By Diana Yates

Life Sciences Editor

Molecular switch links infectious disease and depression

By Sharita Forrest

resarchers at the UI report that people who have had tuberculosis are more likely to go on to develop depression. South African patients with tuberculosis were isolated and found throughout the body and long suspected of playing a role in depression, in fact essential to the onset of depressive symptoms sparked by chronic inflammation.

Their study, just published in the journal *Immunology*, is the first to identify IDO (indoleamine 2,3 dioxygenase) as a molecular switch that induces depressive symptoms in some cases of chronic inflammation.

Doctors have long known that patients with chronic inflammation, such as that linked to coronary heart disease or rheumatoid arthritis, are more likely than others to go on to develop depression.

"Our usual way to do this is to set up a task force, and give concepts that now are posted on the Web," said Provost Linda Katehi in December. "This leaves academic department and other mission units free to transition into more specialized analyst roles."

Among the proposals in the first batch of concept papers is the creation of Virtual Guilds of Expertise that would provide faculty and staff members with better access to IT staff members with strategically important IT skills. Additionally, the proposed council would maintain a directory of departmental IT professionals on campus, including those in Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services and new hires, in a new organization called IT@Illinois.

"This leaves academic department and other mission units free to act with great agility, and it assures that ideas flow freely across the organization, many individuals new in local support roles will be understood in a common IT@Illinois division, and this will stimulate and path forward to more for some IT professionals to transition into more specialized analyst roles."

Get all the details at the University of Illinois Wiki and Active Directory Password

The initiative officially got underway Dec. 10 with a symposium, followed by two workshops. Within a matter of weeks, almost 75 concept papers were submitted that addressed various IT problems on campus, Jackson said. "It was obvious that there was a lot of thinking gone on, but we needed to see if the thinking is going to a higher, more general level. The provost asked to have one or more broad concepts for organization of IT services brought forward, and 14 concepts were submitted." The 14 concept papers were considered at a forum in March, and were reformatted into five concept papers that now are posted on the IT@Illinois Wiki for feedback.

Among the proposals in the concept papers is the creation of an IT Council that would be responsible for coordinating and guiding IT services at the campus and unit levels, including deployment of new services and the initiation of new virtual services such as the Scholarly Commons. The proposed IT Council also would support creation of Virtual Guilds of Expertise that would provide faculty and staff members with better access to IT staff members with strategically important IT skills. Additionally, the proposed council would maintain a directory of departmental IT professionals on campus, including those in Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services and new hires, in a new organization called IT@Illinois.

"This leaves academic department and other mission units free to act with great agility, and it assures that ideas flow freely across the organization, many individuals new in local support roles will be understood in a common IT@Illinois division, and this will stimulate and path forward to more for some IT professionals to transition into more specialized analyst roles."

However, this won’t mean centralization of IT services – a concern raised by some faculty members at the April 27 Urbana-Champaign Senate meeting – or that departments will relinquish control of their IT support personnel, Jackson said. "The provost has come up with a set of outcomes that any plan is going to have to meet, and one of those is..."
Diversity in university business schools—and ultimately the U.S. workforce—could be a casualty of a deep and lingering economic downturn, says a longtime administrator and economist who will soon lead one of the nation’s top business programs.

As tuition rises to offset economy-driven revenue declines, business schools will face a tougher challenge to maintain enrollment among lower-income students, said Larry DeBrock, incoming dean of the UI College of Business.

“The mission of a great public university is to provide a depth of student diversity, whether based on socioeconomic or ethnic criteria,” he said. “Businesses prize diversity, too, and want workforces that reflect America’s rich and varied walk of life.”

But DeBrock says enrollment among lower-income students will likely dip as universities boost their undergraduate tuition to make up for declining support in recession-stricken state budgets.

Universities also will find it tougher to help students bridge the gap, as the sour economy stretches campus finances and scales back dollars available for financial aid, said DeBrock, who appeared last week on “First Business,” a nationally syndicated financial program that airs on about 150 television affiliates in the U.S. and is distributed internationally.

Census data show that minorities would be the hardest hit by rising college costs, he said. A 25.5 percent decline in the number of Hispanics living in poverty, compared with 10.5 percent of whites.

But all students could feel the pinch, said DeBrock, who is to become dean May 21 after a year as interim dean, pending approval by the UI Board of Trustees. For example, he said, wholesale business diversity, job recruiting could shift toward campuses that best maintain ethnic and socioeconomic diversity.

“We’re going to have to work harder than ever to secure financial aid for these students, because the income of DeBrock himself is now eluded the subsequent development of depression-like behavior. Mice that had low tryptophan levels didn’t die. They also are completely resistant to the depressive-like behavior seen in mice, the researchers gave mice a drug that inhibits IDO and ran the experiment again. They were just fine before. The IDO-related behavior in BCG-treated typical sickness behavior (low appetite, reduced activity), from which they soon recovered. Pre-treatment with the IDO inhibitor eliminated the subsequent development of depression-like behavior. Mice that had low tryptophan levels didn’t die. They also are completely resistant to the depressive-like behavior seen in mice, the researchers gave mice a drug that inhibits IDO and ran the experiment again. They were just fine before. The IDO-related behavior in BCG-treated mice is exquisitely adapted as a sensory system to detect infectious agents.

“The brain is able to compensate for the decrease in tryptophan,” he said. “No, we have to explain why depression is related to low tryptophan. This is the first study to directly implicate IDO in depression related to low tryptophan,” he said.

The researchers suspect that the metabolites produced when IDO degrades tryptophan are in some way promoting depression. More research will establish that is true, they said.

In the meantime, the study highlights IDO as a potential target for development of new antidepressant drugs.

The study also demonstrates the robust link between the immune system and the brain, a system that is also often ignored by immunologists and neurologists, Kelley said.

“Immune scientists have had the two fields of study, Kelley and Dantzer launched the Integrative Immunology and Behavior program at Illinois. It supports interdisciplinary research on how inflammatory processes in the immune system and brain influence behavior and mental health.

“From ages, no one considered that an infection somewhere in the body could affect the brain,” Kelley said. “But as (University of Texas immunologist) Ed Blalock said in 1984, the immune system is a sensory organ. The immune system is exquisitely adapted as a sensory system to ‘see’ infectious agents. And it communicates that information to the brain.”

The NIH National Institute on Aging and the National Institute of Mental Health also have provided funding for this research.

Correction

It was incorrectly reported in the Feb. 19 issue of Inside Illinois that Ollie Watts Davis, created the Black Chorus. The Black Chorus at the UI was founded in 1968, prior to Davis coming to the university. She has been the director of the Black Chorus for 27 years.
Debbie Kemphues, administrative assistant to the Provost, has worked at the UI for 28 years.

Debbie Kemphues (pronounced KEM-fewz) was born in England to an English mother and an American father stationed abroad with the military. She and her family moved back to the United States and settled in Illinois. She grew up in Fisher and graduated from Fisher High School in 1981.

Kemphues started at the UI at the College of Medicine in 1981 and worked there for three years before moving to University Housing. She took a break from campus life and worked at State Farm in Bloomington before returning to the Office of Business and Financial Affairs in 1996. She worked in the department of speech communication and in the Graduate College before moving to the Office of the Provost in 2004.

She has been married to her husband, Jerry, a building service worker with Facilities and Services, for 33 years. They live outside of Mahomet in a 130-year-old farmhouse.

They have two daughters and two grandchildren and another one on the way in September.

Tell me about your job.

I manage the day-to-day operations and activities of the Office of the Provost, including the provost’s calendar, e-mail and the steady stream of phone calls the office receives.

My job is to assist the provost and manage everything that comes through the office. With the provost functioning as the budget and academic officer for the campus, there are a lot of processes that come through this office.

Right now is one of the busiest times of the year on campus with the academic year coming quickly to an end.

At this point, we’re wrapping up the promotion and tenure process, where a campus committee reviews all assistant to associate professor promotions, as well as all associate to full professor promotion requests. This is one of the most important processes submitted to the provost for approval.

We’re also in the process of meeting with all academic units that report to the provost regarding their budgets for the 2009-2010 academic year. This is one of the most important processes submitted to the provost for approval.

What’s your average day like?

There’s never a typical day here. It’s a job where there’s so much going on and at such a fast pace, you leave at the end of the day and wonder where the day went. But I wouldn’t want it any other way.

I have worked with some pretty amazing people in my time on campus, but I have to say that the administrative and support team in the provost’s office are some of the most professional and effective leaders I have had the pleasure to work with on this campus.

What’s the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

I like the variety, the people and the pace of work. I took a sabbatical away from the university and worked in the corporate world, but I found I missed the energy that the students bring to campus, along with the unique intellectual and educational environment that’s provided on campus. There is definitely a different kind of energy when you walk across campus. You can’t get that anywhere else.

What do you like to do off the job?

I haven’t had much time off with my current position and especially with what’s happened during the past year. I was pretty ill with leukemia, but I’m happy to report that I am in remission and feeling much more like my old self again. I have been looking forward to working in my garden for the past year, so hopefully I’ll be working in the yard again soon.

How did you cope with your illness last year?

I feel very fortunate to have had the help and support of so many people. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for the support from the university community, as well as my hometown of Fisher. I also had very strong support from my family, especially my husband and daughters.

— Interview by Phil Ciciora, News Editor

By Phil Ciciora

Jobs at Illinois

To view job postings, apply for civil service or academic jobs at Illinois, or to update your application information:

jobs.illinois.edu

May 21, 2009

Accessible data could make government more accountable

P resident Barack Obama’s pledge to make his presidency the most open and accountable administration in history could come true if his administration embraces open data formats to make government information accessible to all, says a UI expert in information science.

According to Michael Twidale, a professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, Obama’s commitment to making more government data available to the public through the Internet than his predecessors is a “path to the great experiment of American democracy.”

“With the Freedom of Information Act, you have a large amount of information, but people will physically go and look it up, copy all the relevant information, and then mail it to you,” Twidale said. “That’s definitely better than nothing, but having a ‘Google the government’ by putting all non-secret government data online so anyone can search for what they’re looking for is a much faster and more efficient solution.”

For the purposes of democracy, by increasing not only the amount of information that’s available but also rendering it available at any hour of the day, any day of the week, the effect on government accountability should be substantial, Twidale said, because the governed would “be able to kick up a fuss earlier rather than later.”

“If have a few hours, it’s the truth eventually comes out, but it can be years after the fact, when it’s invariably too late to fix.”

One of the simplest and most cost-effective solutions to the problem, the Obama administration can increase “openness” in government, Twidale said, is to publish all official data and documents in open, machine-readable file formats.

An open file format, Twidale said, is one where specifications are public and fully documented, and has no patent or copyright restrictions limiting its use. Proprietary file formats, on the other hand, are usually controlled by a private company and are often not supported, and are therefore not available to users who don’t have the correct operating system software.

Historically, both business and government have chosen proprietary software and proprietary file formats created by corporations over open-source equivalents (think Microsoft Office versus OpenOffice, for example) for market-based reasons: Companies can control the behavior of their applications, and their wares are seen as ubiquitous and too big to fail. They’re also ratcheting up the political pressure for these formats to make government data online so anyone with access can see it.

That’s the high cost of converting departmental formats to make government information freely available, Twidale said. “We’re fortunate that most major software companies have open source options. But not just because it’s potentially more reliable. The software formats controlled by a German or a Chinese company, for example, allow us to buy software from Germany or China in order to access their own data.”

Twidale said that access is important because decision makers at all levels need to be able to access data to make government processes more efficient. “There’s never a typical day here. It’s a job where there’s so much going on,” he said. “We’re fortunate that most major software companies have open source options. But not just because it’s potentially more reliable. The software formats controlled by a German or a Chinese company, for example, allow us to buy software from Germany or China in order to access their own data.”

Twidale noted that access is important because decision makers at all levels need to be able to access data to make government processes more efficient. The issue is important for the 2009-2010 academic year. This is one of the most important processes submitted to the provost for approval.

“Imagine if the U.S. stored its data in software formats controlled by a German or a Chinese company, so that Americans have to buy software from Germany or China in order to access their own data,” Twidale said. “Imagine if the U.S. stored its data in software formats controlled by a German or a Chinese company, so that Americans have to buy software from Germany or China in order to access their own data.”

There’s never a typical day here. It’s a job where there’s so much going on and at such a fast pace, you leave at the end of the day and wonder where the day went. But I wouldn’t want it any other way.

I have worked with some pretty amazing people in my time on campus, but I have to say that the administrative and support team in the provost’s office are some of the most professional and effective leaders I have had the pleasure to work with on this campus.

What’s your average day like?

There’s never a typical day here. It’s a job where there’s so much going on and at such a fast pace, you leave at the end of the day and wonder where the day went. But I wouldn’t want it any other way.

I have worked with some pretty amazing people in my time on campus, but I have to say that the administrative and support team in the provost’s office are some of the most professional and effective leaders I have had the pleasure to work with on this campus.

What’s the most enjoyable aspect of your job?

I like the variety, the people and the pace of work. I took a sabbatical away from the university and worked in the corporate world, but I found I missed the energy that the students bring to campus, along with the unique intellectual and educational environment that’s provided on campus. There is definitely a different kind of energy when you walk across campus. You can’t get that anywhere else.

What do you like to do off the job?

I haven’t had much time off with my current position and especially with what’s happened during the past year. I was pretty ill with leukemia, but I’m happy to report that I am in remission and feeling much more like my old self again. I have been looking forward to working in my garden for the past year, so hopefully I’ll be working in the yard again soon.

How did you cope with your illness last year?

I feel very fortunate to have had the help and support of so many people. I can’t tell you how grateful I am for the support from the university community, as well as my hometown of Fisher. I also had very strong support from my family, especially my husband and daughters.

— Interview by Phil Ciciora, News Editor

Jobs at Illinois

To view job postings, apply for civil service or academic jobs at Illinois, or to update your application information:

jobs.illinois.edu
New bus routes offer increased frequency, logical routes

By Shantia Forrest
Assistant Editor

T he Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District is proposing new bus routes for the campus area beginning Aug. 16 that would provide direct access to downtown Urbana and downtown Champaign along with more frequent service and other improvements. A new route system called the Campus Core – comprising the yellow, the gold, the green, the white and the black routes – would replace several current campus routes including the Quad, the 26 Pack, the Shuttle East and the Shuttle West. Buses would provide service every 10 minutes daily when UI classes are in session rather than every 15 minutes as MTD currently provides. Frequency would remain the same, although routes would remain the same.

Unless the MTD’s current routes, which operate in a circular fashion and run either clockwise or counter-clockwise, buses on the new routes would travel in a linear fashion between nodes: downtown Champaign, downtown Urbana, Lot E-14, and Florida Avenue Residence Halls/Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Halls.

“All of the service will go directly into the downtown areas, and you’ll get to both of the downtown areas directly from Wright Street or Goodwin Avenue and still be able to get back in to campus,” said Bill Volk, MTD’s managing director. “Importantly for us, people could get to Illinois Terminal with a one-seat ride from any of the dorms on campus.”

The new route system might be especially useful for passengers who want to travel from campus to downtown Champaign or downtown Urbana. “Right now, as an employee of the university, I have an easy way to go from my office to the downtown for lunch, or if I had an errand downtown, I wouldn’t have to go all the way to Champaign,” said Daniel Martin, transportation demand management coordinator in the Facilities and Services Division.

“This new bus system will give us that option.”

The newer, simplified routes also will be easier for passengers to understand than some of the current routes, Johnston said.

Better buses: New bus routes proposed by the Champaign-Urbana Mass Transit District beginning in the fall semester would significantly reduce traffic on Wright Street, a goal of several campus traffic safety studies. Among other improvements, bus frequency would increase to every 10 minutes when UI classes are in session and routes will be simplified so they will be easier for passengers to learn.

“So if you’re going to a meeting on the northeast corner of the campus, you’ll be able to catch a bus, and the distance between Wright Street and Goodwin Avenue is 1/4 mile. If you take a bus and it takes you to Goodwin Avenue, you still have the ability to walk across the Quad and get where you’re going.”

The MTD unveiled its proposed new routes at public hearings on April 30 at the College of Law and at the Illini Union.

Several studies in recent years recommended consolidating campus bus routes to improve traffic safety and bus service on campus, including the multi-jurisdictional Champaign-Urban Mass Transit District traffic management report. The consulting firm Martin/Alexiou/Bryson submitted two reports for the 2007 Multi-Modal Transportation Study, which explored the feasibility of park-and-ride lots and other means for reducing traffic on campus, and the 2008 Transit Analysis, which contained a detailed review of transit routes through campus.

On March 5, students passed a referendum to increase, for one year, the transportation fee from $38 to $50. The UI Board of Trustees approved the increase at its July meeting if not before.

The proposed bus routes for fall 2009 are on the MTD’s Web site.

On the Web: www.cumtd.com

Mechanical stress leads to self-sensing in solid polymers

By James E. Kloeppel
Physical Sciences Editor

Mechanical stress leads to self-sensing in solid polymers that can perform different responsive functions. The color change that takes place in devices made of these materials is being harnessed by the UI researchers.

In critical material systems, such as polymers used in aircraft components, self-sensing and self-reinforcing capabilities could be used to report damage and warn of potential component failure, slow the spread of damage to extend a material’s lifetime, or even repair damage in early stages to avoid catastrophic failure.

“By coupling mechanical energy directly to structural response, the desired functionality could be precisely linked to the triggering stimulus,” said Sottos, who also is affiliated with the university’s Beckman Institute.

In their work, the researchers used molecules called spiropyran, a promising class of molecular probes that serve as color generating mechanophores, capable of vivid color changes when they undergo mechanochemical change. Normally colorless, the spiropyran used in the experiments turns red or purple when exposed to certain levels of mechanical stress.

“Mechanical stress induces a ring-opening reaction of the spiropyran that changes the color of the material,” said Douglas Da-

vis, a graduate research assistant and the paper’s lead author. “The reaction is reversible, so we can repeat the opening and closing of the mechanophore.”

The second polymer was formed into rigid beads several hundred microns in diameter. When the beads were squeezed, they changed from colorless to purple.

The color change that took place within both polymers could serve as a good indicator of how much stress a mechanical part or structural component made of the material had undergone.

“We’ve moved very seamlessly from chemistry to materials, and from materials we are now moving into engineering applications,” Sottos said. “With a deeper understanding of mechanophore design rules and efficient chemical response pathways, we envision new classes of dynamically responsive polymers that locally remodel, reorganize or even regenerate via mechanical regulation.”

In addition to Sottos and Davis, the paper’s co-authors include materials science and engineering professor Paul Braun, chemistry professors Todd Martinez and Jeffrey Moore, and aerospace engineering professor Scott White, as well as members of their research groups.

The work was funded by the U.S. Army Research Office MURI program.
Legal expert: Labor laws leave workers at risk during crises

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Congress needs to rewrite outdated labor laws that could force workers to choose between their health and their jobs during pandemics, natural disasters or other life-threatening emergencies, a UI legal expert warns.

Michael LeRoy says state labor laws leave workers in the lurch when they face a choice between risking their lives or their livelihood.

“Ass a stands, labor laws leave civilian workers with little choice,” LeRoy said. “In the case of the pandemic, the choice is between risking your life or your livelihood.”

LeRoy says his study shows that courts rarely side with individuals who stand in the way of the public’s welfare when considering disputes involving national emergencies.

“Without a more balanced labor policy, the nation may realize belatedly that when we allow fundamental freedoms to be sacri-


cified in the name of real or perceived emer-
gencies, we invariably come to regret it,” he said. “Once freedoms are withered away, you seldom regain them.”

Labor laws outdated

Michael LeRoy, a professor of law and of labor and employment relations, says the swine flu outbreak is the latest reminder that government has too much power to compel workers to stay on the job in the name of public welfare. The solution, he says, is rewriting outdated labor laws that fail to take into account the risks of pandemics, terrorism or other 21st-century problems.

LeRoy says his study shows that courts rarely side with individuals who stand in the way of the public’s welfare when considering disputes involving national emergencies.

“Without a more balanced labor policy, the nation may realize belatedly that when we allow fundamental freedoms to be sacri-


cified in the name of real or perceived emer-
gencies, we invariably come to regret it,” he said. “Once freedoms are withered away, you seldom regain them.”

Dance, architecture students collaborate on rehearsal space

By Jill Lowthian
News Bureau/Student Intern

Students in the School of Architecture and the department of dance at the UI worked together to design and build a much-needed graduate dance rehearsal space on the second level of the East Art Annex 2 in Urbana.

The project was part of a seminar conducted by architecture professors Roger Hubeli and Julie Larsen. The seminar was open for students who were interested in renewable energy, sustainability and creating space in the city.

At work

Sarah Haus, a graduate student in dance, terms some of the salvaged flooring.

What's old is new

The dance floor was built using recycled flooring from the basketball courts at the former IMPE (now the Activities and Recreational Center).

Unique collaboration

Architecture and dance students worked together to design and build a graduate dance rehearsal space.

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Legislative response

The spring seminar was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

The space will be called the Graduate Dance Center and will serve as a place for graduate dance students to work on their research and the creative process. The dance department also hopes the space will help attract exceptional students to Dance at Illinois.

The spring seminar was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Intramural-Physical Education Building

Legislative response

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Congress needs to rewrite outdated labor laws that could force workers to choose between their health and their jobs during pandemics, natural disasters or other life-threatening emergencies, a UI legal expert warns.

Michael LeRoy says state labor laws leave workers in the lurch when they face a choice between risking their lives or their livelihood.

“Ass a stands, labor laws leave civilian workers with little choice,” LeRoy said. “In the case of the pandemic, the choice is between risking your life or your livelihood.”

LeRoy says his study shows that courts rarely side with individuals who stand in the way of the public’s welfare when considering disputes involving national emergencies.

“Without a more balanced labor policy, the nation may realize belatedly that when we allow fundamental freedoms to be sacri-


cified in the name of real or perceived emer-
gencies, we invariably come to regret it,” he said. “Once freedoms are withered away, you seldom regain them.”

Labor laws outdated

Michael LeRoy, a professor of law and of labor and employment relations, says the swine flu outbreak is the latest reminder that government has too much power to compel workers to stay on the job in the name of public welfare. The solution, he says, is rewriting outdated labor laws that fail to take into account the risks of pandemics, terrorism or other 21st-century problems.

Dance, architecture students collaborate on rehearsal space

By Jill Lowthian
News Bureau/Student Intern

Students in the School of Architecture and the department of dance at the UI worked together to design and build a much-needed graduate dance rehearsal space on the second level of the East Art Annex 2 in Urbana.

The project was part of a seminar conducted by architecture professors Roger Hubeli and Julie Larsen. The seminar was open for students who were interested in renewable energy, sustainability and creating space in the city.

At work

Sarah Haus, a graduate student in dance, terms some of the salvaged flooring.

What's old is new

The dance floor was built using recycled flooring from the basketball courts at the former IMPE (now the Activities and Recreational Center).

Unique collaboration

Architecture and dance students worked together to design and build a graduate dance rehearsal space.

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Intramural-Physical Education Building

Legislative response

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Congress needs to rewrite outdated labor laws that could force workers to choose between their health and their jobs during pandemics, natural disasters or other life-threatening emergencies, a UI legal expert warns.

Michael LeRoy says state labor laws leave workers in the lurch when they face a choice between risking their lives or their livelihood.

“Ass a stands, labor laws leave civilian workers with little choice,” LeRoy said. “In the case of the pandemic, the choice is between risking your life or your livelihood.”

LeRoy says his study shows that courts rarely side with individuals who stand in the way of the public’s welfare when considering disputes involving national emergencies.

“Without a more balanced labor policy, the nation may realize belatedly that when we allow fundamental freedoms to be sacri-


cified in the name of real or perceived emer-
gencies, we invariably come to regret it,” he said. “Once freedoms are withered away, you seldom regain them.”

Labor laws outdated

Michael LeRoy, a professor of law and of labor and employment relations, says the swine flu outbreak is the latest reminder that government has too much power to compel workers to stay on the job in the name of public welfare. The solution, he says, is rewriting outdated labor laws that fail to take into account the risks of pandemics, terrorism or other 21st-century problems.

Dance, architecture students collaborate on rehearsal space

By Jill Lowthian
News Bureau/Student Intern

Students in the School of Architecture and the department of dance at the UI worked together to design and build a much-needed graduate dance rehearsal space on the second level of the East Art Annex 2 in Urbana.

The project was part of a seminar conducted by architecture professors Roger Hubeli and Julie Larsen. The seminar was open for students who were interested in renewable energy, sustainability and creating space in the city.

At work

Sarah Haus, a graduate student in dance, terms some of the salvaged flooring.

What's old is new

The dance floor was built using recycled flooring from the basketball courts at the former IMPE (now the Activities and Recreational Center).

Unique collaboration

Architecture and dance students worked together to design and build a graduate dance rehearsal space.

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.

Intramural-Physical Education Building

Legislative response

The students’ work on the project was just Phase 1 of what the collaborators hope will be at least two phases of the project. The long-term goal of the project is to renovate the entire building and bring it up to certification by the Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design (LEED) Green Building Rating System.
brief notes

Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts

Summer Studio Theatre announced

The Summer Studio Theatre returns to Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts for its 19th season as a profession- al repertory company. Under the direction of Brent Pope, head of the department of theatre, it provides a repertory season of repertoire, pieces and melodrama. Pope says that the quality of the characters found in each of the plays is the strength of this summer’s season.

This year’s performances: “The Mystery of Irma Vep,” by Charles Ludlam; a comic satire; those performing are “Tues- days With Morrie,” by Jeffrey Hatcher and Mitch Albom, based on Albom’s book of the same title; and Doug Wright’s one-man tour de force, “I Am My Own Wife.” The plays will be presented in rotation from June 5 to July 9. Ticket orders can be submitted by phone, mail, online or by visiting the ticket office. Information also is available online at KrahnertCenter.com.

Fifth annual conference

Qualitative research discussed this week

The fifth annual International Congress of Qualitative Inquiry takes place on campus through May 23.

More than 1,300 participants from more than 75 countries were scheduled to attend the event, the largest annual conference of qualitative researchers in the world, according to congress director Norman Denzin, a professor in the Insti- tute of Communications Research in the College of Media.

The conference, which began May 20, also is the largest held on an annual basis on the UI campus, according to the campus Conferences and Institutes office.

The first congress was organized by Denzin and others in 2005 in reaction to moves by governments and funding agencies to define good science and research strongly in favor of a quantitative, “evidence-based,” biomedical mod- el, which emphasizes controlled experiments and number- gathering, Denzin said. This meant restrictions on funding for qualitative re- search, which emphasizes observation and often seeks to cover their absence, operations permitting and with prior, appropriate supervisory approval.

Volunteers will need to be at Assembly Hall by 9:30 a.m. June 2 for a brief orientation and to complete a waiver form. Free parking will be provided in the northeast lot of Assem- bly Hall. To volunteer, contact short @ uibcmdi.eiu.edu or 244-4877. All volunteers must contact Short on or before May 28 to participate.

Planting party

Gardeners needed June 6

Volunteer gardeners are needed June 6 to help create a perennial garden at the College of Veterinary Medicine Basic Sciences Building. The garden, consisting of plants characteristic of native tallgrass prairie in Central Illinois, will be created by the east front entrance of the Basic Sci- ences Building and to the south of the building around an infectious disease outbreak. Using the scenario of a pneumonic plague sweeping eastward across the state, volunteers will pose as asymptomatic persons who go to pick up bottles of medi- cine. About 100 volunteers are needed, and anyone may participate, said Todd Short, director of emergency plan- ning for the Division of Public Safety, who is coordinating the drill with staff members from McKelvey Health Center.

This event is designated an “approved event” by associate provost for human resources Elyne Cole. Staff employees who volunteer may do so without having to change a benefit to cover their absence, operations permitting and with prior, appropriate supervisory approval.

Fellows announced for Community Informatics Institute

Under the auspices of the Illinois In- formation Initiative, Research on Enduring Service Infrastructures in New schumi has announced that six new fellows have joined the Institute for its 2009-10 fellowship year. Fellows are

- Annie Abbott, director of Advanced Spanish Language and a professor of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, "Reaching More Latino/as: Using Social Media and Spanish Service Learning to Expand Services to Lo- cal and Rural Non-Profits;"
- Ian Brooks, research scientist at the National Center of Supercomputing Ap- plications, "Culture-Sensitive Interface De- sign for an Endemic Disease Information System;"
- Ruth Nicole Brown, a professor of gender and women’s studies and of educa- tional policy studies, “When I Look At You: Portraits and Performances of Black Girl- hood in Everyday Life;"
- Lynne M. Dearborn, a professor of archi- tecture, and Lisa K. Bates, a professor of urban and regional planning, “Community Housing Needs Assessment for Metro East St. Louis;"
- Laura Lawson, professor of East St. Louis Action Research Project and a pro- fessor of landscape architecture, “Participa- tory Design to Revitalize Public Space in Sao Tome, West Africa;”
- Deana McDonagh, a professor of industrial design, of gender and women’s studies and of the Beckman Institute; and
- Suzann Heft Sears, Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services, Ap- plied Health Sciences; M. Lydia Khuri, pro- fessor of medicine from 1989 to 1997. Memorials: Hollis and Annie Boardman Scholarship Fund, or the Unitarian Church of Davenport.

Myrlin F. BucKingham, 95, died May 17, at the Piat County Nursing Home. Myrlin started working for Robert Allerton in 1945 as grounds foreman where he worked for 36 years as a UI employee. Memorials: Monticello United Methodist Church or Allerton Park.

Karey Khachaturian, 85, died May 14, at Carle Founda- tion Hospital, Urbana. He joined the department of civil en- gineering as a faculty member in 1952. Khachaturian held the part-time post of assistant dean of engineering in the College of Engineering in 1979-80 and was associate head of the department of civil engineering from 1983 until his retirement in 1989. Memorials: UI Foundation CEE Trust- Khachaturian Memorial, in care of John Kelley, UI CEE, 205 N. Matthes Ave., Urbana, IL 61801.

Morial Services

A memorial service will be June 6 for Roy John Hell- stine (time and place to be announced). Hellstine, 96, died May 5 at a Meadowbrook Healthcare Center, Urbana. He researched the use of Illinois coal at the Illinois State Geological Survey.

Memorial Services for Will J. Worley will begin at 9 a.m. May 24 at McKinley Presbyterian Church, 809 S. Fifth St., Champaign. Worley, 89, died May 16 at his Urbana home. He taught and led research in theoretical and applied me- chanics and related fields for 46 years, retiring in 1989.

Ad removed for online version.
Much of this information is drawn from the online Campus Calendars on the UI Web site at http://campus.uiuc.edu/calendar/. Calendar entries remain online for up to 15 days after the event, or until June 17, whichever comes first.

Note: Westminster Chimes and other elements of the campus will not ring during this time.

Women of Distinction Award from the Association of Academic Women and the Interfraternity Council.

The Rose Award for Teaching Excellence.

P. R. Kumar, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, received the Tau Beta Pi Daniel C. Drucker Eminent Faculty Award.

Scott Olson, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, was honored with the College Award for Innovative Teaching.

Steve Franke, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, received the College Engineering Teaching Excellence Award.

fine and applied arts

William B. Rose, research architect in the School of Architecture, received the 2009 Excellence in Historic Preservation award from the Preservation League of New York State on May 13. The award recognizes Rose and others who contributed to the effort to restore New York’s Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, an endeavor for which Rose served as project manager.

Mike Ross, director of Kramert Center for the Performing Arts, has been elected chair of the board of directors of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters. The association has an active arts service organization for more than 40 years. The association represents hundreds of nonprofit and for-profit sectors of the industry.

liberal arts and sciences

Martin Burke, a professor of chemistry, was awarded a 2009 Amgen Young Investigator’s Award from Amgen Inc. The award includes an unrestricted grant of $20,000 and the opportunity to present a lecture at an Amgen symposium in October. The award recognizes young chemists who are making outstanding contributions to the field of organic chemistry and pharmaceutical research.

Andrezj Wieckowski, a professor of chemistry, has been appointed a fellow of the International Society of Electrochemists (ISE). He is the first Wisconsin-Milwaukee faculty member to be named a fellow “in recognition of his continuing outstanding scientific and technical achievement within the field of electrochemistry.” Fellows will be inducted during the Annual Meeting in Beijing.

administration

Chancellor Richard Herman was one of three people honored with the 2009 Michael P. A. Mandel Award for Meritorious Research by the Association of American Universities. Herman, who is a leader and advocate of research and education, was honored for his research and contributions to the field of chemical engineering.

Franklin B. Raines Jr., a professor of chemistry, was elected to the School of Architecture, received the 2009 Excellence in Historic Preservation award from the Preservation League of New York State on May 13. The award recognizes Raines and others who contributed to the restoration of the New York City’s Solomon R. Guggenheim Museum, an endeavor for which Raines served as project manager.

Ken Suslick, a professor of chemistry, received the 2009 Student Council Mentor Award from the Acousical Society of America. The award is designed to recognize an outstanding ability in guiding the academic and/or professional growth of students and junior colleagues.

achievements

A report on honors, awards, appointments and outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members
Physical activity may strengthen child’s ability to pay attention

By Melissa Mitchell

A school districts across the nation revamped curricula to meet requirements of the federal “No Child Left Behind” Act, opportunities for children to be physically active during the school day diminished significantly.

Future mandates, however, might be better served by taking into account findings from a UI study suggesting the academic benefits of physical education classes, recess periods and after-school exercise programs.

The research, led by Charles Hillman, a professor of kinesiology and community health and the director of the Neurocognitive Kinesiology Laboratory at Illinois, suggests that physical activity may increase students’ cognitive control – or ability to pay attention – and also result in better performance on academic achievement tests.

“The goal of the study was to see if a single acute bout of moderate exercise – walking – was beneficial for cognitive function in a period of time afterward,” Hillman said.

“This question has been asked before by our lab and others, in young adults and older adults, but it’s never been asked in children. That’s why it’s an important question.”

For each of three testing criteria, researchers noted a positive outcome linking physical activity testing.

Study participants were 9-year-olds (eight girls, 12 boys) who performed a series of stimulus-discrimination tests known as flanker tasks, to assess their inhibitory control.

As flanker tasks, to assess their inhibitory control.

Hillman noted better test results following exercise.

And when we assessed it, the effect was largest in reading comprehension,” Hillman said. In fact, he said, “If you go by the guidelines set forth by the Wide Range Achievement Test, the increase in reading scores referred to as the P3 potential. Hillman said the amplitude of the potential relates to the allocation of attentional resources.

“What we found in this particular study is, following acute bouts of walking, children had a larger P3 amplitude, suggesting that they are better able to allocate attentional resources, and this effect is greater in the more difficult conditions of the flanker test, suggesting that when the environment is more noisy – visual noise in this case – kids are better able to gate out that noise and selectively attend to the correct stimulus and act upon it.”

In an effort to see how performance on such tests relates to actual classroom learning, researchers next administered an academic achievement test. The test measured performance in three areas: reading, spelling and math.

Again, the researchers noted better test results following exercise.

“And when we assessed it, the effect was largest in reading comprehension,” Hillman said. In fact, he said, “If you go by the guidelines set forth by the Wide Range Achievement Test, the increase in reading comprehension following exercise equated to approximately a full grade level.

Thus, the exercise effect on achievement is not statistically significant, but a meaningful difference.”

Hillman said he’s not sure why the students’ performance on the spelling and math portions of the test didn’t show as much of an improvement as did reading comprehension, but suspects it may be related to design of the experiment. Students were tested on reading comprehension first, leading him to speculate that too much time may have elapsed between the physical activity and the testing period for those subjects.

“Future attempts will definitely look at the timing,” he said. Subsequent testing also will introduce other forms of physical-activity testing.

“Treadmills are great,” Hillman said. “But kids don’t walk on treadmills, so it’s not an externally valid form of exercise for most children. We currently have an ongoing project that is looking at treadmill walking at the same intensity relative to a Wii Fit game – which is a way in which kids really do exercise.”

Still, given the preliminary study’s positive outcomes on the flanker task, ERP data and academic testing, study co-author Darla Castelli believes these early findings could be used to inform useful curricular changes.

The UI study appeared in the journal Neuroscience. Along with Castelli and Hillman, co-authors are UI psychology professor Art Kramer and kinesiology and community health graduate student Mathew Pontifex and undergraduate Lauren Raine.