UI-7 offers window to the university

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The cable television channel at the Urbana campus, UI-7, is undergoing a rebirth and transforming into a resource for broadcasting original, professional-quality programming produced by the campus community.

Kate Brickman, UI-7’s coordinator, was hired in July to revamp the channel and broaden the scope of its programming to encompass more original work produced by students and faculty and staff members.

UI-7 is one of four public/educational/governmental cable TV channels in the Champaign-Urbana market, which includes channels operated by the cities of Champaign and Urbana, and Parkland College.

UI-7, available since 1997 to Champaign-Urbana and some surrounding communities through cable television, broadcast 22 hours of native-language programs supplied by the nonprofit educational organization SCOLA and newscasts by journalists who were frustrated when the programming ended on July 1, but seemed to understand the decision to discontinue it, Brickman said.

“The goal is to make UI-7 a resource for the university,” Brickman said. “It’s a way to share knowledge and ideas with the surrounding community. It’s nice to be able to provide programming that viewers can’t get elsewhere.”

Since Brickman joined the staff on July 16, she’s been promoting UI-7 and appealing to campus community. It’s nice to be able to provide programming that viewers can’t get elsewhere.”

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BRIEF NOTES

DEATHS

ON THE JOB

ON THE WEB

In This Issue

Breast cancer treatment

Researchers discover the dietary supplement genistein can undermine breast cancer treatment.

Page 4

New division

The newly formed Division of Biomedical Sciences will allow research teams across campus to consolidate resources.

Page 6

Campus celebrates Homecoming Oct. 4-11

By Phil Ciclera
News Bureau Staff Writer

“Feel the ‘Nois,” the theme of the 98th annual homecoming celebration at the UI, starts with a Homecoming Kickoff on Oct. 4 and Soccerfest on Oct. 5.

The kickoff celebration takes place from 7 to 9 p.m. at the corner of Wright and Green streets with music, food and fun.

The UI women’s soccer team plays Michigan at 1 p.m. Oct. 5 at the track and soccer stadium, between Fourth Street and Maryland Drive on Kirby Avenue, Champaign. Admission, food and beverages will be free.

ON THE WEB

Homecoming 2008

www.admin.uiuc.edu/homecoming/

For a complete schedule of events, visit the Homecoming Web site.

The Illini Comeback guests:
Dr. Scott W. Atlas, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, 1977

A professor of radiology and chief of neuroradiology at Stanford University’s School of Medicine and a senior fellow at the Hoover Institution and the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies, Atlas has written more than 100 scientific publications and is the editor of the foremost textbook within his field.

See HOMECOMING, Page 2

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See HOMECOMING, Page 2
Forum report shows need to expand physical activity in schools

By Melissa Mitchell
Vanora B. Blake/Writer

With childhood obesity expanding to epidemic proportions, research on the United States, educators, researchers and health practitioners are actively seeking to identify effective means of addressing this pressing public health crisis.

Among the solutions proposed by teachers, researchers and others who met during a roundtable discussion of the issues at a major international conference at the University of Illinois, is the integration of physical activity programming throughout the curriculum in the nation’s schools. The roundtable — which was recommended that physical activity no longer be confined to the domain of the physical education teacher — is to go beyond what happens in the P.E. class, and to try to create a healthy environment in the classroom.

“There are a number of steps that can be taken to accomplish this,” said UI kinesiologist Carrie Busey, both in Champaign. Among the steps recommended is the concept of integrating topics across the curriculum is not necessarily a new pedagogical idea. “It’s very common, especially at the elementary level, when they’re talking about something they’re going to be discussing — or, some big national event — it’s not unusual for elementary school teachers to put across the nutrition curriculum, in math, geography, social sciences. The idea here is that concepts not only in physical education, but concepts in wellness, need to be integrated.

“If you talk to the pedagogy people, they say two things: Kids need physical education, but other teachers also need to know how to be regularly physically active.

“So there’s a double mission. The school has a responsibility to educate them in motor skills, but it also needs educators who understand the benefits of physical activity.”

And, Chodzko-Zajko said, “many schools fail in both regards, without question.” He noted that while schools are federally mandated to have wellness plans, many — including those within walking distance of the site of the 2005 walking conference — don’t employ teachers trained specifically in physical education.

“That’s amazing, really, when you think of it,” he said.

A positive note, UI kinesiology professor Amelia Woods, another co-author of the “We Move the Kids” report who has worked one on one with teachers in Champaign elementary schools, said “there are some really innovative physical educators in this community.

Woods, who is the author of the book “Interdisciplinary Teaching Through Physical Education,” pointed to Wendy Huckstadt at Bottenfield School and Wendy Starwalt at Carrie Busey, both in Champaign. Among the strategies they employ in the classroom are ones recommended in the roundtable report, such as using pedometers and other motivational devices; offering rewards and incentives; and setting individual and group goals.

“When we ask students to wear a pedometer, they can earn a charm. The charms are put on necklaces. Teachers and students all wear them,” Woods said.

Schools said after school, parents come to pick up their children, and it’s not unusual for students, parents and teachers all walking around the track after school.

“It’s really awesome,” she said.

Huckstadt has done many innovative things as well. “She also incorporates the foot charm in her program, and has introduced ‘Fitness Fridays,’ to try to encourage the kids to track their activity using pedometers. But they can’t be expected to get that activity (only) during P.E. class,” he said. "So, we need to help the kids track their activity using pedometers. But they can’t be expected to get that activity (only) during P.E. class, and to try to create a healthy environment in the classroom.

In addition to encouraging the systemic inclusion of physical activity and wellness in the classroom, recommendations in the roundtable report include strategies for educators, school administrators, and even parents and communities.

“Another conference participant contributed an article to the journal supplement called ‘Creating collaborative partnerships involving teachers, parents, businesses and professional associations that advocate the benefits of physical activity.’

“Organizing annual health fairs or physical-activity events that emphasize the importance of physically active lifestyles for people of all ages.”

Inside Illinois is an employee publication of the Urbana-Champaign campus of the University of Illinois. It is published three times per month and is available online. News is solicited from all areas of the campus and should be sent to the editor at least 10 days before publication. Entries for the calendar are due 15 days before publication. All items may be sent to insideillinois@uiuc.edu. The campus mail address is InsideIllinois, 507 E Green St., Room 345, Champaign, MC-429. The fax number is 244-0161.

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October 2, 2008

Strategies for educators, school administrators, parents and communities

Positioning physical-education teachers as role models not just for students, but other teachers as well.

Supporting student participation in sports clubs and other physical-activity opportunities.

Opening gyms, pools, playgrounds and other school facilities to students and community members before and after school hours.

Providing administrators with information about health benefits of physical activity and information about childhood obesity and inactivity.

Offering in-service training to educate non-P.E. teachers on ways to build activity into their curricula.

Creating collaborative partnerships involving teachers, parents, businesses and professional associations that advocate the benefits of physical activity.

Changing attitudes: Kinesiology and community health professor Weire Zhu was the lead organizer of the “Walking for Health” conference. One group recommended that physical activity programs be confined to the domain of physical education classes.
NSF funds new Center for the Physics of Living Cells

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

The National Science Foundation announced last month that it is funding a new Physics Frontiers Center at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. The Center for the Physics of Living Cells is one of nine Physics Frontiers Centers in the U.S., and the goal is to explore the physics of biological systems. The $7.5 million award will be supplemented with a 10 percent matching grant from the university, bringing the total funding to $8.25 million over five years.

"As the title of the center says, understanding life on the basis of physics is a very ambitious goal," said Klaus Schulten, holder of the Swanland Chair in Physics at Illinois, affiliate of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and a Howard Hughes Medical Institute investigator. Schulten directs the theoretical and computational bio-physics group at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. This group has long fostered collaborations among teams of researchers with very different areas of expertise.

"The new center will follow this model," Schulten said. "Building collaborations that can attack current biological problems with all the theoretical, computational, and imaging tools available to modern science, Ha said.

"You want to study the complex interplay between many different components that you actually have to measure many different things at the same time," he said.

Illinois is one of few universities with a significant emphasis on biophysics, Ha said. Seven of its 46 full time faculty members study biological subjects, and their collaborative efforts have led to many important innovations.

"For example, while many laboratories use optical tweezers or fluorescence imaging to measure the behavior of individual molecules, researchers at Illinois (led by Ha) combined the two. Their resulting "force-fluorescence spectroscopy" maps reveal that there are subtle changes in molecules that had never been measured before.

"Other advances are occurring in the field of computational microscopy, led by Schulten’s biophysics group. Using the university’s petascale computer capability, these researchers are modeling the dynamic interactions of up to a million atoms at a time. Their simulations are capturing events occurring over longer and longer time scales, increasing their biological relevance."

"For example, recent simulation explored 10 microscopics of a protein-fold- ing event, Schulten said, "the longest simulation that is feasible today." This achieved a visual that shows through the combined efforts of physicists and researchers at the National Center for Supercomputing Ap- pliations, he said.

"Computational microscopy, when combined with laboratory experiments, can offer new insights into mechanisms that cannot be studied by other means."

"There are certain things that you can never measure experimentally," Ha said. "But we can model certain things and Klaus can simulate them, and if our results agree we can use the hidden things that only he can see to develop new models and design new experiments."

Ha and Schulten believe the new center will attract the best young researchers in the field. They are already recruiting six new postdoctoral fellows to join the effort. The recruits will work with post-doctoral members, including physics professors Paul Selvin, Nigel Goldenfeld, Yann Chenela, Ido Goldberg, Alekszi Alexeiev, and Karin Dahmen, along with chemistry professors Zaida Ludwig-Schulten and Martin Gruebele, biochemis-
Supplement genistein can undermine breast cancer treatment

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

Women taking aromatase inhibitors to treat breast cancer or prevent its recurrence should think twice before also taking a soy-based dietary supplement, researchers report.

Genistein, a soy isoflavone that mimics the effects of estrogen in the body, can negate the effectiveness of aromatase inhibitors, which are designed to reduce the levels of estrogens that can promote tumor growth in some types of breast cancer.

The new study, by Illinois food science and human nutrition professor William Helferich and his colleagues at Illinois, Virginia Polytechnic and State University and the National Center for Toxicological Research, appears in the journal Carcinogenesis.

Aromatase inhibitors are a mainstay of breast cancer treatment in post-menopausal women. These drugs work by interfering with the enzyme aromatase, which catalyzes a crucial step in converting precursor molecules to estradiol, the main estrogen in the body.

About two-thirds of all cases of breast cancer diagnosed in the U.S. are estrogen dependent or estrogen sensitive, which means that the tumors grow more rapidly in the presence of estrogen.

Most women diagnosed with breast cancer are post-menopausal, so their ovaries are no longer producing normal levels of estrogen. Other issues, however, produce a steroid hormone, androstenedione (AD), which -- with the help of aromatases -- is converted to testosterone and estrogens. The estrogens produced from AD stimulate the growth of some types of breast cancer tumors.

The researchers conducted several trials in a mouse model of estrogen-dependent post-menopausal breast cancer. As they expected, the mice AD converted to testosterone and estrogens created a high estrogen environment. This helped the researchers determine the maximum growth rate of the breast cancer tumors.

Next, they added Letrozole, an aromatase inhibitor widely prescribed to post-menopausal women with estrogen-dependent breast cancer. This treatment (Letrozole) effectively blocked estrogen receptors in the breast cancer tumors stopped growing.

But when they added genistein (a plant estrogen or “phytoestrogen”) present in many dietary supplements, the researchers observed a dose-dependent reduction in the effectiveness of the breast cancer drug. Specifically, the tumors began to grow again. They grew fastest at the highest dietary doses of genistein.

“To think that a dietary supplement could actually reverse the effects of a very effective drug is contrary to much of the perceived benefits of soy isoflavones, and unsettling,” said Helferich, principal investigator on the study. “You have women who are taking these supplements to ameliorate post-menopausal symptoms and assuming that they are as safe as consuming a calcium pill or a B vitamin.”

Many women take genistein supplements to control hot flashes and other symptoms of menopause. The researchers found that the doses commonly available in dietary supplements were potent enough to negate the effectiveness of aromatase inhibitors.

“These compounds have complex biological activities that are not fully understood,” Helferich said. “Dietary supplements containing soy-based phytoestrogens provide high enough dosages that it could be a significant issue to breast cancer patients and survivors.”

Plant estrogens from soy are not the only ones of concern, Helferich said. In a recent study, he and his colleagues found that certain mixtures of estrogenic botanical components and extracts marketed as supplements to assist “female libido enhancement” and sold without a prescription appeared to spur breast cancer tumors at low doses, while having no effect on tumors at high doses.

That study appeared last year in Food and Chemical Toxicology.

“We are just starting to understand the complex effects of the dietary supplements that contain phytoestrogens,” Helferich said. “There is an ongoing human experiment in which the outcome is unknown. These findings raise serious concerns about the potential interaction of the estrogenic dietary supplements with current breast cancer therapies.”

Depression-era failings, recent Wall Street bailouts

By Jan Dennis
News Bureau Staff Writer

Lessons from the Great Depression are likely guiding an unprecedented wave of government bailouts now propelling up American International Group Inc. and other cash-starved financial firms, a UI economist says.

J. Fred Giertz says officials hope intervention by the Federal Reserve that also rescued lending giants Fannie Mae and Freddie Mac will keep the financial sector’s woes from infecting the rest of the nation’s slumping economy.

“Some economists say the reason we went from a nasty recession in 1929 into a 10-year depression was mismanagement by the Fed that allowed the banking system to implode through runs on banks and bank failures,” Giertz said. “So what should have been a serious but ordinary downturn turned into the worst depression in modern times. That may be one reason why they’re so willing to intervene now.”

The recent bailouts could help ward off a deeper economic downturn, but also carry risks, said Giertz, interim head of the university’s economics department. Other financially troubled companies are watching, he says, and the prospect of a similar government safety net could influence business decisions.

“Private businesses typically rise and fall on their own,” Giertz said. “If they think they’ll have to live with the consequences of bad decisions, they may act differently than if they think in their heart of hearts that the federal government will step in and bail them out.”

Ultimately, bailouts that have poured billions of taxpayer dollars into private businesses will bring more government regulation of Wall Street, said Giertz, a member of the UI Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

“You can’t have it both ways,” he said. “You can’t have regulated financial markets, then also step in and bail out the failures.”

Giertz says the ongoing crisis in financial markets has increased the potential of a recession, and stronger economic growth that had been expected this summer will likely be delayed until the beginning of 2009.

“I’ve been saying a recession is possible, but more than likely we won’t have one,” he said. “Now, I think the chances are higher, probably close to 50 percent.”

A recession would likely be modest and short-lived unless instability in the financial sector spills into the overall economy, which is holding up better than most people think, Giertz said.

“Gasoline prices are disruptive and the average person isn’t moving forward as much as they’d like because their raises haven’t gone up as much as inflation,” Giertz said. “So they’re frustrated, but I don’t think you could convert it into deprivation or real hardships for most people.”

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Parks and recreation play key role in promoting healthy living

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

A new study co-written by a UI professor has confirmed what parks and recreation professionals have long suspected: Nationwide, their agencies are serving as effective partners with community health-care providers in promoting healthy, active lifestyles among residents.

The study, commissioned by the National Recreation and Park Association and funded by the National Recreation Foundation, found that “health partnerships are well established and well received across most recreation and park organizations, particularly at the local/municipal level.”

Laura Payne, a UI Extension professor with a joint appointment in the department of recreation, sport and tourism’s Office of Recreation and Park Resources, is among the study’s co-investigators. The research team also included Andrew Mowen and Geofrey Godfrey, of Pennsylvania State University, and Elizabeth Oresega-Smith, of the University of Delaware.

“With the ongoing crisis with obesity and related issues, health organizations—who have a place at the table, said Payne—“have the parks, the recreation center or assistant living center or social services agencies—realized early on that we have a place at the table.”

“We felt a sense of urgency when we realized that parks and recreation was being overlooked in the ‘Healthy People 2000’ report, a strategic plan created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,” Payne said.

“The workplace and schools and clinical providers were recognized as having a role to play, but parks and recreation wasn’t in there.”

As a result of the omission, Payne and her colleagues began talking among themselves about ways to promote the role parks and recreation play in community health, and encourage more such partnerships.

“We had been aware of and had been advocating for inter-agency, multidisciplinary partnerships between and among park districts and health-related providers for a long time. It just made sense,” she said.

“We could do more together than apart.”

When the NRPA committed to the development of more programs and partnership initiatives focused on best practices in physical activity, nutrition and community health, Payne said the organization was faced with a lack of baseline knowledge of key partnerships and issues. As a result, it commissioned the current study of partnership practices.

The NRPA study was based on an online survey of more than 1,200 park and recreation administrators, along with in-depth interviews with 16 recreation and park professionals. Major topics investigated included the prevalence of health partnerships, types of partner organizations, reasons partners participate, and barriers to forming and sustaining such partnerships.

Payne is the lead author of an article on the study’s results, which appears in the September issue of the magazine Parks and Recreation.

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Payne is the lead author of an article on the study’s results, which appears in the September issue of the magazine Parks and Recreation. In it, she notes that 88 percent of respondents reported they partner with an outside agency to promote health.

“On average, respondents reported that their agency was involved in an average of four health partnerships. About two-thirds of those surveyed reported they partner with schools.”

The next most common partners mentioned were public health agencies, such as county and state health departments (63 percent); sports organizations (57 percent); and non-profit health-promotion agencies, such as AARP and American Heart Association (57 percent).

Among the study’s other findings:

- General wellness or promotion of physical activity were the primary focuses on health partnerships.
- Lack of resources was cited as a major barrier for agencies without health partnerships.
- The biggest challenges to forging successful partnerships included lack of stakeholder buy-in, limited funding support, unclear roles and responsibilities, lack of commitment and follow-through, communication and turf issues.
- Key assets contributed by parks and recreation agencies were facility management and public access.
- Organizations with trails and parks in rural communities were more likely to be health partnership participants.
- Non-profit organizations were more likely than state/federal parks and forest agencies to indicate that health partnerships improved their image and enhanced funding opportunities.
- Organizations with larger operating budgets and populations were more likely to participate in health partnerships.
- Payne, who has extensive experience working with rural populations, said that while health partnerships were more common in large urban areas, professionals in rural communities indicated a strong interest in the concept.
- In rural areas, it all comes down to three things: money, volunteers and knowledge. You’ve got to know what to do, have the ability to communicate and plan, and there has to be a way to fuel the funding.”

With respect to the volunteer component, Payne said, the biggest impediment is that small towns naturally have very small volunteer pools.

“A lot of the same people do all the work,” she said. “As a result, organizations have to try to appeal to more people and have a support system.”

“Rural communities need a jump start. They need someone who can put organizations in touch with people who can help.”

Strategies for new partnerships

In addition to reporting on existing health partnerships, the study’s authors suggested strategies for park and recreation agencies that want to create new relationships and/or enhance existing ones. Those strategies included:

- Establish a sense of rapport and team among members of the partnership.
- Clarify shared goals and values.
- Implement a structure for meetings and communications.
- Conduct an ongoing partnership evaluation.
- Develop role descriptions early on for all players involved in the partnership.
- Develop a strategic plan created by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Payne said.

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New division will aid researchers in biomedical research

By Sharita Forrest  
Assistant Editor

The newly formed Division of Bio-  
medicinal Sciences, or DBS, will aid researchers in biomedical research. A seminar series for researchers on campus on Oct. 13 with speaker Chand Khanna, the head of the Tumor and Metastasis Biology Section and director of the Comparative Oncology Program at the Center for Cancer Research in the National Cancer Institute.

The seminar series will be the first public event sponsored by the Division of Bio-  
medicinal Sciences, which was launched in August tocoalesce the biomedical research on campus, consolidate resources and engage biomedical research at Illinois more effectively with external partners.

Lawrence Schook, the Gutgsell Endowed Chair and a professor of animal sciences, pathology and of surgical oncology in the College of Veterinary Medicine, was selected as the inaugural director of the division.

Schook led the implementation team, comprising faculty members from across campus, which consulted with campus leaders and external advisors to create a mission statement and timetable for the division.

“The DBS will provide a single portal of communication to the external world,” Schook said. “Until this time, they’ve all been discrete centers of excellence, but we haven’t done a very good job of creating alignments so we can be assured that they have utility in health care.

“Without a large medical center here, a lot of the larger companies don’t really appreciate the scope of the biomedical research that’s done on campus,” Schook said. “So one of our charges is to communicate what is happening, and target and create some strategic partnerships with appropriate industry partners. We believe that’s also happening from the industry perspective – pharmaceutical companies and health care companies are looking for strategic partners because they are trying to gain access to creativity and innovation. Up to this point, it’s always been left up to individual faculty members to do that, and we’re trying to institutionalize it as a single portal of communication to the external world.”

In a June 18 newsletter announcing the formation of the division, Provost Linda Katehi wrote: “The DBS will provide a single portal for internal and external communication to translate Illinois’ strengths in basic science and engineering into innovative solutions to issues impacting human health and our communities. Essential to this mission is the establishment of an integrated and efficient infrastructure that will enable human-centric research, capture new research opportunities and expand international visibility of our translational research. This will be achieved through robust affiliations with internal departments and units and external partners like the University of Illinois at Chicago and Carle Foundation Hospital.”

In his Strategic Plan for the Urbana campus, Chancellor Richard Herman identified translational research in biomedicine as a campus priority for the years ahead. Additionally, the National Institutes of Health designated translational research a “roadmap initiative,” an area of research that holds major opportunities for advancing medicine in the 21st century.

“Equally important, what we’ve found in our initial analyses is that we have a lot of unintentional barriers that exist,” Schook said. “They’re not money or a lack of faculty expertise. Perhaps the incentives are misaligned or the lines of communication aren’t appropriate.”

Professional development and training programs for faculty and staff members and classes for students in related areas will be another focus. Khanna’s seminar on Oct. 13 will be the first in a number of seminars that the division will sponsor during the next year or two. Schook said, “The intent in selecting these individuals (as speakers) is to show how we can begin building such linkages ourselves in different areas.”

Khanna, who is board-certified in oncology with the American College of Veterinary Internal Medicine and holds a doctorate in pathology, will speak on the topic “Informing Cancer Biology and Therapy Through a Comparative Approach.” The seminar will begin at 3 p.m. in the auditorium of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

“The goal of iFoundry is to shift the focus of engineering education from analysis to artifacts – products, processes and systems – and the ways in which people conceptualize and use them. The current engineering curriculum was established during the Cold War era and needs to be thoroughly re-examined and overhauled,” Ilesanmi Adesida, dean of the College, said in a news release announcing iFoundry. “Engineering today is unusually fast-paced and requires an uncommon blend of knowledge and skill along technological, humanistic and artistic dimensions.”

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Photonic crystal biosensors detect protein-DNA interactions

By James E. Kloppep
News Bureau Staff Writer

Scientists at the UI have developed a new class of disposable, microplate-based optical biosensors capable of detecting protein-DNA interactions. Based on the properties of photonic crystals, the biosensors are suitable for the rapid identification of inhibitors of protein-nucleic acid and protein-protein interactions.

“Protein-DNA interactions are essential for fundamental cellular processes such as transcription, DNA damage repair and apoptosis,” said Paul Hergenrother, a professor of chemistry and an affiliate of the university’s Institute for Genomic Biology. “Screening for compounds that inhibit particular kinds of protein-DNA binding is a very important step in drug development.”

Developed by Brian Cunningham, a UI professor of electrical and computer engineering, the photonic crystal biosensors consist of a low-refractive-index polymer grating coated with a film of high-refractive-index titanium oxide, attached to the bottom of a standard 384-well microplate. Each well functions as a tiny test tube with a biosensor in the bottom.

“First, we selectively attach a biomolecule to a DNA in the bottom of each well. Then we see how that biomolecule interacts with other molecules, including drugs,” said Cunningham, who also is affiliated with the university’s Beckman Institute, Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, and Institute for Genomic Biology.

By examining the light reflected from the photonic crystal, the researchers can tell when molecules are added to, or removed from, the crystal surface. The measurement technique can be used, for example, in a high-throughput screening mode to rapidly identify molecules and compounds that prevent DNA-protein binding.

The researchers demonstrated the new technology by examining two very different protein-DNA interactions. The first was the bacterial toxin-antitoxin system MazEF, which binds to DNA in a sequence-specific manner and is thought to be responsible for the maintenance of resistance-encoding plasmids in certain infectious bacteria. The second was the human apoptosis-inducing factor (AIF), a protein that binds to chromosomal DNA in a DNA-sequence-independent manner.

The photonic crystal biosensor technology was further utilized in a screen for inhibitors of the AIF-DNA interaction, and through this screen aurin triacetic acid was identified as the first in vitro inhibitor of AIF.

“Aurin triacetic acid displayed about 80 percent inhibition of AIF-DNA binding,” Hergenrother said. “Aurin triacetic acid was the only compound to exhibit significant inhibition out of approximately 1,000 compounds screened.”

The researchers demonstrated the new technique can be used, for example, in a high-throughput screening mode to rapidly identify molecules and compounds that prevent DNA-protein binding.

The majority of “hits” on the 3Space Web site and its YouTube site have been from the U.S., but “there’s been a fair amount of interest from India and France and some interest from China,” Goldberg said. “The power of something like YouTube can be pretty spectacular, and its power to reach large numbers of young people is unprecedented. We think it bodes for a ‘viral’ curriculum transformation. We’re interested in changing minds and courses here at Illinois, but part of our vision is that Illinois can be a leader in using modern digital technology in aggressive ways to project new ideas around the globe.”

In addition to 3Space Studios, iFoundry has two other initiatives under way this semester: Operation Fresh, a critical examination of experiences during the freshman year; and Human Artifacts, a program that organizes the required 18 hours of humanities and social science electives in themes, so that students can select courses that align with their scholarly and professional aspirations.

“Students really embrace the idea of being able to choose,” Goldberg said. “We think that will be appealing and will have a great and immediate impact without having to do very much to the curriculum.”

The UI also has formed a strategic alliance with Franklin W. Olin College of Engineering in Needham, Mass., an innovative engineering college that opened in the fall of 2002 and currently enrolls 304 students. Chancellor Richard Herman signed a memorandum of understanding on Sept. 12 committing the UI to working with Olin “to improve engineering education in matters such as content, curriculum, pedagogy and organizational change.”

The strategic partnership with Olin may encompass a variety of activities, such as student-faculty exchanges and meetings, Goldberg said.

In addition to 3Space Studios, iFoundry is organizing a second "Engineer of the Future" conference at Olin during the spring of 2009. The first conference was held at Illinois in fall 2007.

Ad removed for online version
NEW faces 2008

Kenneth T. Ballom, associate vice chancellor for student affairs and dean of students

Education: Ph.D., University of North Texas (higher education); master’s, Western Illinois University (college student personnel); bachelor’s, Texas A&M (counseling and guidance education).

At Illinois: Ken Ballo joined the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs in August. He previously was the dean of students at the University of North Texas in Denton. He has been involved in higher education for more than 18 years as an active participant in every aspect of campus life from pre-orientation to alumni affairs. He is one of a small number of senior-level administrators credited with leading the University of North Texas and its division of student affairs through dramatic growth. Ballo has earned a reputation for his ability to connect with students and understand the complex issues of student affairs in higher education. “Ken Ballo brings a wealth of experience to Illinois,” said C. Renee Romano, vice chancellor for student affairs. “He has the kind of caring, supportive attitude we need from our dean of students. I have no doubt that the students will seek him out and benefit from his guidance.”

Ballom succeeds William L. Riley, who has filled the role since 1986.

Naomi Rothman, professor of business administration, College of Business

Education: Ph.D. and M.S., Stern School of Business, New York University (management and organizations); B.A., University of California at Davis (sociology).

At Illinois: This fall, Rothman is teaching two sections of “Individual Behavior in Organizations.”

Research interests: Her research focuses on the social consequences of emotions in organizations. She investigates how the expression of complex, multi-dimensional emotions, such as emotional ambivalence, shape the emotional, cognitive and behavioral reactions of organizational participants more than the expression of unidimensional emotions, and, how the experience of emotions such as empathy, optimism and pride shape the decisions and behavior of people in organizational settings as well as outsiders who interact with these individuals.

“Professor Rothman’s work enriches our understanding of how emotions are relevant for organizational behavior,” said Huseyin Leblebici, professor and head of business administration. “It shows what role emotions play for behavior in teams, negotiations and leadership – subordinate interactions. It also helps us to build a more comprehensive understanding of emotions in organizational life.”
A Minute With …™ Scott Althaus

Why so negative? That might be what many viewers of campaign ads wonder with each new presidential campaign season. And why does so much of the record sums raised by candidates go for advertising, both positive and negative? Scott Althaus is a professor of political science and of communication who studies campaign media and advertising strategies, and their effects on voting behavior. Althaus was interviewed by News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

Many voters say they hate negative campaigns, so why do candidates run them?

Campaigns go negative, in part, to get important information out that the news media may not be inclined to get out. Typically the strategy is to try to reduce the opponent’s positive ratings among voters and hope that doing so doesn’t produce a rebound effect that draws down the favorability ratings of the candidate who sponsored the ad. We see negative campaigning throughout American history. We can go back to the election of 1804, in which Thomas Jefferson was re-elected, and in that campaign they didn’t have 30-second spots in the way that we do right now, but they had campaign songs that were printed in newspapers. One of the songs used against Jefferson, sung to the tune of “Yankee Doodle Dandy,” made reference to his alleged illicit relationship with one of his female slaves, Sally Hemings: “When pressed by load of state affairs, I seek to sport and daily; the sweetest solace of my cares is in the lap of Sally.” That’s negative, that’s hard hitting, and that was 200 years ago. There’s nothing new about negative campaigning. What’s new is a better understanding of when, strategically, it’s going to advantage one side or the other.

You believed early on that this campaign was destined to be especially negative. Why?

Typically when we’re going into a presidential election cycle, one of the two candidates will be either the incumbent or his vice president. This election in 2008 is the first time in 56 years we’ve had two non-incumbent politicians running for president. Because of that, neither side can claim a clear hold on, or take the blame for, the record of the incumbent. That means that the information that’s exchanged within the campaign is going to be potentially more important for shaping perceptions about which of these two politicians is more likely to do a good job in office. And because neither one is terribly well known, there’s an opportunity for each side to try to discredit the other, and to try to paint the other side in the most negative light.

Why are ads so important in a campaign?

We have seen a tendency over time for more and more Americans to tune out from news of politics and government. Given this tendency, it becomes more and more challenging for campaigns to try to reach citizens with information they believe is important for citizens to consider on election day. If the campaigns can’t do it through the mainstream news media, or if the mainstream news media put up a filter that focuses on certain events or certain issues rather than the ones the campaigns would like to talk about, then paid advertising becomes the vehicle through which the campaigns try to directly engage with the voters. A fair amount of campaign advertising aired during the general election season is placed in entertainment programming, where citizens are not necessarily looking for information about the campaign.

Can we learn anything from campaign ads?

Many people like to complain about ads being vacuous and trying to distract people from the real issues. But stepping back from that, it’s also the case that the ads contain a lot of important information about the candidates’ issue priorities and the kinds of policy promises that they intend to keep down the road if they are elected. There’s a fair amount of research suggesting that the ordinary citizen can pull a great deal of policy-relevant information out of a 30-second ad, and in some ways more information than you might get from the typical minute-and-a-half news story.

Do ads actually change many voters’ minds?

Traditionally, in the last several decades, it was thought that the main purpose of advertising was to persuade people who were undecided or independent, who weren’t committed to one side or the other. Over time, however, it’s become clearer that there are fewer people in the electorate whose minds aren’t made up come election day. For that reason, while campaigns have not given up on trying to persuade independent voters, another purpose of ads is to motivate people already likely to support a candidate, but who may not be likely to get up and go to the polls and cast a ballot. You don’t need to convince those likely supporters that you’re the better candidate; you need to convince them to do something about it. And that’s why we’re seeing a lot of the negative advertising today, from both sides, that to some observers seems absurd and full of distortions and untruths. These ads aren’t intended to win over the undecided voter so much as to draw media attention toward the candidate’s preferred issues and to motivate the candidate’s own base of likely supporters.
Ultrasonic frogs can tune their ears to different frequencies

Researchers have discovered that a frog, called *Odorrana tormota*, which lives near noisy springs in central China, can tune its ears to different sound frequencies, much like the tuner on a radio can shift from one frequency to another. This is the only known example of an animal that can actively select what frequencies it hears, the researchers say.

The findings, from a collaborative effort led by the UI and the University of California at Los Angeles, appeared this summer in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. The research team also included scientists from the Chinese Academy of Sciences and the Massachusetts Eye and Ear Infirmary (at Harvard Medical School).

The discovery was made when researchers examined the eardrums of an unusual frog, *Odorrana tormota*, which communicates by making birdlike calls in the audible and ultrasonic frequency ranges. Previous research by two of the authors showed that the frog produces and responds to ultrasonic calls. In the new study they sought to determine whether the frog’s eardrums actually vibrate in response to these ultrasonic frequency sounds. Using a laser vibrometer to measure the eardrum’s vibration, the researchers found that the eardrum did respond to sounds in the sonic and ultrasonic ranges. But they also saw something they couldn’t explain: The eardrum’s sensitivity to ultrasound sometimes disappeared altogether.

Normally sound waves strike the eardrum and – if they are powerful enough and in a frequency range that the animal can perceive – cause the eardrum to vibrate. In most studies of frogs, the eardrum responds exactly the same way to the same sound stimulus. Even the eardrums of a dead frog will respond with unchanging predictability.

Past research showed that a frog’s eardrum never responds differently to the same sound stimulus, said team leader Albert Feng, a professor of molecular and integrative physiology at Illinois.

“This was contrary to everything that we knew about its auditory system,” he said.

*O. tormota*, the concave-eared torrent frog, is unusual in other ways. Most frogs have ears on the body surface, but the torrent frog’s ears are recessed. Feng and his colleagues previously reported that *O. tormota* communicates in a noisy environment by emitting high frequency calls that include ultrasonic sounds, and can localize sound with astonishing precision. Upon hearing a female call, a male will leap directly toward the sound with an error of less than 1 percent, a feat previously unheard of in frogs.

Fortunately for the researchers, the eardrum of *O. tormota* is transparent, offering a view of its inner workings in a living frog.

While puzzling over the peculiar results of the eardrum vibration measurements, the researchers noticed the sudden appearance and disappearance of a dark shadow on the eardrum, Feng said.

Further investigation revealed that the frogs were actively opening and closing their Eustachian tubes, the two narrow channels that connect either side of the pharynx to the left and right middle ear. The changing state of the Eustachian tubes was more readily observed by directing a light beam at the mouth from under the frog’s chin. When the Eustachian tubes were open, the light was visible through the eardrum. When they closed, the circles of light glowing out through the ears disappeared. (See movie.)

“We said, ‘Whoa! This is bizarre!’ ” Feng recalled. “In all textbooks on sound communication and hearing in frogs, it is plainly stated that the Eustachian tubes are permanently open!”

Feng and his colleagues had observed that when open, the Eustachian tubes essentially couple the frog’s left and right ears. This “acoustic coupling” between the ears makes them sensitive to sound direction, enabling the frog to localize sound, Feng said.

To determine the consequence of active closure of the Eustachian tubes, the researchers measured how the open and closed Eustachian tubes affected the vibration of the eardrum.

They found that the frogs’ eardrums became very sensitive to high frequency and ultrasonic waves when their Eustachian tubes were closed, compared with when they were open. When the Eustachian tubes were open, the eardrums responded mostly to low frequency sounds.

The frogs appear to be able to tune in to specific sound frequencies at will, Feng said. They can shift to high frequency and ultrasonic hearing when the low frequency background noise of rushing water is too intense for them to pick out the calls of potential mates or rivals, he said.

This research likely has implications for human health. Earlier research into the mechanics of frog hearing helped Feng and his colleagues at the UI’s Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology design an “intelligent hearing aid” that boosts sound signals of interest. 

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**Selective hearing** *Odorrana tormota*, above, is the only animal known to actively select what frequencies it hears. Researchers, including UI professor Albert Feng, right, believe its unusual ears and ultrasonic calls are an adaptation to a noisy environment.
Let the computer look at your face and tell you your age

By James E. Kloppe
News Bureau Staff Writer

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congress should resurrect the na-
classic gaming ban that existed
trough most of the 20th century to
come through in a fragile U.S. economy shaken by the worst credit and financial crisis in de-
cades, a U.S. professor and national gambling critic says.

John W. Kindt argues that gambling is a multi-billion dollar drag on the economy, not the moneymaking boost touted by supporters.

UI expert: Ban on betting would boost ailing economy

By Jan Dennis
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John W. Kindt argues that gambling is a multi-billion dollar drag on the economy, not the moneymaking boost touted by supporters.
Psychological wealth is the experience that more than simple fleeting joy, and more different than euphoria or bliss, which the authors insist is qualitatively different from one another as Greenland, Antarctica, and his son, Robert Biswas-Diener, offer a unique perspective on happiness, which they call psychological wealth. Diener is a pioneer in the field of positive psychology, which focuses on the underlying mechanisms of mental health rather than disease. His studies have taken him to places as different from one another as Greenland, the African savannah and the slums of Calcutta. This far-ranging research gives the authors a global perspective on some of the universals of happiness.

The book begins by defining happiness, which the authors insist is qualitatively different than euphoria or bliss. “Psychological wealth,” they write, “is more than simple fleeting joy, and more than an absence of depression and anxiety. Psychological wealth is the experience that our life is excellent – that we are living in a rewarding, engaged, meaningful and enjoyable way.”

Components of psychological wealth include “the feeling that life is full of meaning, a sense of engagement in interesting activities, the pursuit of important goals” as well as positive emotions and a sense that one is connected to something larger than oneself.

The authors review the research on what makes people happy and how and when a positive outlook correlates with one’s life circumstances. The research affirms that happy people tend to think more creatively and connect better with friends than with unhappy counterparts.

Happy people are healthier, have stronger immune systems and are less likely to suffer from stress and heart problems than unhappy people, who tend to complain more about their pain and also recover more slowly after an illness. “Many people think of happiness as shallow, selfish, naïve and complicit,” the authors write. “There is now a body of evidence from scientific studies that indicates precisely the opposite, that positive feelings are functional and beneficial.”

On the issue of whether money can buy happiness, the authors report some interesting findings. Contrary to a popular belief that rich people tend to be greedy or to engage in excessive pursuits that make them miserable, the data suggest that increased income correlates with increased psychological wealth. Those living in countries with higher per capita income, for example, report a higher level of well-being. The authors also ask: How happy is happy enough? They explore whether the unrestricted pursuit of happiness can have negative consequences.

They report on a recent study, conducted by Diener and his colleagues at the University of Virginia and Michigan State University, which suggests that moderate happiness may actually be preferable to full-blown elation. The study challenged the assumption that all measures of well-being go up as happiness increases. While many indicators of success and well-being do correspond to higher levels of happiness, the researchers reported, those at the top of the happiness scale (people who report that they are 10s on a 10-point life-satisfaction score) are in some measures worse off than their slightly less-elated counterparts.

“The highest levels of income, education and political participation were reported not by the most satisfied individuals (10 on the 10-point scale),” the authors of the study wrote, “but by moderately satisfied individuals (eight or nine on the 10-point scale).” The 10s earned significantly less money than the eights and nines. Their educational achievements and political engagement were also significantly lower than their moderately happy and happy-but-not-blissful counterparts.

While positive emotions are beneficial, a few negative emotions can help us to be more fully functioning individuals,” Diener and Biswas-Diener write. The book also explores whether, and how much, genes or the environment contribute to an individual’s sense of well-being. While some studies suggest that genetic factors contribute to depression, the authors emphasize that with regards to happiness, the balance tilts toward the environment and how people adapt to their surroundings. The researchers conclude that a person’s genetic destiny can be easily modified depending on how well he or she adapts to life’s changes.

The book concludes with a “happiness score sheet” that allows readers to evaluate how happy they are in their current circumstances. “We have shown in this book what we think is a revolutionary idea – that happy societies are more likely to be successful ones, and happy individuals are more likely to be successful ones,” the father-son duo write.

Diener, popularly referred to as Dr. Happy, is the Joseph R. Smiley Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Illinois. Biswas-Diener is a lecturer at Portland State University.

ON THE WEB

Blackwell Publishing
www.blackwellpublishing.com

New book explores the science of happiness

By Diana Yates
News Bureau Staff Writer

A new book on happiness might surprise some of those hoping to find more of it. “Happiness: Unlocking the Mysteries of Psychological Wealth” (Blackwell Publishing/2008) affirms that lasting happiness is attainable and desirable, but it also dispels some common myths about what makes people happy and whether the pursuit of happiness can go too far.

The authors tackle age-old questions with some of the tools of modern science: Can money buy happiness? Is ignorance truly bliss? Are happy people shallow and unaware of the problems of the world? Can a person be too happy?

UI psychology professor Ed Diener and his son, Robert Biswas-Diener, offer a unique perspective on happiness, which they call psychological wealth. Diener is a pioneer in the field of positive psychology, which focuses on the underlying mechanisms of mental health rather than disease. Biswas-Diener, known to some as the “Indiana Jones of happiness research,” has extended his father’s work to other cultures. His studies have taken him to places as different from one another as Greenland, the African savannah and the slums of Calcutta. This far-ranging research gives the authors a global perspective on some of the universals of happiness.

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ON THE WEB

Blackwell Publishing
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Oct. 2, 2008

Inside Illinois

PAGE 13

Center for Advanced Study

Program deadlines announced

The Center for Advanced Study has announced deadlines for several programs administered by the center. Applications for affiliate and fellow research appointments are due Oct. 7 with referee letters due Oct. 14.

In addition, applications for George A. Miller Programs – such as CAS/Miller Center public lecture series, GAM visiting professors, scholars and artists; and the Beckman Lecture – are due Oct. 14, with referee letters due Oct. 21.

All completed applications and supporting documents must be submitted electronically. The center no longer requires a paper copy of applications. For more information about these programs, go to: www-applications.cas.uiuc.edu or e-mail Jackie Jenkins, jjenkins@uiuc.edu.

Inaugural Kachru Distinguished Lecture

Linguist to speak Oct. 9

Kingsley R. Bolton, professor of English linguistics at Stockholm University, will deliver the inaugural Braj and Yamuna Kachru Distinguished Lecture in the Linguistics Sciences at the UI on Oct. 9. Registration is not required for this event.

The lecture, “World Englishes in the Global Context,” will take place from 7:30-8:30 p.m. in Room 210 of the Illini Union. The lecture is free and open to the public.

Bolton lectures at Stockholm University on language and society and world Englishes. He has published books and articles on sociolinguistics, Asian Englishes, Hong Kong English, Chinese pidgin English and Chinese secret society tongues.

He is the founding editor of the Hong Kong University Press book series “Asian Englishes Today” and a co-editor of the Routledge book series “The History and Development of World Englishes.”


A reception in the Colonial Room in the Illini Union will follow the lecture, which is sponsored by the UI School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics and the UI department of linguistics.

The lecture is named for Yamuna Kachru, professor emerita of linguistics at the UI, and Brj B. Kachru, professor emeritus of linguistics in the UI’s Center for Advanced Study.

‘Lecturing for Learning’

CTE hosts faculty workshop Oct. 3

The Center for Teaching Excellence will host a workshop, “Lecturing for Learning,” for UI faculty members from noon to 1 p.m. Oct. 3 in Room 223 Gregory Hall.

Mary-Ann Winkelmes, a senior faculty consultant at CTE and an educational consultant for the Lilly Endowment, is the speaker. She served as associate director of the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Chicago, where she continues to offer a pedagogy seminar for junior faculty.

According to Winkelmes, many lecturers are overly critical of their own performance and efforts to perfect lecturing techniques can sometimes lead to a counterproductive focus on what the teacher is doing and inadequate consideration of what the students are doing. This one-hour workshop focuses on how to be sure that students are “getting” what is being taught in lectures, and how to help students be active learners in a lecture class, whether the topic is science, social science or humanities. Four strategies will be offered, and their use will be discussed as the group analyzes video clips of famous lecturers from across the disciplines.

University Primary School

Community open house is Oct. 16

University Primary School will host an open house Oct. 16 at the Children’s Research Center, 51 Gerty Drive, Champaign. Visitors may see the preschool in action from 8:30 a.m. until noon and the combined kindergarten/first-grade class from 8:30 a.m. until 2:30 p.m.

The school is an early childhood gifted education program that serves children ages 3-7 in a project-based curriculum. Children must be 3 years old on or before July 1 for the preschool classroom and 5 years old before Sept. 1 to be considered for kindergarten.

Applications for the 2009-10 academic year will be available in January. For more information, contact director Nancy Hertzog at 333-3996 or nhertzog@uiu.edu or visit www.ed.uiuc.edu/taps.

Department of dance

Site-specific performances scheduled

The second-year MFA candidates in the department of dance will present “Site Specific Works” in October at five locations around Champaign-Urbana.

Christine Berulli’s “Rendered Plot less” is inspired by the dilemma of modern agriculture and how industrial food has become invasive to our bodies. This dance will be performed Oct. 5.

Ad removed for online version
The last decade has seen an extraordinary increase in the number of countries that have adopted laws similar to the U.S. Freedom of Information Act. Some people say that legal and technological change are producing a new age of transparency. But there are also complaints about new levels of secrecy: those justified in the name of executive privilege, national security and corporate confidentiality.

Roberts addresses how to make sense of these conflicting claims and if governmental secrecy is on the decline or getting worse.

In “Silos Phase IV,” choreographer Will Schneider explores the transitory and fleeting state of the performing art form. The performance will be at the silo complex just south of the UI campus, three blocks west of the round barn complex. Parking is available across the street at Assembly Hall. Performances are at 8, 8:45 and 9:30 p.m. Oct. 24 and 25. Because of limited space, reservations should be made at http://illinois.edu/goto/silos.

WILL-TV and IGPA Series looks at election-year issues

The issues of energy and the economy are front and center in this year’s presidential election. In a series on Thursdays in October, WILL-TV and experts from the UI Energy Resources Center will examine how the positions of presidential candidates Barack Obama and John McCain on these issues will affect people in Illinois.

The series, “For the People: Election 2008,” also will look at the ballot question on whether Illinois needs a Constitutional Convention, and end with an hour-long roundtable discussion on the presidential campaign with a panel scheduled to include former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar. WILL’s John Paul will moderate the discussions.

Programs and scheduled panelists:

Oct. 9, 7:30 p.m. Energy: Don Fullerton, finance, and Andrew P. Morriss, law.

Oct. 16, 7:30 p.m. Economy: Elizabeth Powers and Daniel P. McMillen, both in economics.

Oct. 23, 7:30 p.m. Constitutional Convention, Brian Gaines, political science, and Richard J. Winkel, law.


Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Speaker discusses “government secrecy”

As part of its “Information in Society” speaker series, the Graduate School of Library and Information Science will host Alasdair Roberts, who will speak on “Blacked Out: Government Secrecy in the Information Age.” Roberts will speak from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Oct. 6 in Room 126 Library

The four most popular health Qi-gong routines will be taught in the workshops, which are free to the first 40 UI students who register. The public may participate; the fee for one workshop is $20; both, $35.

For more information go to www.conferences.uiuc.edu/ qigong2008 or call the Office of Continuing Education at 333-1777 or register for Qigong-related questions, contact Weimo Zhu at 333-7503.

Professional development

Enrollment still open for BIS courses

UI’s Business and Industry Services has received an excellent response to its fall professional development coursework; it will offer one course on Oct. 23. The courses descriptions, dates, times and costs can be viewed at https://www. illinoisubois.com/UCF/SelfSchedul.pdf.

Members of the academic professionals and staff members may enroll.

In addition, if a department has six or more employees (up to 25) who would like to participate, classes can be customized, reducing the per person cost.

For more information, contact Mary Rose Hennessy, 630-505-0500, ext. 225.

European Union Center 10th Anniversary

French ambassador to give keynote

“Celebrating the European Union” Week was organized by the UI’s European Union Center to commemorate its 10th anniversary. The center was established in 1998, with support from the European Commission, as one of the 10 original EU Centers of Excellence in the United States.

The keynote address will be preceded by a panel discussion on “The Future of the EU” at 2 p.m., also at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. The speakers will include Deputy Consul General Sidy Diallo, from the French Consulate in Chicago; Luc Véron, from the Delegation of the European Commission in the U.S.; and other EU consuls general from Chicago.

Among other events scheduled for the week:

Oct. 21, a symposium on “The Euro, the Dollar, and the Global Financial Crisis,” at 5 p.m. at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center, with speakers Charles Kahn, a UI professor of finance; Amy Medearis, from the Delegation of the European Commission to the U.S., and Anne Villani, a UI professor of economics.

Oct. 22, a “Taste of Europe” at the Bever Café in Bever Hall, from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m., featuring a lunch menu of European dishes.

Oct. 23, a symposium on “US-EU-Russia: New Strategic Dynamics After Bush,” at 4 p.m. in 314 Illini Union. Featured speakers will be Robert Brannon, from the George C. Marshall Center in Germany; Roger Kanet, a professor of international relations at the University of Miami; Carol Leff, a UI professor of political science, and Robert Pahre, from the UI’s European Union Center.

All events are open to the public, and all are free except for the “Taste of Europe.”
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CALENDAR. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15
p.m. 116 Roger Adams Lab.
Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering.
“Role of Disease and Climate Change in Amphibian De- cline.” Karen Leps, Southern Illinois University. 3:30 p.m.
“Diabetic Reactivity in Copper and Home-Copper Coordi- nation Complexes: A Bistri- gonic Perspective.” Kenneth D. Karlin, Johns Hopkins Uni-
versity. 4 p.m. 112 Chemistry Annex. Inorganic Chemistry.
“Transnational Francophone- niques: Global Women Writers in Paris.” Alison Rice, Uni-
versity of Notre Dame. 5 p.m.
206B Foreign Languages Building.
Cranial Nerve Noninvasive Neuromodulation (CN-NM): A New Approach to Neurore- habilitation.” Michael Burds, University of Kentucky. 4 p.m.
1005 I-Building, 1816 S. Oak St. Rockville, Md. 4 p.m. 150 An-
lindrical Sciences Lab. Nutritional Sciences.
10 Thursday
“Gender Differences in Dis- ability and Personal Care As- sistance Among Older Adults With and Without Diabetes in Mex-
ico.” Flavia Andrade, U. Illinois. Noon. 101 Interna-
tional Studies Building. Latin American and Carib-
bean Studies.
“Top Down Proteomics. Sep-
oration and Mass Spectral Characterization of Complex Cell Lysates From Mitha-
nasacina Acorosor and Human Cancer Cells.” Jon-
athan T. Ferguson, U. 2 p.m. 171 Roger Adams Lab. Chemi-
 cal Biology.
“Spermocytology of Yellow-
stone.” William Inseck, Mon-
 tana State University. 4 p.m.
B102 Chemical and Life Sci-
ciences Lab. Microbiology.
11 Friday
“Regulation of JNK by NF-
 kappaB and Stimulus-Specif-
 ic Modulators or Regulators (SMOR).” Baderan Ionoglo,
University of Chicago. Noon.
B102 Chemical and Life Sci-
ciences Lab. Biochemistry.
“Weeping Statues, Weeping Gods and Kabuki From Republican to Early Christian Rome.” Anthony Correll, University of Kansas. 2:30 p.m.
237 Gregory Hall. Clas-
 sics, English, Communication, and Cultural Studies.
theater
2 Thursday
“Chicago.” 8 p.m. Assembly Hall. Based on the 1926 play of the same name. $
music
2 Thursday
Sphinx Chamber Orchestra With the Harlem Quartet: Aaron Dworkin, founder, and presi-
dent, and Chetnaa Tip-
ton II, conductor. With Elita Unost, violin soloist. 7:30 p.m.
Foellinger Great Hall, Kramert Center.
3 Friday
“Druid.” Gary Hynes, director.
7:30 p.m. Tyrone Festiva-
 l Theater, Kramert Center.
“A New Approach to Neurorenewal Complexes: A Bioinor-

dic Modulators or Regulators.” Kenneth D. Karlin, Johns Hop-

skins University. 4 p.m.
21st Century: What We Know and What We Need to Know.” Mary Frances Periconi, Na-

tional Institutes of Health, Ross-

towne, Md. 4 p.m. 150 An-
lindrical Sciences Lab. Nutritional Sciences.
3 Thursday
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CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

dance
10 Friday
Compañía Flamenco José Porcel. 7:30 p.m. Tisty Fes-

films
6 Monday
“Cairo, Nest of Spies.” 7:30 p.m. 259 English Building. Europ-
ean Union Center.

Wednesday
“Radiant City.” 7:30 p.m. Knight Auditi-

Thursday
“Hearts of Darkness: A Film-
etcetera
10 Monday
“Book Arts Workshop: Three
15 Saturday
“Children of the World” An-
17 Friday
“Children of the World” An-
25 Saturday
“Children of the World” An-

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Job market
CAREERS AND EMPLOYMENT AT THE UI • www.uiuc.edu/goto/uicareers

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/goto/ajobsearch

STAFF HUMAN RESOURCES
52 E. Gregory Drive, MC-502 • 333-2301
Information about staff employment is online at www.pso.uiuc.edu.

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/civilservicetests
CALENDAR. FROM PAGE 17

Counseling. 333-8747. § Campus Recreation.
*Postcards From Italy.* Presented by Steve McCabe. 6:30 p.m. Illini Rooms, Illini Union. Tickets: 333-5000. Illini Union Faculty Staff Social Committee.
	
Thursdays

Majors and Minors Fair. 4-6 p.m. Illini Union Rooms A, B, and C. General Studies and Provost’s Office.

Friday


Saturday

Campus Recreation Open House. 9-10:30 a.m. and after the game. Activities and Recreation Center (formerly IMPE building). Tour the ARC. Visit www.campusrec.uiuc.edu. Alumni.

Canoe/Kayak Day Trip. 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Registration required. call 333-8747. § Campus Recreation.

13 Monday


*Responding to Students’ Writing: Whom Loses is More.* Mary Ann Wakeline, U of I, 3-4:30 p.m. 428 Armory. Registration required: 333-8747. § Center for Teaching Excellence.


14 Tuesday

*Study Skills: Starting Your Semester Off Right.* 7 p.m. 406 Illini Union. Counseling Center.

15 Wednesday

Lunch and Learn Series. Noon. Bruce Nebbett African American Cultural Center. A weekly lunch series to discuss topics relevant to the African American community on a local, national or international level. African American Cultural Center.

Backpacking. 5:30-7 p.m. Learn about backpacking. Registration required: 333-8747. § Campus Recreation.

16 Thursday


Coffee Hour. Germany. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club. 307 E. John St., Champaign. Co- sponsored by: SpinLight Studios.

19 Sunday

Reception. Noon-2 p.m. Asian American Cultural Center.


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More information about the project, including photos and videos of art attacks, is online.

Inside Illinois

Oct. 2, 2008

PAGE 18

more calendar of events

Fireswallow Project endorses ‘Art’

I t’s hard to keep track anymore. With red LEDs, looked down to discover a sidewalk chalk drawing of a bass player or passed by a mass planting of red-white-and-blue political-style yard signs with the message “Vote for Art,” you’ve experienced one of several recent communitywide “art attacks.” The attacks have been launched since early August by a mysterious — and previously anonymous — collective of artists and supporters.

A manifesto and Web site created by the unknown members of the Fireswallow Project proclaimed the group’s intent in red letters: “We are for art.”

The manifesto elaborated on that message, stating that members were for art “in backyards, on sidewalks and stages made of orange crates” as well as “cheap art, loud art, pure art, and art that doesn’t even know it’s art” — among other things.

So who’s been stirring up all that art soup?

The big secret was revealed at the opening night celebration at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts on Sept. 18. Co-conspirators turned out to be Krannert Center’s 40 North/88 West, the Champaign County Cultural Center, and SpinLight Studios.

Besides just creating a buzz throughout town, what was the point of Fireswallow? According to Krannert Center director Mike Ross, “We wanted to develop an ‘alternative’ campaign to express our (Krannert Center’s and 40 North’s) core values throughout the micro-urban Champaign-Urbana community and the region — especially in the increasingly cosmopolitan downtown Champaign scene — that would culminate at our Opening Night Party as a celebration of all of our community’s artists and arts/culture/entertainment energies.

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ON THE WEB

Fireswallow Project

www.fireswallow.com

For online version

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ON THE WEB

Fireswallow Project

www.fireswallow.com
UI-7 continued from page 1

pus units and organizations for original content through announcements in e-week, on UI-7 and its Web page, and in meetings with faculty members, campus units and organizations.

Through those appeals UI-7 quickly acquired and began broadcasting 30 hours of original programming, including videos of concerts by local bands Candy Foster and Celtic Palooza; a documentary about the local lesbian-feminist chorus Amasong, by Jay Rosenstein; a news segment about wildlife preservation in Kenya, by Nancy Benson, and a documentary about rabbit-hunting and life lessons, by Walt Harrington, all faculty members in the department of journalism; informational videos about the Blue Waters project at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and the legend about the ghost that some people believe haunts the English building; and lectures about Abraham Lincoln’s presidency, Native American issues and other topics given by faculty members and guest speakers.

UI-7 also will be rebroadcasting episodes of “Illinois Law,” the discussion forum produced by the College of Law that is broadcast locally on WCIA-TV (Channel 3), and will begin broadcasting repeats of the new episodes after they are broadcast on WCIA. Other series include the news program “Illinois International,” produced by International Programs and Studies, and the agricultural news program “Illini Farm Report,” produced by UI Extension. Additionally, UI-7 has broadcast videos welcoming new students and New Student Convocation, held on Aug. 22, and Chancellor Richard Herman’s discussion of the 2007-2008 school year with WILL-TV producer John Paul, and productions by students.

“The idea is to make the programming as diverse as what’s happening on campus,” Brickman said.

UI-7 is being integrated into the campus messaging system so that messages concerning emergency situations and news items such as campus closings can be broadcast automatically.

More information about UI-7, including a programming request form and programming policies, is available on the College of Media Web site. Brickman can be contacted at kapokarn@illinois.edu or 244-3011.

Broadcast news
Mitch Kazel, director of broadcast journalism resources and facilities in the College of Media, was instrumental in gaining campus support to start UI-7 in March 1997. Kazel, who has served on the station’s programming committee since its inception, and other faculty members have used UI-7 to broadcast live newscasts by their student journalists.

ON THE WEB
UI-7
www.media.illinois.edu/service/ui7.html

Deaths

Steven D. Brown Jr., 37, died Sept. 15 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Brown had worked at the UI since 1998 in grounds maintenance for Facilities and Services. Memorials: Champaign County Humane Society, 1911 W. Main St., Urbana, IL 61801.

Robert V. Carley, 80, died Sept. 16 at his Monticello home. Carley was an electrician sub-foreman at the Physical Plant for 34 years, retiring in 1981.

Harold Lynn Cromwell, 81, died Sept. 14 at the Piatt County Nursing Home in Monticello. Cromwell worked at the UI for 22 years, retiring in 1981 as a tool room attendant at the Physical Plant. Memorials: Homer Fire Department, G.A.R. Cemetery or Alzheimer’s Unit at the Piatt County Nursing Home.


Phyllis May Stone, 77, died Sept. 19 at her Champaign home. Stone worked for 22 years at the State Water Survey, retiring in 1991 as a meteorological aide in atmospheric sciences. Memorials: PEO Scholarship Funds, c/o Pat Askew, 2908 Prairie Meadow, Champaign, IL 61822; or the Phyllis Stone Fund for the 4-H Memorial Camp, c/o the Illinois 4-H Foundation; or Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign, IL 61821.