Military action not effective to influence oil-producing nations

By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

There is another inconvenient truth about finite resources and human behavior on Planet Earth, an expert on international security and energy says. Trying to influence oil supply with military force in the Middle East is not only ineffective, it also is counterproductive.

So says Clifford Singer, a professor of nuclear engineering and of political science at the UI, who has done extensive work on energy systems for the U.S. Department of Energy. Singer also has been a visiting scholar working with the Center for Science, Technology and Security Policy at the American Association for the Advancement of Science and at the International Atomic Energy Agency. At Illinois, he recently stepped down as director of the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security.

Singer’s latest analyses show that despite the deep-seated perception that oil-producing regions retain a special strategic importance to the United States, the notion that the U.S. needs to maintain military capability to intervene unilaterally in the Middle East, “because the oil in that region makes it strategically important.”

“This idea persists even though the invasion and occupation of Iraq prolonged the Iran-Iraq War. Oil prices remained even higher while the United States helped Iraq prolong the Iran-Iraq War.”

“It is fortunate that oil has long since stopped being strategically important to the NATO alliance, since U.S. intervention in Middle East conflicts has evidently had the opposite of any desired effect on oil prices.”

According to Singer, higher prices do not themselves cause overall problems in the global economy. As increases in exporters’ petrodollar earnings recycled through the global economy, the global sum of the local purchasing power of gross domestic products continued to grow at an annual average rate of 3 percent during the high oil prices years of 1973 to 1986. By 2003, the U.S. ratio of use of oil to GDP was half of what it was in the 1970s, and the GDPs of the United States and other major oil importers “have continued to grow despite a recurrence of high oil prices.”

Singer said that U.S. energy currently relies on a combination of subsidies and tax breaks, regulatory mandates, and petroleum end-product taxes aimed at reducing the percentage of oil that comes from imports. “This policy has three fundamental flaws.”

Clifford Singer, former director of the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security, says trying to influence oil supply with military force in the Middle East is not only ineffective, it also is counterproductive. 

This Issue

UI political expert:
Obama campaign will change election strategy
By Jan Dennis
News Bureau Staff Writer

The 2008 election will carve a spot in history, whether a yet-to-be-settled Democratic primary yields the first female presidential nominee or the first African-American.

But a UI professor predicts the tradition-busting race also will leave another legacy, cementing the social networking power of the Internet into the pavement of future campaign trails.

Michael Cheney says Democratic frontrunner Barack Obama elevated the Internet’s social reach from novelty to necessity after using it to build online grass-roots support that helped fuel his rapid rise in a race in which rival Hillary Clinton once seemed nearly a lock.

“I think the social media have to be part of campaigns in the future,” said Cheney, a senior fellow with the university’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs who studies online campaigning.

“Candidates who don’t use this model aren’t going to do well,” he adds.

Cheney said the model has moved from novelty to necessity after using it to build campaigns in the future,” said Cheney, a senior fellow with the university’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs who studies online campaigning.

“Candidates who don’t use this model aren’t going to do well,” he adds.

Cheney said the model has moved from novelty to necessity after using it to build on-line grass-roots support that helped fuel his rapid rise in a race in which rival Hillary Clinton once seemed nearly a lock.

“He says Obama added a new high-tech wrinkle to campaign strategy by encouraging supporters to interact online, with other users as well as the campaign. Those personal endorsements have mustered waves of new support and also help build a massive database of backers that the campaign can call on.

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Trustees vote to increase tuition, support health initiative

By Shafira Forrest
Assistant Editor

Faced with budgeted deficits for ener-
gy costs and concerns about retaining
full-time faculty members, maintaining educa-
tional quality and a looming shortage of
health-care professionals, the UI Board of
Trustees voted to raise tuition and fees for
the 2008-09 academic year at all three of its
universities.

Tuition for new students this fall will increase by $401 at Urbana, by $4,621, by $2,450 at Chicago, and by $428 at Springfield, to $3,608, per semester. The 9.5 percent increase will apply to all in-state students, and residents will be guaranteed for four years in accordance with the Illinois Truth-in-Taxation Act. The trustees approved the new tuition and fee rates at their March 26 meeting in Urbana.

Student fees will increase by $92, at Urbana to $1,494; by $32 at UIUC, to $1,593; and by $58 at UIS, to $3,932, per semester. Fees cover student health and counseling, facilities and recreation, student pro-
gramming and other services.

Student fees and room-and-board rates and charges may change from year to year to cover inflation and higher operating costs. The trustees approved in-
creases in the room and board rates at all three campuses during their Jan. 17 meeting at Chicago.

Several trustees expressed concern about the growth of the tuition and fee increases on students and their families, but generally agreed that the increases were necessary to ensure academic quality because of rising operating costs and stagnant state approp-
riations.

“Higher education provides the state of Illinois with a competitive edge, a capital to compete successfully in the glob-
al economy,” President B. Joseph White said in a news release. “In a challenging
economic environment, we must retain and attract top faculty in a competitive academic marketplace.

We must also maintain our physical infrastructure that the citizens of Illinois have invested in for well over a century.”

Trustee Robert Sperring suggested that in addition to the tuition and fee increases on students and their families, but generally agreed that the increases were necessary to ensure academic quality because of rising operating costs and stagnant state approp-
riations.

“The trustees also approved a resolution sending $150 million in new, dedicated op-
erations funding to five health-care re-
sources: the College of Medicine, the College of Liberal Arts and Sci-
ces. The Urbana-Champaign Senate approved separate proposals from the Senate Committee on Educational Pol-
icy to reorganize the American African Studies and Research Program to the de-
partment of African American Studies and to reorganize the Program for the Study of Religion as the department of religious studies.

The African American Studies and Research Program, which began in 1969 as the African American Research Program of the Committee on African-American Concerns, has grown ten-fold in the past six years in

The board approved preliminary designs for the National Center for Supercomputing Applications’ petascale computing facility, a 93,000-square-foot building to be con-
structed near the intersection of Springfield Avenue and Oak Street in Champaign. The building will house support staff and research and development facilities.

The Urbana campus is developing a Di-
vision of Biomedical Sciences, which will train and educate biomedical research scientists who will be able to gain recognition for Illinois’ bio-

medical research capabilities and has been deemed essential to the Urbana campus’s long-term success as a research institu-
tion, said Linda Katehi, provost at Urbana. Katehi and Chancellor Richard Herman discussed Urbana’s plans and priorities and their agreement with the Academy on establishing a new division.”

The division probably will be led by a

would hear any appeals.

However, senator Belden Fields, po-

Herman agreed to further negotiation

Andreas Cangelaris, chair of the Promot-

Herman said. Fields expressed concerns about a lack of openness in the process as well as conflicting information about the committee’s activities and the status of the agreements.

Herman said that plans for rehabilitating Assembly Hall are being discussed, and added that he would be bringing the matter of Assembly Hall’s fate before the senate soon.

Inside Illinois is an employee publication of the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. It is published every Monday and Thursday of each month by the News Bureau of the campus Office of Public Affairs, administered by the associate director for public relations. Distribution is by campus mail.

News is solicited from all areas of the campus and should be sent to the cover editor at least 30 days before publication. Entries for the calendar are for 15 days before publication. All items may be sent toinsideill@uiuc.edu. The campus mail address is Inside Illinois, 616 E. Green St., Suite D, Champaign, IL 61820. The fax number is 214-10161.

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Reader comments can be sent to insideil@uiuc.edu. The campus mail address is Inside Illinois, 616 E. Green St., Suite D, Champaign, IL 61820. The fax number is 214-10161.
**On the Job**

**Tim Prunkard**

The collapse of the eight-lane Interstate 35W bridge over the Mississippi River on Aug. 1, 2007, heightened awareness about the design and maintenance of bridges and roadways across the nation. When researchers in the UI department of civil and environmental engineering want to test new designs for bridges, buildings and piers, and how those structures will weather the storms of today or the stresses of earthquakes, they have the support of an enterprising team of engineers led by Tim Prunkard, technical service supervisor.

Prunkard oversees a crew of seven full-time lab mechanics, one part-time employee and several undergraduate students who help researchers build and test models.

After graduating from Jamaica High School at the age of 17, Prunkard began an apprenticeship as a machinist, and did electrical work with his father and brother. Before joining the university’s staff in 1994 as a lab mechanic in the Materials Research Lab, Prunkard worked in an array of manufacturing industries — including heavy equipment, aerospace parts, cassette products and nuclear power — in the Danville and Clinton areas and extended his apprenticeship to include tool and die making.

Tell me about the work your crew does.

We set up test equipment and destroy it, and some of it’s monstrous in size. We do a lot of life-size scale testing – earthquake testing and destruction testing. The National Science Foundation is involved with a grant here and we have test equipment that allows us to do better full-scale models of bridges, piers and buildings. We move around these huge reaction boxes that are close to 40 tons each, hang them on the wall and bolt them up there. We have to have safety on our minds all the time.

With the aid of computers, five different universities, including the UI, can test structures simultaneously in real time and gather all that data. We’re on the cutting edge of making all this happen.

I’m now quoting jobs that are three years out. When I came to this job, it was unusual to have a 30-day backlog.

In addition to that, we handle most of the shipping and receiving for this building, and often will take care of any other little jobs, such as hanging a picture or cleaning up a mess, that people in the building need done.

What have you enjoyed about the trades you’ve mastered?

I really liked being an instrument maker. I liked working with my hands, creating things, taking ideas out of other people’s brains and making them a reality. I had a knack for building things. I enjoyed the satisfaction of knowing you’ve accomplished a task that is not only the best that you can do, it’s the best that anyone can do.

It’s a little trying sometimes as a supervisor because you hear more often about things that are wrong than things that are right. Because of that, I’m big about giving the people who work with me credit for what they do. When someone comes in and thanks me for a job, I’ll point him or her to the person who did the job, and say, “Thank them.” This is the No. 1 civil engineering college in the world, and we have a group of people in this shop who are outstanding and make the department of civil engineering what it is.

I came to this shop as an instrument maker, and my goal when I took the supervisor job was that everyone who came into the shop would be comfortable working with the people here and with coming back. The employees care about what they do, about each other and about me. That means that I’m willing to yell at someone, too, if they’ve put themselves in danger.

What do you like to do when you’re not working?

My wife, Jackie, and I are very involved in the Catlin Church of Christ. I sometimes walk across campus and wonder why I am here. I hated school — that’s why I graduated early. But then I married a teacher; Jackie recently retired after teaching 33 years in the Jamaica school system.

And my daughter, Lindsey, will graduate from Southern Illinois University next spring and is now student-teaching. My son, Luke, is a building service worker in Facilities and Services Division. I’m also serving my eighth year on our local school board. I also like to hunt and fish when I can.

— Interview by Shariata Forrest, Assistant Editor

**U.S. News graduate school rankings released**

The UI fares well in the latest U.S. News & World Report rankings of America’s best graduate schools. The 2009 edition of the magazine’s ratings of graduate programs is scheduled for publication April 7-14.

Among the standing of UI units based on the magazine’s rankings for 2008:

**Business:**

- 38; education, 25; engineering, 5; law, 27.

Within the UI business school, the accounting program was ranked No. 3 nationally. The UI curriculum/ instruction program was No. 5.

**Education:**

- 4; elementary education, 10; secondary education, 9; special education, No. 4.

**Engineering:**

- Aerospace/aeronautical/astromastical engineering program at Illinois was ranked 7; chemical engineering, 10; civil, 2; computer, 5; electrical/electronic/communications.

**Law:**

- 27.

**Science:**

- 25.

**Social Science:**

- 38.

**Technology:**

- 39.

**U.S. News** is the leading source of information about graduate and undergraduate programs in the United States. Among the standing of UI units based on the magazine’s rankings for 2009:

**Business:**

- 19; education, 24; engineering, 4; law, 15.

Within the UI business school, the accounting program was ranked No. 7 nationally. The UI curriculum/ instruction program was No. 11.

**Engineering:**

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- 17.

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**INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY**

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- 6.

**Technology:**

- 39.

**The UI master of fine arts program was ranked No. 21.**

**The standing of other UI units highly ranked in previous years are cited in the magazine.**

**Intel, Microsoft to invest $10 million in new center**

Intel and Microsoft corporations will invest $10 million over five years in a new research center at the UI to develop ways to take maximum advantage of today’s multi-core computer chips.

The UI will invest another $8 million — generous services staff and computing time — in the Universal Parallel Computing Research Center, which will involve 22 UI researchers in computer science and engineering.

The center, announced last month, is a joint research endeavor of the department of computer science, the UI Coordinated Science Laboratory, and corporate partners Microsoft and Intel, with faculty support from the department of electrical and computer engineering.

The center aims to enable commodity systems to make use of parallel computing techniques previously relegated to the realm of supercomputers. Researchers will aim to discover easy and accessible methods for enabling the multi-core computing systems increasingly in use today to take better advantage of their processing capabilities.

“Multi- and many-core computing is becoming pervasive; client-focused mass market applications are now driving parallel programming,” said Marc Snir, professor of computer science and co-director of the center.

“We face a new challenge: one that places emphasis on productivity over high performance; and one that addresses the needs of the broad community of application developers. In such an environment, parallel programming must be accessible to all programmers.”

A central research thrust will be the development of applications to improve the quality of life for the end user, but are not feasible with the computing power available on today’s clients. For example, future systems should not only assist with computational tasks, but also enhance the ability to interact with each other and with the environment using natural communication and visual interfaces. The center’s research will be applied and will eventually enable such applications.

“We believe that most parallel programmers should be able to use simple, intuitive ways of expressing parallelism,” said Wen-mei Hwu, professor of electrical and computer engineering and co-director of the center. “Future microprocessors, 90 percent will contain hundreds, and perhaps thousands of cores. While parallel languages must become simpler, hardware is becoming more complex. The center’s research activities are founded on the premise that advances in multi-core computing will require a coordinated, multi-disciplinary effort that encompasses all components of the multi-core system.”

“We have new opportunities and challenges for parallel computing today,” said Sarita Adve, professor of computer science and director of research for the center. “The market is larger. This makes it possible to provide customized, and therefore simple, programming solutions for different applications. The challenge is that the hardware and system software must be sophisticated enough to efficiently support these solutions. Our multi-disciplinary approach will be critical to achieve this goal.”

The center at the UI is one of two funded by Microsoft and Intel. The other center will be at the University of California at Berkeley. This alliance is the first joint industry and university research center of this magnitude in the U.S. focused on mainstream parallel computing.

**job market**

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Paper employment applications or paper civil service exam requests are no longer accepted by SHR. To complete an online employment application and to submit an exam request, visit the online Employment Center:

**www.uiuc.edu/goto/civilservicetestos**
Six academic professionals honored with CAPE award

By Roxana Ryan
Newswriter intern

ix academic professionals will receive the 2008 Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence award at an April 3 reception. Now in its 20th year, the program aims to honor contributions made by academic professionals on campus. Recipients are chosen for excellence in their work, personal and professional contributions to their fields, and the positive impact they have on colleagues, students and the public. Each award winner receives $2,000, a $1,000 increase in base salary and a $1,000 one-time budget increase for their department.

The CAPE recipients and a summary of their expertise, according to the nominating documentations:

Carol A. Buss, director of the Office of International Faculty and Staff Affairs

Buss also provides excellent customer service and teamwork to campus units, said Schmelzle. “She understands that the immigration process, which deals with huge bureaucracies, can be intimidating for departments and she strives to comply with regulations without losing the ‘human touch.’” She said. “In order to provide transparency and to foster good working relationships, she has organized regular workshops and training sessions to demystify the process and to provide concrete solutions to problems that are presented.”

Kate Brown, assistant director of the Office of International Faculty and Staff Affairs

The utility business on campus does not stop for holidays, weekends or after normal working hours. “In the event of a power outage, Keith is usually the first person contacted, the first person to respond and the first person to get things moving,” said Mike Larson, interim director and manager of the Bee Research Facility.

Keith Erickson, manager of utility distribution in the University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs

Keith Erickson, manager of utility distribution in the University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs, has worked tirelessly over the past 28 years to ensure uninterrupted utility service is provided to the campus, said Mike Larson, interim director of utilities.

In the event of a power outage, Keith is usually the first person contacted, the first person to respond and the first person to get things moving. "In the event of a power outage, Keith is usually the first person contacted, the first person to respond and the first person to get things moving," said Larson. "Keith has been called out of bed, called away from dinner in called when on vacation and has always responded. He does it because he takes his job and responsibility to the university very seriously."

The utility business is critical for the departments that request its services, according to Lyle D. Wachtel, associate chancellor of facilities and services. "Keith has a 24-7 responsibility, Erickson is always on call. "When issues arise, they must be dealt with immediately no matter what time or the circumstances," Larson said. "Keith has always responded. He does not do this for the publicity or reward, because at 3 a.m. on a Saturday there is usually no one around to even notice. He does it because of his job and responsibility to the university very seriously."

"The utility business on campus does not directly advance the primary mission of the university as it relates to teaching, research and public service, but the support they provide is critical for the departments that do directly advance the primary mission," Larson said. "Keith understands his role in support of this mission." Erickson has worked at the UI since 1979, starting as an electrical engineer for Facilities and Services. He has worked in his current position since 2003.

Erickson also provided the leadership and technical insight to bring the University Electric Distribution project to a successful end, according to Lyle D. Wachtel, associate vice president for the University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs. "Keith embraced the forward-looking concepts and established the personal ownership required to guarantee a successful outcome," Erickson also is an ambassador for the UI's 2008 Chancellor Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) awards event, which is scheduled for April 3 in the Illini Union Ballroom. Tickets for the event are free and available online. Details are available online at www.illinois.edu/CAPE. The event begins with a reception at 5 p.m. followed by the awards ceremony at 6 p.m. Banquet style dinner will be served at 6:30 p.m. with the event concluding at 8 p.m.

Keith Erickson, manager of utility distribution in the University Office for Facilities Planning and Programs

Robin Neal Kaler, associate chancellor of public affairs

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April 3, 2008
InsideIllinois

CAPEX, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

campus. He lectures to groups of engineers visiting the campus and is involved with the mechanisms that are used by the National

department’s program for undergraduate stu-

in addition, he regularly hosts tours of students, none of whom are scientists and

the campus. His research focuses on numerical fluid dynamics. As the de-

Hazardous weather and a 500-level course

depend on Brian to advise students through

of storms, faculty members have come to

 turbulent thunderstorms to winter cyclones, fronts and atmo-

spheric gravity waves,” Rauber said.

Jewett also is a respected instructor. He has taught a 100-level course on severe and

variable workload to accommodate the talents of Jewett at its disposal,” said Gene Robinson,

as the classroom.

Robin Kaler, associate chancellor of public affairs, is dedicated to enhancing the

marketing, communications and public

headquarters. He also directs the utility infrastructure for classes on campus to help provide real-

world examples of what they are learning in

the classroom.

Robin leads by example and the UI is a better place because she is here,” Edwards said.

Karen Pruiett is one of the jewels of the

practical knowledge of applications and theory to our students,” said Karen Pruiett, tran-
Femtogram-level chemical measurements now possible

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

F

inding a simple and convenient technique that combines nano-scale structural measurements and chemical identification has been an elusive goal. With current analytical instruments, spatial resolution is too low, signal-to-noise ratio too poor, sample preparation too complex or sample size too large to be of good service.

Now, researchers at the UI have demonstrated a method for simultaneous structural and chemical characterization of samples at the femtogram level (a femtogram is one quadrillionth of a gram) and below.

The measurement technique combines the extraordinary resolution of atomic force microscopy and the excellent chemical identification of infrared spectroscopy.

“We demonstrated that imaging, extraction and chemical analysis of femtogram samples can be achieved using a heated cantilever probe in an atomic force microscope,” said William P. King, a Kritzer Faculty Scholar and professor of mechanical engineering.

King and colleagues describe the technique in a paper accepted for publication in the journal Analytical Chemistry, and posted on its Web site.

The new technique hinges upon a special silicon cantilever probe with an integrated heater-thermometer. The cantilever tip temperature can be precisely controlled over a temperature range of 25 to 1,000 degrees Celsius.

Using the cantilever probe, researchers can selectively image and extract a very small sample of the material to be analyzed. The mass of the sample can be determined by a cantilever resonance technique.

To analyze the sample, the heater temperature is raised to slightly above the melting point of the sample material. The material is then analyzed by complementary Raman or Fourier transform infrared spectroscopic imaging, which provides a molecular characterization of samples down to femtogram level in minutes.

“Fourier transform infrared and Raman spectroscopic imaging have become commonplace in the last five to ten years,” said Rohit Bhargava, a professor of bioengineering. “Our method combines atomic force microscopy with spectroscopic imaging to provide data that can be rapidly used for spectral analyses for exceptionally small sample sizes.”

To clean the tip for reuse, the tip is heated to well above the decomposition temperature of the sample—a technique similar to that used in self-cleaning ovens.

“Since the tip can be heated to 1,000 degrees Celsius, most organic materials can be readily vaporized and removed in this manner,” King said.

As a demonstration of the technique, the researchers scanned a piece of paraffin with their probe, and removed a sample for analysis. They then used Raman and Fourier transform infrared spectroscopy to chemically analyze the sample. After analysis, the paraffin was removed by thermal decomposition, allowing reuse of the probe.

“We anticipate this approach will help bridge the gap between nanoscale structural analysis and conventional molecular spectroscopy,” King said, “and in a manner widely useful to most analytical laboratories.”

With King and Bhargava, co-authors of the paper are lead author Keunhan Park and Jung Chul Lee, both postdoctoral research associates. All four researchers are affiliated with the university’s Beckman Institute.

The work was funded by the National Science Foundation through the Center for Nanoscale Chemical-Electrical-Mechanical Manufacturing Systems, and by the UI.

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Measurement technique Rohit Bhargava, professor of bioengineering, left; William King, professor of mechanical science and engineering, and Keunhan Park, postdoctoral research associate, have demonstrated a method for simultaneous structural and chemical characterization of samples at the femtogram level (a femtogram is one quadrillionth of a gram) and below.
Oil Prices, continued from Page 1

flaws,” Singer said. “It is piecemeal, thus leaky. Two: It is economically inefficient. Third: It is politically unpopular. This program would be caused by having a department of communication and a College of Communications on the same campus. However, he said there is no doubt that behavior like a department.” Micek, the permanent head, said that there would be “negative implications for the college and the university, and additional serious communication and budgetary concerns.”

The task force report, followed by the task force’s “In Review” report, initiated in part by an ad hoc campus committee to address the issues raised, as well as others within the college’s academic units, the latter to be moved from the College of Communications.

The Institute of Communications Research, open to researchers throughout the campus and beyond, is refocusing its efforts. According to Yates, the ICR had “drifted” in the past six years into “an island instruction that behaved like a department.” The institute is “an enormous brand around the world,” Yates said, and the college doesn’t want to do anything that will change that.

The college has moved from being a small college to be in receivership four years ago, and now it is in a position to broaden its impact on the world,” he said. The college agreed to change its name to better define itself, especially in a period of rapid change at the campus and even beyond, is refocusing its efforts. According to Yates, the ICR had “drifted” in the past six years into “an island institution that behaved like a department.” The institute is “an enormous brand around the world,” Yates said, and the college doesn’t want to do anything that will change that.

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New leader named for American Indian Studies Program

By Andrea Lynn
News Bureau Staff Writer

Robert Warrior, a scholar of Native American writing and intellectual history, will become the next director of the American Indian Studies Program and the Native American House at the UI.

Warrior, currently the Edith Kinney Gaylord Presidential Professor and professor of English at the University of Oklahoma at Norman, will begin his new duties in the fall semester, upon approval of the UI Board of Trustees.

Born in Kansas of an Osage Nation father, Warrior is the author or co-author of four books, including the most recent, “American Indian Literary Nationalism.” He has written dozens of published articles, essays and chapters. Warrior also has given more than 75 invited talks in the U.S. and in Canada, France, Germany, Guatemala, Malaysia, Mexico and Switzerland.

Before joining the faculty at Oklahoma in 2003, Warrior taught at Stanford and Cornell universities and at the Université de Blaise Pascal in France.

He earned a doctorate and a master of philosophy at the Union Theological Seminary in New York; a master’s in religion at Yale University’s Divinity School; and a bachelor’s degree, summa cum laude, in speech communication, from Pepperdine University in California.

Warrior will have a joint appointment with the English department. At AIS, he succeeds LeAnne Howe, who has served since August 2007, and who will continue as a professor of English and of American Indian studies at Illinois.

Warrior was chosen because “he is a leader in our field,” Howe said.

 Established in 1958, the university’s Master of Science in Finance program has been named a CFA Program Partner, joining 54 other degree programs worldwide that meet the prestigious financial institute’s professional and ethical standards.

The designation signals that the 50-year-old degree program on the Urbana campus is closely tied to professional practice and well-suited to prepare graduates for careers in the investment industry, said Bob Johnson, deputy CEO of CFA Institute.

“Students in this program are exposed to concepts and principles that have been identified by investment experts as essential to the global practice,” said Johnson, whose organization has more than 94,000 members in 133 countries.

Degree programs recognized as program partners cover at least 70 percent of the standards for investment professionals set down by CFA Institute, which officials say also prepares graduates for three levels of testing required to earn the sought-after Chartered Financial Analyst designation.

Fewer than one in five students who enroll in the testing program earn the CFA charter. Officials predict higher success rates for students who train at partner universities, with less time and effort.

“The CFA charter is highly valued not only due to its relevancy to the investment profession, but also due to the fact that the program of study upholds candidates and charter holders to the highest standards of ethics and professional conduct,” said George Pinteris, academic adviser for the UI Master of Science in Finance Program.

Established in 1958, the university’s degree program is among the longest running of its kind in the world, offering a curriculum that can be completed after 12 months of full-time study.

“We are honored to be part of the CFA Program,” said David Benberry, chair of the finance department in the UI College of Business. “The CFA designation is widely regarded as the most rigorous of professional finance qualifications, and is recognized globally as the pre-eminent professional program for those working in the investment industry.”

Ad removed for 
online version
Flask Index of Illinois economy dips slightly

A key indicator of the Illinois economy, the Flash Index fell to 103.4 after rising during the previous two months.

The Flash Index, which is the first barometer of the condition of Illinois' economy each month, was at 104.1 in February and 103.8 in January. The last time it was as low as 103.4 was February 2005, said economist J. Fred Giertz of the university's Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

The March reading suggests a slowing economy but not necessarily a recession, Giertz said. "The determination of a recession, either nationally or at the state level, is not based on any one month's results, but on the performance over several months," he said. "The next few months will determine whether the current situation is just a slow-down or a recession."

The Flash Index fell during the last half of 2007 from 106.8 in July to 103.6 in December before climbing back slightly in January and February. The index is constructed so that a reading of 100 marks the division between economic expansion and contraction.

In March, corporate and sales tax receipts in Illinois were up slightly in real terms compared to the same month a year ago, while individual income tax receipts were down somewhat. With the April 15 filing deadline approaching, individual income tax receipts may be influenced by 2007 capital gains of zoology. Prior to that, prior 2007 retirement, has been largely dissipated by the recent stock market downturn but have not shown up yet in calculations.

The UI Flash Index is a weighted average of Illinois growth rates in corporate earnings, consumer spending and personal income. Tax receipts from corporate income, personal income and retail sales are adjusted for inflation before growth rates are calculated. The growth rate for each component is then calculated for the 12-month period using data through March 31.

Raymond Brewer, 79, died March 26 at his Champaign home. He worked in the department of aeronautical and astronautical engineering as an instrument maker, retiring in 1980 after more than 48 years of service. Memorials: Shriners Hospitals for Children, 200 S. Lindbergh Blvd., St. Louis, MO 63111-3907.

Fred Hancock, 65, died March 28 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. He was a graphic designer and worked in the Office for Planning and Budgeting for 30 years, retiring in 1998. Memorials: Fairmount and Jamaica Historical Society in care of Robert Parker, English; and Debbie Reese, AIS.

Gene Christian, 77, died March 17 at his home in Philo. He retired in 1997 after 16 years as a sheet metal worker in Facilities and Services. Memorials: St. Thomas Catholic Church, Philo.

Dorothy Marie Holloway, 95, died March 19 in Champaign. She worked as a kitchen helper in the Housing Division for 20 years, retiring in 1978. Memorials: Carle Hospital.

Kenneth Kinnamon, 75, died March 18 at Fayetteville Health and Rehabilitation Center in Fayetteville, Ark. He was head of the UI English department from 1965-1982. Memorials: UI Chapel.


Glen C. Sanderson, 85, died March 22 in Champaign. He joined the Illinois Natural History Survey in 1955 and was professor of zoology. Prior to that, prior 1991 retirement, has been largely dissipated by the recent stock market downturn but have not shown up yet in calculations.

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Research fails to support success claims of charter schools

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

The case for charter schools, by all appearances, has been made with politicians and the public. Forty states now have them, their numbers are rapidly increasing, and they now serve more than a million students.

The research on which that case has been made, however — on issues from student achievement to equity and integration — is limited, often overstated, often based on suspect methodology, and largely outside the normal system of academic peer review, says Christopher Lubienski, an education professor at UI.

“Serious researchers do not cite most of these studies,” Lubienski said. The well-funded promotion of them, mostly by advocacy-based think tanks and centers, he said, represents a significant departure from the way research has been conducted, vetted and communicated to the public.

Lubienski’s comments are based on a paper, “The Political Economy of School Choice Research,” that he presented March 26 at the American Educational Research Association conference in New York. His co-authors are graduate students Peter Weitzel and Justin York. Lubienski also is a fellow in the UI College of Education’s Forum on the Future of Public Education.

“Privately funded think tanks are rapidly eclipsing independent university researchers in shaping the thinking around this issue, producing attractive Web sites, conferences and publications designed for the media and the policy community,” the authors wrote. “The quality of research may matter less than the strength of an institution’s brand or the efficacy of its promotional campaign.”

“I think that we’re kind of leaving the field to a lot of advocates who are basing their claims on pretty shoddy research,” Lubienski said.

“There’s not really an interest in finding the truth. It’s a matter of promoting a particular agenda.”

Arguments for school choice, involving both charter schools and voucher programs, have been advanced along several lines, the authors wrote. They have been sold as a means for disadvantaged students to escape bad schools and find better ones, as a way to force changes in the organizational behavior of schools, and as a means for increasing academic achievement.

In the era of No Child Left Behind, however, “academic achievement is now the predominant consideration,” the authors said. And on that score, based on their review of the research, the results have been “mixed, at best.”

If holding to a standard of independent peer review, “the research supporting school choice in the U.S. based on academic outcomes is rather thin indeed,” they said. “When examining research that has met the highest standards of academic review, the research basis for academic effectiveness stemming from school choice is still tenuous, at best.”

“The only peer-reviewed studies on achievement in charter schools suggests that there’s little effect, and perhaps negative effect,” Lubienski said.

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“Such a heavy emphasis on achievement kind of washes out some of these other things,” such as attempts to use charters to target disadvantaged students or to integrate schools, Lubienski said.

To illustrate, he uses the example of college sports. Coaches know that it’s easier to recruit better players than to try to bring lesser players up to the same level. In the same way, educators know it is often easier to recruit better students than to produce them, he said. With pressure to produce achievement, charter schools feel pressure to give up on marginal students or to market themselves to more-advantaged groups.

“The initial optimism (in the promotion of school choice) was that we could do just this one application of a market mechanism to education and then we’ll get this flow- ers’ Tears’ view of the research, the results have been

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Insects take bigger bite out of plants in higher CO₂ atmosphere

By Diana Yates

News Bureau Staff Writer

Atmospheric carbon dioxide levels are rising at an alarming rate, and new research indicates that soybean plant defenses go down as CO₂ goes up. Elevated CO₂ impairs a key component of the plant’s defenses against leaf-eating insects, according to the report.

The UI study appeared online in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Deforestation and the burning of fossil fuels have significantly increased carbon dioxide levels since the late 18th century, said plant biology professor and department head Evan DeLucia, an author of the study.

“Currently, CO₂ in the atmosphere is about 380 parts per million,” DeLucia said. “At the beginning of the Industrial Revolution it was 280 parts per million, and it had been there for at least 600,000 years — probably several million years before that.”

Current predictions are that atmospheric carbon dioxide will reach 550 parts per million by the year 2050, DeLucia said, and the rapid industrialization of India and China may even accelerate that timetable.

The new study, led by entomology professor and department head May Berenbaum, used the Soybean Free Air Concentration Enrichment (Soy FACE) facility at Illinois. This open-air research lab can expose the plants in a soybean field to a variety of atmospheric CO2 and ozone levels — without isolating the plants from other environmental influences, such as rainfall, sunlight and insects.

High atmospheric carbon dioxide is known to accelerate the rate of photosynthesis. It also increases the proportion of carbohydrates relative to nitrogen in plant leaves.

The researchers wanted to know how this altered carbon-to-nitrogen ratio affected the insects that fed on the plants. They predicted the insects would eat more leaves to meet their nitrogen needs.

When they exposed the soybean field to elevated carbon dioxide levels, the researchers saw the expected effect: Soybeans in the test plot exhibited more signs of insect damage than those in nearby plots.

A closer inspection showed that soybeans grown at elevated CO₂ levels attracted many more adult Japanese beetles, Western corn rootworms and, during outbreaks of Asian soybean aphids, more of these than soybeans in other plots.

Caterpillars and other insect larvae need nitrogen to grow and build new tissues, but adult insects can survive and reproduce on a high carbohydrate diet. So it made sense that more adults would migrate to the high CO₂ plants, DeLucia said.

But did the higher sugar levels in the leaves explain the whole effect? To find the answer, the team...
CARBON DIOXIDE, From Page 11

allowed beetles to feed and live out their lives in one of three conditions: on a high CO2 plant, on a low CO2 plant outside the Soy FACE plot, or on a low CO2 plant grown outside the test plot but which had its sugar content artificially boosted.

"What we discovered was startling," Delucia said. The beetles on the high CO2 soybean plants lived longer, and as a result produced more offspring, than those living outside the Soy FACE plot. Even those fed a supplemental diet of sugars did not see their life span extended.

"So here we were thinking that sugars were the main thing causing the beetles to feed more on these high CO2 leaves," Delucia said. "And that still may be true, but sugars aren’t what’s causing them to live longer and have more breeding events and offspring."

The team turned its attention to the hormonal signaling pathways of the plants, focusing on a key defensive chemical that the plants produced to ward off an insect attack. When insects eat their leaves, soybeans and other plants produce a hormone — jasmonic acid — that starts a chain of chemical reactions in the leaves that boost their defenses. Normally, this cascade leads to the production of high levels of a compound called a protease inhibitor. When the insects ingest this enzyme, it inhibits their ability to digest the leaves.

"What we discovered is that leaves grown under high CO2 lose their ability to produce jasmonic acid, and that whole defense pathway is shut down," Delucia said. "The leaves are no longer adequately defended."

The higher carbohydrate content of the leaves and the lack of chemical defenses allowed the adult insects to feast and live longer and produce more offspring.

"This study demonstrates that global environmental change is multifaceted," Berenbaum said. "The impact of elevated carbon dioxide on crippling the capacity of the plant to respond to insect damage is exacerbated by the presence of invasive insect pests in soybean fields. The Japanese beetle, as the name suggests, is a relatively recent arrival in Illinois soybean fields. It is causing considerable damage now, but this study suggests that its ability to inflict damage will only increase over time."

The researchers, both of whom also are affiliated with the university’s Institute for Genomic Biology, will now seek to determine whether the same process occurs in other plants.

Embracing the Internet

If professor Michael Cheney predicts the 2008 tradition-busting race will cement the social networking power of the Internet into the pavement of future campaign trails.

“"In 10 years, how many of your voters are still going to be alive? This is a guy who is bringing out a whole new generation and you need to tap into it."" Cheney said.

"But Cheney says candidates have to be willing to pay a price to reap the political benefits of social media. The online strategy only works, he said, if candidates are willing to give up the traditional top-down method of controlling their message, letting supporters craft their own and giving them a stake in the process.

"One of the things that has been percolating is that a lot of folks are disenfranchised with Washington and feel shut out, which explains the rise of things like political blogs. Obama has really energized a large portion of the voting public who felt closed out of the process — that there was nothing they could do to make a difference," Cheney said.

"Obama's campaign is built from the bottom up, not the top down," he said. "The issues percolate and his campaign is always on the lookout for new issues that rise from the online constituencies. That gets more people involved and expands the Democrats' usual core issues of health care, employment, education and Social Security."

He says some candidates, including Clinton and presumptive Republican presidential nominee John McCain, likely will feel uneasy about relinquishing control over their message to rank-and-file supporters. But he says the disenfranchised voters who have embraced Obama's campaign, particularly younger voters, should sway them.

"If they're looking for a long career in politics, they'll take notice," Cheney said. "While Obama is bringing out this large cohort of younger voters, what about your voters, Mr. Senator?"
‘Superdense’ coding gets more dense

By James E. Kloeppel
News Bureau Staff Writer

The record for the most amount of information sent by a single photon has been broken by researchers at the UI. Using the direction of “wiggling” and “twisting” of a pair of hyper-entangled photons, they have beaten a fundamental limit on the channel capacity for dense coding with linear optics.

“Dense coding is arguably the protocol that launched the field of quantum communication,” said Paul Kwiat, a John Bardeen Professor of Physics and Electrical and Computer Engineering. “Today, however, more than a decade after its initial experimental realization, channel capacity has remained fundamentally limited as conceived for photons using conventional linear elements.”

In classical coding, a single photon will convey only one of two messages, or one bit of information. In dense coding, a single photon can convey one of four messages, or two bits of information.

“Dense coding is possible because the properties of photons can be linked to one another through a peculiar process called quantum entanglement,” Kwiat said. “This bizarre coupling can link two photons, even if they are located on opposite sides of the galaxy.”

Using linear elements, however, the standard protocol is fundamentally limited to convey only one of three messages, or 1.58 bits. The new experiment surpasses that threshold by employing pairs of photons entangled in more than one way (hyper-entangled). As a result, additional information can be sent and correctly decoded to achieve the full power of dense coding.

Kwiat, graduate student Julio Barreiro and postdoctoral researcher Tzu-Chieh Wei (now at the University of Waterloo) describe their recent experiment in a paper accepted for publication in the journal Nature Physics, and posted on its Web site.

Through the process of spontaneous parametric down conversion in a pair of nonlinear crystals, the researchers first produce pairs of photons simultaneously entangled in polarization, or “wiggling” direction, and in orbital angular momentum, or “twisting” direction. They then encode a message in the polarization state by applying birefringent phase shifts with a pair of liquid crystals.

“While hyper-entanglement in spin and orbital angular momentum enables the transmission of two bits with a single photon,” Barreiro said, “atmospheric turbulence can cause some of the quantum states to easily decohere, thus limiting their likely communication application to satellite-to-satellite transmissions.”
Oscar-winning alumnus Ang Lee, ‘Sopranos’ stars to be guests at 10th EbertFest
By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

Oscar-winning director and UI alumnus Ang Lee will be among the featured guests for the 10th annual Roger Ebert’s Film Festival, otherwise known as EbertFest. The festival takes place April 23-27 at the UI campus.

Other guests scheduled to attend include 10 other directors of their films, as well as an actor of the film Pan’s Labyrinth. The actor, Fernando Alonso, will attend the premiere of his film, “The Children,” at the festival.

Other films on the schedule include “The Hurt Locker,” starring Keira Knightley and Chiwetel Ejiofor; “The King’s Speech,” starring Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter; “The Social Network,” starring Jesse Eisenberg and Andrew Garfield; and “The King’s Speech,” starring Colin Firth and Helena Bonham Carter.

The festival also includes a screening of “American Beauty,” directed by Sam Mendes, and starring Kevin Spacey and Annette Bening.

The festival takes place at the UI campus and is free to attend. It is sponsored by the Department of Communications and the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

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Marketing symposium is April 17-19

Five pioneers will be honored for their contributions to the field of marketing during an international symposium April 17-19 at the UI.

The Paul D. Converse Symposium is held every four years, presenting achievement awards that constitute a “Marketing Hall of Fame,” according to Fortune magazine. The purpose of the symposium is to worship the craft and the center of American Marketing Association sponsors the event.

Wines will be honored:

1. Joe Alba, chairman of the marketing department at the University of Florida, an authority in retail marketing;
2. Len Barry, a marketing professor at Texas A&M who studies how customer experience, and
3. Kent Monroe, a visiting professor of marketing at the University of Richmond and a former UI marketing professor.

Rajan Varadarajan, a marketing professor at Texas A&M who specializes in services marketing.

Wines also will be presented programs and answer questions from 9:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. April 18 and from 10 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. April 19 at Wohlers Hall. Presentations are open to the public, but seating is limited. Honorees will receive their awards during a dinner April 19 at the Levis Center.

“The symposium is our chance to showcase the best and the brightest in the field,” said Dale Oтов, co-chair of this year’s symposium along with UI marketing professor Bill Qualls. “We’ve have five of the world’s greatest marketing minds, campus and that’s great exposure for our faculty and students.”

For the first time, the symposium also will host students seeking doctoral degrees in marketing from other Big Ten universities, expanding exposure to the award winners, Otô said.

The American Marketing Association established the symposium in honor of Converse, a former UI business professor who was a pioneer in developing the field of marketing. The UI College of Business is the permanent host for the symposium.

Campus Recreation

Event teaches women how to live ‘well’

Want to learn to live “well,” but would like to learn more? The LifeStudio is a place you can learn about wellness and then find ways to implement the activities into your healthy lifestyle.

The next event is “Stress Management & Women’s Hormones,” with Dr. Jeffery Melby from 1:30-2:30 p.m. April 19 in the Multipurpose Room 1 at Campus Recreation Center East.

Register at CRC.E Member Services or call 244-3440. The event is free for students and campus recreation members.

“Exhibitionism at its Best”

Workshop shows how to design exhibits

Pat Miller, executive director of the Illinois Heritage Association and adjunct lecturer in the department of urban and regional planning, and Christa Deacy-Quinn, a Curator’s Manager at the University of North Carolina and a pioneer in services marketing.

The open house includes more than 300 veterinary students at the UI College of Veterinary Medicine will host “Exhibitionism at its Best: How to Design A Great Exhibit.”

The session, designed to teach how to design attention-grabbing exhibits, will include selecting a main theme and sub-themes, design concepts and text for labels; copyright issues; and environmental and security concerns. To illustrate these concepts, a “dummy exhibit” will be construct-
ed. Examples of exhibits “and other equipment available for use in the Main Library’s exhibit cases also will be shared. The session is from 1-3 p.m. April 10 in the Grainger Commons in the Grainger Engineering Library.

The workshop, organized by the University Library’s Exhibit Committee, is open to all university staff members. Registration is available online at www.lib.uiuc.edu/og/showexhibit.

For more information, contact Annette Morris at 244-5276 or morrisa@uiuc.edu.

Campus Recreation

Taste of Campus Recreation is April 11

The first Taste of Campus Recreation will be April 11.

The event will feature the chance to win other great prizes. Events will include a free yoga class, wellness check-ups, martial arts demonstrations, a pool party, and a demonstration of the Nike+ iPod. For a complete schedule of events, visit www.cam-
purec.uiuc.edu.

African-American history makers

‘Agents of Change’ opens April 7

“African-American History Makers: Agents of Change,” an exhibit produced by the UI and The History Makers, will be installed in the Illini Union South Lounge on April 7 and will run through the end of the semester. An opening reception will be held at 2 p.m. April 17, also in the South Lounge.

The HistoryMakers represents the single largest archi-
val project of its kind in the world and is unique among other collections of African American heritage, because of its massive scope. The organization is committed to pre-

The behind-the-scenes open house debut this year.

The College of Veterinary Medicine will host the college’s annual open house from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 4.

The behind-the-scene look at the state’s only vet-

Open house provides information about veterinary care and admits students to veterinary school. While many people associate veterinary medicine with routine health care for dogs and cats, the profession offers a wide range of career options.

Activities of the veterinary medical profession ben-
ed every person in the state, either directly — by provid-
ing care to companion animals and livestock — or indi-
rectly — through work in medical research, public health, food safety, disease surveillance, environmental health promotion and many other areas.

The open house includes more than 50 exhibits and demonstrations for all ages. The focus is on the art and science of veterinary medicine and animal-related areas, including demonstrations of dogs on the rehab program’s under-water treadmill, obedience and police dog demonstrations;

More than 300 veterinary students at the UI College of Veterinary Medicine will host the college’s annual open house from 9 a.m.-4 p.m. May 4.

The behind-the-scene look at the state’s only veterinary college and admission to veterinary school. While many people associate veterinary medicine with routine health care for dogs and cats, the profession offers a wide range of career options.

Activities of the veterinary medical profession benefit every person in the state, either directly — by providing care to companion animals and livestock — or indirectly — through work in medical research, public health, food safety, disease surveillance, environmental health promotion and many other areas.

The open house includes more than 50 exhibits and demonstrations for all ages. The focus is on the art and science of veterinary medicine and animal-related areas, including demonstrations of dogs on the rehab program’s under-water treadmill, obedience and police dog demonstrations; wildlife Medical Clinic demonstrations; and exhibits from area breed rescue clubs.

Additionally, the college’s veterinary heritage collection will make its open house debut this year. The College of Veterinary Medicine and the Illinois State Veterinary Medical Association opened the Dr. Debra Vaughn/ISVMA Veterinary Heritage Collection in October. The state of Illinois played a significant role in the national development of the veterinary profession. The collection includes more than 200 cabinets featuring artifacts from the beginning days of the veterinary profession. These items explain the societal forces that led to the closure of two prominent veterinary colleges in Chicago at the start of the 20th century.
Up close: Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey presents BOO! A RING, its circus spectacular at the UI Assembly Hall, April 19-20. Circus-goers will enjoy an up-close and personal experience as they watch white tigers, Asian elephants and acrobats from around the world. Tickets are available at www.Ringling.com or at 351-2626 or at the Assembly Hall box office. Among the featured performers is Vieraes Pages, one of the world’s youngest performing tiger trainers.

1 Friday
“Do the Rules Come From?” Thomas R. Geballe, University of California, San Diego. 4 p.m. IPRH Center for Advanced Bioenergy Research.

2 Friday
“From the Bench to the Back 40: Energy Considerations.” Conor Henderson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 4 p.m. 144 Loomis Lab.

3 Friday

4 Friday
“Evolutionary Ecology of Viruses.” Daniel Perez, Virgin-Gene. 4 p.m. 144 Loomis Lab.

5 Friday
“Gender and Computing: The Threads of Learning and Democracy in Classroom Buildings: A Communitywide Initiative.” Richard Losick, Harvard University. 4 p.m. 141 Loomis Laboratory of Physics.

6 Saturday

7 Sunday
“Gender and Computing: The Threads of Learning and Democracy in Classroom Buildings: A Communitywide Initiative.” Richard Losick, Harvard University. 4 p.m. 141 Loomis Laboratory of Physics.

8 Monday

9 Monday

10 Monday
“From the Bench to the Back 40: Energy Considerations.” Conor Henderson, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. 4 p.m. 144 Loomis Lab.

11 Monday

12 Monday

13 Monday

14 Monday
“The Size of Health Selection Effects.” Satoshi Fuchimoto, University of California, Los Angeles. 4 p.m. 336 Lincoln Hall. Society for Genomics and Bioinformatics.

15 Monday

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British Brass Band and UI Indian dance style of bharata Saturday 19: Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Nick Wolny, trumpet. 7:30 p.m. Music Auditorium.


Monday 21: Aniruddha Knight and Douglass Knight, 1 p.m. Noon, Bruce Nesbit, African American Cultural Center. A political and social commentary on the American experience.


Wednesday 24: "Designing a Special Collection: American Curators Talk About World-Class Collections." 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Foreign Languages Building. Conference on Romance Languages.

Thursday 25: "Designing a Special Collection: American Curators Talk About World-Class Collections." 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Foreign Languages Building. Conference on Romance Languages.

Friday 26: "Designing a Special Collection: American Curators Talk About World-Class Collections." 5 p.m.-6:30 p.m. Foreign Languages Building. Conference on Romance Languages.

Saturday 27: "Becoming a Historian" 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Krannert Art Museum. Conference on History.


CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

March 30-31. Krannert Art Museum. "Q’eqch’iel Maya Weavings." Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

April 1-22. Krannert Art Museum. "Latino Artists." Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

April 2-30. Krannert Art Museum. "Narrative American Art Work." Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Thursday; 9 a.m.-10 p.m. Friday and 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Sunday.

April 3, 2008

InsideIllinois

more calendar of events

EVENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20 and Caribbean Studies and Spurlock Museum, Mux has sought to raise awareness of the Maya language, culture and health-care issues.

One of her weavingas – a shirt with brilliantly col-

ored flowers – was commissioned by the Spurlock Mu-

seum and is featured in the exhibit "Q’eqch’iel Maya Weavings," in the museum’s Campbell Lobby. The exhibit, on display through June 8, also fea-

tures two other examples of woven Maya textiles representing two other villages from Guatemala’s Q’eqch’iel-

speaking region.

Several other events are planned in conjunction with Mux’s visit – on campus and in the community – in April. They include lectures as well as public weaving demonstrations at Spurlock from 10 a.m.-noon and 1:30-3:30 p.m. on April 12, and 10 a.m.-noon on April 19.
Events feature Latino-American films, Latino art and culture

A variety of campus arts-related activities planned this month will focus attention on the culture and cultural identities of Latinos as well as on people living in various Latin American countries.

Among the events opening April 4 is the second annual Latin American Film Festival, organized by the Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies with collaboration and support from Boardman’s Art Theater in downtown Champaign. The festival kicks off at 7:30 p.m. at the theater with a screening of “The Violin.” The 2006 Mexican film, directed by Francisco Vargas, chronicles the activities of humble farmer-musicians who surreptitiously support a homegrown guerrilla movement. Also showing later that evening, at 9:45, is “Cocalero,” a 2007 documentary on the grassroots campaign of Bolivian president Evo Morales that is the directorial debut of Evo Morales that is the directorial debut of Argentine film-maker Fabián Bielinsky, who died in 2006; “Alice’s House,” a 2007 film about domestic drama by Brazilian director Chico Teixeira; and “Madeinusa,” Peruvian director Claudia Llosa’s depiction of how life in a remote mountain village suddenly changes with the arrival of an outsider.

All of the films have been awarded prestigious national and international prizes and have never been shown in commercial movie theaters locally, said festival coordinator Angelina Cotler, associate director of the UI center.

Cotler said the festival was designed “with the goal of strengthening and disseminating knowledge of the cultural diversity and creativity of the Latin American region.”

Also opening April 4 at 7 p.m. is the exhibition “Landscapes of Experience and Imagination: Explorations by Midwest Latina/Latino Artists” at Krannert Art Museum. The exhibition, initiated by Lambda Theta Psi Fraternidad Latina Incorporada and UI art history professor Oscar Vazquez as a response to culturally insensitive fraternity-sorority parties that have occurred on campus in the past, features art by a group of mostly Chicago-based artists: Miguel Cortez, Gisela Insausti, Paul Sierra, Edra Soto and Gabriel Villa. Also exhibiting is UI anthropology professor Alejandro Lago. Works on view explore perspectives of the immigrant and non-immigrant experience in an effort to understand underlying cultural issues, and focus on themes ranging from family separation resulting from migration to personal identity crises.

The exhibition is organized by the museum’s visiting curator Judith Hoos Fox. Said Fox: “This is work that is about living in the world today.”

An opening reception for the exhibition will take place in conjunction with the museum’s “Son of ARTzilla” late-night party from 7-11 p.m. The reception and party will feature food and performances by the UI Latin Jazz Ensemble and Miami-based artist Kiki Valdes, known for his ability to draw inspiration from live music and transform it into art on the spot.

The “Landscapes” exhibition will be on view at the museum through July 27. Continuing on campus in the past, features art by a group of mostly Chicago-based artists: Miguel Cortez, Gisela Insausti, Paul Sierra, Edra Soto and Gabriel Villa. Also exhibiting is UI anthropology professor Alejandro Lago. Works on view explore perspectives of the immigrant and non-immigrant experience in an effort to understand underlying cultural issues, and focus on themes ranging from family separation resulting from migration to personal identity crises.

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