First draft of the pig: Researchers sequence swine genome

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

A global collaborative has produced a first draft of the genome of a domesticated pig, an achievement that will lead to insights in agriculture, medicine, conservation and evolution.

A red-haired Duroc pig from a farm at the UI will now be among the growing list of domesticated animals that have had their genomes sequenced. Researchers announced the achievement Nov. 2 at a meeting at the Wellcome Trust Sanger Institute in Hinxton, England.

“The pig is a unique animal that is important for food and that is used as an animal model for human disease,” said Lawrence B. Schook, a UI professor of biomedical sciences and leader of the sequencing project. “And because the native wild animals are still in existence, it is a really exciting animal to look at to learn about the genomic effects of domestication,” he said.

The Duroc was one of five major breeds used in pork production around the world and is one of about 200 breeds of domesticated pigs. They also are supports of wild boar, the non-domesticated pigs that are believed to have originated in Eurasia.

The sequencing project involved an international team of scientists and genome-sequencing centers. The USDA National Institute of Food and Agriculture, formerly the Cooperative State Research, Education and Extension Service, provided $10 million in initial funding, requiring that this be the first pig genome-sequencing project in the world, that it be a public-private partnership and a global collaborative effort, with significant financial or in-kind support from the other participating agencies and stakeholders.

The effort cost about $24.3 million, with additional support from the USDA Agricultural Research Service and many other American, Asian and European funders. (See below for a complete list.) Another requirement of participation was that the findings be made public, with no proprietary interests allowed.

“The draft sequence, which is about 98 percent complete, will allow researchers to pinpoint genes that are useful to pork production or are involved in immunity or other important physiological processes in the pig. It will enhance breeding practices, offer insights into diseases that afflict pigs (and, sometimes, also humans) and will assist in efforts to preserve the global heritage of rare, endangered and wild pigs. It also will be important for the study of human health because pigs are very similar to humans in their physiology, behavior and nutritional needs. “We are excited to have the swine genome sequence and anticipate this will accelerate the rate of genetic improvement in swine as the bovine sequence is impacting the dairy industry’s genetic gains,” said Steve Kappes, deputy administrator of Animal Production and Protection for the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

“This is a great day for the pig research community,” said professor Alan Archibald, of The Roslin Institute and R(D)SVS at the University of Edinburgh. “When we launched the international pig gene mapping project almost 20 years ago, few if any of us thought a pig genome sequence was attainable or affordable.”

The pig genome sequence is an essential first tool that will allow scientists to delve into the health, science and natural history of the pig, Schook said.

See PIG GENOME, Page 2

Richard Herman resigns, will now serve as special assistant

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

Richard Herman officially gave up his title as chancellor of the Urbana campus Oct. 26, following a turbulent summer that placed him at the epicenter of the controversy about student applicants on the “clout list.” Several dozen of these applicants were admitted to the university — some, after having been denied admission — because of their relationships to trustees, legislators or other influential people.

Herman announced his resignation Oct. 20, in an e-mail message to the campus: “It has been the great privilege of my life to serve for 11 years as your provost and chancellor. I will not reiterate the complicated and agonizing steps that have brought us to this place, except to say that I regret the circumstances. I’m confident that Illinois will be stronger for all that we have learned from this controversy.”

The Executive Committee of the UI Board of Trustees accepted Herman’s resignation and ratified a revised employment agreement for him during a special meeting Oct. 23. Herman’s previous contract with the university would have expired June 30, 2010.

Under the revised agreement, Herman will serve as special assistant to Interim President-designate Stanley Ikenberry until June 30, 2010, at which time Herman is to become a professor of mathematics. Following a one-year sabbatical, Herman will move to the College of Education, where, beginning in July 2011, he is to serve as a professor, with an additional appointment as a visiting professor in the College of Education on the Chicago campus.

An interim chancellor will not be named, university officials said. Ikenberry and interim provost Robert Easter will assume some of Herman’s responsibilities.

Herman began his career with Illinois as provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs at the Urbana campus in October 1998, was appointed interim chancellor in April 2004 after Chancellor Nancy Cantor’s departure, and was named chancellor in May 2005.

The Category I controversy, which involved an investigation by a state commission appointed by Gov. Pat Quinn, also led to the resignations of seven members of the board of trustees and President B. Joseph White. White announced last month that he will step down Dec. 31 but will remain involved with fundraising and teaching in the College of Business. Ikenberry will become interim president on Jan. 1, succeeding White. ♦

A red-haired Duroc pig, a species widely used in pork production, is now on the list of domesticated animals that have had their genomes sequenced. These piglets are clones of the original pig.

These little piglets

These little piggies

A red-haired Duroc pig, a species widely used in pork production, is now on the list of domesticated animals that have had their genomes sequenced. These piglets are clones of the original pig.
Possible budgetary rescission discussed by U-C Senate

By Shafira Forrest
Assistant Editor

University units are being asked to put 6 percent of their funds—a total of $45 million—to prepare for a possible budgetary rescission by the state, and they should prepare for even larger reductions next fiscal year, President B. Joseph White told members of the Urbana-Champaign Senate during the annual meeting with the faculty and in a Nov. 3 e-mail to the campus community.

“[Unit] leaders are being asked to develop contingency plans that maintain academic excellence and ensure that students and research programs are supported,” White said. “At this time, we are not anticipating furlough days or large-scale layoffs prior to the end of the calendar year. We hope that they will not be needed at all. However, the university needs to be prepared and done only on a critical, by-expection basis for the remainder of the fiscal year. And since we are in an extremely uncertain time, we cannot rule out further actions should the need arise.”

Last fiscal year the university anticipated a possible rescission to a state and set aside $20 million of its appropriations early on, a move that proved prudent when the state gave it for $19 million back midway into the fiscal year.

The state’s financial condition is even worse this year, White said. “Given the possibility of a rescission and the reality of difficult cash flow, we must take steps that are prudent and preparatory but also compatible with continuing our academic mission.”

Despite the mounting pressures of the economic recession, White said that he has instructed the Office of Planning and Budgeting to “focus its attention on keeping people employed and with full paychecks, and I am proud that so far he has been able to avoid layoffs, furloughs and other forms of pay reductions. However, knowing our cash position, we have had to impose layoffs and pay reductions in the past, and it’s the hardest job I’ve ever done.”

“White said. “It takes a long time to get back to normal once that boundary is crossed, so not crossing it has been top priority for me. I hope we can continue to avoid such actions. It’s not going to be easy.”

FY2011 also “looks very challenging,” in part because $45 million in federal stimulus money that the university received in FY10 is not expected to recur in FY11, while programs require larger tuition increases and cost reductions than anything is going to be easy.”

Planning for budget shortfall

By Shafira Forrest
Assistant Editor

Over the next three years, the UI’s strategic plan to reduce administrative costs worth $15 million as a long-term strategy for dealing with a downward trend in state support. As the state and the ongoing national economic challenges facing the UI, including significant cash flow problems as a result of slow payments by the state and the expected retraction of federal stimulus funds in the coming fiscal year, which will begin July 1.

From FY02 to FY09, the university’s general fund appropriation from the state declined from $384 million to $700 million, according to a July presentation to the board of trustees. Administration also included a 13 percent, excluding inflation, or 30 percent in real terms, White and Ikenberry wrote. “Whether the governor and General Assembly will make downward adjustments to our current budget is unknown and may not be known for several months. At the beginning of the year the university put funds in reserve centrally in anticipation of difficult budget challenges ahead.”

As campus and university administrators develop plans for seques-tering $45 million in anticipation of a possible rescission of state funding later in the fiscal year, they will be targeting reductions in personnel costs and over-all expenditures. Employee salaries and benefits comprise about 70 percent of the university’s overall costs.

In developing contingency plans, administrators and campus leaders are being asked to “safeguard academic and patient-care quality, serve students and maintain excellence in our research programs” while identifying “organiza- tional changes and consolidations that will yield longer term savings.”

In the e-mail message, White and Ikenberry reiterated that no furlough days are planned before the end of the calendar year but that they hope to avoid them completely in the event of a budget shortfall. However, in July, the University of Illinois board of trustees that an interim furlough policy had been developed and was included in all notices of reappoint- ment for academic professionals and faculty members for FY10. Additionally, administration also implemented a policy allowing the university to shorten the contract periods of people paid from grants and contract funds in the event funding were lost during the year.

“We know there’s a lot of uncertainty in the economy,” White said. “We hope that the board does not take the state administration at its word and that we can continue to provide education and research.”

Furlough days or large-scale layoffs prior to the end of the calendar year. We hope that they will not be needed at all. However, the university needs to be prepared and done only on a critical, by-expection basis for the remainder of the fiscal year. And since we are in an extremely uncertain time, we cannot rule out further actions should the need arise.”

In Herman’s last remarks to the senate as chancellor, he urged federal stimulus funds to a greater or lesser degree, being sequenced to a greater or lesser degree. A few of the mammals that are having or have had their genomes sequenced:

- Armadillo: Nine-Banded
- Bushbaby: Afrotropical, African
- Cow: Bovidae, Bovines
- Crab: Decapoda, Caridea
- Elephant: Elephantidae, Elephantidae
- Dog: Canidae, Canids
- Dolphin: Delphinidae, Delphinidae
- Elephant: Elephantidae, Elephantidae
- Guinea Pig: Cavia porcellus, Cavia porcellus
- Horse: Equidae, Equidae
- Kangoar Rat: Heteromyidae, Heteromyidae
- Lemur: Lemuridae, Lemuridae
- Platypus: Ornithorhynchidae, Ornithorhynchidae
- Rabbit: Leporidae, Leporidae
- Sloth: Bradypodidae, Bradypodidae
- Squid: Sepiidae, Sepiidae

GENOME SEQUENCING

The genomes of only three mammals – the mouse, the rat and the human – have been fully sequenced, but the genomes of hundreds of creatures, including more than 90 mammals, are being sequenced to a greater or lesser degree.

A few of the mammals that are having or have had their genomes sequenced:

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- Lemur: Lemuridae, Lemuridae
- Platypus: Ornithorhynchidae, Ornithorhynchidae
- Rabbit: Leporidae, Leporidae
- Sloth: Bradypodidae, Bradypodidae
- Squid: Sepiidae, Sepiidae
Jessica Bengtson (BENG-son) is an office administrator for the administrative services unit of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

Bengtson started at the university as Extra Help in August 1995 before being hired full-time by the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences as a secretary III in December. In 2000, she moved to Vet Med as a secretary IV, was promoted to secretary V, and assumed her current position in 2009.

Born in Decatur, Bengtson attended high school at the National Academy of Arts in Champaign where she studied dance until it closed just before her senior year. She graduated from Mount Zion High School and earned an associate’s degree in general studies from Parkland College.

Bengtson has been married to her husband, Steve, a local area network specialist at McKinley Health Centers, for 20 years. They live in Urbana with their two sons, Nick and Adam, ages 18 and 14, respectively.

Bengtson also is the president-elect of the Secretariat, the fellowship organization for office professionals on campus that’s celebrating its 60th anniversary this year.

What’s your typical day like?

I usually meet with my boss, Ginger Winckler, first thing in the morning to help get her started on her day. I handle Ginger’s calendar and correspondence, and anything else she needs me to take care of.

I also work on the Web sites of some of the various units we work with. I handle a lot of phone calls, put out small fires, engage in a lot of fact-finding missions and follow up on things to keep them progressing.

A percentage of my time is spent working for the human resources service center here at the college, and I try to support them as much as I can.

Over the last few years, we’ve really surrounded ourselves with good people, so it’s a very cohesive team. It’s just a pleasure to work with people like that.

What do you love most about your job?

The challenge. I love the busyness and constant change of my job. Even the stress is good stress, because I feel like I’m being challenged.

One thing that has been really nice coming up the ranks is that the people you work with have the opportunity to see what your strengths are, and allow you to do the things you do well and feel really good about the support you’re able to provide.

I’m one of those lucky people who actually loves her job. I really do. Even the things that are difficult about it are learning experiences. At the end of the day, I always take something away that I learned or gave me food for thought to be better in what I do and who I am.

What’s your biggest challenge on the job?

Organization. This job requires a lot of organization; so much so that it’s really hard if it’s not completely natural to you, which it’s not. I like to say that I’m organized at work, but not at home. When I’m in work mode, I’m totally focused on work. When I’m at home, I’m more relaxed.

What do you like to do to relax?

For the past 20-plus years, I’ve taught ballet and other forms of dance at the local park districts.

I’m a part-time soccer mom, which is nice because I get to spend hours outdoors in a lounge chair beside the field.

I like to crochet and needlepoint, and I read with a passion. I love the new Champaign library. What a beautiful place.

What do you like to read?

I’ll read anything, but I like medical suspense thrillers and novels by Dean Koontz. I also love historical novels and spent some time abroad as a high school student. What was that like?

I’ll read anything, but I like medical suspense thrillers and novels by Dean Koontz. I also love historical novels and

Champaign library. What a beautiful place.

On the Job

Jessica Bengtson

A Minute With …

Medical historian Mark Micale

Years in war in Iraq and Afghanistan have meant multiple tours of duty for many U.S. combat troops – and plans under discussion would appear to make additional tours likely. What might the added time, stress and combat experience mean for the psychological condition of soldiers? That would not have been a concern before World War I (1914-18), and views have changed over the years since, according to medical historian Mark Micale (mih-KAL-e), an expert in the history of psychological illness and author of “Hysterical Men: The Hidden History of Male Nervous Illness.” Micale was interviewed by News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

War has been a constant in human history since it first happened in World War I that brought an awareness of, and concern about, psychological disorders resulting from combat.

Research on a number of things, but above all a difference in weaponry. The First World War is often called “the first modern war,” because it introduced a new class of industrial weapons. The machine gun, chemical gas, the armored and motorized tank, and more accurate and powerful artillery were the most important. The sheer killing power of this mechanized war technology was much greater than the swords, bayo-

nets, catapults and cannons of earlier times, and much greater than anyone had anticipated before the war. Not surprisingly, these weapons generated unprecedented levels of fear and anxiety among the masses of fighting men in the trenches. And incidentally, the distinctive phenomenon of trench warfare as a type of combat, which became stalemated for months at a time, most likely added to the excruciating levels of stress.

So were these disorders just less likely before then, or did we just choose to ignore them?

Both. At the same time that new instruments of war had been engineered for the First World War, the medical profession had changed. The spectacle ofecture had been emerging, and physicians were beginning to develop a good sense of the corrosive effects that anxiety and terror, especially when experienced over a long period of time in a helpless situation, could exert on the human psyche and nervous system. This realization created new concepts and diagnoses as “shell shock,” “war neurosis” and “soldier’s traumatic hysteria,” which hadn’t existed earlier.

What has changed in terms of attitudes, prevention and treatment through the wars since?

Well, an understanding of what American psychiatrists by 1980 officially labeled “post-traumatic stress disorder” has emerged bit by bit. Each conflict brought more cases of nervous breakdown among soldiers and therefore more new clinical observations, theories and treatments. Part of this growing medical knowledge was a greater understanding of PTSD-like reactions on the part of society, families and governments, as well as by the suffering individuals themselves. This has been an important human advance.

Have we learned any specifics about what factors, or types of combat, are more likely to produce PTSD?

This question is now being asked by many clinical investigators, with inconclusive results. Some people have the idea that certain factors or types of combat are more likely to produce PTSD. It is certainly true that World War I doctors emphasized quasi-neurological symptoms in their soldiers, like paralysis, amnesia, facial tics and loss of voice. In contrast, we hear much more about Vietnam vets about psychological problems such as flashbacks, nightmares, insomnia and troubles with concentration. It is a fascinating pattern, but interpreting it is difficult.

A Minute With …™ is provided by the UI News Bureau as a service for Illinois faculty experts to comment on current topics in the news. To view archived interviews, go to http://illinois.edu/goto/aminutewith.
Staff members recognized for service, retirement

After working in every building on campus, retiree doing projects at home

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

When asked what kept him at the UI for 30 years, Tim Wood said it was because of the job and the people. As a pipe fitter/steamfitter at the UI, he installed and maintained systems in buildings on the north campus, such as Beckman Institute, shown in the background. The wide array of projects, especially faculty members’ research projects, and buildings that he worked on during his career. Since retiring on Aug. 30, Wood has been busy working on his own home and helping his father and brother with the harvest on the family farm near Sadorus.

Wood became interested in his trade after working around pipe fitters while he was employed by a subcontractor for Illinois Power Co. He applied for an apprenticeship working through the United Association (Plumbers and Steamfitters) Local 149, took a year of classes at Parkland College – where the curricula included welding, blueprint reading and math – and began a four-year union apprenticeship working at the university in 1979.

About retirement, he said: “It’s very nice but it’s awkward. When you cross that threshold, and get up in the morning and wonder, ‘What am I going to do?’ I’ve got so many things I’d like to do, it’s kind of overwhelming.”

Since retiring, Wood has been busy with projects that he didn’t have time for while he was working, such as putting a new roof on his family’s home in Sadorus, various carpentry projects and pruning trees.

Wood also works alongside his father and brother harvesting the crops on the 600-acre family farm near Sadorus. “I enjoy being outside,” Wood said.

The rain has hampered their harvest this year, and the Woods have spent some late nights in the fields on the days that the weather has allowed them to work. Despite the weather, Wood said he expects the yield to be good this year.

Wood and his wife, Debbie, a nurse at Provena-Covenant Medical Center, graduated from Unity High School in Tolono in 1976. Their two sons, Toby and Tyler, are attending Parkland College in Champaign studying agriculture and architecture, respectively.

The Woods enjoy traveling. Two years ago, they took a leisurely motorcycle trip through the Blue Ridge and Smoky mountains. They also visited Alaska, California, the Caribbean and Mexico, and would like to visit Ireland. But with two sons in college, their suitcases may stay put for a while, Wood said.

Book corner

150 years of changing environment in Illinois

By Melissa Silverberg
Student Intern

One hundred fifty years of data on Illinois’ landscape and ecological communities – from waterfowl population to prairie restoration to vegetation succession – reveal changes over time that allow scientists to predict future changes.

“Canaries in the Catbird Seat: The Past, Present and Future of Biological Resource in a Changing Environment,” edited by John B. Taft, Christopher A. Taylor and Charles E. Warwick (Illinois Natural History Survey to INHS), is a book that celebrates INHS, which Taylor said is a great example to talk about the impact of the changes caused by humankind of the past, people would begin to wonder about the impact of their current activities and think more wisely about how they use their resources.

“Canaries in the Catbird Seat” is the second volume of the book, focusing on the way scientists and conservationists are trying to work more closely with the public to protect our natural resources.

Taylor said the book is a good way to show that scientists aren’t just studying the natural history of the state.”

“Having 150 years of data collection put us in a unique position,” Taylor said. “It gives us a unique perspective on how things have changed in Illinois and around the country and around the world.”

The book is available through the Illinois Natural History Survey’s Web site.

Flash index increase is encouraging

A monthly indicator of the Illinois economy has taken its first substantially positive steps in months, but it may be too soon to tell whether it is a sign the recovery is at hand.

The UI Flash Index rose to 90.7 in October, an increase of 7/10 of a point from the previous month and the first substantial increase since the current recession began in December 2007. The index, compiled for the university’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs, is the first barometer of economic activity in Illinois each month.

“There has been some encouraging news about the economy recently, including a return to growth for gross domestic product during the third quarter,” said economist J. Fred Giertz, who has compiled the Flash Index for IGPA since 1995. “But considerable concern remains about the strength of the recovery, as evidenced by weak consumer spending.

“One increase in the index, while positive news, is not decisive,” Giertz said. “We’re really making efforts to go out and retire employees who completed 25 years, 50 who completed 30 years, 10 who completed 35 years, two who completed 40 years, and two who completed 45 years. A Web site for the Staff Service Recognition Program Nov. 5, 2009.

The program will honor 187 employees who retired between Sept. 1, 2008, and Aug. 31, 2009. In addition, employees will be recognized in a newsletter and a newsletter and in the Employee Newsletter and a newsletter and a newsletter and a newsletter.

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One hundred fifty years of data on Illinois’ landscape and ecological communities – from waterfowl population to prairie restoration to vegetation succession – reveal changes over time that allow scientists to predict future changes.
**Retiree sews up memories for those suffering loss**

By Sharita Forrest
Assistant Editor

While many people talk about retirement and dying are topics that they’d rather shy away from, retiree Jean Huddleston has found her purpose helping make life “bear-able” for people who are grieving.

Huddleston, who retired April 30 as the director of business and operations at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, sews stuffed bears from people’s clothing, tablecloths, handkerchiefs, blankets and other personal possessions of the deceased. Huddleston gives her bears away.

"I never want to put a price on grief," she said. “Some people can afford them, some can’t. If I can help someone through their grief, Huddleston gives her bears away.

Since retiring, Huddleston has been traveling — a lot. She and her children — Paul Foster, who works at the UI Library, and Kelly Foster, who works as Extra Help at the UI Foundation — went to French Lick, Ind. She also visited family in Georgia, spent a week in Bloomington, Ind., with friends from high school and took a two-week vacation to Alaska. Soon, she’s packing her bags again and heading for Cancun, Mexico. Next summer, Huddleston and her children are planning to take an Alaskan cruise.

At home in Champaign, Huddleston has been caring for a friend’s son, that she gave to the Champaign Police Department to help comfort children during crises.

There have been bears made of dainty, women’s lacy handkerchiefs and shirts and men’s undergarments, tablecloths, sheets, blankets, shirts, jackets, pants and even a chef’s jacket. A rabbit fur undergarments, tablecloths, sheets, handkerchiefs; and bears made from men’s clothing, tablecloths, handkerchiefs, blankets and other personal possessions of the deceased.

“She wasn’t the cold spot in the state with a low of 23 degrees on Oct. 11. Beth was the cold spot in the state with a low of 29.8 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. Temperatures across Illinois averaged 49.8 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. Most locations reported a freezing temperature (32 degrees or less) for the month, signaling the end of the growing season. Eliza‐ beth was the cold spot in the state with a low of 23 degrees on Oct. 11. "October was a gloomy month, especially in the north. Temperatures across Illinois averaged 49.8 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. Most locations reported a freezing temperature (32 degrees or less) for the month, signaling the end of the growing season. Elizabeth was the cold spot in the state with a low of 23 degrees on Oct. 11." October was a gloomy month, especially in the north. Temperatures across Illinois averaged 49.8 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. 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October was Illinois’ second wettest on record

By Lisa Sheppard
Illinois State Water Survey

Preliminary data in Illinois indicates the statewide average rainfall in October was 8.9 inches, 6.0 inches above normal. That would make it the second wettest October on record for the state based on data going back to 1895. It almost beat the wettest October on record, 9.2 inches set in 1941, according to State Climatologist Jim Angel of the Illinois State Water Survey.

Rainfall was heaviest in southern Illinois with many places reporting 8 to 12 inches for the month. A few standout reports included record-setting amounts of 13.98 inches at Jerseyville, 13.63 inches at Mount Olive, and 13.31 inches at Riverton. Decatur and Bloomington-Normal set all-time records with 10.09 and 10.18 inches, respectively. Carbondale reported its ninth wettest with 6.04 inches. Statistics for Champaign, Peoria and Springfield indicated second wettest October on record in those areas with 8.79, 7.95, and 11.32 inches, respectively. Carbondale reported its third wettest with 10.01 inches. Temperatures across Illinois averaged 49.8 degrees, 4.8 degrees below normal. Most locations reported a freezing temperature (32 degrees or less) for the month, signaling the end of the growing season. Elizabeth was the cold spot in the state with a low of 23 degrees on Oct. 11.

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The Illinois State Water Survey, part of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, is the primary agency in Illinois concerned with water and atmospheric resources.
NEW faces 2009

Anita Chan
assistant research professor of communications and assistant professor of media studies in the Institute of Communications Research, College of Media

Education: Ph.D. (Program in the History and Anthropology of Science, Technology and Society) and S.M. (comparative media studies), Massachusetts Institute of Technology; B.A. (journalism and women’s studies), New York University.

Research interests: Digital technology networks and free software and e-governance in Latin America.

“Rob is a superbly talented legal philosopher, with a deep understanding of jurisprudence and moral philosophy,” said Bruce P. Smith, dean and Guy Raymond Jones Faculty Scholar. “His scholarship on contract theory and legal obligation also exhibits impressive interdisciplinary range, drawing on economics, psychology and anthropology. He is also a generous and insightful institutional citizen. We are very fortunate to have him at Illinois.”

Why Illinois? “The reason I chose Illinois is easy: The amazing reputation of both the Institute of Communications Research and College of Media and within the realm of communications research. It has what every young faculty member looks and hopes for in an institution: a community of scholars that will challenge you and bring out the best in your work. The fact that the ICR and college have also fostered great collegiality is just another plus.”

www.media.illinois.edu/faculty/chan.html

Robin B. Kar

professor of law, College of Law

Education: Ph.D. (philosophy), University of Michigan; J.D., Yale Law School; B.A, Harvard University.

Research interests: Jurisprudence and moral and political philosophy and in those areas of the law, including the common law, that appear to reflect moral imperatives. He is specifically interested in the role of contract law and markets in modern political society, and in responses to the now-dominant accounts of these phenomena found in the law and economics literature.

Why Illinois? “I chose to come to Illinois because it has one of the premier faculties in the nation working at the intersection of law and philosophy, and because it is one of a handful of law schools where one can develop sophisticated, cutting-edge, interdisciplinary work in a community of scholars who genuinely appreciate and interact with ideas from a broad range of cognate fields,” Kar said. “Communities with this very special quality have, in my view, given birth to some of the most novel and challenging ideas, and I believe that Illinois will push me to develop along these same lines, to the very best of my abilities.”

www.law.illinois.edu/faculty-admin/directory/RobinKar

Bev Wilson

assistant professor of urban and regional planning, College of Fine and Applied Arts

Education: Ph.D. and M.A. (city and regional planning), University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; B.A. (economics and political science), Duke University.

Research interests: Wilson’s interests lie in the areas of growth-management policy, sustainable urban form and urban simulation. His research focuses on the linkages between land use and environmental planning policy, development patterns, and both environmental and social outcomes. The use of GIS and spatial-analysis techniques to inform better planning and decision-making is a key thread linking his research and teaching.

“Dr. Wilson’s considerable expertise in urban and regional growth management, environment policy, geographical analysis, and simulation mesh closely with our strength in sustainable development, computation and planning support systems,” said Edward Feser, the head of the department of urban and regional planning. “It also dovetails with traditional and expanding areas of excellence in the College of Fine and Applied Arts and around campus. His research directly addresses critical issues facing cities today, especially the need for development patterns, urban designs, and supporting infrastructures that minimize energy consumption and adverse environmental impacts.”

Why Illinois? “The urban and regional planning department at Illinois is one of the best in the nation,” Wilson said. “There are several faculty members both within and outside the department with similar research interests, so the potential for collaboration was a huge draw. The university also has infrastructure and resources in place to help junior faculty succeed.”

www.urban.illinois.edu/faculty/wilson/index.html

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.
Roth IRA conversion not a good fit for all, tax expert says

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

Starting next year, anyone can convert retirement savings into tax-free Roth accounts, but the much-touted switch isn’t for everyone, a UI expert on tax and elder law warns.

Law professor Richard L. Kaplan says financial advisers are largely overestimating the potential benefits of new rules that take effect Jan. 1, eliminating an earnings threshold that has kept many people from shifting into a Roth.

For the first time, individuals and married couples whose income from all sources—incorporating salaries and investments—tops $100,000 will be able to convert to a Roth, whether from traditional IRAs or work-sponsored 401(k) or 403(b) accounts.

“This is a historic opportunity, but people need to understand both the pros and cons because the conversion decision is more complicated than it appears,” said Kaplan, who examined the swaps in an article that appeared in the Daily Tax Report, published by the Bureau of National Affairs.

He says supporters hail the move as a hedge against federal tax rates that could ultimately surge to bankroll big-ticket initiatives such as health-care reform, war, deficit reduction or shoring up Social Security.

Roth IRA conversion is more complicated than it appears,” says. “The cost is going to be higher than most people realize once they consider all of the collateral consequences.”

The pro-conversion bandwagon also overlooks the “opportunity cost” involved, said Kaplan. A member of the National Academy on Social Security and a delegate to the U.S. Department of Labor’s National Summit on Retirement Savings in 2002.

“Converting to a Roth has definite plus-sides, but there’s also a huge drawback—you have to pay taxes today that could be deferred, and most people try not to pay taxes sooner than necessary,” Kaplan said.

Even if tax rates rise, he says the tax consequences of converting to a Roth may be more than people would pay if they withdrew smaller amounts from traditional accounts over a period of years or even decades. That disparity can be even higher if the money ultimately will go to heirs who will be in lower tax brackets when they cash out the accounts.

Converting has added tax implications for older Americans, Kaplan said. Because the amount converted must be reported as income during that tax year, it can increase the amount of Social Security benefits that are taxable and boost the cost of means-tested Medicare benefits for high-income retirees.

“This conversion tax is not something people should try to calculate on the back of an envelope,” he said. “The cost is going to be greater than most people realize once they consider all of the collateral consequences.”

To Roth or Not to Roth? Law professor Richard L. Kaplan says financial advisers are largely overestimating the potential benefits of new rules that take effect Jan. 1, eliminating an earnings threshold that has kept many people from shifting into a Roth.

After the account has been maintained for five years, you usually do not owe tax on withdrawals, but that assumes Congress doesn’t change the law in the future,” he said. “They probably wouldn’t tax what people put into a Roth a second time, but they could certainly change how withdrawal of earnings are taxed. ☞

Students, teachers need to be transculturally literate

By Phil Ciciora
News Editor

The current generation of college students and teachers need to be as culturally literate about people from different cultures as they are with their own, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century, a soft skill that has become an essential part of life in the 21st century.

According to Mark Dressman, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education at Illinois, the current generation of college students will inherit a workplace characterized by the need to be prepared for “significant contact with the rest of the world.”

To adequately prepare today’s students for tomorrow’s global economy, Dressman favors “transcultural education,” which he describes as an experience that goes beyond the traditional trite-of-passage trip to western Europe.

“It’s a relatively new approach that is being applied across a number of fields, including education, nursing and business,” Dressman says.

Dressman says transcultural education is an approach to teaching and learning that is “dialogic and interdisciplinary” in nature. Rather than learn about other cultures from a distance, a transcultural approach moves students and teachers toward learning through direct engagement with a culture’s members and its perspectives.

Ideally, transcultural education goes beyond traditional course readings and discussions to include students having what Dressman calls “a fairly profound and authentic experience of another culture, one they can’t get in a course on campus, or even in a study-abroad trip to Europe, and one that requires them to communicate with others as co-equals.”

For Dressman, a former Peace Corps volunteer who worked in Morocco, an authentic experience of “otherness” is one that takes students out of their comfort zone, broadens their cultural horizons and then returns to education, page 9

http://go.illinois.edu/to_roth_or_not

On the Web

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Students, teachers need to be transculturally literate

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UI team is top U.S. finisher in solar decathlon competition

By Melissa Mitchell

Nov 5, 2009

A team of UI students won second place Oct. 16 in the 2009 Solar Decath-
on design competition sponsored by the U.S. Department of Energy.

Winners of the international contest were announced in Wash-
nington, D.C., by U.S. Deputy Sec-
retary of Energy Dan Poneman.

The interdisciplinary team from I-
ilinois designed a super-energy-
efficient, solar-powered residen-
tial dwelling it calls “the Gable Home.”

“As I kept saying, we never could guarantee first place, but we
could guarantee a first-place ef-
fort,” said electrical and comput-
er engineering professor Patrick
Chapman, one of the team’s lead
faculty advisers, who oversaw en-
gineering efforts on the project.

“We’re very happy to get sec-
ond place,” said architecture
professor and project manager
Mark Taylor, who added that Ill-
ilinois “just couldn’t beat a house
wrapped in solar panels,” referring to the house designed by the Ger-
man team, which won first place.

The Illinois team’s highly in-
sulated, 800-square-foot house borrows its design from a familiar
Midwestern architectural vernacu-
lar and is constructed largely from
recycled, reclaimed wood and
engineered bamboo and is outfit-
ted with a rooftop array of solar
panels. The house was designed
by the Passive House Institute

The home, along with its 19 competitors designed by teams of
college students from across the United States and Europe, re-
mained on the mall through Oct.
18, where it was open to visitors.

Core members of the Illinois
team are undergraduate and grad-
uate students from the colleges of Engi-
neering and Fine and Applied
Arts, Weightman said. About 200
students in all participated in the
project, including others from the
colleges of Business and Media.

The competition included tests in 10 areas ranging from architec-
ture, comfort, livability and mar-
et viability to how well the solar

homes provide energy for space
heating and cooling, hot water,
lights and appliances.

The Illinois team won first place in
three competition categories: hot
water, appliances and home
entertainment. It also won second
place in lighting design, comfort
and net metering.

“Our house also was the second
most affordable on the mall,” Tay-
lor said. “The important message
of our house is that it was not only
designed for the style of Illinois,
but for what people have in their
pockets.”

Teams selected to compete were initially provided with $100,000 in
seed money from DOE; additional funds to complete projects then
had to be solicited by the teams.

This is the second time UI stu-
dents have participated in the bi-
ennial competition, which began
in 2002.

Weightman said that the big-
gest departure for the university’s
2009 team, compared with the one
that designed the “Elementhouse” in 2007, was the decision to use
a fabricator to produce a shell of
the team’s design, rather than fab-
ricate it themselves. That decision
saved time and effort that other-
wise would be devoted to frame
construction and allowed the stu-
dents to focus on the home’s heat-
ing and cooling, internal systems
and interior design needs.

On the Web:
solardecathlon.illinois.edu/
www.solardecathlon.org
T he underlying similarities between teaching, research and music can be a powerful metaphor for education and qualitative inquiry, according to a University of Illinois professor of education.

Liora Bresler, a professor of curriculum and instruction in the UI College of Education, says that the inherently performative and improvisatory aspects of teaching, along with the temporal, polyphonic aspects of scholarly research, compares favorably with musicianship.

“The act of teaching or performing research in any field involves seeing things with a fresh set of eyes in order to deepen interpretation and meaning, as well as being able to communicate new knowledge so the audience readily understands it,” she said. “In that sense, teachers and researchers can learn a lot from music and musicians, who must perceive, listen and improvise to stay ‘in tune’ with their audience.”

This, she says, is analogous to how a teacher should think of a lecture or a researcher a presentation at a conference.

“A musician would approach a piece of music by looking for meaning, and then how they would interpret it and perform it,” she said. “All throughout that process, they pay much more attention and are much more focused and organized, because they know they have an audience to perform for.”

Similarly, when a researcher prepares to delve into a subject or a teacher reviews notes for a lecture, Bresler said the whole process of making meaning is intensified.

“Teachers can think of a lesson as ‘as if it’s a musical form – there’s harmony, rhythm, tension, orchestration, higher- and lower-intensity dynamics,’” Bresler said.

“When you teach, you have a lesson plan, but you’re not bound to follow it. You play, follow up, improvise and adapt, as the situation dictates. It’s intellectual engagement, and you want to be engaging. So having a real, live audience makes a difference.”

Bresler said that the commitment to a third-party audience helps the teacher “see, perceive and make sense of what they’re trying to communicate on a very different level.”

For researchers, the dynamic is slightly different from teaching.

“Research and teaching are very similar, but researchers have the luxury of taking the time to really think and say, ‘What does it all mean?’” Bresler said. “Teachers have to act in real-time, in the moment, and have to make a lot of decisions on-the-fly. What’s common is a sense of ownership, caring about the subject, and then being able to organize and synthesize it in ways that make sense to them and their audience.”

Bresler said that while research has a more significant solitary component than teaching, the intellectual retreat of research is preparation for the more social aspects of scholarship — similar to a jazz musician who practices in private so the music is heard as effortless and spontaneous on stage.

“In qualitative research, thinking about a project is a solitary activity,” she said. “Going to places, interviewing people, presenting research at a conference are all highly social activities, somewhat like a performance. Data analysis and writing up the actual research are both solitary activities, but they are informed by the same — the two-way communication between author and audience that informs music.”

To train better scholars and educators, Bresler said people need to be trained how “to see better, to listen better, and to make better connections.”

For eight-week class on Moroccan culture, Dressman has created a social networking site (http://studyabroadinmorocco ning.com) to promote and demonstrate transcultural teaching and learning, and to function as a virtual meeting space for educators interested in the subject.

“Educating students to think globally about the shared problems that affect both the United States and the world at large is an essential first step to solving them, but Dressman said, globally conscious teachers who can inspire their pupils to see beyond their own borders also are needed.

"From the point-of-view of teacher education, I think it's absolutely critical that we teach our teachers how to think and communicate from a global perspective, so they can teach students how to look at the problems the world faces through a different prism.”

Dressman cites the worldly supporting cast assembled by President Barack Obama — including senior adviser Valerie Jarrett and Treasury Secretary Timothy Geithner, all of whom have spent significant time living and studying abroad — to help solve the nation’s problems and rehabilitate America’s image in the world. As a boy, Obama lived for four years in Indonesia, and it was his cultured, worldly perspective that helped elevate him from the senate to the presidency, Dressman said.

But regardless of whether you’re a politician or a teacher, Dressman said, you can’t explain current events — terrorism, global warming and the current global financial meltdown — without bringing the rest of the world into the picture.

“I’m not an economist, but I think it’s strikingly clear how closely the world’s economies are linked and how interdependent we all are on each other,” he said. “Teachers need to be able to raise those issues and give their students a much broader experience of the world.”

By Phil Ciciora

Nov. 5, 2009

Inside Illinois is available online 24 hours a day, seven days a week: news.illinois.edu/ii/
Amphetamine use in adolescence may impair adult memory

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Amphetamine use in adolescence may impair adult memory. Rats exposed to high doses of amphetamines at an age that corresponds to the later years of human adolescence display significant memory deficits as adults – long after the exposure ends, researchers report.

The declines in short-term or “working” memory are most pronounced when the rats are exposed during adolescence, rather than as adults, the researchers found. “Animals that were given the amphetamine during the adolescent time frame were worse at tasks requiring working memory than adult animals that were given the same amount of amphetamine as adults,” said psychology professor Joshua Gulley, who led the study with graduate student Jessica Stanis. “This tells us that their working memory capacity has been significantly altered by that pre-exposure to amphetamine.”

Gulley and his colleagues presented their findings Oct. 21 at the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Chicago.

Ants exposed to high doses of amphetamines at an age that corresponds to the later years of human adolescence display significant memory deficits as adults – long after the exposure ends, researchers report.

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The researchers tested two types of amphetamine exposure: intermittent (a steady dose every other day) and “binge-escalation,” in which increasing amounts of the drug were given over a period of four days, followed by a simulated binge – a high dose every two hours for eight hours on the fifth day.

The findings reveal some of the potential long-term consequences of amphetamine abuse by adolescents and also may be relevant to those taking amphetamines for therapeutic purposes, such as for the treatment of Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD). Gulley cautions that the doses given to the rats are on the high end of what an older, larger adolescent might receive as a therapeutic dose, and that further study is needed to tease out the implications for human health.

The concerns are most robust for adolescents who abuse amphetamines, Gulley said, as they may use much higher doses than those who are prescribed drugs that contain amphetamines. “Adolescence is a time when the brain is continuing to develop into its mature form, so drug exposure during this critical period could have long-lasting, negative consequences,” he said. “Our findings reveal that adolescents are particularly sensitive to the adverse effects of amphetamine on cognitive function and that these effects can persist well after drug use is discontinued.”

This research was supported in part by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development at the National Institutes of Health.

Long-term consequences
UI psychology professor Joshua Gulley and his colleagues found that amphetamine use in adolescence can lead to long-term impairments in memory.

UI professors featured in exhibit on body-mind-spirit connection

By Melissa Mitchell
News Editor

Taiji master Yang Yang, an adjunct professor of kinesiology at the UI, is featured in a new, permanent exhibit that opened Oct. 8 at the Museum of Science and Industry in Chicago.

Yang, who also is the director of the Center for Taiji and Qigong Studies in Champaign and New York City, is one of 11 people selected nationally to be featured in biographical videos that are part of the exhibit “YOU! The Experience.” The exhibit showcases connections among the human body, mind and spirit, and explores topics related to personal health and well-being.

The videos focus on the personal stories of people who have overcome physical limitations to stay active.

Also appearing in the video featuring Yang, titled “Taiji for Life,” are Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, the head of the department of kinesiology and community health at Illinois, and former department head Al- yce Cheska. Additional footage in the film features many of Yang’s students from the Champaign-based taiji center practicing taiji and qigong, a related form of mind-body-enhancing exercise.

The video, which was taped at the Activities and Recreation Center on the UI campus, documents Yang’s life history and includes an interview with him. In it, he explains the physical and mental principals of the traditional Chinese exercise practice known alternately as taiji, or tai chi, and talks about how its practice saved his life.

The video narration explains that as a boy, Yang was chronically weak as a result of a congenital heart defect, and that doctors indicated he would not survive without surgery. However, at the suggestion of an uncle who was a taiji master, Yang began to practice the traditional art, which he credits with restoring his health.
Growing online sales could lower prices, but also trim choices

By Jan Dennis
Business & Law Editor

S
hoppers could see lower prices but less variety if they choose from as many manufacturers sell directly to consumers through the Internet, according to a new research led by a UI business professor. Yunchuan “Frank” Liu says bypassing retailers eliminates the middleman’s price markup, but also may curb manufacturers’ incentive to provide long and varied product lines.

In stores, longer product lines help manufacturers encourage buyers to try more products and buy in greater quantities, according to the study, co-written by University of Minnesota marketing professor Tony Haitao Cui. More products equal more chances to lure buyers and thereby increase sales. But developing and producing longer product lines is costly and the incentive wanes when manufacturers sell directly, which could ultimately leave consumers with fewer styles, colors and other options to choose from, Liu said.

“Directed differentiation The team that discovered that small mechanical forces have a big impact on embryonic stem cells was led by, from left, Fei Wang, professor of cell and developmental biology,帕尔哈斯·库苏德加里, doctoral student in mechanical science and engineering; Sungsoo Na (now an assistant professor of mechanical engineering), and Tetsuya Tanaka, professor of animal sciences.

Changing marketplace Business professor Yunchuan “Frank” Liu says bypassing retailers eliminates the middleman’s price markup, but also may curb manufacturers’ incentive to provide long and varied product lines.

Liu cited the more limited cosmetic varieties provided by direct-seller Avon in contrast to Estee Lauder, which markets a vast line of in-store products that offer sometimes subtle differences to match buyers’ individual tastes.

“Over the next few decades, we could see a revolutionary change in the retail marketplace, with less variety in certain product areas, from cosmetics to computer equipment to cars,” Liu said. “So consumers may be less likely to find products that most fit their needs.”

He says the current economic climate is fueling a growing trend toward direct sales through the Internet. Selling online is less costly for manufacturers and also attractive to buyers because e-commerce generally charges no sales tax.

“The status quo is encouraging direct sales largely because of the tax consequences,” Liu said. “But that policy has shortcomings because it could lead to less competition and so policy makers should at least consider the potential negative effects.”

Shopping could change radically over the next few decades if the trend continues, he said. Manufacturers could shift to almost exclusive online sales, with retailers turning to store brands to plug the holes in product offerings.

But Liu says a universal product migration from stores to the Internet is unlikely. Groceries may always be best marketed in stores, as well as products that people want to touch or test before buying, such as clothing.

“As things stand, though, the percentage of direct sales will keep increasing,” he said. “How much depends on the product category. It may be lower in clothes, but higher for cars or computer software. It’s already high for products like books, CDs and tickets.

“If the trend continues, people may end up longing for the good old days, when they had more choices.”

Small forces have big impact on embryonic stem cells

By James E. Kleoppel
Physical Sciences Editor

Applying a small mechanical force to embryonic stem cells could be a new way of coaxing them into a specific direction of differentiation, as researchers at the UI report. Applications for force-directed cell differentiation include therapeutic cloning and regenerative medicine.

“Our results suggest that small forces may indeed play critical roles in inducing strong biological responses in embryonic stem cells, and in shaping embryos during their early development,” said Ning Wang, a UI professor of mechanical science and engineering, and corresponding author of a paper accepted for publication in Nature Materials and posted on the journal’s Web site.

Cell softness is an intrinsic property of embryonic stem cells and dictates how a cell responds to forces in its physical microenvironment. Those responses include how strongly the cell attaches to a surface, how far the cell spreads on a surface, and, most surprisingly, whether specific genes are expressed.

To study cellular sensitivity to force, Wang and his collaborators first attached a magnetic bead, 4 microns in diameter, to the surface of a living embryonic stem cell. Then they applied a tiny oscillating magnetic field, which moved the bead up and down. By precisely measuring the magnetic field and the distance the bead traveled, the effect of the mechanical force and how soft the cells were could be determined.

The cyclic nature of the mechanical force is very important, Wang said, as it simulates natural forces within a living cell, such as the cyclic movement of the motor protein myosin.

The researchers found that mouse embryonic stem cells were softer and much more sensitive to localized cyclic forces than their more advanced, differentiated counterparts.

“As stem cells differentiate, they become smaller, said Wang, who is affiliated with the university’s Beckman Institute, Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory, and department of bioengineering. “The stiffer the stem cell, the less it spreads under stress.”

The researchers obtained the same results when they applied cyclic forces to stiff human muscle cells. They did not experiment with human embryonic stem cells.

To study some of the long-term effects of localized mechanical forces on the behavior of mouse embryonic stem cells, the researchers utilized the expression of an enhanced green fluorescent gene. Cells expressing this gene glow fluorescent green when exposed to blue light.

As the mechanical force was applied in the researchers’ experiments, the green fluorescence in cells with magnetic beads faded, indicating reduced gene expression. Control cells (without beads) a few microns away continued to glow.

“The softness of mouse embryonic stem cells makes them very sensitive to localized cyclic forces,” Wang said. “If our findings can be extended to early animal embryos, they could provide a new way of localeserizing a single cell of early lineage, while leaving nearby cells alone.”

With Wang, co-authors of the paper are graduate student Yeh-Chuin Poh, animal sciences professor Tetsuya Tanaka, and cell and developmental biology professor Fei Wang.

The work was funded by the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and the UI.
Online marketplace aims to be eBay for short-term projects

By Phil Cluora
News Editor

A n online marketplace for employees and supervisors to bid on short-term, temporary projects has ambitions to become an eBay for employment at the university.

According to John Unsworth, the director of the Illinois Informatics Institute, the Job-Share System (http://job-share.illinois.edu/) was created by I3 to demonstrate how online business-to-business auction systems could be adapted for use in a university setting.

“There’s a fair amount of helping each other out that goes on across campus, especially in the information technology community,” he said. “The idea was if there was a more formalized system, we might be able to collaborate more in order to optimize the human resources we have on campus.”

With the Job-Share System, university employees can post projects or tasks that require extra time, personnel or expertise to complete.

For example, if a unit or department is setting up a new Web site but no one on staff knows Drupal, “you could use the Job-Share System to see if anyone on campus could help you with that short-term project,” Unsworth said.

Unsworth noted that employees may bid on a project as representatives of units, or as individuals, provided they have the advance consent of their supervisor for service in excess of 100 percent.

“If you post a job, you should be certain that you have the authority or permission to transfer funds to pay a successful bidder,” he said. “If you bid on a job, you should be certain that you have the authority or permission to reassign the staff time necessary to carry out a successful bid.”

Unsworth cautioned that the Job-Share System is only for posting and bidding: financial transactions pursuant to a successful bid would be completed in Banner, which is not connected to the system.

In the system, bidders can’t see each other’s bid, and posters are not automatically obligated to accept the lowest bid – or any bid at all, Unsworth said.

“It’s not a completely blind auction,” he said. “The highest bidder doesn’t automatically win, like on eBay, so price isn’t the only determining factor. The person posting the job can take various factors into account, such as experience or relationships the candidate might have with colleagues or other units or departments across campus.”

Bids and posts can be edited or withdrawn, in which case an e-mail notification is automatically sent to the bidders or posters.

While the system is not intended as a workaround for long-term staffing issues, it is meant to be a “creative way to cope with the slowdown in hiring, and the need to keep people employed at a time when the university is facing uncertain budgetary future,” Unsworth said.

Since the authentication is done through Administrative Information Technology Services (AITS) of the Urbana campus, the Job-Share System could potentially be scaled out for use on all three university campuses.

“I would be happy to work with anyone who’s interested in trying it but is unsure of how to go about it the first time,” Unsworth said.

Unsworth, who also is the dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, said I3 periodically underwrites projects that are intended to make the university a more effective information organization, whether it’s in an academic, business or social capacity.

“The Informatics Institute is interested in finding news ways that information technology can make the university itself a more effective and efficient organization.”

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**deaths**

Shirley Arnote, 87, died Oct. 28 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. Arnote worked at the UI for 19 years, retiring in 1968 as a secretary III in what is now the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services.

Robert W. Evans, 87, died Sept. 27. Evans worked in information services at the UI. When he retired in 1984, he was assistant vice chancellor and director of administrative services. Memorials: Robert W. Evans Memorial, UI Foundation, 1305 W. Green St., Urbana, MC-386.


Richard I. Gumpert, 72, died Oct. 13 at his home in Chicago. Gumpert worked at the UI for 25 years. He was a professor in the School of Basic Medical Sciences when he retired in 1996. Memorials: Any cancer care hospital or research institute.

Adaline Harden, 81, died Oct. 16 at Hela Healthcare of Urbana. Harden worked at the UI for 38 years, retiring in 1991 as a food production manager with Housing.


Gilbert R. Hollis, 69, died Oct. 25 at his son’s home. Hollis was a UI faculty member for 25 years, retiring in 2002 as professor emeritus of animal sciences. Memorials: Meadowbrook Community Church Building Fund.

Ibulaimu Kakoma, 67, died Oct. 28. Kakoma was a faculty member at the College of Veterinary Medicine for 26 years. Memorials: Donations are being accepted for a primary school that he built in the village where he grew up in Misebe, Uganda. To donate, e-mail sanyu4@gmail.com.

Ellery Knafe, 81, died March 1 at the Eastside Healthcare and Rehab Center in Potsfield, Ill. Knafe was a professor of weed science and of agronomy, working at the UI for 41 years, retiring in 1997.

Robert V. Mitchell died April 25. Mitchell taught at the UI for 30 years, retiring in 1967 as a professor of marketing, business organization and operation.


Clara N. Tarter, 59, died Nov. 1 at her home in Urbana. Tarter retired from the Illinois Union as a maid in 1999 after eight years of service. Memorials: Mills Cancer Center or Carle Hospice.

William D. Watson, 67, died Oct. 12 at Carle Foundation Hospital in Urbana. Watson joined the UI faculty in 1972 and held a joint appointment in physics and astronomy. Memorials: department of physics and the Atkins Tennis Center at the UI.
achieved achievements A report on honors, awards, appointments and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members

agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences

Tom R. Carr, a professor of animal sciences, has been awarded a fellowship for the Year of the Secretariat. He was nominated by Fran McDowell, an office support associate. Carr received a certificate and his name is inscribed on a traveling plaque for display until next year.

Meghan Smith, an information technology professional, will deliver a keynote speech at the 32nd Materials and Mechanisms in Superconductivity Conference. Smith provides critical hardware and software support and is in charge of the inventory system for the multi-lab computing facility. In addition, she monitors and schedules use of individual instructional labs for classes and other events, and provides hardware, software and audio-visual support.

biomedical sciences

Lawrence B. Schook, the Edward William and Jane Matt Guttqsell Professor and director of the Division of Biomedical Sciences, has been awarded a Foundation of Scholar Grant and will be a Fulbright Distinctly Distinguished Chair in the department of genetics and general biology in the Faculty of Natural Sciences, University of Salzburg, from March to June 2010. He will assist in the development of a new integrated cell biology course, "Evolutionary and Developmental Genomics of Host Responsiveness and Regeneration," which combines the principles of genomics, stem cell biology and host defense mechanisms. During that time, he will also develop a scholarly book on the subject.

Larry DeBrook, dean of the College of Business, will be honored as the inaugural Josef and Margot Lakonishok endowed professor of the Edward Wilson Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss will serve a six-year term. The society also is the director of the Academic Council in Austin, Texas. Hotchkiss also is the director of the Certificate of Merit awards will be presented at the association’s annual banquet Nov. 13. Also recognized were a student and a registered student organization.

engineering

Stephen Rappaport, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the 2009 recipient of the Optical Society of America’s Paul F. Forman Engineering Excellence Award. Rappaport was recognized for his contributions to advancing and encouraging undergraduate research. Students in his group are asked to spend at least two semesters working on an undergraduate thesis; some students have stayed as long as three years. Undergraduates work with graduate students and postdoctoral students, and many students will present their projects at symposiums on campus or at regional conferences.

Chia-Fon Lee, a professor of mechanical science and engineering, has been elected a fellow in the Society of Automotive Engineers International. Lee’s research was instrumental to the UI’s designation as a U.S. Applied Center of Energy Gaining Automotive Technology Education Center of Excellence on Advanced Automotive Biofuel Combustion Engines, which Lee has directed since 2005. He is one of 23 newly elected fellows who will be recognized in April at the SAE 2010 World Congress in Detroit.

David Pines, a research professor of physics and a professor emeritus of physics and of electrical and computer engineering in the Center for Advanced Study, has been awarded the 2009 John Bardeen Prize for Superconductivity Theory. The prize, which recognizes theoretical work that has provided significant insights on the nature of superconductivity and has led to verifiable predictions, is awarded triennially by the international superconductivity research community. He received the award Sept. 9 at the ninth International Conference on Materials and Mechanisms in Superconductivity in Tokyo.

Jinho Song, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, has been awarded a Certificate of Merit in recognition of his contributions to advancing and implementing innovative educational and research efforts. The certificate was taken to part in the National Academy of Engineering’s first Frontiers of Engineering Education Symposium Nov. 15-18. Engineering faculty members in the first half of their careers who are developing and implementing innovative educational and research efforts are invited to share ideas, learn from research and best practices in education, and leave with a plan to make improvement at their home institution.

liberal arts and sciences

Paul Garber, a professor of anthropology, was one of 29 animal conservationists nominated to receive the 2010 Indianapolis Prize, the world’s leading award for animal conservation. Garber was nominated for dedicating more than 30 years to the conservation of monkeys in Latin America. He was instrumental in creating research field stations in Nicaragua and Costa Rica that yielded information on the ecology and behavior of regional primates and their habitats. He also was one of the first primatologists to study tamarins in the Amazon. In recognition of the $100,000 prize, Garber will receive the Lilly Medal, an original work of art that signifies his contributions to conserving some of the world’s most threatened species.

Benita Katzenellenbogen, a Scandinavian professor of Molecular and Integrative Physiology and a professor emeritus of Developmental Medicine, was awarded the 2009 Susan G. Komen for the Cure’s Brinker Award for Research Excellence. The award is presented to a current faculty member conducting research that has attained or shows promise of attaining national recognition.

Ralph Hamor, a clinical associate professor and the service head of the department of veterinary biochemistry, received the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence. The award was created to honor those outside major contributions to the equine program at the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Educator Award. This award was created to honor outstanding equine clinical and veterinary medicine

Jodi Mathesos, imaging specialist, recently earned a diploma in Veterinary Radiology, meaning she has undergone advanced training in a radiology residency program and has passed the ACVR board certification examination.

Carla Manuel, a section head of equine medicine and surgery and a professor of veterinary clinical medicine, was named the first recipient of the inaugural In- terstate-Schering-Plough International Veteri- nary Emergency and Critical Care Equine Educator Award. This award was created to honor those outside major contributions to the equine program at the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Equine Educator Award. This award was created to honor outstanding equine clinical and veterinary medicine.

Faculty and staff members and students were honored for excellence in service and for lifetime commitment to each of their fields at the College of Veterinary Medicine’s fall awards celebration Sept. 23. Among those honored:

Avery Bennett, a professor of veterinary clinical medicine, received the Dr. Gordon and Mrs. Helen Kruger Teaching Excellence Award in recognition of an instructor who presents material with enthusiasm, dedication, clarity and creativity.

Jodi Flaws, a professor of veterinary bioinformatics, received the Pfeifer Amicus Award for Research Excellence. The award is presented to a current faculty member conducting research that has attained or shows promise of attaining national recognition.

Larry DeBrook, dean of the College of Business, will be honored as the inaugural Josef and Margot Lakonishok endowed professor of the Edward Wilson Hotchkiss. Hotchkiss will serve a six-year term. The society also is the director of the Certificate of Merit awards will be presented at the association’s annual banquet Nov. 13. Also recognized were a student and a registered student organization.

Valerie Hotchkiss, a professor of medieval studies, of religious studies and of library and information science, was elected to the College of Veterinary Medicine, received the Pfizer Animal Health Award for Research Excellence. The award was created to honor those outside major contributions to the equine program at the International Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care Equine Educator Award. This award was created to honor outstanding equine clinical and veterinary medicine.

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**brief notes**

**Spice Box at Bevier Hall**

UI Dinner to celebrate French wine

The 13th annual Beaujolais Nouveau Celebration will be held in the Spice Box in Bevier Hall at 7 p.m. Nov. 23. The event will feature a wide variety of food as it celebrates the release of the 2009 Beaujolais Nouveau wine.

"This year’s celebration will be an evening full of gourmet food and French wine that people won’t want to miss," said Chef Jean-Louis Ledent, the executive chef for the UI’s in-house restaurant.

**JACK Quartet performance, Martirano award concert planned**

The Martirano Award will celebrate its 13th year with two concerts that feature the JACK Quartet at 7:30 p.m. on Nov. 17 and Nov. 19 in the Foellinger Great Hall of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

Praised for its “powerhouse playing” by the Chicago Sun-Times and its “extraordinary precision” by The Boston Globe, the JACK Quartet has quickly established itself as one of the world’s premier young string quartets. Members of the quartet are Urbana native Christopher Otto and Ari Streisfeld on violins, violist John Pickford Richards and cellist Kevin McFarland. The Nov. 17 performance will feature the premiere of a new work by UI composer and music professor Zack Browning plus works by Xenakis, Sharp and an arrangement of music by Guillaume de Machaut.

The Nov. 19 concert is the 13th Annual Martirano Award Concert that will feature four award-winning works performed by the UI New Music Ensemble under the direction of Erik Lund. Among the works is "Tour of the Clouds" for chamber ensemble and electronics by Yale faculty member Michael Klingbeil. The JACK Quartet will perform Martirano’s "string Quartet" and "Tetras," by Iannis Xenakis.

Visitors also may tour the Japan House gardens at 11 a.m. and 2 p.m. The tours will be led by James Bier, who designed the gardens.

For those who would like an even more authentic experience, the institute has organized a tour of Japan April 5-16 that will include visits to several notable gardens in Kyoto, Okayama and Tokyo. The deadline for signing up for the tour is Dec. 1. For more information about the tour, contact Japan House at 244-9934 or jnorth@illinois.edu for more information or to make a reservation. Funds will support the quantity foods facilities.

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**Japan House hosts swordsmen demo**

**Space**

**Exhibit explores "Made in China"**

A nearly ubiquitous country-of-origin label seen on countless U.S. consumer goods is the subject of a new exhibition on view through Nov. 14 at I space, the Chicago gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

The exhibition, "made in china: Erik Hemingway and Allison Warren," explores the meaning of the phrase that appears on a practically endless stream of consumer goods marketed worldwide.

Hemingway, a UI professor of architecture, and Warren, an instructor in the UI School of Architecture, have organized the exhibition as part of an ongoing research project initiated during a residency in China during the summer of 2008.

Hemingway said the exhibition includes interactive components that will be used to inform the continuing data-collection and research process. The scholars plan to compile the results and publish them in book form.

The exhibition features a variety of installations, one of which is a series of video projections of urban Chinese street views — presented from three perspectives: vehicular, bicycle and pedestrian traffic. The video images will be projected on a screen fabricated from common white-rice bags, stretched and sewn together.

I space gallery hours are 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday.

**Open house**

**Japan House hosts swordsmen demo**

Japan House, an educational and cultural center at the UI, will host its annual fall open house from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Nov. 7.

The featured presentation at this year’s open house will be a demonstration by Hajime Sugawara and Masahiro Imafuji titled “Kendo: The Way of the Sword,” at 10 a.m. and 3 p.m. Practitioners of Kendo, a highly stylized, traditional Japanese martial art, typically use bamboo swords.

Sugawara is sixth Dan (sixth-degree black belt) and Imafuji, fifth Dan, in the Central Indiana Kendo Club.

From 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., tea ceremony demonstrations will be conducted by members of the Urbana-Champaign Association of Shodo Urasenke Tankokai.

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FALL OF THE BERLIN WALL

Remembering Germany, then and now

Personal accounts by people living in Germany before, during and after the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989 will be among the highlights of a symposium planned on the UI campus Nov. 11-13.

"Choosing Change: A Symposium on the 20th Anniversary of the Fall of the Berlin Wall," will be hosted by the department of Germanic Languages and Literatures, with support from other campus units including the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics and the departments of comparative and world literatures; Slavic languages and literatures; and Spanish, Italian and Portuguese.

"Twenty years after the division of Germany and Europe ended, this symposium aims to re-examine the causes, historical significance and aftermath of the collapse of socialism," said organizer Anke Pinkert, a professor of Germanic languages and literatures.

"Rather than simply viewing the historical shift in 1989 as a victory of capitalism, the symposium will re-evaluate the historical lessons that can be learned from the failure of socialism, such as the need for social visions and civil rights."

The symposium, which seeks to engage participation of UI faculty members and students, as well as community members, is free and open to the public and does not require advance registration. It opens on Nov. 11 with a screening of the 2006 film "Lives of Others," directed by Florian Henckel von Donnersmarck. The screening will take place at 7 p.m. in 1080 Foreign Languages Building.

The symposium continues the following day, at 3 p.m. in 210 Illini Union, with a faculty panel, moderated by Germanic languages and literatures professor Anna Stenport. The panel will focus on the presentation of personal narratives.

A keynote address by Gabriele Gysi, delivered in Germany, will follow the panel discussion at 5:15 p.m. Her talk will derive from her experience growing up in the former East Germany and working in the performing arts and in the cultural institutions of East, West and unified Germany.

During her visit to the Illinois campus, Gysi also will present a two-day workshop for theater students Nov. 6-7. The symposium will end Nov. 13 with a panel discussion, "Post-1989 Literature and Culture: New Approaches," presented by UI graduate students at 9 a.m. in 2090B FLB.

The panel's moderator will be Germanic languages and literatures professor Stephanie Hilger.

For more information, contact Pinkert at pinkert@illinois.edu.

Three reduced-service days

Plan now for the holidays

Civil service and academic professional employees are reminded that there are three reduced-service days (Dec. 28-30) during this year's holiday schedule.

It is expected that most units will be closed on reduced-service days and most employees will not be working on these days. Employees have two floating holidays that can be used any time from July 1, 2009, until June 30, 2010, which can be used to cover two of the three reduced-service days.

Departments are strongly encouraged to begin planning for this period and to discuss these plans with employees. Employees should review their leave balances available for usage during the reduced-service days. An exact list of the holidays and reduced-service days for December is online at: www.shr.illinois.edu/Holiday_Schedule_2009-10.htm.

Questions regarding reduced-service days may be directed to Corbin Smith, manager of labor and employee relations, at 333-3105, or Sharon Reynolds, associate director of Academic Human Resources, at 333-6747.

DIVISION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Annual security report available online

The UI Division of Public Safety employs a community-based policing approach as part of an effort to involve everyone in creating and maintaining a safe community.

As part of that effort, the division maintains and publishes campus crime statistics in accordance with federal regulations. The most recent campus report is online at www.dps.illinois.edu/clery.htm. (A paper copy may be obtained by calling 333-1216.)

This report includes three years of statistics on crimes that occurred on campus, in certain off-campus buildings or property owned or controlled by the university, and on public property that is within, or immediately adjacent to and accessible from the campus. This report also includes institutional policies concerning campus security and other crime-prevention information.

In a mass e-mail to campus, Barbara R. O’Connor, executive director of public safety and chief of police, urged members of the campus community to read the report and use the information in it to increase awareness and help make the campus community a safer place to live, work and study.

ILLINOIS PUBLIC MEDIA

Ed Kieser hosts tornado show

WILL chief meteorologist Ed Kieser will present a tornado safety seminar at 7 p.m. Nov. 6 at the William M. Staerkel Planetarium at Parkland College. The presentation is part of the planetarium’s World of Science Lecture Series. Admission is $1 at the door.

Now in his 19th year of presenting tornado safety shows, Kieser will talk about late season tornadoes such as the F-4 tornado that killed four people and injured 26 near Van Wert, Ohio, on Nov. 10, 2002; show video of tornadoes; and provide tips people can use to protect themselves when severe weather threatens. ●
Dance at Illinois  SXF (Student/Faculty/Exchange), fostering new collaborations between students and faculty members, promotes to reveal surprising exchanges. The program begins at 7:30 p.m. Nov. 15 in the Coburn. Plyhahouse at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The program also will include hip-hop dancing in a new work for Dance at Illinois students by guest artist Milliken Johnson. Picture, a performance by Illinois dancers from February Dance. “White Out” (2009) by choreographer Pung Sulaok, a C. alumnus.

Lecture:

“Planetary Regeneration.” Philip Newmark, UI. Noon. 100 Micro and Nano Technology Lab. Program in Nanotechnology.


Workshop:

“Tales of the Hokusai: Variation, Canonization and Translation of ‘Japan’s Epic’.” Richard Layton, UI. 9 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Lucy Ellis Lounge, 1080 Foreign Languages Building. Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies.


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“Hybrid Mass Spectrum Meters With Multiple Analyzers and Disposal Methods Will Transform Protein Sequence Analysis.” Jordan Coon, University of Wisconsin. 4 p.m. 116 Ryder Adams Lab. Analytical Chemistry.


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CALENDAR, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

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

November 5, 2009

Inside Illinois

The Chinese Legal Services
"An Ecological Analysis of
Receptors." 7 p.m. 217 Noyes Lab. School of Music.

Diversity and Inclusion Series: "The Marriage of Figaro."
Eduardo Diaz Muñoz, conductor. 7:30 p.m. Tyrone Festival Theatre, Krannert Center. School of Music Opera Series.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital:
Yi-Wen Chen, clarinet. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Saturday
Faculty Recital: Cobie Fryer, violin;(ins). 7:30 p.m. Auditorium 2100, Music Building. School of Music.

Minor Recital: Eduardo Diaz Muñoz, conductor. 5 p.m. Tyrone Festival Theatre, Krannert Center. School of Music Opera Series.

Dena Vernette: Lady Sings the Ladies. The Who Woodywood Trio. 7:30 p.m. Studio Theatre, Krannert Center. Aftershow Se-

Sphinx Competition Winner Diana Unijsle, Violin. With Jonathan Connors, Piano. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. School of Music Opera Series. Des-

Friday: "Suddenly Sound Concert: Piano Nineteen." 7:30 p.m. Gelvin Noel Gallery, Krannert Center. School of Music Opera Series. Des-

Syrus Smith Percussion Duo: Jack of Trades. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Sarah Smolen: "Mysteri-
ous Morning: Spiritual Music of Asia and the Americas." John Sampson, saxophone; Barbara Finlayson-Pitts, University of California at Irvine. 4 p.m. 217 Noyes Lab. School of Music.

SurfJam: The Tons O’Fun
Traffic Jam: The Tons O’Fun
Based on the play by Pierre Au-
Nozze di Figaro)." Eduardo Diaz Muñoz, conductor. 7:30 p.m. Lobby, Assembly Hall. School of Music.

Facult7y Recital: Thomas Carrillo, jazz trumpet. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Facult7y Recital: Shari Naar, violin; Douglas M. Glenn, cello. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Facult7y Recital: Buona Noche, Italiano; William Capers, conductor. 7 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. School of Music.

Wednesday Recital:
Daniela Pantic, violin; Rocio Antonio, piano. 7 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Monday
Graduate Recital: Colby
Faythe, tuba. 5 p.m.
Recital Hall, Smith Hall. School of Music.

Chamber Recital:
Steve Kuehn, violin; Steven
Coombs, viola; Susan
Kennedy, cello. 3 p.m.
Illini Union. School of
Music.

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**Friday**

6:30 p.m. Lucy Ellis Lounge, 1080 Foreign Languages Building. More info: eucenter@illinois.edu. 3 p.m. 314A Illini Union. More info: cte.illinois.edu/. Click on event calendar. Center for Teaching Excellence.

**Saturday**

30th Annual Chris Cringle Crafts Sale. One of the Midwest’s largest craft shows, featuring more than 400 booths of handcrafted items. 9-9 a.m. Assembly Hall. $ Illinois Heartland Decorative Artists.

J.P. Morgan as a Path to Critical Thinking: What Does It Look Like and How Is It Developed?” Walt Hurley and Chris S. Bo-Lo-Linn, UI. 3 p.m. 428 Memorial Union. Registration required; visit http://cte.illinois.edu/, click on event calendar. Center for Teaching Excellence.

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19th Century American Art: The Poetics of The Signifier

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By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

The civil rights movement was never as unified as it often has been portrayed, says UI professor Clarence Lang. That’s because class is often a key missing element in the story, according to Lang, a professor of history and of African American studies who has written a new book on the subject.

Lang makes his case in “Grassroots at the Gateway: Class Politics and Black Freedom Struggle in St. Louis, 1936-75” (University of Michigan Press), published this fall. In it, he also tells the unique history of civil rights as played out in a border city, between North and South, where many aspects of segregation took hold early and ended early (relative to the South), but where African Americans never lost their ability to vote.

The working-class roots of the movement took hold in the 1930s, Lang said, as the wealth and status of the small black middle class waned as a result of the Great Depression. Middle-class blacks also were wary of working-class black immigrants from the South, whom they perceived as backward and potentially capable of bringing down the perception of the larger black community, he said. “Black newspapers would actually print instructions for how these migrants should behave,” Lang said.

The Depression, however, “created in some ways a breach, a void, that allowed this working-class majority to begin to speak for themselves, as opposed to being spoken for,” Lang said. “For them to articulate the demands that they articulated, they had to fight their middle-class counterparts to do so,” he said.

For instance, the African American community as a whole sought more medical facilities, but for different reasons depending on class, Lang said. Those in the middle class, who had access to private hospitals, were focused on expanding opportunities for training black health-care professionals. Those in the working class were more preoccupied with full-service indigent care.

Conditions in working-class neighborhoods also dictated a higher priority on improving basic services such as garbage pickup, streetlights and sewers, and they also sought more and better working-class jobs, he said. And instead of deal-making, they more often made demands through street protests and other forms of mass action.

“It reshaped the class dynamics in the black community, and in doing so it turned on its head the accepted ways of race relations in the city,” Lang said.

In one illustration of the working-class agenda during those years, Lang opens his book with the story of how CORE picketed the Gateway Arch construction site in the summer of 1964, protesting the exclusion of African Americans from the skilled building trades involved in the project. As part of the protest, two activists scaled one of the partially built legs of the arch, effectively shutting down the site for several hours.

In the 1970s, the class dynamics shifted again, Lang said, with new middle-class opportunities for blacks in business and government. “The dominant segment articulating a black agenda increasingly becomes this post-civil-rights black middle class,” he said.

At the same time, with industrial flight and other developments, many of the jobs that black workers counted on to make a living have been lost. “At the point where people are poised to take advantage of the gains they’d struggled for, the bottom falls out,” he said. Talk of a black working class gets replaced increasingly with talk of an "underclass," he said.

“So in some ways, you come full circle, back to where you have this narrative of a black middle class who through their stewardship and their genius and their mentorship and their example, will show the way for the rest to follow,” Lang said.

In the current severe recession, in which middle-class blacks have been disproportionately affected, Lang said he wonders if there is potential for another full circle back to the 1930s and a return to working-class priorities.