Rotation is key to understanding volcanic plumes

By James E. Kloeppel
Physical Sciences Editor

A 200-year-old report by a sea captain and a stunning photograph of the 2008 eruption of Mount Chaitén in southern Chile showed what appeared to be a volcanic plume wrapped in a sheath of lightning. A search for references to other occurrences of lightning sheaths led to a sheath of lightning. A search for references to other occurrences of lightning sheaths led to Pinaki Chakraborty, mechanical science and engineering professor Susan W. Kieffer to an obscure paper by a sea captain, published in 1811.

In that paper, the sea captain reported his observations of a volcanic vent that emerged from the sea in the Azores archipelago and formed a large volcanic plume. According to the captain, the plume rotated on the water “like an (sic) horizontal wheel” and was accompanied by continuous “flashes of lightning” and a “quantity of waterspouts.”

This conjunction of rotation, lightning and waterspouts (or dust devils on land) is characteristic of a familiar meteorological phenomenon seemingly unrelated to volcanic plumes: a tornadic thunderstorm. The same process that creates a mesocyclone in a strong volcanic plume, Chakraborty said. “What happens in tornadic thunderstorms is analogous to what happens in strong volcanic plumes.”

A strong volcanic plume consists of a vertical column of hot gases and dust topped with a horizontal “umbrella.” A volcanic mesocyclone sets the entire plume rotating about its axis. The mesocyclone spawns waterspouts or dust devils, and groups the phenomenon seemingly unrelated to volcanic plumes: a tornadic thunderstorm. The same process that creates a mesocyclone in a strong volcanic plume, Chakraborty said. “What happens in tornadic thunderstorms is analogous to what happens in strong volcanic plumes.”

Governor’s budget proposal includes more for higher education

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

The fiscal year 2010 budget proposed by Gov. Pat Quinn on March 18 was welcome news for officials at the UI and other public universities. Quinn proposed an increase in funding for higher education next fiscal year rather than the decrease that many people were expecting because of the state’s multibillion-dollar deficit.

Quinn’s FY10 budget proposal contained a 1.1 percent, or $16 million, increase in state general funds appropriations for all public universities – or a $7.8 million increase for the UI.

The proposed increase would increase the university’s total general operating fund to $751 million and restore the 2.5 percent rescission the university received during the current fiscal year.

If Quinn’s budget is approved by lawmakers, the UI would receive capital funds for the first time in nearly a decade. Statewide, Quinn proposed $920 million for higher education capital projects, including $57.3 million to the Petascale Computing Facility at the Urbana campus was included in the Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity’s budget.

Statewide, Quinn budgeted $40.9 million for repairs and renovations at colleges and universities, with $21 million of those funds slated for the UI.

The proposed increases for higher education, capital projects and economic development programs throughout the state would be funded through increases in individual and corporate income taxes.

To help close an estimated $11.6 billion gap in the General Fund, Quinn recommended that state employees be required to take four furlough days, a measure he said would save the state $36 million. Workers who provide direct patient care or protect public safety would be exempt.

In a joint statement, UI President B. Joseph White and Niranjan Shah, chairman of the UI Board of Trustees, wrote that the proposed increase would reduce pressure to raise tuition on incoming students and help the university address its deferred maintenance needs.

“Gov. Quinn’s proposed reforms and ‘belts tightening’ measures reinforce for us at the UI that we must be good stewards of the resources that the state provides,” White and Shah wrote. “We have in the past and will continue to routinely re-examine our spending priorities and take steps necessary to maximize the level of resources supporting our core missions of educating students and creating new knowledge.

“State support is essential for the UI to provide a high-quality, accessible college education for the people of our state, and we look forward to working with students, the UI and the public in helping to ensure that every student has access to a world-class education.”
At the same time, thanks to his training as a synthetic skill but with an eye toward developing new methods for preparing therapeutic approaches to disease that harness the potential contributions to this area,” said professor of biochemistry and department chair Colvin A. Wragg, who has done a job at setting up her independent research program at Illinois, and her work on several helicases, and on mediator proteins of hormone action, which are key components of high fidelity DNA repair – has already drawn a lot of attention. Maria’s research is an excellent combination of classical and single-molecule biochemistry, and has important implications for basic science and medical understanding.”

“These scientists are at the early stage of their careers, when they are full of energy and not afraid to try something new,” said Jack Dixon, vice president and chief scientific officer of the institute. “They have already demonstrated that they are not apt to play it safe – and we hope they will continue to do something really original.”

Four other UI faculty members have received HHMI awards. Chemistry professor Yi Lu was named an HHMI investigator in 2005; and cell and developmental biology professor Phillip A. van der Donk were named HHMI investigators in May. Physics professor Daniel E. Schindler, physics professor Thomas J. Mountford, and cell and developmental biology professor Phillip A. van der Donk were named HHMI investigators in 2009.

By Phil Ciccarelli

Two professors honored by Howard Hughes Medical Institute

The two UI faculty members, Martin D. Burke, a professor of chemistry, and Maria Spies, a professor of biochemistry, have been named Howard Hughes Medical Institute early career scientists.

Burke and Spies will begin their six-year, non-renewable appointments to HHMI in September 2009.

Memorial service

Arthur J. Voci, 85, mechanical engineering professor, who died March 25 at his Urbana home, will have a memorial service on April 2, 2009, at 3 p.m. at the Illinois Memorial Union. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of one’s choice.

Deaths

Thelma Irene Barkley, 87, died March 26 at home in Urbana. Barkley was a member of the Board of Directors of the Urbana Hospital, American Legion Post #210 Auxiliary, and P.E.O. Pi Delta Chapter. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of one’s choice.

Donald Frederick Hansens, 73, died March 27 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Hanson was a U.S. Army veteran, who served in Korea and Vietnam, and received the Bronze Star. In lieu of flowers, memorials may be made to the American Legion or the Vermilion County War Museum.

Thomas Woodley, 82, died March 15 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Woodley was a member of the League of Women Voters, the Illinois League of Women Voters, and the League of Women Voters of the United States. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of one’s choice.

O. V. T. White, 80, an associate chancellor for public affairs, who died March 26 at his home in Champaign-Urbana. White was a member of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees, the Illinois State University Board of Trustees, and the Illinois State University Board of Regents. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to the American Cancer Society or to a charity of one’s choice.

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On the Job Mike Kobel

Mike Kobel, crash rescue specialist coordinator at Willard Airport, has worked in emergency services for more than 20 years. Born and raised in Champaign, Kobel is a graduate of Central High School. He has a degree in automotive mechanics from Parkland College and became interested in emergency services after working at a farm equipment dealership as a mechanic. After considering what would happen if someone was hurt while working, Kobel was prompted to take a rescue technician and EMT class at Parkland. Since then, Kobel has obtained three other degrees from Parkland in fire service technology and from Eastern Illinois University and Southern Illinois University in fire service administration.

After working as fire chief of the Eastern Prairie Fire Department for six years, Kobel started working at Willard Airport in August 1994.

Tell me about your job.

As a crash rescue specialist coordinator at Willard Airport, I oversee a 12-hour shift of myself and another firefighter. We are trained in fire protection and rescue in the event of an aircraft accident. We also are trained to provide CPR and EMS to individuals at the airport who may need it. Customer service also is a large part of our job, so if someone accidentally locks their keys in their car or their car needs a jump start, we will help them with that. We wear a lot of different hats.

Each of us must know the aircraft that are housed at the airport or those that have landed. We have gone through intensive training to know the different systems on board each craft so that in the event of an accident we can respond to passenger needs effectively.

What’s your typical day look like?

Every day is different, but every morning I come in and touch base with whoever was on duty before me as well as with the fire marshal to see what events took place the night before. Sometimes we provide fire extinguisher training sessions during the day for students at the aviation school. Sometimes we will receive emergency calls from incoming aircraft that have smoke in the cabin or electrical or landing gear problems so we will get in our trucks and respond. Although nine out of 10 times the landing gear will come down on a plane, you have to be there because you never know what may happen.

Throughout the day we are like a traditional fire department though. There are plenty of housekeeping duties that need to be done and those keep us pretty busy. We have six vehicles that we use so we spend time checking and running them to make sure they’re ready to go when we need them. And always, there’s training.

What do you like most about your job?

Something new and different happens every day. There’s nothing like stepping out onto a ramp and seeing an F-16 take off. I love planes and it keeps my job from getting stale. My favorite day was when former President Clinton’s plane got stuck in the mud after going off the runway. Even though I didn’t get to meet him, I did get to clean the mud off of his plane. Not everyone can say that they’ve done that.

Have you been able to meet any famous people?

Oh sure. I’ve met Jay Leno, Rod Blagojevich, Richard Petty, Mike Ditka and Bill Cosby. I remember asking Bill Cosby how his show at Assembly Hall went. He said, ‘Terrible, terrible … they wanted to run me out of town.’ I told him ‘Keep trying, you’ll get it right!’ He laughed and shook my hand. I’m hoping that one of these days I’ll get to meet President Obama since he (has ties to) Illinois.

What do you like to do off the job?

This will be my 11th year as a Champaign County Freedom Celebration member and I was recently appointed to the Champaign County Fair board. Right now we are in the middle of organizing Fire Apparatus Extravaganza, which will be a fire truck show with hands-on activities for families at the fair this summer.

When I get some time I’d love to race my stock car again. I am part of the fire safety team at Chicagoland Motor Speedway, which is awesome. My buddies at the track and I have driven the Richard Petty Driving Experience Cars, and I’ve even gotten my dad to ride in one. It’s a real hoot.

– Interview by Brittany Small, News Bureau Student Intern
Six academic professionals honored with CAPE award

By Brittany Small
News Bureau Intern

Six academic professionals received the 2009 Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence (CAPE) award at an April 1 campus reception. Now in its 21st year, the program honors contributions made by academic professionals on campus. Recipients are chosen for excellence in their work, personal and professional contributions to their fields, and the positive impact they have on colleagues, students and the public. Each award winner receives $2,000 – a $1,000 increase in base salary and a $1,000 one-time budget increase for their department.

The CAPE recipients and a summary of their accomplishments, according to the nominating documentation:

**Eric Ahlgren,** principal research specialist for the Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences (ACES) research center, the field area in research, and the number of research trials has increased from less than 60 to more than 75 acres, and the number of research trials has nearly doubled – from 25 to 45.

Ahlgren has worked at the center since 1995 and was promoted to principal research specialist in 2008. Ahlgren has clearly demonstrated his ability to manage a sizeable research operation; to cooperate with other staff both as a provider of physical facilities as well as car-pooling of physical facilities as well as car-pooling, and the general public through monthly newsletters, newspaper columns and personal contact.

“Ahlgren has clearly demonstrated his ability to manage a sizeable research operation; to cooperate with other staff both as a provider of physical facilities as well as car-pooling of physical facilities as well as car-pooling, and the general public through monthly newsletters, newspaper columns and personal contact.”

Ahlgren’s crowning achievement, one that is now bringing national acclaim to the UI, lies with a different innovation: her work with a software assessment and remediation tool called Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. ALEKS is a Web-based tool designed around sound mathematical theory and artificial intelligence principles. An ALEKS assessment poses mathematical questions to the student, and based upon the answers given to the questions, poses additional questions, probing and honing in on the student’s knowledge. The results of an assessment inform the student of areas of strength and weakness and provide an overall assessment score.

Ahlgren, who has been using ALEKS to develop a new math placement exam for the UI, has always viewed proper placement of students and the public. Each award winner receives $2,000 – a $1,000 increase in base salary and a $1,000 one-time budget increase for their department.

The CAPE recipients and a summary of their accomplishments, according to the nominating documentation:

**Eric Ahlgren,** coordinator of quantitative reasoning courses in the department of mathematics since 2003, is responsible for ensuring the success of more than 25 classes each year and the teaching assistants who teach them. Ahlgren also is the coordinator of the math placement program through the Assessment and Learning in Knowledge Spaces. Ahlgren helps about 7,000 freshmen navigate through a new electronic math placement exam.

As director of Extension in Illinois, Ahlgren has always viewed proper placement of students and the public. Each award winner receives $2,000 – a $1,000 increase in base salary and a $1,000 one-time budget increase for their department.

The CAPE recipients and a summary of their accomplishments, according to the nominating documentation:

**Rick Atterberry,** marketing specialist for the college and Extension. The agricultural services warehouse operation fulfills thousands of orders for educational materials each year, and Atterberry supervises the personnel, manages the budget and is responsible for managing an aging facility that needs frequent attention.

As media communications specialist for statewide Extension programs, Atterberry has developed a statewide and national reputation as someone who can make connections and get things done. He previously spent most of his time on organizational marketing concerns, but in the last few years his duties have evolved in a new direction.

At the state level, Atterberry represents Extension on the Governor’s Long-Term Flood Recovery Strategy Task Force. He coordinated Extension’s response to four federally declared flood disasters in Illinois in 2008.

The director of Extension in Illinois 

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nominated Atterberry to serve as the state’s representative to the national Extension Disaster Education Network, a federation of land-grant universities associated with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. In that capacity he serves as chair of the Information Clearinghouse Committee, is incoming secretary of the group, and is a member of the network’s executive committee.

In the 23 counties that make up the Extension’s East-Central region, Atterberry’s official title is communications and marketing specialist. Unofficially, he is part teacher, part consultant. He spends much of his time working with local Extension staff members on issues involving institutional identity, copyright, public relations, program marketing, the Open Meetings Act and production of newsletters and news releases.

Karen Chan, Extension educator in consumer and family economics, provides financial education to the public, seeking ways to meet the needs of the Chicago metropolitan area through a train-the-trainer approach that extends her reach beyond the number of participants she can teach directly.

The “All My Money” program is a prime example of Chan’s work. She led a team of five other educators in the research, testing and development of a train-the-trainer program for staff members and volunteers of agencies serving limited-resource clients. Since 1998, Chan has personally trained more than 600 staff members from more than 280 community groups, social service agencies and banks on how to use “All My Money” with their clientele.

Chan consistently is among the top educators in the number of workshops delivered each year, delivering more than 100 workshops annually that reach 2,100 to 2,500 people. During her career, Chan has taught more than 25,000 people directly. Fellow educators have adopted many workshops that Chan has developed and delivered. She has developed teaching guides and trained other team members so that these programs are now available statewide. In response to budget cuts and reduced teaching staff, Chan initiated the use of distance-learning technology that allows Extension offices across the state to offer her “Who Gets the Money?” workshop. Her team of educators recently adopted that model as a way of making programming in their subject area available to all Extension offices statewide on a monthly basis.

Chan has worked with many other agencies and organizations to further the reach of Extension. Those partnerships have resulted in greater recognition for Extension and increased opportunities for educating the public. She represents Extension in planning for the Federal Reserve Bank’s annual Money Smart Week in Chicago. She worked closely with the FDIC’s Chicago office to develop the train-the-trainer program and the national launch of their Money Smart program in Chinatown and the Spanish-speaking community of Pilsen in Chicago.

Hank Kaczmarek, director of the Integrative Systems Laboratory at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, serves as the staff member who keeps the laboratory running in a pinch, locates students in the event recruitment of faculty members and students to the Beckman Institute and the campus, participates in public service activities affecting both the local community and other communities.

Kaczmarek also works to make ISL facilities available for classes and special projects, such as the Cube and CAVE environments that faculty member George Francis uses to teach advanced mathematical concepts to his students. Kaczmarek introduces new faculty members to the modeling and visualization capabilities of ISL and works with them to develop research projects. Two recent examples include a virtual surgery and an empathy research project. In both cases, Kaczmarek identified the appropriate faculty members to participate on the research teams and also became an active member of the research team.

“The Beckman Institute is in the process of a substantial upgrade, and the move of all of the virtual reality simulation facilities managed by Hank and has been a substantial undertaking that will, by the end of this year, further advance the research facilities for the university and our collaborations throughout the world,” said Arthur Kram, professor of psychology and of neuroscience. “Without Hank’s dedication and tireless efforts, this upgrade and move of facilities would not have been as successful as it has been. Hank has done this while also supporting all of the research projects that he and ISL have in their ever increasing portfolio.”

Ruth McCauley, associate dean of students, displays a sensitivity to student concerns that is without comparison," said Ken Balcom, associate vice chancellor and dean of students. “She demonstrates an exceptional proficiency in communication, problem solving, creativity, budget management, strategic planning, managing details and coordinating diverse groups while also serving as the staff member who keeps the office motivated by recognizing staff accomplishments and celebrating their successes.”

The programs have seen a significant increase in usage over the past several years as the undergraduate population has grown and the service expectations from parents have increased. McCauley has elevated the Emergency Dean program to a new level of professionalism and care since she started in 1994. McCauley has strengthened the UI’s relationships with health-care providers and is respected by those who serve in local emergency rooms, and in area police and fire departments. She has worked with her staff to develop protocols for students in crisis and created numerous response teams.

Additionally, McCauley represents the UI by serving on a variety of community groups, including the Religious Workers Association of Champaign-Urbana and the Champaign Liquor Commission. Her impact with the Religious Workers Association is significant in that she has been asked to address numerous religious groups and her interaction with students at these important events gives the campus a personal face and makes the students aware that they are valued members of the UI community. She also contributes to the community by volunteering with Illinois Radio Reader each week.

“All associate dean of students, Ruth displays a sensitivity to student concerns that is without comparison,” said Ken Balcom, associate vice chancellor and dean of students. “She demonstrates an exceptional proficiency in communication, problem solving, creativity, budget management, strategic planning, managing details and coordinating diverse groups while also serving as the staff member who keeps the office motivated by recognizing staff accomplishments and celebrating their successes.”

Ad removed for online version
Social skills, extra activities in high school pay off later

By Phil Ciciora
News Editor

It turns out that being voted “Most likely to succeed” in high school might actually be a good predictor of one’s financial and educational success later in life.

According to a UI professor who studies the sociology of education, high school sophomores who were rated by their teachers as having good social skills and work habits, and who participated in extracurricular activities in high school, made more money and completed higher levels of education 10 years later than their classmates who had similar standardized test scores but were less socially adroit and participated in fewer extracurricular activities.

Christy Lleras, a professor of human and community development, says that “soft skills” such as sociability, punctuality, conscientiousness and an ability to get along well with others, along with participation in extracurricular activities, are better predictors of earnings and higher educational achievement later in life than having good grades and high standardized test scores.

“That’s not to say that academic achievement in high school doesn’t matter—it does,” Lleras said. “But if we only look at standardized test scores, we’re only considering part of the equation for success as an adult in a global marketplace. Academic achievement is part of the story, but it’s not the whole story. You’ve got to have the social skills and work habits to back those achievements up.”

With the generational shift from a manufacturing-based economy to service- and information-based one, employers value workers who can not only boast about their GPAs and SAT scores, but are also able to get along well with the public and co-workers, Lleras said.

“I think we’ve known this intuitively for a long time that employers are looking for something beyond cognitive skills,” Lleras said. “Leadership now is not just about being good at your job, it’s how well you get along in a team and get people organized.”

But thanks to the strict accountability measures of the No Child Left Behind law, struggling schools are increasingly cutting the extracurricular programs and activities that foster soft skills in order to focus almost exclusively on achieving adequate yearly progress on state-mandated standardized tests, Lleras said.

Consequently, low-achieving schools are put in a bind: Measure up, or lose funding. Either way, it’s a zero-sum game for students, Lleras said.

“There’s this pervasive idea that if we just teach and test the basic skills, students are going to do much better in school and in life,” she said. “It would be great if we could just snap our fingers and tomorrow everyone could read, write and do math at grade-level. But an obsession with testing and routinized thinking doesn’t foster the non-cognitive soft skills that pay off as an adult.”

Inadequate funding for education also has meant that many schools are not able to reduce class sizes or hire more qualified teachers, two important factors for “creating the academic and social environment that foster these kinds of soft skills in schools,” Lleras said.

“In addition to testing, what high-performing schools do really well is provide kinds of opportunities through extracurricular activities, rigorous course work and high-quality teachers that help create good citizens and good workers and foster the kinds of work habits, behaviors and attitudes that we know employers value,” she said.

If high-stakes testing is the only remedy for low-performing schools, Lleras said, “then we may fail to help those students develop the soft skills they need to successfully complete higher levels of education and get a better job in the labor market.”

Ironically, the original version of the No Child Left Behind law had a behavioral component.

“NCLB did have this notion that there are other things going on in education besides testing, but it was grossly underfunded and targeted drug, alcohol, tobacco and violence prevention activities,” she said.

Lleras sees access to high-performing schools not only as an educational issue, but also as a social justice issue.

In the course of her research, she discovered that participation in fine arts programs was associated with “significantly higher earnings” for African-American and Hispanic students 10 years later, yet those students often attended schools with fewer opportunities.

The same measure had little effect on the earning power of white students.

If we care about those low-achieving schools and their effect on students, it’s imperative for schools and educators to go beyond No Child Left Behind, which is “only about testing,” Lleras said.

Most of our students don’t go on to college, and our young adults today are entering a workforce that’s very different from what it was 30 years ago,” Lleras said. “It’s a very tenuous, volatile market, especially for workers with a high school education or less, and our schools are failing students by not providing enough opportunities to develop the skills, habits and knowledge we know employers are going to reward.”

So what can parents take away from her research?

“I think that incentives are very important, particularly for adolescents,” Lleras said. “Parents need to see that their efforts in high school matter and will eventually pay off. This gives parents evidence they can use to talk to their kids about the importance of working hard, getting along with others and participating in extracurricular activities.”

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Skills for success Christy Lleras, a professor of human and community development, says that “soft skills” are better predictors of earnings and higher educational achievement later in life than having good grades and high standardized test scores.
More than 100,000 people in the U.S. are waiting for an organ transplant, and an average of 17 die waiting each day, according to UI communication professor Brian Quick.

But you’ll rarely hear those facts in organ donation stories on TV network news, says Quick, the lead author of a study recently published in the journal Health Communication. You’ll also rarely hear about the simple steps required to become a potential donor, he said.

“We found that the networks didn’t spend a whole lot of time talking about the need, and they didn’t spend a lot of time talking about how to register,” Quick said.

Quick and his co-authors on the study drew from ABC, CBS and NBC news transcripts that were available through the LexisNexis media database, covering the period 1990 to 2005. The transcripts came from dozens of different news programs, including morning, evening and magazine shows.

NBC transcripts were not available from LexisNexis for broadcasts before 1995, and Quick said it was difficult to know what programs or specific broadcasts from any of the three networks might have transcripts missing from the database.

Three students were trained as research coders to analyze the organ donation stories, once they were identified.

Over the period studied, the researchers found 1,307 stories involving organ donation, or about 100 a year, a number they labeled as “modest coverage.”

Of the 201 stories that mentioned health outcomes for living organ donors, 189 (or 94 percent) were positive, compared with 12 stories about unsuccessful donor outcomes. Of the 755 stories that mentioned health outcomes for organ recipients, 617 (81.7 percent) were positive, compared to 138 about negative outcomes.

Less than 15 percent of all stories, however, noted the large number of people waiting for an organ, and most illustrated that need through narrative rather than statistics, Quick said. Less than 5 percent of stories specified the number of individuals who die waiting for an organ transplant.

Also, less than 10 percent of stories indicated how to become a potential donor: by signing a donor card, talking to one’s family, signing the back of a driver’s license, or registering through a Web site.

These numbers are a concern, Quick said, because “you’ve got to communicate the need before people are going to be motivated to become potential donors, and then they have to know how.”

Quick said he was motivated to research the topic – and sign up early as a potential donor himself – based in large part on his own experience. “I’ve been on the receiving end,” he said, since his father has received transplants of both a kidney and pancreas, the first coming while Quick was still in high school.

Even though he’s experienced the benefits, however, he understands why many are hesitant to discuss the topic with family or to register as potential donors. To sign up as a potential donor means contemplating your own death, as well as concerns about disfigurement, he said.

The results of the TV news study have implications for those advocating organ donation and designing campaigns to promote it, Quick said.

Quick said. “We need to continue to reinforce the positive because we are competing with Hollywood, which is really tough.”

Co-authors of the study were Do Kyun Kim and Kevin Meyer, both graduate students at Ohio University at the time of the research. Kim is now a professor at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette; Meyer soon will be a professor at Illinois State University.

On the Web: www.lifegoeson.com

Sharing life Brian Quick, a professor of communication, says TV news says little about the need for organ donations or how people can become donors.
electric charges in the plume to form a sheath of lightning, as was so prominently displayed in the eruption of Mount Chaiten.

The rotation of strong volcanic plumes may be verified by observations from space, the scientists report. On June 15, 1991, the eruption of Mount Pinatubo in the Philippines was recorded by a satellite snapping hourly images. The images show that the edge of Pinatubo’s umbrella was rotating about its center, consistent with the presence of a volcanic mesocyclone.

The images also show that after rotating for a while, the umbrella lost axial symmetry and became lobate in plan view. This loss of axial symmetry is another effect of the rotation, which destabilizes the edge of the umbrella and makes it lobate, the scientists report.

Lobate umbrellas have been found in satellite images of other volcanoes, including Mount Manam in Papua New Guinea, Mount Reventador in Ecuador and Mount Okmok in the Aleutian Islands. Satellite images of future volcanic plumes taken at intervals of a few minutes would make it possible to trace the evolution of umbrellas in detail, Gioia said. In addition, some of the tools commonly used in the study of thunderstorms could be deployed for the study of volcanic eruptions.

“The structure and dynamics of volcanic mesocyclones, as well as the presence of lightning sheaths, might be verified with Doppler radar and lightning mapping arrays, two technologies that have been scarcely used in volcanology,” Gioia said.

Understanding volcanoes

Gustavo Gioia, left, professor of mechanical science and engineering; Pinaki Chakraborty, a postdoctoral researcher; and Susan Kieffer, a professor of geology, have found the origins of “volcanic mesocyclones.”

White spoke to the Senate Higher Education Appropriations Committee on March 25, a week after Quinn released his budget proposal, and reiterated his belief “that this is not a good time to impose a stiff tuition increase on students and their families. We intend to do our very best to minimize any increase. Even modest increased support from the state, as recommended by the governor, would help us greatly in this regard.”

The governor’s budget included significant changes to the state’s five public employee retirement systems, although most of them would apply only to new hires. Among the reforms Quinn recommended were raising the minimum age for early retirement to 62, capping service credit at 35 years, and redefining “final pay” for calculating retirement benefits as the final “eight-year average” of employees’ compensation and limiting it to base pay. Current employees would be required to bump up contributions to their retirement plans by 2 percentage points; new hires would pay 1 percentage point less than the current rates.

Under the proposed budget, the state’s FY09 fourth-quarter payment ($550 million) to the pension systems would be eliminated, and the FY10 budget reduced accordingly. Likewise, payments to the State Universities Retirement System would be reduced $126.5 million from the FY09 budget.

Other cost-cutting measures that Quinn proposed included requiring state employees and retirees to contribute $200 million more for their health care next year. A total of $45 million of all state universities’ appropriations – $24.9 million of the UI’s appropriations – goes to the state for employee and retiree health-care costs.
A team of 24 researchers from the U.S., Europe, Taiwan and Japan led by UI scientists has engineered a new anti-cancer agent that is about 200 times more active in killing tumor cells than similar drugs used in recent clinical trials. The study appears this week in the Journal of the American Chemical Society.

The new agent belongs to a class of drugs called bisphosphonates. These compounds were originally developed to treat osteoporosis and other bone diseases, but were recently found to also have potent anti-cancer and immune boosting properties. Drug developers have tried for years to design drugs to inhibit cell survival pathways in tumor cells, focusing on a protein called Ras since nearly a third of all human cancers involve a mutation in the Ras gene that causes cell signaling to go awry. These efforts have met with limited success.

Bisphosphonates act on other enzymes, called FPPS and GG-PPS, which are upstream of Ras in the cell survival pathway. Inhibiting these enzymes appears to be a more effective strategy for killing cancer cells.

When used in combination with hormone therapy in a recent clinical trial, the bisphosphonate drug zoledronate significantly reduced the recurrence of breast cancer in premenopausal women with estrogen-receptor-positive breast cancer. Similar results were reported previously for hormone-refractory prostate cancer. But zoledronate quickly binds to bone, reducing its efficacy in other tissues.

“We’re trying to develop bisphosphonates that will be very active but won’t bind to the bone, because if they bind to the bone they’re not going to go to breast, lung or other tissues,” said UI chemistry professor Eric Oldfield, who led the new study.

Oldfield’s team also wanted to design a compound that would inhibit multiple enzymes in the tumor cell survival pathway, rather than just one, an approach analogous to the use of multi-kinase inhibitors in cancer therapy. Andrew Wang, of Academia Sinica, Taipei, and Illinois chemist Rong Cao began by producing crystallographic structures of the target enzymes and drug candidates, allowing the researchers to identify those features that would enhance the drugs’ ability to bind to the enzymes. Using this and other chemical data, Illinois chemistry department research scientist Yonghui Zhang engineered new bisphosphonate compounds that bound tightly to multiple enzyme targets, but not to bone. One of the new compounds, called BPH-715, proved to be especially potent in cell culture and effectively inhibited tumor cell growth and invasiveness. Tadahiko Kubo, of Hiroshima University, then found that BPH-715 also killed tumor cells in mice. And Socrates Papapoulos, of Leiden University, the Netherlands, showed that the compound had a very low chemical affinity for bone. In humans, compounds like BPH-715 and zoledronate have an added benefit in fighting cancer. They spur the proliferation of immune cells called gamma delta T-cells, which aid in killing tumor cells.

“The new drugs are about 200 times more effective at killing cancer cells than a bisphosphonate drug used in a recent clinical trial.”

Beating cancer
UI chemistry department research scientist Yonghui Zhang, left, chemist Rong Cao, chemistry professor Eric Oldfield, and their colleagues engineered a new bisphosphonate drug that is about 200 times more effective at killing cancer cells than a bisphosphonate drug used in a recent clinical trial.

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Drug agent knocks out multiple enzymes in cancer pathway
**Krannert Art Museum Council**

The UI Krannert Art Museum Council will host its 17th annual Petals & Paintings benefit April 17-19 in support of the museum’s upcoming exhibitions and related educational programming.

Champagne florist Rick Orr is guest curator. The exhibition will feature floral arrangements created by award-winning regional floral designers in response to works of art selected by Orr from the museum’s permanent collection.

To celebrate the opening, a special reception will be held April 16 at 6 p.m. at Krannert Art Museum from 6 to 8 p.m. April 17. Guests will view the floral displays as they enjoy a selection of hors d’oeuvres, wine and music. There will be a raffle for original art by Illinois artist Joyce Reuland. The evening also will include a silent auction with artwork by local and regional artists.

Tickets for the opening reception are $65 for museum members; $85 for nonmembers. Tickets include an individual book-collecting event, reservations or membership, call 244-0516. Limited tickets will be available at the door.

The exhibit will open with a reception at Krannert Art Museum and RUNWAY on Facebook.

**The Rare Book and Manuscript Library**

Book-collecting contest entries due May 1

To foster the love of books and introduce students to the pleasures of book collecting, The Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the University of Illinois will host an annual book-collecting contest. The competition is co-sponsored by the University Library and The No. 44 Society. Undergraduate winners may win the Harris-Fletcher Book Collecting Award, and graduate students’ collections are eligible to win the T.W. Baldwin Prize for Book Collecting.

First prize for each category is $1,000. Winners will be asked to talk about their collections at the May meeting of The No. 44 Society. Winners are encouraged to use some of their prize money to attend Bibliography Week in New York (generally held in late January), and they will be invited to a reception at the country’s premier book-collecting organization, The Grolier Club. Second prize is a one-year subscription to “Fine Books and Collecting.” All contestants receive a student membership in the Friends of the University of Illinois Library.

The contest is open to all registered UI undergraduates and graduates. To enter, each contestant must submit a brief statement describing the background and development of the collection, a brief annotated bibliographic list of the collection and a list of 10 titles the contestant would like to add to the collection. The deadline is 5 p.m. May 1.

For more information, go to www.library.uiuc.edu/rbs/CollectingContest.htm.

**Changes in income tax withholding announced by IRS**

The IRS has issued new tax tables to reduce federal tax withholding required by the new economic stimulus law, officially known as the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009. For 2009 and 2010, the Making Work Pay provision of the stimulus bill provides a reduction in withholding of $400 for those claiming single on the Form W-4, and $600 for those claiming married on Form W-4.

The new tables will be effective retroactively with payrolls paid in April. Eligible university employees will get the benefit of the reduced withholding without any action on their part. The new tax tables will adjust the withholding automatically.

However, there may be situations where taxes will be under-withheld if no action is taken:

- If an employee works for more than one employer and the new tax tables will provide the reduced withholding for both employers. This would reduce the withholding by more than what the married couple would be entitled.
- Married couples with both spouses working and claiming married on the Form W-4 also will see the reduction in withholding for both spouses. This would reduce the withholding by more than what the married couple would be entitled.
- Individuals claimed as a dependent on another individual’s tax return are not eligible for the reduced withholding. The reduction is automatic and could result in under-withholding for the year.

Nonresident aliens are not entitled to the reduced withholding. The calculations are adjusted so that the reduction is not applied to most nonresident alien withholding. However, the calculation adjustment does not apply to students and business apprentices from India. Individuals in this category may be under-withheld in their taxes for the year.

In the situations described above, if you want to make sure the appropriate withholding is applied, you need to file a new Form W-4. You may claim fewer withholding allowances on line 5 or request additional amounts to be withheld on line 6.

If you are unsure what you should submit on the Form W-4, you can use the IRS Withholding Calculator to determine what you would need to claim so that you do not owe taxes at the end of the year.

**Asian Educational Media Service**

Final spring film screening is April 7

Organized by the Asian Educational Media Service, in collaboration with the Spurlock Museum, the spring 2009 AsianEWS series concludes at 7 p.m. April 7 with “The Last Ghost of War” (Janet Gardner, 2006, 54 minutes). Joseph T. Campbell Alumni Center.

For more information, call 333-9597, e-mail aems@illinois.edu or go to www.aems.uiuc.edu.

Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program

Human rights lecture is April 7

The Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program is hosting its annual Balgopal Lecture on Human Rights and Asian Americans at 7 p.m. April 7 at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

Shamima Das Gupta’s talk is titled “In Search of Safety: Women in South Asian Communities in America.” She is a co-founder of Manavi, the first organization in the

**On the Web: The IRS Withholding Calculator**

www.irs.gov/ (click on individual tab)

**IRS Publication 919, “How Do I Adjust My Tax Withholding?”**


Still have questions?

Contact University Payroll at 866-476-3586, 265-6363 or payrin@uiuc.edu.
Ebertfest 2009: Woodstock, vampires, animation and politics

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

The films will run from the strikingly visual to hard luck reality at the 11th annual Roger Ebert’s Film Festival, April 22-26 in Champaign-Urbana.

The visuals will come from around the globe and from filmmakers’ imaginations. The reality will come from hurricane-savaged New Orleans and from a stripper and from chop shops in New York City.

A newly restored director’s cut of “Woodstock,” a famous film about a famous concert, will open the festival on April 21 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. It will close it. Ebert calls the latter “one of the most beautiful films ever made.”

Among the films in between will be “Frozen River,” which received Oscar nominations for original screenplay and for best actress for Melissa Leo.

Actor Matt Dillon plans to attend the screening of “Nothing But the Truth,” a fictionalized political drama based on the Valerie Plame affair. Directors of many of the festival films also will be guests, among them Uruguayan Nima Paley and Carl Deal.

Once again the festival will offer a silent film – accompanied, for the seventh time, by the three-man Alloy Orchestra of Cambridge, Mass. This year’s feature is “The Last Command,” from 1928.

The 12 screenings will take place at the 1,500-seat Virginia Theater, with other events on the UI campus. The festival is an event of the College of Media.

Ebert is a Pulitzer Prize-winning critic for the Chicago Sun-Times and co-hosted “Ebert & Roeper, a Movie Review” on ABC until 2006. He also is a 1964 Illinois journalism graduate and adjunct journalism professor.

Ebert selects films for the festival that he feels have been overlooked in some way, either by critics, distributors or audiences, or because they come from overlooked genres or formats, such as documentaries. Guests connected with the selected films are invited to attend, and many appear on stage for informal discussions after the screenings.

Prior to the 2007 festival, those discussions were always with Ebert, who also introduced each film. As the result of throat-cancer surgery and related health issues, however, the last two years those duties have been performed by his wife, Chaz, and festival director Nate Kohn.

Chaz Ebert and Kohn will again share onstage roles this year, but Ebert plans to return to play a larger role with the help of assistive technology, according to festival organizers.

This year’s full schedule of films, with the current lineup of guests is now available on the festival Web site. Other festival events, including panel discussions, will be announced soon. Updates will be posted online. Tickets for individual films will go on sale April 6 through the theater box office; phone 217-356-9063; fax: 217-356-5729. The price will be $12 each for regular admission and $10 each for students and senior citizens. Sales will be limited to four per person. Festival passes are sold out.

Those seeking additional information and updates on films, guests and festival events should contact Mary Susan Britt, at 217-244-0552 or maruse@illinois.edu, or festival director Nate Kohn, at 706-542-4972 or nate.kohn@gmail.com.

On the Web: www.ebertfest.com

Trouble the Water (2008)
Directors Tim Leeson
and Urbanus native Carl Deal combined Hurricane Katrina footage shot by New Orleans natives Kimberly and Scott Roberts with reporting of federal neglect during and after the hurricane. All four are expected to attend the festival. (8:30 p.m. April 23)
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Tuesday</td>
<td>&quot;Art and the Coming Age of Genomic Biology&quot;</td>
<td>UI, 3 p.m. 134 IGB Conference Center</td>
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<td>&quot;Three Sisters.&quot;</td>
<td>University of Wisconsin, Madison, 4 p.m. 1122 NCSA</td>
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<td>Wednesday</td>
<td>&quot;The Tibet Museum and the Birth of Cultural Capital in Tibet.&quot;</td>
<td>UI, Noon-1:30 p.m. B102 Chemical and Life Sciences Seminar</td>
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April 2, 2009
more calendar of events

Calend a r  C o n t i n u e d f r o m P a g e 12

Thursday, Kram er Center. An- ton Chekhov’s story of Olga, Masha and Irina, who choose their deepest longings and pet- ty f o l l i e s .

Friday 1 “Three Sisters,” Brant Poge- guest director. 7:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Kramer Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

Saturday 1 “The Complete Plays of Tennessee Williams,” 8 p.m. McLaughlin Auditorium. Directed by loafie Cappel and Guest Director Jeanette Wray.

Sunday 1 “The Complete Plays of Tennessee Williams,” 8 p.m. McLaughlin Auditorium. Directed by loafie Cappel and Guest Director Jeanette Wray.

More Calendar of Events

Daily Calendar of Events

April 2, 2009
April 2, 2009

Graduate Recital. Piano. 7:30 p.m. Music Building auditorium. Matthew Foster, pianist. 4 p.m. Colwell Playhouse.路桥 Music Reading, Craig Suddes, pianist. 4 p.m. Colwell Playhouse.

Friday 2, 2009
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Graduate Recital. Piano. 7:30 p.m. Music Building auditorium. Matthew Foster, pianist. 4 p.m. Colwell Playhouse.路桥 Music Reading, Craig Suddes, pianist. 4 p.m. Colwell Playhouse.

July 8, 2009
July 8, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

May 15, 2009
May 15, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

May 22, 2009
May 22, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

May 29, 2009
May 29, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

June 5, 2009
June 5, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

June 12, 2009
June 12, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

June 19, 2009
June 19, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

June 26, 2009
June 26, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

July 3, 2009
July 3, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

July 10, 2009
July 10, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

July 17, 2009
July 17, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

July 24, 2009
July 24, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.

August 1, 2009
August 1, 2009

Fine Arts Theatre, Kram er Center. Directed by Steven Lare.
CALENDAR

Children Just Like Me
Through May 9.
Five galleries featuring the cultures of the world.
Spurlock Museum, 600 S. Gregory St., Urbana. Noon-5 p.m. Tuesday, 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Wednesday-Friday, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday, Noon-5 p.m. Sunday.

Petalis and Paintings
Rick Onn, guest curator
On view April 18 and 19.

Jean Luc Myehay
Through April 5.

New Installation of the Ros
Cena Gallery, Second Floor
The Archeological Heritage Of Illinois
Through May 31.

Collecting East Asia: The Lee Winson Collection
Through July 26.

Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday, 2-6 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. 333-3404.

Center for Teaching Excellence
Tuesday-Thursday, 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Free admission.

English as a Second Language Course
7:30-8:30 p.m. LDS Institute Building, 402 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana. Weekly on Thursdays.

Illini Union Ballroom
11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Colonial Room. For reservations, 333-0690, walk-ins welcome.

Japan House
For a group tour, 244-9394. Tea Ceremony: 2nd and 4th Thursdays of the month. S5/person.

Kraanner Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion Tours: By appointment, call 244-0516.

Gallery hours: 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday, 10 a.m.-noon and 1-7 p.m. Tuesday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Saturday. Café 8 a.m.-4 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Office hours: 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Kraanner Center for the Performing Arts
Stage 5 Bar: Open at 4 p.m. most Thursday and Friday evenings. Close at 7 p.m. on non-performance nights and until after the performance on show nights.

Kraanner Uncorked Wine tastings at 5 p.m. most Thursdays. Intermezzo Café. Open 7:30-10 p.m. on non-performance weekdays: 7:30 a.m. through weekday performances; weekends from 90 minutes before until end after performances. Promenade gift shop 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Saturday, one hour before until 30 minutes after performances. Ticket Office: 10 a.m.-6:30 p.m., daily, and 10 a.m. through first intermission on performance days. Tours: 3 p.m. daily, meet in main lobby.

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

House Sale
102 Meat Sciences Lab. 1-5 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Friday. Price for list and specials, 333-5494.

Robert Allerton Park
Open 6 a.m. to dusk daily. Admission free.

The Allerton Center of the month.
View April 18 and 19.

The Pageant of Illinois
11 a.m.-3:30 p.m. For events: www.ceareau.org/ local_First/ "The Deutsch Hemisphere Group – The No. 44 Society
3 p.m. Fort Wednesday of each month. Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 346 Main Library. More info: 333-3777 or www.library.illinois.edu/bv/ no44.htm.

The Professional Academy Professionals Meeting
1:30 p.m. First Thursday monthly, location varies. More info www.cap.illinois.edu or mirell@illinois.edu.

UIUC Falun Dafa Practice
2:30-5:30 p.m. each Sunday. 405 Illini Union. More info: 244-2571.

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

Illini Folk Dance Society
8-10 p.m. Tuesday and some Saturdays. Illini Union. Reser-

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Most effective zoning policies consider regional concerns

By Melissa Mitchell

Arnab Chakraborty, a professor of urban and regional planning, believes the key to better land-use planning is greater cooperation among regional governing bodies. "Traditional approaches of local governments doing local zoning policy in isolation has not worked in the past 50 years," he said.

Zoning laws have evolved, in large part, for the greater good of metropolitan areas. In some situations, however, zoning regulations have been used as an unintended tool for exclusion of low-income and minority residents. "Where jurisdictions don't want a certain type of resident or certain type of housing in their communities they could say, 'I'm only going to allow a large-size residential development in my community,'" and in effect, exclude smaller-size development. Smaller-size apartments and condominiums tend to have lower-income residents, so in effect, they are excluding those residents.

The existence of exclusionary practices is well-established, he said, and many such regulations routinely have been challenged successfully in the court system. But Chakraborty — along with a group of urban planning colleagues — wanted to determine whether zoning procedures actually reflect the society that creates them.

"If you go back enough, would you see that the zoning is consistently, systematically dependent on a certain racial category or certain income types in this community?"

The research team, which included University of Maryland-College Park planning professor Gerrit-Jan Knaap, postdoctoral fellow Doan Nguyen and graduate student Jung Ho Shin, conducted an empirical analysis of the effects of high-density zoning on multi-family housing construction from 1990-2000 in suburbs of six U.S. metropolitan areas. Metro areas considered were Boston; Miami/Dade County, Fla.; Minneapolis-St. Paul; Portland, Ore.; Sacramento, Calif.; and Washington, D.C.

Their study, which will be published in a forthcoming issue of the journal Urban Studies, yielded two key results, Chakraborty said. First, they found that zoning constraints vary systematically with distance from the central city and the community's racial composition in 1960. "That means the communities that had a higher percentage of white population in 1960 had lower amounts of multi-family housing zoned in their municipalities," Chakraborty said. "And the farther away they were from the central city, the less they had zoned for multi-family housing."

Chakraborty noted that the distance factor could be explained of white population in 1960 had lower amounts of multi-family housing zoned in their municipalities. "If you go back enough, would you see that the zoning is consistently, systematically dependent on a certain racial category or certain income types in this community?"

The researchers were able to quantify many of the costs associated with exclusionary zoning. "You have the tool called 'inclusionary zoning,'" he said. "If we are to solve the problem that the inclusionary zoning policies originally intended to solve in principle, we need more regional coordination," he said. Currently, Chakraborty said, Portland, Ore., is the only area in the U.S. with an elected regional government charged specifically with regulating land use.

"We need policies that these governments get together and talk about. If we have these policies in coordination, we have a more balanced approach to growth and can work out secondary-level policies that somehow compensate the jurisdictions that lose out on this growth through tax sharing agreements."

"There are models on how to do this," he said.

"Many communities now recognize that exclusionary zoning contributed to sprawl and to income and racial segregation. Many places are now proactively working to address these issues."

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