Holiday shopping is closer than you think

By Sharrta Forrest
Assistant Editor

Unique, tantalizing and tasty gifts can be found in a few steps or keystrokes away.

Get yourself out of a gift giving jam by getting your recipient into jams from the gift shop at Allerton Park and Retreat Center. The gift shop sells jams, salsa verde and chow chow relish. Jam varieties include strawberry cream goatery as well as blackberry jelly and rhubarb–strawberry preserves. The gift shop also sells honey from Allerton’s bees.

The shop’s Allerton Gift Basket includes honey, a Pu Dog towel, an Allerton T-shirt and hat, and other items, and the Allerton Label Food Basket contains honey, salsa verde, chow chow relish and five of the jellies/jams.

For researchers ways to offer Illinois products to the public, to promote the Allerton name and increase food service (at the retreat center), and this seemed a good way to do that,” said Matt Eckhardt, assistant manager of the gift shop. Allerton began selling the food products this past summer. They are available only through the gift shop’s web site, which you live some 5 days in December, until the gift shop reopens for the 2007 season in March.

If a special someone has been dropping hints such as, “I never feel fully dressed without a pair of fossilized woolly mammoth earrings,” you’re in luck. The Promenade Gift Shop at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts serves a made-from-scratch holiday dinner, and Larson for giving up their holiday experience and the ongoing need for workers.

The chefs’ work days often ran from 4 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m., but might have been cooler,” Larson said. “It went a lot better than I thought. When I walked in the door, I thought, ‘What did I get myself into?’ My eyes were wide, and the first day I was counting the moments until I could leave. But after the initial shock, and the first couple of days, it went like a breeze.”

The chefs’ work days often ran from 4 a.m. to 7 or 8 p.m., but might have been much shorter if they hadn’t been cooking as much as dishes from scratch. “We were trying to make it as nice as possible,” Larson said. “For some volunteers, it was their fourth or fifth trip (to Camp Biloxi), and they said (we made) some of the best meals they’d had.”

The trip had an ominous beginning when the truck towing the trailer containing the equipment broke down after two hours south of Champaign. A Ford dealership in Salem lent the group a vehicle for the week while the truck was being repaired.

UI chefs cook up traditional Thanksgiving meal in Biloxi

By Sharrta Forrest
Assistant Editor

For six weeks the UI chefs spent Thanksgiving break cooking for Mississippians and volunteers from around the country who are assisting in relief efforts in Biloxi, one of the Gulf Coast cities reeling to rebuild in the aftermath of 2005’s Hurricane Katrina.

Don Block, director of dining services; Marc Terhune, executive chef; Chris Henning, food service administrator; and Eric Larson, pastry chef in the Housing Division, were among 20 volunteers who volunteered the week of Thanksgiving at Camp Biloxi, a semi-permanent camp that houses and feeds volunteers working in the area.

The group was part of a service effort organized by the Good Shepherd Lutheran Church in Champaign. Block chairs the church’s service committee and was part of a group that volunteered at Camp Biloxi in June. After hearing Block talk about his experience and the ongoing need for workers, Terhune, Henning and Larson volunteered to go if the church sent another group.

The four chefs relieved the camp’s two regular cooks so they could spend the holidays with their families. The chefs provided three meals for about 150 volunteers daily and for about 400 people on Thanksgiving Day, including local residents and the homeless.

The camp’s kitchen and many of the sleeping accommodations for volunteers as well as the toilets and showers are in 8-foot-wide shipping containers/trailers without wheels. The kitchen has two small commercial ovens and the UI volunteers took along additional equipment – including a 20-quart mixer, carving lamps and chafing dishes – for the holiday meal preparations. Block, who developed the menu in coordination with the camp’s regular cooks, wanted to serve a made-from-scratch holiday dinner, despite the limited kitchen facilities.

The chefs prepared the holiday desserts – which included about 60 pumpkin, pecan and apple pies – and the breads and rolls the day before Thanksgiving. On Thanksgiving Day, they used outdoor roasters to cook 33 turkeys – a new experience for all the chefs – and used turkey frites to prepare the mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes and green beans.

“We did a lot of the cooking and prep work outside because there weren’t any bugs this time of year, and it was cooler,” Block said. “We tried to get as much done on Wednesday as we could, so we wouldn’t have to fight the oven space (shortage) on Thursday.”

“We worked side by side, hand in hand, and were pretty much reading each other’s minds,” Larson said. “It went a lot better than I thought. When I walked in the door, I thought, ‘What did I get myself into?’ My eyes were wide, and the first day I was counting the moments until I could leave. But after the initial shock, and the first couple of days, it went like a breeze.”

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Senators do not endorse current form of Global Campus

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant News Bureau Staff Writer

At the Dec. 4 meeting of the Urbana-Champaign Senate, senators voted not to endorse the Global Campus on the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois (UIUC). The senate had voted against the Global Campus in its current form at the Dec. 7, 2006 meeting.

The Urbana campus is in a “crisis situation” with regard to creating an inclusive environment for minorities, said Belden Field, chair of the Senate’s Equal Opportunity Committee, at the senate’s Dec. 4 meeting. Field said the committee noted the 449 students who did not return from the fall semester, over the coming decade, be able to close the faculty gap. When the senate votes not to endorse the Global Campus in its current form if the vote came in the context of shared governance, the senate might be willing to endorse the program, the task force recommended modifications to the proposed program, such as mechanisms to protect course quality, integrating external stakeholders into the process and discipline-based and interdisciplinary programs.

The Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois is an employee publication of the School of Earth, Society and Environment within the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, effective fall 2007. The paper will continue to publish in the departments of atmospheric sciences, geography and geology, and anchor interdisciplinary undergraduate and graduate curricula and discipline-based and interdisciplinary research centers and programs. The three departments’ support and operating funding for the paper will be supported by the centers and discipline-based and interdisciplinary research centers and programs.

Society and the women’s studies program to develop a plan for what we would like to see done on campus and in our communities.”

Burton said that he would not be perturbed if the senate voted not to endorse the Global Campus in its current form if the report recommended modifications to the proposed program, such as mechanisms to protect course quality, integrating external stakeholders into the process and discipline-based and interdisciplinary programs.

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Ten professors at Illinois elected as 2006 AAAS Fellows

By James E. Kloepel
News Bureau Staff Writer

Ten faculty members of the UIUC campus were elected Fellows of AAAS Fellows by the American Association for the Advancement of Science: Stewart, Webster, Cheek, Sydney A. Cameron, Alicea, Chiba, a professor of cell and developmental biology, and a researcher at the Beckman Institute. As a Beckman Institute fellow, the cell will study the downstream mechanisms of how synapses form during brain development.

Katchy, who is the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs of the Urbana campus, was honored for pioneering contributions to three-dimensional high frequency integrated circuits and on-wafer packaging, and efficient circuit design. Li, a professor of chemistry, was recognized for contributions to neuroscience, in particular the cellular mechanisms and computational principles that animals use to actively acquire and store knowledge. Li, a professor of chemistry, was recognized for contributions to neuroscience, in particular the cellular mechanisms and computational principles that animals use to actively acquire and store knowledge. Li, a professor of chemistry, was recognized for contributions to neuroscience, in particular the cellular mechanisms and computational principles that animals use to actively acquire and store knowledge.

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On the Job

Dorothy Kinard

It began looking a lot like Christmas around Dorothy Kinard’s Champaign home before many folks had thought about taking down their Halloween decorations. Kinard, an account technician at the Small Animal Clinic, spends about a week decorating her home for the holiday season, erecting 10 artificial trees that she adorns thematically with hundreds of ornaments. Black angels swarm a small tree in Kinard’s sitting room, while in her living room hand-blown glass Polonaise ornaments shimmer on one 7 1/2-foot tree in the front window, and, across the room, Kinard’s “mother’s tree” is lovingly adorned with vintage ornaments that belonged to Kinard’s late mother. Faux pine swags and sprays dress the tops of furniture and doorways and faux vines bearing bright-red berries meander around the bathroom walls. Also sprinkled among the hurricane lamps and other antique furnishings in Kinard’s home are scenes that Kinard constructs using the 50 buildings and 300 accessories from her collection of Department 56 Dickens Village pieces.

Have you always been a Christmas fanatic?
I always had a tree but I wasn’t a big decorator until I started working in the Holiday Shop at Bergner’s department store. I worked there part-time in housewares and in the seasonal Holiday Shop before I worked at the university. I used to decorate eight or nine trees in the store with different themes, and customers would ask me to decorate trees in their homes, which I did a few times, or they’d ask me how to decorate their trees and I’d tell them. I also began collecting the Department 56 pieces then. I like the Victorian-looking buildings.

If there’s a Christmas movie marathon on TV, I’ll watch every one. The original “Miracle on 34th Street” with Natalie Wood is my favorite. The thing I enjoy most is the reason for the season. I drive a van for Calvary Baptist Church in Urbana and pick up kids ranging from age 4 to teenagers to take them to church every Sunday. I have a daughter of my own, who’s grown, and have “adopted” many more.

Do you have help with decorating your house?
I do all the decorating in my house by myself because I wouldn’t trust someone else to do it. When I’m putting things out, I’m laughing and enjoying myself. All the decorations come down the day after Christmas.

Do you have a favorite ornament?
My favorites are the Polonaise ornaments of Dr. Watson from the Sherlock Holmes stories and Raggedy Ann and Andy. My grandmother used to call me Raggedy Ann, and I love to watch Sherlock Holmes movies.

One year, I broke the Dr. Watson ornament and when I told people at work, everybody tried to find me a replacement. A friend found one on eBay. Every Christmas, something good comes to me.

Are there any ornaments or decorations you don’t have that you’d like to get?
I’m thinking about buying a new tree this year. I want to get a white tree and decorate it in red, then I will start buying decorations for my basement. I think I’m going to have about 4-6 trees for the basement next year.

Tell me about your career at the university.
This is my 11th year at the UI. I started out as extra help working in Henry Administration Building. After about a year and a half, I got a job at the Small Animal Clinic and have been there since. I have a variety of accounting responsibilities, order office and basic medical supplies, order phones and other things.

It’s the people that make the clinic a friendly, fun place to work. We treat each other like family and enjoy each other’s company. We’ve had many good times.

A visiting researcher’s snake escaped in the clinic one day, and when I found out, I went home for the day. When I came back the next day, I took this big stick with me everywhere I went. My co-workers later played an April Fool’s Day joke on me and put a rubber snake in the bathroom. I saw it and came out screaming. That was about 4 1/2 years ago, and I have never been back in that particular bathroom.

Aside from holiday decorating, what hobbies do you have?
Going to estate sales with my cousin and my surrogate mother and collecting antiques with a passion. It’s truly a joy.

– Interview by Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Page 3

Four physics faculty members named APS Fellows

Four Illinois physics faculty members – Rob Leigh, Charles Gammie, Mats Selen and Scott Willenbrock – have been elected as fellows of the American Physical Society. Each year, no more than one-half of 1 percent of the then-current APS membership is recognized by their peers for election to the status of fellow.

Leigh, who joined the department of Physics at Illinois in 1996, was recognized “for his important work in string theory, supersymmetric gauge theory, the theory of the electroweak phase transition, and the theory of D-branes.” Leigh’s work lies at the heart of current efforts to build a fundamental theory of matter, including quantum gravity effects, and he has done outstanding work in string theory, supersymmetric field theory, and other topics in particle physics and early universe cosmology.

Gammie’s research involves magnetohydrodynamics, star formation and accretion physics. He is a leader in the computer simulation of astrophysical plasmas, the formation of interstellar clouds and the collapse of dense clouds to form stars. He also is carrying out calculations of disk accretion onto black holes in general relativity. A member of the physics and astronomy faculty since January 1999, he was recognized by APS “for contributions to understanding the structure and implications of astrophysical turbulence, particularly in black hole magnetospheres, star formation/interstellar clouds and circumsolar disks.”

Selen, also known as “The Whys Guy” to area television viewers, was cited “for leadership and hardware contributions to the CLEO collaboration and contributions to the understanding of charmonium decays and excited states.” Since coming to Illinois in 1993, he has been a prime mover behind the massive curriculum revision of the calculus-based introductory physics courses. He developed an undergraduate Discovery course in which freshmen create their own physics demonstrations – designed for grade-school children – to introduce them to the fun and excitement of physics. Selen also started the Physics Van, the department’s award-winning community outreach program.

A specialist in elementary particle theory, Willenbrock has conducted research on a variety of topics in high energy physics, ranging from relevant and influential highly technical calculations of higher-order corrections in quantum field theory to vitally important insights into the phenomenology of elementary particles. His research has focused on reliable predictions for electroweak phenomenology and specific methods for determining new physics at the electroweak energy scale and on the specific mechanisms of electroweak symmetry breaking. The APS citation recognized Willenbrock “for pioneering work in the understanding of standard top quark in hadron colliders, and for contributions to the understanding of associated production of Higgs and vector bosons in every channel at the Tevatron and LHC.”

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Role of workers in national emergencies should be clarified

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

Updating and clarifying the role of civilian workers in times of national emergencies is a pressing need that would improve homeland security, a UI legal scholar says.

In a forthcoming paper, Michael H. LeRoy, a professor in the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations and in the College of Law, simulated a case of a workplace that was contaminated by radiation, prompting fearful workers to ignore orders to perform essential duties.

He pointed out that neither the president nor Congress has tackled the legal ramifications of forcing civilians to perform tasks during a terrorist attack, flu pandemic, catastrophic accident or destructive act of nature.

The president can declare a national emergency during a labor dispute under the 1948 Taft-Hartley Act and seek an 80-day back-to-work injunction. But this legal tool is only available in the case of private-sector jobs. "Thus," LeRoy wrote, "the U.S. has limited jurisdiction over critical jobs in a national emergency work stoppage."

State and local governments have authority over the employment practices of many public workers, including police, firefighters and sanitation workers.

New Orleans took no legal action to force police officers to continue working in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in part because the city was too devastated for the courts to remain open. An 1878 law, the Posse Comitatus Act, restricts the use of federal troops in domestic crises, which limited the potential deployment of U.S. armed forces in response to Katrina.

There are other legal hurdles that "have new relevance as the U.S. grapples with national emergencies," according to LeRoy.

These include a constitutional ban on involuntary servitude (13th Amendment) and the right of employees to refuse to work on safety and health grounds (1970 Occupational Safety and Health Act).

"A report by Congress worries that avian flu will cause sick and frightened medical personnel to stay away from work, jeopardizing a coherent response to a crisis," he wrote.

Induced abortion doesn’t increase risk of developing cancer

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

A new study that tracked the health of thousands of female textile workers in China indicates that women who have had an abortion do not have an increased risk of developing cancer.

Principal investigators Karin Rosenblatt, a UI professor of kinesiology and community health, and David B. Thomas, a professor in the College of Public Health, and David B. Thomas, a professor in the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Medicine, said their research team looked at possible associations between abortion and all cancers combined and a dozen specific types of cancer – including breast cancer – and concluded that "the risk of all cancers combined was no greater in women who had an induced abortion, and 37.3 percent, 13.1 percent and 2.7 percent indicated they had one, two and three or more, respectively."

"One of the things that is different about our study is that it is a cohort study within this large, randomized trial," Rosenblatt said. "It’s also the only study that has looked at multiple cancer sites."

While some previous case-control studies have suggested a causal link between abortion and breast cancer, Rosenblatt said such studies – which compare actual cases against a control group – are prone to reporting bias.

"All interview-based case-control studies have the potential for bias for a variety of reasons, including memory lapses of participants," she said. Self-reported data also may be flawed in studies involving potentially sensitive or politically charged topics such as abortion.

"In the United States, despite its legal status, abortion is not looked at favorably by many persons," Rosenblatt said. Because of the social stigma still attached to abortion, many community health researchers suspect control subjects tend to under-report when providing personal-history data, she said.

Rosenblatt and Thomas noted that their negative findings with respect to a link between abortion and breast cancer are similar to those from a large pooled analysis of data from 13 cohort studies (that included earlier results from the present study). Also notable among the data collected for this study are findings suggesting induced abortions actually reduce the risk of endometrial cancer among women in China, Rosenblatt said.

"We don’t know whether the results are applicable to other populations. We need more studies," Rosenblatt said.

Results of the present study, supported by grants from the National Cancer Institute, will appear in the December issue of the journal Cancer Causes and Control. Co-authors are Dao Li Gao, Roberta M. Ray, Michael H. LeRoy, Michelle R. Rowland, Zakia C. Nelson, Karen J. Wernli and Wenjin Lu.
Exercise shown to reverse brain deterioration brought on by aging

By Molly McElnay
News Bureau Intern

The wait for an anti-aging treatment is over, according to cognitive neuroscientists and kinesiologists at the UI. The treatment—moderate exercise—may be a simple and effective way to reverse age-related brain deterioration.

In a study published in the November issue of the Journal of Gerontological: Medical Sciences, psychology and neuroscience professor Arthur F. Kramer and his collaborators show that moderate exercise increases brain volume in older adults.

“Ten years ago you would never have expected to see this in older adults,” said Kramer, who also is a researcher at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at Illinois.

Until recently it was believed that age-related cognitive and brain changes were negative and inevitable. This view has changed with demonstrations in non-human animals that older brains can show positive changes in response to exercise, diet, social and environmental stimulation, Kramer said.

Sedentary volunteers 60 through 79 years old participated in a six-month exercise program that met three times each week. Half of the volunteers did aerobic exercises such as walking. The other half did non-aerobic stretching and toning exercises.

Co-author Edward McAuley, a professor of kinesiology at Illinois, and his collaborators monitored the fitness of all participants and increased the intensity of the aerobic and non-aerobic workouts as the study progressed.

The researchers compared high-resolution magnetic resonance imaging brain scans before and at the end of the exercise program. By the end of the six-month program, the participants in the aerobic exercise group showed increases in brain volume compared with participants who did toning and stretching exercises. The prefrontal and temporal cortices—areas that show considerable age-related deterioration—incurred the greatest gains from aerobic exercise.

The findings show public policy implications. “Moderate levels of exercise—in particular, walking—are relatively easy to do and may result in increased cognitive flexibility and the ability to lead independent lives for longer periods of time,” Kramer said. In this case, people who had been couch potatoes started with 15 minutes of exercise, built it up to 45 minutes and showed improvements in brain volume and physical fitness.

“You don’t have to be a marathon runner—most people walk,” Kramer said. Swimming, biking and walking are all ways that people can get these anti-aging brain benefits, Kramer said.

Funding for the study was provided by the National Institute on Aging and the Institute for the Study of Aging. With Kramer and McAuley, the other co-authors are post-doctoral researchers Stanley J. Colcombe (now at the University of Wales, Bangor), Kirk I. Erickson, Paige E. Scalf, Steriani Elavsky and David X. Marquand, and graduate students Jenny S. Kim, Ruchika Wadhwa and Liang Hu.

Cloning techniques produce FDA-approved antibiotic

By Kristen Aramthanapon
News Bureau Intern

The successful synthesis of an antibiotic in a non-native host has provided a team of UI researchers with the potential for developing new treatments for bacterial infections.

The rapid rise of antibiotic resistance poses a serious threat to human health, and new treatments are being developed to combat drug-resistant pathogens. Fosfomycin is a natural antibiotic approved by the Food and Drug Administration for the treatment of various bacterial infections, and has proven effective for the treatment of infections that have become resistant to the antibiotics penicillin and vancomycin.

Fosfomycin is a member of a class of compounds called phosphonic acids because they contain a carbon-phosphorus bond. Fosfomycin functions by inactivating an essential enzyme involved in the formation of the bacterial cell wall.

“Phosphonic acids are underexploited bioactive compounds with great potential for treating human disease,” said Huimin Zhao, professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering. “We hope to understand the complete pathway for how fosfomycin is made.”

In a paper that appeared last month in the journal Chemistry and Biology, Zhao and UI chemistry professor Wilfred A. van der Donk report the first successful synthesis of fosfomycin in a non-native host.

Fosfomycin is produced by various species of bacteria, but generally in low yields. Using a cloning method developed by Illinois microbiologist William W. Mencalf, the researchers were able to clone the essential genes for fosfomycin synthesis and then produce it in a non-native host, potentially in much larger quantities. After isolating the genetic information from fosfomycin’s native host, Streptomyces fradiae, certain genes were inactivated, and the ability of a non-native host Streptomyces lividans to produce fosfomycin was assessed.

With the help of graduate students Ryan Woodyer and Zengyi Shao, Zhao and van der Donk were able to determine not only the minimal set of genes required for fosfomycin biosynthesis, but also the function of some of these genes.

“Our goal now is to produce fosfomycin in Escherichia coli so that we can use various protein and metabolic engineering tools to manipulate the fosfomycin biosynthetic pathway,” said Zhao, who also is an affiliate of the university’s Institute for Genomic Biology. “Eventually, we should be able to produce fosfomycin in a cost-effective manner and create more potent derivatives of it.”

Previously, four essential genes and a portion of fosfomycin’s biosynthetic pathway had been proposed, but researchers were unable to produce fosfomycin in a non-native host. Zhao’s findings indicate that the presence of additional genes that result in a revised mechanism is crucial for successful fosfomycin biosynthesis.

Other co-authors of the paper are chemistry professor Neil Kelleher, microbiology professor William Mencalf and graduate students Paul Thomas and Joshua Blodgett. The work was funded in part by the National Institutes of Health, the Office of Naval Research, and the Packard Foundation.
SHOPPING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Although it’s not quite as fearsome as a weapon as the Red Ryder BB gun coveted by Ralphie Parker in the holiday classic “A Christmas Story,” Ralphie could have defended himself and his friends valiantly from the neighborhood bullies had someone been thoughtful enough to arm him with the “Chicken Chucker,” a toy pistol that shoots tiny rubber poultry.

The Promenade also has coasters and picture frames with designs inspired by the architecture of Frank Lloyd Wright and a variety of clocks and jewelry boxes. A holiday wreath made of peacock feathers might just tickle someone’s fancy too.

Dale Turner and Lela Turner, the assistant manager and assistant manager of the Promenade, respectively, attend a trade show every January to select items for the upcoming holiday season, keeping their discriminating eyes out for the unique and the whimsical.

“We like to keep our inventory fresh,” said Turner, “and it changes all the time, so we don’t buy a gross of something and keep selling it nor do we have a catalog. And all the proceeds go right back to Krannert and we don’t buy a gross of something and keep selling it. We just tickle someone’s fancy too.

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achievements

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

communications

Michael D. Giardina, professor of advertising, received the 2006 “Outstanding Book Award” from the North American Society for the Sociology of Sport, for his book, “Sporting Pedagogies: Performing Culture & Identity in the Global Arena” (Peter Lang, 2005). He received the award last month at the association’s annual conference in Vancouver, Canada. The award is given to the book judged to be the most theoretically advanced, relevant, and thought provoking to the field.

dads association

The Dads Association at the UI recently presented its annual Certificate of Merit Awards – one each to an outstanding student, faculty member, staff member and a registered student organization at the university.

Charles Olson, the assistant dean for student development and career services in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences since 1979, was honored as an outstanding staff member. Olson advises students and student groups, coordinates recruiting for the college, administers scholarship programs, and assists students in getting internships or employment. Olson has served as a co-chair of the campus Illinois Leadership Initiative that implemented a Leadership Certificate available to all Urbana-Champaign students.

Samuel Kamin, a professor of computer science and the department’s director of undergraduate studies, was honored as an outstanding faculty member. His responsibilities include research, teaching, academic advising, curriculum development, outreach and mentoring. During the last three years Kamin has led a multi-institution National Science Foundation program called “Building Communities,” which encourages women to enter the computer-science field. At the Urbana campus, this program has doubled the recruitment and retention rate of the under-represented group in computer science.

Also honored were Whitney Wright, a senior in English in the College of Liberal Arts and Science, and Chi Epsilon, the National Civil Engineering Honor Society.

law

Margaret (Peggy) Rosso Grossman, professor and Bock Chair in agricultural law, received the 2006 Professional Scholarship Award from the American Agricultural Law Association. Each year, one national award is given to recognize an outstanding publication in the field of agricultural law. Grossman won the award for her article, “Traceability and Labeling of Genetically Modified Crops, Food and Feed in the European Union,” published in the Journal of Food Law & Policy. The awards committee stated that the article “skillfully refined a complex series of European Union regulatory measures and underlying environmental principles (providing) a clear, concise and insightful resource valuable to anyone with an interest in agricultural applications of genetic engineering.”

liberal arts and sciences

Glenn Roisman, professor of psychology, received the Society for Research on Child Development Early Scientific Achievement Award. The society, which promotes multidisciplinary research in the field of human development to foster the exchange of information among scientists, is the largest professional organization for development psychologists with more than 50 countries represented.

Spring 2007 Publication Schedule

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UI President B. Joseph White examines the characteristics of great leaders and suggests how people can hone their intrinsic skills and abilities to become exceptional leaders in a new book, “The Nature of Leadership: Reptiles, Mammals and the Challenge of Becoming a Great Leader,” co-written with Yaron Pyres (AMACON Books).

Mining his quarter century of experience, White explores the dichotomous capabilities that people exhibit in the workplace. “Reptiles” are people who are analytical, quantitative and competitive by nature, and “mammals” are those who are engaged, nurturing and qualitative.

Mammalian and reptilian characteristics are parallel components at the center of the leadership pyramid, a paradigm that can help people develop their strengths and improve upon their weaknesses. The foundational requirements of the pyramid — and of leadership — are having the ability, the strength and the character to lead. At the center of the pyramid are reptilian characteristics — such as good economic sense, discipline and toughness — and equally valuable mammalian qualities, such as good instruction, empathy and communication skills. At the pyramid’s pinnacle are the qualities of great leaders, such as innovation, calculated risk taking and the “sparkle factor,” a combination of charisma and personal magnetism.

According to White, leaders and organizations falter, fail and don’t reach their potential because they don’t achieve a balance of reptilian and mammalian characteristics, both of which are essential for leaders and organizations to survive and thrive.

White examines the careers and qualities of a variety of people — from Abraham Lincoln to former UI varsity men’s tennis coach Craig Tiley and himself — to illustrate the characteristics and actions of good leaders. White also illustrates how personal weaknesses derail careers and adversely impact organizations.

“For my money, integrity and resiliency are the two most important dimensions of a leader’s character,” wrote White.

The book includes a survey to help readers identify their mammalian and reptilian tendencies as well as how they fare on the foundational requirements and the characteristics of great leaders. Readers can use this information to make career decisions that will further their goals of becoming great leaders.

— Shanta Forrest, News Bureau

www.thenatureofleadership.com

Cultural landscapes explored

Over the years, according to Amita Sinha, a UI professor of landscape architecture, “the sacred landscape of Braj, a major pilgrimage site in the state of Uttar Pradesh, for example, are not. Sinha explores the relationships among nature, culture and built landscapes of these and other sites by tracing the meanings of these forms as described in the mythology and literature of India. “(The book) wasn’t written just for landscape architects,” Sinha said. “The intended audience is a combination of people with an interest and curiosity in cultural landscapes, such as students who want to learn more about history and culture of society through landscapes. It is also useful to anyone who is interested in South Asian studies, such as anthropologists.”

She said her approach to reading cultural landscapes as languages, using India’s diverse land as her model, may help pave the way for others to begin interpreting and approaching cultural landscapes all over the world. In that sense, she said, the book functions as a guide for learning to see landscapes as understandable signs and symbols and how to read them as languages that reveal cultural values.

— By Liz delValle, News Bureau Intern

www.news.uiuc.edu/news/06/1107landscapes.html

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Edna M. Brown, 68, died Nov. 13 at Parkview Hospital in Fort Wayne, Ind. She worked at the UI since 1987 and was a secretary in the Illinois Association & Tributes Program Dept. 77-3968, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820; or Centerpoint, 5 Greenfield Court, Savoy, IL 61874; or to First Presbyterian Church, 302 W. Park St., Urbana, IL 61801. Memorials: Rotary Foundation, c/o Art Skelton, 5201 Fox Drive, Champaign, IL 61824; or Centerpoint.

Petrees “Pat” Walker Carr, 87, died Nov. 27 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She worked as an accounting clerk for the Housing Division for more than 14 years, retiring in 1981. Memorials: American Cancer Society, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820-7762; or the American Heart Association & Tributes Program Dept. 77-3968, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Samuel L. Davis, 86, died Nov. 14 at The Carle Arbours, Savoy. Davi was a building service worker for Housing for more than 21 years, retiring in 2001.

Charles J. Fisher, 57, died Nov. 28 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Fisher had worked at the UI since 1988, and was a food-service sanitation laborer for Housing. Memorials: American Heart Association, the Multiple Sclerosis Society. David C. “D.C.” Kelly, 60, died Nov. 19 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He worked at the UI for more than 25 years and was a building service worker at the Illini Union.

Clementine “Tina” King, 59, died Nov. 13 at Kindred Hospital, Sycamore, Ill. King worked at the UI since 1987 and was a secretary in the Housing Division.

M. Eleanor McCoy, 91, died Nov. 20 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. She worked on the UI Committee on School Architecture and Planning and was a visiting assistant research professor emerita in 1975, after teaching at the UI for 18 years. Memorials: Urbana Presbyterian Church or Herron Manor Cemetery Association & Tributes Program Dept. 77-3968, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820-7762; or the American Heart Association & Tributes Program Dept. 77-3968, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Charles Franklin McGee, 77, died Nov. 29 at home in Savoy. McGee was a personnel officer at the UI from 1972 to 1985. Memorials: Carle Hospice Memorial Fund, 611 W. Park St., Urbana, IL 61801. Her mother, Florence Thomas McGee, 82, died Nov. 22 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was a UI security director from 1954 to 1969 and an executive director of student discipline from 1969 to 1982, when he retired.

Ronald Palmer, 72, died Nov. 17 at Prove- na Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He was a sheet metal worker at the UI for 25 years, retiring in 1998. Memorials: American Cancer Society.

Leotis Pettigrew Jr., 52, died Nov. 27 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Pettigrew was a kitchen laborer for Housing from 1989 to 2005.

Barbara L. Reed, 78, died Nov. 18 at Heri- tage Nursing Home, Urbana. Reed was a program director at the Illini Union from 1965 to 1969. She also worked in the UI aeronautical and astronomical engineering department from 1978 until her retirement in 1994. She was a secretary and became a certificated auditor before leaving to work for the Illinois Department of Revenue.

Velma A. Swanson, 81, died Nov. 9 at home in Loveland, Colo. She worked at the UI from 1965 to 1972 as a clerk typist for the electrical engineering department. Memorials: Peace With Christ Lutheran Church.

Ui Flash Index up sharply

The UI Flash Economic Index for Novem- ber increased sharply from 106.8 from its 106 level in October.

This places the Index near the top of the range that it has occupied for the last 18 months, indicating an expansive Illinois economy.

"While there have been recent mixed signals relating to the national economy, the state economy remains in positive growth territory," J. Fred Giertz, the Illinois professor of economics who computes the index, said.

"What’s more, the state unemployment rate of 4.1 percent is at the lowest level on records and is below the national rate of 4.4 percent. All three components of the Index (in-
Dec 7 Thursday


“Neo-liberal Market Economy, Globalization, and Regional Planning. Global Studies, and Women’s and Gender in Global Perspectives Program.”

Dec 8 Friday

“Structure for the Substrate and Product Specificity of a Histone H4 Lys20 Methytransferase.” Paul Chou, University of Illinois-Chicago. 1 p.m. United Center, Chicago. More info: www.allerton.uiuc.edu or call 244-1035.

Dec 9 Saturday

Dec 10 Sunday

Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble. Mark Moore, director. 2 p.m. Assembly Hall. Band.

German Chix: Christmas Concert. 3 p.m. University Catheruil Church, 604 E. Chalmes St., Champaign.

“The Little Brasscals Brass Quintet. 4:30 p.m. Music Building auditorium.

Tuba-Euphonium Ensemble. Mark Moore, director. 2 p.m. Assembly Hall. Band.

Dec 11 Monday

“Improving the Odds for Children: An Audience with Marty Yeakel.” Marty Yeakel, University of Illinois, School of Music. 7 p.m. Assembly Hall. Band.

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CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

more calendar of events


May 17 Thursday

exhibits

“Siti’s Diary” Watercolors by Siti Mastiah Jackson. Asian American Cultural Center, 1210 W. Nevada St. 8 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Friday. Through Jan. 5.

“Where Animals Dance” Through March 4. Spurlock Museum, 504 E. Pennsylvania Ave. 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Friday; 1-5 p.m. Saturday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday. Noon-4 p.m. Sunday.


May 18 Friday

Algalae Chile-Tower Tours 12:30-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Enter through L23 Algalae Hall. To arrange a concert or Bell Tower visit, e-mail chime@uiuc.edu or call 333-6608.

Arborium Tours To arrange a tour, 333-7779.

Beckman Institute Café Open to the public. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Lunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For monthly menu, www.beckman.uiuc.edu/alff.

Boîte Café 8:30-11 a.m. coffee, juice and baked goods; 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. lunch.

Campus Recreation IMPE 201 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign. CRCE, 1102 W. Gregory. See www.campusrec.uiuc.edu for complete schedule. Kenney Gym and pool will be open to all faculty/staff at no charge during scheduled hours with valid ID card.

English as a Second Language Course 7:45-10:30 p.m. LIDS Institute Building, 402 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana. Weekly on Thursdays.

Faculty/Staff Assistance Program 8 a.m.-5 p.m. 1011 W. University Ave., Urbana. Phone 244-7203.

Illini Union Ballroom 11:30-1:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday. All-day event. For reservations: 333-0690; walk-ins welcome.

Japanese House For a group tour: 244-9934. Tea Ceremony: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. $5/person.

Krannert Art Museum and Krannert Pavilion Tours By appointment, call 333-8216. Hours: 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Tuesday; 9-7 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Paletto Café: 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts Interlude: Open one hour before until after events on performance nights.

Krahnert Uncorked: Wine tastings at 5 p.m. most Thursdays. Intermezzo Café: Open 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. on non-performance weekdays. 7:30 a.m. through weekdays performances: weekends from 90 minutes before until after performances. Promenade gift shop: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, one hour before until 30 minutes after performances.

Ticket Office: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. daily, and 10 a.m. through first intermission on performance days.

Tours: 3 p.m. daily; meet in main lobby.

Low Café 504 E. Pennsylvania Ave. 8 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday; featuring full breakfast, hot and cold lunch entrées, salads and desserts, and coffee. More info: 244-3409.

Library Tours Guided tours of main and undergraduate libraries; go to Information Desk (second floor, main library) or Media Center (undergraduate library).

Meat Salesroom 102 Meat Sciences Lab. 1:30-5 p.m. Monday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday. For price list and specials, 333-3404.

Robert Allerton Park Open 8 a.m. to dusk daily. “Allerton Legacy” exhibit at Visitors Center. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily. 244-1035. Garden tours, 333-2127.

Wellness Zone Check-up 5:3-7 p.m. Lobby, CRCE. Held on first and third Wednesday of the month during fall semester. Campus Recreation.

organizations

Association of Academic Professionals Happy hour, third Friday each month. 5 p.m. Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana. http://www.seaci.org/localclub/UIUC. More info: 533-2772 or library.uiuc.edu/bt

Book Collectors’ Club – The No. 44 Society 4 p.m. First Wednesday each month. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 346 Main Library. More info: 333-5777 or library.uiuc.edu/br

Counsellor of Academic Professionals Meeting 1:30 p.m. First Thursday each month. More info: www.cap.uic.edu or mjg@uiuc.edu.

Classified Employees Association 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. first Thursday each month. More info: 244-2666 or mlidaho@uiuc.edu.

Illinois Folks Dancers 8-10 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday, Illini Union. More info: 341-2690.

English Table Italian conversation Mondays 11:45 a.m. at noon, Intermesse Café, KCPA. More info: 533-9091.

University Tennis Club 4:10-6:10 p.m. each Sunday. 405 Illini Union. More info: 341-2690.


Harley, 244-1843.

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