Administrators, police discuss campus safety measures

By Anna K. Herkamp
Assistant Editor

A n increase in crime on campus has led to an increase in police patrols as well as other measures to protect the campus community.

Campus administrators and public safety officials hosted a townhall meeting Nov. 13 at the Illini Union to address the concerns of parents and students.

The campus has continued its surveillance initiative with exterior cameras, which now total more than 200 on campus.

The campus is talking to students about ways to further increase security in the residence halls.

Housing officials have indicated that the primary way that unauthorized visitors can get into the halls is by "tailgating" — residents allowing people to enter behind them as they enter the building — or through doors that have been propped open.

SafeWalks: 217-333-1216
www.dps.illinois.edu/universitypolice/
safewalks.html

SafeRides: 217-265-7433
www.cumtd.com/riding/safewides

Evolutionary history of C4 grasses rewritten by study

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

A ccording to a popular hypothesis, grasses such as maize, sugar cane, millet and sorghum got their evolutionary start as a result of a steep drop in atmospheric carbon dioxide levels during the Oligocene epoch, more than 23 million years ago.

A previous study dated the oldest C4 plants make up 3 percent of all living species of flowering plants. But they account for about 25 percent of global plant productivity on land. They dominate grasslands in tropical, subtropical and warm temperate areas. They also are a vital food source and an important feedstock for the production of biofuels.

"C4 plants are very successful, they’re economically very important, but we actually don’t know when they originated in the geological history," said UI plant biology professor Feng Sheng Hu, who led the new study.

"To me, it’s one of the most profound geological and ecological questions as a paleoecologist I can tackle."

A previous study dated the oldest C4 plant remnant found, a tiny fragment called a phytolith, to about 19 million years ago.

"Rewriting history. A study led by UI plant biology professor Feng Sheng Hu (right), with graduate student Michael Urban, used a spooling wire microcombustion device (pictured) coupled with an isotope mass spectrometer to analyze individual grains of grass pollen to determine the age of C4 grasses. The study pushed back the origin of C4 plants by millions of years.

Academic retirees
Last year, 210 academic professionals and faculty members retired from the university. Two share their stories.

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Remember this
Researchers report that components found in celery, peppers and carrots may reduce age-related memory deficits.

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For Faculty and Staff, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

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C4 GRASSES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

isotopes in bulk soil samples to determine the ratio of C3 to C4 plant remains at different time periods. (C3 and C4 plants differ in their proportions of two carbon isotopes, 13C and 12C.) These studies indicated that C4 grasses were present as early as the Early Miocene, about 18 million years ago.

Using a spooling-wire micro-combustion device to combust the grains, and an isotope mass spectrometer to determine the relative abundances of C12 and C13 in the sample, Nelson and his lab analyzed hundreds of individual grains of grass pollen collected from study sites in Illinois and University of Maryland). The committee said its role “as simply examining the (proposed changes in the Statutes and General Rules) for unintended/unapparent consequences of the specific changes proposed.” The committee’s most salient observation was that the document approved on Nov. 8, from the Senate’s Committee on University Statutes and Senate Procedures, primarily addressed concerns about specific language in the documents. The committee saw its role “as simply examining the (proposed changes in the Statutes and General Rules) for unintended/unapparent consequences of the specific changes proposed.”

The amendment came from Nick Bur- bules, a professor of educational policy studies, suggesting a change that in part removed a phrase in which the committee expressed “hope ... that the senate’s Nov. advice will be followed by the board.” Burbules said the change might avoid a misun- derstanding about the nature of the committee’s concerns, since they needed to be addressed even if the board moved forward with its original proposal. Senate members spoke for and against the wording, some concerned about how it might be read by the board in conjunction with the Nov. 1 response. The amendment was eventually approved, by a voice vote. When Burbules, however, suggested another wording “rather than a no” in the down vote, “for consistency,” the senate voted against it. History department chair James Barrett, speaking against the change, suggested that not offending the board was the main concern of some members, and that some members were second-guessing the previous week’s action.

The senate then voted by voice to ap- prove the amended document, which was to go to the University Senate Committees, along with the Nov. 1 response. The senate’s sen- tence is responsible for collecting input from all three campuses about the board’s reor- ganization proposals and putting together a response to the board prior to its Nov. 18 meeting.

The proposed university reorganiza- tion, which had been the subject of almost weekly senate meetings since Oct. 11, came out of a Sept. 23 meeting of the board of trustees.

In that meeting, President Michael Ho- gan was asked to move forward with a plan to restructure the university in order to reduce costs, streamline opera- tions, create opportunities to generate new revenue and to better coordinate teaching and research missions.

Among the proposed changes, only some of which require amending the Uni- versity Statutes or General Rules: chang- ing the vice president/chancellor’s titles to “vice president and chancellor,” adding “research” to the title and portfolio of the vice president for technology and economic development, establishing a new position of vice president for health affairs, enhancing the duties of the vice president for academic affairs, and establishing executive directors of human resources and enrollment serv- ices.

In other actions, the senate approved: Procedures for selecting a search committee to advise the university presi- dent on the selection of a chancellor, which Joyce Bolliver, chair of the Senate Execu- tive Committee, said were unchanged since the last search in 2004.

Renaming of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability, to the Prairie Re- search Institute.

An amendment to Admissions Task Force recommendations, implemented last year in the wake of the admissions contro- versy, which will allow for communication between admissions officers and specific campus staff members involved in the re- cruitment of wheelchair basketball student-athletes.

The PECASE awards, established by President Clinton in 1996, are coordinated by the Office of Science and Technology Policy within the Executive Office of the President. Winners are selected for their research and innovative research at the frontiers of science and technology and their commitment to community service as demon-Strates through scientific leadership, pub- lic education, or community outreach.

To view job postings, apply for civil service or academic jobs at Illinois, or to update your application information: jobs.illinois.edu
T will be awarded a bachelor’s degree from Upon completion of the program, students within the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Does ISR serve students with particular dietary needs?
Yes, we serve students who are diabetic, those who require gluten-free foods, those who prefer a vegan or vegetarian diet as well as those with a variety of other restrictions. Our dining hall features a number of special sections. We have our vegan court, and several vegetarian offerings that include salads, Jell-o and vegetarian entrees and soup. We have a pantry station where students can make a sandwich. Our dietitian makes sure that students get exactly what they need.

How many kids eat at ISR every day?
We serve about 300 to 500 for breakfast, about 1,200 for lunch and 600 to 900 for dinner every day. We have a specialty restaurant on Friday, La Cocina Mexicana, which serves Mexican food and draws about 700 students.

What is the most challenging part of your job?
Scheduling. Just making sure that everything in the dining area runs smoothly. We make sure all the students get fed. We also serve students with special dietary needs at ISR.

TERENCE BOLDEN FAST FACTS
Family: Originally from Quincy, Ill., Terence Bolden lives in Champaign with his family: his wife, Michelle, and his daughters, Spenser and Sherodyn. His siblings – brother Andre and sisters Tamara and Teresa – also reside in Champaign. Favorite place to eat: Chil’s In his spare time: Terence likes to bake his family’s favorites treats: cinnamon rolls, chocolate chip cookies, cinnamon rolls, brownies, and carrot, red velvet and black forest cakes.

Tell me where you started at the UI and the other places you’ve worked.
I started at UI in 1985 as a storekeeper and worked my way up to a purchasing supervisor at Facilities and Services. I have a degree in food management that, I’d never really used. I stayed at F&S for 23 1/2 years. Then, an opportunity came up to take a test for food service about three years ago, and then I got a chance to interview. After that, everything kind of just fell into place for me. I was hired by Housing and I trained with Bill Morrison at Florida Avenue Residence Halls and Karen Moody at Pennsylvania Avenue Residence Halls. Then I worked at Busey Evans for a semester as unit manager and I had a wonderful time. I managed a staff of about 30 people, and we served 200 to 600 meals a day there.

How long have you been in your current position?
This is my first whole semester here and I love it. It’s a wonderful job. The staff is great and they’re starting to really work together. I think we’re doing really well. Where does the passion for your job come from?
Food service is something I’ve always enjoyed doing. While growing up, I watched my great-grandparents bake a lot. My passion is in baking. My great-grandfather used to make an awesome spice cake from scratch. My great-grandmother used to make homemade rolls. I’m told I’m the only one who can make them like her. That’s because I learned all her little secrets. I used to watch her to see what she was doing (laughs). Part of what I love about food service is interacting with people. I’m not a real outgoing person, I do whatever I can to make folks happy. Part of that is baking – it always brightens someone’s day.

Do you ever sell the things you bake?
Every now and then someone will ask me to make a cake. I usually just charge what it costs to do it. I don’t do it to make money. Over the years, I have thought of opening my own business, but right now I’m just kind of living my dream because I’m doing what I enjoy. I helped out with a restaurant our church, the Church of the Living God, used to own. The restaurant was called The Love Corner. We sold it to build a new church. What is something that you take pride in at work?
I’m most proud of being able to make people smile. Just going around saying good morning and acknowledging them, being able to listen to folks and letting them know they have somebody who takes an interest in them as a person.

Interview by Anna K. Herkamp, Assistant Editor

UI signs joint education agreement with Chinese university

The UI signed an agreement Oct. 25 with Zhejiang University in China, establishing a cooperative education “3+2” program in the fields of agricultural and biological engineering, and food sciences and human nutrition, both within the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

The agreement allows Chinese students to spend their first three years at Zhejiang University, one of the top five universities in China, and their last two years at the UI. Upon completion of the program, students will be awarded a bachelor’s degree from Zhejiang and a master’s degree from Illi-

nios.

Zhejiang University, in Hangzhou, the capital city of the Zhejiang province, about 100 miles southwest of Shanghai, is among China’s oldest universities, having been founded in 1897. Today, Zhejiang is home to just under 40,000 students, with an engineering school often considered among the top two or three in China.

A 10-person delegation, led by Wu Ping, vice president for international affairs at Zhejiang, was at Illinois Oct. 25 to sign the memorandum of agreement establishing the collaboration. Similar 3+2 programs in other engineering programs offered by the two universities also are under discussion, with plans under way to start programs in mechanical science and engineering, and in civil and environmental engineering, as of the beginning of the 2011-12 academic year.

The UI has become increasingly engaged with Zhejiang University in a variety of research and cooperative education endeavors, including hosting Zhejiang faculty as participants in the Freeman Fellows program administered by Illinois’ Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies. This program provides funding for young Chinese faculty in the social sciences and humanities to spend a year in residence at Illinois as visiting scholars, as well as cooperative research in alternative energy sources and technologies.

The two universities also have been engaged in collaborative research in the areas of biofuels and sustainable energy, at Zhejiang University’s Institute for Thermal Power Engineering.
Retiree has more time for family, continues work with alumni

By Anna K. Herkamp
Assistant Editor

When Paula Gray Havlik transferred to the UI as an undergraduate in 1975, she was filled with wonder at the big new school. That feeling never went away, and now, retired from the UI after 27 years as an employee, the alumna says she’s still overwhelmed by what a great place the UI is.

Remembering how big the campus felt at first when she transferred from Parkland College, she said, “There are days when I can still get that feeling.”

Havlik’s last position was director of advancement initiatives at the University of Illinois Alumni Association. She was charged with coordinating external relations, and often oversaw the recognition programs for outstanding alumni. Her work took her to 16 nations.

The most rewarding part of the job was seeing fellow alumni recall their years on campus — and how those years eventually led to successful lives and careers. Rafael Correa, the president of Ecuador, received the International Alumni Award for Exceptional Achievement this spring.

“He was enthused about wearing his orange and blue,” she said. “He said he felt humbled in the presence of his former professors.”

Earlier in her tenure at the alumni association, Havlik also oversaw alumni clubs and chapters, as well as department-based alumni organizations.

“It was a real joy to see the alumni come back to campus or to go out and see the level of enthusiasm for the UI everywhere from San Paulo, Brazil to San Diego,” she said.

Havlik earned her bachelor’s degree from the UI in 1977 in speech communication and English and her master’s degree in speech communication in 1979. She also worked toward a Ph.D.

“I just never left,” she said.

Her first job at the UI was as a coordinator of the National Women’s Studies Conference, held in 1986. She then worked for WILL-AM-FM-TV from 1986 to 1994, where she was in public relations and later served as membership director.

It was a job that had some memorable moments.

“I met Big Bird and Mister Rogers,” she said.

She worked briefly for the Allerton Park and Retreat Center, which was her first external relations position. She was in charge of fundraising, promotion and marketing.

Next, she worked at the School of Social Work as director of development and alumni affairs.

“That was my first job working directly with alumni, and I found that was what I really enjoyed doing. I felt like I’d found my niche.”

She began in her most recent job in 1998.

Havlik retired June 30. She began working part-time in September at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

“Now my focus is on awards and recognition — my favorite part,” she said.

Working only 20 hours a week has allowed for some down time, including a trip with her husband, John, to Taliesin, the Frank Lloyd Wright estate in Wisconsin.

John is a retired graphic designer who

Retiree finds more time for her love of languages and music

By Anna K. Herkamp
Assistant Editor

A rmine Mortimer may have retired Dec. 31, 2009, but her passion is far from over.

The professor emeritus of French literature and criticism continues to write, speak at conferences and serve on committees for doctoral dissertations. She’s published a translation of “Mysterious Mozart,” by Philippe Sollers, and is working on another.

Mortimer’s book, “For Love or For Money: Balzac’s Rhetorical Realism” is now in production.

She now has time for another lifelong passion: music. She’s played violin since age 10, and has played for the Champaign-Urbana Symphony since 1979.

Her years of practice and performance paid off in a new way recently, when she was accepted into the elite Tuesday Morning Music Club, a 98-year-old association of female musicians. Members periodically perform as soloists or in small ensembles.

Mortimer also enjoys the classical music series at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and loves to see films at the Art Theatre.

Originally from Weston, Mass., Mortimer found what would become her life’s work in French culture and language early on.

“I was the exchange student from my high school to Rombas in eastern France. We had an affiliation that had started in 1950, and each year a senior went in each direction and spent the school year in the other country. I loved my time there and learned to speak French like a native, especially since I had an excellent high school French teacher, Mrs. (Theresa) Zamprogno, who taught us all the grammar in two years,” Mortimer said.

Her visit to Rombas would pave the way for her future studies. She attended Radcliffe College and majored in French.

“I was very good at learning languag

Family time Although retiree Paula Gray Havlik is now working part-time for the Alumni Association, retirement allows her to spend more time with family.

ON THE WEB
http://news.uiuc.edu/10/1118/ academicreitrees.html
Research: Does cell mass affect growth rate?

By Liz Ahlberg

Physical Sciences Editor

U

I researchers are using a new kind of microsensor to answer one of the weightiest questions in biology – the relationship between cell mass and growth rate.

The team, led by electrical and computer engineering and bioengineering professor Rashid Bashir, published its results in the online early edition of the Proceedings of the National Academy of Science.

“It’s merging micro-scale engineering and cell biology,” said Bashir, who also directs the Micro and Nanotechnology Engineering Laboratory at Illinois. “We can help advance biology by fabricating new tools that can be used to address important questions in cell biology, cancer research and tissue engineering.”

The mechanics of cellular growth and division are important not only for basic biology, but also for diagnostics, drug development, tissue engineering and understanding cancer. For example, documenting these processes could help identify specific drug targets to slow or stop the uncontrolled growth of cancer cells.

Biologists have long questioned whether cells grow at a fixed rate or whether growth accelerates as mass increases. Previous studies have used aggregate populations of cells, making it impossible to determine patterns of individual cell growth.

With their small, sensitive microsensors, the Illinois researchers were able to track individual colon cancer cells’ masses and divisions over time, a feat never before accomplished. They found that the cells they studied did grow faster as they grew heavier, rather than growing at the same rate throughout the cell cycle.

Each microsensor is a tiny, suspended platform made in silicon on a chip. The platform is a mere 50 microns wide – half the width of a human hair. The suspended scale vibrates at a particular frequency, which changes when mass is added. As a cell’s mass increases, the sensor’s resonant frequency goes down.

“As you make the structure smaller and smaller, it becomes more sensitive to the mass that’s placed on it,” Bashir said. “A cell is a few nanograms in mass or smaller. If we can make our sensor small enough, then it becomes sensitive to cell mass.”

The researchers developed an array of hundreds of sensors on a chip. They can culture cells on the chip similar to the way scientists grow cells in a dish. Thus, they can collect data from many cells at once, while still recording individual cellular measurements.

Next, the researchers plan to extend the study to other cell lines, and explore more optical measurements and fluorescent markers.

“These technologies can also be used for diagnostic purposes, or for screening. For example, we could study cell growth and mass changes in the cell structure based on drugs or chemicals,” Bashir said.

The National Science Foundation supported this work. Other co-authors of the paper were post-doctoral associates Kidong Park, Larry Miller and Xiaozhong Jin; mechanical science and engineering graduate students Namjung Kim and Huan Li; and electrical and computer engineering professor Gabriel Popescu.

Byline: By Liz Ahlberg

Physical Sciences Editor
How dire is the need for a complete soup-to-nuts overhaul of the retirement system in the U.S.? We really do need to rethink the overall retirement system. The public systems—meaning both Social Security and public employee pensions—are facing serious financial problems. The private system suffers from the fact that too many people are not participating in it, and many of those who do participate are not skilled at making the decisions required.

From a policy standpoint, we know a lot about how to improve the system. Let’s start with Social Security. We have known for many years that the system needs to be fixed financially. And we know how to do it, such as by making people work longer before claiming benefits, reducing the level of average benefits, or having workers contribute more money to the system. But politically, it is not clear that our elected officials have the will to make the necessary changes.

Even if we do decide to tackle these issues, I doubt that we will do a “soup-to-nuts” overhaul. Our experience with health care reform shows the tremendous difficulty in doing major policy overturns. Rather, I suspect that we will proceed one piece at a time. I would not be surprised if the first step involved further increases in the Social Security normal retirement age.

It is important to remember, however, that Social Security is only one piece of the puzzle. We have a fundamental problem in that at any given point in time only about half of the workers in the U.S. are actively participating in a retirement plan from their current employer. That’s a big problem, and one that requires a policy response to fix.

In addition, over the past quarter-century, we’ve witnessed a dramatic shift away from defined-benefit pension plans in which the employer bore the responsibility for the investment decisions, and the individual received a monthly check. We’ve shifted primarily into a defined contribution system, where individuals have to make most of the decisions on their own. That shift has had many advantages: It’s taken funding uncertainty away from employers, it’s made retirement plans more portable, and it’s given individuals more choice. But what the financial crisis and the recession really underscored is that our current defined contribution system, as exemplified by the typical 401(k) plan, is severely lacking from an individual risk-management perspective.

A ‘teachable moment’ on retirement planning

A new moment to re-evaluate the system for retirement planning and savings is needed. People have a reasonable amount of freedom to choose their retirement plan, which is a great advantage. But most retirement plans are a money market fund, may have too little equity exposure. An equity allocation, especially as they are nearing or are in retirement, others, who may have been defaulted by their plan into a money market fund, may have too little equity exposure.

Another important issue in the typical 401(k) plan is that most people do not effectively insure against the uncertainty of outliving their resources. Defined benefit plans and Social Security pay out as a life annuity, meaning you’ll get income for the rest of your life. But most 401(k) plans don’t even offer annuities as a payout option.

Across the board, we’ve been shifting the risk from employers who didn’t have to bear the cost of funding pensions to the one group in the economy who was less prepared to deal with it: the average employee.

What should we do?

First, I don’t think it’s realistic or desirable to think in terms of returning to a world dominated by defined benefit plans. Nor do I want to increase Social Security’s significant funding problems. Rather, what I would like to do is think about building smarter defined contribution plans that have built-in diversification, that shift portfolio allocation in a sensible way as workers approach retirement, and help facilitate the automatic conversion of wealth into guaranteed lifetime income. If we can also incorporate adequate inflation-protection as well as better protection against the cost of long-term care, all the better. We have the financial technology in place to do these things, but public policy, business practices, and the financial planning industry need to change in pretty important ways in order to get us there.

I should note that no system would ever get rid of all the risk. Nor would that be desirable, because some risk is necessary in order to generate higher expected returns. But there is a difference between good risk-taking and bad risk-taking, and we ought to be able to build a better system that makes it more likely that the typical worker or retiree will be guided into avoiding the bad risks that just don’t make sense for them.

And we can do all of this while still preserving a high level of individual choice and freedom. We can automatically enroll them into a sensible set of choices, but still give them the opportunity to opt out, if they want. We can default them into reasonable portfolio allocations and automatically convert part of their account balances into guaranteed retirement income.

In short, we ought to design a system that leads them down a path of sensible choices, so if they choose a hands-off attitude, the system will lead to a good outcome. That would be a major improvement over our current system in which half of the population is not saving at all, and much of the other half is making inefficient portfolio allocations and subjecting themselves to longevity and other risks.

So, yes, we need a systematic rethinking about how we approach retirement income security in the U.S.
NEW faces 2010

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.

Dr. Daniel Llano
assistant professor of physiology, department of molecular and integrative physiology in the School of Molecular and Cellular Biology and in the College of Medicine

Education: M.D., Ph.D. (molecular and integrative biology), B.S. (biology), UI.
Research Interests: As the first hire under the auspices of the Division of Biomedical Sciences, Llano will lead the development of a strong biomedical translational research presence on the Urbana campus. He also will provide care as a neurologist at Carle Foundation Hospital and Carle Physicians Group. Carle has specific interests in developing programs in treating stroke victims, which fit extremely well with Dr. Llano’s interests in recovery from brain injury, including that caused by stroke. “My long-term goal,” Llano said, “is to build a translational research program to develop therapeutics for language disturbance after brain injury.”

“Dr. Llano is a rare individual who has made important contributions in both treating important clinical problems and the underlying basic science,” said Byron Kemper, the head of the department of molecular and cellular biology. “He is an exceptionally well-trained physician-scientist with unique qualifications to enhance translational research on this campus and at Carle.”

Why Illinois? “I chose the UI because of the fantastic collaborative opportunities that exist on this campus,” Llano said. “I hope to take advantage of the strong ties that have been established between the neuroscience and engineering communities to advance the development of new therapeutic approaches for neurological disorders.”

Verity Winship
assistant professor, College of Law

Education: J.D., B.A. (visual and environmental studies), Harvard University.
Research Interests: “My research explores interactions among institutions and the role of procedural innovation,” Winship said. “Business and securities law are often the starting point for my work, but my projects also are informed by my teaching in civil procedure and reach structural issues beyond the securities context.”

“Winship’s scholarship ranges across several fields that have traditionally been isolated in legal scholarship and teaching,” said Bruce P. Smith, dean of the College of Law. “Her research addresses important and timely questions. We are thrilled to welcome a scholar of such impressive range and ability to our faculty.”


Why Illinois? “I came to the UI law school for the top-notch faculty and the lively law community,” Winship said. “I’m also looking forward to learning more about other parts of the university. It’s a treat to be part of a world-class institution.”

Ad removed for online version
Celery, peppers may reduce age-related memory deficits

A diet rich in the plant compound luteolin reduces age-related inflammation in the brain and related memory deficits by directly inhibiting the release of inflammatory molecules in the brain, researchers report.

Luteolin (LOOT-ee-oh-lin) is found in many plants, including carrots, peppers, celery, olive oil, peppermint, rosemary and chamomile.

The new study, which examined the effects of dietary luteolin in a mouse model of aging, appears in the Journal of Nutrition.

The researchers focused on microglial cells, specialized immune cells that reside in the brain and spinal cord. Infections stimulate microglia to produce signaling molecules, called cytokines, which spew a cascade of chemical changes in the brain. Some of these signaling molecules, the inflammatory cytokines, induce “sickness behavior”: the sleepiness, loss of appetite, memory deficits and depressive behaviors that often accompany illness.

Inflammation in the brain also appears to be a key contributor to age-related memory problems, said UI animal sciences professor Rodney Johnson, who led the new study. Johnson directs the Division of Nutritional Sciences at Illinois.

“We found previously that during normal aging, microglial cells become dysregulated and begin producing excessive levels of inflammatory cytokines,” he said. “We think this contributes to cognitive aging and is a predisposing factor for the development of neurodegenerative diseases.”

Johnson has spent nearly a decade studying the anti-inflammatory properties of nutrients and various bioactive plant compounds, including luteolin. Previous studies by Johnson’s lab and others—have shown that luteolin has anti-inflammatory effects in the body. This is the first study to suggest, however, that luteolin improves cognitive health by acting directly on the microglial cells to reduce their production of inflammatory cytokines in the brain.

The researchers showed that microglial cells that were exposed to a bacterial toxin produced inflammatory cytokines that could kill neurons. When the microglia were exposed to luteolin before they encountered the toxin, however, the neurons lived.

“The neurons survived because the luteolin inhibited the production of neurotoxic inflammatory mediators,” Johnson said.

Exposing only the neurons to luteolin before the experiment had no effect on their survival, the researchers found. “This demonstrated that luteolin isn’t protecting the neurons directly,” he said. “It’s doing it by affecting the microglial cells.”

The researchers next turned their attention to the effects of luteolin on the brains and behavior of adult (3- to 6-month-old) and aged (2-year-old) mice. The mice were fed a control diet or a luteolin-supplemented diet for four weeks. The researchers assessed their spatial memory and measured levels of inflammatory markers in the hippocampus, a brain region that is important to memory and spatial awareness.

 Normally, aged mice have higher levels of inflammatory molecules in the hippocampus and are more impaired on memory tests than younger adult mice. Aged mice on the luteolin-supplemented diet, however, did better on the learning and memory task than their peers, and the levels of inflammatory cytokines in their brains were more like those of the younger adult mice.

“When we provided the old mice luteolin in the diet it reduced inflammation in the brain and at the same time restored working memory to what was seen in young cohorts,” Johnson said.

“Studies have shown that plant compounds such as luteolin can get into the brain, Johnson said. “We believe the dietary luteolin accesses the brain and inhibits or reduces activation of microglial cells and the inflammatory cytokines they produce. This anti-inflammatory effect is likely the mechanism which allows their working memory to be restored to what it was at an earlier age.”

“These data suggest that consuming a healthy diet has the potential to reduce age-associated inflammation in the brain, which can result in better cognitive health,” he said.

Editor’s note: The renovation of Lincoln Hall is being documented on the website of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. The site also includes alumni memories of Lincoln Hall. The renovation is scheduled for completion in fall 2012.
Software aims to make it easier for children to learn math

By Shirla Forrest
News Editor

A researcher at the UI is counting on a unique computer program to make it easier and more enjoyable for elementary school students who are at risk of academic failure to learn basic addition and subtraction facts.

Traditional instruction often relies on rote memorization to teach children basic mathematics—a process that can be monotonous for students, and inefficient, ineffective and frustrating for teachers and students alike, according to Arthur Baroody, a professor emeritus in the department of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education. Baroody has developed Number Sense, a computer program that builds on children's natural tendency to seek out patterns and relations and enables them to learn reasoning strategies that can be applied efficiently, even to new, previously unpracticed addition or subtraction facts.

“Everyone agrees that kids need to learn the basics, but there’s far less agreement among educators about how this can best be accomplished,” Baroody said. “Ideally, failure to learn basic addition and subtraction strategies that, with practice, can be applied efficiently, even to new, previously unpracticed addition or subtraction facts.

"However, once children connect with their existing knowledge that adding 1 results in the next number in the counting sequence, they can reason out any adding-1 sum very efficiently.”

Likewise, adding 8 or 9 to another number is "notoriously difficult for children to solve," Baroody said, but a Number Sense technique teaches them how to think about such problems as easier 10+n and subtract-1 problems: for example, if 10+7=17, then 9+7 is less than 17, which is 16. Baroody developed the software over the past seven years with funding from the U.S. Dept. of Education and with the participation of students and teachers from several elementary schools in the Champaign-Urbana area.

No one should take offense at professor’s new book on insult

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Thomas Conley has written an insulting book. Or, rather, a book about insult—which seems timely in the wake of the recent political campaign season and its 30-second ads.

But rather than bemoaning insults as bad behavior or moral failing, Conley wants people to see them in context, in the complexity of human relations, and wants us to see that we may have lost some of our finer skills at giving and judging offense.

“People take themselves too seriously,” according to Conley, a recently retired professor of communication at the UI and the author of “Toward a Rhetoric of Insult” (University of Chicago Press).

In an age of political shouting and exacerbation of insult through the centuries, using examples from Cicero, a Roman politician who was “a master of insult”; from Reformation era pamphlets, both Protestant and Catholic; from Shakespeare (“Thou puling, toad-spotted maltworm”); and from the British comedy troupe Monty Python (“Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries”), he examines insult from numerous perspectives, showing how it can be both divisive and unifying, and what it often says about self-identity and “who’s on top” in the social order.

“Insults are much more than simply verbal aggression,” Conley said. “They’re sort of mini dramas, I think, that tell you something about what’s going on” — either between the insulter and the person or group being insulted, or between those two and those observing. His research looks at the practice and varieties of insult through the centuries, using examples from Cicero, a Roman politician who was “a master of insult”; from Reformation era pamphlets, both Protestant and Catholic; from Shakespeare (“Thou puling, toad-spotted maltworm”); and from the British comedy troupe Monty Python (“Your mother was a hamster and your father smelt of elderberries”), to name only a few.

The raper Eminem also gets some attention, as does the African American practice of “doing the dozens,” a form of verbal dueling, and there are long lists of insults from various languages, many of them referring to other ethnic groups and nationalities.

In fact, “when it comes to sheer number of insults, PAGE 10 INSULTS, PAGE 10
GM, Chrysler bankruptcies created troubling legacy

By Phil Ciciora
News Editor

The Chrysler and General Motors bankruptcies represented a sea change in corporate restructuring, one that could portend the end of our current system of bankruptcy reorganization, according to a published article by two UI experts in bankruptcy law.

Law professors Charles J. Tabb and Ralph Brubaker note that the legal principles applied in the GM and Chrysler bankruptcies—two of the largest in U.S. history at $83.5 billion and $39.9 billion, respectively—were misguided, and ultimately have undermined the distributional norms of bankruptcy reorganizations.

“It would be slightly less troubling if GM and Chrysler were just political aberrations, and could be viewed by courts as byproducts of the extraordinary economic and political pressure of preventing two-thirds of the American automotive industry from disappearing,” Tabb said. “But that’s not the case. These types of bankruptcies have been happening for some time; Chrysler and GM just brought it to the forefront.”

Bankruptcy reorganizations traditionally have been effectuated by a Chapter 11 plan of reorganization, with elaborate requirements for due diligence, creditor voting and allocation of stakes among creditors and owners.

In GM and Chrysler, however, the reorganization was done not by plan, but by sale.

“Brubaker warn that the Chrysler and GM bankruptcies both illustrate that there’s no clear distinction between reorganization and GM bankruptcies both illustrate that there’s no clear distinction between reorganization and sale—one can be the precise functional equivalent of the other through sophisticated financial legal mumbo-jumbo,” Tabb continued. “What people do when they have lever-age over the company is to get a jump on someone else,” he said. “One of the big risks is that insiders could put deals together for their own benefit and take value in a company away from the stakeholders who have put in a superhuman amount of time.”

According to the article, published in the UI Law Review, the cumulative effect of the Chrysler and GM bankruptcies essentially erases the bedrock “positive law” that has been in existence for at least a century, while simultaneously heralding the death of the fundamental distributional principles that are the essence of bankruptcy law.

When examined from a historical perspective, what transpired in the GM case—and what the Second Circuit’s Chrysler opinion sanctions—was precisely what the Supreme Court prohibited in a series of decisions dating back to the late 1800s, the scholars say.

These decisions ultimately formed the basis for Chapter 11’s codification of creditors’ priority rights in corporate reorganizations.

“What we’re dealing with in bankruptcy is the upstream satisfaction of debtors’ claims,” Brubaker said. “So it goes back to a very basic question of what payment rights do creditors have when there’s not enough money to go around.”

Brubaker, the Guy Raymond Jones Faculty Scholar at Illinois, says the expectation of capital markets in legal history has been that reorganization payment rights established by contract are sacrosanct.

“In lending money to an enterprise, creditors can rely on the integrity of rights as established by a contract, and what it means to have collateral and be a secured creditor, which means they’ll get paid before the equity holders get paid,” he said. “In other words, no one will be able to cut in line and get paid ahead of them.”

But when the bill comes due and none of that’s true, “then you’ve undermined the basis on which all of these contracts are made,” Brubaker said. “The subsequent danger is that creditors are going to charge a much higher price because of the uncertainty of the enforcement.”

According to Tabb, the Alice Curtis Campbell Professor of Law at Illinois, if the enforceability of contracts isn’t respected, the foundation of our entire capitalist economy is weakened.

“Determines the whole premise of such economic transactions and the rule of law being so important to economic development,” he said. “That’s why in developing nations they always being in experts to speak about the rule of law, because these are the foundations of economic growth.”

In bankruptcy proceedings, the authors say that the very nature of Chapter 11 along with the adversarial system of our justice system tends to elevate so-called extraordinary and exceptional relief—to be granted only if the test is fair, or business to successfully reorganize—into business as-usual.

“You could credibly paint every major corporate bankruptcy as an emergency to some extent,” Brubaker said. “In GM and Chrysler, there’s no bad guy you could point the finger at and blame. It’s the context for this sort of thing to happen without anyone really being at fault or negligible.”

The best remedy, according to Brubaker, is for judges to be extremely skeptical of dire, the sky-is-falling claims from lawyers.

“What should happen is that you go into court, make an evidentiary showing where witnesses are cross-examined, and the judge makes factual findings in order to gauge a fair estimation of the value,” Brubaker said. “The most effective way for judges to figure out if it’s essential to the continuation of the business or not is to simply say ‘No,’ because there’s nothing to prevent anyone from saying, after the fact, ‘OK, I’m going to pay you in full out of the businesses resources.’ So you can potentially discriminate between like-situated parties if there’s a fair basis for the discrimination.”

MATH, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

ing in the program. Participants studying meet with Number Sense instructors for two 30-minute sessions of individualized training each week.

The project involves a preliminary assessment of each child’s mastery of basic addition facts, one-on-one or one-on-two training on the developmental prerequisites for mental addition and computer-assisted training on mental addition. Follow-up assessments of each participant along with the curriculum, instructional activities and assessment tools developed during the project will be shared with participating teachers and school administrators at the end of the program.

The project is in the fourth year of a five-year grant from the Department of Education. Baroody said he hopes to obtain another multi-year grant when the current one expires so that he can test the software nationwide and put it on the market shortly thereafter.

INSULTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

bers ... slurs on ethnicity and nationality seem over the centuries to have topped the charts,” Conley writes. He can quote many such slurs from memory, having grown up in Chicago in the late 40’s and early 50’s, in an ethnic mix of mostly Irish, Italians and Poles.

(One motivation for researching the book, Conley said, was the response he got when asking individual students in a class to anonymously report their top 10 insulting terms. “I was just amazed at the lack of responsefulness,” he said.)

Probably next on the list of insults over the centuries are derogatory references to women, Conley said.

But despite the lists, one of Conley’s key points is that almost no word is always an insult, in every situation. “I can’t think of a single term of abuse that is inherently abusive,” he said.

One reason is that insults are complex and “radically situational,” dependent not only on the context in which they are delivered, and ex-actly how and to whom, but on shared knowledge and understandings between those giving and receiving, Conley said.

“Fat slob,” for instance, is not of-fensive unless the person being insulted considers that a bad thing to be, he said. The N word can mean one thing in a given group of African Americans and something entirely different and offensive outside it. A firefighter might trade ethnic slurs all day at work as a ritual of social bonding, but start a fight if he heard the same elsewhere.

“Underneath every insult is this basis of agreement,” Conley said. Just like with jokes and irony, it takes a lot of shared knowledge to “get it” and also understand the intention, he said.

Insults, in other words, can be offensive, but they can also build intimacy or reinforce social bonds, Conley writes. They can motivate or be a “powerful mode of truth-telling.”

“With, in short, are not as simple as they might seem.”

Charles Tabb
Ralph Brubaker

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century after composer-conductor Gustav Mahler’s death, his music is perhaps more popular today than it was during the half century that he lived.

After his death in 1911, Mahler was nearly forgotten, until conductor Leonard Bernstein’s performances of his work beginning in the mid-1960s sparked a renewed interest in Mahler, propelling the Czech-born composer from virtual obscurity to the cultural icon status that he has today. The sesquicentennial of Mahler’s birth has been marked during 2010 with a flurry of musical concerts and releases of recordings of his music; the commemorations will continue in 2011, marking the centenary of his death.

In a new book, “Reading Mahler: German Culture and Jewish Identity in Fin-de-Siècle Vienna” (Camden House, 2010), Carl Niekerk, a professor of German who also holds appointments in the programs in Comparative and World Literature and in Jewish Culture and Society at Illinois, explores the literary, philosophical and cultural references in Mahler’s work, revealing hitherto unexamined dimensions.

Challenging contemporary images of Mahler and interpretations of his compositions as outside of cultural and political debates of his time and looking nostalgically back at an idealized version of the past, Niekerk offers a portrait of Mahler as an avant-garde intellectual with unorthodox literary and cultural interests who explored radical philosophical concepts and exposed troubling aspects of German culture and society through his music.

“Mahler is often seen as a romantic who idealized German cultural history” through his use of traditional German folk songs and lyrics that referred to a utopian past, but Mahler was actually critical of the budding nationalistic and anti-Semitic cultural nationalism of his time and resisted and attempted to subvert efforts to read a nationalistic and conservative agenda into German cultural history, Niekerk said.

One of the most controversial aspects of Mahler’s compositions is “the sometimes very sudden shifts from deep desolation to (ostensibly) un inhibited and unambiguous joy,” Niekerk wrote. Mahler’s music frequently polarizes listeners, who are either moved by the divergent emotions it conveys or are repelled by them.

However, Niekerk theorizes that these contrasting elements are not reflections of the composer’s tormented psyche; rather they are Mahler’s musical interpretation of Nietzsche’s post-philosophical interpretation of Nietzsche’s post-metaphysical philosophy about the chaotic role of suffering and its transformation into joy.

A facet of Mahler’s life often given scant attention by scholars is Mahler’s Jewish heritage and the institutionalized anti-Semitism that surrounded him in fin-de-siècle Vienna. Niekerk examines how this ideology influenced Mahler’s reception in the public sphere and manifested itself in his choices as a conductor. Niekerk also explores Mahler’s relationship with Wagner, whom Mahler admired as a creative artist and intellectual but who advocated a cultural agenda of German nationalism and anti-Semitism.

Mary Callahan, 83, died Nov. 2 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Callahan was a building service worker for the Division of Operation and Maintenance (Now Facilities and Services) for 15 years, retiring in 1987. Memorials: VFW Post 630, 1303 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802.

Mary Kathleen “Katie” O’Donnell Cloud, 79, died Nov. 5 in Bryn Mawr, Pa. Cloud joined the UI faculty in 1986. She was the former director of the Office of Women in International Development (now the Women and Gender in Global Perspectives Program) and a professor of human and community development, of agricultural economics and of women’s studies. She retired in 2000 as professor emeritus. Memorials: Kathleen Cloud International Research Fund, c/o UI Foundation, http://eps.illinois.edu/wggp/giving.html. The fund supports student research expenses related to doctoral dissertation research addressing international issues of women, gender and development.

Mary Irene Crowley, 85, died Nov. 1 at Heartland Nursing Center, Champaign. Crowley worked at the UI for 33 years, retiring in 1990 as a payroll clerk for Payroll Operations. Memorials: American Cancer Society, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820 or the American Heart Association, 2524 Farragut Drive, Springfield, IL 62700.

Andrew M. Isserman, 63, died Nov. 4. Isserman had been a professor of regional economics and public policy in the department of agricultural and consumer economics since 1973. He also was a professor of urban and regional planning and affiliated with the Institute of Government and Public Affairs. Memorials: The Nature Conservancy at www.nature.org.

May Cain Loomis, 91, died Nov. 13 at the Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Loomis worked as a clerk typist at the UI Memorial Hospital and the Beckman Institute. Memorials: Wesley United Methodist Church, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801.

Jack Harris McKenzie, 80, died Nov. 11 at his home Bonita Springs, Fla. McKenzie was UI dean emeritus of the College of Fine and Applied Arts. He worked at the UI for more than 36 years. Memorials: College of Fine and Applied Arts annual fund, UI Foundation, 1305 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801 MC-386 or online at https://www.uif. illinois.edu/Gifts/StartGiving.aspx. A memorial service is being planned.

Fannie Mae Taylor, 63, died Oct. 28 at her home in Champaign. She had worked as an academic hourly since April in the Senior Odyssey Program at the Beckman Institute. Memorials: Fannie Taylor Scholarship Fund, c/o Hickory Point Bank, 701 Devonshire Drive, Champaign, IL 61820. (Scholarships will be awarded to support secondary education efforts by local youths.)

George T. Woods, 86, died Oct. 31. Woods, who retired in 1986, joined the faculty of the College of Veterinary Medicine in 1948 as one of the original faculty members of the college. Memorials: Wesley United Methodist Church, 1203 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801.
Small group of engineers makes huge impact on amputees

By Liz Ahlberg

Many student organizations and clubs try to offer a helping hand, but Illini Prosthetic Technologies provides entire arms.

The six Illinois engineering undergraduates of IPT were brought together by their goal of providing efficient, adjustable and affordable prosthetic arms for patients in developing countries, where 80 percent of the world’s amputees live but access to health care is limited. Most of the focus in low-cost prosthetics has been in artificial legs, leaving a void in technology for artificial arms in areas where loss from disease, industrial accidents, land mines and violence are common.

“I came into the UI thinking that prosthetics would be a great way to use engineering skills in a way that’s very helpful to a lot of people,” said engineering mechanics senior Adam Booher, of Springfield, Ill., the team’s director of engineering. IPT formed in 2008 when team president Jonathan Naber, now a senior in materials science and engineering, brought together several friends who shared an interest in prosthetic devices.

“I have experience in working with people with disabilities in my family and friends, and I’ve always wanted to be an inventor and create technology that helped people,” said Naber, of Waterloo, Ill. “All of us came up with the idea: What if we built prosthetic arms for people in developing countries?”

Since that initial idea two years ago, the team has developed three prototypes of fittings for below-the-elbow amputations. One is designed to be modular and lightweight, one is more rugged for lifting and other labor tasks, and one is dynamically adjustable so patients can tweak the fit themselves. The IPT devices serve as a segue way between the patient’s remaining arm and a terminal device such as a hook.

Equipment in the Ford Concurrent Design and Manufacturing Lab on campus allowed team members to rapidly produce plastic prototypes, including fingers for a patient in Ecuador. Local machine shops assisted them in producing metal devices for field testing.

In July 2010, four team members traveled to a clinic in Guatemala to field test their designs in partnership with the Range of Motion Project, a clinic started by UI alumnus David Knapp. The 10-day trip provided IPT members their first hands-on clinical experience and the first real tests of their designs.

“It was the culmination of a long and intense product-development process for us,” Naber said. “This was the first time that we’d actually gotten to interact with and test-fit arms to amputees in the developing world, which was a huge moment for our organization. It really propelled us closer to our goal of eventually producing these arms and disseminating them.”

Many patients traveled great distances to test the arms, even knowing they would not get to keep the prostheses. The team worked with patients ranging from a 7-year-old girl who had just lost her arm in a truck accident to a 43-year-old man who had lost his arm to a machete attack.

“There was a huge diversity in the patients. We saw a wide variety of ages, sizes, geometries, causes and living situations,” Naber said. “We’re trying to address all of these, or as many as we can, with one piece of technology.”

The team also gathered a lot of insights from the patients, both through interacting with them and through extensive patient surveys. The team will work to incorporate feedback and ideas from the patients in their next designs. “The patients’ enthusiasm for the project was evident, and IPT members were encouraged and energized as they witnessed patients dressing themselves, writing their names, and tying shoes using the arms they designed.”

“I think it really reinvigorated us to move forward, seeing the patients and seeing their progress. We can talk about statistics and look at numbers or pictures, but when you get down there and actually see a little girl who doesn’t have a leg, and you see that patients don’t have access and can’t afford things, it really makes you want to work even harder than we were to start with,” Booher said. “We saw their optimism and how much they looked forward to getting arms.”

Support from the university’s Illinois Launch Program and winning the 2010 Lemelson-MIT Illinois Student business idea competition, a $30,000 prize, has funded IPT during its members’ student years, but the team is now seeking support to continue research and development beyond graduation. They have registered IPT as a nonprofit organization so they can continue pursuing the team’s vision, and are seeking more partnership opportunities with others in the field. More information on the team, its members, history, projects and support opportunities can be found on its website, www.supportipt.com.

Other team members include mechanical engineering student Luke Jungles, bioengineering student Richard Kesler, both from Freeport, Ill.; and materials science and engineering students Ehsan Noursalehi, of Naperville, Ill.; and Hari Vigneswaran, of River Forest, Ill. All team activities are in addition to the students’ regular course load, sometimes a challenging juggling act. But members’ continuing dedication has been a key element of their rapid progress.

“The most powerful resource we have is our team,” Naber said. “We’re all united in the same vision, which is incredibly important, as is the fact that we all mesh together so well with different backgrounds and different interests. That is by far the biggest factor in our success.”

Field test Jonathan Naber, left, and Adam Booher fit an amputee patient with one of the three prosthetics prototypes the team tested on a trip to Guatemala in July.

Team work The Illini Prosthetics team at its office in EnterpriseWorks, from left, Jonathan Naber, Richard Kesler, Adam Booher, Luke Jungles, Ehsan Noursalehi and Hari Vigneswaran. All are seniors.

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IFLIP
Two-week foreign language course
The Intensive Foreign Language Instruction Program offers an opportunity to learn a foreign language in a hurry. Classes will meet for two weeks, from 9 a.m. to noon Monday through Friday, from Jan. 3 through 14. Registration is due no later than Nov. 30.
Hosted by the School of Literatures, Cultures and Linguistics, classes are taught by advanced graduate students or faculty members. Courses focus on conversational skills, travel preparation and language survival skills. There is minimal homework, no attendance policy and no academic credit.
Elementary instruction – for those with no prior experience or formal training in the language – will be offered in Chinese (Mandarin), French, German, Italian, Japanese and Spanish. Intermediate instruction – for those with the equivalent of one year of college-level instruction in the language – will be offered in French, Portuguese and Spanish. Advanced instruction – for those with the equivalent of two or more years of college-level instruction – will be offered for Spanish. Each class must have a minimum of 10 participants.
The cost for UI students is $100; for UI faculty and staff members and retirees, $125; and for the public, $150. Payments must be made at the time of registration.
Cancellations after Nov. 30 will be assessed a $25 fee. There will be no refunds after Jan. 3. For online registration and payment, go to www.slcl.uiuc.edu/iflip/register/. For updated information about registration, or for more information, e-mail SLCL@illinois.edu.

Figure One gallery
Three exhibitions on display
Performance sculpture, endurance drawing and photographs that explore the ties between people and place will be featured in upcoming exhibitions at Figure One, the School of Art + Design’s exhibition space in downtown Champaign.
The school established the exhibition space this fall as a learning laboratory to help students transition from the classroom to the rigors of the professional world.
The upcoming exhibitions are part of the “10 to Watch” series, which is introducing the public to intriguing student work throughout Figure One’s inaugural year. Students selected for the series confer with a curator throughout the year to develop work for the solo exhibitions.
Curating the series are Jorge Lucero, a faculty member in the art education program; Jimmy Luu, coordinator of Figure One and a professor of graphic design; and Tumelo Mosaka, curator of contemporary art at Krannert Art Museum.
The second round of exhibitions in the series includes work by Will Arnold, Justin Farkas and Michael Smith. Arnold’s large-scale photographs investigate rural and suburban America and the relationship between the physical landscape and its inhabitants. Although no people are present in the photographs, a person’s presence is latent in the traces that have been left behind, said Luu, the curator working with Arnold.
A former software developer from Elmira, N.Y., Arnold earned a degree in computer science at Bucknell University and is pursuing a master of fine arts degree in photography while teaching at Illinois.
Farkas will work on site on an evolving sculpture titled “Collapsible Systems: Y’all Come Back Now, Ya Hear.” Farkas will change the sculpture by adding and subtracting elements several times a week. Mosaka is the curator working with Farkas.
Although Farkas’ early work focused on painting, he is best known for his large site-specific installations and sculptural objects that use fragments of home décor and construction materials and for his vivid use of composition and color.
Farkas is pursuing a master of fine arts degree in sculp-

Celebrating diversity
Ollie Watts Davis and the UI Black Chorus performed during the 25th Annual Celebration of Diversity on Nov. 10. More than 350 campus and community leaders gathered at the I Hotel and Conference Center to highlight the efforts made by campus and community members to create and sustain an inclusive campus environment through programs, collaborations and events. Interim Chancellor Bob Easter highlighted how diversification of our populations on campus and an appreciation for cultural differences are critical in enriching the Illinois experience for everyone. The event was hosted by the Office of Equal Opportunity and Access.
BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

tire at Illinois, which awarded him a graduate fellowship and Academic Achievement Award in 2009. He earned an associate of fine arts degree at St. Louis Community College and a bachelor of fine arts degree at the Kansas City Art Institute.

A reception, “An Evening With Justin Farkas,” will take place 6-8 p.m. on Nov. 19.

Smith is performing endurance art by working from 5 a.m.-8 p.m. Tuesdays-Fridays from Nov. 9 until Dec. 3 on a piece called “Scrivener,” a continuous drawing composed of tick marks on a scroll of paper. His completion of the piece will occur during the opening reception. “An Evening With Michael Smith,” on Dec. 3 from 6-9 p.m. Lucero has been conferring with Smith on this work.

Smith’s work, which includes large-scale drawings composed of marks ranging from a thirty-second of an inch to less than half the size of a period in a 12-point type, combines pure process with the mode of representation employed by the turn-of-the-century medical illustration. Smith also explores the relationship between emotion and repetitive motion as well as that of focus and patience within the definition of art “work.”

A student in the master of fine arts degree/studio program in FAA at Illinois, Smith earned bachelor’s degrees in fine art and in creative writing at Kansas City Art Institute.

Located at 116 N. Walnut St., Figure One is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays 11 a.m.-4 p.m. and Fridays 4-9 p.m. More information is available online at http://seefigureone.org and at http://www.facebook.com/seefigureone.

Figure One is funded in part by a gift from alumnus James Avery as a tribute to former art and design faculty member James Ross Shipley, who influenced Avery’s life and career.

Getty Museum
Cultural role of visual arts examined

The first major exhibition on the visualization of history in medieval French manuscripts, to be held at the J. Paul Getty Museum in Los Angeles, is being co-curated by a UI faculty member.

The exhibition, “Imagining the Past in France, 1250-1500,” is a collaboration between Anne D. Hedeman, a professor of art history in the School of Art and Design, a unit in the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the UI, and Elizabeth Morrison, curator of manuscripts at the J. Paul Getty Museum. The exhibition, which runs Nov. 16-Feb. 6, assembles more than 70 rarely seen manuscripts and objects, loaned by 30 museums, libraries and private collections across the U.S. and Europe.

“These manuscripts have been carefully selected to bring together some of the most sophisticated and precious medieval books written in French,” said Hedeman, who also holds an appointment in medieval studies in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at Illinois. “The exhibition offers a rare opportunity because books of this caliber are rarely shown in their home countries, let alone the U.S.”

Along with manuscripts and examples of early printing, the exhibition will include tapestries and other luxury objects that demonstrate how historical stories transcended media and geography to infuse the visual culture of nearby countries, such as England, Italy and Spain.


Hedeman and Elizabeth Morrison collaborated on the catalog for the exhibition, “Imagining the Past in France: History in Manuscript Painting 1250-1500” (Getty Publications, 2010). ♦

calendar of events http://go.illinois.edu/calendars

Detailed information about campus events is available online and is easy to browse or search by topic or date.

‘Tis the season
Let the holidays begin with the Champaign-Urbana Symphony Orchestra’s holiday concert at 7:30 p.m. Dec. 1 in the Foellinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The Central Illinois Children’s Chorus joins the CU Symphony for this popular concert of carols, choral favorites, holiday tunes and orchestral classics.

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Website provides one stop for UI programs, events

By Anna K. Herkamp

Website provides one stop for UI programs, events by UI units, including UI Extension.

A report on honors, awards, appointments and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members

**ACES**

Schuyler S. Korban, a professor of molecular genetics and biotechnology and the director of the ACES Office of International Programs, was elected a fellow of the International Society for Horticultural Science. Korban was honored at the International Horticultural Congress held in Lisbon, Portugal, in August. He was one of four fellows elected in 2010, and one of two U.S. fellows inducted this year. Korban was recognized for his pioneering work in studying resistance and fruit quality and in leading collaborations, grant opportunities and teaching innovative practices for ACES faculty and staff members.

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