Preparations ongoing as cases of flu-like illness increase

Faculty and staff members urged to get vaccination

By Sharita Forrest

McKinley Health Center has treated more than 600 students for flu-like symptoms at the onset of a flu season expected to be worse than usual because both the seasonal flu and H1N1 flu are circulating concurrently.

Dr. Robert Palinkas, the director of McKinley Health Center, said that the first student with flu-like symptoms had sought treatment. About 30 new patients seek treatment every day, he said.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health officials had advised universities to prepare for serious outbreaks of seasonal flu and H1N1 early in the semester. As of the week of Sept. 24, more than 21,000 students at 267 U.S. colleges and universities had reported cases of influenza-like illnesses, according to the American College Health Association, a leadership and advocacy organization for collegiate health-care professionals.

The Infectious Disease Work Group – a cross-campus group comprising officials from the police, McKinley Health Center, Housing Division, the Office of Student Affairs and other units as well as a representative from Champaign-Urbana Public Health – met weekly during August, monitoring CDC guidelines, adjusting policies, and developing educational campaigns and contingency plans. The group, first organized several years ago in preparation for possible avian flu outbreaks, has conducted emergency preparedness planning and exercises regularly since.

To bundle the additional patients, McKinley hired more doctors and nurses, set up a separate waiting area for patients with possible H1N1 and began giving them surgical masks to help prevent airborne transmission.

Sick students are being encouraged to return to their family homes. If going home is not an option, students are urged to isolate themselves in their campus residences, in one of 13 “sick rooms” or unused staff apartments.

Campus health officials are urging people who get the flu to stay away from work or classes until at least 24 hours after their fever has abated on its own. “Most students do go home,” said

President White to step down

By Sharita Forrest

Assistant Editor

Joseph White will step down as president effective Dec. 31. He plans to remain involved in fundraising and teaching at Illinois.

In his resignation letter to UI Board of Trustees chair Christopher G. Kennedy dated Sept. 23, White wrote: “I take this action to enable you as a newly constituted board to select university leadership going forward.”

Kennedy accepted White’s letter of resignation on behalf of the full board, which will meet soon to act on White’s decision, to consider the appointment of an interim president, and begin planning a search for the next president. The board’s next regular scheduled meeting is Nov. 12 in Springfield.

A search committee comprising trustees, faculty members, students and alumni will be named to recruit the next president, who is expected to be installed by the start of the 2010-2011 academic year.

White’s current contract would have expired June 30, 2011. The effective date of his resignation means that he loses a $475,000 retention bonus that would have been paid on Feb. 1, 2010. “I am sensitive to the university’s difficult financial situation and the sacrifices being made by faculty and staff,” White wrote. With his letter, he enclosed a copy of his Sept. 14 statement to the Urbana-Champaign Senate, in which he maintained that he never reversed any denied admissions and stood behind every admissions denial during his term as president. “My colleagues on the board and I appreciate that your resignation is motivated by serving the university’s best interests and is not intended to create any presumption of wrongdoing by you concerning the subjects investigated by the governor’s Admissions Review Commission,” led by retired federal judge Abner Mikva, Kennedy wrote in his response to White. “We recognize that you have taken this step to enable the university to move forward with a change of leadership so that the university community may come together to focus on critical issues confronting higher education in this state and in the nation.” See WHITE, Page 2

John Rogers

By James E. Kloeppel

Physical Sciences Editor

John Rogers, the Lee J. Flory-Founder Chair in Engineering Innovation and a professor of materials science and engineering at the UI has been named a 2009 MacArthur Fellow by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

Rogers is among 34 fellows who will each receive $500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years.

“Most students do go home,” said

The MacArthur Foundation selected 24 fellows who will each receive $500,000 in “no strings attached” support over the next five years.

“MacArthur Fellows are selected for their creativity, originality and potential. By providing resources without stipulations, the foundation offers the opportunity for fellows to accelerate their current activities or take their work in new directions,” Rogers’ research focuses on new materials for classes of electronics that overcome design limitations as associated with conventional systems, all of which rely on planar, rigid and brittle semiconductor wafers. The soft, stretchable and curvilinear devices enabled by these approaches open entirely new application opportunities, ranging from consumer goods with designs that are inspired by the human eye, to electronics that can integrate intimately with the soft tissues of the human body.

SEE ROGERS, Page 2

Transient art

Monks from the Tibetan monastery of Drepung Loseling painstakingly place millions of grains of sand as part of a free exhibition of the ancient art of sand mandalas sand painting. The exhibition was part of the weeklong celebration, The Mystical Arts of Tibet, held in the Pine Lounge at the Illini Union Sept. 21-25. Formed of traditional iconography – including geometric shapes and ancient spiritual symbols – sand mandalas are a means of reverently expressing the world. During the celebration’s closing ceremony, the sand was swept up as a symbol of the world’s impermanence with half presented as a kopecke to the people who attended the ceremony.

Community service

Since 1965, Dining Services has provided the ‘meals’ for Meals on Wheels in Champaign County. PAGE 4

Best friends

A new book explores the evolution of the cat and dog, as well as feline and canine behavior and training. PAGE 10

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On the Web www.news.illinois.edu/ii

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FLU. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

James Rooney, associate director for resi-
dential life in the Housing Division, “Some students don’t understand the need for it because they’re young and healthy. We say, ‘We understand that you’re a dedicated, hard working Illinois student and that you can’t afford to miss class for a few days — but neither can the 10 people you’ll infect if you do stay on campus and keep going to class.’ ”

Dining Services delivers meals to the students on disposable trays. The kitchens in the apartments also are stocked with drinks, soups and snacks, Rooney said.

As of late September, about 25 ailing students had used the sick rooms or apartments, some students decide to go to a night clinic for the availability of them for three to five days, Rooney said. So far demand has not exceeded the number of available sick room spaces.

Before leaving McKinley Health Center, students are given a flu kit, which contains soup, thermometers and other necessities, so they can go straight home without visiting stores to purchase those items.

McKinley began giving seasonal flu shots Sept. 14, about a month earlier than
usual. Interest has been “unprecedented,” and vaccines are “going out 10 times faster than we anticipated,” Palinkas said. “We’ve given out about 2,000 so far, and during an entire school year in the past we gave a total of about 7,000.”

McKinley is urging members of the campus community to get vaccinated for both seasonal flu and H1N1. The H1N1 vaccines are expected to become available in October.

Three of Illinois’ basketball players – freshmen Tyler Griffey, 19, of St. Louis, and women’s basketball freshmen Jan Dennis, business, law and Phil Ciciora, education, GSLIS, library and interim president at the University of Michigan at Ann Arbor. He also had six years’ experience in the private sec-

Dr. Damon T. Arnold, director of the Il-
inois Department of Public Health, admin-
istered the vaccines. The event was a stop on Arnold’s statewide tour encouraging Il-
inois residents to get seasonal flu shots. Cleaning crews across campus are de-
voing more attention to cleaning high-
touch surfaces, such as staircase handrails, doorknobs and elevator buttons.

E-mail messages and posters across cam-
pus remind people to cover their coughs, wash their hands frequently and, most im-
portant, stay home if they’re sick. Dispen-
ers with hand sanitizer are prominent in many offices, labs and other areas.

Palinkas said that there had been few er-
ly calling students than he had expected to see, given the CDC’s predictions. In most cases, the flu has been mild to moderate, al-
though three students were hospitalized. All three recovered and were discharged.

Some peer institutions such as Cornell University seem to have far more serious out-
breaks. MacArthur Fellows’ careful prepara-
tions and educational campaigns help it dodge the bullet?

“Perhaps, but I think it’s just luck,” Palinkas said.

On the Web
mckinley.illinois.edu
www.cdc.gov/h1n1

PHOTO BY BRIAN STEINHAFEL
Taking one for the team Illinois women’s basketball coach Jolette Law (seated) prepares to receive the seasonal flu vaccine from Dr. Damon T. Arnold, director of the Illinois Department of Public Health. Arnold vaccinated Law and three student athletes during a publicity awareness event at the Ubben Basketball Complex on Sept. 23. It’s stop on his statewide tour encouraging Illinois residents to get seasonal flu shots. Assisting Arnold were nurses and Champaign-Urbana Public Health District staff members (from left) Rachella Thompson, communicable disease investigator, and Penay Shonkwiler, nursing coordinator of infectious diseases. Behind Law (from left) Rep. Stowers, Jacobson, Sen. Mike Pirecki and Al Mardadlde, director of sports medicine in the UI’s Division of Intercollegiate Athletics.

ROGERS. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

for advanced mentoring or therapeutic purposes.

This is an exemplary honor for pro-

fessor Rogers, the department of materi-
al sciences and engineering, the Beckman Institute and, of course, the university,” said Richard Herman, the chancellor of the Urbana campus. “Designation as a MacArthur Fellow signifies the recipient has been singled out as a person of extra-
ordinary talent and we are enormously proud to have him on our faculty.”

Highlights of Rogers’ work during the last two years include the first elec-
tronic-eye cameras, flexible inorganic light-emitting diode displays, stretch-
able integrated circuits, and bendable monocrystalline silicon solar modules. His current work also focuses on con-
formal, biocompatible and bioreosorable electronics and sensors.

Rogers earned bachelor’s degrees in chemistry and in physics in 1989 from the University of Texas at Austin, mas-
ter’s degrees in physics and in chemistry in 1992 and a doctorate in physical chem-
istry in 1995, all from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He joined the UI faculty in January 2003.

Rogers is a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Association for the Advancement of Sci-
cence, an inaugural fellow of the Materi-
als Research Society, and a U. S. Depart-
ment of Defense National Security Sci-
cence and Engineering Faculty Fellow.

One of the nation’s largest private philanthropic foundations, the MacAr-
thur Foundation has awarded more than $3 billion in grants since it began opera-
tions in 1976.

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On the Job
Darlene Hutchinson

Darlene Hutchinson is the office manager for the Center for Library Initiatives at the Committee on Institutional Cooperation, a consortium of the Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago, whose offices are at the university.

Hutchinson started as a secretary III at the CIC in 2000. Prior to that, she worked at Christie Clinic for 15 years as a medical secretary and, before that, in business and oversaw the yearbook at Newman High School for four years.

Born in Tuscola, Hutchinson grew up in Newman. After living briefly in Westville and Hume, she and her husband, Wally, moved back to Newman.

Hutchinson earned a degree in business education at Eastern Illinois University.

Tell me about your job.

As office manager for the Center for Library Initiatives at the CIC, I work with all the libraries of the Big Ten universities plus the University of Chicago. It’s kind of cool.

I manage the electronic licensing for the libraries, which is a lot more than I expected. I manage the calendar that details license renewal dates, so we review on time and without loss of access. I work with the vendors to answer any questions anyone has about pricing, and I make sure the payments go out on time. We’ve got a database where we keep track of all the invoices. I always like it when those last numbers match up with what I’ve got!

I also manage all of our library licenssees. We have over 50 active subject areas.

Right now, I’m working on setting up a lot of conference calls and face-to-face meetings for the director and assistant director. I also help set up some of their meetings and manage their travel, including transportation, hotels and registration.

What do you like best about your job?

The people. I just love working with all of the different people from the member institutions from different parts of the Midwest. That’s been great.

I think it’s a really fun meeting and talking with such a variety of people on a daily basis.

I also like that it’s always a different day when I come in each morning. There are always different e-mails to answer, different problems to solve.

Keeping track of so many things. There’s also generally a time element involved that can range from a couple of days, a few weeks or many months.

My natural inclination is to get a job done when it’s handed to me, so it’s been hard for me to sit back and let it simmer while I wait for another piece of it to come back to me. That’s just my personality – to get things done right away.

What do you like to do off the job?

I enjoy spending as much time with my children and grandchildren as I can.

I love flower gardens, so I enjoy going over to the flower garden on Lincoln Avenue and seeing what’s in bloom. I’m working on perennial gardens at home, but I can’t say I’m very good at it.

I like to read, but I don’t have much time to read right now with taking care of our parents and keeping up with three grandchildren.

I also love to travel.

Any favorite destinations?

Back in the early 1990s, I had the privilege of going to Europe. I never had been that far away from home before, being a lifelong Midwestern girl. We flew to Paris on Christmas Day, and then we went to London. London was my favorite of the two. The language was more of a barrier in Paris, and I hadn’t dusted off my high school French in a long time. London had so much history – seeing Westminster Abbey was a highlight. We also cruised up and down the Thames in a boat on New Year’s Eve, and got to see Big Ben and Parliament all lit up.

In the U.S., my husband and I got to go to Hawaii last year. That was a wonderful trip. But there are a lot of places we haven’t been to that my husband and I would like to explore.

~ Interview by Phil Ciclora, News Editor

NCA seeks campus feedback

Members of the campus community are encouraged to provide feedback on the university’s performance as part of Illinois’ comprehensive evaluation for re-accreditation by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association.

A team representing the commission will be on campus Oct. 11-14 to meet with campus officials and other members of the university community to discuss the challenges that Illinois is facing, and how it has met or exceeded the NCA’s accreditation criteria as indicated in the self-study report, “Excellence, Innovation, and Access,” which was part of the accreditation process.

Four open meetings – for students, faculty, academic professional employees and civil service employees – will be held simultaneously from 4:35 p.m. Oct. 12 in locations across campus so that members of those groups have an opportunity to discuss any issues they are concerned about with NCA representatives.

The event has been designated as an approved event; employees may be released from work to attend the meeting for up to one hour without loss of pay, departmental operations permitting and with appropriate supervisory approval.

“I have been engaged in producing the self-study, and it was gratifying for all involved to take stock of the extraordinary challenges of Illinois, of its commitment to its role in the last accreditation visit, and the challenges it faces,” said Vice Provost Dick Wheeler, who led the working group that developed the self-study report. The report was based on the findings of five campus committees that reviewed the units, activities, policies, and procedures associated with the five goals in the Urbana campus Strategic Plan.

Accreditation is a voluntary process of reviewing the quality and effectiveness of the institution, and it is important for the campus community to decide whether to extend Illinois’ accreditation.

A copy of the self-study report is available online along with additional information about the accreditation process.

Volunteer effort is part of Homecoming celebration

The 99th annual Homecoming celebration at the UI kicks off with the iHelp 2-4 project on Oct. 2. Faculty and staff members can join students and alumni from around the world in giving back to the local community in the name of the Illini. The event, combined with UI student service day Oct. 2, is a student day of service connected to Homecoming that annually draws more than 1,000 students who participate in organized volunteer projects in the community.

“Decades of people have been engaged in producing the self-study, and it was gratifying for all involved to take stock of the extraordinary challenges of Illinois, of its development since the last accreditation visit, and the challenges it faces,” said Vice

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Dining Services provides the ‘meals’ in Meals on Wheels

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Dining Services, in addition to feeding thousands of hungry students on campus, UI’s Dining Services has provided more than 300,000 meals to Champaign County residents through the Meals on Wheels program since its inception nearly 45 years ago. Coordinated by Family Service of Champaign County, the program provides meals for those unable to cook for themselves because of the effects of aging, surgery or illness, high-risk pregnancy, or mental or physical disability.

Dining Services prepares 70-120 meals daily in the Illini Union’s kitchens for the program and provided about 18,000 meals last year for Meals on Wheels clients, according to Don Block, director of Dining Services. That’s in addition to the 45,000 meals, including a la carte items, that Dining Services prepares daily for students on campus.

“Rain, sleet or snow, we provide the meals,” Block said. “Sometimes, in emergency situations, our staff helps make deliveries too.

“Meals on Wheels has always been dear to us. We feel it’s important to do and of great value, so it’s something we’ve been committed to throughout the years.”

Dining Services prepares and packages the meals for delivery by volunteers, who use their personal vehicles to deliver them to Meals on Wheels clients. Family Service directs the program — enrolling clients, collecting payment and coordinating volunteers.

The Champaign County program, which was initiated by the Committee on Aging of the United Community Council in partnership with the UI and United Community United, rolled out its first Meals on Wheels on May 31, 1965.

When the program began, it provided meals to five clients along two delivery routes. Since then, the program has grown to eight routes with eight to 10 clients on each route.

Dietitian Robin Allen, who also is assistant director of Dining Services, plans the menus. About 40 percent of recipients currently are on special diets and order special meals, which cost $1 more than the $8.60 price for the noon meal plus special meals, which cost $1 more than the $8.60 price for the noon meal plus special meals.

“Meals on Wheels has always been dear to us, so it’s something we’ve been committed to throughout the years.”

— Don Block

Special delivery

Volunteer Dick Ziegler, a professor emeritus of accountancy in the College of Business, loads a hot box of food into a vehicle parked outside the Illini Union in preparation for delivery to the homes of Meals on Wheels clients.

Don Block, director of dining services, and Abbie Broga, assistant dean in the Office of the Dean of Students and a board member of Family Service of Champaign County, which administers the program, helped with deliveries. The “celebrity” volunteers delivered meals on Sept. 18 as part of an event honoring Dining Services’ 45 years of participation with the Meals on Wheels program.

Dick Ziegler, professor emeritus of accounting in the College of Business, has been volunteering and delivering meals at least two to three times a week, sometimes daily, for more than 30 years simply because “It’s fun.”

There are a few “characters” on the routes, Ziegler said, such as the man who waits for his meal deliveries at the Urbana Senior Center and gets cranky if the delivery is behind schedule, and the woman in Champaign who posted a sign on her door calling upon to drive any of the eight routes, Ziegler said, "It’s fun.

And finding some of the addresses can be a challenge, since volunteers may be called upon to drive any of the eight routes, Ziegler said.

A celebration Sept. 18 at the Illini Union helped mark the UI’s 45 years of service with Meals on Wheels. The celebration included teams — including Family Service board members and local celebrities — delivering the meals that day.

Ziegler, who retired in December 2000 but still teaches part time, led his team — which comprised volunteers Block and Abbie Broga, an assistant dean in the Office of the Dean of Students — in delivering meals to people in west and southwest Champaign.

Other UI staff members who volunteered at the event included Ed Shaziak, director of the Illini Union; and Sharla Sola, who is assistant director of the annual giving program in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Institutional Advancement and a Family Service board member.

Celebrity volunteers from the community included WCIA-TV newscaster Jennifer Roscoe and Champaign City Council member Deborah Frank Feinen. Don Hunt, who coordinates the volunteers from 26 church networks through Church Women United and has been involved with Meals on Wheels since its first delivery, also attended.

In addition to food, the volunteers’ regular visits also provide social contact and a sense of security, said Sheryl Bauch, executive director of Family Service.

“We’ve had situations where the volunteer has gone to deliver the meal and there’s been no answer at the door,” Bauch said. “We have a safety protocol where the volunteer calls the Family Service office, which calls an emergency contact person. Sometimes, it’s just the recipient went out to get their hair done and forgot to let us know. But every once in a while a client has fallen or become ill, and if it weren’t for that volunteer, the person might have gone a long time without anyone checking on them. We think that over the years we’ve saved a few lives.”

Brogga said that having food prepared and delivered by Meals on Wheels for eight months allowed her mother-in-law to stay in her home longer than she would have otherwise.

That experience prompted Broga to join the board of Family Service about a year and a half ago.

“Family Service has exercised responsible stewardship of its funding during its 98 years, assisting as many members of the community as possible,” Broga said. ◆

InsideIllinois

Fall 2009 Publication Schedule

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Robinson receives NIH award

By Phil Ciciora
News Editor

Gene Robinson, a Swanlund Endowed Professor, has been named a recipient of the 2009 National Institutes of Health Pioneer Award.

Robinson also is the director of the Bee Research Facility and of the Neuroscience Program.

Robinson’s award is $2.5 million in direct costs over five years. The award enables promising young researchers to pursue high-impact, transformative research in the fields of biomedical and behavioral sciences.

According to the NIH, Robinson will use his Pioneer Award to investigate in molecular detail how the brain’s reward system from a selfless to an altruistic orientation, with the goal of achieving a better understanding of drug addiction and other diseases.

Listening to workers a key to success

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Taking employees employees to be more inclusive, but they just went through the motions,” he said. “Employees aren’t committed until they know what they said was actually considered. The process requires a real acceptance of their input and without acceptance it doesn’t work.”

Northcraft said inclusive workplace policies provide transparency that appeals to employees’ sense of fairness, giving them an advance briefing on management proposals and a chance to voice concerns.

“Inclusiveness and transparency both contribute to trust,” he said. “And I think trust is what helps ensure successful implementation.”

Some managers are uncomfortable with consulting workers, arguing that as bosses it’s their job to make decisions, Northcraft said.

“I say ‘no, that’s not right,’” he said. “It’s not a manager’s job to make the right decision; it’s the manager’s job to make sure the right decision is made. That means they need to get the right people involved in the decision-making process.”

NCSA Faculty Fellows announced

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications has chosen seven UI faculty members as Faculty Fellows for 2009-2010. The Faculty Fellows Program, jointly funded by NCSA and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and in its 11th year, extends opportunities in advanced computing and information technology to UI faculty members. Through the program, faculty members can access and benefit from NCSA’s high-performance computing and storage environment, cutting-edge visualization and data analysis capabilities, and opportunities for multidisciplinary collaboration. Fellowships include up to $30,000 in support.

Fellows must be in residence and in active association with NCSA during their appointment; fellows will be expected to present a seminar on their project and to submit a brief report summarizing their experience and activities.

2009-10 fellows:

- Michael Dietze, a professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, “Reified Estimates of the Eastern North American Carbon Balance: Modeling Sub-prime Mortgage Crisis Might Have Been Averted or Minimized if Firms Fostered a Culture of Listening to Employees, Not Just Handing Down Orders.”

- Gregory Northcraft, the Harry J. Gray professor of organizational behavior, “It’s Very Hard to Blow the Whistle on an Organization When You’re Just This One Little Worker Who Thinks the Ship Is Headed in the Wrong Direction.”


- Jian Ma, a professor of bioengineering, “Enhancing GPU-based Supercomputing Through Workload and Communication Optimization.”

- Chatham Ewing, a professor of special collections in the Rare Book & Manuscript Library, “Multi-Spectral Imaging and Analysis of Manuscript Materials.”

- Steven S. Lumetta, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, “Enhancing GPU-based Supercomputing Through Workload and Communication Optimization.”

- Laura Easton Smektala, a professor of bioengineering, “Accelerometry in Wheelchair Propulsion.”

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Pathogen recognition is the foundation of the body's immune response and survival against infection. A small cell-receptor protein called DC-SIGN is part of the immune system, and recognizes certain pathogens, including those responsible for Ebola, Dengue fever and HIV. How the molecule binds to pathogens has been unclear.

New findings from a research team led by UI chemist Deborah Leckband show that flexibility in the region near the binding sites of DC-SIGN plays a significant role in pathogen targeting and binding.

“Our work focuses on how DC-SIGN recognizes HIV and other pathogens, and on what structural features enable it to bind very tightly to those pathogens,” said Leckband, the Reid T. Milner Professor of Chemistry at the UI. “Once we begin to understand the molecular design rules that lead to this tight binding, we can begin to design inhibitors to block this interaction.”

To study the binding behavior of DC-SIGN (Dendritic Cell-Specific Intercellular adhesion molecule-3-Grabbing Non-integrin), also known as CD209 (Cluster of Differentiation 209), the researchers used a device called a surface force apparatus.

The surface force apparatus measures the molecular forces between two surfaces as they are first brought together and then pulled apart. In the current work, the surfaces were cell receptor DC-SIGN and a target membrane decorated with carbohydrates to mimic a pathogen surface.

The forces were measured as a function of the distance between the two surfaces, which was measured with single-angstrom resolution (an angstrom is 1 billionth of a meter).

“Our force-distance measurements provided the first direct, dynamic evidence for flexibility in the neck of DC-SIGN, and its possible role in pathogen recognition and binding,” said Leckband, corresponding author of a paper accepted for publication in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and posted on the journal’s Web site.

From their force-distance measurements the researchers determined DC-SIGN’s neck length as 28 nanometers (a nanometer is 1 billionth of a meter), in agreement with hydrodynamic measurements and theoretical estimates by other researchers, which placed the neck length between 20 and 30 nanometers.

When the protein binds to a pathogen, binding sites on the cell receptor rearrange slightly, to adapt to the target surface and maximize the bond. This 5 nanometer conformational change is binding-induced, and made possible by a flexible linker in the neck, the researchers report.

“The protein neck region acts as a stiff, but flexible, rod that projects the molecule’s binding sites away from the cell surface,” Leckband said. “A rigid presentation of the binding sites at the end of the neck would restrict DC-SIGN to a few specific, spatial forms. Instead, the molecule’s flexibility and adaptability allow it to recognize a much wider range of pathogens.”

Co-authors of the paper are graduate student Sindhu Menon and postdoctoral researcher Kenneth Rosenberg at Illinois; and graduate student Sarah Graham, undergrad student Eliot Ward, senior researcher Maureen Taylor and biochemistry professor Kurt Drickamer at Imperial College, London.

In addition to being a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, Leckband also is affiliated with the Beckman Institute, the Institute for Genomic Biology, and the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, all at Illinois.

Funding was provided by the Reid T. Milner Professorship and the Wellcome Trust.
By Phil Ciciora
News Editor

The revolution in scientific publishing that has been promised since the 1980s is finally about to take place, according to two UI experts in information science. Allen H. Renear and Carole L. Palmer, professors of library and information science at Illinois, say that as techniques originally designed to organize and share scientific data are integrated into scientific publishing, scientists’ long-standing practice of reading “strategically” will be dramatically enhanced.

“Although it’s natural to think that scientists search online to find individual articles to read, that isn’t usually what’s going on,” Renear said. “Researchers actually try to avoid reading as much as possible, relying instead on indexing, citations and peer recommendations as indicators of scientific relevance.”

“Scientists skim journal articles to discover valuable information. They scan for terminology, segments, diagrams and summaries of particular interest. But they don’t read individual articles left-to-right, top-to-bottom.”

As the quantity of information that must be covered grows rapidly, Renear says efficient strategic reading becomes increasingly critical in scientific work.

In today’s electronic environment, powerful new tools are emerging that support strategic reading, allowing scientists to work with large numbers of articles simultaneously without having to read them in their entirety.

These tools are possible thanks to ontologies, which the authors describe as “structured terminologies for representing scientific data.” Originally designed to support the sharing and analysis of data, ontologies can provide information such as unambiguous identification of terms and relationships, and implicit background knowledge, the researchers say.

Scientists using these tools will be “speaking a language that can also be understood by computers, so computers can assist them as they make their way through text,” Renear said.

The change in reading practices among scientists will also shape the future of scientific publishing. “The way most journal articles are currently re-produced in electronic form is still as more or less non-functional versions of printed pages – basically, just a piece of paper lying dead on the screen,” Renear said.

Instead of the electronic version simply imitating the print version of the article, integrating ontologies into the online versions of scientific literature will create many possibilities, including allowing text, diagrams and data in documents to be connected to databases of contemporary scientific knowledge.

The networked journal article will become a rich interactive representation of current scientific knowledge, available for automatic computer processing and optimized for the rapid and high-volume strategic reading scientists actually practice, Renear said.

Although automated information extraction and text mining of scientific literature, which are also supported by ontologies, will be increasingly important techniques for dealing with the information explosion, Palmer says they won’t replace reading altogether.

“Narrative text will not disappear; the context it provides is too important,” she said. “There will still be authors, and there will still be readers.”

But within the sciences, the researchers say, reading will continue to be more and more strategic, and with the emergence of new reading tools, strategic reading will be more and more effective.

“Scientists want to read more, faster,” Palmer said. “They want to read, relate and annotate research articles, strategically. Search and retrieval functions are important, as are automated information extraction and text mining. But tools for reading help scientists with the vital, everyday work of understanding and using the literature.”

Renear and Palmer’s findings were published in an article titled “Strategic Reading, Ontologies, and the Future of Scientific Publishing” in the Aug. 13 issue of Science.
NEW faces 2009

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

Chantal Nadeau

professor and director of Gender and Women’s Studies, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (sociology), Université de Montréal; M.A. (political science), B.A. (political science), Université Laval, Québec City.

Research interests: Her research intersects queer theory, feminist analysis, political criticism and sexual and ethnic identities in a transnational context. She is studying the discontinuities and rupture of justice and equity for what have been tagged as both minorities and majorities.

“Professor Chantal Nadeau is at the forefront of innovative, interdisciplinary work in gender studies,” said LAS associate dean Karen Carney. “She has said that her teaching philosophy could be summed up in two words: think outside. Indeed, in the many undergraduate and graduate courses she has taught she challenges herself and her students to push their boundaries, to overcome their fears of the unknown, and to be creative and imaginative with the texts they read. Professor Nadeau is a scholar with a strong commitment to building intellectual community both inside the classroom and beyond its boundaries.”

Why Illinois? “I didn’t choose Illinois, Illinois chose me,” Nadeau said. “More seriously, it was actually an easy call. I was looking for a vibrant research university committed to invest in sexuality and gender curriculum and research. I wanted to be able to work with a rich collection of scholars whose work was not only challenging but at the forefront of what’s going on in the field.

“I moved from Montreal mainly because I couldn’t find such an environment there. Finally, something that was important for me was the fact that UI was a public university. It might sound weird, but I am a pure product of public education and as such and despite all the strains that affect public-funded universities, I do believe in the public mission of universities.”

Matthew W. Dye

assistant professor of speech and hearing science, College of Applied Health Sciences

Education: Postdoctoral fellowship, University of Rochester; Ph.D. (psychology), University of Southampton, England; M.Sc. (neural computation), University of Stirling, Scotland; B.Sc. (psychology), Manchester Metropolitan University, England.

Research interests: His research is concerned with the effects of deafness on development of visual cognition skills. It compares control groups of children and adults with those who were deaf from birth to enhance intervention strategies for cognitive development in the deaf community. His research is sensitive to family contexts of deafness such as hearing children of deaf parents or deaf children of hearing parents.

Why Illinois? “Apart from Illinois’ reputation as an outstanding R1 institution, the thing that appealed to me most is the cross-disciplinary nature of academic activities,” Dye said. “While we all have ‘home’ departments and colleges, it was my impression that academics (here) are actively encouraged to ‘leave home,’ and to meet and interact with colleagues across the campus with whom they may share and develop research interests and programs. As someone who has worked or studied in six departments, often in different colleges, this was a strong lure.”

On the Web: www.shs.illinois.edu/staff/mdye.htm

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A Minute With ...

The significance of a 10,000-point Dow

Editor’s note: The stock market’s benchmark Dow Jones Industrial Average is creeping back toward the 10,000-point level, less than a year after an economic meltdown drove the closely watched index to a six-year low of 7,552. Cheers and party hats greeted the Dow’s first rise into five-digit territory a decade ago, but what does it mean this time around? Finance professor David Ikenberry, a stock market expert, and Institute of Government and Public Affairs economist Daniel McMillen discuss the approaching milestone in interviews with News Bureau Business & Law Editor Jan Dennis.

Would topping the 10,000-point mark on the Dow have any tangible meaning for the economy and investors, or is the milestone just symbolic?

David Ikenberry: As human beings, we are often drawn to round numbers relating to various milestones in life or in society. With football coaches, it resonates with passing milestones measured in hundreds of career wins. For coaches in basketball and baseball, the milestones may be measured in thousands. We do the same thing with important birthdays as we age – 30 seems to be the first milestone we pay attention to, followed by 40, 50, 60, etc. Each of these milestones is nothing more than that, an arbitrary line which when crossed often encourages us, unlike other species, to reflect on where we’ve been, what we may have accomplished and perhaps what’s in store.

For the Dow Jones Index, the next relevant milestone is often denominated by 1,000s and, of course, 10,000 has even more of a ring to it. We are coming up on that now. Frankly, that particular level does not have much economic impact or hearing. We do know that as we reach these milestones, investors do seem to anticipate them — trading activity may be elevated as investors, aware of a pending milestone, may trade around the event causing trading volumes to elevate. At the individual stock level, we do see some gravitation to round prices marked in even dollars or half-dollars per share — 12, 12.50, 13, 13.50. As humans, we seem attracted to these numbers. These milestones can create either barriers from above or floors from below. A recent study by my colleagues Allen Poteshman and Neil Pearson found that trading in options also gets muddled when stock prices cross key price points.

Yet while there may be some near-term impact, the broader implications for the Dow crossing a key threshold is not so clear. While the past is well understood, the index crossing say any other arbitrary level, say 9,626.80, its value as we speak right now.

Daniel McMillen: Last fall, many economists and financial planners were seriously concerned that the economy was about to collapse. Although there currently is debate over whether the recession is over, it is clear that there are strong signs of recovery.

The onslaught of 60 today often means the beginning a number of life changes. Other mile markers, say age for example, do not shed too much light on its future investment worth or its relative safety. As investors, we really are concerned about tomorrow – we cannot purchase yesterday’s performance.

Nowwithstanding the attention we extend these markers and perhaps some near-term market effects, a specific level of 10,000 is of no more economic consequence than any other arbitrary level, say 9,626.80, its value as we speak right now.

Srebrenica should be the province of high school history classes, not elementary and upper-elementary classes.

“It’s curricular creep in the sense that subjects that were once considered relevant only to high school kids are now filtering down to elementary and upper-elementary school students,” Trofanenko said.

In public schools in California, Illinois and Massachusetts, the study of genocide is a mandatory unit of instruction in every elementary and high school.

Although those states are “quite forward-thinking” in mandating genocide education as a distinct subject, Trofanenko believes elementary schools are too young to begin a serious discussion about such a weighty historical topic.

“I’ve heard of children as young as grade three being taught about the Holocaust,” she said. “That’s far too young, to my mind.”

Trofanenko, who presented a paper about teaching difficult knowledge at the Curating Difficult Knowledge conference at Concordia University in Montreal last April, says elementary school students lack the baseline historical knowledge and critical sensibility necessary to understand the various implications of state-sponsored mass murder.

Younger students don’t have the ability to capture all the information and knowledge necessary to understand both the historical and emotional aspects of genocide. They don’t understand the big picture yet. Once they have an understanding of concepts such as significance, continuity and change, cause and consequence, and moral judgment, students can logically think through and ask questions about why events have happened.”

To critics who would argue that educators can’t shield younger students from the difficult topics of history, Trofanenko says that high school students are better equipped, both emotionally and intellectually, to deal with traumatic events in world history.

“It’s called ‘difficult knowledge’ by educators and historians for a reason,” Trofanenko said. “How do you portray death and dying to a 12-year-old? How do you properly convey the gravity of certain historical situations?”

By Phil Ciciora

Whether they’re found in a museum or a textbook, historical narratives about traumatic events such as war and genocide are better left to older students, who have typically developed a more refined historical consciousness, says a UI professor who studies and teaches historical instruction.

According to Brenda M. Trofanenko, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education at Illinois, the “difficult knowledge” of such events as the Holocaust, the Ukrainian Holodomor and the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica were better left to older students, who have typically developed a more refined historical consciousness, says a UI professor who studies and teaches historical instruction.

Trofanenko, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education at Illinois, the “difficult knowledge” of such events as the Holocaust, the Ukrainian Holodomor and the genocides in Rwanda and Srebrenica should be the province of high school history classes, not elementary and upper-elementary classes.

“Let’s get back to reality,” Trofanenko writes. “Younger students don’t have the ability to capture all the information and knowledge necessary to understand both the historical and emotional aspects of genocide. They don’t understand the big picture yet. Once they have an understanding of concepts such as significance, continuity and change, cause and consequence, and moral judgment, students can logically think through and ask questions about why events have happened.”

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Children can be sold on fun of physical activity

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Childhood obesity is on the rise, and commercial marketing sells kids on things that encourage soft drinks, fatty foods, video games, the Internet, TV.

With money and the right approach, however, social marketing can sell kids on getting outside and getting active, according to Marian Huhman (WHO-mun), a UI professor of communication. Her findings are based on recently published results on a five-year national campaign aimed at “tweens” aged 9 to 13 years old.

The campaign was known as VERB and was run by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention from 2002 to 2006. VERB in this case was not an acronym; instead it was chosen because it connotes action. Huhman, who joined the UI faculty in January, was part of the CDC team that developed VERB and oversaw its evaluation.

She was the lead author of six on a study of the campaign published online July 16 by the American Journal of Public Health.

The message of VERB was one of fun and friendship associated with physical activity, of making it cool, Huhman said. It did not focus on what kids should or shouldn’t do, on the benefits of exercise (a word not even used), or the dangers of obesity, she said.

“We were just trying to get them to go outside, pick up a jump rope or play hopscotch or ride their bikes or run around in circles,” she said.

With extensive congressional funding, VERB was able to use the sophisticated techniques of commercial marketers, to conduct extensive research, use professional actors, and buy the necessary media, mostly through TV, to reach a substantial proportion of the national target audience.

One result was surprising early success in building the VERB brand, Huhman said. Advertisements began in June 2002 and ran through the summer, when children are watching more TV. By the end of the first year, in late spring of 2003, phone surveys showed 67 percent awareness of VERB, prompted and unprompted, among the target group cohort.

And those numbers would continue to improve.

“We know that if the brand is good it has enough legs that it can have a lot of different kinds of messages coming off of it, a lot of different promotions,” Huhman said.

And the campaign did build from that awareness, adding on school- and community-based programs and promotions, and partnerships with national organizations. The VERB Web site would have more than 1 million children registered by the final year, and Huhman has students in her college classes who still remember the campaign. The evidence seems to show “they liked it and wanted to keep doing it,” Huhman said.

But was it effective? In public health and social marketing campaigns, the funding is rarely available to test that, Huhman said. All that campaigns organizers can often say is that they reached the audience by buying advertising time in appropriate places.

In the case of VERB, whose funding totaled $339 million over five years, researchers were able to fund the large nationwide annual phone surveys that were required. The first of three nationally representative cohorts of children 9-13 years of age were interviewed for the first time in 2002 and then followed up on in successive years. A second cohort was added in 2004 and a third in 2006. Surveys continued with all three, even as children aged out of the target group.

One finding was a “dose-response” effect showing that children’s reports of free-time physical activity showed a significant positive association with campaign exposure.

“We found that the more the tweens saw the advertising, the more physically active they were,” Huhman said.

That was demonstrated most dramatically in the results from the 2006 survey and among children in the first cohort, who by that time were 13-17 years old and who had the potential for the most exposure to VERB. Huhman said. Those in the cohort with no exposure to the campaign reported two sessions of free-time physical activity in the week before their interview. Those who reported it did so in the week before it.
Exploring cat and dog evolution, behavior, training

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

What makes a dog bark? What messages are conveyed in its wagging tail? How old should a kitten or puppy be before it is adopted? How can we improve communication with our companion animals while also stopping them from barking incessantly, clawing the furniture or urinating on the rug?

In “Canine and Feline Behavior and Training: A Complete Guide to Understanding Our Two Best Friends,” author Linda P. Case answers these questions and explains the divergent evolutionary paths of dogs and cats as well as the forces that shape their behavior.

Case, who teaches companion animal behavior and training in the UI College of Veterinary Medicine, also tackles some lingering myths about dog and cat behavior. For example, she debunks the idea that dogs have “dominant” or “submissive” personalities, or that dominance is synonymous with aggression. Rather, she says, dogs may behave submissively or display dominant signals toward other dogs depending on the situation. Furthermore, dominant behaviors involve ritualized postures or other signals that often lead to the resolution of conflict without aggression.

The book, which is used as a textbook but is also of interest to anyone with a cat or dog, begins with an exploration of the forces that tamed the wolf and wildcat and ultimately brought them into the human home. For wolves, many researchers now believe, the attraction probably began with the reliable and ready source of meat. Genetic studies indicate that dogs were domesticated about 15,000 years ago in Eastern Asia, and that all of today’s breeds are the descendants of very few (three to five) female wolves.

Domestic cats, on the other hand, are descended not from ancient saber-toothed tigers but from a smaller African wildcat ancestor, known as Dinictis.

Case explains how the ancient pack behavior of wolves and the solitary nature of wildcats still influence the behavior of their domesticated counterparts. But, as she writes, in a chapter on social behavior and communication, “Dogs are not wolves.”

“Generations of selective breeding to develop dogs for different functions diversified the dog with regard to the ways in which individuals form and maintain pair relationships,” she writes. Some seek out hierarchical relationships with other dogs, while others are less interested in rank. Case also dispenses the idea that dogs consider their human companions members of their “pack.”

Domestication of the cat has made it more tolerant of other cats and humans, and more likely to engage in affiliative behaviors, such as affectionate displays, mutual grooming or playing with others. Such behaviors are normally only seen in young African wildcats, suggesting that the domesticated cat appeals to humans precisely because it behaves more like a juvenile than an adult.

Case has a master’s degree in canine and feline nutrition and owns and operates a dog-training center. Her experience allows her to write authoritatively on subjects of interest to pet owners. Perhaps the most interesting chapter in the book is the one that describes how a new hotel can function as a resource for the community. Before and after prohibition, many hotels struggled to survive. And while downtown hotels were her- right outside the rooms, the Main Street hotel was a source of pride and community boosters and entrepreneurs who could promote a modern contemporary life for your community,” Jakle said.

Over time, the downtown hotel became regarded as “a kind of place or structure that we Americans have come very much to take for granted,” he noted. “They were pretty much everywhere in one form or another, one size or another. Most of them went through the same lifecycle – a very quick one in terms of profitability initially.”

“But,” he added, “many were so well developed and built that they were a resource that communities or localities couldn’t ignore.”

As the Great Depression gripped the na- tion, many hotels struggled to survive. And when motor courts, and later, chain motels, began to sprout on town fringes closer to highways beginning in the 1930s, offering greater affordability and a place to park cars right outside the rooms, the Main Street ho-

On the road again “Nothing has been more fundamental to the American experience in an environmental sense, certainly, and even in a social sense, than the impact of auto mobility,” said Jakle, professor emeritus of geography and of landscape architecture.

As was the case when most “Main Street hotels” were built, beginning in the 1910s and into the early 1930s, it’s still hard to overlook the imposing, usually well-built edifices, which were usually planted prominently in the center of a town or city. They typically defined the skyline. Most were built by financial syndicates or other local community boosters and entrepreneurs eager to promote the character of the community to would-be transplants or the ris-
Recession-driven cuts in advertising risk long-term losses

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Companies that scale back advertising to weather the recession risk sales declines that could linger long after the economy rebounds, a UI marketing expert says.

Hayden Noel says most firms sacrifice advertising during economic downturns, despite evidence from past recessions that shows cuts can net long-term losses while staying the course can drive up sales and market share.

"Reducing advertising is something you should not do, even during a recession. You're cutting your throat now, and you bleed out over time," said Noel, a visiting professor of business administration who studies consumer behavior.

He says research found that companies such as Avon and Hershey's that sacrificed advertising in the mid-1970s recession saw sales and market share declines that took years to recoup. In contrast, tobacco maker Philip Morris spent more and netted gains.

Another study after an early-1980s recession found companies that maintained advertising spending saw sales increases of 20 to 80 percent over a six-year span from 1980 to 1985, Noel said, while companies that cut back experienced long-term losses.

He says the findings show the natural instinct is to trim advertising because consumers spend less during recessions.

"Companies should instead pursue a path that appears counterintuitive, and view economic downturns as an opening to boost brand awareness," he says.

"The field is thinner because your competitors are spending less, so recessions are a unique opportunity to increase brand equity," Noel said. "With less competition, you not only can strengthen your base, but you also can attract new customers, primarily from competitors who reduced spending."

Savvy marketers also have tailored their message during the nation's current economic crisis, Noel said.

Ziploc promotes using its storage bags for leftovers to hold down food costs. Quaker Oats touts the protein value of its products, making them an alternative to meat and other higher-priced entrees. A-1 Steak Sauce trumpets that it goes great on hamburgers, too.

"They're shifting their message to something that consumers can better relate to during tough times," Noel said. "It tells consumers that the company cares and wants to help them. If you think the company is with you, then you'll spend more products that company sells."

He says advertisers also need to carefully consider where their message appears when the economy turns sour. For example, general interest magazines are preferable to specialty publications on travel, wine or other interests that consumers are more likely to forego during recessions.

"You have to spend your money wisely to reach a broader audience that also includes your core audience," Noel said. "You might not spend as much in luxury magazines, but more in Time, Sports Illustrated or other publications that will still be read by your clientele even in times of recession."

He concedes that holding the line on advertising is a tough call for companies facing the prospect of layoffs or cuts in critical operations such as research and development to offset recession-depleted earnings. Jobs and operations are more tangible than advertising because sales can be influenced by other factors.

"The natural reaction is to cut back on some of the advertising," Noel said. "But brand equity is intricately tied to sales. So if you lose brand equity because you reduced advertising, your product isn't going to be top of mind and you won't be one of the products people think about – now or when the economy rebounds."

Noel appeared last month on "First Business," a nationally syndicated television program focusing on markets and investments.
CASE

rely on rewards rather than punishments. "A few like the Terre Haute House in Terre Haute, Ind., were ignored and ultimate demolished," Jakle said. However, in recent years, many of them have been rescued by preservationists and other entrepreneurs — often with the aid of local, state or federal grants, and after sitting vacant for years.

"Most have been converted either as residential housing or office buildings, or revived as transient hotels or conference centers, depending upon the nature of the town itself."

A few of Jakle's own photographic images of Main Streets across the Midwest — sans hotels — are among those included in another recent book, "My Kind of Midland." The book saw its cachet decline further.

"We don't do a very good job of promoting our region might better emphasize to the rest of the nation that the region is little more than the Great Plains and the Midwest."

JAKLE

Jan. 1, 2009

CCFD — Impact of Donations

$1 per pay period will provide a morning of summer camp for a child with epilepsy
$1 per pay period will remove 60 pounds of trash from a beach
$2 per pay period buys medication for a woman with terminal breast cancer for one day
$5 per pay period will provide five wigs for children undergoing chemotherapy
$5 per pay period will provide the planting of 200 cedar trees for a habitat restoration project
$10 per pay period will provide a lightweight wheelchair for a physically challenged person
$10 per pay period will help restore vision to five people in Vietnam by enabling them to have cataract surgery

$20 per pay period will furnish basic medications, supplies, equipment, and dressings to treat 1,500 displaced civilians in Iraq for three months
$20 per pay period will provide rain gear for 20 youths on an inner-city outing trip to the wilderness
$25 per pay period will supply 65 bed nets to protect against malaria in Kenya
$26 per year will provide nearly 163 pounds of food to hungry Champaign County residents

$35 per pay period will pay for a CT scan for a woman with cancer
$50 per pay period will sponsor two classes of 15 students from underprivileged areas to a day at the zoo
$100 per pay period will stock a farm in South America with cows, sheep, goats, pigs and enough chickens to provide food and income for 10 families
$104 per year will provide 16 meals to homebound seniors

"We make a living by what we get, but we make a life by what we give." —Winston Churchill

A MINUTE WITH... FROM PAGE 9

A 10,000-point Dow is one of those signals. The 10,000-point mark has no real significance — it is a lot better than the 6,547 point low in March and a lot worse than the 14,165 high of two years ago — but it certainly is a good sign. It shows that many investors have regained confidence in the economy. Most observers now believe that the sharp decline in the economy is over. House sales and housing starts have begun to increase again. New claims for unemployment have decreased. And, in a bit of circular reasoning, prices of stocks have been rising again.

The problem is that it takes a long time to recover from a severe recession, and this recession has been the worse since the Great Depression. One group of relatively optimistic investors has been buying stocks; another pessimistic group will view the 10,000-point mark as unsustainably high. It seems likely that the Dow will quickly fall back below 10,000 before enough people are confident that it stays above the threshold for an extended time.

Long recessions are followed by long recoveries. The rise in the Dow is a very good sign. But the recession will technically have been over for quite some time before people feel like it's over.

Inside Illinois

PAGE 13

Oct. 1, 2009
University Library acquires, celebrates 11-millionth volume

The UI Library has acquired its 11-millionth volume, Benjamin Franklin’s edition of “M.T. Cicero’s Essays on the Course of Old Age” – the first English translation of Classical literature printed in the New World. Cicero’s essay on aging was printed and sold by Benjamin Franklin in Philadelphia in 1744. Many consider Franklin’s edition the finest example of American Colonial printing. The volume is also known as the first large-print book printed in America and believed to be Franklin’s personal favorite among the books he printed. It now resides in the UI’s Rare Book & Manuscript Library.

The University Library will celebrate this milestone during Homecoming 2009. During the pep rally on Oct. 9, Chancellor Richard Herman will make remarks recognizing the 11-millionth volume and the gift of Robert and Emily Watts, of Champaign, which made the acquisition of this volume possible.

UI contributing member. There will be a social time beginning at 1:30 p.m. followed at 2 p.m. by a brief business meeting before the program. After remarks by the trustees, there will be time for questions and further discussion.

SUAA was created in 1971 to advocate a strong and secure public employee pension and health benefit system. Both SURA annuitants and SURC contributing members are eligible to become members of SUAA, and anyone may attend this meeting, regardless of membership. More information about the UI Chapter can be found at www.suua.ui.org.

Senate Committee on the Library

Online survey available through Oct. 11

Members of the Campus community are invited to take a survey sponsored by the Senate Committee on the Library to assist evaluating the University Librarian over the past five years.

To take the survey online, go to https://illinois.edu/sb/sec953733 until Oct. 11. Those preferring to fill in a printed version of the survey may pick one up at the Office of the Senate, 228 English Building or request one by phone, 333-6805. Participation is voluntary and anonymous.

Family Resiliency Center

Summit on Early Childhood is Oct. 16

The Family Resiliency Center and the Pampered Chef Programs at the UI will host the “Illinois Summit on Early Childhood and Healthy Beginnings” on Oct. 16 at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

According to conference organizers, the conference will serve as a “call to action” on key policies and issues facing early childhood educators and child-care providers in promoting healthy development during the preschool years.

“It is imperative that we find a way to protect the children and vulnerable families in our state during this challenging economic times,” said Barbara Fiese, director of the Family Resiliency Center. “Early childhood programs have proven to be some of the best investments with the biggest payoffs.”

Keynote speakers include Barbara T. Bowman, chief officer of Early Childhood Programs for Chicago Public Schools; professor Arthur J. Reynolds, Institute of Child Development, University of Minnesota; and Marlene B. Schwartz, deputy director, Rudd Center for Food Policy and Obesity at Yale University. Jerome Stermer, chief of staff to Gov. Pat Quinn, is scheduled to give welcoming remarks.

The cost to attend the summit is $50. Registration deadline is Oct. 9. Online registration and additional information are available at frc.illinois.edu/Summit or by calling 245-0334.

Center for Advanced Study

Research appointment apps due Oct. 20

The Center for Advanced Study is accepting applications for both fellow and associate research appointments for the 2010-11 year. CAS Fellows are untenured UI faculty members with the rank of assistant professor. CAS Associates are tenured UI faculty members with the rank of associate professor or higher. With the professors, fellows and associates form the intellectual core of the CAS community. They also participate in a yearly roundtable discussion of research interests.

Successful candidates are asked to prepare an early description of their projects for publicity purposes and short

ON THE WEB

Time for annual ethics training

Beginning Oct. 5, UI permanent employees (excluding medical resident, undergraduate student and extra help employees) will receive, through their official university e-mail account, their unique login ID and password for the 2009 online ethics training program. Employees are encouraged to complete the required training as soon as possible to avoid reminders and additional follow-up during the 30-day training window.

The online program must be completed online at www.workplaceanswers.com/illinois. The training program is available Oct. 5 through 7 p.m. Nov. 3. Employees who have not received the e-mail by the end of the day on Oct. 5 should call the University Ethics Office at 866-758-2140.

For additional information related to annual ethics training, or for additional clarity regarding the classifications of employees required to complete this training, visit the University Ethics Office Web site.

UI Foundation

Annual meeting to be webcast

The UI Foundation invites the campus community to participate in its Annual Meeting through a webcast on Oct. 2 at www.uif.illinois.edu/AnnualMeeting2009/

This year’s meeting centers on UI faculty members and the way their teaching, research and service help drive excellence. There will be updates from UIF board chair Mike Tokarz about the Brilliant Futures Campaign, and announcements of new members of the annual meeting of the UI Foundation will be from 9 to 11 a.m.

Office of Public Engagement

Proposals due Nov. 2

The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement is seeking proposals from faculty and staff members and students to fund community-related projects, scholarly work, creative endeavors, course development and other activities within the broad framework of public engagement. Grants up to $20,000 will be made available on a competitive basis. Grant decisions will be announced no later than Dec. 15.

The deadline for submissions is Nov. 2. For complete information go to http://engagement.illinois.edu/rfp.html.

State Universities Annuitants Association

SURS board members featured Oct. 25

All SURS annuitants and current employees are invited to the UI Chapter of the State Universities Annuitants Association fall meeting Oct. 25 at the I Hotel and Conference Center.

The highlight of the meeting will be a panel discussion with former and retired members of the State Universities Retirement System Board of Trustees: John Engstrom, Northern Illinois University, annuitant member; J. Fred Gierke, UI, contributing member; and Dorinda Miller, UI Foundation.
T he Morrill Act, one of the seminal documents of higher education in the United States, is on display at the Smart Museum Art Museum and Kunkel Pavilion through Oct. 31.

The document has only recently been available for public viewing outside of Washington, D.C. The public exhibition, “The Morrill Act: The Land-Grant Roots of a Great University,” will serve as a focal point for lectures and educational events as part of the university’s ongoing celebration of the Lincoln Bicentennial.

Signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln on July 2, 1862, the Morrill Act enabled states to make higher education accessible to all through the establishment of land-grant colleges and universities. The new land-grant institutions emphasized agriculture and the mechanical arts, which opened opportunities to thousands of farmers and working people previously excluded from higher education.

Sixty-nine colleges were funded by these land grants, including the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cornell University and the UI.

Related events:


Oct. 7: “Lincoln’s Illinois Today: A Vision for Education,” a two-hour symposium moderated by Mary Kalantzis, the dean of the UI College of Education, examining education in Illinois today and comparing it with Lincoln’s vision for a broad-based education system, 4 p.m., Alice Campbell Alumni Center Ballroom and Atrium.

Scheduled panelists are former Illinois Gov. Jim Edgar; Judy Erwin, the executive director of the Illinois Board of Higher Education; and O. Vernon Burton, an author and former UI history and sociology professor who now is a professor of southern history and culture at Coastal Carolina University.

The forum is sponsored by the Institute of Government and Public Affairs, the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Public Engagement.

A Lincoln-themed reception will follow the program. To register, call 866-794-3340 or e-mail igpa@illinois.edu or online at www.igpa.illinois.edu.

Oct. 13: “Practice as Theory: Lincoln’s Address to the Temperance Society, February 22, 1842,” featuring Michael Leff, chair of the department of communication at the University of Memphis, 3:30 p.m., Third Floor, Levis Faculty Center.

lectures
1 Thursday
"Ready for a Journey: Oftentimes, an Ancient Merchant Ship." Helen W. Swany, Harvard University. 5:30 p.m. 302 Art and Architecture Building. Archaeological Institute of America, Classics and South Asian Art Museum.

2 Friday
"Civilization and the Single Woman: Buddhism in South and Southeast Asia." Steven Collins, University of Chicago. 7 p.m. Third Floor, Lewis Faculty Center. Religion.

3 Saturday
"Decision Making in Living Cells." Ido Golding, UI. 10:15-11:30 a.m. 141 Loomis Lab. Saturday Physics Honors Program.

4 Tuesday

5 Thursday
"The Importance of Being Citizen: The U.S. (and India) Do About Pakistan, and What Should It Do?" Abigail Salyers, University of California. 4 p.m. 162 Noyes Lab. Cancer: A Complex Story.

6 Thursday

7 Saturday
"Intention, Permissibility, Terrorism and War." Jeffrey McMahan, UI. 3 p.m. 213 Gregory Hall. Philosophy.

8 Thursday
"Towards Understanding Online Visual Media." Guang Hu, Nokia Research Center. 11 a.m. 2269 Beckman Institute. Enginering.

9 Friday

10 Friday
"Topological Insulators: The Observation of Quantum Hall-like Effects Without Magnetic Field." M. Zahid Hasan, Princeton University. 4 p.m. 141 Loomis Lab. Physics.

11 Thursday
"Distinct Conformational Processes in the Ribosome Important to the Regulation of Protein Synthesis." Scott Blanchard, Cornell University. 4 p.m. BI02 Chemical and Life Sciences Lab. Microbiology.

12 Thursday

13 Tuesday

14 Thursday
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15 Thursday

16 Thursday

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16 Wednesday  
*The pHRNA Pathway in the Mouse Germline.* Alex Barton, Carnegie Institution of Washington. Noon. 1012 Chemical and Life Sciences Lab. 3 p.m. Allen Theatre, Krannert Center. 4:30 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center.

17 Thursday  
"Buried Child." Lisa Gaye Dixon, director. 7:30 p.m. Studio Theatre, Kranert Center. 3 p.m. 1080 Foreign Languages Building. 3 p.m. Lucy Ellis Lounge, 1080 Foreign Languages Building. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center.

18 Friday  
"A Face in the Crowd." (Russian). 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Room, 1080 Foreign Languages Building. 3 p.m. Studio Theatre, Kranert Center. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center.

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more calendar of events

CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

sports

To confirm times, go to www.fightingillini.com

3 Saturday
Champaign County Flatlanders Rugby Club. 1 p.m. Po- Boy’s, 1901 S. Highcross Road, Urbana. (3)

Football. UI vs. Pennsylvania State University. 6 p.m. Mem- orial Stadium. (5)

9 Friday
Volleyball. UI vs. Purdue University. 7 p.m. Huff Hall. (3)

10 Saturday
Football. Homecoming. UI vs. Michigan State University. 11 a.m. Memorial Stadium. (5)

Volleyball. UI vs. Indiana University. 7 p.m. Huff Hall. (3)

11 Sunday
Soccer. UI vs. University of Wisconsin. 3 p.m. Illinois Soccer Stadium. (5)

17 Thursday
Champaign County Flatlanders Rugby Club. 1 p.m. Po- Boy’s, 1901 S. Highcross Road, Urbana. (3)

et cetera

1 Thursday


2 Friday
A Presidential Press Confer- ence with Abraham Lincoln. 3 p.m. Tyrone Festival Theater, Kramert Center. Lincoln Bicentennial Event.

Monday
CARR Reading Series: Stacey Levine, author. 4:30 p.m. Author’s Corner, Illini Union Bookstore. English Creative Writing Program.


Tuesday
CARR Reading Series: Mi- chael Czyzniejewski and Ma- rina Abramovic. “Art, Perfor- mance, and the Rise of Popular Sympathy in Republican China.” Elizabeth Leach, Colum- bia University. 1 p.m Freeman Fellow Building. East Asian and Pacific Studies.


Monday
“Creating Effective Student Pro- grams: From Problems to Solutions.” Cheryl Ee-Lim. 3 p.m. 428 Armory. Registration required. Visit www.cte. illinois.edu, click on events calendar. Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts and Sciences Center for Teaching Excellence.

CARR Reading Series: Ben- hard Lecocq, author. 4:30 p.m. Author’s Corner. Illini Union Bookstore. English Creative Writing Program.

Friday
“The Classics in America: A Symposium in Celebration of the Acquisition of the 51-Million Book in the Collections of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.” 9 a.m. The Rare Book and Manuscript Library, 346 Main Library. The Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

Workshop: “Integrating Social Values in Teaching and Re- search.” Richard Locke, Mus- sachusetts Institute of Tech- nology Sloan School of Man- agement. 10 a.m. Hendricks Conference Room, School of Labor and Employment Rela- tions and Education and European Union.


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Tuesday

Social Entrepreneurship.

Wednesday

Thursday

Friday

On-screen: Global Intimacy” “Vivid Lines in Graphic Timos’” Through Jan. 3.

Krantzer Art Museum and Kinard Pavilion. 9 a.m. 5 p.m. Tuesday-Saturday; 2-5 p.m. Sunday. Free admission. U donation suggested.


5:30 p.m. Busi- ness. (3)


CARR Reading Series: Mi- chael Czyzniejewski and Mat-thew Gavin Frank, authors. 4:30 p.m. Author’s Corner, Il- lini Union Bookstore. English Creative Writing Program.

Joy Harjo and Elise Paschen: “One in a Million.” 4:30 p.m. Author’s Corner, Illini Union Bookstore. English Creative Writing Program.

Friday

Online Discussion Strate- gies.” Jan Wisz. 3 p.m. 428 Armory Building. Registration required. Visit www.cte. illinois.edu, click on events calendar. Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts and Sciences (ATLAS) and the Center for Teaching Excellence.

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more calendar of events

CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

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HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

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Printing errors can cause confusion about the date of events. In order to deal with the emotional aspects of it, students have to be able to logically understand what was happening at the time. Elementary school students aren’t ready for that yet. It’s easier to talk to a 16-year-old about how people died because of their religious or political beliefs than it is a sixth-grader.

A fact-based, fill-in-the-blank approach to learning about genocide – a teaching staple of virtually all elementary school history classes – isn’t the best pedagogical approach to teaching historically difficult subjects, Trosfenko says.

“When you do that, when you turn the Holocaust or the Holodomor into a ‘Jeopardy!’-type game in order to drill facts into students’ heads, you trivialize it,” she said. “Looking only at facts or the raw data of how many people were killed discounts a lot of significant aspects, including the emotional toll. This is not to say that students don’t need to know the extent of genocide, but it’s not the only element within the larger picture.”

Teaching difficult knowledge not only requires educators to think carefully about their own theories of learning, but it also necessitates a pedagogical willingness to approach the limits of a young learner’s knowledge of history.

“This requires more than satisfying standards,” she said. “It means a better understanding of how young people deal with emotion and emotional issues associated with world events.”

Trosfenko says teachers need to get back to engaging in historical inquiry – asking questions about what genocide is, why it was allowed to happen, and how it occurred during their lifetime.

“Teachers need to look at genocide generally and not treat it as an isolated, discrete event,” she said. “It needs to be taught as something that has happened during our students’ lifetimes. They need to know why these terrible events occurred, not just the information that results from it.”

For events:

www.library.illinois.edu/ro/secretariat/illinoisclub.html

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For cancer drug developers, finding an agent that kills tumor cells is only part of the equation. The drug must also spare healthy cells. And – ideally – its effects will be reversible, to cut short any potentially dangerous side effects.

UI researchers report that they have assembled a new cancer drug delivery system that, in cell culture, achieves all of the above. The findings appeared in the journal Angewandte Chemie.

The team began with the knowledge that small, membrane-bound compartments, called liposomes, are useful as drug-delivery vehicles. When linked to molecules that target receptors on cancer cells, liposomes can enter and dump their cancer-killing contents into those cells.

Scientists have spent more than a decade trying to direct liposomes to specific cancer cells, with limited success. A common approach involves attaching an antibody to the liposome membrane. Ideally the antibody will bind to a cancer cell receptor so that it can deliver the liposome – and the cancer drug – into the cell. Developing such antibodies is costly and time-consuming, however, and the process of attaching them to liposomes is difficult to control. Antibodies spur an immune response, requiring extra steps to create a useable therapeutic agent, and the ability of antibody-conjugated liposomes to bind to cancer cells can be inconsistent.

Some small molecules, such folate, a vitamin, also work as cancer cell targeting agents, but those now in use are not as good as antibodies at binding to cancer cells.

To solve the cell-targeting problem, the UI team turned its attention to small molecules called aptamers.

“Aptamers are short strands of DNA or RNA; they are highly efficient binders, and are very easy to make, label and manipulate,” said Zehui Cao, a postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of chemistry professor Yi Lu, who led the study. Materials science and engineering professors Gerard Wong and Jianjun Cheng were co-principal investigators on the study with Lu. Graduate students Rong Tong (who is co-first author on the paper with Cao), Abhijit Mishra and Weichen Xu also worked on the study.

Lu’s laboratory specializes in isolating aptamers that bind to specific molecules and converting them into effective sensors and diagnostic agents. His team used an aptamer that binds to nucleolin receptors, which are found in abundance on certain breast cancer cells. The researchers then developed an effective method for attaching the aptamer to a liposome loaded with cisplatin, a drug that effectively kills cancer cells but has troublesome side effects when administered intravenously.

Tests in cells grown in the lab yielded promising results. Four days after they exposed the cells to the new drug-delivery system, 59.5 percent of the breast cancer cells had died, while less than 12 percent of breast cancer cells treated with cisplatin alone had died.

“By labeling a liposome that contains cisplatin with a cancer cell-specific aptamer, we have shown delivery of the drugs to cancer cells without significant damage to regular cells,” Lu said, “making it possible to maximize the drug potency while minimizing its side effects.”

This approach “integrates the advantages of small molecules and antibodies,” said Cheng, who helped pioneer the use of aptamers as targeting molecules for drug delivery. “This is the first study to integrate the aptamers and the liposome.”

Another advantage of using aptamers as targeting agents is that they are easily disabled. They readily bind to complementary DNA, which prevents them from interacting with cell receptors.

The new approach will be useful for many applications, Wong said. “What we’re really doing here is coming up with a general toolbox to deal with a broad range of cancers.”

“You can change aptamers to target a different type of cancer, you can change the therapeutic molecules to fight cancer or other diseases, and you can reverse the dose,” Cheng said. “That’s a lot of tools in the toolbox. It has great potential.”

The collaboration between materials scientists and chemists was made possible by administrative structures at the UI that foster such partnerships, Wong said. The work was supported by a National Science Foundation (NSF) Nanoscale Science and Engineering Center grant, the NSF Career Program, and the Siteman Center for Cancer Nanotechnology Excellence (SC-CNE, Washington University) – Center for Nanoscale Science and Technology (CNST, UIUC).

http://highwire.stanford.edu/cgi/midline/pmid;19623590