for winter—transplanting lilies, planting peonies, repotting other flowers and bringing plants indoors to protect them from the chilly temperatures expected that night.

Not surprisingly, one of Day’s goals now that she’s retired is to become a master gardener through UI Extension. But that’s just one of many projects on Day’s lengthy to-do list, which also includes traveling, spending more time with her sons – Geoff, Scott and Bruce – and their families, as well as researching family genealogy, organizing thousands of family photos and slides, exploring art history, hiking and sampling wines with special interest groups from the UI Women’s Club and participating in an informal book club and an investment club.

“There’s just so much to learn, see and do,” said Day, who retired July 31. “I retired to pursue the things I’ve never had time to pursue because of work. I want to keep very active in the community. I’m used to doing things to contribute to the community, and it feels strange, in a way, to get up in the morning and think, ‘I can choose what I want to do today.’ ”

Day resigned from the board of Family Service of Champaign County in December 2005 after 27 years, saying she needed new challenges and the board needed new people and new ideas. One of the new challenges Day has taken on is joining the board of directors of the Eastern Illinois Foodbank in Urbana, which collects, stores and distributes food through a network of programs in 14 Eastern Illinois counties. The foodbank recently began its annual Food for Families food drive with the goal of collecting 500,000 in donations and 185,000 pounds of food.

Day also is co-chairing the 50th reunion for her graduating class at Denison University in Granville, Ohio, where she earned a bachelor’s degree in sociology. In addition, she’s an honorary co-chair of the Urbana Park District’s Centennial Celebration, which began this month and will end with a Chautauqua – a gathering typically devoted to music and lectures – at Crystal Lake Park in Urbana during October 2007.

During her 32 years with WILL, Day coordinated the Army of Volunteers known as Friends of WILL, a group of more than 17,000 members who, in conjunction with businesses, raise about half of the funds for WILL’s annual operating budget. In 1974, Day’s first year with WILL, the group raised about $67,000, and by 2005, the annual figure had grown to $2.5 million. Day, who started out as a part-time employee and became director of development in 1979, said she worked with staff members in the Office of Campus Development and the UI Foundation “to build what I think is really a good relationship within the university,” an accord that some public media owned by universities have not experienced. “There are many situations where public stations and the universities they’re licensed to are in real conflict, where the universities see the stations solely as advertising arms for the universities,” Day said. “I think WILL has always maintained a very professional approach – that we are broadcasting entities and that our value is in our independence and editorial control of our own products. At WILL, it’s not just a job. The people really care about what they do and believe that public television and radio are really important elements of community and truly a valuable resource.”

During her career at WILL, Day was very involved with national public broadcasting associations. Day served as a member and past chair of the Public Broadcasting Services Development Advisory Committee, a group of public television development professionals who work with PBS on a variety of issues, projects and events; and of the PBS Development Exchange, a professional association for people working in public radio.

“I have been so lucky to have just fallen into something that developed into a career that I have had a wonderful experience with,” Day said. “It’s been a rewarding, fulfilling career. It was hard to decide to disconnect, but I looked at all the things I would like to do, and the job has always been practically all consuming. I wanted to retire before people began hoping I’d retire or before I felt I was losing my edge, enthusiasm or energy – because I wanted to give my all right up to the day I retired.”

And Day’s affiliation with WILL continues. She will volunteer both on- and off-air during WILL radio’s annual fund drive during October and is coordinating a docent program through which volunteers will give tours of Campbell Hall. ✪
Paulsen considers himself ‘in transition rather than retired’

Marvin Paulsen, who retired July 15 as a professor of agricultural and biological engineering, credits his wife of 36 years, Karen, with “keeping him down-to-earth, but on his toes.” In part, that has to do with their mutual interest in ballroom dancing, which began a few years ago when Paulsen gave Karen dance lessons as a Christmas gift.

The Paulsens have waltzed and fox-trotted their way through several years of lessons and are now learning the West Coast Swing, the Nightclub Two-step and advanced steps in the waltz, merengue and rumba. “We’ve enjoyed it a lot,” Paulsen said.

In addition to stepping out to Friday night dances, Paulsen is a regular visitor at the Fitness Center in Champaign, where he samples a variety of fitness activities: step aerobics classes, cycling, kickboxing, weight training and yoga, “which is harder than it looks,” Paulsen said.

At home, Paulsen enjoys gardening, and this summer’s bounty included blackberries, cilantro, leeks, raspberries, sweet potatoes and tomatoes.

Through the years, the Paulsens have enjoyed several Caribbean cruises, and in June 2007 are planning a cruise down the coast of Mexico, visiting Cabo San Lucas and Mazatlan.

“I consider myself more in transition than retirement,” Paulsen said. And he has weathered many transitions and changes during his 30-plus year career at the UI, having worked for five department heads and five deans in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. “Somewhere the transition’s always been good,” Paulsen said.

Despite Paulsen’s retirement, his professional life remains busy, with a quarter-time appointment in his department for the next eight months. He leads a weekly seminar for graduate students and has discovered that offering pizza and soda ensures great attendance. In addition, Paulsen is developing a course on technologies for measurements in food processing to be offered jointly with the department of food science and human nutrition during the spring semester.

This academic year, Paulsen is the president of Gamma Sigma Delta, a faculty-governed honor society for students, faculty members, alumni and other people who have distinguished themselves in agriculture and related fields.

Paulsen is busy organizing the society’s annual new student night (Oct. 24), and working on arranging a speaker for the group’s annual graduate fellowship recognition ceremony (Nov. 2), and arranging the society’s annual banquet in April, during which new members will be inducted.

Paulsen’s research has concentrated on grain quality and the effects of drying, handling and storage on corn and soybeans. In early September, he was invited to give a workshop about grain drying in China. The American Association of Cereal Chemists has asked him to write a chapter on soybean quality for a reference book that will be published in 2007. Additionally, Paulsen has funded research on near-infrared spectroscopy that continues, and he is advising a graduate student on its application to dry-grind ethanol processes.

Paulsen remains active with several professional societies, including the American Society of Agricultural and Biological Engineers, and continues to serve on several national committees, including the Regional Grain Quality Committee of Project NC-213, a team of engineers, scientists and economists from leading land-grant universities and government research centers that is working on issues related to food quality and biosecurity.

Named numerous times to the “Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students,” Paulsen has received several awards for his research, including the ASAEBE Outstanding Paper Award, the Anderson’s Research Award from the NC-213 Committee, the Paul A. Funk Recognition Award from the College of ACES, and was elected a fellow in the ASABE. Past chair of the Food and Process Engineering Institute, Paulsen continues to serve as an associate editor for ASABE and on the ASAEBE finance committee.

“It’s been a great time at the university,” Paulsen said. “I can remember when I started working here in 1975, people were using calculators and mimeograph machines, and if you had computer access at all, you used punch cards.”

Academic retirees announced
Between Sept. 1, 2005, and Aug. 31, 2006, 84 faculty members and academic professionals retired from the UI, according to the Office of Academic Human Resources. The retirees, their positions, units and years of service are posted online: www.news.uiuc.edu/U/06/1019/06acretirees.html

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Down-to-earth, but on his toes
Marvin Paulsen, a professor of agricultural and biological engineering, retired July 15 after more than 30 years on the UI faculty. His professional life remains busy with teaching and research. Away from work, Paulsen enjoys ballroom dancing, gardening and traveling.

Funk Recognition Award from the College of ACES, and he was elected a fellow in the ASABE. Past chair of the Food and Process Engineering Institute, Paulsen continues to serve as an associate editor for ASABE and on the ASAEBE finance committee.

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Ad removed for online version
Online auction of conceptual art calls attention to culture of consumption

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

Type the key words “pink Melmac” into the search window on eBay.com and you’re likely to find a few dozen matches. At any given time, such a search yields gravy boats, butter dishes, cups, saucers, plates and just about every other type of item manufactured and marketed in the 1950s as part of the now-terse Melmac brand of dinnerware.

But each week for the past few — and through the end of October — 50s dinnerware shoppers have reported sightings nearly as strange as those that reportedly appeared in the night skies over Roswell, N.M. The UPO (unidentified plastic object) among the rose-colored dishware offered for sale in week-long eBay auctions lately has been a series of pink “plastic” objects created by Conrad Bakker (pronounced BAH-kuhr), a UI professor of art and design.

But what Bakker’s selling is not really plastic. And definitely not dishwasher safe.

Each week, he has been putting up for auction a different simulated Melmac item, hand-carved from wood and painted by the artist himself. Bakker has carved out something of a niche for himself in the contemporary art world, where he’s become increasingly recognized under the “Untitled Projects” moniker — Bakker has made and sold paintings of exhibitions — all of which he classifies under the “Untitled Projects” moniker — Bakker has made and sold paintings of auctions of Eames fiberglass shell chairs, “postcards from exotic locations sold from Indiana,” “Slacker” brand T-shirts and an Edward Ruscha artist book.

So, what is the artist hoping to accomplish with all this carving, painting, packaging and marketing? “I carve and paint simulations of everyday objects and position them in specific contexts so that they might reveal relationships between persons and things and spaces,” Bakker said. “As the objects I make reveal these economies, they also attempt to provide a critical platform for understanding the complexity of what it means to live in a culture of consumption and have relationships to people and things in a world dependent upon artifice.”

In addition to eBay, Bakker has built projects around other popular channels for acquiring stuff. He once created and distributed a glossy, color catalog featuring his own brand of house decals. In that case, the art objects functioned then — in kitchens — and now — on eBay. “The watchers and bidders of the “Melmac” auctions with the greatest number of bids and highest prices tend to be Bakker’s disciples,” he said. “The watchers and bidders of these auctions are often collectors of my work or people who have seen the exhibition, but sometimes they are people who are avid collectors of the objects I am replicating,” he said. “Every once in a while, often early in the auction, there are bids placed that I’m pretty certain are based upon misidentification, but it is made pretty obvious that I am not out to fool the bidders, as my auction description clearly states that these are carved and painted versions of the real thing.”

While the market for Melmac appears to be a bit glutted, based on the going prices — as well as plenty of no-sales — for the real McCoy, Bakker added that “at times, the going value of the original object is close to the final value of my carved and painted versions.”

Next up for auction will be images of Rolex watches, for a month-long group exhibition in December. While the exact nature of that project is still evolving, the UI artist said his work will be part of an eBay-specific exhibition in December called “eBayaday,” curated by University of Michigan art and design professor Rebekah Modrak and U. of M. graduate student Zackery Denfeld.

Looking at the current auction, as well as past auctions from this project (view by searching completed auctions), one thing stands out: The “Melmac” auctions with the greatest number of bids and highest prices tend to be Bakker’s disciples.

The current eBay project and exhibition grew from Bakker’s desire to focus on hand-held domestic objects. The watchers and bidders of the “Melmac” auctions with the greatest number of bids and highest prices tend to be Bakker’s disciples, he said. “Every once in a while, often early in the auction, there are bids placed that I’m pretty certain are based upon misidentification, but it is made pretty obvious that I am not out to fool the bidders, as my auction description clearly states that these are carved and painted versions of the real thing.”

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By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

When a UI alumna returns to her alma mater later this month, her exuberant jet will reach what musicians might call stratospheric heights.

That’s because Sheila Crump Johnson will be bringing with her four “Strads” – extremely rare, decorated and matched Stradivarius stringed instruments, which their owner, the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C., is lending to the Urbana-Champaign campus for more than a month.

Johnson’s Oct. 24 special delivery of what is known as the Axelrod Stradivarius Quartet kicks off the UI’s 2006 American Music Month, and at the same time becomes its centerpiece, said Scott Schwartz, director of Illinois’ Sousa Archives and Center for American Music (SACAM), which organizes the annual music celebration. This year’s events run from Oct. 27 through Nov. 30.

Johnson, a graduate of the class of 1970, a former UI cheerleader, honor student and music education major, is well known as a successful businesswoman, philanthropist, humanitarian and co-founder of Black Entertainment Television.

Not as widely known is her considerable familiarity with violins. She performed in the university’s symphony orchestra and was the undergraduate protégé of Paul Rolland, a world renowned violinist who taught at Illinois.

“Sheila adopted Rolland’s pedagogical approach to string teaching and carried on his tradition,” said Daniel Perrino, a professor emeritus of music at Illinois who mentored Johnson and remains a close friend of hers.

Perrino said that Johnson went on to have some 140 violin students of her own in the Washington, D.C. area, to create a small performing and touring chamber ensemble and to start a string conservatory in Jordan at the request of the then king and queen.

“Queen Noor and King Hussein were so impressed with her work that they gave her the highest civilian award for efforts in education,” Perrino said.

While showcasing the Strads, the November festival will celebrate a wide spectrum of music genres, events and musicians. This year’s salute to American music is titled “An Illinois Chautauqua: Lifelong Learning Through the Arts.”

At least a dozen events – for schoolchildren, adults and families – have been planned around the Strads, Schwartz said. In addition to the Sousa Archives and Center for American Music, which is a sub-unit of the University Library, the Smithsonian Institution and many UI units are co-sponsoring events.

According to the Smithsonian, the spectacular 17th-century instruments – two violins, a viola and a violincello – make up the only surviving set of decorated string instruments made by Antonio Stradivari that are actively used today. They are called “Stradivarius” because the master luthier Lattin named his name when applying his maker’s label to the instruments. Renowned for their extraordinary craftsmanship and tonal beauty, the instruments are the core of the Smithsonian’s Chamber Music Program, Schwartz said.

While all of the instruments have names – the “Ole Bull violin” (1687), the “Greiffühle violin” (1709), the “Antonio Stradivari viola” (1695) and the “Maryleborn violincello” (1688) – they never have been in the Midwest before at a university, Schwartz said.

Over his lifetime, Stradivari (1644-1737) made about 1,100 instruments – mostly violins, but also cellos, harps and guitars. His earliest documented violin dates to 1666; he completed his last violin at the age of 92. According to the Smithsonian, some 650 Stradivarius instruments survive today.

Two Smithsonian curators will accompany Johnson and the instruments on the trips to and from Illinois, which made it possible for the university to arrange to bring the instruments, curators and musicians to campus.

The instruments will be exhibited from Oct. 27 to Dec. 3 at Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion, and will only be removed from display for performances and other scheduled events during the celebration month.

Accompanying Johnson will be Susan Starrett, Johnson’s longtime friend, former high school music teacher and mentor, and a 1962 UI alumna; and Cynthia M. Dinkins, president of the Sheila Crump Johnson Foundation and of the Washington Mystics Foundation.

Johnson lives in Virginia. While at the UI, Johnson was a member of Mortar Board, an honorary society for senior women who meet high academic standards and who participate in leadership positions in campus organizations. She was the first African-American cheerleader at Illinois.

**Stradivarius events:**
- www.news.uiuc.edu/news/06/1011music.html#events
- Other American Music Month events:
  - www.library.uiuc.edu/sousa/calendar.pdf

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**Four ‘Strads’ Four extremely rare, decorated and matched Stradivarius stringed instruments will be loaned to the Urbana-Champaign campus by the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, D.C.**
communications

Chris Benson, professor of journalism, received the Peter Lisagor Award for Exemplary Journalism (documentary television, 2005) for “Paper Trail: 100 Years of the Chicago Defender.” The award was presented in the spring; the documentary was broadcast on WTTW-Channel 11, the PBS affiliate in Chicago. Benson also recently received the 2006 Distinguished Lecture to the Chicago Defender. “The award was given to researchers with a proven record of molecular imprinting was involved in connecting prebiotic chemistry to early biology. Don Ort, professor of plant biology, has been awarded the American Society of Plant Biologists’ Charles F. Kettering Award in recognition of his excellence in the field of photosynthesis. In addition to investigating plant responses to global atmospheric change, he helped explain how light energy is transformed into chemical energy, which is then used by plants to make biomass, such as carbohydrates and food. He was a key leader in the development of an open-air, gas-concentrating field system, SoyFACE, which is able to fumigate large areas of crop plants with enriched levels of carbon dioxide or ozone.

Denise Park, professor of psychology and in the Beckman Institute, received a 10-year MERIT Award (Method to Extend Research) from the National Institutes of Aging to conduct research on brain structure and function in a lifespan sample of adults. Fewer than 5 percent of NIH-funded scientists receive MERIT awards, which are given to researchers with a proven record of scientific excellence and productivity over the previous 10 years. The LAS General Curriculum Center has been selected as one of four winners nationwide to receive the 2006 Outstanding Institutional Advising Program Award.
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brief notes

College of Communications
Memorial service for Carey, former dean

A memorial service for James Carey, former College of Communications dean, will take place from 11 a.m. -12:45 p.m. Oct. 28 in 112 Gregory Hall. A reception will follow from 1-3 p.m. in Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

A symposium of his work will be presented from 1-7 p.m. Oct. 27 in Room 210 of the University Union. Carey will follow at 8 p.m. All alumni, students, faculty and staff members, and family friends are welcome.

Carey served as a professional companion animal photographer, will take portraits of pets – with owners, with Santa or with both – to be delivered in time for the holidays.

Proceeds from the event will go to the Humane Connection Fund. The Humane Connection Fund makes it possible for clinicians to treat pets of owners who may have limited means. The CARE Helpline is a free, confidential telephone service that provides a supportive outlet for people experiencing the actual or anticipated loss of their pet.

To schedule a portrait, call the Veterinary Medicine Advancement Office at 333-2762 or e-mail advancement@cvm.uiuc.edu.

Crisis communication
Panel discussion scheduled for Oct. 24

Vincent Covello, the founder and director of the Center for Risk Communication in New York City, will help lead a panel discussion on crisis communication at 7 p.m. Oct. 24 at Lincoln Hall Theater. Other panelists: Josot Pennings, UI professor of agricultural and consumer economics; and Ron Yates, dean of the UI College of Communications. Richard Jaehne, UI Fire Service Institute director, will moderate a question-and-answer session after the discussion.

Covello has been involved in crisis communications for many years; Pennings is an expert on understanding consumer behavior in crises, such as outbreaks of mad cow disease; Yates, a former foreign correspondent for the Chicago Tribune, will discuss crisis communications from the news media’s perspective. The discussion is free and open to the public.

UI Library
Residence hall collections now online

Access to the collections of the campus Residence Hall Libraries are now available through the University Library’s online catalog at www.library.uiuc.edu.

UI faculty and staff members and students can now borrow books from the RHL collections, which primarily consist of leisure-reading titles. In addition, each of the RHL facilities now serves as a designated pickup location in the University Library catalog system. This means that borrowers can place requests and have materials directly delivered to the RHL units of their choice as well as return them to RHL circulation desks.

For more information about RHL services, contact Dal-las Long, 333-7150 or jlfong@uiuc.edu. Inquiries about Library’s online catalog should be directed to Peggy Steele, 244-4688 or steile1@uiuc.edu.

I space
Three new exhibitions in Chicago gallery

The emphasis will be on architecture in three new shows on view through Nov. 11 at the Chicago gallery of the UI’s Urbana-Champaign campus.

• “Green Design and Planning in Architecture” focuses on the work of Kenneth Yeang, principal architect at T.R. Hamzah & Yeang International. Yeang, who specializes in the ecologically responsive, or sustainable, design of sky towers, will be presented, from large murals, intaglio glass paintings, and calligraphic building devices to posters for social activism, colorful textiles and paintings by internationally known contemporary artists.

The exhibition was organized and produced by the Fowler Museum of Cultural History, University of California at Los Angeles, and curated by Mary Nooter Roberts and Allen F. Roberts in collaboration with Senegalese community leaders and artists in Dakar and Los Angeles.

For more information contact Peggy Steele, 244-4688 or steile1@uiuc.edu.

Knappert Art Museum: Exhibition explores Islamic Africa

An exhibition titled “A Swain to the City: Soh Arts of Urban Senegal” is one of three new exhibitions opening Oct. 27 at the UI’s Knappert Art Museum. The exhibition explores the arts and expressive culture of Islamic Africa through a dynamic and influential Senegalese movement known as the Mouride Way and based on the teachings of the Muslim saint Sheikh Amadou Bamba. A range of Mouride art forms will be presented, from large murals, intaglio glass paintings, and calligraphic building devices to posters for social activism, colorful textiles and paintings by internationally known contemporary artists.

The exhibition is on view through Nov. 11 at the Knappert Art Museum. The museum is open from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and are limited.

Ad removed for online version

UI Family and Friends Day

UI faculty and staff members and students can now borrow books from the RHL collections, which primarily consist of leisure-reading titles. In addition, each of the RHL facilities now serves as a designated pickup location in the University Library catalog system. This means that borrowers can place requests and have materials directly delivered to the RHL units of their choice as well as return them to RHL circulation desks.

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For more information contact Peggy Steele, 244-4688 or steile1@uiuc.edu.
is no charge to participate.

This is the third time the UI has hosted this event. In December 2005 and July 2006, more than 300 family members were able to see and speak with soldiers at Camp Taji and Camp Al-Asad.

Cultural Engagement Council
Learn to preserve valuable materials

Many people are familiar with the world-class collections held by the museums, libraries and surveys at the UI, but how many people know about the thousands of items held by other units on campus and their value to research and institutional history?

The Asset Preservation Subcommittee of the UI Cultural Engagement Council wants to help preserve potentially endangered items. The first step in a multi-year plan to preserve campus collections is a free workshop for all faculty and staff members at the Spurlock Museum auditorium from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. Nov. 9.

Topics covered in the workshop will include collecting and inventory guidelines for campus units, an introduction to university records retention, preservation storage approaches for paper and objects, the creation of preservation environment for long-term care, disaster planning and response, insect and mold basics, an introduction to health hazards in collections, and film and electronic audio-visual media preservation guidelines.

For more information, contact Jennifer Hain Teper, 244-5689 or jhain@uiuc.edu. Pre-registration is encouraged and can be accessed online after Oct. 23 at: www.oc.uiuc.edu/engagement/arts_and_cultural/preservation/.

Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society
Youth conference is Oct. 25

Middle and high school students who are thinking about college — especially low-income or minority students, or those who would be first-generation college students — are invited to attend the third annual Multicultural Youth Conference on Oct. 25, sponsored by the UI.

Parents and families also are welcome at the event, which will run from 6 to 9 p.m. on the fourth floor of the Illinois Terminal building, 45 E. University Ave., Champaign.

The aim of the conference is to provide local students, from grades seven through 12, with information and encouragement in preparing for higher education, says Julia Johnson Connor, assistant director of the Center on Democracy in a Multiracial Society and one of the event’s organizers.

Students and families attending the conference will be able to meet with representatives from Eastern Illinois University, Illinois State University, Parkland College and the UI.

To register or to volunteer to help with the conference, or for additional information, contact Connor at 244-0188 or cdms@uiuc.edu. Pre-registration is encouraged, although participants can register at the event. More information is available at http://cdms.ds.uiuc.edu.

UI Library
Dissertation workshops offered

The UI Library is offering workshops on finding dissertations done at the UI, and those completed nationally and internationally. The workshops are 3-4:30 p.m. Oct. 26, 2:3-3:30 p.m. Nov. 1; 1-2:30 p.m. Nov. 7. All of these sessions are in Room 291 of the Undergraduate Library. Faculty and staff members and students are welcome.

Walk in or register online at http://130.126.32.16/evancedlib@0/eventcalendar.asp.

Oct. 27-28
Conference celebrates UI literary scholar

Scholars from across the country, including former students of the guest of honor, will gather at the end of the month to fete one of the UI’s most distinguished literary scholars who also is one of the nation’s most public critics of higher education.

Cary Nelson, a UI professor of English, the founding director of the university’s Unit for Criticism and Interpretive Theory, the recipient of one of the campus’s highest distinctions and the president of the American Association of University Professors, is being celebrated with a conference Oct. 27-28 at the Levis Faculty Center. The event, which includes a Friday night dinner and “roast” of Nelson, is titled, “Poetry, Politics & the Profession: A Tribute to Cary Nelson.” The conference is being organized by the Unit for Criticism and the English department. More information is at http://criticism.english.uiuc.edu/.

All of the talks are free and open to the public. Topics include the political role of professors; new directions in cultural studies; the future of the academic profession; expanding the canon of American poetry; and Cary Nelson as a teacher and mentor.

Two scholars from the department of social and cultural analysis at New York University will give keynote addresses: Lisa Duggan, a former UI postdoctoral fellow and one of the leading public intellectuals writing on gender and sexuality, discussing “Are Radicals Like Rouches? Surviving the Class and Culture Wars”; and Andrew Ross, the author of nine books and a regular contributor to The Nation and the Village Voice, discussing “The Rise of the Global University.”

Nelson is a Jubilee Professor of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Illinois and has been the president of the AAUP since June.

Co-sponsors include the Office of the Provost, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences’ State-of-the-Art Conference Fund and AAUP, many campus units, and Richard Powers, a UI English professor and celebrated novelist.

Orchard Downs
Public forum on redevelopment is Oct. 25

A public forum on the Orchard Downs redevelopment project will take place at 5:30 p.m. Oct. 25 in Pollard Auditorium of the Carle Forum, 611 W. Park St., Urbana. Orchard Downs is the family housing community on the UI campus southwest of the intersection of Race Street and Florida Avenue intersection in Urbana.

Anyone interested in the project may attend and offer ideas to developers who are competing to create the master plans. The developers will submit final proposals to the campus in February 2007.

‘Tagore and Rural Reconstruction’
Tagore Festival is Oct. 21

A festival honoring the late Rabindranath Tagore, an Indian author who won a Nobel Prize in literature, will begin at 2 p.m. Oct. 21.

“Tagore and Rural Reconstruction” is the theme of the 18th annual festival to be held at the Channing-Murray Foundation, 1209 W. Oregon, Urbana. Tagore, whose son studied agriculture at the UI from 1906-1910, helped foster a unique relationship among the UI, the Urbana Unitarian Church and the people of India.

The festival seeks to relate Tagore’s intellectual vision to present-day ethical and political crises and cultural assimilation in the United States. The festival’s events include a cultural presentation by Bangladesh Group, a keynote speech, music, dinner and a dance.

For more information about festival events or to register, go to http://tagore.business.uiuc.edu.
24 Thursday

25 Friday
“Economic Analysis of the Space Program.” John Siegel, UI. 3 p.m. 151 Everitt Laboratory.

26 Saturday
“Image Processing with OpenCV.” William Hsu, UI. Noon. 2271c Veterinary Medicine.

27 Sunday

28 Monday
“Recent Advances in Materials Science and Technology.” Brian McNurlen, UI. Noon. Women’s Studies Colloquium.

29 Tuesday

30 Wednesday

31 Thursday

30 Thursday

31 Friday

30 Saturday

31 Sunday

30 Monday

31 Tuesday

30 Wednesday

31 Thursday
CALENDAR

Friday, October 31, 2000

4:30 p.m. Chicago Symphony Orchestra. "The North American tour of European pianist and composer Martha Argerich."

7:30 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

8:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Saturday, November 1, 2000

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Sunday, November 2, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "The North American tour of European pianist and composer Martha Argerich."

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

7:30 p.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

Monday, November 3, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Tuesday, November 4, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Wednesday, November 5, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Thursday, November 6, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

Friday, November 7, 2000

8 a.m. "The Lark." A reading of the play by Thornton Wilder.

11 a.m. "Racism in a Multiracial Society.

12 noon "The Profession of Social Change Activism." Panel discussion on social activism.


4 p.m. "The Age of Networks." A talk on the history of the internet.

7:30 p.m. "The Spirit of Fox." A performance by the Fox Brothers Band.

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**CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13**

**Hall**
Traffic Jam: The Hillbilly James. 5 p.m. Lobby, Kannernt Center. This local band fea-
tures Jonny Bridgewater and Nate Van Vleet on guitar, Bryan Miles on drums, and Jeffrey Giddens on bass.

Faculty Recital. Timothy Mc-
govern, bassoon. 7:30 p.m. Feolinger Great Hall, Kannernt Center. A program of wind chamber music. School of Music.

Ethis Percussion Group and The Masters of Indian Music. 7:30 p.m. Tryon Festival The-
ater, Kannernt Center. Ethis invites The Masters of Indian Music–Pandit Samir Chatter-
jee, tabla, and Kumar Srin, si-
tar–to explore the intersection of ancient rhythms and modern percussive sound.

**Saturday**
Doctor of Musical Arts Re-
cital. Joyce Griggs and M. Mi-
chael Holmes, saxophone. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

**Sunday**
Women’s Choir, Joe Grant, conductor. 3 p.m. Re-
cital Hall. Chamber Percussion Ensemble. Wil-
liam Mohrich, director. 7:30 p.m. Tryon Festival Theatre. Kannernt Center. School of Music.

The English Concert, Andrew-
Manzie, violin. 7:30 p.m. Foe-
linger Great Hall, Kannernt Center. Paying tribute to Mo-
Zart, Andrea Manzie and The English Concert move from
concertos to orchestral works

**Sports**
To confirm times, go to www.fightingillini.com

20 Friday Women’s Soccer, UI vs. Pur-
due University. 7 p.m. Track and Soccer Stadium. Campus Recreation

22 Sunday Women’s Soccer, UI vs. In-
diana University. 1 p.m. Track and Soccer Stadium. Illinois Hockey Club Team vs. Liberty University. 7 p.m. UI Ice Arena. Campus Recre-
ation.

27 Friday Men’s Basketball and Orange and Blue Scrimmage. 6:30 p.m. Assembly Hall. Volleyball, UI vs. University of Michigan. 7 p.m. Haff Hall. Women’s Soccer, UI vs. Uni-
versity of Iowa. 7 p.m. Track and Soccer Stadium.

**Films**
19 Thursday Surrealist Film Series. “Eat-
ing Sea Urchins,” and “Las Hurdes: Land Without Bread.” Lusi Bussel, director. 5:30 p.m. Kannernt Art Museum.

21 Saturday “James Journey to Jerusa-
lem,” 7:30 p.m. 101 Armour. Ethos School of Music.

1 Wednesday “What Have I Done to De-
serve This?” Pek-A-Madovur, director. 7:30 p.m. 134 Temple Burr Hall, Plym Auditorium. Campus Recreation.

3 Friday Women’s Basketball, UI vs. Lewis (Exhibition). 7 p.m. Assembly Hall.

5 Saturday Volleyball, UI vs. Ohio State University. Time TBA Memorial Stadium.

15 Thursday Talk and book signing, “True
Vine: A Young Black Man’s Journey of Faith,” John W. Foun-
tain, UI. 6:30 p.m. Author’s Center, Illini Union Bookstore, National Public Radio, WELD, and Illini Union Bookstore.

16 Friday Campus Recre-
ation.

24 Saturday Conference, “Chang-
ing Families in a Changing World: How Support Groups Help Us Meet Challenges.” 8:30 a.m. 4 p.m. University of Illinois. “From the Beyond: A Cele-
bration of Spirtis.” Spur-
lock Museum. Noon music by Chicago’s Sones de Mexico, 7 p.m. storytelling concert by Latina teller Tersi Bendiburg, 7 p.m. concert of multicultural ghost stories for adults by Tersi Bendiburg, Janice Del Negro, Dan Keilin and Kevin Shaw.

12 Monday School of Art and Design Vis-
ing Artists Series. Cristina Kiar, Northwestern Uni-
versity. 7 p.m. 319 Art and Design building. Art and Design Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

24 Tuesday School of Art and Design Vis-

**Food for Thought**: Celebrat-
ing Filipino American History Month with the Philippine Student Association. Noon. Lounge. Asian American Cul-
tural Center, 1210 W. Nevada St., Urbana. Asian American Cultural Center.

“Addictive Love = Addictive Relationships?” 7 p.m. 406 ILU House. Counseling Center Paraprofessionals.

Panel Discussion. Open Discussion on Crisis Com-
munication. 7 p.m. Lincoln Hall. Panel members include

**Wednesday**
Annual Library Book Sale, 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Marshall Gallery, Illini Union Library. Inside Illinois

**Sports**
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more calendar of events
“A Saint in the City: Sufi Arts of Urban Senegal”

When We Were Young: New Perspectives on the Art of the Child

Decorative and Musical Art of the 17th-19th Centuries: A Quartet of Ornamented String Instruments by Antonio Stradivari*

Seating and exhibits

“Forget What You Thought Was Beautiful!”

An exhibition by New Catalogue

Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, 503 W. Pennsylvania Street, Urbana. 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

On view through Oct. 27.

“Siti’s Diary”

On view through Oct. 27.

“In Search of the Child”

An exhibition by New Catalogue

On view through Oct. 27.


“Saving Fish From Drowning,” by Amy Tan for Nov. 9.

“Tea Ceremony,” by Sashiki, 244-6017.

“Pride of the Illini: The Illinois Band 1890-1929”


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