Flawed 401(k) laws putting retirement at risk, expert says

By Jan Dennis

C ourt needs to reform flawed 401(k) laws that could push back retirement for millions of Americans whose savings have collapsed along with the stock market, a UI elder law expert says.

Law professor Richard L. Kaplan says 401(k) accounts were meant to supplement traditional defined-benefit pensions, but have evolved into the sole nest egg for the bulk of U.S. workers whose employers offer any kind of savings program.

The shift, he says, has left workers with the illusion of a company-funded pension when in fact it’s largely their own money in investments that are generally tethered to the stock market, which has lost $3 trillion during an economic meltdown over the last year.

“People mistakenly think they have an employer pension plan and don’t understand that their retirement income, other than Social Security, is in very serious jeopardy right now,” said Kaplan, who wrote a 2004 article on the risks of 401(k) plans that appeared in the Arizona Law Review.

He argues that Congress should rewrite laws to allow 401(k) programs only in concert with defined-benefit pensions, even if it means more companies join the roughly half of U.S. employers that offer no retirement savings plan.

“As matters stand currently, workers are being trucked,” Kaplan said. “They think they have a pension plan at work when it’s really their own money and every aspect of the 401(k) program – participation, contribution level, investment allocation, withdrawal arrangement – is problematic when it’s the person’s only savings plan.”

Even the lure of cashing in when employers offer matching contributions is “less than compelling,” he said. Matches are typically small, and many employers have reduced or eliminated them in recent years.

Beyond that, he says, workers who change jobs after just a few years often lose employer contributions anyway.

“If people want to save for their retirement, they can always set up an Individual Retirement Account at virtually any financial institution, including their neighborhood bank,” Kaplan said. “The dollar limit on contributions is lower for IRAs than for employer-based plans, but the vast majority of 401(k) plan contributions are within current IRA limits and thus would not be impacted by this difference.”

When 401(k) laws were adopted in 1978, the new savings accounts were envisioned as part of a three-pronged plan for retirement, a supplement for monthly checks from Social Security and conventional defined-benefit plans, he said.

But as 401(k) plans were being launched, Kaplan said, employers already were veering away from defined-benefit programs because of new costs created by the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, adopted four years earlier.

The act, intended to make worker pensions more secure, also made defined-benefit plans more expensive through new regulations and insurance premiums to safeguard pension funds, he said.

“Only about half of employers offer any retirement savings program and, of those, nearly 60 percent offer just a 401(k) plan, Kaplan said. Many provide little or no company contribution, a trend he says has quickened in the last few years.

“We’re only now beginning to see a cohort of people on the cusp of retirement who have built the bulk of their retirement funding coming from 401(k) plans,” he said. “It’s a relatively new phenomenon.”

Because the stock market plunge...

UI expert: ‘Digital dark age’ may doom some data

By Phil Ciciora

W hat stands a better chance of surviving 50 years from now, a framed photograph or a 10-megabyte digital photo file on your computer’s hard drive?

That framed photo will inevitably fade and yellow over time, but the digital photo file may be unreadable to future computer systems because it may be in a format that does not exist anymore.

And that’s the essence of the digital dark age, the time when most of the data we produce today will eventually fall out of a black hole of inaccessibility.

“Even over the course of 10 years, you can have a rapid enough evolution in the ways people store digital information and the programs they use to access it that file formats can fall out of date,” McDonough said. From cultural perspective, McDonough said there’s a “huge amount” of content being developed or is available in a format.

“People mistakenly think they have an endless time horizon in which this information will be preserved,” McDonough said.

But the reality is that much of the data we produce today could eventually fall into a black hole of inaccessibility.

“With the current state of the technology, data is vulnerable to both accidental and deliberate erasure,” he said. “What we would like to see is an environment where we can make sure that data does not die due to accidents, malicious intent or even benign neglect.”

McDonough also cited Barack Obama’s political advertising inside the latest editions of the popular video games “Burnout Paradise” and “NBA Live” as an example of something that ought to be preserved for future generations but could possibly be lost because of the proprietary nature of video games and video game platforms.

“It’s not a matter of just preserving the game itself. There are whole parts of popu...
Senate discusses future of Global Campus

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

with tuition at all colleges and universities rising, middle-class families are being driven out of the market, and students facing substantial loan debt after graduation, the nation is caught in a higher education crisis.

In December 2007, four years after its establishment, the Global Campus of the University of Illinois began offering degree-granting programs for the first time. The plan was President B. Joseph White's message to the Urbana-Champaign Senate on Nov. 3 at Levis Faculty Center and was President B. Joseph White's message to the Urbana-Champaign Senate on Nov. 3 at Levis Faculty Center.

The Senate approved the plan, which includes five degree-granting programs, with a sixth program under development. Enrollment increased from 12-12 initial students in January to 120 students in September, and 250 expected by mid-2009.

Recruitment of faculty members to teach high-demand online courses has not been fruitful either, but emeritus faculty members have expressed enthusiasm about teaching for the Global Campus. White said.

"Getting in touch with us early on can save everyone time and make the actual review process smoother. If all the work has been done prior to the EPC, the committee will have a relatively quick and straightforward process," Aminmansour said.

"Summer is an especially good time for proposals, with department or school level, where much of the work is already done, Aminmansour said. "We have alerted some departments and submit a proposal. "We've never really had any other comments because it was already well prepared and documented," Aminmansour said. "The committee must have put a lot of effort into preparing the proposal, but it took the committee literally three minutes to consider."

Aminmansour recommends changes to a proposal, the applicable college is apprised of those recommendations and determines whether the changes meet the discipline’s and the college’s requirements.

"Senate review of proposals does not take very long," Aminmansour said. "When the committee recommends a change, the college or department must be open to the public. Committee members need not be senators. People interested in joining the committee may contact the Senate, 226 English Building, at 333-6805. Prospective members must be available on Mondays during fall and spring semesters for committee meetings.

More information about the committee, meetings and the schedule and a matrix showing the levels of governance required for each kind of proposal, can be obtained either by contacting , or Abbas Aminmansour, chair, at 333-2834 or aamin@illinois.edu.

The committee reviews a proposal to establish a new academic program, a new degree-granting online program, or other changes to existing programs that were envisioned for the Global Campus. Since the Global Campus began offering courses in January, it has expanded to encompass five degree programs, with a sixth program under development. Enrollment increased from 12-12 initial students in January to 120 students in September, and 250 expected by mid-2009.

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If you’ve checked out a book, DVD or even a video game at the University Library, chances are it’s passed through Beth Trotter’s hands. A library operations associate at the main library, Trotter has worked in the acquisitions department of the library for 26 years, starting as a library clerk II in August 1982. A Fisher, Ill., native who grew up on a corn and soybean farm, Trotter has an associate’s degree in child development from Parkland College. She now lives in Savoy.

Tell me about your job.

I order books for all of the libraries on campus except for the Asian, Law, and Slavic and East European Studies libraries, which means I process several hundred orders for books, maps, DVDs and video games each day. When the really popular books come out, like ‘Harry Potter’ or the new ‘Twilight’ series, I go to one of the local bookstores first thing in the morning to stand in line and get the library its copies. I also help sort through all the gift books the library receives. Retiring professors will clean out their offices or people will go through their houses and have boxes and boxes of books they want to donate.

How has the library changed since you first started?

Everything’s a lot more automated than it was back then. Everything was done manually — you’d have to write everything down. I started out as a serial check-in clerk, where I manually checked in magazines. It’s come a long way since then.

We also buy a lot more pop culture-related items — new and old TV shows on DVD, audio books and, increasingly, video games. The gaming thing has really picked up in the last few years.

So you’re in charge of buying ‘Guitar Hero’ for the library?

Yeah — how cool is that? I’ve bought ‘Guitar Hero’ and ‘Rock Band’ for the library. They’re so popular that we’re now trying to replace some of them because they have to be frequently replaced.

Where do you buy the books and other media for the library? Online or at traditional bricks-and-mortar stores?

Both. I buy a lot of textbooks at local campus bookstores and I look for more obscure titles — and for those that are sold out, I’ll go to online bookstores or online book distributors to get the right copy. Sometimes it’s even cheaper.

What’s been your most interesting request?

Someone recently wanted a handbook for a board examination. After numerous phone calls, I was given the author’s home phone number. I called, left a message and kept my fingers crossed. The author called me back the next morning and put the revised edition in the mail the next day. We also received a request for back issues of an Australian journal devoted to bees. We bought the entire back catalog from an Australian web site and had them shipped here.

So, if you can’t find a book, no one can?

Pretty good — darn close to that! I can spend hours looking for out-of-print books. Before, we had catalgoids. Now we have a lot more options with all the online booksellers.

Working in the library, are you a big reader?

I am. I like to read a lot of murder mysteries and autobiographies. Even when I’m not working, I like to go to a bookstore and get a cup of coffee and read.

What do you like to do off the job?

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I like to read and to go and movies. I also like to go to Disney World and collect Disney memorabilia. My parents took me when I was 5 and I’ve been hooked ever since. I try to go at least once a year. I’m quite the fan.

I also collect antique Fiesta Dinnerware from the 1930s.

What’s your favorite park?

I enjoy all four of them, but Magic Kingdom has always been my favorite because it was the first. I love going through Main Street and going on the ‘Pirates of the Caribbean’ and ‘Haunted Mansion’ rides. I love that they updated both of them.

— Interview by Phil Ciclona, News Editor

If you’re interested in reading about Beth Trotter’s adventures in the world of library acquisitions, be sure to check out her blog, “Library Love,” on the University of Illinois’ website. Trotter has been working in the acquisitions department for 26 years and has seen many changes in the library world, including the move from paper catalogs to online databases and the shift from traditional bricks-and-mortar stores to online bookstores.

On the Job

Beth Trotter

Assistant Editor

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Urbana-Champaign (UC) recycles 84.8 percent of the campus waste, exceeding goal.

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

T

wenty-one of plastic, 41 tons of aluminum, 625 tons of scrap metal, 838,117 tons of cardboard and 1,236 tons of paper.

Those were the staggering amounts of waste materials recycled by Facilities and Services (F&S) on the Urbana-Champaign campus last year. During 2007, the transfer station diverted 48.8 percent of the campus’s waste stream from landfills, exceeding the state-mandated goal of recycling at least 40 percent of its waste – and saved more than $200,000 in landfill costs, said Tom Hoss, coordinator of recycling for F&S.

The UI was one of the first universities to create a state-of-the-art recycling-sorting facility when it opened the Material Recovery Facility in 1997. “The new addition is a huge factor in reducing the environmental footprint of the campus,” Hoss said.

The UI is a leader in recycling waste, collection and sort.

All botted up

Tim Hoss, coordinator of campus waste management, stands beside a stack of plastic containers that have been compressed into a bale in preparation for shipment to a recycling mill. During 2007, the campus Waste Transfer Station recycled 21 tons of plastic in addition to aluminum, scrap metal and cardboard, saving more than $200,000 in landfill costs. By state mandate, the UI must recycle at least 40 percent of its waste.

The reason for implementing the policy was because “95 percent of course packs have the same specifications – white with black ink,” Fitch said. “Although quality is always critical, minor flaws in the stock such as spots or flecks are more acceptable since it is a third- or fourth-generation print.”

From January through June, 40 percent of the paper that the Printing Department used was recycled stock. Printing also recycles the equivalent conditioning of a Dumpster of paper each day, a Dumpster of cardboard per week and a truckload of wood pallets every 10-25 days. Additionally, the department reuses paper, envelope boxes and supply carts for customers.

A not-so-obvious resource that F&S is recycling as well is the heated air from buildings’ exhaust. Energy recovery wheels extract the position the air intake and exhaust equipment.

Innovation brightens buildings and curbs energy usage

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

“We can all have a huge impact on energy use by remembering to turn lights off when we leave, even if it is just over lunch or while at a meeting ...”

— Eva Sweeney

“We Turned on all the lights!” Bruce Barnham, interim head and a professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, said jokingly about recent lighting upgrades at the Engineering Education and Research Center in Champaign helping with the sorting. The recyclable materials in the bins are then sorted and run through a baler, turning them into bales. The bales are delivered to the recycling mill. When the buildings were built, they were retrofitted with new lighting and work is in progress at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

“There is a number of the ballasts weren’t working efficiently, so perhaps only two-thirds of the buildings are lighting up efficiently,” Fitch said. “The absolute most-efficient light is one that is switched off,” Sweeney said. “We can all have a huge impact on energy use by remembering to turn lights off when we leave, even if it is just over lunch or while at a meeting.”

“Recycling saves material resources, reduces energy consumption and is an integral component to sustainability,” said Tom Abram, sustainability coordinator for F&S. “By recycling, we’re moving toward improving our recycling efforts to help our community and campus be as sustainable as possible. Individuals can do their part by reducing, reusing and recycling materials on campus and in their homes.”

Annual energy savings for the 10 buildings was about $260,000, based upon 12 hours’ usage daily, according to Doris Reser, capital maintenance planning coordinator in F&S.

Nearly 100 percent of all fluorescent ballasts are being replaced in about 80,000 light fixtures in 44 buildings on campus, Barnham said. Electronic ballasts, which generate the same amount of light but are 40 percent more energy efficient, do not flicker or hum and provide better temperature control.

Other benefits of the T8 lamps are that they reduce the presence of potentially hazardous monomeric biphenyls (PCBs) and mercury that may be in the old lamps and ballasts, said Eva Sweeney, F&S’s engineering specialist. They also lower the amount of electronic waste that needs to be disposed of, she said.

“I think a number of the ballasts weren’t working efficiently, so perhaps only two-thirds of the buildings are lighting up efficiently,” Fitch said. “The absolute most-efficient light is one that is switched off,” Sweeney said. “We can all have a huge impact on energy use by remembering to turn lights off when we leave, even if it is just over lunch or while at a meeting.”

The total project budget is $2.8 million, and a $1.2 million grant from the nonprofit Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) Office in the Department of Energy has been awarded. The Illinois Department of Transportation and the Illinois Energy Office have provided grants.

The project will focus on 10 buildings on the UI campus.
Ben Bradlee receives lifetime achievement award

By Craig Chamberlain

Benjamin Bradlee, executive editor of the Washington Post through more than two decades, during which the paper broke the Watergate scandal and won 18 Pulitzer Prizes, has been awarded the Illinois Prize for Lifetime Achievement in Journalism.

The prize was awarded Oct. 24 at the Newseum in Washington, D.C., following an evening reception and dinner. Bradlee is the second person to receive the award, which honors individuals whose career contributions to public affairs reporting represent the highest and best achievements of American journalism. He follows “60 Minutes” newsmen Mike Wallace, who received last year’s inaugural award.

The recipient is selected by the UI journalism faculty to honor “work that consistently served as a beacon for other journalists, set the highest standards of excellence in the field, and placed the public good and public awareness before all else.”

“Ben Bradlee is the perfect winner of our lifetime achievement award,” said Walt Harrington, the head of the journalism department at Illinois. “Ben embodies the values of scrupulously accurate, fiercely independent, compelling journalism. The Illinois Prize is meant to remind aspiring young journalists and the public that fine reporting, writing and editing is not a thing of the past.

Bradlee, who turned 87 in August, graduated from Harvard University in 1942 and served in the Pacific with the Office of Naval Intelligence during World War II. Returning from the war in 1946, he became a reporter with the New Hampshire Sunday News and then joined The Washington Post two years later.

In 1951, he became a press attaché at the U.S. embassy in Paris and two years later joined Newsweek magazine’s Paris bureau, from which he covered the Anglo-French invasion of Suez and the Algerian rebellion.

In 1957, Bradlee came to Washington, D.C., and soon became Newsweek’s Washington bureau chief. In 1965, he rejoined the Washington Post as its managing editor and three years later became its executive editor, a position he would hold until retirement in 1991.

On his watch, in 1971, the Post challenged the federal government for the right to publish the Pentagon Papers, a secret government study of the U.S. role in Vietnam. A year later, Post reporters Bob Woodward and Carl Bernstein began their investigation of a Washington hotel burglary, which developed into the Watergate scandal and resulted in the resignation of Richard Nixon as president.

In 1989, Bradlee published his memoirs, “A Good Life: Newspapering and Other Adventures.” In a previous book, “Conversations With Kennedy,” published in 1975, Bradlee described the John F. Kennedy he got to know behind the scenes as a neighbor and confidant, starting in 1958 and running through Kennedy’s presidency until his death.

Since retirement Bradlee also has taught journalism courses at Georgetown University and continues in the position of vice president-at-large at the Post.

New UI police chief announced; trustees to vote Nov. 13

By Phil Ciciora

Barbara R. O’Connor, the chief of police and director of public safety at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, has been named police chief at the UI, pending approval by the UI Board of Trustees at its Nov. 13 meeting at UIS.

O’Connor, who has more than 27 years’ experience in law enforcement, succeeds Oliver J. Clark, who retired in 2005. First, Kris Fitzpatrick, and later, Jeff Christensen, filled the position as interim chief of police. The new chief, whose formal title is executive director of public safety, will begin her duties at Illinois on Jan. 1. The UI police chief serves as the chief law-enforcement officer for the Urbana campus, and has overall responsibility for the budget, human resource management, and priorities for campus security.

“Barbara has a record of solid and increasing experience in campus law enforcement,” said Chancellor Richard Herman. “Her dedication to professional development makes her an ideal fit for my leadership team.”

O’Connor, who earned a law degree from the Western New England College School of Law in Springfield, Mass., has been police chief at the Amherst campus since 2001. She earned her bachelor’s degree in criminal justice from Westfield State College in 1985 and her master’s in labor studies from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst in 1999.

“I was very impressed by the quality of the people and programs at Illinois, and to its commitment to the mission of higher education,” O’Connor said. “That played a significant role in my decision to move from my home state of Massachusetts to Illinois.”

In her current position, O’Connor is responsible for managing a $5 million annual budget, as well as a full-time staff of 80 people, including 63 police officers, 3 police cadets and 300 residence hall security employees.

During her tenure as chief, the university has cited for its progressive safety programs. The campus improved security by installing state-of-the-art security systems in the residence halls and on campus. Additionally, the campus police department created a police cadet program for college students interested in a career in law enforcement.

O’Connor developed a new mission, vision and value statement with input from all members of the department. She also developed a comprehensive strategic plan with the collaboration of a committee of department members.

In April 2007, O’Connor was elected to a three-year term on the Board of Selectmen for Hadley, Mass., where she lives.
NEW faces 2008

Among the newcomers to the Urbana campus are faculty members whose appointments began this summer or fall. Inside Illinois continues its tradition of introducing some of the new faculty members on campus and will feature at least two new colleagues in each fall issue.

Chatham Ewing, assistant professor of library administration and curator of special collections in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library

Education: ABD (English literature), University of Missouri; M.L.S., Rutgers University; M.A. (English literature) Georgetown University; B.A. (English literature), The Johns Hopkins University.

Research Interests: Archival administration and 20th-century little (that is, literary) magazines.

At Illinois: “Chatham will be working with our special collections,” said Valerie Hotchkiss, head of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library. “In particular, he’ll be working with literary manuscripts and archives and his goal, like that of RBML in general, is to provide access to all the treasures under our care and to encourage their use. Many of our literary archives are difficult to access because of antiquated or non-existent finding aids. Chatham understands the latest archival standards and has a proven track record of bringing these ‘hidden’ collections to light. We are very pleased to have him on the RBML team.”

Chatham comes to Illinois from the University of Mississippi, with previous curatorial experience at Washington University and the New York Public Library.

Jacqueline McDowell, assistant professor of recreation, sport and tourism in the College of Applied Health Sciences

Education: Ph.D., M.S. and B.S. (kinesiology), Texas A&M University.

Research Interests: Diversity management strategies and the effectiveness of diversity initiatives in intercollegiate athletics and racial and gender identity.

At Illinois: McDowell will teach a course in sports ethics during the fall and spring semesters this year. The following year she will teach an undergraduate and graduate course in human-resource management.

“McDowell’s line of research makes her a good fit with the department of recreation, sport and tourism and with the College of Applied Health Sciences,” said Cary McDonald, head of the department. “McDowell’s research is grounded in sociology with a particular research focus in sport and diversity. In particular, she examines topics such as occupational segregation, diversity and discrimination in sport, and negotiation of identities. She also will provide a welcome addition to the sport management concentration area within the RST department by using her expertise in issues of diversity in intercollegiate athletics and racial and gender identity in sport. She will provide mentorship to female and minority undergraduate and graduate sport management students in the department.”

ON THE WEB

- Jacqueline McDowell
  www.rst.uiuc.edu/staff/mcdowell.htm

- Chatham Ewing
  www.library.illinois.edu/Staff/ewing.htm

Inside Illinois
Nov. 6, 2008
Personality shapes perception of romance, but doesn’t tell all

By Diana Tate
Life Sciences Editor

Personality researchers have long known that people who report they have certain personality traits are more likely to be satisfied with their romantic partners. Someone who says she is often anxious or moody, for example, is more likely than her less neurotic counterpart to be dissatisfied with her significant other. The researchers also included two other measures of their subjects’ relationship quality. The researchers’ goal was to compare the self-reported data to that obtained by observation and specific physiological measures. This is the first such study to use all three approaches. Trained observers watched videotapes of study participants as they discussed disagreements and agreements in their relationships. The researchers’ goal was to compare the self-reported data to that obtained by observation and specific physiological measures.

Relationship rating

Psychology professor Glenn Roisman and graduate student Ashley Holland found that measuring the quality of romantic relationships is more complex than earlier studies suggest. Ashley Holland found that measuring the quality of romantic relationships is more complex than earlier studies suggest. Holland said, “It’s a problem if you need to inhibit yourself greatly while having a conversation with your partner about the kinds of things that you would ordinarily be talking about and trying to resolve in your daily lives.” The researchers found that the way the participants described themselves and their relationships was not strongly linked to how they behaved toward one another in the laboratory. This suggests that those who study relationships might need to look deeper than what individuals report about themselves and their romantic partners, Roisman said.

“Romantic relationships are complex and multi-faceted, and, therefore, measuring the quality of romantic relationships should probably include a variety of approaches in order to get a more nuanced view of how the relationship is functioning,” Holland said.


Units may now request illinois.edu domain names

After a pilot test involving a few colleges and units, the illinois.edu domain was opened to the general campus community Nov. 1 to begin moving Web site addresses from uiuc.edu to illinois.edu.

The Illinois Domain Project is part of a campuswide branding initiative that aims to heighten recognition of the Illinois brand among key audiences nationally and internationally, broadening opportunities for education, research and public engagement.

Beginning Nov. 1, units can “turn on” their illinois.edu Web sites by requesting illinois.edu domain names and receiving an illinois.edu domain name request form. Each unit is assigned a six-letter domain.

The pilot phase was an important first step in the domain change process as it provided an opportunity to uncover and address some potential problems, such as security and log-in issues,” said Michele Raupp, project manager. “What I’m hearing from other people is that they think it is going very smoothly. They are ready for the domain name change to happen, to get it done and get on with their other work. Our goal is to help them get through it as painlessly as possible.”

As domain names are created on the illinois.edu domain over the next several months, information technology staff members in campus units will be working to ensure that all campus Web sites are accessible on both their uiuc.edu addresses and their illinois.edu addresses, with the preferred method being a permanent redirect that automatically routes a person typing in a uiuc.edu address to the new illinois.edu page. Once the naming phase of the project has been completed, which is expected to be in the spring, IT staff will spend the following year updating all links and references on all of the secure Web sites, and a second year updating all the non-secure Web sites. "All units have to work in lock-step on completing Phase One, so that when Phase Two begins they aren’t breaking connections to any of the other sites,” Raupp said.

The transition to the illinois.edu domain began in the spring, when e-mail addresses for campus users were activated on the new domain. The e-mail transition is still under way and project team members expect to complete it by the end of 2008.

Ad removed for online version

Ad removed for online version
Brilliant Futures receives $213.9 million during FY08

Gifts to benefit Urbana-Champaign

Twenty private gifts totaling more than $11 million were announced for UI or UIUC programs at the Urbana-Champaign and Chicago campuses were announced Oct. 17 at the UI Foundation’s 73rd Annual Meeting.

T he UI Foundation recently received gifts totaling more than $11 million, including $30.5 million that will be directed to the College of Liberal and Scientific Studies. The $30.5 million for the Urbana campus, $19.8 million for the Springfield campus and $9.7 million for UI Foundation and University Administration purposes.

Gifts to the Urbana-Champaign campus:

A deferred gift of about $750,000 from Robert and June Henderson will provide support for a number of programs and initiatives in the arts and humanities.

A $2 million grant from the Clearing HouseCoopers, LLP, to create the Price- waterhouseCoopers Accountancy Student Center, which will serve as a home for ac- countancy students on campus as well as graduate social work students.

A $2 million deferred gift from G. Richard Johnson, of Urbana, will support placement and networking activities in the department of computer science.

More than $600,000 outright and de- ferred from James and Erin Ross, of Haw- keye State, will support the Performing Arts’ Marquee Program.

A $2 million gift from the Robert and June Henderson Endowment Fund. The fund will support a fellowship for the UI School of Social Work.

A $2 million gift from Carol Brieland and Wynne Korr, of Champaign, to create the Dr. Donald Brieland and Dr. Wynne S. Korr Endowment for Social Work.

A $2 million gift from Carol Smith, of Champaign, to support the UI Foundation Scholarship Fund.

A $2 million gift from September 1, 2008, almost $611 million of the total contributions, in part, by the generosity of those individuals and businesses who have been very generous. They recognize that we have three outstanding campuses and programs, and that there is strength among the nation’s finest. We are affecting lives throughout Illinois, this community and around the world.

Many of their academic accomplishments are financed, in part, by the generosity of the private sector and the general public.

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Gunsalus was a member of the UI faculty from 1950 until his retirement in 1982 and headed the Illinois biochemistry department from 1955 to 1966. Joan Hicks, 92, died Oct. 31 at Clark-Lindsey Village, Urbana. Hicks was a librarian at the Library of Veterinary Medicine at the UI. Memorials: Urbana-Champaign Friends Meeting; the Unitarian/Universalist Church; or the U.N. Association of Champaign County.

Joan F. Hill, 84, died Oct. 25 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Hill came to the UI in 1957 as head resident director at the newly opened Allen Hall. She served in many different positions throughout her career, including associate director of Special Educational Opportunity Programs (Project 500) from 1968-1974. She retired in 1986, as associate dean of students. Memorials: UI Foundation; Jean F. Hill Foundation award; or charity of donor’s choice.

Wanda M. Lemke, 86, died Oct. 24 at the Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Lemke worked as a linen maid for the Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Halls for 22 years until she retired in 1983. Memorials: Carle Hospice. E. Byron Lundy, 53, died Oct. 16 at his Neoga home. Lundy worked almost 12 years as a building service worker until he resigned in 1990. JoDean Morrow, 78, died March 25, at his home in Ajo, Ariz. Morrow, a professor of theoretical and applied mechanics, is known for introducing the strain approach to fatigue and was widely recognized for his work in low-cycle fatigue and for his pioneering leadership in the development of useful design criteria for mechanical components to fatigue damage. Morrow retired from the UI in 1984 after 30 years of service. Evelyn Joyce Weber, 79, died Oct. 19 at the Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. In 1965, Weber became the first woman in the UI agronomy department where she was a professor in plant biochemistry until 1987. She retired as a biochemist under a joint appointment from the UI and the USDA. Memorials: Iowa State University Foundation, John H. Weber Family Scholarship; or the UI crop sciences department. Theodore Williams, 88, died Oct. 26 at Glenwood, Mahomet. Williams retired from the UI as a storekeeper. Memorials: Sidney Masonic Lodge 347 AF&AM or Boys State American Legion of Illinois.

Educational Policy, from Page 2

EDUCATIONAL POLICY, FROM PAGE 2

been obtained and to address budgetary concerns and resource issues. Graduate proposals are reviewed by the Graduate College prior to submission to the Office of the Provost.

The different levels of review of proposals are intended to assure quality of programs and to protect the interest of this great institution including its faculty and students. EPC is an integral part of shared governance at this university,” Aminmansour said.

Once the committee receives a proposal from the provost’s office, the proposal is added to its agenda and assigned to one of its three subcommittees for review and recommendations before committee members vote on it.

After obtaining approval from EPC, proposals go to the senate. While many types of proposed changes to academic programs, degrees or campus units are approved by way of the consent agenda and passed automatically upon the adjournment of the senate meeting, at times proposals become action items that call for discussion and a vote.

Members of the campus community can track pending proposals on the committee’s Web site, which indicates the date received, action taken by the committee, the date when the senate will consider the proposal, and the senate’s verdict. In addition to the approval of the campus senate, some proposals require further consideration by the University Senates Conference, which includes officials from all three campus senates.

The committee comprises 13 faculty members; five full professors, a graduate student and a professional student; as well as representatives from the offices of the vice chancellor for academic affairs; the associate provost for enrollment management; the executive director of the Council on Teacher Education; the dean of the Graduate College; the director of the Office of Continuing Education; and the committee of assistant and associate deans.

EPC consists of an outstanding group of dedicated members of this campus community who work very hard to help our colleagues implement their creative and innovative ideas. It is an honor for me to have the opportunity to work with this group and to serve our campus,” Aminmansour said.

Retirement, continued from Page 1

You might also just have more older people who are poor, which was the historical norm,” Kaplan said. “Before Social Security, it was not unusual for older people to be poor or to move in with sons or daughters, not because they couldn’t physically get around but because those were the people who had a significant source of income.”

In his 2004 law review article, Kaplan argued that flaws with 401(k) plans made a case against efforts athen to privatize Social Security, which he said would create the same risks and put future retirees in further financial peril. He doubts the move will resurface any time soon in the wake of the lingering turmoil on Wall Street.

“The cause of Social Security privatization has been set back considerably,” said Kaplan.

ON THE WEB

Kaplan’s 2004 paper
http://illinois.edu/goto/kaplan04
UI dancer-choreographer focusing on environmental works

By Melissa Mitchell

Arts Editor

You won’t find Jennifer Monson on Dancing With the Stars. However, the dancer-choreographer hailed by The New York Times as among that city’s “downtown dance stars” has been testing the waters, reaching out and building new audiences in communities outside the mainstream dance world.

After gaining wide acclaim with her multi-year, multi-continental “Bird Brain” project based on the migration pattern of ducks, geese, osprey and gray whales, Monson has herself migrated to a new environment. This past January, she joined the dance faculty at the UI. At the UI she has found her latest research on choreographed and interdisciplinary performance from the wilds of the city by doing research into ways of understanding the dance work, the audience brings themselves into ways of understanding the dance through their own kinetic, sensory experience of the material.

Monson has been testing the waters, reaching out and touching the audience, in small groups to descend to a lower level of the center, a space typically reserved for production, rehearsals and instruction. Moving through a hallway, then to the center’s “green room” for guest artists, and finally to the Krannert Center’s “green room” for invited artists, audiences will be given a chance to talk about what they know well, and they will be informed and ask questions. “That’s where I find the collaborative link between art and science. Both artists and scientists are interested in exploring the unknown in some way. I’m attracted to the similarities in creative thought processes and problem solving.”

“As I study the ancient water source, Monson said she became fascinated by the water’s potential to be a one-of-a-kind artist.”

Collaborative hire Jennifer Monson, who came to Illinois from New York in January to join the UI dance faculty, is a new breed of performance artist whose choreography and dance research are informed by environmental issues. Monson was recruited to the Illinois campus through an innovative, interdisciplinary program initiated by the university’s Environmental Council.

For Monson’s piece, “Like New York City, Central Illinois has a vast flow of activity – production, commerce, change – and the performing arts are workspaces for all the performing-arts departments as well as for the campus’s Facilities and Services unit. They accommodate a vast flow of activity – production, commerce, change. They are working creative spaces.”

Monson hopes to roll out the final phase of the aquifer project by 2010 with what she calls IMAP – Interdisciplinary Mobile Architecture and Performance. As she envisions it, IMAP would be a collaboration involving students from the Illinois Water Survey, the UI’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications, as well as others.

“At the moment, it’s going to be (on) a flatbed truck converted to biodiesel – not ethanol, but a ‘grease car’ that would run on recycled cooking oil, or a similar product. The multipurpose mobile unit will travel to communities located on the perimeter of the Mahomet aquifer and will function as a field research station, performance and exhibition space, and a classroom. After its Illinois tour, Monson hopes to take IMAP to New York City, where it might be used to bring attention to water-related issues there.

Before making the decision to relocate to Illinois, Monson prepared for her transition from “the wilds of the city” by doing what comes natural to her: studying her potential new habitat.

“Like New York City, Central Illinois is an overly managed environment that has been powerfully affected by human action and commerce,” she said. “Unlike New York City, it has wide-open, flat spaces that have supported its extremely successful agricultural economy.”

“Keeping my ears out for pressing environmental issues, I was alert to the opposition to ethanol plants because of their large consumption of water, which bears the risk of a potentially irreversible drawdown of water levels. The Mahomet aquifer is one of the largest groundwater resources in the state and its presence allows for the rich agricultural success of this region. As we continue to increase our demand for water on all fronts – agricultural, industrial and residential – the aquifer is threatened.”

As she studied the ancient water source, Monson said she became fascinated by the aquifer and determined to focus her next research project on it. She started her work by connecting with H. Allen Wehrmann, the head of the Water Survey; and with Donna Cox, who is an NCSA senior research scientist and a visualization artist.

Together with her collaborators, Monson said she has been “investigating the multiple influences, forces and flows on the aquifer, including geography, history, hydrology, geology, environmental economic studies.”

“What excites me most about these kinds of projects is getting to meet people like Al Wehrmann,” she said. “People love to talk about what they know well, and they love it when people are interested. They are informed and ask questions.”

“That’s where I find the collaborative link between art and science. Both artists and scientists are interested in exploring the unknown in some way. I’m attracted to the similarities in creative thought processes and problem solving.”

Audiences expecting to see dances in which the performers obviously imitate the natural forces considered may need to readjust their mindset, Monson said the work is not representative or literal. “That’s always a problem with ‘Bird Brain.’ People ask, ‘Where are the birds?’”

Or, she said, they may interpret dancers’ movements as specific behaviors, such as whales mating.

“I’m working much more from the systems in the body and how they affect physiology. I engage the imaginative state of the body to express or evoke something that contains a multiplicity of meanings,” she said. “So with most abstract work or new dance work, the audience brings themselves into ways of understanding the dance through their own kinetic, sensory experience of the material.”

With the aquifer project, Monson synthesized what she learned through her research, and began extrapolating that knowledge to systems of the body and touching the world in a quite literal way.

The report focuses on the Mahomet Aquifer Project. "The three-part piece will be presented in a lower-level hallway and other underground spaces as part of the "Reimagining the Prascomien" concerts Nov. 13-15 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts."

Underground moves Student dancers practice moves from the first phase of Jennifer Monson’s "Mahomet Aquifer Project." The three-part piece will be presented in a lower-level hallway and other underground spaces as part of the "Reimagining the Prascomien" concerts Nov. 13-15 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Jennifer Monson

Monson describes her style of dancing and dancing arts, making as both experimental and experiential. She said it is based more and more on "large phenomena that are in some ways mysterious and unknowable." A new breed of performance artist whose choreography and dance research are informed by environmental issues, she was recruited to the Illinois campus through an innovative, interdisciplinary program initiated by the university’s Environmental Council.

“Of one of their strategies for bringing environmental issues more to the forefront at Illinois to 15 Central Illinois counties and stretches diagonally across the state from west central Illinois to western Indiana. Monson describes her style of dancing and dancing arts, making as both experimental and experiential. She said it is based more and more on "large phenomena that are in some ways mysterious and unknowable." A new breed of performance artist whose choreography and dance research are informed by environmental issues, she was recruited to the Illinois campus through an innovative, interdisciplinary program initiated by the university’s Environmental Council.

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"I think of dance as a way of reaching out and touching the world in a quite literal way."

Collaborative hire Jennifer Monson, who came to Illinois from New York in January to join the UI dance faculty, is a new breed of performance artist whose choreography and dance research are informed by environmental issues. Monson was recruited to the Illinois campus through an innovative, interdisciplinary program initiated by the university’s Environmental Council.
Immigrants close earning gap more slowly than estimated

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Immigrants whittle into a broad earnings gap with American-born workers only about half as fast as long-accepted estimates suggest, according to new research by a UI economist.

Darrent Lubotsky says immigrants’ typically low starting wages grow just 10 to 15 percent faster than native-born workers over their first 20 years, well ahead of the pace expected to produce the usual catch-up of the 26 percent catch-up rate in widely used, census-based projections.

Lubotsky says census estimates are flawed because they only compare wages of immigrants and native workers polled in the once-a-decade surveys, and fail to factor in the roughly third of immigrants – most low paid – who come to the U.S. then leave.

In that data, we’re mostly seeing the success of immigrants who stay, but tended to not grow very fast.

The reason it appears immigrants catch up quicker based on census data is because, in that data, we’re mostly seeing the successful ones, those who decided to remain here,” said Lubotsky, a member of the UI Institute of Government and Public Affairs.

“In immigrants who have been in the U.S. for decades tend to have relatively high earnings, but the data don’t include many low-earning immigrants who left and therefore weren’t surveyed,” he said. “The earnings of those who stay do grow, but only about half as fast as previous estimates indicated.”

Census estimates are further skewed, he says, because seasonal workers and other low-earning immigrants who routinely go back and forth between the U.S. and their home countries are sometimes misclassified as new arrivals, inflating the pay averages for long-term immigrants.

Lubotsky’s study, published in the Journal of Political Economy, examined annual earnings of about 14,000 natives and immigrants from 1951 to 1997, using data from two Bureau of Labor surveys in the early 1990s that was matched to Social Security records.

“The problem with census data is that the composition of the survey group keeps changing – it gets smaller because every 10 years you’re losing people who leave the country,” he said. “The data I used track the same people over time and show that the earnings of those who stayed were higher and grew faster, but tended not to grow very fast.”

But even the broader data sample has shortcomings, Lubotsky said, such as missing information on immigrants who are paid in cash and providing no insight on why some choose to leave the country.

“The data aren’t ideal, but it’s still a vast improvement,” he said. “I view the research as a guide to what we do in the future,” he said. “We should understand how immigrants assimilate into our labor markets, but there are broader costs and benefits to letting more immigrants in or keeping them out. Whether these new facts matter for policy is up to policymakers.”

But he says the study could be useful for foreign workers who are thinking about packing up and crossing U.S. borders in quest of riches.

“For prospective immigrants, it’s something they might want to consider,” Lubotsky said. “If you’re coming for money, have a contingency plan.”

A second round of tax rebates likely, UI economist says

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Temporary tax cuts and rebates have an impact, but not a lasting impact because government is concerned and addressing our economic problems.

He says a new stimulus package would have to be as big or bigger than this year’s roughly $150 billion plan because the nation’s economy has slumped deeper amid a broad financial meltdown and credit crisis.

Even then, rebates would be just a bandage for the economy, not a cure, said Giertz, the interim head of the economics department.

“If we hadn’t solved the financial meltdown, things could have gotten really ugly. But a catastrophic situation seems to be much less likely than it was a month or two ago. But there’s still a small possibility of a really bad outcome, so I think there’s something yet to worry about.”

Even if the economy averts disaster, Giertz says the nation is likely headed for its deepest recession since 1980-81. “I think jobless rates rose to about 10 percent. Although unemployment likely won’t reach double digits this time, he says it could top the 6 to 7 percent jobless rates during the most recent recessions in 1990 and 2001.

While a deeper downturn is still possible, Giertz says he takes solace from last week’s vote by the Federal Reserve that trimmed federal funds rates from 1 ½ percent to 1 percent, signaling a move back to traditional policy and away from heroic measures.

“Raising or lowering the federal funds rate is an issue the Fed deals with every few weeks, so I’m pleased we’re worrying about those kinds of decisions rather than how to keep the banking system from collapsing or keeping an insurance company from going bankrupt,” he said. “Getting back to more normal kinds of decisions suggests more faith in the economy than some people realize.”
News flash: Candidates’ ads actually match deeds in Congress

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

If you think candidates never keep their promises and will say anything to get elected, you’re certainly not alone. And you’re not right, either.

The perception is largely untrue, says Tracy Sulkin, a UI political scientist, who has conducted an extensive study, apparently the first of its kind, comparing the campaign ads and legislative records of recent congressional officeholders.

Candidates’ words generally match their deeds, according to Sulkin. The issues candidates say are priorities in their commercial advertisements are likely ones they care about and will take action on through the introduction and co-sponsoring of legislation, she said.

Whether they are vague or specific on an issue doesn’t matter, Sulkin found. “There turn out to be no differences in subsequent activity among people who just say they care about an issue and people who lay out a specific plan. … Specificity, which we seem overly concerned about, isn’t actually a signal that you care more about the issue,” she said. Instead, what drives candidates to care about what that candidate is going to do,” Sulkin said. “We had a full picture of what their advertising strategies looked like in their televised ads.”

For her research, Sulkin drew from campaign advertising material collected by the University of Wisconsin Advertising Project (http://wiscadproject.wisc.edu), in coordination with the Campaign Media Analysis Group, on the 1998, 2000 and 2002 elections. As the result of their work, she had access to storyboards for all political ads run in the top 75 media markets for the 1998 and 2000 elections, and in the top 100 media markets for the 2002 election.

Those markets cover over three-quarters of congressional districts nationwide, Sulkin said. In all, the research covered ads for 391 winning candidates for the U.S. Senate and 84 winning candidates for the U.S. Senate over the three election years. “We know all the ads they aired,” she said. “We had a full picture of what their advertising strategies looked like in their televised ads.”

Sulkin and her research assistants coded the ads for what they said and how they said it on 18 different issues. Later, the researchers sought out information on the bills that those legislators introduced and co-sponsored during the terms that followed and applied the same coding on the same 18 issues.

They then compared what legislators had said about those issues in their campaigns to what they had done in Congress.

Sulkin used different models to evaluate the results, but found that even using the strictest model, there was a significant difference in the level of activity between those who talked about an issue and those who didn’t on 14 of the 18 issues.

Sulkin said she chose to look at what the legislators introduced or co-sponsored, rather than at their votes on final bills, because she thought it better represented the legislators’ initiative on issues. Only a small portion of introduced bills ever reach a vote and only about 10 percent pass, she said. Also, votes come at the end of the process, when most legislators have little control over the final product.

Sulkin also wanted to avoid making political judgments about whether the legislation introduced or co-sponsored by legislators was a net positive or negative for that issue. “You can’t really separate out whether a vote improved education, for instance, but you can look at whether somebody who said they wanted to improve education actually went to Congress and worked on the issue,” Sulkin said.

Sulkin published a related paper, drawn from the same research, in the January issues of the Journal of Politics. Other articles covering the study, in the January 2008 edition of the Political Science and Politics, showed that the imagery in candidates’ ads also has a strong link to their priorities. She has written a chapter on candidates’ promise-keeping for an upcoming edition of the book “Congress Reconsidered,” published by CQ Press. She also is working on her own book on the study, “Promises to Keep: The Legislative Legacy of Congressional Campaigns,” under advance contract to Cambridge University Press.

Sulkin also is a research fellow in the UI’s Cline Center for Democracy and is a professor in the departments of both political science and communication.
Giant grass offers clues to growing corn in cooler climes

The focus of the research is biofuels infrastructure in Illinois, but the findings will be of interest on a global scale, the researchers said. The manner in which the biofuels industry develops in the Midwest will have implications for the overall food and agricultural landscape.

"We already have an agricultural economy in the Midwest and we have the infrastructure to manage it," Sivasubramanian said. "Now the question is whether the existing infrastructure is able to cope with the sudden infusion of bioenergy-related activities, including new crops and a whole lot of new refineries."

"From a biophysical point of view, we know that we can grow biofuels in this region, at least," Jain said. "We have plenty of water and nutrients and the land is quite fertile. But the issue is what the environmental implications of growing biofuels are."

"The new biofuels industry will not succeed until and unless all of its potential impacts are fully understood and managed," Cai said. "Land use, water use, transportation issues, the economic viability of various approaches and the impact on climate are all important considerations and must be studied in detail, he said."

The researchers already are analyzing how much water and fertilizer different crops require and how different agricultural practices affect water quality and the runoff of pollutants such as nitrates and phosphorous. Some potential biofuels crops, such as Miscanthus, require less fertilizer than other crops and are efficient at extracting nitrogen from the soil, potentially reducing fertilizer runoff pollution. But Miscanthus may consume more water than corn, which could have impacts on water supplies and aquatic ecosystems.

Transportation is another critical part of the equation, Ouyang said. "Already our interstate system and the local roads are very congested, especially in urban areas," he said. "We need to transport the biomass, the feedstocks, to the bio-refineries. This, with the ethanol shipments, would add a lot of truck loads to the roads."

"The increase in truck loading and traffic will affect the service life of our roads," said Al-Qadi, who directs the Illinois Center for Transportation. "This must be accounted for as part of a holistic model that considers the economic impact of bio-energy production."

"Social factors, such as competition over water or the promise of new jobs, also will play a major role in ensuring the success or failure of the biofuels industry," Gasteyer said. In addition to analyzing the overall sustainability of the biofuels infrastructure system, the researchers will model the dynamic interplay of all these factors to help understand the resiliency of such a complex system. Coupled models from different fields will allow them to test various scenarios, to see which components are most critical and how the whole system is affected by a particular extreme event, such as a drought.

"Will this biofuel economy be viable or not?" Cai said. "Our research will provide an integrated framework for addressing that question from a perspective of engineering infrastructure, as well as environmental and social impacts."
Margaret Rosso Grossman, Bock Choy and a professor of agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences, received the 2008 Professional Scholarship Award from the American Agri-cultural Law Association during its 2008 conference last month. The award recognizes the best agricultural law article published in a law, journal or the proceedings. Grossman’s article, “Anticipatory Nuisance and the Prevention of Environmental Harm and Economic Loss From GMOs in the United States,” was published in the Journal of Environmental Law and Practice. Grossman also won the award in 2006.

Schuyler Schlecter, professor of molecular genetics and biotechnology in the department of natural resources and environmental sciences, was elected a 2008 Fellow of the Crop Science Society of America. This is the highest recognition awarded by the society. Korban was recognized for his achievements and excellence in plant genomics and genetics and for his contributions to the field of crop sciences. The society presented the award at the 2008 Joint Annual Meeting Oct. 5-9 in Houston.

UI Extension 24/7, whose Web site has received the Florence Hall Award from the National Extension Association for Family and Consumer Sciences (National Association of Family and Consumer Sciences), said site developer Aaron Ebata.


The award was given to UI Extension family life team members Ebata, Patti Faughn, Giselea Grumbach, Milly Kaiser, Deborah McClellan, Janice McCoy, Geraldine Peoples, Amy, and John Stoltz, former senior and Legs and Ryle, is the Outstanding Student Organization.

Jack Widholm, professor emeritus of plant physiology in the department of crop sciences, has received the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Society for In Vitro Biology. This award is the highest honor given by the society, and is presented annually to a scientist who is considered a pioneer in the science and art of cell culture. Among the first credited to Widholm’s research, his UI laboratory was the first to report the regeneration of soybean plants.

The Dads Association at the UI presented its annual Certificate of Merit Awards at its annual Business Meeting and Banquet Oct. 31. The Certificate of Merit recognizes a student, a faculty member, a staff member and a registered student organization for their contributions to the improvement of the university and the community. No faculty member has ever received this award.

The 2008 recipients:

Virginia Vermillion, assistant dean for academic administration and dean of students in the College of Law, was named Outstanding Staff Member. Vermillion’s duties include serving as an advocate for students in the college. The students work with alumni, dignitaries and other student groups to raise funds for the college through events such as Feed Your FACES and the ACEs Phone Drive.

Brian Mateas, a senior majoring in general engineering, and minoring in chemistry and management, is a recipient of the Academic Achievement Award.

William Gropp, the Paul and Cynthia Saylor Professor of Computer Science and deputy director for research at the Institute for Advanced Computing Applications and Technology, has been named this year’s winner of the IEEE Computer Society’s Sidney Fernbach Award. Gropp’s research is dedicated to the development of software tools to support the scientific community.

Thomas Huang, the William L. Everitt Distinguished Professor in Electrical Engineering, was recently named a 2008 Academician by the Academy of Sciences, a pre-eminent academic institution in Taiwan.

Karrle Karahalios, a professor of computer science, has been awarded an A. Richard and Newton Breakthrough Research Award from Microsoft for her work on voice visualization technologies.

Benjamin Lev, a professor of physics, has been awarded a grant through the U.S. Air Force’s Young Investigator Research Program to explore quantum liquid-crystal lasers using ultracold dipolar atoms.

The School of Integrative Biology has honored faculty members with several awards. Evan H. DeLucia, director of the School of Integrative Biology, has been named the G. Wilkyn Canada Professor of Integrative Biology. He has earned this honor through his internationally known work on the responses of plants to elevated levels of atmospheric carbon dioxide and other consequences of global climate change. Hugh M. Robertson, professor of en- gineering, was named as the LAS Richard and Margaret Romano Professorial Scholar. The three-year appointment recognizes his outstanding achievements in research on molecular evolution.

"Life and Death in the Third Reich," a book by history professor Peter Fritzsche, has been selected as one of three finalists for the William L. Everitt Award. Fritzsche’s book is “given to the alumnus or alumna who, by outstanding achievement, has contributed to the improvement of the University of Illinois.”

The three-year appointment recognizes his outstanding achievements in research on molecular evolution.

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brief notes

Science and Archaeology Symposium
Conference on archaeological science
The Program on Ancient Technologies and Archaeological Research, in cooperation with the School of History, the Gender and Women Studies Program, and the Department of History, is bringing together authors and UI scholars to discuss recent books. The Author’s Roundtable series, which began earlier this semester, gives invited scholars opportunities to discuss their work with a panel of UI faculty members and graduate students in the Department of History.

Marrow for Tomorrow
Free concert at The Canopy Club
As part of the Krannert Center District, Krannert Center and organizer of the event.

Dancer-chorеographer presents exhibition of photos
A rtistic director, dancer and choreographer Robert Wood will present selected photographs from his repertoire works in an exhibition that opens Nov. 11 at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

American Music Month
Lincoln-themed concerts, exhibits
For the fifth year, November is American Music Month at the UI.

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BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 15

The center’s collections are used for scholarly research, exhibitions, journalism, documentary productions, school programs, music performances and other educational purposes. The center actively pursues alliances inside and outside the university community, and, as necessary, the Larger University community. More information is available on the Web at www.library.uic.edu/oursal or by calling 244-9309.

Campus open house
How to teach and learn with technology
An open house on Teaching and Learning With Technologies and Educational Services, the Office of Continuing Education and the UI Library, is intended to help faculty and staff members explore the latest technologies available on campus to enhance the pedagogical process. It also provides attendees with an opportunity to interact with staff members who can help adapt technologies to courses and programs.

Demonstrations of various technologies, a resource area to interact with staff members who assist faculty members with effective uses of technology, and networking opportunities will be available.

The noon brown-bag keynote address on “The Era of Ubiquitous Learning,” presented by UI professor Nicholas C. Burbules, will provide an opportunity for deeper exploration of these technologies and educational services.

This event is open to the public; refreshments will be served. A detailed schedule and list of the technologies that will be available can be found on the Web at www.conferences.uiuc.edu/learningtech. For more information, call 333-2880.

Inner Voices
Performances address body image
INNER VOICES Social Issues Theatre presents: “Freeze! Body Police … Any Image You Project May Serve.” A former child star on Romanian television, Weigl has an almost theatrical past that also includes political persecution, rock stardom in East Berlin, and – after being declared an enemy of the state – imprisonment and expulsion from that country. In West Berlin, she began a new career in theater, collaborating with some of the world’s most noted directors and performers. Her work at the Schiller Theater led her back to music – to performances in Hamburg with the band from the Robert Wilson and Tom Waits production “The Black Rider.”

After moving to New York in 1992, she has performed at the JVC Jazz Festival, Joe’s Pub, The Kitchen Factory and the Neue Gallerie. She was interviewed by National Public Radio host Scott Simon earlier this month on Weekend Edition Saturday.

‘Gypsy in a Tree’ at UI
Sanda Weigl will perform at 8 p.m. Nov. 8 in the Illini Union’s Courtyard Cafe. The concert is free and open to the public.

Known by New York City’s avant-garde cognoscenti as “the downtown gypsy queen,” Weigl is internationally celebrated for her potent, contemporary interpretation of Romanian gypsy music, which she learned as a child on the streets of Bucharest.

For the UI performance, she will be backed by her jazz trio: Shoko Nagai, piano, accordion; Kermit Driscoll, bass; and Satoshi Takeishi, percussion.

A first-born Romanian television, Weigl has an almost and “Buy This Play,” by Eric Roth and Charles Menchaca. Performance dates: Nov. 18 in the Peabody Private Dining Room; Nov. 19 in the Busey-Evans Residence Hall; Nov. 20 in Allen Hall Main Lounge; Dec. 2 in the Lambda Chi Alpha House, 209 E. Armorey; Dec. 3 in the Illinois Street Appliance. A former child star on Romanian television, Weigl has an almost theatrical past that also includes political persecution, rock stardom in East Berlin, and – after being declared an enemy of the state – imprisonment and expulsion from that country. In West Berlin, she began a new career in theater, collaborating with some of the world’s most noted directors and performers. Her work at the Schiller Theater led her back to music – to performances in Hamburg with the band from the Robert Wilson and Tom Waits production “The Black Rider.”

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Nov 6, 2008

Much of this information is drawn from the online Campus Calendars on the UI Web site at http://illinois.edu/find/calendars.html. Other calendar entries should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to insideil@uiuc.edu.

More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085.
CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

to this melding of Eastern and Western sounds and sensibilities in which Asian instruments intersect in a singular jazz Concert. 6:15 p.m. Beckman Center.

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18 Thursday
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Music

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President visit Visitors enter a semi-trailer housing a mobile exhibit from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Museum that was on display in the parking lot of Assembly Hall. "Abraham Lincoln: Self Made in America" told the story of Lincoln’s life through interactive displays and reproduction documents, artifacts and a holographic display. The exhibit was on campus Oct. 18-25.

Campaign strategizing Lance Schideman, a professor of agricultural and biological engineering, and his children, Luke, 9, Katrion, 7, and Anneliese, 4, examine a map showing the political climate in the states during Abraham Lincoln’s first campaigns for the U.S. presidency in 1860. The mobile exhibit was one of many activities being held throughout the state to celebrate the life of the nation’s 16th president and the bicentennial of his birth on Feb. 12, 2009.

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