Study: Health undervalued in reproductive rights debate

BY Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Women’s health is increasingly being undervalued in conflicts over reproductive rights, including clashes based on moral objections under so-called conscience clauses, a new study by a UI legal expert found.

Beth Burkstrand-Reid says a review of recent reproductive rights cases shows that judges may shortchange women’s health when it is up against other legal interests, such as religious freedom, potentially leading to rulings that could put health at risk.

“Judges may understandably be reluctant to decide who wins in a battle between religious freedom, doctor’s rights and women’s health,” she said. “As a result, they may downplay women’s health as an interest, and thus fail to fully consider it in their decisions.”

Burkstrand-Reid says women’s health will remain at risk even if President Obama rescinds a federal conscience rule this month, as expected. Several states have rescinded a federal conscience rule this month, as expected. Several states have already done so, and now Illinois is poised to follow suit.

In a recent study, Burkstrand-Reid said that women’s health will not suffer even in the face of laws that restrict reproductive health care. That reasoning can be flawed, said Burkstrand-Reid, a visiting professor in the UI College of Law who studies family and gender law.

She cited a study that allowed pharmacists to refuse to provide the morning-after pill under certain circumstances based on the judge’s reasoning that other pharmacies in the area stocked the contraceptive, thus protecting women’s health in the event of a druggist refusal.

But Burkstrand-Reid says the ruling failed to adequately consider the possibility that a woman could become pregnant because of the delay caused by a pharmacist’s refusal, or that druggists at the other outlets might also refuse.

“When women need the morning-after pill, the clock is ticking to prevent pregnancy,” she said. “In those situations, you can see a direct clash between women’s health and assertions of religious freedom. Increased pharmacist refusal to provide contraception and other actions like it are exactly what reproductive health advocates fear happening nationwide if conscience clauses become the norm.”

In another case, a judge upheld a law that would shutter a rural abortion provider, citing services available at another clinic 70 miles away as adequately protecting women’s interests. But the ruling did not adequately consider factors such as costs or lack of transportation that could potentially delay the procedure and heighten risks, Burkstrand-Reid said.

Other cases blame women themselves when services are denied, such as when women are refused vaginal delivery and forced instead to have cesarean sections because judges reason they should have addressed that question sooner.

“We pay a lot of attention to questions concerning access to abortion, birth control and other reproductive services,” Burkstrand-Reid said. “What we’re not closely considering, however, is how these restrictions on access can impact women’s health.”

Burkstrand-Reid’s study, “The Invisible Woman: Availability and Culpability in Reproductive Health Jurisprudence,” is available online.

Project encourages employers to hire Illinois alumni

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

While this year’s graduates face one of the toughest job markets in decades, Illinois graduates have a little leverage. A branded, coordinated marketing campaign by the career services offices on campus is helping ensure that the employers who are recruiting hire Illini.

The HireIllini campaign is the brainchild of the Career Services Council, a coalition of representatives from the career services offices across campus. Although the offices differ widely in the types of students they serve – from very focused, graduate/professional students to bewildered undergraduates still seeking their purpose in life – the career services offices all have a common mission: to effectively reach employers and increase the number of possible recruitment opportunities for their students.

About three years ago, the council “decided that we’d like to increase the number of employers coming to campus, but we’d also like to encourage companies to do some one-stop shopping,” and expand their recruitment efforts to other colleges or departments on campus that they might not have used previously, said Nell Maiglin, assistant dean and director of career services in the School of Labor and Employment Relations.

During spring 2006, the council developed a marketing campaign to promote the UI as the premiere place to recruit talent. The campaign obtained a three-year (2006-2009), $105,000 grant from the Office of the Provost. The goals of the initiative included introducing employers to the vast opportunities for entry-level and experienced hires in all majors at Illinois, ensuring that current employers are aware of the wide range of quality human resources available from other disciplines on campus, and promoting cross-campus hiring for Illinois graduates.

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Photo by L. Brian Stauffer
Three at Illinois win Guggenheim Fellowships

By James E. Kloppel

Two UI physics professors, George Gollin and Laura Greene, and visiting scholar Jabari Asim have received 2009 Guggenheim Fellowships. They were among 180 artists, scholars and scientists to be selected in the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation’s 85th annual competition. Winners are chosen on the basis of their “stellar achieve- ments and the promise of further accomplishment,” the foundation said in its April 8 awards announcement.

Asim, a scholar-in-residence in African American Studies and journalism, is a literary and cultural critic and the author of the recently published “What Obama Means,” about the American president. He also is editor-in-chief of the NAACP magazine “The Crisis” and a former editor and syndicated columnist for The Washington Post.

His previous books include “The N Word: Who Can Say It, Who Shouldn’t, And Why.”

Gollin will design a calibration system for the “Mule” experiment at Fermilab. He will combine release time afforded by the CAS difference to examine various cultural treatments of those communities, to examine various cultural treatments of that violence in literature, movies and other art forms and to reflect on its implications for the future.

Gollin, a Center for Advanced Study associate scholar and a member of the American Physical Society, has published more than 100 papers. He studies strongly correlated electron systems and novel materials. His research focuses on understanding the behavior of unconventional superconductors and the interfaces between metallic superconductors and compound semiconductors, such as graphene and iron-based superconductors.

Much of her research investigates the role of broken symmetries and their physical consequences in condensed matter systems. For example, Gollin is especially interested in understanding the behavior of un-}

Other published works include poetry, fiction and essays. Asim will use his fellowship to work on a book about violence in African-American communities. He plans to look at the historical roots of violence in those communities, to examine various cultural treatments of that violence in literature, movies and other art forms and to reflect on its implications for the future.

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On the Job

Sherry Miller

Sherry Miller, administrative aide in the Office of the Registrar, has worked at the UI since April 1987.
Born in Cairo, Ill., Miller and her family lived in St. Louis briefly before settling in Mahomet, where she grew up.
After graduating from Mahomet-Seymour High School, Miller started as a secretary in the School of Life Sciences. When the school reorganized into the schools of molecular and cellular biology and of integrative biology, she stayed in the latter until transferring to her current position in the Office of the Registrar in 2002.
She’s married to Jim, a sawyer at a roof-truss plant in LeRoy. (Roof trusses are the triangular wooden structures used for support in houses and other commercial structures.) They live in Mahomet and have a boxer named Titus.
Outside of work, Miller is earning her bachelor’s degree through Eastern Illinois University. She started in fall 2007 and hopes to finish by 2013. She received the Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award in 2006.
Tell me about your job.
I assign general campus classrooms based on the times that departments set for the entire campus. It’s a year-round job.
Do you enjoy being in charge of the class schedule?
Yes, absolutely. When I tell people what I do at work, their first response is, “Oh.” (Laughs.) It sounds big, but to me it’s just puzzle pieces that need to fit in place based on what’s available. We have around 400 classrooms, so there are only so many classrooms and so many times during the day that you can teach.
In my previous job, I worked on the school’s scheduling, and I also helped with the budget and teaching assistant appointments. You name it, chances are, I did it.
When this job came up, with its primary focus on putting together the class schedule, I thought it was a good opportunity to face a big challenge, so I jumped at the chance. I hit the ground running and never stopped.
I’m a people-person and I like to solve problems – two necessary qualities when you’re putting together the class schedule.
What’s your average day like?
Right now, we’re working on the fall schedule. We like to have it ready by registration, which is right around the corner. We’re in the final stages right now, so it feels like we’ve been working non-stop.
I also field questions from staff members who need to change the day and time of their classes, or need to clear rooms because they need a certain type of equipment that the scheduled room doesn’t have.
Some units have busy periods of time throughout the school year, but we’re busy all the time, all 12 months of the year. We work nine months ahead for the next semester that’s going to start. So, that means we have to send information out to the departments well in advance.
What’s the most enjoyable aspect of your job?
Working with all the departments across campus. Every day is a different day, and a different challenge. You come in to work with a to-do list in your mind, and if you get a couple of things done, that’s great, because someone always needs a room change or a room at a different time or location. I never know what I’m going to face when I come in every morning. It’s an adventure and a challenge.
What’s been your biggest challenge?
In a word: Banner. (Laughs.) Banner works well for the class schedule and registration, and students really like it. But as with any new system, there’s always a period of adjustment.
What do you like to do off the job?
I also love to cook – anybody will tell you I’m a party planner. I also bowl in the winter and root for the St. Louis Cardinals in the summer. My husband is a Cubs fan.
What’s it like being married to a Cubs fan?
That depends on who’s winning. It makes for an interesting baseball season. When we go to Cardinal games in St. Louis, I dress in my Cardinals gear and he wears his Cubs gear. When we walk down the street, people always ask us: “How does that work?” After 13 years, it just does.
—Interview by Phil Ciciora, News Editor

Religious studies professor named 2009 Carnegie Scholar

By Phil Ciciora

Valerie Hoffman, a UI professor of religious studies, has been selected as a 2009 Carnegie Scholar.
Hoffman, an authority on Islam, was selected as one of 21 well-established and promising young thinkers, analysts and writers who will receive two-year grants of up to $100,000 from the New York-based foundation each year, nominations for Carnegie Scholars are invited from more than 500 nominators representing a broad range of disciplines and institutions, including academia, research institutes, non-profit organizations and foundations.
Hoffman was selected for her commitment to enriching the quality of the public discourse on Islam, the foundation said. Hoffman’s project, “Islamic Sectarianism Reconsidered: Ibadhism in the Modern Age,” explores the impact of globalization on Badhism, a marginalized strand of Islam distinct from the two dominant branches, Sunni and Shi’a.
“We are cultivating a diverse scholarly community spanning a range of disciplines with the expectation that their voices will help Americans develop a more complex understanding of Muslim societies here and throughout the world, revealing Islam’s rich diversity,” said Varan Gregorian, the president of the Carnegie Corp. of New York.
Hoffman’s scholarly exploration of Badhism’s response to globalization will “shed light on the potential for a rigid, closed system to embrace the diversity of the global age,” the foundation said.
The Carnegie Scholars program was established to allow researchers to pursue original projects oriented toward catalyzing intellectual discourse as well as guiding more focused and pragmatic policy discussions. Scholars are selected not only for their originality and proven intellectual capacity, but also for their demonstrated ability to communicate their ideas in ways that can inspire public discourse.

HIRE ILLINI! Continued from Page 1

employers with multiple-discipline human resource needs.
The Hirellini program was designed so that each of the individual career services offices could use it to promote themselves.
A Web site, Hirellini.com, was created as a centralized entry point to the campus Career Services Network. It provides links to the career services offices, job fair calendars, internship opportunities, and more. It’s available to all employers, including more than 100 Fortune 500 firms – recruited at Urbana and held more than 27,800 interviews on campus.
Madian said the numbers for AY08-09 probably will be down, as the economy has forced many companies to reduce their hiring, although science and technology fields have not been as deeply affected.
The bleak job market facing graduates – and the trend of dwindling student support for the university – makes employers outreach more important than ever, Madi- an said.
“If a company is happy with the hu- man capital that they’re able to bring into their organization, then they want to have a stronger partnership with campus,” Madi- an said. “They come back, and they want to know other ways they can be involved, whether it’s through sponsoring research, scholarships, speaking to classes or work- ing with student groups. At a time when our budget is frightening, these are the rela- tionships that we want to cultivate.
“It used to be these things were just nice; now, they’re desperately needed.”

V

Hirellihi Brilliance

www.hirellini.com

more than 3,200 students registered and participated in career services events and activities. Despite a struggling economy and flagging labor markets, 3,356 employ- ers – including 40 of the top 50 Fortune 500 firms – recruited at Urbana and held more than 27,800 interviews on campus.
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Spring 2009 Publication Schedule

Publication Date Deadline for Briefs Advertising Deadline
Jan. 15 Jan. 8
Feb. 19 Feb. 12
Feb. 5 Jan. 28
Feb. 25 March 12
March 10 April 2
April 16 April 9
May 7 April 29
April 16 April 30

Inside Illinois
Eight honored with Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award

By Brittany Small
News Bureau Student Intern

Eight staff employees were honored with the Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award at a banquet April 13. The award recognizes exceptional performance; each recipient receives $2,000 and a plaque. Recipients’ names also are inscribed on a plaque displayed in the Staff Human Resources Office. Past winners are listed on the Web at www.uic.edu/sdca/hall.html.

Permanent staff employees with at least two years of service or retired employees in status appointments during the calendar year are eligible. The chancellor appoints finalists. The chancellor approves final winners.

The 2009 recipients:

Matt D. Carroll, staff clerk in the department of electrical and computer engineering, is known for keeping things running smoothly in the print shop of the publications office. Carroll is responsible for making photostats of books and theses, preparing materials for conferences as well as hiring and training workers.

During the busy periods of class notes production every semester, Carroll handles the pressure of deadlines, quality standards and complex instructions with remarkable composure. During less busy times, Carroll works to improve processes in the department’s print shop. He investigates and proposes new services and supplies, plays a lead role in vendor selections, develops his skills in digital production and job management and works with the ECE Business Office and Computer and Technology Services to improve processes. In 2008, Carroll worked with Facilities and Services to improve the physical layout and workflow of the print shop.

Faculty and staff members and students rely on the print shop to reproduce a variety of important documents from short memos, lecture notes and exams, to lengthy manuscripts of important documents from short memos, lecture notes and exams, to lengthy manuscripts. Carroll is always on top of things, “Our department is large and I do not know how he manages to do it all in such a timely manner,” she said.

Alyssa J. Galligan, supervisor of the Small Animal Emergency Service and Intensive Care Unit in the College of Veterinary Medicine, has worked for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital for 17 years.

Galligan supervises all of the technical staff, interviews prospective candidates, and hires and trains all veterinary technicians in diagnostic and therapeutic techniques. She reviews and evaluates the work performed by staff members and is responsible for the maintenance of all of the equipment and supplies for the section. She monitors the financial status of the ER and ICU and assists with procedures such as bone-marrow aspirations and placement of central venous catheters. Galligan also acts as a liaison for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital with the Parkland College veterinary technology teaching staff.

A patient teacher, Galligan invests much of her time in the professional development of the ER and ICU technicians. She makes a significant impact on the overall skill level of the small animal veterinary technicians. Galligan is able to present clear explanations of complicated concepts whether speaking to a group or in conversations with students or colleagues.

“Alyssa is one of our ‘teacher’ technicians and is excellent at it,” said Karen Campbell, professor and head of specialty medicine in the department of veterinary clinical medicine. “No one leaves Alyssa’s training confused. She is thorough and patient and gives each technician the time that they need to master a concept before signing off on their training. This elevates the level of our ICU care and promotes excellence throughout the hospital.”

Galligan also works hard to make the environment at the hospital a positive one. She is the founding member of the Cherry Ladies Always Making Smiles (CLAMS), a morale-boosting group that offers positive support for staff members and students who go the extra mile. She goes out of her way to acknowledge people by sending e-mail messages of thanks and placing thank-you notes with candy in their mailboxes.

Patricia L. Grove, an office administrator for the Graduate School of Library and Information Science’s Office of Advancement and Alumni Relations, is often the first person alumni encounter when contacting the school.

A member of the department for three years, Grove works to manage fundraising and alumni relations. She has worked with Diana Strood, assistant dean for advancement, to build an organized and highly efficient program that serves as an important public face of the school. She works with the GSLIS advancement team to organize and host numerous events and activities. In 2008, Grove managed more than 40 events and individual visits to more than 200 donors throughout the United States and Canada.

SEE STAFF AWARDS, PAGE 5
CONTACT for Banner and set up the necessary equipment and supplies.

Because when Banner had initially been set up, students were particularly concerned, because they wanted the department to get off the ground up. Heibenthal worked with Elizabeth Strood to establish the department in December 2003, the department existed.

The first employee of the bioengineering program was Sandra K. Heibenthal, office manager in the department of bioengineering, has managed more than the office since being the first hire in the department and who was instrumental in establishing the department to coordinate each visitor’s meeting with the dean and other key leaders of the college. Stillwell welcomes each visitor and tidbits and details to ensure everything is done so that each candidate’s visit goes smoothly.

Mark D. Hurt has worked as an agricultural gardener for the College of Agriculture, Consumer, Environmental and Human Sciences for more than 20 years. Currently, he works for the Plant Science Laboratory in the Office of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Hurt sees that the plant material is watered and that the greenhouse rooms are kept clean and sanitary.

Hurt sees that the department would get off the ground up. Heibenthal worked with Elizabeth Stovall, assistant to the head, to ensure that the department would get off the ground up.

Heibenthal helped to set up new space and operational support in the Digital Computer Laboratory building and worked for more than a month with the other principals in the building to determine how mail and receiving would be handled between the diverse set of units that all had different needs. She set up the billing for the phones and figured out how to order and receive lab equipment and supplies.

Heibenthal also led efforts to implement the new Banner system for the department because what Banner had initially been used, the department hadn’t been operational to use it. Heibenthal completed the necessary training to become the Unit Security Contact for Banner and set up the necessary profiles to accomplish activities ranging from financial management and purchasing to human resources and student institutional support.

Heibenthal then started training so that she could administratively support the department within Banner.

In addition, Heibenthal also is responsible for all computer and IT needs for the department and staff. Heibenthal ensures that all interactions always serve to enhance the image of the department and university.

Today, in a small department filled with eager young people, Sandy is our foundation,” said Michael F. Insana, a professor and interim head of bioengineering. “She provides the institutional memory we need to establish normal operating procedures, and is a go-to person for getting things done.”

Sandra K. Heibenthal, office manager in the department of bioengineering, has managed more than the office since being the first hire in the department and who was instrumental in establishing the department to coordinate each visitor’s meeting with the dean and other key leaders of the college. Stillwell welcomes each visitor and tidbits and details to ensure everything is done so that each candidate’s visit goes smoothly.

Darrell E. Weakly, electrician foreman for facilities and services, has provided quality electrical maintenance to the UI for more than 20 years.

He has a strong work ethic. He is often called upon to help with the UI for almost 15 years. He is always just a phone call away, eager to do a good job because he would personally handle any electrical maintenance to the UI for more than 20 years.

Stillwell supervises staff and is responsible for the smooth operation of all the equipment and facilities. Stillwell is always concerned about the quality of service that he provides to faculty and staff members and visitors. This is especially evident each spring during faculty recruiting. She works with each department to coordinate each visitor’s meeting with the dean and other key leaders of the college. Stillwell welcomes each visitor and tidbits and details to ensure everything is done so that each candidate’s visit goes smoothly.

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New book series renews call for ban on gambling

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Banning gambling is among the best bets to reverse a deep recession that has crippled the global economy, according to a new collection of books that offer the most comprehensive analysis ever on the financial perils of wagering.

The United States International Gambling Report Series recommends the United States and other countries follow Russia’s lead, shuttering casinos that undermine economic growth and cost taxpayers at least $3 for every $1 in benefits as a result of increased bankruptcies, crime and gambling addictions.

“We know that you can’t gamble yourself to prosperity. It actually makes everything worse.”

Personal bankruptcies soar 18 to 42 percent in areas with casinos, crime jumps 10 percent and rates for new addicted gamblers increased bankruptcies, crime and gambling.

Charles W. Doering, 78, died April 2 at home in Arlington Heights. Doering worked as the assistant dean for development in the College of Engineering for six years, retiring in 1992. Memorials: Our Saviour’s Lutheran Church, 1254 North Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights, IL 60004; Hospice of Northeastern Illinois Inc., 410 S. Hager Avenue, Suite 1, Barrington, IL 60010 or Parkinson’s Disease Foundation, 833 W. Washington Blvd., Chicago, IL 60607.

John Fitzgerald Due, 93, died March 4 at Meadowbrook Health Center at Clark Lindsey, Urbana. Due was a professor of economics for more than 40 years, retiring in 1983. Twice he served as head of the economics department and also served as acting dean of the College of Business. Memorials: Community United Church of Christ, 815 S. Sixth St., Champaign, IL 61820 or the Jean O'Rourke, 77, died March 28 at her Champaign home. O’Rourke worked in the department of mechanical science and engineering as a secretary for 17 years, retiring in 2007. Memorials: Barnes-Jewish Foundation, 1001 Highlands Plaza Drive West, Suite 140, St. Louis, MO 63110 or online at barnesjewish.org/giving.

Carolyn Maureen Avery Zimdahl, 51, died March 29 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Zimdahl had been an office support specialist in the department of recreation, sport and tourism since 1986. Memorials: a college fund being created for her grandson.
High-speed signal mixer shows capabilities of transistor laser

By James E. Kloeppel
Physical Sciences Editor

Scientists at the UI have successfully demonstrated a microwave signal mixer made from a tunnel-junction transistor laser. Development of the device brings researchers a big step closer to higher speed electronics and higher performance electrical and optical integrated circuits.

The mixing device accepts two electrical inputs and produces an optical signal that was measured at frequencies of up to 22.7 gigahertz. The frequency range was limited by the bandwidth of the detector employed in the measurements, not by the transistor device.

“In addition to the usual current-modulation capability, the tunnel junction provides an enhanced means for voltage-controlled modulation of the photon output of the transistor laser,” said Nick Holonyak Jr., a John Bardeen Chair Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics. “This offers new capabilities and a much greater sensitivity for unique signal-mixing and signal-processing applications.”

To make the device, the researchers first placed a quantum well inside the base region of a transistor laser. Then they created a tunnel junction within the collector region. They describe the fabrication and operation of the mixing device in the March 13 issue of the journal Applied Physics Letters.

“Within the transistor laser, the tunneling process occurs predominantly through a process called photon-assisted absorption,” said Milton Feng, the Holonyak Chair Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering.

The tunneling process begins in the quantum well, where electrons and holes combine and generate photons, Feng said. Those photons are then reabsorbed to create new pairs of electrons and holes used for voltage modulation.

“The tunnel junction makes it possible to annihilate an electron in the quantum well, and then tunnel an electron out to the collector by the tunnel contact,” Feng said. The transistor output is sensitive to third-terminal voltage control because of the electrons tunneling from the base to the collector, which also creates an efficient supply of holes to the quantum well for recombination.

“This is a new type of transistor,” said Holonyak, who also is a professor in the Center for Advanced Study, one of the highest forms of campus recognition. “We are using the photon internally to modify the electrical operation and make the transistor itself a different device with additional properties.”

High-speed signal mixing, for example, is made possible by the nonlinear coupling of the internal optical field to the base electron-hole recombination, minority carrier emitter-to-collector transport, and the base-to-collector electron tunneling at the collector junction, the researchers report.

The sensitivity of the tunnel-junction transistor laser to voltage control enables the device to be directly modulated by both current and voltage. This flexibility facilitates the design of new nonlinear signal processing devices for improved optical power output.

“The metamorphosis of the transistor is not yet complete,” Holonyak said. “We’re still working on it, and the transistor is still changing.”

Co-authors of the paper are graduate research assistant and lead author Han Wui Then, graduate student Chao-Hsin Wu and senior research scientist Gabriel Walter.

Don’t forget to participate in our reader survey: illinois.edu/goto/iisurvey. (Survey ends April 30.)
education

In a ceremony at the University of Val- 
ladolid in Spain March 21, Robert Stake, a re- 
tired professor of educational psychology, 
was awarded the honoris causa, an honor- 
ary doctorate, for his theoretical and profes- 
sional contributions to educational program 
evaluation. He spoke to an assembly of 
125 dons, academic colleagues, family and 
friends on “Criticism and the University.” 
A seminar honoring him followed on March 
27. The seminar’s theme was “Ethics, Poli- 
tics and Practices of Program Evaluation in 
the New Millennium.”

engineering

The Minerals, Metals and Materials 
Society presented the Educator Award to 
Jonathan A. Dantzig, a retired professor of 
mechanical engineering. Dantzig received 
the award for his outstanding contributions 
to materials processing education through 
award-winning classroom teaching and in- 
dustrial short courses, development of inno-

vative undergraduate and graduate classes, 
as well for textbooks he has written.

liberal arts and sciences

Alejandro Lugo, a professor of anthro-
pology, received the Southwest Book award 
from the Border Regional Library Associa-
tion for his recent book, “Fragmented Lives, 
Assembled Parts: Culture, Capitalism and 
Conquest at the U.S.-Mexico Border.”

Since 1971, the award has been pre-
sented in recognition of outstanding books 
about the Southwest published in any genre 
presented in recognition of outstanding books 
about the Southwest published in any genre.

The Scandinavian American Foundation 
has awarded Anna Westerstahl Stenport 
a fellowship for postdoctoral research in 
Scandinavian studies for her book project 
concerning new models of cinema produc-
tion at the Swedish Film Institute and Film 
Väst. Stenport is a professor of Germanic 
languages and literatures, of cinema stud-
ies, of comparative and world literatures, 
and of gender and women’s studies. The 
award carries a travel and research stipend 
for research on contemporary Swedish film 
and the Scandinavian film industry.

Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe, a Special Presiden-
tial Recognition Award. Hahn was nominated by the 
editors of RSL.

Emerald is a leading international pub-
lisher of LIS and management journals.

The Association of College and Research 
Libraries has honored two UI librarians with 
the organization. The沉浸 program, now in its 10th 
year, provides instruction librarians the op-
portunity to work intensively for 4 1/2 days 
on all aspects of information literacy. It con-
sists of several tracks that offer a range of 
intellectual tools and practical techniques to 
help build or enhance instruction programs.

Jim Hahn, orientation services librarian in 
the Undergraduate Library, has received a 
2009 Emerald Literati Network Award for 
Excellence. Hahn’s article “Mobile Learning for the 21st Century Librarian” 
published in “Reference Services Review”
has been chosen as a Highly Commended 
Award Winner. Hahn was nominated by the 
editors of RSL.

The Association of College and Research 
Libraries has honored two UI librarians with 
the theme for the 2010 annual conference as 
“Creating a Culture of Collaboration.” The 
conference will be held in Boston in Janu-
ary.

The association is a non-profit organiza-
tion that serves as the intellectual home of 
university faculty members in graduate pro-
grams in library and information science in 
North America. ☣
Plan to foster personal, professional development of APs

Academic professionals will soon have a new online community to help them enhance their careers and connect with other APs across campus. The new Web site is part of a comprehensive plan for fostering personal and professional development of APs at Illinois.

"The best way to describe the site is as an information distribution center for APs, providing resources regarding campus policies and procedures, compensation and benefits, general campus information, employment and career services as well as education and training," said Rebecca McBride, chair of the group charged with developing a number of initiatives related to APs. "We see this as another way to build a stronger sense of community among the APs on campus.

"We see this as another way to build a stronger sense of community among (academic professionals) on campus. We want to make it easier for our staff to become more deeply engaged in campus and community life, and for them to really understand what they bring to the institution." –Rebecca McBride

We want to make it easier for our staff to become more deeply engaged in campus and community life, and for them to really understand what they bring to the institution.

Bridget Jamieson, coordinator of marketing in Public Affairs, leads the Web Development Group, the group charged with developing a number of initiatives related to APs. "We see this as another way to build a stronger sense of community among the APs on campus. We want to make it easier for our staff to become more deeply engaged in campus and community life, and for them to really understand what they bring to the institution."

The new Web site is just one of several projects to help APs better understand the needs and wants of the AP population on campus. We want this site to be used."

The new Web site is just one of several initiatives getting under way during the inaugural year of the AP Task Force Implementation Team. Provost Linda Katehi created the team, which comprised APs nominated by deans, directors and department heads. The team was given a charge of implementing the recommendations in a 2008 campus report on the status of academic professionals that was developed at Katehi’s request and examined key issues, such as salaries, position titles, promotional opportunities, policies for part-time workers and performance evaluations.

"The initial task force that compiled that report had many recommendations," said McBride, who is senior associate director for human resources, were appointed to implement the recommendations outlined in the report over the next five years.

The implementation team’s Strategic Planning Group, led by Vera Mainz, director of nuclear magnetic resonance at the School of Chemical Sciences, is conducting a series of presentations across campus that target APs, communicating how their jobs tie into the campus strategic goals and how individuals can help their units achieve those goals.

"Many people knew there was a campus strategic plan, but the question that always arose was, ‘Where am I in it? Where’s my job? I don’t see myself in this plan,’” Mainz said. “So that’s what we’re trying to do – help people see themselves in it and how they contribute to it.”

Preliminary presentations were made to staff members at Krannert Center, the College of Veterinary Medicine and the College of Business before the presentation was rolled out to the rest of campus. "It got very high reviews," McBride said. “People understood their work better and more deeply. That’s been very positive.”

Another priority for the team has been preparing a draft compensation philosophy for APs – a work force with highly diverse skill sets that is influenced by a variety of market factors. The process has included researching peer institutions’ practices and reviewing awards given out at the college level as well as statutes, policies and practices that relate to APs, and tying performance reviews to strategic plan initiatives.

Karen Carney, associate dean in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, led the Compensation Philosophy Group, which focused on articulating the current philosophy, particularly identifying the factors used to determine compensation levels, such as specialized knowledge, education, experience and market dynamics.

The group drafted two documents for the Steering Committee’s review: “Principles of Compensation Philosophy,” which outlines the campus’s current practices, and “Recommendations for Compensation Philosophy,” which offers ideas for strengthening the campus philosophy. The Steering Committee has expressed support for various recommendations and asked that the AP Implementation Team create proposals for executing them.
On the Web: japanhouse.art.uiuc.edu

Volunteer for the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful and WILL cleanup day and more are needed this year. Those who volunteer to clean up the park in preparation for spring visitors.

Volunteers needed April 25

Outreach/petstravaganza.cfm.

Fischer, UI Extension companion animal specialist who organizes the event. "We’ll feature a number of interactive exhibits that demonstrate such things as how to interact safely with pets and wildlife, the importance of pet identification and the many wonderful benefits of pet adoption."

A new feature this year is an "admission" charge. "We’re trying to bring in different activities that people can see with their families," she said. "This could be canned kitten/cat food, canned puppy/dog food, cat litter or any number of items on the wish list of the Champaign County Humane Society at www.cuhuman.org," she said.

For more information, go to http://pets.ansci.uiuc.edu/outreach/petstravaganza.cfm.

 Volunteers needed April 25

WILL hosts Public Media Cleanup Day

Kickapoo State Park is still open for the community to visit and volunteers are needed from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. April 25 to clean up the park in preparation for spring visitors.

Last year, 140 volunteers came to help with the first cleanup day and more are needed this year. Those who volunteer for the Keep Vermilion County Beautiful and WILL Public Media Cleanup Day will pick up litter, clear ponds and rivers of large items, and cut back walking trails, said Lynn Wolgast, director of Keep Vermilion County Beautiful.

To sign up to help with land cleanup, call Jason Toellner at 217-443-6803 or Wolgast at 217-431-2662. Volunteers who are over age 19 and want to help collect debris in the water, call Tracy Satterthwaite of Kickapoo Landing at 217-446-8399. Lunch will be provided for all volunteers.

WILL Public Media is working with Keep Vermilion County Beautiful on the cleanup as part of WILL’s Kickapoo Kids project. WILL, along with other community and UI groups, including the department of advertising, will introduce the teens from the Danville Boys and Girls Club and their families to Kickapoo State Park, and increase awareness among African Americans about the value of Kickapoo.

The Kickapoo Kids project was undertaken in conjunction with the PBS series by Ken Burns, "National Parks: America’s Best Idea,” to be broadcast on WILL-TV this fall. For more information about the Kickapoo Kids project, visit http://will.illinois.edu/youthmediaworkshop.

Pampered Chef Family Resiliency Program

‘Emerging Adulthood’ is topic of lecture

Jeffrey Jensen Arnett, a professor of psychology at Clark University, will give a lecture, “Is It Better to Grow Up Later? The New Life Stage of Emerging Adulthood,” at 5 p.m. April 21 in the Knight Auditorium at the Spurlock Museum.

Arnett’s primary interest is the period from the late teens to the mid-20s. He identifies “emerging adulthood” as distinct from both the adolescence that precedes it and the young adulthood that follows. Many people in industrialized societies now spend these years exploring career possibilities and relationships. Arnett also studies media in adolescence, especially music and advertising, as well as risk behaviors such as cigarette smoking. He also is the chair of the Special Interest Group on Emerging Adulthood sponsored by the Society for Research on Adolescence.

The lecture is sponsored by The Pampered Chef Family Resiliency Program, a program of the Family Resiliency Center at the UI.

For more information: www.familyresiliency.uiuc.edu.

College of Education

Communication disorders discussed

Howard Goldstein, a professor of human development and family sciences at Ohio State University, will talk about “Teaching Vocabulary Introduced in Story Contexts to Economically Disadvantaged Children” at 4 p.m. April 23 at the UI Activities and Recreation Center. The talk is part of the College of Education’s Goldstick Family Lecture in the Study of Communication Disorders.

For those educators or professionals wondering how to promote language and literacy outcomes in children from high poverty communities, Goldstein’s lecture will address children with communication disorders and learning disabilities, such as autism.

“Vast differences in vocabulary exposure typify the language experiences of children from poverty when compared to working and professional class homes,” writes Goldstein, who says that these deficiencies later produce academic achievements in those same children.

Center for Teaching Excellence

Call for Presenters and Facilitators

The Center for Teaching Excellence is seeking presenters for the center’s two orientation programs for new teaching assistants and international teaching assistants: the 2009 Graduate Academy for College Teaching on Aug. 17 and 18, and the 2009 Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours on Aug. 19.

The Graduate Academy for College Teaching is a required, pre-semester conference for TAs who have classroom responsibilities. It includes large-group presentations on teaching and grading concepts; small-group sessions on questioning strategies and lesson planning; concurrent sessions that offer choices on diverse teaching topics, and microteaching sessions in which TAs practice teaching and receive feedback. The Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours is a shorter program for those TAs who do not have classroom responsibilities.

Faculty members, academic professionals and experienced teaching assistants are invited to design engaging concurrent sessions about teaching, including sessions on culture and diversity, to facilitate small groups sessions on foundational teaching topics and/or to facilitate microteach-
Donations sought for campus fund

Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund

Additional events have been announced in connection with the 11th annual Roger Ebert’s Film Festival, or “Ebertfest,” coming April 22-26 to Champaign-Urbana and the UI. The schedule of 12 film screenings was previously announced and can be found at www.ebertfest.com, along with other information and updates.

The added events, all free and open to the public:

**Thursday, April 23**
10:11-11:45 a.m. – Panel discussion “Movie Making and Distribution in Times of Turmoil,” moderated by Nate Kohl, the director of Ebertfest and a professor in the Graduate College of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of Georgia, in the Pine Lounge of the Illini Union.

**Friday, April 24**
9-10:15 a.m. – Panel discussion “Movies and Everyday Life,” moderated by Eric Pierson, a professor of communication studies at the University of San Diego, in the Pine Lounge.

10-11 a.m. – Ebert signing copies of “Scorsese” and “Roger Ebert’s Movie Yearbook 2009” in the author’s Corner Bookstore.

10:30-11:45 a.m. – Panel discussion “Film Criticism and the Internet,” moderated by David Bordwell, a professor emeritus of film studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, in the Pine Lounge.

**Saturday, April 25**
9-10:30 a.m. – “Homo Sapiens Report: The Big Picture,” the last 130,000 Years, the Next 200, from the Bias-Reduced Point of View of an Alien From Another Universe, a lecture by “Woodstock” director-writer Mi-

Asian American Cultural Center

APA Heritage Month celebration is May 2

Come celebrate the diversity, yet commonality that brings Champaign-Urbana’s Asian Pacific American (APA) campus and community together at the first APA Heritage Month Celebration May 2 from 1-3 p.m. at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts lobby.

Experience the sights and sounds of traditional and modern performance, take part in interactive crafts and calligraphy, and learn more about the different groups that make up the rich culture of the APA population through educational booths.

Asian Pacific American Heritage Month celebrates the collective accomplishments of the heterogeneous communities that make up the APA population. Congress passed a joint congressional resolution in 1978 to commemorate Asian American Heritage Week during the first week of May. This date was chosen because two important anniversaries occurred during this time: the arrival of the first Japanese immigrants in America on May 7, 1843, and the completion of the transcontinental railroad (by many Chinese laborers) on May 10, 1869. It was later expanded from a weeklong to a monthlong celebration in 1990.

Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund

Donations sought for campus fund

Established in 1992, the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund assists UI employees on the Urbana campus and their families during times of financial crisis. It is funded fully by donations from faculty and staff members to help colleagues in need. Volunteers are encouraging donations during the program’s annual fund drive. Thanks to volunteers and offices donating labor and materials, there are no administrative costs associated with this fund drive, so 100 percent of donations go directly into the fund.

“Donations received during last year’s fund drive have been spent helping employees in need, and each year it is important to replenish the fund,” said Debbie McCall, chair of the volunteer employee emergency fund committee.

Eligible faculty and staff members may apply for emergency assistance at any time. All contacts are confidential and assessments are free. If you or someone you know might be eligible for assistance from the fund, call 244-3512 or write to Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, 101 W. University Ave., MC-255. •

**Initiative seeks to cultivate greater awareness of Greek language, culture**

By Melissa Mitchell

One of the country’s leading scholars of modern Greek, will be on campus April 22 to present a free lecture at 7 p.m. in the Levis Faculty Center.

Vassilis Lambropoulos, the CP Cavali Professor of Modern Greek and Comparative Literature at the University of Michigan will discuss “Greek American Accents.”

According to Lambropoulos, recognizing a “foreign accent” when speaking English is not necessarily considered to be a negative trait today. Instead, he says, “we have come to see accents as performative elements that enrich the orchestra of human communication by adding inexhaustible varieties of timbre and rhythm.”

“From the early 20th century onward, Greeks in the United States have been speaking English without losing their accent,” said Lambropoulos. “This is why I think there has been a Misunderstanding in the past about the status of accent in the United States. Instead, I believe that we have a duty to study and enjoy accents and the myriad possibilities they represent.”

This lecture is sponsored by the Director of the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction program, a member of the Greek American Heritage Program and then reviewed for approval by a separate committee.

Contributions of any amount are encouraged. Donations are accepted through payroll deduction. Employees who donated last year and wish to continue donating in this manner may need to renew their pledge for this year. Cash and donations by check also are welcome. Checks should be made payable to IU Foundation. Faculty/Staff Assistance Program and mailed to the UI Foundation, 400 Harker Hall, MC-386.

A brochure about the program and payroll deduction cards will be sent by campus mail to each employee. Additional information is available from McCaffrey, 265-6420, who also chairs this year’s fund drive team, or from the Office of the President, SLCL, depart-ments of linguistics and of the classics and the European Union Center – represents the second major public event brought to campus by the committee this year.

Last fall, members organized a documentary-film screening at Spurlock Museum.

On April 24, a panel of experts including College of Education dean Mary Kalantzis and EU Center director and professor of political science Robert Palter, will discuss “Greece in the 21st Century: Trends and Challenges” at the UI’s Illini Center to continue outreach efforts there.

Terkourafi said the debut campus course in elementary modern Greek will be offered this summer through the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction program. The regular elementary course will be offered for the first time this fall, with a continuing second-level course available in spring 2010.

Terkourafi said the committee is working toward the goal of establishing a cohesive, comprehensive program with courses in modern Greek history, politics and culture. While the language will at first be taught by graduate teaching assistant Nikolaos Vergos, a six-year plan calls for establishing part-time faculty members. •

The Intensive Foreign Language Instruction program launched its first year earlier this year.

The first three courses have been Greek American Accents: Language, Society and Politics, Modern Greek Language, and Greek Literature in the 20th Century. All classes are taught in English.

Undergraduate students at the university and members of the surrounding community are eligible for the Intensive Foreign Language Instruction program.

Students interested in taking the classes and participating in the program should contact the Asian American Cultural Center located in 216 Aramark in the Illini Union.

For more information, go to http://illinois.edu/~gno/academy. Contact Sandra Finley at sjfinley@illinois.edu with questions.

Roger Ebert’s Film Festival 2009

Additional events for Ebertfest

Since its inception, the fund has provided confidential assistance to employees with a rent or mortgage payment, utilities, medicine or medical bills, and food or clothing during times of crisis such as a serious illness in the family or a house fire. Anyone applying for assistance from this fund drive, so 100 percent of donations go directly into the fund.

“Donations received during last year’s fund drive have been spent helping employees in need, and each year it is important to replenish the fund,” said Debbie McCall, chair of the volunteer employee emergency fund committee.

Eligible faculty and staff members may apply for emergency assistance at any time. All contacts are confidential and assessments are free. If you or someone you know might be eligible for assistance from the fund, call 244-5312 or write to Faculty/Staff Assistance Program, 101 W. University Ave., MC-255. •

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New software will streamline job-application process

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

A software package that will be used university-wide is making online applications mandatory for all types of jobs and reducing paperwork for human resource staff members.

Although the civil service and academic application processes have been Web-based for several years, the system that was used, PANDA, had limited functionality compared to other systems. It was decided that a new software product, HireTouch, an applicant tracking system developed and hosted by ImageTrend, a Web development company based in Minneapolis, could better serve people looking for jobs at the UI.

HireTouch is integrated with the Civil Service Personnel Registry Maintenance System, where candidates await referrals for job vacancies once they’ve completed the application process and taken the exam. The Urbana campus uses about 800 civil service job classifications, said Chris Carr, manager of employment services in Staff Human Resources.

“In an average year, we review 3,500 applications and nearly 15,000 exam requests for about 800 civil service vacancies,” Carr said. “We no longer have to pull paper applicant files. It’s all right at our fingertips.”

Candidates now can attach electronic copies of supporting documentation – such as resumes, transcripts, certificates and other documents that may be useful or required in the exam qualification process – to their electronic applications, Carr said.

Many of the exams are electronic as well, and the e-test results now feed directly into PRMS. Candidates can go to the Web and track their HireTouch applications, see if or when they are scheduled to take an e-test, view their test scores, and their ranks on the registers in relation to other candidates.

“We went through an extensive request-for-proposals process and reviewed a number of vendors before deciding on HireTouch, Carr said. “Our goal was to build a more user-friendly process for applicants, and that’s what we’ve ended up with. PANDA had become increasingly difficult for HRIS and Administration Information Technology Services to write new code for.”

Implementation has been phased in since the beginning of last year. HireTouch was fully implemented at the Chicago, Springfield and Urbana campuses for civil service hiring in July, and civil service workers’ information was transferred over from the old system.

UA and UIS implemented the module for academic hires in November; Urbana is doing that now, and UIC anticipates starting the

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Institute combines emerging digital research, arts media

By Melissa Mitchell

The arts and humanities have enjoyed a long, rewarding courtship with science and technology at the UI. With the creation of the edream Institute at Illinois this month, the marriage becomes official.

The new enterprise—known formally as the Emerging Digital Research and Arts Media Institute—“leverages our strengths in artistic performance, computing and engineering,” said edream director Donna Cox.

On April 20 the institute will be formally announced by Provost LindaKatehi at a reception coinciding with the annual conference of the Humanities Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The public is invited to the reception, which takes place 5:30 to 7 p.m. The provost will speak at 6 p.m.

Seed funding for edream has been provided by the Office of the Provost, with in-kind support from the UI’s National Center for Supercomputing Applications; additional funding is expected to come from public, private and corporate sources, Cox said.

The public also is invited to attend “Bluelights in the Basement,” a free digital-arts showcase performance, beginning at 7 p.m. on April 20 in the Krannert Center lobby.

Featured pieces by UI faculty members and contributors from other universities will exemplify the types of programs and projects edream will support. Included will be work by UI music professor Guy Garnett, who, along with Bob Patterson, senior programmer at NC SA’s Advanced Visualization Laboratory, is an edream associate director. Also showcased will be work by UI art and design professor John Jennings, and educational policy studies professor Ruth Brown. Theater professor Lisa Dixon will serve as master of ceremonies.

The event also will spotlight the inaugural transfer of digital-arts media between NC SA and Krannert Center by means of a new, 10-gigabyte connection funded by the National Science Foundation.

The edream Institute is a direct outgrowth of the Seedbed Initiative for Transdomain Creativity, an arts-technology incubator led by Mike Ross, Krannert Center director and associate dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. The university has unique art-technology assets such as a world-class performing-arts center networked to a petascale supercomputing center,” Cox said. “Now we are leveraging synergies among the arts, humanities and emerging technologies. We will educate a new generation of students to address some of our socially important, socially relevant problems using new creative approaches with digital media. This goal promises a powerful economic impact.”

Cox, a professor of art and design who holds the Michael Ai ders of “Renaissance teams.”

Students enrolled in edream’s academic programs will be affiliated with a specific college, but will be able to cross previous curricular divides when choosing coursework options, and will have access to faculty members, facilities and other resources of existing university affiliates.

Institute partners are the National Center for Supercomputing Applications; Advanced Visualization Laboratory; Institute for Advanced Computing Applications and Technologies; Institute for Computing in the Humanities, Arts and Social Science; Illinois Informatics Institute, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts; and The Cyrus Institute.

Edream will be positioned to equip digital-media artists and technologists with the tools they need to be tomorrow’s innovators—and to work collegially as members of “Renaissance teams.”

“I coined this term... to characterize an interdisciplinary approach to solving a complex problem set,” Cox said. “In the Renaissance, artists and scientists collaborated and engendered new fields in botany and anatomy.”

Today’s global problems are much more complex, she said, but potentially solvable when creative minds are given the institutional freedom and resources required to meld with one another and innovate.
A tribute to support staff members across campus during Administrative Professionals Week

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April 16, 2009

CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 20

Fraternity Week. University of Iowa. 4 p.m. 203 Gregory Hall. Philosophy.

7 Thursday

“Regulation of Interactions of Endostatin With Mammalian Cells.” Jerold Weiss, University of Iowa. 4 p.m. 3102 Chemical and Life Sciences Lab. Microbiology.

theater

17 Friday

“West Side Story.” 7 p.m. Assembly Hall. $ Illini Union Board.

18 Saturday

“West Side Story.” 2 and 7 p.m. Assembly Hall. $ Illini Union Board.

25 Saturday

Anne Bogart’s SITI Company: “Under Construction.” Anne Bogart, director. 7:30 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krammer Center. $ School of Music.

Inside Illinois page

P. 22: Calendar

Music

16 Thursday

Prelude and Fugue. With Erik Reimann, saxophone. 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krammer Center. The group with guest Rosmin perform Ellen Taddei Zwichi’s Quintet for alto saxophone and String Quartet.

Triyon Festival Theater Friere. UI Jazz Band N, Ryan Leathem, director. 7:30 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krammer Center. A layered exploration of topics as diverse as neuroscience research and Middle American popular culture.

28 Tuesday

Anne Bogart’s SITI Company: “Who Do You Think You Are?” Anne Bogart, director/writer. 7:30 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. $ School of Music.

Making music

Members of Champaign’s Batterfield and South Side schools’ World Music Ensemble will be making a joyful, non-Western noise and sharing it with visitors to the UI’s Spurlock Museum during the annual communitywide Boneyard Arts Festival. The festival, organized by 40 North (88 West) – Champaign County’s Arts, Culture and Entertainment Council – takes place April 16-19. This year, each day of the festival has been designated to focus on performances, exhibitions and other artistic activities in a specific “district” – downtown Champaign, on campus, downtown Urbana and in some outlying communities. April 17 is the day designated for arts activities in the campus district, but some campus-based artists, arts organizations and venues also will host events throughout the festival.

The Champaign schoolchildren’s world music group will perform on April 19, along with students from the Conservatory of Central Illinois and local Chinese dancers. Performances will take place throughout the day, from 10 a.m. until 2:45 p.m., and are planned in conjunction with the museum’s “Children Like Me” exhibit, which closes May 9.

Also, in addition to activities occurring inside the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, the center will be sending some of its performers out into the communities to entertain festival goers. It also will host spontaneous “art attacks” – random acts of art-making to occur at unspecified locations.

For a complete list of participating artists and venues, consult the online guide at www.kcnorth.org.

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Master of Music Recital. 

Antonio Plante, voice. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Tuesday, May 17

3 p.m. UI Concert Jazz Band. 

4:30 p.m. Trumpet Music Education Recital. 

5 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Wednesday, May 18

7 p.m. Reza Derakshani, mezzo soprano. 2 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Thursday, May 19

3 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

5 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Friday, May 20

7 p.m. Reza Derakshani, mezzo soprano. 2 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Saturday, May 21

7 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Sunday, May 22

7:30 p.m. UI Symphony Orchestra. 

2 p.m. Illinois University Softball. 

Monday, May 23

7:30 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Tuesday, May 24

7 p.m. Reza Derakshani, mezzo soprano. 2 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Wednesday, May 25

7 p.m. Reza Derakshani, mezzo soprano. 2 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Thursday, May 26

7 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Friday, May 27

7 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Saturday, May 28

7 p.m. Undergraduate Recital. 

Sunday, May 29

7:30 p.m. Undergraduate Recital.
April 16, 2009

26 Sunday
Lincoln Square Mall. Neuroscience Program.

28 Tuesday
“Bird to Do Your Best: Self-Care and Personal Well-Being.” 7 p.m. Multivit. Room 3 in the ARC Counseling Center.

29 Wednesday
“Database Management System for Language Acquisi- tion: Aymara, Kayaba’i, and Japa.” Howard Beck, M.I. Hardman, Sue Legg and Dinna Bautista Biranzosa. Univer- sity of Florida, 4 p.m. 2090B Foreign Languages Building. Literature, Languages and Literatures; Translation Studies; Literature; Center for the Humanities.

30 Thursday
Discussions on Recent Paint- ing, Ceramics, and Textiles. Axsunatlor Frivoky Abut and Cynthia Derry Brown, 5:30 p.m. 62 Kramert Art Museum. Fine and Applied Arts and Art His.

1 Friday

1 Saturday
Kids@Kranert, 10 a.m. Kramert Art Museum. Kramert Art Museum.

1 Saturday

1 Saturday
Opening: “The End of the Humanities at IPRCH” Through May 9. CRCE, 405 W. Pennsylvania Ave., Urbana. 8:30-5 p.m. Monday-Friday.

1 Saturday
“Cartooning: Cartoons and Censored Old English Texts and the Evolution of Anglo-Saxon Print” Through April 30. Rare Book and Manuscript Li- brary, 346 Main Library.

1 Saturday

1 Saturday
“Children Just Like Me” Through May 4. Free galleries featuring the cul- tures of the world.

1 Saturday
10 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday; 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Wednesday. Open Biking. Noon. Outside ARC Entrance. Campus Recre-

2 Saturday
4 p.m. Lincoln Square Mall. Neuroscience Program.

2 Saturday
“Bird to Do Your Best: Self-Care and Personal Well-Being.” 7 p.m. Multivit. Room 3 in the ARC Counseling Center.

3 Saturday
“Database Management System for Language Acquisi- tion: Aymara, Kayaba’i, and Japa.” Howard Beck, M.I. Hardman, Sue Legg and Dinna Bautista Biranzosa. Univer- sity of Florida, 4 p.m. 2090B Foreign Languages Building. Literature, Languages and Literatures; Translation Studies; Literature; Center for the Humanities.

3 Saturday
“Collecting East Asia: The Lee Wonsik Collection” “Grand Text Auto” Through May 31. Krannert Art Museum and Kinlea Pavilion. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday. 2:30 p.m. Sunday. Free admission; 33 donation suggested.

3 Saturday
I space, 230 W. Superior St., Chicago. 11 a.m.-5 p.m. Tues- day-Saturday.

3 Saturday
ongoing
Artgild Chimio-Tower Tours 10 a.m.-10 p.m. Open Monday-Friday; 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Saturday-Sunday. Enter through 323 Altgeld Hall. To arrange a concert or bell tower visit at another time, e-mail altgeld@illinois.edu or call 333-6088. For other info: chimio.towersandbells.uiuc.edu/ Arborium Tours To arrange a tour, 333-5759.

3 Saturday
Open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. to dusk daily. “Al- lerget” Through July 26. Kinkead Pavilion.

3 Saturday
“Collating Caedmon: Editing Old English Texts in Print” Through April 30. Rare Book and Manuscript Li-

3 Saturday
Campus Recreation 11:30 a.m.-1 p.m. Monday-Friday. Lunch served 11 a.m.-2 p.m. For menu, call 244-2848.

3 Saturday
Bevier Café 8-11 a.m. coffee, juice and baked goods; and 11:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. lunch.

3 Saturday
Café 1-7 p.m. Thursday; 10 a.m.-2 p.m. Friday. The Fred and Donna Giertz Center. For group tours, call 244-9934.

3 Saturday
Café 3 p.m. daily; meet in lobby. Campuse Services Desk (undergrad li-

3 Saturday
Café 11:45 a.m.-1 p.m. third Wednes-

3 Saturday
Café 1:30 p.m. first Thursday.

4 Sunday
Ninth Annual Brain Day. 1-3 p.m.
Researchers study signaling networks that set up genetic code

By James E. Kloeppe

A new study, researchers at the UI have identified and visualized the signaling pathways in protein-RNA complexes that help set the genetic code in all organisms. The genetic code allows information stored in DNA to be translated into proteins.

The researchers report their findings in a paper accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and posted on the journal’s Web site.

“Using molecular dynamics simulations and new visualization software, we can examine and compare different signaling pathways found in living organisms,” said Zaida Luthey-Schulten, a professor of Chemistry at the UI, and William and Janet Lycan Professor of Chemistry at the UI, and the paper’s corresponding author. “Our methodology is applicable to all protein-RNA complexes involved in translation.”

Translation is an essential process in living cells whereby messenger RNA (mRNA) serve as templates in the ribosome to produce specific proteins. How a signal moves through the ribosome during translation has not been understood.

In the first step of translation, an amino acid must be added onto the end of the correct transfer RNA (tRNA) containing the corresponding anticodon according to the genetic code. (The anticodon is a sequence of three nucleotides that can bind to a specific sequence of three nucleotides—the codon—in mRNA.)

The proteins that attach the correct amino acid to the tRNA are the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetases in an organism typically, one for each kind of amino acid.

From a pool of thousands of amino acids and tRNAs in the cell, each aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase must recognize and pair the correct amino acid and tRNA. After this pairing has occurred, the tRNA is transported to the ribosome where the messenger RNA obtained from the DNA sequence is translated into a protein.

How the signal is transmitted from the anticodon on the tRNA at one end of the protein-tRNA complex to the site of chemical reaction in the aminoacyl-tRNA synthetase is an enigma. The researchers have been able to identify the network of interactions.

The network algorithms, developed originally by computer scientists to study the communication patterns in the World Wide Web, air travel, and the spread of disease, were adapted to find the optimal and suboptimal communication pathways.

“For example, the signaling pathways in the protein-tRNA complexes are analogous to air travel, where passengers departing from small airports pass through major hubs on their way to distant destinations,” Luthey-Schulten said. “So too in biology, modules of amino acids and nucleotides communicate using pathways that are a few important interconnecting links.”

To study those links using network analysis, the researchers represented each amino acid and nucleotide in the protein-RNA complex as a node. Edges connected these nodes, and the network consisted of nodes with connecting edges.

Variations in the connectivity of the network give rise to modules, which can be viewed as local communities in the network, the researchers report. Nodes within the same community are highly interconnected and can communicate through a large number of paths with a small difference in distance.

To further analyze the protein-tRNA network, the researchers “weighted” the edges by correlation values derived from molecular dynamics simulations.

“The optimal path is the shortest path, the most correlated path along which the information is transferred,” said graduate student and co-author John Eargle. “There are other paths nearby that are also highly correlated, so the optimal path is not the only path where communication is taken through the protein.”

Visualization of the communication pathways allowed the researchers to study the redundancy of the pathways and the effects of mutations on the signaling pathways that set the genetic code.

“We can visualize the software, we are also can overlap the optimal paths from different proteins and compare networks,” Luthey-Schulten said. “The ability to visualize and compute the networks will accelerate the design efforts to expand the genetic code to include novel amino acids and allow researchers to apply the technique to much larger systems like the ribosome.”

The enhanced visualization software is part of VMD (Visual Molecular Dynamics), a program for visualizing and analyzing molecular dynamics simulations. Developed at Illinois and distributed free of charge, VMD is designed to efficiently handle large multidimensional systems containing more than a million atoms.

With Luthey-Schulten and Eargle, co-authors of the paper are postdoctoral associate Amr Sertli and graduate research assistant Alexis A. Black. Luthey-Schulten is affiliated with the Beckman Institute, for Biophysics and Computational Biology, and Institute for Genomic Biology.

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