UI astronomers find stellar cradle where planets form

By James E. Kloppep
News Bureau Staff Writer

Astromonomers at the UI have found the first clear evidence for a cradle in space where planets and moons form. The cradle, revealed in photographs taken with NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, consists of a flattened envelope of gas and dust surrounding a young protostar.

“We are seeing this object in the early stages of stellar birth,” said UI astronomy professor Leslie Looney, lead author of a paper accepted for publication in Astrophysical Journal Letters.

“Eventually, the protostar will form into a star much like our sun, and the disk will form into planets and moons.”

Located about 800 light-years away in the constellation Cepheus, the object is obscured by dust and therefore invisible to the eye. However, the Spitzer Space Telescope’s sensitive infrared camera can penetrate the dust, and reveal the structures within.

The bright fringes of light consist of an enormous, almost linear flow of shocked molecular hydrogen gas erupting from the protostar’s two magnetic poles. These bipolar jets are so long, light would take about 1 ½ years to travel from one end to the other.

In star formation theory, a cloud of gas and dust collapses to form a star and its planets. As the cloud collapses, it begins to rotate faster and faster, like a pinwheeling ice skater pulling in her arms. The force of the growing magnetic field exerts some of the gas and dust along the magnetic axis, forming the bipolar jets seen in the photographs.

“If material was not shed in this fashion, the protostar’s spin would speed up so fast it would break apart,” Looney said.

The planet-forming region is perpendicular to, and roughly centered on the polar jets. There, the flattened disk is an expanse, about 100 light-years across, of circumstellar envelope.

Theorized, but never before seen, the flattened disk is an expected outcome for cloud-collapse theories that include magnetic fields or rotation.

In some cases, previous theories had predicted that envelopes flatten as they collapse onto their stars and surrounding planet-forming disks,” Looney said, “but we hadn’t seen any strong evidence of this until now.”

With Looney, co-authors of the paper are former undergraduate student John Tobin (now at the University of Michigan) and graduate student Woojin Kwon.

The Spitzer Space Telescope is operated by the Jet Propulsion Laboratory at the California Institute of Technology. Funding was provided by NASA.

“Rituals like Christmas help keep people frozen in time. They’re like little time capsules.” —Cele Otnes

UI expert: Christmas spirit lives in family tree-trimming rituals

By Jan Dennis
News Bureau Staff Writer

Worried the Christmas spirit has been cast aside like a lousy gift amid a frantic, commercialized holiday rush that cranks up even before Halloween’s pumpkins start to shrivel?

A UI marketing expert says twinkling examples of families giving up the decoration game will turn up in more than 80 million homes across the country over the next few weeks, wrapped in garland and decorated with ornaments.

Christmas trees are not only the centerpiece of most household celebrations, but also a shining symbol of sacrifice that reflects what the season is all about, said Cele Otnes, a marketing professor who led a new study on how families negotiate holiday rituals.

“People want to have a happy holiday, so they go to great lengths to make sure that these negotiations do not disturb the family orientation of the holiday,” said Otnes, whose research also has examined weddings and other consumer rituals.

Buying, decorating and even disposing of Christmas trees are just a few potential sources of conflict among family members, who often have differing views about beauty and tradition, according to a study that will appear next year in a new book, “Consumer Culture Theory” (Taylor & Francis Publications).

But rather than bickering, families come up with creative solutions, based on findings from roughly hourlong interviews with more than 200 people, Otnes says.

Much of the give-and-take involves ornaments — sentiment collections that grow and age every year as parents add glittery bulbs from stores and kids make new ones at school.

“There are clearly people who think other people’s ornaments are ugly,” Otnes said.

“But instead of saying ‘those are not getting on the tree — I hate their guts,’ they try to break up the decoration. They come up with ‘I’ll take these off and keep this one,’” Looney said.

By contrast, Otnes says she wasn’t surprised by the spirit of cooperation that emerged in the study, co-written by visiting business administration professor Robert Kreuzbauer, graduate student Wojin Kwon.

“Their behavior is typical of the family lifestyle change, such as children getting older and refusing to take part.”

“Rituals like Christmas help keep people frozen in time,” said Otnes, who teaches in the department of business administration.

Along with satisfying tastes and traditions, compromises also seek to keep the whole family involved in the tree-trimming ritual, Otnes said.

In some families, though, she says one person takes charge and runs the show. The “ritual chancellor,” usually the woman of the household, typically either wants to control holiday aesthetics or is forced to take over because of a cause of a family lifestyle change, such as children getting older and refusing to take part.

“It’s not that common because it’s a family holiday, so to have someone take over the whole thing doesn’t feed into the family nature,” Otnes said.

“We don’t want to shove our kids aside and have them watch ‘Hannah Montana’ while we’re doing all of the decorating.”

Otnes says she wasn’t surprised by the spirit of cooperation that emerged in the study, co-written by visiting business administration professor Robert Kreuzbauer, graduate student Wojin Kwon.
Energy conservation policy approved by board of trustees

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The board of trustees approved an energy conservation policy that aims to reduce energy consumption and cost by eliminating waste and increasing energy efficiency in buildings. The policy includes steps such as changing the way costs are attributed, creating countable incentive plans, and making units accountable for their energy consumption and expenditures. The policy also allows them to benefit from any savings.

Tanner said that over the past year there have not been enough incentives provided at the level decisive to ensure that we are running the university in a way that delivers the maximum resources possible – money and other resources – to the front lines of academic work.

Budget and campus projects approved

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Sylvia Manning was honored for her contributions and accomplishments as chancellors at Urbana-Champaign, as well as for her efforts on the campuses of the University of Illinois system and at the University of Illinois.
On the Job
Scott Bartlett

Scott Bartlett began his career with the UI in May 2000 as an extra help office assistant, and worked at Kraner Center for the Performing Arts, the Office of Admissions and Records, and the department of history, until the retirement of history professor in December 2000. In March 2001, he moved to a secretary II position at the Illini Union, where he was responsible for meeting room reservations. After 3 1/2 years, Bartlett transferred to the department of philosophy, where he is now an admissions and records representative.

What are your job responsibilities?
When I began in this position in August 2004, I took care of the undergraduate program and was the receptionist. In October 2004, I was promoted to a secretary IV and took on more duties, including the course scheduling in Banner. In May 2006, our part-time person who handled the graduate program retired, and I took over those duties and was promoted to admissions and records representative, my current classification. My duties vary during the year. My main duties are the admissions process for graduate students in philosophy. I process their applications and give them to our admissions committee. I manage all the graduate program and undergraduate majors files for the department. I also prepare and distribute dossiers for graduate students on the job market. We have 45 graduate students now and about 120 undergraduate students, many of whom have double majors in areas such as political science, psychology, and math. I also monitor the graduate students’ progress to make sure they’re making normal progress, and handle grade changes. I administer a database. I submit the paperwork to the Graduate College for graduate students’ preliminary exams and their thesis defenses. I also maintain and update the department’s Web site.

My other major duty is maintaining the course schedule in Banner. I assist students who need help registering for classes; I can process over 30 registration forms in 15 minutes. They can’t get into a class. I request classroom space through Facility Management and Scheduling. I also work closely with our associate department chair, who makes the course teaching assignments, and I enter it into the schedule and provide him with enrollment counts every Friday. Students just finished registering for spring semester, and I give him enrollment counts, and will probably continue doing that through the beginning of January, so we’ll know if some classes are in danger of being canceled.

I order the textbooks for all the classes, do some student advising about classes and major requirements and reserve space for departmental colloquia. Our office also ends up being information central for lost students and the lost and found department because we’re on the main floor. We’re a two-person department, my boss and I.

What were you doing before you came to the university?
I graduated from Oakwood High School in 1992 and from Illinois State University in December 1996 with a bachelor’s degree in mass communications broadcasting and a minor in cinema studies, but ended up never getting a job in my field. I worked for eight years at Kmart in Danville. I then went into banking. Right before I started at the university, I moved with some friends to Marietta, Ga., trying to find a job in my field. The Weather Channel and CNN are based in Atlanta. But the cost of living was way too high, and I worked in banking again for about a month and then came back here.

What do you enjoy most about your job and what’s the most challenging part?
I like dealing with students. The most challenging part is multi-tasking because I have a lot of duties to prioritize. I get a lot of things thrown at me at one time, and I have to decide to what to do first.

What do you like to do when you’re not working?
I like going to movies, all types. I’m a car person too, so I spend a lot of time looking at new cars. I’m on my ninth car — a 2007 Pontiac G6 — so that’s why I’m broke all the time. I also like hanging out with friends. Next semester, I’m going to start taking classes with the goal of getting a master’s degree in education. I’ll probably try to get into educational policy studies because I want to advance my career at the university.

— Interview by Sharifa Forrest, assistant editor

A Minute With

How do you raise a non-materialistic child in a materialistic age?

I wish I had a simple answer to this question because I’d make a lot of parents happy.

Are advertisers to blame or do other factors trigger their need for things?

This is a good question. The media blame parents, and parents blame the media. A number of factors contribute to children’s need for things, including social-cognitive changes with age, pressure from the media and peers, and self-esteem.

During early adolescence, we see a peak in materialism. By this stage of development, early adolescents have developed a very sophisticated understanding of the symbolic meaning of products and brands, leading them to have strong preferences for certain brands and products. They are also experiencing major physical and emotional age-related changes, which makes them more critical of themselves and their social awareness heights. One seemingly easy way to fit in and feel good about themselves is through buying the most popular brands to project a desirable image.

One way to encourage this type of thinking is to allow children to make their own decisions from time to time. For example, if there is no harm in the child wearing a fancy sweater with a pair of old sweatpants other than it might not match, then parents should allow the child to decide what to wear. This not only builds children’s self-confidence, but also teaches them to practice decision-making and critical thinking skills with strong support from parents.

Take countless situations where parents encourage children to think critically to better understand their environment and make their own decisions, and you can tell children who are not comfortable with what I consider to be the most powerful defense against possible pressure from their environment.

With the holidays approaching, what should parents and gift givers consider when reinforcing materialistic values?

Parents should lead by example. If parents give their children gifts or receive presents, redirect their attention away from the fact that they just received the most popular toy or a very expensive cell phone, and help them direct their attention toward feeling appreciative and grateful for the people and things in their lives.

With the holidays approaching, at what price can parents ensure that their children see how happy it makes them to be able to give to others, children will learn the value of giving and focus less on receiving. What parents don’t realize is that children enjoy the simple things in life such as going for a walk with their parents or playing a board game. Parents can’t expect children to enjoy these things if they aren’t used to doing these things.

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Faculty members, academic professionals retire

Gentry fills retirement with travel and home renovations

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

About one week after Elbert Gentry retired May 30 from his position as a senior management methods analyst, he and his wife, Barbara, went to explore Ireland. After spending several days becoming acquainted with some of Barbara’s relatives whom they’d never met, the Gentrys were on the road to take in the landscapes and scapes of the Emerald Isle. Gentry kept a journal of their adventures on his laptop computer and snapped 700 pictures, which, months later, he is still trying to organize.

Over the summer, the Gentrys spent about another month at a vacation property they own in Ft. Myers, Fla., and have been making the rounds visiting some of their six children and 10 grandchildren who live in Minneapolis and Chillicothe and Monticello, Ill. Their newest grandson was born Oct. 4, so another trip to Minneapolis will be in order soon so the proud grandparents can meet him.

Even after logging all those air and highway miles, Gentry wants to do more traveling, and said he and Barbara may go to Florida again after Christmas. Barbara, who is an emeritus professor at Parkland College, still teaches math and computer science classes at the college, although she plans to fully retire next year.

“When they’ve been home, the Gentrys have rolled up their sleeves for a variety of home repair and renovation projects, some at their own house in White Heath — where they installed a fence around their pool — and others at the house that Barbara’s late mother owned in Lincoln, where they added two sets of exterior stairs, a deck, did some painting and other work. They are refurbishing the house in Lincoln in preparation for putting it on the market.

Despite all those projects, Gentry said he has a backlog of projects that didn’t get done over the years that will keep him busy into the foreseeable future. “More than I have time to do,” Gentry said. “I don’t know how I had time to work when I was working.”

Gentry earned his bachelor’s degree in business administration from Carthage College, and was a member of the college’s final graduating class at its Illinois campus before the college relocated from Carthage to Kenosha, Wis.

Gentry began his career at the UI as an analyst in the Office of School and College Relations, which later became the University Office of Academic Policy Analysis. Several years ago, the office merged with the Office of Planning and Budgeting, and Gentry was promoted to a senior management methods analyst, the rank that he held until his retirement.

During his 20-year career, Gentry worked on many state and federal reports, including a number of statewide reports, such as the High School Feedback Report, a compilation of data about high schools around the state.

Gentry also participated in the creation of the Teacher Data Warehouse for the state of Illinois, a series of reports used by collegiate institutions in Illinois that train teachers and the Illinois Board of Higher Education to track teachers after they’ve earned their degrees.

For a period of time, Gentry also helped run the President’s Award Program, a universitywide initiative that honors and provides support services for high-achieving students. In addition to organizing the honorary luncheon, Gentry did the data analysis.

Still teaching Volunteer work, cycling and knitting are among the activities that Sharon Michalove enjoys since she retired last year as director of undergraduate studies in the department of history. Michalove, who also was a faculty member in history and educational policy studies, will teach a course on medieval travel for the Osher Lifelong Learning Institutes and work part time as a temporary adviser in the department of sociology in the spring.

One of Michalove’s methods for getting students in her medieval travel course to explore campus resources — while building skills in historical analysis — was a treasure hunt she created that required students to venture into unfamiliar territories such as the Music Library, the Rare Book and Manuscript Library and the stacks in the University Library in search of information, and then write about the experience. “The course, one in a series of courses under the rubric of ‘Introduction to Historical Interpretation’ in the department of history, became a requirement for all history students.

“And the students always complained that it was time-consuming and difficult, but at the end of the course when I asked them what they had found their most valuable experience to be, it was always the library project because it helped them in classes.”

Michalove continues to teach and explore the world

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

A professor of history of medieval studies and of educational policy studies, Sharon Michalove helped students understand the world through the exploration of exotic locales such as the North Pole, if only vicariously. And since love helped students understand the same things over and over and get really stale, I changed my courses every time, which meant I was constantly preparing new stuff, picking new books. It was more interesting for me and the students.”

Michalove profiles

Retiree profile

Michalove profile

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Between Sept. 1, 2006, and Aug. 31, 2007, 109 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 on the Inside Illinois Web site at: www.news.uiuc.edu/01/1206/retirees.html.
GENTRY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

I really enjoyed the work, especially the computer programming," Gentry said about his multifaceted job. "It was varied and interesting. I worked with a lot of different people at the university and from the 57 institutions that participated with the Teacher Data Warehouse."

Even though he enjoyed his work, Gentry said he was looking forward to retirement.

Gentry is a past secretary of the Illinois Association for Institutional Researchers and has applied for emeritus status in the association.

MICHALOVE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

"They visit all over campus. And it forced them to go into libraries that they hadn’t been in before, that they wouldn’t think of going to,” Michalove said.

During Michalove’s 22-year career with the UI, her appointments included academic adviser in the department of history for 16½ years, library clerk in the Commerce Library and editorial positions in the College of Engineering and the Soybean Insect Research Information Center, where she did cataloging while pursuing a master’s degree in library science.

Michalove also holds a doctorate in the history of education, a master’s degree in history and a bachelor’s degree in the teaching of social studies, all from Illinois. Her research focuses on medieval education, particularly women’s education, and court culture and cultural change.

In honor of Michalove’s avid support of experiential learning, her colleagues in the department of history donated money to help establish a fund for history majors who want to study abroad.

Since taking up cycling last year, Michalove has logged more than 2,500 miles on her bikes, including a Trek Pilot that she received as a retirement present. Michalove, who is a member of and publishes the newsletter for the Prairie Cycle Club, spent four days in October at a women’s cycling camp learning new skills and testing her stamina on the mountainous terrain around Asheville, N.C.

Two days a week Michalove volunteers at Illinois Radio Reader, reading a book of her choice for an hour on Wednesdays and reading the news for half an hour on Thursdays. She’s currently reading her third book, “The Renaissance: A Short History,” by Paul Johnson, for the service.

“I have a stack of about 10 books that I’ve picked out that will more than get me through the year. I really enjoy reading out loud, and it’s a great service,” Michalove said.

Michalove also plans to continue volunteering for WILL’s radio and television fund drives, as she has been doing for the past 20 years or so.

Another of her passions is knitting, especially knitting socks. "My husband says I have enough yarn to last well past my death,” Michalove said. "I probably have enough yarn to knit socks for several hundred people.”

NEW faces 2007

Among the newcomers to the Urbana campus this fall were more than 7,500 freshmen and about 100 tenured/tenure track faculty members whose appointments began this summer or fall. Inside Illinois continues its tradition of introducing some of the new faculty members on campus and will feature at least two new colleagues in each fall issue.

WILLIAM D. GROPP

Paul and Cindy Saylor Professor of Computer Science
College of Engineering

Education: Ph.D. (computer science), Stanford University; M.S. (physics), University of Washington; B.S. (mathematics), Case Western Reserve University

Research: “We were looking for a senior person in scientific computing to fill a named professorship,” said Michael Heath, interim head of the computer science department. “With the new Petascale system coming to NCSA, we were also very interested in enhancing our already strong emphasis on high-performance computing, Bill Gropp is one of the small set of people who have had significant impact on both scientific computing and high-performance computing.”

Gropp is the creator of Messaging Passing Interface, which, according to Heath, is the dominant software framework for using high-performance parallel computers to solve large-scale problems in science and engineering.

DIANA GRIGSBY-TOUSAINT

assistant professor of kinesiology and community health
College of Applied Health Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (maternal child health epidemiology), UIC; M.S. (public health and international health), Boston University; B.S. (zoology), North Carolina State University

Teaching at Illinois: CHLH 274, "Introduction to Epidemiology"

Research: "Dr. Grigsby-Tousaint is an outstanding scholar whose research focuses on examining the impact of social and environmental factors in public health among minorities,” said Tanya Gallagher, dean of the College of Applied Health Sciences. “Specifically, her research explores the impact of neighborhood characteristics on risk factors for the development of Type 2 diabetes among African-American and Latino children in Chicago."

Grigsby-Tousaint’s research experience includes study conceptualization, design, implementation, and qualitative and quantitative data analysis. In the future, she will teach more courses related to epidemiology, health data analysis, health behavior and public health practices.

UI senior named Marshall Scholar

By Laura Prusik

Steven Clausen, a senior in religious studies and English at the UI, has been named a Marshall Scholar.

Each year, 40 students from the United States are selected as Marshall Scholars to study at a university in the United States for two years.

Clausen is the first UI student to receive a Marshall scholarship in 10 years. A member of the Campus Honors Program and the English department honors program, Clausen also is a James Scholar and a Cohn Scholar in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and a Raymond Seng Scholar in the English department.

“As it starts to sink in, I’m really excited about the opportunities out there,” said Clausen, who is from Wheaton, Ill. “This award opens new avenues for scholarship and service.”

The British government funds the scholarships in gratitude to the United States for the Marshall Plan. Students must have a minimum of a 3.7 grade-point average to qualify, said David Schug, co-director of Scholarships for International Students.

In addition to his academic success, Clausen also is involved on campus. He co-founded an AIDS organization called Acting on AIDS, is actively involved in Campus Crusade for Christ, is a Learning Leader in the College of LAS and leads a ministry for international students.

After he graduates in May, Clausen will use his Marshall Scholarship to focus on two areas of study: theological ethics, and hermeneutics and ethics, both at the University of Edinburgh. Each topic is a one-year program, and he will receive a master’s degree for each of the two programs during his time at Edinburgh.

His goal is “to work with religion and ethics within an academic environment” after earning a doctorate in religious studies and ethics.

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Small RNA plays parallel roles in bacterial metabolism

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

They are often overlooked, and were once thought to be too small to contribute much to major cellular processes, but in recent years the study of small ribonucleic acids (sRNA) has gained momentum. Now a team from the UI has identified the unique metabolic activities of one of these bit players, a 200-nucleotide-long RNA molecule in bacteria called SgrS.

This molecule is one of about 80 known small RNAs common to many bacteria. It got its name for its role in sugar metabolism (SgrS is an acronym for sugar-related stress). When a bacterium such as Escherichia coli has taken up enough – or too much – glucose from its surroundings, SgrS helps stop the transport of glucose molecules across the cell membrane, said microbiology professor Carin Vanderpool.

In trying to tease out how SgrS performs this task, Vanderpool and technician Caryn Wadler discovered that the molecule performs dual roles, both of which inhibit the transport of glucose into the cell. One region of the RNA molecule binds to a messenger RNA to inhibit the production of new glucose transporters, while another region codes for a protein that seems to retard the activity of existing transporters.

The findings appear online this month in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

“These structural RNAs are short,” Vanderpool said, “so the SgrS response is essential to bacterial survival. A deeper understanding of how bacteria defend themselves from metabolic stresses such as excess glucose could lead to important therapeutic innovations,” she said.

Vanderpool hopes that more researchers will explore the multifunctional potential of these diminutive molecules.

“Don’t overlook them just because they’re short,” she said.

Catalyst-free, self-healing material system is more practical

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

A new catalyst-free, self-healing material system developed by researchers at the UI offers a far less expensive and far more practical way to repair composite materials used in structural applications ranging from airplane fuselages to wind-farm propeller blades.

The new self-healing system incorporates chlorobenzene microcapsules, as small as 150 microns in diameter, as an active solvent. The expensive, ruthenium-based Grubbs’ catalyst, which was required in the researchers’ first approach, is no longer needed.

“By removing the catalyst from our material system, we now have a simpler and more economical alternative for strength recovery after crack damage has occurred,” said Jeffrey Moore, the Murchison-Mallory Professor of Chemistry at Illinois. “Self-healing of epoxy materials with encapsulated solvents can prevent further crack propagation, while recovering most of the material’s mechanical integrity.”

The new chemistry is described in a paper accepted for publication in Macromolecules, and posted on the journal’s Web site. During normal use, epoxy-based materials experience stress that can lead to mechanical failure. Autonomous self-healing – a process in which the damage itself triggers the repair mechanism – can retain structural integrity and extend the lifetime of the material.

“Although we demonstrated the self-healing concept with a ruthenium-based catalyst, the cost of the catalyst made our original approach too expensive and impractical,” said Moore, who also is affiliated with the university’s Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory and with the Beckman Institute. “Our new self-healing system is simple, very economical and potentially robust.”

In the researchers’ original approach, self-healing materials consisted of a microencapsulated healing agent (dicyclopentadiene) and Grubbs’ catalyst embedded in an epoxy matrix. When the material cracked, microcapsules would rupture and release the healing agent.

Vanderpool said, “Our new self-healing material system incorporates chlorobenzene as an active solvent, where Grubbs’ catalyst was previously required in the researchers’ first approach.”

In the new material, capsules that contain the healing agent are suspended in the matrix material. When the coated material is subjected to stress, capsules are ruptured and healing agent can diffuse throughout the material, where it reacts to heal the crack.

This system is simple, very economical and can be modified to heal cracks in a variety of materials.”

Vanderpool said that using the healing material will allow for a “less expensive and more practical” way to repair composite materials used in structural applications ranging from airplane fuselages to wind-farm propeller blades.

“Moore, center, is flanked by Scott White, a professor of aerospace engineering, and Nancy Settels, a professor of materials science and engineering.

Ad removed for online version
Membranes provide more efficient water treatment, drug delivery

By James E. Kloeppel

News Bureau Staff Writer

R

A good book

Promoted and newly tenured faculty members were honored Nov. 28 with a reception and book plating in the Grand Gallery of Grainger Engineering Library. Of the 102 faculty members who received promotion or tenure, 76 selected books – either extant volumes or new additions to the collection – to be plated in their honor. Most faculty members chose books that were particularly important to their personal and professional development. The selected volumes are on display – along with faculty members’ explanations for selecting them – in the central corridor of the Main Library through Jan. 31. This was the eighth year for the program, which was sponsored by Prinest Linda Katehi and Paula Kaufman, university librarians and deans of libraries.

A new generation of biomimetic membranes for water treatment and drug delivery. The highly permeable and selective membranes are based on the incorporation of the functional water channel protein Aquaporin Z into a novel A-B-A tri-block copolymer. The experimental membranes, currently in the form of vesicles, show significantly higher water transport than existing reverse-osmosis membranes. “Placing aquaporins in materials that we can use outside the body opens doors to industrial and municipal applications,” Kumar said.

To make their protein-polymer membranes, the researchers begin with a polymer that self-assembles into hollow spheres called vesicles. While the polymer is assembling, the researchers add Aquaporin Z – a protein found in Escherichia coli bacteria. "Aquaporin Z makes a hole in the membrane that only water can go through, so it’s both fast and selective,” said membrane specialist Mark Clark, a professor of civil and environmental engineering and one of the paper’s co-authors. "By varying the amount of Aquaporin Z, we can vary the membrane’s permeability," Kumar said, which could be very useful for drug-delivery applications. With their high permeability and high selectivity, the biomimetic membranes also are ideal for water treatment by desalination, which is becoming increasingly important for water purification in semiarid coastal regions. When tested, the productivity of the Aquaporin Z-incorporated polymer membranes was more than 10 times greater than other salt-rejecting polymeric membranes. Currently, the experimental polymer membranes exist only as small vesicles. "Our next step is to convert the vesicles into larger, more practical membranes," Kumar said. "We also want to optimize the membranes for maximum permeability.

In addition to Clark and Kumar, co-authors of the paper are UI research professor Julie Zilges, and chemistry professor Wolfgang Meier and doctoral student Mariusz Grezlakowski, both at the University of Basel in Switzerland. Funding was provided by the Swiss National Center of Competence in Nanoscience, the Swiss National Science Foundation and the UI.

Higher productivity Mark Clark, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, and colleagues have developed a new generation of biomimetic membranes for water treatment and drug delivery.
Artist’s future forest anything but a tranquil woods

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

I t Dorothy from "The Wizard of Oz" were to find herself magically inserted into one of the Technicolor parallel universes created by UI faculty artist Laurie Hogin, the pigtailed accidental "tourist" might even wish she were back in the Emerald City.

The monkeys in Hogin’s canvases don’t have wings or a witchy master, but they’re at least as scary as those Dorothy and her companions encountered on their odyssey to Oz. So, too, are the manicard, the feathered, the four-legged, the wingless, which the artist regards as symbols of women and their role as perpetual objects of the iconography of our culture.

The fungi aren’t quite as threatening, but like most of the other-worldly flora and fauna populating “The Forest of the Future,” a solo “early mid-career” retrospective exhibition of Hogin’s work on view through Jan. 13 in Iowa at the Cedar Rapids Museum of Art, the mushrooms are messengers.

“Fungi are the fruiting bodies of this unseen plant, whose function in the ecosystem is the decomposition of dead organic matter,” Hogin said. “So, the fruiting bodies are both evidence of rot and agency of decomposition.”

And borrowing a cue from Alfred Hitchcock, who frequently made cameo appearances in his films, Hogin sometimes sneaks into her own paintnigs, albeit in a masterful disguise.

“The mushrooms in my paintings are self-portraits,” she said, chuckling and explaining that they often are embellished with text. “For some reason, I feel like a little mushroom, just down there in the corner doing my part ... recycling, processing, just being part of the ecosystem ... commenting when necessary. I wear many of my opinions on my cap, as it were.”

Hogin has been stirring things up from her niche in the art world for nearly two decades, graduating from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago in 1989. Before that, she studied cultural anthropology and fine art at Cornell University. Her bachelor’s thesis, in fact, is a portrait of postmodernist theory; social, cultural and political history; and the teachings of philosophers such as Kant and Goethe. Still, Hogin’s art remains intriguingly elusive.

Among the works on view in the CRMA exhibition, which is curated by Sean Ulmer, are oil-on-panel paintings from a 2006 series called “Twelve Moments of Saturday Morning TV – The Colonization of My Child’s Mind.”

“I love that I was there for four consecutive Saturdays and got a sense of the dominant color scheme for each show’s advertising and used those color schemes to represent that neurobiological seduction of my child through color and visual persuasion,” Hogin said.

She described the colors of children’s entertainment as “florid, high chroma — what Kant would’ve thought to be utterly tacky.” Similarly, she noted, “Goethe commented that men of taste switched bright colors; they prefer neutrals and shades. Bright colors on all our primary women, children and the savagery.”

Hogin said that despite what she observes from her vantage point as an artist, academic and cultural critic, she’s as likely as anyone else to be sucked in by the savvy masters of marketing.

“There are two reasons I embrace the tackiness and garishness of popular media. One is because it is about pleasure. I find those things seductive. They work. And that’s fascinating to me.”

Also fascinating to Hogin, as evidenced by her work, is the fact that simple image, no matter which art-historic genre she chooses to reference — portrait, still life, landscape or allegorical painting — natural-history-style diorama — can convey so much content in one canvas.

“There are so many narratives that are overlaid or intersect,” she said. “And they include the narratives that are inherent parts of the history of pictorial space, particularly in terms of depicting commodity and nature and the exotic.”

Looking at habitat dioramas in natural history museums, Hogin said, she can’t help but notice a common link between them and retail display and fashion photography. She makes that point in a number of large-scale oil paintings, including one completed this year and included in the CRMA exhibition, “Natural History Diorama – Reedy Creek Estate.”

The title, she says, refers to the subdivision on which Disney World was built; the mutant creatures depicted in the diorama reflect Hogin’s identity as a violent pink as the fact of its assigned sex and identity gathers strength.

“The poses are theatrical, the rocks resemble store shelves, the space is like a diorama/store window, the narrative is one of tortuous mutation and Disneyfication,” Hogin said, describing the painting’s content. “The skulls,” she added, “are a reference to vanitas, danse macabre and the Disneyfication of history, hence the candy colors on them.”

The idea that the natural world is being manipulated and distorted by the culture of commerce and consumerism is a common theme in Hogin’s oeuvre.

Though her canvases are populated by all manner of birds, mammals and reptiles presented in colors and patterns that do not yet, anyway — actually appear in nature, “inad buunies” are among those that make repeat appearances.

Included in the CRMA show are small paintings of rabbits, all variations on a theme, part of a series titled “Women’s Work.” Hogin created the paintings as an homage to working women worldwide.

“I was thinking of the saying, ‘A man can work from sun to sun, but a woman’s work is never done’ and the gender divisions of labor and privilege that persist everywhere; the fact being that greater professional and intellectual opportunities for educated, de-mographically lucky women like me has not translated into a more equitable division of labor. There is still such a thing as ‘women’s work’ and most women are seri-ously burdened with it. My impulse in mak- ing this intensely repetitive, labor-intensive little piece was to honor that labor.”

“Of course, the bunny has always been a feminine and feminist icon to me — a sym- bol of objectification, fertility and reproduc- tion ... and a creature with the ability to claim agency by looking back at the viewer, and growing fangs and claws, and blushing a violent pink as the fact of its assigned identity gathers strength.”

Another creature that reappears in various poses, color schemes and roles — from that of the brand-conscious consumer to the femme-seeker, petroleum-loving politician — is the monkey.

“Monkeys in the history of European paintings were always parodies of or stand- ins for human beings, as they are in my works,” Hogin said, noting that images of monkeys have figured prominently in her work since 1995.

“Another body of work in the show refers to very specific, politically topical subjects and functions in the same allegorical way as 19th-century political cartoons,” she added. “Among them is an older work, “Allegory of Politics: Politics Defeats History on a Battlefield of Chickens.””

“This painting was made as I listened to the 1996 presidential and vice presidential debates on public radio,” Hogin writes in the wall text, “and all I could think was that these people were a bunch of chickens and turkeys whose politics were limited to sentiment, jingoism and fear, or some delicate combination of all three.”

Along with canvases featuring political allegory, Hogin’s signature monkeys, bun- nies and other hybridized creatures, the CRMA exhibition also includes:

• Three costumed mannequins created to explore themes of consumer culture, stereo- types and identity.

• One of a series of Hogin’s “PATRIOT Fungi,” a cast resin representation of a naturally occurring species called “artist’s fungus,” painted red, white and blue to re- semble political-campaign buttoning.

• Two installation pieces: “Big Bed Empire Bedroom,” a full-size replica of a canopy bed with carved text, taxidermy eyes, “mad bunny” sheets and foot stool, and a quilt made of hazardous-waste warn- ing labels; and “The Thrift Project,” found T-shirts from thrift stores, which have been imprinted with "scary or mascot-like ani- mals” and “text that suggests possible satiri- cal meanings for the images.”

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In the story, Laurie Hogin, the artist, is discussing her work and its themes. The text provides insights into her creative process and the messages she aims to convey through her art. The mention of various art forms, such as dioramas, landscape, and fashion photography, highlights her interdisciplinary approach. Hogin’s work challenges viewers to reconsider their perception of everyday objects and the messages they convey, particularly in relation to consumer culture, gender roles, and the representation of women in art.
Busboom’s dream house has more than medieval theme

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Depending on the dreamer, the phrase “dream house” means different things. To Bruce Busboom, construction superintendent in the Facilities and Services Division, it meant a castle – complete with a drawbridge and a pair of gargoyles spouting water 30 feet down into a moat. Nestled in dense woods north of Mahomet, Busboom Castle is a symbol of one man’s perseverance and ingenuity at bringing his dream to life – with the help of his friends.

In the late 1980s, Busboom decided it was time to build his own home, but the designs he looked at “were somebody else’s ideas. If I were going to build a dream house, what would it be? A castle? A spaceship?” Busboom’s initial design, a 15,000-square-foot fortress with four round towers and a central, open courtyard, was “out of this world” when he estimated the construction costs, and was scaled back to a 4,800-square-foot castle with two square towers and a 50-foot-long great hall with a 22-foot-high ceiling.

In 1987, Busboom purchased a neglected overgrown 5-acre plot along a blacktop road between Fisher and Mahomet. The land was on sale. That was the only way I was going to be able to afford to do this,” Busboom said.

And if accountrements, such as the oversized carriage lights on the front of the house, were too expensive, Busboom designed and built them himself. With reusable molds that he’d constructed from Formica and plywood, Busboom mixed, poured and cured concrete with a veneer of split-face, 70-pound concrete blocks in the walls (8,040), concrete blocks in the driveway (180), concrete blocks in the walls (8040) and poured concrete foundation 5 feet deep and 3 feet wide at the bottom support the massive walls.

Busboom’s initial design, a 15,000-square-foot castle northeast of Mahomet. Busboom designed and built the unique home, including the motorized 600-pound drawbridge and 700-pound portcullis, which are its main entrance, and the carriage lights that hang on each side of the drawbridge.

Busboom spent six years stockpiling materials in the garage and attic of his Fisher home.

“If what I needed wasn’t on sale, I’d wait three months, six months, until eventually it was on sale. That was the only way I was going to be able to afford to do this,” Busboom said.

The structure’s exterior angles, he explained, prompted Busboom to begin renting the four-bedroom, three-bath, handicapped-accessible castle for overnight stays and events. Busboom, who plans to retire Dec. 31 from the UI, is preparing to open a shop called the One of a Kind Store in an empty bank building that he purchased in Paxton. A longtime musician, Busboom also plays bass guitar in a three-piece rock band called the Buzztones.

“Fun is what it’s all about, isn’t it?” Busboom said. “If you’re not having fun, then you ought to change something.”

Dream home

Bruce Busboom, construction superintendent in the Facilities and Services Division, stands outside his 4,800-square-foot castle northeast of Mahomet. Busboom designed and built the unique home, including the motorized 600-pound drawbridge and 700-pound portcullis, which are its main entrance, and the carriage lights that hang on each side of the drawbridge.

Busboom’s dream house has more than medieval theme

Busboom the suit of armor – a reproduction manufactured in Mexico – as a gift. The deacons’ chairs at the head and foot of the table once sat in a local church. A friend gave Busboom the suit of armor – a reproduction manufactured in Mexico – as a gift.

The toilet in the master bathroom. And even some strangers, who’d heard about the castle, donated medieval-themed items, sometimes anonymously leaving things in the driveway.

Busboom’s Castle

www.busboomcastle.com

For the full story, visit www.busboomcastle.com

ON THE WEB
Cutting-edge gains not always death knell for old-guard firms

By Jan Dennis
News Bureau Staff Writer

For every technological breakthrough that spawns new industry giants such as Microsoft or Intel, old-guard companies wither or die, according to an evolutionary theory of capitalism embraced for well over a half-century.

Economist Joseph Schumpeter’s cyclical concept of “creative destruction” has long been used to explain radical business shifts, from the decline of railroads when highway and air travel took off to Polaroid’s slide as new technology rendered its once-revolutionary Instamatic outdated.

But a new research paper co-written by UI business professor Rajshree Agarwal argues that innovation isn’t necessarily a death knell for companies that wind up on the wrong side of the cutting edge.

Agarwal, an award-winning author whose research includes the evolutionary lifecycle of industries, says her study shows mainstream firms routinely hitch onto changing technology and continue to prosper through an alternative process that she calls “creative construction.”

“If you think about it not so much in terms of competition, but as creation and innovation, now you have more than enough room for everyone to grow,” said Agarwal, the John Georges Professor of Technology Management and Strategy in the UI College of Business.

Agarwal says America’s corporate landscape is littered with companies that have thrived despite the emergence of higher-tech firms launched by creative workers who moved on.

Hewlett-Packard, for example, benefited from high-tech advances that followed when former employee Steve Wozniak launched Apple, Agarwal said.

“One can think of Apple as a competitor to HP in one sense,” she said. “But in another sense, Steve Wozniak left HP with the microprocessor HP wasn’t doing anything about, using it only for calculators. Apple then fueled the early growth of the personal computer industry, where HP has actually done very well.”

Agarwal says Schumpeter’s theory of “creative destruction” doesn’t address where new-generation companies come from, and scholars have traditionally assumed they rise out of nowhere, “like manna from heaven.” Her research challenges that notion, maintaining that existing firms play a part through a “knowledge spillover that creates entrepreneurship opportunities.”

“Processes have to die, but businesses don’t. IBM has now recreated itself three times over and remains a strong firm,” said Agarwal, who co-wrote the study with David Audretsch of the Max Planck Institute of Economics in Germany and MB Sarkar of the University of Central Florida.

Companies that fall victim to innovation are typically short-sighted, failing to encourage forward thinking by employees and overlooking creative ideas that surface, Agarwal said.

“It all depends on how proactive the existing firm is,” she said. “If it’s a firm that systematically foregoes the opportunities it creates, clearly it’s on the path to destruction. That destruction isn’t because of the new firm, but because of their own failure.”

Creating opportunities Illinois business professor Rajshree Agarwal argues that innovation isn’t necessarily a death knell for companies that wind up on the wrong side of the cutting edge.

It’s not the competition from outside, but their own inability to hone in on an entrepreneurial opportunity."
Two UI projects recently were named winners of the Illinois Governor’s Home Town Awards, a recognition given to people and projects that improve their communities. Forty projects were recognized at the 26th annual awards ceremony in Springfield on Nov. 27.

WILL AM-FM-TV’s Illinois Radio Reader service won first place in the general category for communities with a population of more than 75,000 for its program to serve vision-impaired residents of East Central Illinois. The service, housed on the UI campus, enables blind and print-handicapped people to use a special radio receiver to hear volunteers read newspapers, books and other materials live each day.

The city of Hoopeston’s Youth Town Hall Project, a partnership among WILL AM-FM-TV, the city of Hoopeston and Prairie Center Health Systems, won first place in the youth involvement category for communities with a population of 5,901 to 10,000. WILL worked with youth and community leaders in Hoopeston to address youth concerns and to develop an action plan to address needs of teenagers.

The Granger Centre Conference was held in honor of Paul Newbold, former UI professor and head of the department of economics, Sept. 21-22 at the University of Nottingham. The conference, “Non-Stationary Time Series Econometrics,” marked the contribution of Newbold following his recent retirement. Newbold was a faculty member at the UI from 1979-1994.

Gary Kesler, associate head of landscape architecture, received the 2007 American Society of Landscape Architects President’s Medal in recognition of his “sustained, unselfish and devoted service to the society at the national level for more than 30 years.” The medal was presented during the society’s annual meeting in San Francisco in October.

The UI Dads Association recently presented its annual Certificate of Merit Awards to an outstanding faculty member, staff member, student and student organization.

Andrea Ray, staff secretary in the Institute of Communications Research, was named Outstanding Staff Member. According to her nomination, since her January 2006 arrival, Ray has reorganized operations, established constructive practices and created new ways of handling information, people and questions that have made the unit far more productive.

Two were named Outstanding Faculty Member.

Nancy Benson, professor of journalism, was honored for her creation of an international reporting class in broadcast. In 2005, Benson took 10 students to Peru and this summer, 10 to China. The students research stories, conduct interviews and produce radio stories that were broadcast on WILL-AM (580).

Wayne Banwart, an associate dean in the College of Agriculture, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, was honored for his dedication to students and for his leadership and administrative oversight. Banwart serves as the college’s liaison to the Graduate College on matters of academic policy and programs; represents the college on academic policy at the campus, state, regional, national and international levels; supervises personnel and administers budgetary and fiscal matters in the Office of Academic Programs.

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Expert compares high cost of health care to consumer goods

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

I f Americans spent the same amount of money on health care as counterparts in Canada and a number of other countries, the difference between what they spend now and what they would save annually would be enough to pay for two plasma TVs or the price of a BMW sports car in 10 years.

Those are just some of the sce-
narios worked out in a new study by Tom O’Rourke, a professor emeritus of community health at the UI who has spent much of his professional career examining the nation’s ailing, failing-health-care system. In particular, O’Rourke has studied how the U.S. system compares with those in Canada and other Western nations.

His findings haven’t exactly been uplifting for U.S. health-care consumers.

“The United States has the high-
est per capita spending on health care of any Organization for Eco-

nomics Co-operation and Develop-

dent (OECD) nation,” O’Rourke

notes in the new study, which will be published in an upcoming issue of the American Journal of Health Studies. The OECD is a group of countries committed to democracy and market economy.

“Out of the 30 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Develop-
dent (OECD) nations, the United States has the highest per capita health-care costs of all at $6,102 as of 2004, despite having fewer physicians, doctors visits, hospital bed days, and nurses per capita than the median OECD nation,” O’Rourke said.

By contrast, the average spend-
ing per capita in Canada was $3,165 in 2004; the OECD median per capita (excluding Belgium, Ja-

pan and the Slovak Republic, for which 2004 data was unavailable) was $2,596.

“For a country that prides itself on being economically and technologically superior to most countries in the world,” O’Rourke asks, “why do we have the most expensive health-care system, but

test costs and hospital visits, few have a good handle on what’s actually being spent.

Instead of just presenting the differences in per capita health-care spending in a strictly numbers format, which has been overused and is meaningless because of the huge numbers that are incompre-
hensible, this project aims at putting a consumer price value on the savings,” he said.

The savings were broken down into three categories: consumer products, health care, and finances.

The bottom line, O’Rourke said, is that “the amount of mon-
ey we are spending on health (in the United States) is absolutely ridiculous, and something needs to be done before it’s too late,” O’Rourke said. “A health-care restructuring in this country is necessary to relieve the burden of costs and increase the overall health of the United States.

“Both of these goals are achievable if meaningful health-
care reform is reached, but exactly how we are to do that is a difficult question that has puzzled many for years. Reform proposals are com-

country,” O’Rourke said. “This project also demon-

strates the importance of Illinois as a top-

state in the study. The College of Medicine will develop health-education programs to be disseminated through the network. “CITES is very excited to be part of this project,” said Sally Jackson, CITES chief information officer. “Advanced networking really can have enormous societal benefits, and it is particularly satisfying to us to be able to contribute in this way to improved health care throughout the state.”

“Our goal, and the work it will make possible, is an example of the University of Illinois’ commitment to our mission as a 21st-century land-grant university,” said

Bradford Schwartz, the dean of the College of Medicine. “This project also demon-

strates the importance of Illinois as a top-

flight research university in bringing the benefits of new knowledge directly to the citizens of our state.”

IL Gov. Pat Quinn announced the $21 million grant Nov. 28 in Springfield, calling it “a godsend for rural Illinois.”

Quinn said that the network will allow medical facilities to expand the menus of services they offer, improve emergency care, allow physicians to consult experts hundreds of miles away and give patients access to specialists around the state without leaving their hometowns.

UI and others receive grant funds to upgrade rural health network

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

T he UI is one of 12 institutions in Illi-

ois to receive funding from the Fed-
eral Communications Commission Rural Health Care Pilot Program, an initia-
tive to improve health-related communica-

tions infrastructure nationwide. The univer-
sity will share in the $21 million grant to the state of Illinois. The money will be used to enhance the state’s cyber-infrastructure, improve the communications capabilities of health providers all over the state.

That part of the grant received by the UI will go to CITES (Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services) for coordination of the university’s role in es-

ablishing the infrastructure reaching into all parts of the state. The College of Medicine will develop health-education programs to be disseminated through the network. “CITES is very excited to be part of this project,” said Sally Jackson, CITES chief information officer. “Advanced networking really can have enormous societal benefits, and it is particularly satisfying to us to be able to contribute in this way to improved health care throughout the state.”

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Forty-two states and three U.S. terri-

ories received funding through the Rural Health Care Pilot Program. The Illinois grant will go to the Illinois Rural Health-

Net Consortium, which is coordinated by Northern Illinois University. In addition to the UI’s Urbana campus, grant funds also will go to Northern Illinois University, Illi-

nois State University, Southern Illinois Uni-

versity, Ben-Gordon Centers, Carle Founda-

tion Hospital, Delnor Community Hospital, Illinois Critical Access Hospital Network, Janet Wattle Centers, Metropolitan Re-

search and Education Network, Mississippi Centers and Tri-Rivers Health Network.

Ad removed for online version

Ad removed for online version
Nominations are being accepted until Jan. 21. Nominations are due by 5 p.m. Jan. 21.

Two colorful exhibitions at the UI’s I space gallery, on view Dec. 3 through Dec. 4, will celebrate Chicago’s Riv- er North arts district this holiday season.

• “Jay Ryan: animals and objects in and out of water” focuses attention on the poster art of the Chicago-based UI alumna Ryan, who founded his print studio, The Bird Ma-chine, in 1999, is known in the Chicago area and beyond for his posters – typically teaming with whimsical, sometimes manic, creatures – pro-moting bands described by Chicago artist and UI studio art profes-sor John Steinfeldt as “both obscure and well-known on the indie club circuit.”

• “Bright,” curated by Lela Hersh, features the work of Chicago-based artists Jo Hormuth, Choname Kim, John Phillips and Eric Tucker, and German artist Markus Linnenbrink, all of whom use color as a primary visual element.

An art show reception, free and open to the public, is scheduled from 5-7 p.m. Dec. 14 at the gallery, 230 W. Superior St., Chicago. I space gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

UI Web site

Proposed Web redesign revealed

Faculty and staff members may attend one of three meet-ings on the redesign of the university’s Web site. Val Turner and Joel Steinfeldt of Creative Services at Public Affairs will share the new design for the home page approved by the chancellor and provost, give a project progress report and provide data regarding user behavior. They will present a summary of the methodology, research and analyses driv-ing the design, answer questions and solicit feedback.

Meetings will be Dec. 17, from noon-1 p.m. in Room 213 of Gregory Hall; Dec. 18, from noon-1 p.m. in Room 2240 of the Digital Computer Laboratory; and Dec. 19, from 3:30-4:30 p.m. in the Heritage Room of the ACES Library, Information and Alumni Center.

More information is online at www.uiuc.edu/webteam.

Free guide provides reviews for gift books

Experts in children’s literature at the UI are ready to jump-start your holiday shopping with a com-prehensive list of warm and fuzzy, cool and hip books for any kid on your list. The 2007 edition of Guide Book to Gift Books offers shoppers hundreds of recent titles. The guide is organized by age and includes brief annotated remarks about every book.

Now available online, downloadable and free, the guide is as of the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, part of UI’s Graduate School of Library and Information Science.

The editors receive some 5,000 new trade books for young people every year; they publish reviews for about 900 of them in 11 issues of their Bulletin a year. For the annual guide, the old and out-of-print books are purged and more than 100 new titles are added, bring-ing the total number of titles to about 300.

“Just a perfect edge on the best books,” said a reviewer.

“It’s a list specifically designed with gift-giving in mind – with the notion that people like to give different kinds of books, just as young people like to read different kinds of books.”

Stevenson has her own favorites. “I’m really smitten with Emily Gravett’s ‘Orange, Pear, Apple, Bear.’ ” she said. “It’s absolutely ingenious, but not remotely com-plicated. It’s basically a triumph of corey, kid-appealing minimalism. After all, if you think of it, it’s been a great year for animal-related nonfiction, she said.

“Two that I continue to enjoy are Jane Harrington’s ‘Extreme Pets!’ which is a breezy, bawling out-tally on the side of the kid who wants to bring home a snake/snail/glitter/tarantula, and Ann Hodgman’s ‘I Like My House With Million Pets’, which I think is the contemporary answer to Gerald Darrell’s ‘My Family and Other Animals,’ except that Hodgman is a grownup and it’s a smart, funny book.”

ON THE WEB

Guide Book to Gift Books
http://bcbc.lib.uiuc.edu/gb2007

Veterinary Teaching Hospital

Dentistry service now open on weekends

The dentistry service at the UI Veterinary Teaching Hos-pital now offers appointments on two Saturdays a month, from 8 to 11:30 a.m. Dogs or cats can be given a complete oral examination to evaluate their dental health. The cost is $25, which can be applied toward a dental cleaning completed within 90 days of the initial exam.

To schedule an appointment, call dentistry clinical coor-dinator Misty Finn, 333-5859, or the Small Animal Clinic client services desk, 265-5163.

Illini Hockey Club/Campus Rec

Win free airfare at hockey games

Campus Recreation and the Illini Hockey Club are giving hockey fans a chance to win free airfare by entering the American Airlines ticket giveaway raffle. One fan will receive round trip airfare to anywhere in the continental United States on American Airlines.

The raffle continues through Dec. 7 and 8 as Illinois families will have the chance to vis-it face-to-face with their soldiers in Iraq on Jan. 8 and 9 through UI Extension’s videoconferencing system. Soldiers at Camp Al Asad (Air Force) and Camp Taji/Cooke (Army) will be able to turn on their webcams and connect with family members in private 30-minute “See Your Soldier” sessions. Most of the sessions will be hosted by UI Extension offices in 15 communities. There is no charge to participate. Families must register online at www.seeyoursoldier.uiuc.edu by 5 p.m. Dec. 17.

‘See Your Soldier’

Sign up for video visit with your soldier

Donors of Illinois families will have the chance to vis-it face-to-face with their soldiers in Iraq on Jan. 8 and 9 through UI Extension’s videoconferencing system. Soldiers at Camp Al Asad (Air Force) and Camp Taji/Cooke (Army) will be able to turn on their webcams and connect with family members in private 30-minute “See Your Soldier” sessions. Most of the sessions will be hosted by UI Extension offices in 15 communities. There is no charge to participate. Families must register online at www.seeyoursoldier.uiuc.edu no later than 5 p.m. Dec. 17 to be eligible for a time slot; reservations will be made on a first-come, first-served basis. Locations for the videoconferences are also available online when registering, indicate the preferred location for the video visit.

The live audio/video linkages are being offered in col-laboration with the Freedom Calls Foundation, which pro-vides the videoconferencing equipment and satellite con-nection in Iraq. When a family has registered, the military will alert the service member about the opportunity to visit with friends and family, and the time and date of the Inter-net transmission. If the soldier’s duty schedule can accom-modate the visit, family members will be assigned a time for their 30-minute session.

The program is limited to military personnel at Camps Al Asad and Taji/Cooke.

Champaign County Camera Club

Campus category added to competition

The Champaign County Camera Club has added the UI’s Urbana campus as a new category in its annual “Best in Show” photographic print competition. The requirements for this category are any image that has been taken of ac-tivities or persons on the Urbana campus since Jan. 1, 2007. In this category, both photo-realistic images and highly ma-nipulated images may be entered, provided that they convey an idea relevant to the Urbana campus. The entry deadline is Feb. 9. For the entry form and for more information, visit www.champaigncountycameraclub.org.

Ad removed for online version


Dec. 9 Sunday Spanish Time at the Public Library. 2 p.m. The Urbana Free Library, 210 W. Goodwin St., Urbana. Latin American and Caribbean Studies and The Urbana Free Library.

Panel Discussion: “Affect Across the Disciplines,” Samantha Frost, Justine Murison, Gabriel Sells and Yasemin Yildiz, UI. 8-9:30 p.m. Illinois State University—Urbana-Champaign.

Dec. 10 Monday Play and Learn about Children, ages 2-5, and their parents play and learn about nature at Allerton Park.

Dec. 28 Friday “Schools Out: Spy Science,” 9 a.m.-noon. K-2nd grade: 1-4 p.m.; 3rd-5th grade: 7-9 p.m. Allerton Park. For more information: call 373-0271 or e-mail allerton@uiuc.edu. More info: call 762-2721 or e-mail Park Education Center. More info: 333-8287.

Dec 31 Monday “Midnight at the Oasis,” 8 p.m. Allerton Mansion. Celebrate the New Year in style with a Morrocan-themed feast. For more information, visit www.allerton.uiuc.edu or call 333-8287.

exhibits

Love Thy Neighbor: An Exhibition Commemorating the Completion of the Episcopal Chapel of St. John the Divine. Rare Book and Manuscript Library. Through Jan. 11. More info: call 333-3287 or e-mail info@art.uiuc.edu or www.art.uiuc.edu/art.

ongoing

Algalto Chime-Tower Tours. 12:30-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Enter through 323 Algalto Hall. To arrange a concert or Bell Tower visit, e-mail chimes@uiuc.edu or call 333-6686.

Arboretum Tours. To arrange a tour, 333-7379.

Beckman Institute Café. Open to the public. 8 a.m.-3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Lunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For more, www.beckman.uiuc.edu/services/cafe.php.

Beverl Café. 8-10 a.m. coffee, juice and baked goods; and 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. lunch.

Beverl Café Too. 7:30-8:45 a.m. weekdays in the IGB building. Offers gourmet coffee drinks, snacks, light lunch items and more.

Campus Recreation: Imperial Palace, 201 E. Peabody Drive, Champaign. Open 7:30 a.m.-3:30 p.m. weekdays through performance day. Promenade gift shop: 7:30-3:30 p.m. non-performance weekdays; weekends from 10 a.m. until after performances. Promenade gift shop: 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Saturday; one hour before until 30 minutes after performances.

English as a Second Language Course. 7-8:30 p.m. IDS 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 244-5512. 24-hour crisis line: 244-7739.

Illinois Union Ballroom. 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Second floor, N. Center. For reservations, 333-0690; walk-in welcome.

Japan House. For a group from 244-9934, Tea Ceremony. 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month. $5/person. Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion Tours. By appointment, call 333-8218.

Japanese garden tours, 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, open until 7 p.m. Thursday, 2-5 p.m. Sunday.

Library Tours. Self-guided of main and underground libraries: go to Information Desk (second floor, main library) or Information Services Desk (underground floor).

Meat Salesroom. 102 Meat Sciences Lab. 1-3:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday; 8 a.m.-11 a.m. Monday. For price lists and more, 333-3404.

Robert Allerton Park. Open 8 a.m. to dusk daily. “Allerton Legacy” exhibit at Visitor Center, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. daily; 244-1035. Garden tours, 3:31-2277.

Yoga at Krannert Art Museum. Fridays at noon.

organizations

Association of Academic Professionals. For events: www.eara.org/illinois/

Book Collectors Club – The No. 44 Society. 3 p.m. First Wednesday of each month. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 346 Library. More info: 333-3777 or www.library.uiuc.edu/ro/no44.htm.

Council of Academic Professionals Meeting. 1-3 p.m. First Thursday monthly, location varies. More info: www.cap.uiuc.edu or majesty@uiuc.edu.

Classified Employees Association. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. First Thursday monthly. More info: 244-2466 or nblackbu@uiuc.edu.

UGK Fall Dance Project. 4-10:15 p.m. each Sunday. University Union. More info: 244-2571.

French Department: Pause Café. 6 p.m. Thursdays, Espresso Royale, 1117 W. Oregon St., Urbana.

Illini Folk Dance Society. 8-10 p.m. Tuesday and some Saturdays, Illini Union. Beginners welcome, 398-6686.

Italian Table. Italian conversation Mondays at noon. Intermezzo Café, KCFA.

Lifetime Fitness Program. 6:50 a.m. Monday-Friday. 244-5938.


PC User Group. For schedule: www.uiuc.edu bureaucracy.

Scandinavian Conversation Group. 3-5 p.m. Wednesday. The Bread Company, 706 S. Good- win Ave., Urbana. More info: daculas@uiuc.edu.

Secretariat. 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. third Wednesday monthly. Illini Union. More info: www.library.uiuc.edu/secretariat.

The Deutsch Conversation Group. 1-3 p.m. Wednesday. The Bread Company, 706 S. Good- win Ave., Urbana.

The Illinois Club (Formerly the Women’s Club) Open to male and female faculty and staff members and guests. For more info: www.illinoisclub.org.

VOCES. Poetry and fiction reading, 7:45 p.m. Third Thursday of each month. The Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.