Campus looks to alternative vehicles and fuels

By Shalita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The Garage and Car Pool in Facilities and Services dispenses 300,000 gallons of unleaded gasoline and 100,000 gallons of diesel fuel each year for the 216 passenger vehicles and 308 service vehicles in the campus fleets as well as hundreds of departmentally owned vehicles and equipment. With gas and diesel prices hovering around $4 a gallon — and predicted to hit the $5 or $6 mark by the end of the calendar year — fuel economy has become a vital concern.

“I’ve been involved in this operation since 1992 or 1993, and we’ve never actual cost of gas before,” said Pete Varney, associate director of the Garage and Car Pool. “No one really cared. We just put out our fuel prices because we’ve had so many questions.”

Retail fuel prices escalated so dramatically during May that the Car Pool had to increase its fuel surcharges to units using the vehicles by 2 cents per gallon for sedans and 3 cents per gallon for larger vehicles. The fuel surcharges are adjusted monthly based on the average retail price for fuel during the prior month.

But even before gas prices soared this spring, the Garage and Car Pool was exploring fuel-efficient and eco-friendly vehicles.

Two e-ride utility trucks recently were added to the service fleet. Powered by nine eight-volt batteries, the all-electric trucks produce none of the ozone-depleting emissions of gas-powered trucks and don’t require hazardous chemicals such as antifreeze, oil and other liquids.

All-electric vehicles aren’t a new concept for the Car Pool, which has had eight Global Electric Motorcars — or GEMs — in its fleet since 2004. However, the e-ride trucks are designed specifically for utility tasks, which the GEMs are not, and can haul about 2,000 pounds of cargo.

For the past few months, Campus Mail, the Paint Shop, the Locksmith Shop and several other units have been testing driving eight Mini Trucks from several different manufacturers to gauge their suitability and durability as service vehicles. Although the Mini Trucks are geared for utility work, they have smaller engines than full-size utility trucks and offer better fuel economy. Some of them are getting gas mileage in the 20-30 miles per gallon range, Varney said. “It’s a dramatic improvement over large service vehicles that may only get 8 mpg in stop-and-go traffic.”

Like the GEMs, the e-ride trucks and Mini Trucks have a top speed of 25 mph, which, coincidentally, is the speed limit in the University District.

While the GEMs and the Mini Trucks are regulation circa June, not all vehicles in the campus fleets can be downsized, since some operations require heavy-duty vehicles that can transport farm equipment or construction materials, for example.

The Car Pool ordered three Ford Escape hybrid sport utility vehicles in late November. Varney expects them to arrive in late August or early September. Additionally, the campus recently issued a request for proposals to purchase 24 hybrid sedans for the passenger fleet. But with rising gas prices sparking an unprecedented demand for hybrid vehicles among consumers, auto manufacturers may have less incentive to sell their hybrids to the university, Varney said.

Some vehicles in the campus fleet have been switched to E85, a biofuel composed of 85 percent ethanol and 15 percent unleaded gas, to compare the performance and cost-effectiveness of E85 powered vehicles and gas-powered vehicles. With prices for E85 ranging up to 37 percent less than gas nationally now, the cost differential is enough for FUEL ECONOMY.

Parkinson rates to be salary-based

By Shalita Forrest
Assistant Editor

A base-bay-based parking rate sys-
tem will begin July 1. The new rate structure will be calculated on 0.7 percent of each permit holder’s annual base salar-

ary. The system also caps rates at a maxi-
mum of $40 per month for FY2009.

The new rate structure is in accordance with a ruling by the Illinois Supreme Court that parking fees constitute terms and conditions of employment and there-

fore are subject to collective bargaining.

Parking fees for represented employees — whose union contracts have not come up for re-negotiation since the court’s ruling — will remain at the FY08 rate of $35-58 per month, as required by Illinois public sector labor law.

Rates for part-time employees will be based on 0.7 percent of their full-time-equivalent base salary. The salary-based rates will not apply to evening permits and hangtags for the shuttle lot.

The new rate system will be extended to all non-represented employees — fac-
ulty members, academic professionals and open-range civil service employees — on campus as well in accordance with a decision by Chancellor Richard Herman and Provost Linda Katehi.

“It is a totally new way of structuring the way we charge for parking,” said Michelle Winters, director of parking, in an announcement about the change. “The positive thing to remember is that the new rate structure will result in a monthly cost decrease for many employees, and for those in the minority who will see an SST PARKING, Page 2

Inside Illinois
F O R  F A C U L T Y  a n d  S t a f f ,  U n i v e r s i t y  o f  I l l i n o i s  a t  U r b a n a - C h a m p a g n e

Vol. 27, No. 22

Hands in a UI agriculture expert.

Field planted after June 20 may see yields cut in half

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

A costly deadline looms for many growers in the Midwest, as every “honest day of waiting for the weather to cooperate to plant corn and soy-
beans reduces potential yields. Research in-
dicates that Illinois growers who plant corn or soybeans too late by just one week could see a 50 percent reduction in crop yield, accord-
ing to a UI agriculture expert.

In Illinois, 95 percent of the corn is plant-
ed and 88 percent has emerged, but less than half of that is reported to be in good or excellent condition.

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ed and 88 percent has emerged, but less than half of that is reported to be in good or excellent condition. Fully 14 percent of the acres still are in poor or very poor con-

The speed limit in the University District.

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ed and 88 percent has emerged, but less than half of that is reported to be in good or excellent condition.
Paula Allen-Meares named chancellor of UIC

Paula Allen-Meares, dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan, has been selected as the next chancellor of UIC, pending for- mal approval. Allen-Meares will take office Jan. 16, and would assume the helm of a UIC cam- pus that ranks 47th nationally in federally funded research, enrollment of graduate and professional students, and is the largest university in Chicago.

"Paula Allen-Meares is a high-qualification, high-achieving leader, who for 15 years has kept a professional school of a leading uni- versity at the very top of the national rank- ings," said UI President B. Josephboard.

"The search committee described Paula as a role model for the UIC community, an aca- demic leader and highly productive scholar in her profession. She is personally involved in vital areas of development as a great urban research university."

Allen-Meares has been dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Michigan since 1993 and is the Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work as well as a professor of education at the university. Prior to joining the University of Michigan, Allen-Meares was a profes- sor at the School of Social Work at the UI’s Urbana campus, where she re- ceived her master’s and doctoral degrees. Her bachelor’s degree was earned at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

"The mission of the University of Illi- nos at Chicago reflects my strong beliefs: to create knowledge that transforms our world and, through sharing views of the world and, through sharing and application, transforms the world. For this reason, I am looking forward to taking on the role of the next chancellor at UIC," Allen-Meares said.

The board will act on Allen-Meares’ nomination as UIC chancellor at its sched- uled July 24 meeting. In addition to the UIC chancellorship, Allen-Meares would hold a faculty appointment in social work and edu- cation at the UIC and Urbana campuses. Allen-Meares said UIC’s role as a healthcare provider and leading educator of health-care professionals and the cam- pus’s Great Cities Commitment of engage- ment with the Chicago community are areas of utmost interest with her research and scholarship. Her interest and expertise focus on social work education and related to educational settings and adolescents.

Iyer chosen as vice chancellor for research

Ravi Iyer, the George and Ann Fisher Distinguished Pro- fessor and director of the Coordinated Science Laboratory, has been chosen to serve as interim vice chan- cellor for research beginning in August. The position includes a two-year term and is subject to the approval of the UI Board of Trustees.

"Ravi is also well known for his leader- ship skills and I am delighted to have him serve in this capacity as part of the campus leadership team," said Chancellor Richard Herman. "CSL is char- acterized by its outreach across campus and the promotion of many multi-disciplinary projects. It is a university. Our research will benefit the community." Iyer, who has served as CSL director since 2000, is a professor in the department of electrical and computer engineering.

A solution, Lawless says, is establishing rules that would require justices to lean to- wards consumers rather than business when interpreting ambiguous statutes dealing with credit, bankruptcy and other financial matters.

"Rules that tip statutory ambiguities in one direction or another are hardly unpre- dicted," Lawless said in his written testi- mony. "Our audience is still a specialized au- dience of persons who are particularly in- terested in the financial services issues we discuss." Lawless said in his written testi- mony. "On a good day, we reach a few thousand, while news coverage on the hot button social issues that reach the Supreme Court will reach millions."

The delay will not affect employees’ current parking permits. Parking Department parking policy requires that employees who do not have current permits but want to buy FY09 permits should check the parking department’s Web site regularly. If the implementation of the new system, it is recommended that employees pay by payroll deduction rather than by cash. To sign up or come to the parking depart- ment.

He also says consumers can help by paying the closer attention to the rules of the Supreme Court that could affect their every- day lives, such as a landmark ruling that lets national lenders charge credit card interest rates higher than states allow.

"Awareness of the dry, often-complex fi- nancial issues has improved as a result of the Internet, but still there is still much left to be done," Lawless said in his written testi- mony. "On a good day, we reach a few thousand, while news coverage on the hot button social issues which reach the Supreme Court will reach millions."

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Peace loving by craig chamberlain, news bureau

realty tv provides a self-help education

james hay

many things have been said about reality tv--the "educational" has rarely been among them.

yet when we realize it or not, shows from "survivor" to "the apprentice" to the more-recent "oprah's big give" are imparting lessons for an age of scaled-down and reinvented government, says ui professor and author james hay.

"increasingly, we are expected to shoulder the responsibility for our own welfare," he says. "reality tv plays a role in empowering us for self-help and self-empowerment. the reinforcement of television has intersected with the reinforcement of government that has taken place, in different forms, over the past two presidencies, he said."

exploring that intersection and its implications is the task of "better living through reality tv," a recent book co-written by hay, a professor in ui's institute of communications research, and laurie ouelllette, a professor of communication studies at the university of minnesota.

"at a time when privatization, personal responsibility, and consumer choice are promoted as the best way to govern liberal democracies, reality tv shows us how to conduct and 'empower' ourselves as enterprising citizens," the authors write. it has become "the quintessential technology of advanced or 'neo' liberal citizenship," they note.

"they need to be aware that reality tv programs directed at self-help or self-empowerment in almost every aspect of life; whether it's success at work, in finding a mate, in transforming our bodies, in managing our homes, in self-government, in seeking charity or other assistance. it is a sign of the times that, in the ab

on the job linda friedemann

"sports fans that don't recognize linda friedemann's face may recognize her voice. i have the reputation of being fairly loud in the stands at ballgames," friedemann said. "i'm one of those moms that makes sure that the officials are calling the game correctly." and just what she was doing when she wasn't cheering the unity rockets sports teams on to victory, friedemann is a secretary at the career center, helping aspiring doctors, lawyers, dentists and other students achieve their goals by coordinating their letters of recommendation for professional schools.

friedemann began her career with the ui as extra staff secretary in 1978 and was hired as a full-time, regular employee shortly thereafter.

tell me about your job."

"i'm primarily responsible for the letters of evaluation online system, which contains letters of recommendation for students applying to graduate and professional schools.

the led system helps simplify the application process for students and the faculty members. the typical medical student applies to five to 30 medical schools. if they didn't use the led system, the student would have to contact each of their evaluators and submit them to each of their evaluators. with the led system, they create one form for their evaluators to fill out. more and more students are using this because they're being inundated with recommendations.

how many evaluation forms do you process during an academic year?"

"thousands. we probably have 3,000 students in our database. summertime is my peak time because all the pre-health students are going through the application process. there are times when i'll have 500 packets a day going out by ups. we send everything by ups to the schools. the student is mailed a ups tracking number so they can track their letters of tracking and check to see when they were delivered and to whom."

"what is the led software developed here at illinois?"

"my associate director, karen furnis, and dan hollander from the division of management information developed it in house. the system was patented and now other universities are using it too.

before they developed the system about eight years ago, the process required tons of paperwork, filling out mailing labels and certified mail forms. the led system communicates with ups worldship; i import address information into ups and it prints out the mailing labels for me. it is truly an amazing and efficient system.

what other duties do you have?"

"i am the backup to our office manager. i do all the undergraduate appointments, the preparations and journal vouchers through the banner system. i also reconcile the monthly accounts. i work with the 11 assistant directors on their travel reimbursements, travel plans, conference registrations and their fees for professional organizations.

i also coordinate our graduate and professional school fair in october and our nonprofit government career fair in the spring. different universities and nonprofit agencies from across the country come here to promote their continuing education programs, jobs and internship opportunities. this past year, we had 110 schools participate, and we typically have around 50 government agencies.

what were you doing before you came to the ui?"

"i was a full-time mom to two boys, which was a job in itself. my oldest, christian, will be a sophomore at southern illinois university at carbondale, next year. my youngest, colin, will be a junior at unity high school.

i also worked a couple of years in the programming department at wcia, scheduling commercials and doing the program logs.

what do you enjoy most about your job?"

"the students, because they're such a diverse group. they're so much fun. it's fulfilling to see them come into the office when they're green and not certain what they want to do. then they make the decision to apply to a professional school and come in the office months later all excited because they're getting interviews at different medical schools, then they come in and say, hey, it isn't like this, and then it's when they come in afterwards and say 'thank you for making this whole process easier.'"

seeing their success makes all the craziness in the summer worthwhile.

what do you do when you're not working?"

"unity rocket sports! colin just finished track season, so now we're gearing up for summer football. before he knew it, they're off to college. and just think of all the activities that are happening here, while those bleachers acting like a crazy mom. i served 12 years on the unit 7 board of education but have been off the board for the past year. i think the next big thing i will get involved with will be colin's post-prom committee. i also love to tinkie in my flower beds, and i'm re-learning my golf game. there will always be a school or community event to keep me busy!"

– interview by sharita forrest assistant editor

scholars examine forces affecting democracies

at the dawn of the 21st century, democracy as a form of government was on the rise. the wealthiest nations were democracies, and democratization was well under way in southern and eastern europe, and in latin america.

and yet. . . it's on. . . . "it's the very real challenges that confront and even threaten the permanence and expansion of democracy--that is the subject of a new book of essays by scholars from a variety of disciplines, including political science, communications and law. "domestic perspectives on contemporary democracy," published last month by the ui press, grew out of a 2004 conference celebrating the 150th anniversary of the political science department at illinois and the creation of the cline center for democracy on the ui campus. the scholars' essays were prepared for the event, which was held shortly after it was selected to include for the new collection."

"modern democracy, ui political science professor peter nardulli writes, is confronted by the 'increasing racial, ethnic, and religious diversity of many contemporary societies, rapid diffusion of information and communication technologies, and the emergence of global forces affecting institutions.' these challenges could threaten democracy in a variety of ways, including affecting the ability of people to discharge the responsibilities of democracy: citizenship, and realizing the legitimacy of traditional conceptions of democratic institutions in non-western settings, says nardulli, the editor of the book.

the essays focus on the difficulties that democracies face as a result of ever-increasing social heterogeneity and technological advances in communication and information processing. social heterogeneity is a factor in establishing democracies and in the operation of existing ones. nardulli and ui political science professor brian j. gaines write in the book's opening chapter. resolving these issues is hard, especially if a society is multi-ethnic. technological advances in communication and information processing, which are seemingly positive developments, give private entities "unprecedented capacities to assemble massive data banks," nardulli and gaines say. technology also makes it easy for the gatherers of this data to distribute it without consent and without the knowledge of the provider to third parties, including governments.

"will these technologies be used to empower citizens, or will they be used by those in power to manipulate mass attitudes and behavior?" other scholars explore issues such as:• democratic transitions and how difhult they can be to multietnic societies; • the advantages social diversity can bring to democracy; • the role that democratic leaders can play in dealing with ethnically based conflict; • the role of electoral engineering and how voting laws affect a democracy; • technological advances that have great implications for the understanding and jurisprudence of democracy.

a companion volume, "international perspectives on contemporary democracy," edited by nardulli, is to be published in july.
Same-sex marriages

California ruling could result in nationwide push

By Jan Dennis
News Bureau Staff Writer

An expected rush of same-sex marriages in California will also touch off a new wave of lawsuits seeking to make the long-debated unions legal nationwide, according to a top expert on family constitutional law.

"The pressure will continue to build and I think it's inevitable that the U.S. Supreme Court will ultimately have to consider same-sex marriages," said law professor David Meyer, then turn to the courts after being denied based on laws in the bookkeeper was a compressed work week that allowed employees to work 80 hours over a nine-day period and have an extra day off every two weeks. "That's an option I'd really like to see them employ on campus," Dunnam said, and added that employees with whom she discussed the idea were enthusiastic about it.

Campus officials said that currently there are no plans for a campuswide change to four-day work weeks. However, some units offer flexible work schedules and opportunities for faculty and staff members to work from home on occasion.

As rising fuel prices drive more motorists into hybrid and fuel-efficient vehicles, one commuter who's way ahead of the pack is Matt Childress, a programmer in the Office of the Chancellor.

Childress commutes from his home southwest Champaign County Regional Planning Commission.

Memorial Day prompted Gury and her family to forgo a trip to Ohio for a grandnephew's graduation.

Dunnam and Blum also have posted notices on the Web site ErideShare.com, a free site that helps travelers connect with other people so they can share rides and expenses.

"I have to adjust how you run errands, too," Gury said. "There's a way of working it out, you just have to think it through.

High gas prices have prompted Dunnam to be more organized, keeping a list and do-it; you just have to think it through."

"I used to go out to lunch four or five days a week," Dunnam said. Now, she brings her lunch nearly every day.

If gas prices continue their upward trend? "I don't have any place else to cut back," Dunnam said.

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Justice in the brain: Equity and efficiency are encoded differently

“Morality is a question of broad interest. What makes us moral, and how do we make tradeoffs in difficult situations?”

—Ming Hsu

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

W

e study, by researchers at the UI and the California Institute of Technology, used functional magnetic resonance imaging (fMRI) to scan the brains of people making a series of tough decisions about how to allocate donations to children in a Ugandan orphanage.

The researchers hoped to shed light on the neurological underpinnings of moral decision-making, said co-principal investigator Ming Hsu, a fellow at the UI’s Beckman Institute.

“Morality is a question of broad interest,” Hsu said. “What makes us moral, and how do we make tradeoffs in difficult situations?”

An interest in such issues kept the study subjects in the scanner, despite the pain that everyone gets difficult choices, Hsu said. “Quite a few came out saying: ‘This is the worst experiment I’ve ever been in. I never want to do anything like this again!’”

The subjects were told that each child would start out with a monetary equivalent of 24 meals, an actual gift from the researchers. An undetermined number of meals would have to be cut from some children’s allotments, however. The number of meals cut and the individual children who would be affected depended on how the subjects selected from options the researchers presented.

Every decision pitted efficiency (the total number of meals given) against equity (how much the burden of lost meals was shared among the children).

One could choose to take 15 meals from a single child, for example, or 13 meals from one child and five from another. In the first instance, the total number of meals lost would be lower. Efficiency would be preserved, but one child would bear the brunt of all the cuts. In the second option more children would share the burden of lost meals but more meals would still be lost. The equity was better – but at a cost to efficiency.

“This dilemma illustrates the core issues of distributive justice, which involves tradeoffs between considerations that are at once compelling but which cannot be simultaneously satisfied,” the authors wrote.

The study was designed to address the psychological and neurological dimensions of two long-standing debates about distributive justice. First, is equity or efficiency more critical to our sense of justice? And second, are such questions solved by reason alone, or does emotion also play a role?

In the experiment, subjects watched an animation on a computer screen. In the animation, a ball traveled from right to left toward a lever that could direct the ball toward one or the other options. Photographs of the affected children represented each option, with numbers for the number of meals that would be lost. The equity was set at the number of meals that would bear the brunt of all the cuts. In the second option more children would share the burden of lost meals but more meals would still be lost. Efficiency would be preserved, but one child would bear the brunt of all the cuts.

In these trails, subjects overvalued the efficiency of their choice. Hsu said. “When they hit the lever you see the insula activation. And when the ball gets to the end you see (activation of) the caudate.”

In contrast, the caudate appeared to integrate both equity and efficiency once a decision was made. The involvement of the insula appears to support the notion that emotion plays a role in a person’s attitude towards inequity, Hsu said.

The insula is known to play a key role in the awareness of bodily states and emotions. Studies have shown that it is activated in people experiencing hunger or drug-related cravings, and in those feeling intense emotions such as anger, fear, disgust or happiness.

Other research has implicated the insula in mediating fairness.

The putamen and the caudate are activated during reward-related learning.

“You’re seeing the signal in the insula and the putamen initially,” Hsu said. “When they hit the lever you see the insula activation. And when the ball gets to the end you see (activation of) the caudate.”

“Morality is a question of broad interest, which is how many meals get taken away from the kids or how many meals they end up with,” Hsu said. The insula, however, responded to how equitably the lost meals was distributed.

Together, the results “show how the brain encodes two considerations central to the distributive justice calculus and shed light on the cognitivist/sentimentalist debate regarding the psychological underpinnings of distributive justice,” the authors wrote.

The study sought to shed light on the neurological underpinnings of moral decision-making, said Ming Hsu, a fellow at the UI’s Beckman Institute and co-principal investigator.

Decisions, decisions The study sought to shed light on the neurological underpinnings of moral decision-making, said Ming Hsu, a fellow at the UI’s Beckman Institute and co-principal investigator.

ACADEMIC HUMAN RESOURCES
Suite 420, 807 S. Wright St., MC-310 • 333-6747
Listings of academic professional and faculty member positions can be reviewed during regular business hours or online.

For faculty, academic professional and other academic positions: www.uiuc.edu/go/to/acjobsearch

STAFF HUMAN RESOURCES
52 E. Gregory Drive, MC-562 • 333-3103
Information about staff employment is online at www.psu.uiuc.edu.

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

www.uiuc.edu/go/to/civilservicejobs

Job market

Ad removed for online version
Campus joins statewide celebration of Lincoln Bicentennial

Kranert Center for the Performing Arts will present two productions for the Lincoln Bicentennial, as entitled "Abraham Lincoln, 1809-1865," this August.

"Abraham Lincoln in Song" will kick off the bicentennial celebration at 3 p.m. June 29. The free event will be in the lobby of Kranert Center. Performers and musical groups will perform music related to Abraham Lincoln, with special guests from the Lincoln Bicentennial Commission. Attendees should arrive early to secure a spot for the concert.

"Lincoln: A Fire on the Mountain" will be performed at 8 p.m. July 30. This script-in-hand reading depicts the influence of Abraham Lincoln on three poets of Illinois. The lives and careers of Vachel Lindsay, Edgar Lee Masters and Carl Sandburg are interwoven on stage with an ensemble of players taking a variety of roles. The show, written by UI professor emeritus John Ahart, was originally staged 20 years ago for The Great American People Show at Lincoln’s New Salem State Park near Springfield.

ON THE WEB

www.lincolnbicentennial.org
www.illinois.edu/lincoln/

Brief Notes

"English in Print"

Book is basis for New York exhibition

This summer, a new book co-written by a UI librarian and an English professor offers an exhibition that explores the early history of the English language and the role that printing played in its development. The exhibition will be at the Grolier Club of New York, America’s oldest and largest society for bibliophiles and enthusiasts in the graphic arts.

The book and the exhibition, “English in Print: From Caxton to Milton” (Urbana Press, 2008), explore the history of early English books and how the English language came into print, with a close study of the texts, the formats, the audiences and the functions of English books. The book, co-written by Valerie Hotchkiss, a professor of medieval studies and of library and information science at the University of Illinois at Chicago, and Tracy Smith Professor Emeritus of English at Yale University.

The book and the exhibition examine the role that printed works played in the development and dissemination of the English language, history and culture, exploring issues such as the standardization of grammar and spelling, and the development of dictionaries and the only surviving perfect copy of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library and a professor of medieval studies and of library and information science at the University of Illinois at Chicago. The show has been endorsed by Caxton and his peers, as well as the first English retailer of books. Of the 100 books Caxton printed during his lifetime, he translated many of them from French, Latin and Dutch, and he is credited with standardizing the English language. The exhibition includes English incunabula – works in English printed before 1501 – produced by Caxton and his peers, as well as the first four fo-
Sunday

**28 Saturday**

**Engberg, musical director.** 7:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. **“The Last Five Years.”**

**Monday**

**22 Monday**

**Junior and Senior Choirs.** Noon Senior Orchestra; 1:30 p.m. Senior Concert Band; 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. **Music in Nature Concert: Barber, Cloyd and Crotelli and the Prairie Dogs.** 5-9 p.m. Allerton Park, 515 OldTimber Road, Monticello. Cafe, drinks, folk music, jam session and bluegrass. **Allerton Park and Retreat Center.**

**Summer Piano Institute.** Ian Hobson, piano; 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. The program concludes with Brahms Four Piano Pieces, Op. 119, and “La Valse” by Ravel.

**27 Friday**

**Agorlow: Geoff Poor and David Thies.** 3-30 p.m. Lobby, Krannert Center.

**28 Saturday**

**Youth Music.** Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. 11:15 a.m. Junior Orchestra; 12:30 p.m. Junior Concert Band; 1:45 p.m. Junior Symphonic Band; 3:30 p.m. Senior Trombone; Memorial Room, 12:30 p.m. Senior Flute.

**29 Sunday**

**Chris Vaillot: “Abraham Lincoln: In Song.** 3-5 p.m. Stage 5, Krannert Center.

**30 Sunday**

**Wednesday Master of Music Recital: Ryan Leatham, jazz saxophone.** 3:00 p.m. Smith Hall.

**Cinema**

**THURSDAY**

**23 Thursday**

**The Turn of the Screw.** Linda Gillum, director. 7:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. **“Creating Effective Teams: From Problems to Solutions.”** 11-1 a.m. 428 Armory. More info/registration: www.uiuc.edu/go/cte_063008.

**24 Thursday**

**Music.** **“The Lives of Others.”** 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. 409 E. Champaign, Russian, Eastern European and Eurasian Center.

**25 Thursday**

**Kosovo: Of Blood and Historical Cultures of the World.** The Five galleries featuring the work of artists in 18th-Century Rome continues through July 2.

**Friday**

**26 Thursday**

**“The Last Five Years.”** James Zagor, director, and Kristina Zager, musical director. 7:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. **“Against the Hard Borders of Eurasia.”**

**Saturday**

**3 Sunday**

**“My Recollections of the Joy of Art Creation.”** The Asian American Cultural Center, 1210 W. Nevada St., Urbana. 8:30-5 p.m. Monday-Thursdays; 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Fridays, Saturdays; 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Sundays. **“Creating Effective Teams: From Problems to Solutions.”** 11-1 a.m. 428 Armory. More info/registration: www.uiuc.edu/go/cte_063008.

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**20 Friday**

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CALENDAR FROM PAGE 7
3 p.m. First Wednesday of each month. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 346 Main Library. More info: 333-3777 or www.library.illinois.edu/rbs/iso44.htm.

Council of Academic Professionals Meeting
1:30 p.m. First Thursday monthly, location varies. More info: www.cap.uiuc.edu or mjreilly@illinois.edu

UIC Full Data Practice group
2:30-5:30 p.m. each Sunday, 405 Illini Union. More info: 244-2571.

French Department: Pause Café
6 p.m. Thursdays, Espresso Royale, 1117 W. Oregon St., Urbana. Illini Folk Dance Society
11-10 p.m. Tuesday and some Saturdays, Illini Union. Beginners welcome, 594-4606.

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

Lifetime Fitness Program
6-8:50 a.m. Monday-Friday. CRCE, Lifetime Fitness Program

Normal Person’s Book Discussion Group

Seminatru
11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. third Wednesday monthly. More info and more info: www.illinois.edu/to/secretariat.

The Deutsche Konversationsgruppe
1:30 p.m. Wednesday. The Bread Company, 706 S. Goodwin Ave., Urbana.

The Illinois Club
Open to male and female faculty and staff members and spouses. For more info: http://www.TheIllinoisClub.org.

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

Performance work reflects diverse background

By Melissa Mitchell

When Deke Weaver takes the stage, audiences are well advised to strap themselves in for a wild ride.

Whether appearing as a one-man yam-spinner or with a small ensemble of actors and musicians, Weaver – a writer, actor, video artist and professor of new media in the UI School of Art and Design – invariably serves as the narrator and tour guide to fantastic worlds populated by singing animals, twins with special powers and other oddball characters.

Last month, Weaver took home the Best Actor award from the 2008 Great Plains Theater Conference for his performance in his most recent work, “The Crimes and Confessions of Kip Knutzen: A Hockey Way of Knowledge.” The storyline follows events that unfold after the wife of a small-town Minnesota hockey coach wins an “ice-out” contest.

According to Weaver, who is originally from Minnetonka, Minn., such contests are annual rituals in some Minnesota towns. In an ice-out, he said, someone drives an old car out onto a frozen lake, where it remains until spring. The contest winner is the person who most closely guesses the date and time when the lake thaws, plunging the clunker into the chilly drink.

This month, Weaver has taken a couple of his latest acts on the road – to New York City, where he performed a 20-minute piece titled “The Birds of Prey Assembly” at the Judson Memorial Church gym.

“It’s about a little boy at an elementary school assembly,” Weaver said, adding that a guest appears at the assembly to introduce the students to various birds, including a golden eagle, which escapes.

“The eagle lands on the little boy’s shoulders,” Weaver said, and before the drama ends, “everyone confesses to a crime.”

Also performing on the same night – though not together with Weaver – was UI dance professor and experimental performer/choreographer Jennifer Monson. Featured on another night was Illinois dance professor and choreographer Tere O’Connor.


The performance takes place at Roulette, a major venue for contemporary music and intermedia art founded and directed by UI alumnus Jim Staley.

Weaver described the piece he and Peck performed there as a work-in-progress that considers the landscapes of the Midwest and Great Plains.

Before joining the UI faculty, Weaver – who has a master of fine arts degree in photography from the University of Colorado at Boulder – lived for a decade in San Francisco and worked in a post-production video lab there. “Then I moved to New York – just to try it,” he said. “A lot of people said, ‘try it just for a year and be in the soup.’” Weaver quickly developed an appetite – and an aptitude – for the soup.

“It’s amazing what I learned there about animation and design,” he said, explaining that he somehow, what seamlessly fell into a job vacated by a friend who’d worked as an animator for the Showtime cable network.

While learning new tricks at his day job with Showtime, he polished his writing skills at night and presented his original work in shows at Dixon Place, HERE, PS 122 and other venues. He also performed his work in Scotland and Wales, as well as in Dallas, Los Angeles and other U.S. cities.

Weaver has been in residence at Yaddo, an artists’ retreat in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., and at UCross, an artists’ residency program located on a ranch in Wyoming. He also is a four-time fellow at the MacDowell Colony, the nation’s oldest artist colony, in New Hampshire.

He received three National Endowment for the Arts regional grants for film/video-making. His video work has been broadcast on public television in the U.S. and in the United Kingdom, and screened at festivals in Australia, Brazil, Europe, Russia and the United States. Venues have included New York’s Museum of Modern Art, the New York Video Festival and the Berlin Video Festival.