Campus making progress on sustainability

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

S taff members have estimated the Urbana campus’s carbon footprint by inventorizing the amount of greenhouse gases it produces, and the results “look pretty typical for a very large university,” according to Richard Warner, director of the Office of Sustainability. The office inventory, a requirement of the American Colleges and Universities Presidents Climate Commitment signed by Chancellor Richard Herman in February 2008, indicated that during fiscal year 2008 the campus produced 505,272 metric tons of carbon emissions, the majority—376,499 metric tons—by burning oil and gas at Abbott Power Plant and other on-site plants. Emissions from purchased electricity totaled 109,143 metric tons, and employees commuting in their personal vehicles produced another 14,014 metric tons of carbon emissions.

Last year, Herman set campus goals of reducing overall energy use by 10 percent over the next three years, and reducing energy use by 17 percent over five years to return the campus to its energy use level in 1990. The campus already has made substantive inroads through projects such as retrocommissioning heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems in the facilities that are the major energy consumers. Through

Illinois’s strategic sustainability goals
- Create a forum for in-depth, cross-disciplinary engagement on societal sustainability grand challenges
- Create and implement a sustainable campus operations plan to design operations that mimic natural ecosystems
- Infuse sustainable thinking into campus missions through new education activities
- Create incentive programs that spur sustainability activities to meet the above goals
- Create a viable financial plan for sustainability activities

The strategic vision for sustainability on the Urbana campus is available on the Office of Sustainability’s Web site.

Public service an option in exchange for mortgage relief

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

T he debt-saddled U.S. government doesn’t have to just give away billions of taxpayer dollars that will help struggling homeowners stave off foreclosure, according to a new study by a UI law and labor expert. Michael LeRoy says the roughly 9 million home owners whose mortgages will be trimmed could be required to repay at least part of the government aid through public service work instead of getting a free ride.

The U.S. has a long history of mandating public service in exchange for government assistance, and legal challenges have almost always failed, including claims that the programs violate constitutional protection against involuntary servitude, said LeRoy, a professor of law and of labor and employment relations.

“The large body of case law in my research shows that others have paid a literal or metaphorical debt to society by performing mandatory public service,” he said. “As government debt-relief programs continue to evolve, a public service requirement is a viable legal option that policymakers should consider.”

LeRoy says he decided to study the public service option based on inequities between the mortgage-relief plan and the tougher terms imposed by other government programs, such as corporate bailouts that cap executive pay and welfare programs that require recipients to either hold jobs or perform community service work.

“As the U.S. has funded bailouts for once-rich corporations or aid for the poor, it has required reciprocation in the form of sacrifice and additional effort by recipients,” he said. “But this transfer of $50 billion to middle-class homeowners requires nothing more than filling out forms and meeting eligibility requirements.”

LeRoy says the contrast unfairly favors the affluent, providing no-cost debt reduction for property owners while aid comes with strings attached for programs targeting lower-income Americans such as welfare and unemployment, which obligates recipients to seek and accept work.

Mandated public service programs in the U.S. date back to the 1780s, when state and county governments required able-bodied men to help on road projects without pay several days a year or face fines and imprisonment, according to the study.

Others followed, including the shift from welfare to “workfare” and programs that paid medical school tuition in exchange for a commitment to work in areas where health-care services were in short supply.

Programs carried stiff penalties to compel community service work, such as fines, jail time or, in the case of doctors, disrupting their educational debt and increasing interest rates.

The study says these programs have generally withstood challenges on numerous legal grounds, including arguments that mandated public service violates the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery and the Exclusionary Clause, Page 2

H1N1 (swine flu) advisory

In a massmail to faculty and staff members and students, Dr. Robert Palinkas, director of McKinley Health Center, stated that public health officials on campus and throughout the world are investigating outbreaks of swine influenza (commonly known as swine flu), which is now being referred to as H1N1. The outbreak is ongoing. Palinkas listed the symptoms and detailed what people can do to prevent the spread of the flu.

SYMPTOMS
- Fever over 100 degrees F, sore throat, cough, stuffy nose, chills, headache, body aches and fatigue

PREVENTION
- Avoid contact with ill persons.
- When you cough or sneeze, cover your nose and mouth with a tissue or your sleeve (if you don’t have a tissue), and throw the tissue in a trash can.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose or mouth.
- Get medical care right away if you have a high fever (over 100.4 degrees F), severe cold symptoms or severe vomiting.
- After coughing or sneezing, wash your hands with soap and water, or use an alcohol-based hand gel.
- If you think you are ill with H1N1 flu, avoid contact with others as much as possible, and stay at home.
- Seek medical care if you are severely ill (such as having trouble breathing).

On the Web:
McKinley Health Center www.mckinley.illinois.edu
Champaign-Urbana Public Health District www.uchsd.org
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention cdc.gov/h1n1flu

On the Web:
www.c-uphd.org
CHICAGO DIRECTOR NAMED

Chicago director named new director of Uni High

By Brittany Snell
Senior Staff Intern

The University of Illinois has its origins in 1862, but the school’s history and tradition continue to thrive in the present day.

The University of Illinois at Chicago, commonly referred to as UIC, is one of the largest public universities in the nation. With nearly 60,000 students and 300 research labs, UIC is a leading research institution and an active member of the University of Illinois System.

The university was founded in the 1960s as a public institution to provide opportunities for students and faculty from diverse backgrounds. Today, UIC remains committed to excellence in teaching, research, and service, and is recognized as a top public university.

In April 2009, the University of Illinois Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Dr. Nancy Faust as the eighth president of UIC. Under Faust’s leadership, the university continues to prioritize diversity, equity, and inclusion, and to foster a culture of innovation and excellence.

UIC is divided into five separate colleges: Arts and Sciences, Business Administration, Engineering, Law, and Medicine. Each college offers a wide range of undergraduate and graduate programs, as well as professional and continuing education opportunities.

In addition to its academic programs, UIC has strong partnerships with local businesses and organizations, and is actively involved in the Chicago community.

The university is committed to sustainability and environmental stewardship, and has implemented numerous initiatives to reduce its carbon footprint and promote a healthy campus environment.

UIC is located in the heart of Chicago, providing students with access to a vibrant urban setting that offers a wealth of cultural, educational, and recreational opportunities.

For more information about the University of Illinois at Chicago, please visit the university’s website at www.uic.edu.
Dining Services tests eco-friendly alternatives

By Shilpa Forman

The Campus Sustainability Office at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign has greened the dining halls by providing student-managed farms.

Currently one-quarter – or about $3 million – of the food served in the student-run, sustainable farm on campus is grown locally. That’s in keeping with the spirit of several community initiatives that University Housing Dining Services supports, such as the Zero Waste initiative led by Dining Director Donn Atchley, assistant director of Dining Services.

Dining Services’ zero waste initiative is in place in all of its residence halls. In the fall of 2009, it was launched in the second-floor windows of two residential commons – the Dine and Eat commons – in one of the residence halls.

The program is part of the university’s overall commitment to reducing waste, materials and energy usage.

A student-run farm to supply dining halls

By Shilpa Forman

The student-operated farm that weaves together some of the most sustainable practices of our time in one place is expected to make a 10-year commitment to the university. The student-run farm will provide a steady supply of local food to the campus dining halls.

A cooperative venture of the department of horticulture, the Center for Agriculture Resources and Education, and the Illinois Institute of Technology, the student-run farm is expected to provide high-quality vegetables, fruits, eggs, honey and other products for use in the campus dining halls.

The student-run farm is expected to produce enough products each year to supply one of the dining halls for five years. It is expected to be a 10-year commitment to the university.

The state-of-the-art farm is expected to be a model for other universities to follow.

In the first year of the program, the student-run farm will provide enough produce for one of the dining halls for five years. In the second year, it will provide enough produce for one of the other dining halls for five years.

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Beekeeping interest leads to second career

By Colleen Vautt

Karen Pruiett’s interest in keeping bees began as a hobby more than 30 years ago and now consumes much of her time. “I’m a full-time beekeeper at work,” Pruiett said. “I go to work and I’m a beekeeper.”

She works full-time in the UI’s BioResearch Lab helping to raise and take care of bees in small enclosures. Between the lab and her hives at home she can take care of more than a million bees.

Pruiett took up beekeeping in 1979 to help her garden friends. “My husband and I would grow fruits and vegetables, so we really needed honey bees.”

It was not the career and life path Pruiett conceived of as a student at the UI. At the UI, Pruiett said, “I was a biochemistry major and a computer science minor.”

Five years after she earned her bachelor’s degree, Pruiett began working with the university’s entomology department and has remained there for 19 years. “I would walk around while I worked,” she said. “I would walk around the grass or whatever and always stop and see what the honey bees were doing and I would see colors painted on their backs.” The colors had been painted on by researchers.

A beekeeper who worked in the research lab told her about the opportunity for a job. “When he heard I could make money, I was really impressed. I thought, ‘I want to do that job as a bee research specialist.’”

Entomology professor Gene Robinson, the director of the university’s Entomology Research Program and one of the world’s leading experts on honey bees, said Pruiett is a critical member of the lab staff.

“Pruiett’s position involves a highly specialized form of expertise. I need her,” Robinson said. “She is among the best in the area at it.”

Pruiett’s main responsibility is raising day-old bees for research and keeping the colonies clean and healthy. Every day, she collects aluminum cans, 1000-10,000 day-old bees and honey cakes. Graduate student Claudia Latz said, “It’s very physical, lots of jumpping in and out of the field pucky truck. We would roll up our sleeves and work hard. Karen was very energetic and calming because working with bees was intimidating.”

After taking care of the bees, Pruiett goes home to her home to her 20 colonies with honey cakes and bees. She works on her bees for hours a day. “I think they really don’t require too much energy,” she said.

In 2005, Lewin’s team showed that breakpoints in gene deserts, segments of chromosomes that are evolutionarily stable, contain “breakpoint regions” that code for genes that differ dramatically from those occurring elsewhere in the chromosome. The study, published in the journal Genome Research, is the first to show that different parts of chromosomes can have very different evolutionary histories, US animal sciences professor Harris Lewin, who led the research, said. Lewin directs the Institute for Genomic Biology and is part of an international team that sequenced the cow genome.

“Our results demonstrate that chromosome breakage is evolution non-random and that the breakpoint regions and the most stable regions of chromosomes are evolving in distinctly different ways,” he said.

When bees expire, new bees fill in as adults, mimicking paternal chromosomes first and then maternal. “It’s been a wonderful experience,” Robinson said. “It’s been a wonderful experience,” Lewin said. “It’s been a wonderful experience.”

Karen Pruiett, a bee research specialist, not only tends to the thousands of bees that are used for research in the UI’s labs, she also keeps 20 colonies of her own that produce nearly a ton of honey each year. Beekeeping is a family interest.

Pruiett’s maternal grandfather was a beekeeper, as was Pruiett’s brother.

Pruiett’s results demonstrate that the breakpoint regions and the most stable regions of chromosomes are evolving in distinctly different ways, he said. "It’s been a wonderful experience," Robinson said. "It’s been a wonderful experience," Lewin said. "It’s been a wonderful experience."
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Commencement ceremonies to take place May 17

By Melissa Mitchell

May 7, 2009

The 138th commencement of the UI will be held in two ceremonies May 17 at the Assembly Hall.

The speaker at the 10:30 a.m. ceremony will be Sue Chernack Miller, winner of the University of Illinois Alumni Achievement Award. New York Times bestselling author, TV host and philanthropist, and Illinois alumna; at the 2 p.m. ceremony, the speaker will be Carl Schurman, the president and chief executive officer of the Ewing Marion Kauffman Foundation.

At the 10:30 a.m. ceremony, candidates in the colleges of Applied Health Sciences, Law, Liberal Arts and Sciences, Medical, Veterinary Medicine, the Institute of Arctic; the School of Labor and Employment Relations; the School of Social Work; and the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences will receive degrees. Candidates in the colleges of Agricultural; Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Business, Education, Engineering; and Fine and Applied Arts will receive degrees at the 2 p.m. ceremony.

Doors will open at 9:30 a.m. for the morning ceremony and at 1 p.m. for the afternoon ceremony. After all students and their guests are seated, the remaining seats will be available to the public. Shuttle buses will be available to the public. Shuttles buses will stop at various campus locations, including the Assembly Hall, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

All students who have earned bachelor’s, master’s, doctoral and professional degrees will be available to the public. Shuttle buses will be available to the public. Shuttles buses will stop at various campus locations, including the Assembly Hall, from 9 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

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Trent faculty members, four academic professionals and five graduate teaching assistants at the UI were honored April 29 for excellence in teaching and advising. The honors were presented during a reception at the Alumni/Campbell Alumni Center on campus.

Comments about the award recipients are from the nominations.

Faculty members honored within the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching:

Carol Gacec, a professor of animal biology, continually strives to enhance the effectiveness of her teaching by participating in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Teaching Academy, Annual Faculty Retreats, and the seminar series offered by the Center for Writing Studies. In addition to teaching and mentoring students at Illini, Gacec developed a K-12 outreach program in collaboration with local schools. In addition to field and laboratory activities that enable students to learn more about aquatic ecology in their local parks.

Rosa Milesevic Santos, a professor of special education, helps her students understand the theory behind best practices in special education and how to apply these practices in their work with children and families. Santos is a truly gifted instructor whose dedication to her subject and her students is evident daily in the classroom. She engages in reflective practice, often pausing to evaluate her teaching effectiveness by considering student evaluations.

In her classes, Kim Graber, a professor of kinesiology and community health, offers optional opportunities for civic engagement consistent with goals for outreach described in the Campus Strategic Plan. Students in her classes regularly select to continue their community outreach work in her class for independent study courses. Some students choose to serve as undergraduate research aides under her supervision and she gladly mentors them in this role.

Mark Leff, a professor of history, cultivates intense student interest in history by demonstrating how the responsibilities of the present demand clarity in understanding the past. He encourages students to take what they learn in the classroom and apply it in the world around them. Professor Leff’s respect for students’ opinions and his dedication to giving each student individual attention are hallmarks of his exemplary commitment to undergraduate teaching.

For three decades, Bruce Ruzic, a professor of mathematics, has dedicated himself to improving the intellectual lives of Illinois undergraduates. Through creative effort as a teacher and mentor, Ruzic has changed the careers of countless schoolteachers, graduate teaching assistants and new members of the professoriate. Ruzic has accomplished this by ensuring that his own teaching is consistently responsive both to the timeliness of his subject and the timelessness of future educators’ needs.

Institutional staff members who receive the award include:

John Goodrich, a lecturer in English, helps students discover the power of writing and discover with this power comes significant responsibility. Goodrich understands that writing shapes culture but nonetheless conveys. In illuminating the consequences of writing, Goodrich challenges his students to imagine the quality of local food experiences in the way they fashion on the page. Students appreciate this challenge; it fosters the commitment to craft that is foundational to successful authorship.

Marina Milesevic, a lecturer in chemical and biomolecular engineering, integrates the undergraduate experience for chemical and biomolecular engineering students by studying them to address problems that are highly relevant to the advancement of 21st-century chemical science. She prepares undergraduates to excel as members of problem-solving teams, instilling in these teams a deep appreciation for the value of conducting their work safely, ethically and with special regard for the environment.

Over the past 30 years, teaching associate Katherine Wahl, mathematics, has made outstanding contributions to the qualitative-quantitative studies instruction in campus. Students feel welcome by her patient introduction of new concepts and by the confidence she exudes in her mathematical knowledge. Wahl understands that the problem-solving knowledge learned in her classes will serve students well as they advance to other undergraduate careers at other institutions.

Another teaching assistant who received the award: Michelle Birkett, education and human development, Julie Jamison, education and human development, Samantha Jarisch, psychology, Samantha Ohlman, education and human development, and Mary Ramey, communication.

The award recognizes professors, instructional staff members and graduate teaching assistants who display consistently excellent performance in the classroom, in innovative approaches to teaching, positively affecting the lives of their students, and make other contributions to improved instruction, including influencing the curriculum.

Faculty members selected for the award receive $5,000. Instructional staff members receive $4,000, graduate teaching assistants receive $5,150.

Other award winners honored:

Two faculty members received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. Each receives $5,000. The recipients:

Shabnam Javdani, a professor of music, has had a positive impact on graduate instruction in music at Illinois. Of signal importance, her approach to disciplines beyond music so that she might cultivate and invigorate performers whose efforts are always highly relevant to the advancement of 21st-century music.

Robert Skirvin, a professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Mentoring Graduate Students, which provides the recipient with $2,000. Skirvin is a superb mentor to the graduate students in his laboratory. Over the past 15 years, he has helped this students earn degrees in interdisciplinary disciplines. His students have drawn on this talent to produce a number of educational videos that are used at universities around the country. They have also been invited to speak at international conferences, in courses, television and radio. It continues as he urges them to excel in whatever postgraduate positions they choose.

Robert Steltman, an academic advisor in English, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Advising Undergraduate Students, which provides the recipient with $2,000. Steltman brings long experience to advising students of undergraduate English majors. The advice he gives is profoundly influenced by his comprehensive vision of the institution and an appreciation for his department's critical location within it. Steltman's aim, always, is to help students graduate with a deep investment in the idea that humanistic knowledge can be both a tonic when times are uncertain and unsteady, and a catalyst for revolutionary change when the times call for communal renewal.

Two faculty members received the Campus Award for Excellence in Off-Campus Teaching. Each receives $5,000. The recipients:

John Goodrich, English

Guiding Undergraduate Research. The $2,000 award is designed to foster and reward excellence in guiding undergraduate students in scholarly or creative activity. Each recipient contributes to outstanding research contributions to the campus. Ruzic has again and again been the professor Illinois graduates remember years after commencement. This is in large part because of his dedication to the proposition that students learn best when engagement in research occurs early and when the research is directed in a way that addresses the research questions of the students. Ruzic always makes sure his students understand the answers to difficult scientific questions. His courses focus on telecommunication and improving virtually every solid state device.

David Pizzi, mechanical and industrial engineering

Mentoring Graduate Students. The recipient receives $5,000. Pizzi is a true leader in the field of mechanical engineering, and his students have earned impressive graduate and professional degrees in a wide variety of disciplines. In his comprehensive vision of the institution, he has always been a leader in the development of new programs and initiatives. Pizzi has been recognized for his research contributions in mechanical engineering, as well as his leadership in the development of new programs and initiatives. Pizzi has been recognized for his research contributions in mechanical engineering, as well as his leadership in the development of new programs and initiatives. Pizzi has been recognized for his research contributions in mechanical engineering, as well as his leadership in the development of new programs and initiatives.
By Jan Dennis

Beverly Roberts

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By Dina Tipte

New Book: Universities at risk if academic freedom wanes

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For your health, pick a mate who is conscientious

NEW BOOK:

"Highly conscientious people are more organized and responsible and tend to follow through with their goals and plans," Finkin said. "They are more likely to exercise, eat nutritious foods and avoid drugs or take unwanted risks. They protect their own health as well as the health of those around them. They tend to have lower rates of chronic diseases, and even when they do get sick, they recover more quickly from illness. The opposite is true for those who are less conscientious. They tend to have higher rates of chronic diseases, and even when they do get sick, they recover more slowly from illness."
UI economist: Grain prices rebound from flu-linked declines

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

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UI economist: Grain prices rebound from flu-linked declines

Not spring in the Corn Belt and scared-buck harvest estimates in South America have helped re-}

UI economist: Grain prices rebound from flu-linked declines

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Winners of the Professional Staff Award for Excellence in Teaching, which recognizes the outstanding performance of non-tenure-track faculty, were named April 29 by the Office of the Provost Linda Katehi and chancellor Dan R. Jones. The award seeks to recognize faculty who demonstrate a commitment to the education of all learners, regardless of access to education. Winning faculty members have demonstrated excellence in teaching and learning, and their contributions encompass the entire academic enterprise.


time was $50 in-network hospital admission co-payments and premiums. The prescription drug deductible for Quality Care Health Plan (QCHP) participants was $400 in 2010, and for Humana plan participants it was $500 in the same year.

The Staff Advisory Council is seeking nominations for the Staff Advisory Council Staff Human Resources Office. Deadline for returning petition forms is May 29. For more information, contact Donna K. Wolf, director of the Illinois Leadership Center and provost Linda Katehi on April 29.

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Digital performance showcases arts and technology partnership

Musicians appear to be performing on the same stage, when in fact they are performing from different campus locations in real time. The April 20 digital performance was hosted at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts during a reception formally announcing the Emerging Digital Research and Arts Media Institute (edream), which coincided with the annual conference of the Humanities Arts, Science and Technology Advanced Collaboratory. Performing: from left, UI graduate student Ben Smith playing violin on Stage 5 at Krannert Center; John Toenjes, music director for dance at Illinois, on drums, and Mary Pietrowicz, NCSA research programmer, on flute, performing at NCSA’s Advanced Visualization Laboratory.

The piece, “eDream and be merry,” was created by the trio of musicians and music professor Guy Garnett and was made possible by a very high speed networking application between the Krannert Center and NCSA.

Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services upgraded Krannert Center’s building network connection from 1 gigabit per second to 10 gigabits per second to take advantage of the network throughput of the new Illinois Research Network.

The performance required extraordinary amounts of bandwidth to ensure that the uncompressed, high-definition video information from the dual locations could be transmitted and synchronized in real time. According to Charley Kline, CITES IT architect, “The successful April 20 performance demonstrated that our network can be used to support very demanding applications without special equipment or changes to its production configuration.” For more information about the Illinois Research Network, see www.cites.illinois.edu/researchnet/.

Social works of art

Below right, a triptych with the School of Social Work’s mission statement decorates the lobby wall outside college dean Wynne Korr’s suite at the school’s new facilities at 1010 W. Nevada St., Urbana. Each of the 3-foot by 5-foot panels contains images that reflect the school’s purpose.

At left, Champaign artist Tanya Shur was commissioned to create 100 ceramic tiles that decorate the main hallway (at right) and honor alumni and friends who support the school. Nine different designs are on the 5 1/4-inch tiles. Honorees’ or donors’ names are displayed on acrylic nameplates. The sponsored tiles are interspersed with plain purple tiles, not sponsored by donors, created by local artist Michael Schwegmann. A dedication ceremony for Social Work’s new facilities took place April 24.