University Statutes amended to protect academic freedom

By Anna K. Herkamp
Assistant Editor

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Senate members voted to approve changes to language protecting academic freedom at their Dec. 5 meeting.

The change to the University Statutes states that academic staff members have the freedom to speak about any social, political, or economic issue to the larger community without fear of disciplinary action by the UI. Academics also have the freedom to address “any matter of institutional policy”—whether as members of the UI or not—according to the document. All speech, however, would be subject to academic standards of conduct, according to the revision.

Senate members postponed a vote on eliminating the bachelor’s degree in aviation human factors in the Institute of Aviation. According to the revisions, all speech, however, would be subject to academic standards of conduct, according to the revision.

Northern lights
A view from the exterior amphitheater shows the faux aurora borealis that glows above the Great Hall upper foyer inside Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The animated lighting display will be on view through Dec. 22.

Biologist illuminates unique world of cave creatures

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

T here are dark, sometimes forbidding landscapes molded by volcanic eruptions or subterranean streams, but caves also are home to a host of creatures strangely adapted to the underworld.

Many of these organisms are pale, furtive and multi-legged. Some lack eyes or other light-sensing organs. Others, like bats and cave crickets, roost in caves by day and forage in the outer world at night.

Steven Taylor, a macro-invertebrate biologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, has spent more than two decades plumbing the mysteries of cave life. With the help of a handful of other specialists in cave biology, he is documenting invertebrate life in the limestone caves of Arkansas, Texas and southern Illinois, in Lava Beds National Monument in California; and in mountain-side caves in Great Basin National Park in Nevada.

The work has its glories and its indignities. Taylor has searched among the stalagmites of a tour cave in Great Basin National Park, rappelled through thick mats of spiders—“daddy longlegs”—clogging a cave entrance in central Texas; explored lava tubes on Galapagos Islands; and collected millipedes, spiders, pseudoscorpions and other creatures making their living—directly or indirectly—from fungi or bacteria growing on bat or cricket guano on cave floors.

“I’ve even had a cave maggot named after me,” he said. (Megaguillia taylori is a phorid fly that often frequents caves; its larval form is the maggot.)

The work requires much preparation, a talent for squeezing through tight places and a willingness to go into the blackness armed with at least three flashlights.

“In a cave, there’s no light and literally once you get away from the entrance twilight zone you can wave your hand in front of your face and it’s like somebody severed your optic nerves,” Taylor said. “There’s nothing.”

Because there is no sunlight, “cave systems are low energy environments,” he said. “The primary energy source is debris that’s fallen or washed in.”

Underwater explorer
Steven Taylor, a macro-invertebrate biologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, documents the hidden life of caves.

Night life
Cave scientists take at least three light sources with them when exploring the subterranean world.
Caves, continued from page 3

into a hole. It is brought in by organisms or things that wander in or can’t find their way out and die.

Leaf litter and guano are at the base of the cave food chain, he said. “Fungi and bacteria grow on that, then millipedes and springtails (tiny,mite-sized bug) graze on that,” he said. “And then isolated habitats. This makes them rarities, or endangered species.

Taylor’s research is revealing how deependent cave creatures are on the health of the surface environment. In 2003, for example, he and his associates used radio-tracking devices to follow the movements of cave crickets on a military base in central Texas. Cave crickets are a Keystone species for the life of a cave. They forage above ground and bring all that collected green plant material (in the form of guano, eggs or dead crickets) back with them, feeding many other creatures.

The researchers found that the crickets foraged in a wide territory around the cave, with some individuals ranging over 100 meters from the cave entrance. In a survey of nine Texas caves, Taylor found that those surrounded by develop
cates and residential buildings, or other hard surfaces – had very little life inside. Only a handful of cave crickets and other creatures hung on in these caves, while in similar caves with a lot of undis
turbance on the earth, they were found, large, healthy communities of cave crickets and other organisms.

Caves are receptacles for anything that washes–or falls–into them, Taylor said, so they represent a reservoir of drought, disease or other changes that occur first on the surface.

“In a cave, a cave is a microcosm of the problems we have on the whole globe,” he said. “You have this little, finite hole and all these things living in it. Whatever we do affects them.”

UI awards NSF grant to mentor Latino students

I nati faculty members in the UI College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences will be mentoring the next generation of Latino students through a National Science Foundation grant recently awarded to Gustavo Caetano-Anolles, a professor of crop sciences; Sandra Rodriguez-Zas, a profes
eral director of International Programs and Studies.

Committee members: Debbie Kembues, ad

chairman of the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Committee members will advise UI President Michael Hogan in the search for the next campus chancellor. The committee will also make recommendations to the Board of Trustees.

Senators voted online Dec. 13 to select the committee’s membership. The composition of the committee was approved at its Nov. 8 meeting.

Committee members:

Faculty members: James D. Anderson, ed

sistant director of International Programs and Studies.

Sociology; Andreas Cangel

s, electrical and computer engineering; Kent Gra
cos, business information science, labor, tax, forestry.

Shari Forest

arts, education, humanities, social work

Diana Yates agriculture, animal sciences, life sciences

Only a few percent of Latino students face many barriers, including the need to provide for their fami

ly financially, parents who lack understanding of the value of a college education, U.S. citizenship, and lack of knowledge of borrowing and financing options,” Thompson said.

“Any purpose of these NSF grants is to build a model that can be replicated by others,” Thompson said. “All of the research
ces who joined together at UI to create these opportunities have written a lot of science. But this program isn’t as much about science as it is serving students as mentors and role models.

The fellowships are being offered by the UI departments of agricultural and biological engineering, agricultural and consumer economics, animal sciences, crop sciences, food science and human nutrition, and the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability.

Applications are due March 4. More information and a complete list of project collaborators is available online.

ON THE WEB

http://ubtnm.animal.uiuc.edu/urmb

http://news.illinois.edu/II

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jobs.illinois.edu
Dec. 16, 2010

MARTIN WOLSKIE, a senior research sci-
entist in the Graduate School of Library
and Information Science, and members of his “Introduction to Network Information
Systems” class were recognized with a ser-
vice award by the Champaign Park District
Board of Commissioners at its Dec. 8 board
meeting.

The award is for people who through their
business or personal interests have
contributed significantly to the district’s
parks and facilities.

Wolskie and his class were recognized for
their work in outfitting and installing
computer labs at two facilities: the Doug-
lass Annex and the Hays Recreation Cen-
ter. Over the 11 years that Wolskie has
been teaching the class, he and his students have
worked with more than 30 community or-
ganizations in Central Illinois and East St.
Louis to establish public computing centers.

The project was funded by an Illinois
Department of Commerce and Economic
Opportunity Division Grant divide.

LA

Christopher F. Fennell, a professor, asso-
ciate head and director of graduate stud-
ies in the department of anthropology, was
awarded the 2010 Gustave O. Arel Award in
the Humanities from the Council of Gradu-
ate Schools during the council’s annual
meeting.

The award is given annually to a young
scholar-teacher who has written a book
ded to have made an outstanding con-
tribution to scholarship in the humanities.
Fennell is the award’s 39th recipient for his
book, “Crossroads and Cosmologies: Dias-
poras and Ethnogenesis in the New World”

Professor of physics Jose Mestre has been
elected a fellow of the American Phys-
ical Society. He was cited by the society
“for groundbreaking applications of prin-
ciples and methodologies from cognitive
science to physics education research and
evaluating expert-novice performance
differences in physics learning and problem
solving.”

Trained as a nuclear physicist, Mestre
turned his research interests to the ques-
tions of how students learn physics. He
has adapted tools developed by cognitive
scientists and educational psychologists to
investigate how scientific understanding
develops and how it is best conveyed in in-
struction.

Election to fellowship in the society is
limited to no more than ½ of 1 percent of
its membership and is conferred following a
peer-reviewed selection process.

Rachel Curry, a professor of media and
cinema studies, of English, and of gender
and women’s studies, won a 2011 National
Endowment for the Humanities Fellow-
ship, the only one given on this campus this
year. This award will give Curry release
time throughout the year to finish her book,
“Trading in Cultural Spaces: How Chinese
Film Came to America.”

The 2010 Laraine Y. Cowan Make a Dif-
ference award, given by the Office of Equal
Opportunity and Access, was presented dur-
ing the campus’s 25th annual Celebration
of Diversity on Nov. 10. Award recipients
were nominated by their peers and then se-
lected by a review committee.

James Anderson, the Edward William
and Jane Marr Gutsgell Professor and head
of educational policy studies and a profes-
sor of history, was recognized for his lead-
ership in establishing Project 500 in 1968
and for his dedication to mentoring diverse
populations of students on campus and for
the efforts in addressing national issues
about diversity.

Tears to start in 1975 right after grad-
sity and staff members. I was a piano
player in a band and realized I wasn’t very
good at it. I began to experiment with
different lighting and sound for the band.
That eventually evolved into doing
lighting exclusively. I began my own
lighting company and ran it for more
than 25 years. I worked in most of
the venues around the Champaign-Urbana
area and several other places in the
Midwest. I worked with a lot of bands
that had local and regional followings.
I started the lighting for a band who
came to town for one night like B.B.
King, George Thorogood and Joan Jett.
Together, I probably worked for 700 or
so different bands.

Do you have any other music
influence?

Yes, I started going to concerts when
I was young. The first band I ever saw
was the Beatles in St. Louis in 1964 or
1965 when I was 7 or 8 years old. My
mom and dad took me.

What did you think?

It was very cool.

– Interview by Anna K. Herkamp,
assistant editor

Tell me about how your career
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assistant editor
A new study by researchers at the UI indicates that children who spend in excess of 30 hours per week in non-relative care through the age of 4 1/2 may be exposed to a social environment that popularizes aggression, leading some children to become physically aggressive than peers who spend less time in nonmaternal care.

By Sharita Forrest
Arts Editor

The children, now age 18, have just been reassessed, and researchers hope to assess them again in their early 20s. “One question that remains is how popular-aggressive kids fare when they transition to college or work roles,” Roisman said. “Whether this is an approach to dealing with their peers that ultimately serves them well or not is totally unclear on the basis of these data.”

“Will they become CEOs because they have this ruthless aggression coupled with social regard?” Rodkin said. “Or do they turn out to be like other aggressive kids, who are clearly on a negative trajectory? Our guess is that they probably are not the Donald Trumps of tomorrow because they lack resources such as high cognitive functioning and maternal sensitivity during childhood that would enable them to excel.”

With recent funding from an Arnold O. Beckman Research Award, Rodkin and Roisman now are genotyping the children and mothers of the Study of Early Child Care and Youth Development and, among other research questions that they’re exploring, they’re hoping to determine if popular-aggressive children share a unique variation of a serotonin receptor gene, 5HT2A. The serotonin polymorphism may function as part of a genetic complex that regulates cognitive efficiency and has been linked to peer popularity in lab-based studies of college undergraduates.

Viola M. Creighton, 89, died Dec. 4 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. She was a secretary in the Benefits Center for 10 years, retiring in 1966. Memorials: American Lung Association, 1705 Gentry Square Lane, Champaign, IL 61821.


Mary Eleanor McPhail Martin, 77, died Nov. 25 at her home in Austin, Texas. She was the business manager for the placement office in the College of Business for 14 years, retiring in 2004. Memorials: Hospice Austin, 4107 Spicewood Springs Road, Suite 100, Austin, TX 78759.

Alice Bicep, 89, died Nov. 30 at Heartland Care Center, Champaign. She worked at the UI as a housekeeper. Memorials: Salvation Army, 500 E. Park St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Samuel Franklin Ridlen, 94, died Oct. 30 in Urbana. Ridlen was a professor of animal science at the UI for 40 years, retiring in 1986. Memorials: Nabor House Building Fund, 1002 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61801.

Viola Schmidt, 84, died Dec. 3 at Coun- try Health Nursing Home, Gifford, IL. She worked at the Illini Union for eight years, retiring in 1996. Memorials: St. John Lutheran Church, 509 S. Mattis Ave., Champaign, IL 61821; Country Health Nursing Home, 2304 County Road 3000 North, Gifford, IL 61847; or the Alzheimer’s Association, 2921 Greenbriar Drive WC, Springfield, IL 62704.

H. Fred Troutt, 74, died Dec. 4 at his home in Champaign. Troutt was a professor of veterinary clinical medicine. Memorials: UI Foundation, College of Veterinary Medi- cine, Advancement Office, 2001 S. Lincoln Ave., Urbana, IL 61802.

Floyd Gerome VanDyke, 57, died Dec. 5 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He was an Extra Help employee. He worked in food service for Housing for nine years.
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.

**Rory James**

director of the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center

**Education:** M.P.H. (public health, epidemiology), Tulane University; B.S. (biology), Tuskegee University, Alabama.

**Why Illinois?** “I can truly say this move was great for me professionally and personally,” James said. “I was born and raised on the South Side of Chicago, so I am a ‘native son’ of Illinois. The UI is a highly ranked public institution, and I desired to be in this setting of excellence. Furthermore, the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center is one of the oldest black cultural centers in the Midwest and nation. It is an honor to be director and forge a legacy with the current African American students and staff.”

James’ goals for the center include creating and implementing a retention program that focuses on first- and second-year African American students, increasing student traffic and utilization of the cultural center by the collective campus community, and fostering a relationship with science, technology, engineering and mathematics at the UI to help increase the number of African American students majoring in these fields.

“Rory brings a wealth of experience and a new vision of culture centers to the UI,” said Renee Romano, vice chancellor for student affairs. “He will take the Bruce D. Nesbitt African American Cultural Center to the next level in serving our students and community.”

**Daniel Dias**

assistant professor of economics, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

**Education:** Ph.D. (global economics and management), M.A. (economics), University of California at Los Angeles; M.Sc. (applied econometrics and forecasting), Instituto Superior de Economica e Gestão, Lisbon, Portugal; licenciatura (economics), Universidade Nova de Lisboa (Economics and Business School), Lisbon.

**Research Interests:** “My research is fairly diverse,” Dias said. “Regarding international trade, my research has focused on the estimation of trade barriers and the correct way to interpret these results. In terms of finance, I have been interested in measuring costs and/or benefits of sovereign debt for both lenders and borrowers. I also work with monetary economics and firm financing.”

“Professor Dias will be able to help undergraduate and graduate students better understand the issues and debates in ways that also will enhance their appreciation of the complexity of trade and its contribution to economic development,” said Geoffrey J.D. Hewings, a professor and interim head of the department of economics.

**Why Illinois?** “The UI is a fantastic institution,” Dias said. “And its economics department is among the best in the world.”

**Teaching at Illinois:** ECON 520, “International Trade Theory” and ECON 522, “International Financial Economics”
Soft substrate promotes pluripotent stem cell culture

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

Illinois researchers have found a key to keeping stem cells in their neutral state: It takes a soft touch.

In a paper published in the journal PLoS One, the researchers demonstrated that culturing mouse embryonic stem cells (mESCs) on a soft gel keeps them in their pluripotent state, a ground state with the ability to become any type of tissue. Researchers (front row, from left) graduate students Farhan Chowdhury and Yanzhen Li, visiting scholar Tamaki Yokohama, Tamaki; (back row) graduate student Yeh-Chuin Poh, Tetsuya Tanaka, a professor of animal sciences, and Xin Wang, a professor of mechanical science and engineering.

"The team did side-by-side comparisons of mESCs grown on a traditional medium with growth factor and mESCs grown on a soft gel with the same stiffness as the cells, both with and without growth factor," said Tanaka. "They found that cells grown on the soft gel had greater homogeneity and pluripotency, even without growth factor, and even more than three months and 20 passages later."

"It's two sides of the coin: Mechanical force can induce differentiation, and here we said if you can lower the forces between the substrate and the cells, they will pluripotent. They are complementary processes," Wang said. "Our paper shows that mechanical environment plays at least as important a role as chemical growth factors, if not greater. In vivo, cells produce growth factors for a short time and then they stop. On the other hand, mechanical forces bear on every cell all the time."

Next, the researchers want to try their soft-substrate method with induced pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs), mature cells that have been genetically reprogrammed to a pluripotent state. These cells hold a lot of promise for medical applications, but are notoriously hard to culture and not as well understood.

"We can try culturing mouse iPSCs on the same soft substrate and see if the same benefit applies to achieve homogeneous stem cell cultures," Tanaka said. "If that's the case, the impact would be significant."

This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health, the United States Department of Agriculture and the UI. Co-authors were graduate students Farhan Chowdhury, Yeh-Chuin Poh, and visiting scholar Tamaki Yokohama-Tamaki.

UI marks grand opening of graduate dance center

By Sharifa Forrest
Arts Editor

The department of dance and the School of Architecture, both in the College of Fine and Applied Arts, celebrated the grand opening of the Graduate Dance Center on Dec. 10.

Studios in the 5,000-square-foot facility for dance students and faculty members are provided for storage when it was built, as bathrooms, and its electrical system was intended for storage when it was built, as bathrooms, and its electrical system was a haphazard array of lines that reflected its transitory functionality and occupancy over the years.

"The graduate program had a big boost with the hiring of several new faculty members in the past five years, but they need a place to work," said Jan Erkert, the head of the dance department. "For dancers the research is done in the studio, and we needed more space."

Intended for storage when it was built, the building lacked modern amenities such as bathrooms, and its electrical system was a haphazard array of lines that reflected its transitory functionality and occupancy over the years.

"When I first went to look at it, it was a mess," Erkert said. "But at the same time, I knew that a new building was not going to happen within the next 10 years. I thought, 'Well, this would help get us through the next decade and give us space for these graduate students.'"

But the cost estimates for converting the outdated space into modern dance studios were far beyond the dance department's budget. At the suggestion of FAA associate dean James Anderson, Erkert met with two new architecture faculty members, Roger Hubbel and Julie Larsen, whose expertise is sustainable construction.

Hubbel and Larsen saw an opportunity for a living-learning laboratory in which architecture students would collaborate with dance students and faculty members to transform the facility into a vibrant example of sustainable rehabilitation. With a $12,000 seed grant from the Campus Research Board, Hubbel and Larsen hired a graduate assistant, and through word of mouth and e-mail, recruited architecture students for an independent study project designing the first of two dance studios from recycled wood.

Hubbel and Larsen obtained the materials for Studio 1 when they happened to stumble upon workers removing the floor of a basketball court during the recent remodeling of the Activities and Recreation Center on campus.

In interdisciplinary forums and movement workshops, architecture and dance students explored environmentally responsible techniques, and efficient usage of space and energy. As part of the design process, dance professor Jennifer Monson conducted studies with the architecture students, so they could experience the space from a dancer's perspective.

The first studio, a 2,000-square-foot space with floating curtains and a sprung floor fabricated from the recycled basketball court, opened in fall 2009. The Student Sustainability Committee, which funds green projects on campus through a student-paid technology fee, then became interested in the project and approved a $57,000 grant this year to fund the second phase. Studio 2 includes a larger rehearsal space with a sprung wood floor constructed from materials donated by alumni John and Sté Dance, Piut 11.
Nugent Hall offers more space, amenities to entice students

This fall, Kelsey Rozema and 150 other students moved into Timothy J. Nugent Hall, UI’s first new residence hall in 44 years. Rozema and her 16-floor-floor hall mates have severe abilities but their new home is the most accessible residence hall in the nation.

Nugent Hall, and the new Student Dining and Residential Programs Building opened this semester in the Ikenberry Commons residence hall complex (named for former UI president Stanley O. Ikenberry), located between Gregory and Peabody drives and Fourth and First streets, in Champaign, just north of the Activities and Recreation Center. When construction of the remaining facility is complete, it will house 500.

Named for the pioneering founder of Disability Resources and Educational Services at Illinois, Nugent Hall has first-floor rooms designed for students with severe physical disabilities who require assistance with the activities of daily living. Rozema has a wireless pager that will connect her to an around-the-clock help contact, and there is a remote-controlled life system to get her to the bathroom from her bed. There are sensor-controlled switches throughout the room; her door opens with a wave of a wireless card. Features such as accessible elevators and lower dining hall counter heights create an inviting, friendly environment.

In addition to meeting the specialized needs of its first-floor residents, Nugent Hall had a lot of other expectations to meet.

Today’s college students bring televisions, computers, gaming systems, more clothes and furniture to make their spaces on campus feel more like home.

The expectations of both parents and students have evolved. Whether it’s the air-conditioned rooms, bigger spaces or the connection with the Student Dining and Residential Programs Building it’s a lot for the new digs have students thinking about living on campus longer. University Housing provides resources and connections that simply can’t be found off campus.

Visitors to the new residence hall not only like the look of the facility, but also the Ike. And faculty and staff members can dine at the Ike (as well as any of the campus dining halls).

Students and parents are asking for additional amenities that weren’t a priority when many residence halls were constructed, she said.

But living on campus is also part of the education students receive when they go away to school for the first time.

“A lot of students have never shared a room before,” she said. “Part of sharing a space with someone is learning to get along with someone different.”

As the UI continues its residence hall updates, the hope is that students will find connections and choose to live on campus for many of their years at Illinois.

Ruby said the master plan for Ikenberry Commons includes the replacement of six residence halls that have outlived their useful lives. Garner Hall will be demolished in summer 2012. In April 2011, the UI will break ground on a new suite-style residence hall on the corner of First Street and Peabody Drive.

–Anna Herkamp, News Bureau; Kirsten Ruby, Housing, contributed to this article.

ON THE WEB
Dining Halls (hours & locations) http://go.illinois.edu/dininglocations
Specialty restaurants http://go.illinois.edu/specialty
i-card extra credits www.housing.illinois.edu/extracredits

LET’S DO LUNCH!
Did you know that faculty and staff members may dine at any of the residence hall dining facilities on campus? The facilities, which include the Illini Union Ballroom buffet and specialty restaurants, will accept cash, credit cards or you can pay with extra credits on your i-card.

New face
The Student Dining and Residential Programs Building features Ikenberry Dining Hall. Garner Hall, to the left, is scheduled to be torn down in 2012.

Fine dining
Ikenberry dining hall has seating on two levels.

What’s in a name?
Nugent Hall was named for Timothy J. Nugent, an alumnus and a later professor whose efforts to serve people with physical disabilities reshaped the world.

In 1948, Nugent established the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services at the UI. It was the first post-secondary disability support service program in the world. DRES opened the doors to higher education to veterans of World War II.

He fashioned programs to address their physical needs, enabling them to attend college. His compassion fueled his ingenuity and sustained his commitment to overcome an unjust attitude of exclusion.

Innovations on the UI campus literally altered the landscape, introducing curb cuts to accommodate wheelchairs. The campus was the first to be accessible to people with disabilities. The UI built the first buses with lifts, established wheelchair sports and developed nationally recognized architectural accessibility standards, which led to the Americans With Disabilities Act.
What motivates people to give?

Most research suggests that people give primarily because they care. About 90 percent of donors are “emotional givers,” which means they make contributions in reaction to a felt need. Fundraising helps make people aware of social issues and triggers their empathy. Most donors won’t seek out a nonprofit organization in order to give, but will do so if they feel prompted.

Phones still make people aware of social issues and trigger empathy. Most donors won’t seek out a nonprofit organization in order to give; they have to be asked.

Editor’s note: “Tis the season for holiday appeals, not only through the mail and on the phone, but increasingly in product marketing and donation requests at the checkout. What’s the best way to help? And what’s in the fine print?” Michelle Shumate is a professor of communication who studies nonprofit organizations and fundraising, with a particular interest in corporate-nonprofit partnerships, and the growing trend of what is called cause marketing. Shumate was interviewed by News Bureau social sciences editor Craig Chamberlain.

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A new book on birds of Illinois was 100 years in the making.

When the centennial anniversary of the first survey of birds in Illinois was approaching, ornithologists Steven D. Bailey, Jeffrey D. Brawn, Jef- fery W. Walk and Mi- chael P. Ward at the Illinois Natural History Survey conducted the third comprehensive survey of Illinois birds.

The result is the 230-page full-color book “Illinois Birds: A Century of Change.” The book includes 100 years of data and many photos and illustrations.

It isn’t a compendium of every single bird seen in Illinois, but it is a compendium of the major birds that people are most fa- miliar with, said Brawn, an ornithologist and the head of the department of natural resources and environmental sciences.

The book provides information on how the birds and the landscapes of Illinois have changed. The last chapter offers some pre- dictions.

“The species that will thrive in Illinois are the ones that can cope with humans,” Ward said.

Ward said the book is filled with pictures and diagrams. “We have several pictures in the book that were taken in the exact same spot in 1906, 1956 and 2006 so you can see the book that were taken in the exact same and figures. “We have several pictures in

The book includes 100 years of data and many photos and illustrations.

What’s changed among Illinois birds in the past century?

Walk said 26 additional species were found in the most recent survey, but not 50 or 100 years ago, in- cluding wood ducks, house finches and collared doves. While only one species has been eliminated from Illinois, several spe- cies are declining.

“Whatever their species, individual flow- ers, so the 2.2 pounds required to produce a kilogram (2.2 pounds) of honey,” she writes. “One load of nectar, however, can require visiting at least a thou- sand individual flowers, so the 2.2 pounds of honey are the result of visits to as many as 10 million flowers.”

Berensbaum touch- es on some intriguing questions related to the human exploi- tation of the honey bee. For instance, is beekeeping a form of animal cruelty? Are honey bees livestock? Is honey a vegetarian or vegan product? The recipes them- selves are collected from entomologists and honey enthusi- asts around the world, from Korean honey flour cakes to Apiscotti, or “Bee-Enabled Biscotti,” to an Armenian rice pudding, Gatnabour, to Baagh-lava, a honey-laden treat enjoyed throughout the Middle East.

A final chapter in Berensbaum’s book ad- dresses colony collapse disorder, which has led to serious declines in honey bee popula- tions around the world. “Honey bees are beset by a staggering diversity of problems,” she writes. Proceeds from the sale of “Honey: I’m Homemade” will go to support the Pollina- tarium at the UI. It is the first free-standing museum in the U.S. devoted to pollinators and the plants and habitats on which they rely.

The delights of honey, bees and beehives

By Diana Yates

Honey is the original sweetener, manu- factured by honey bees long before hu- mans discovered and appropriated it. Early cave paintings depict honey gatherers, as do ancient Egyptian reliefs. From Mesopota- mia to the Ameri- can Midwest, honey has been important to nearly every human culture and cuisine.

“Honey is fasci- nating, everything about it — its chem- istry, its history, its unbelievable activ- ity. It’s just an amaz- ing substance,” said UI entomology professor and department head May Berensbaum, the editor of a new cookbook, “Honey, I’m Homemade: Sweet Treats From the Beehive Across the Centu- ries and Around the World,” published by UI Press.

Although it is a book of recipes, the in- troductory chapter of “Honey, I’m Home- made” also includes a brief natural history of honey, its chemical and health-enhancing properties and a description of how honey bees collect and process nectar into honey. The effort is astoundingly labor-intensive, Berensbaum writes.

“Whatever their species, individual flow- ers generally produce only tiny quantities of nectar, so up to 100,000 loads of nectar are

ON THE WEB www.inhs.illinois.edu/resources/inhspublications.html

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Graduate College

Mentoring workshop is Jan. 13

The Office of Graduate Students will host its annual mentoring workshop from 8:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. Jan. 13 in Illini Union Room A. This year’s theme is “Constructive Feedback as a Tool in Mentoring.” Faculty members who work with graduate students are invited.

During the workshop, faculty members will examine the role of feedback in a student’s academic progress, discuss effective communication strategies with experienced mentors and learn about campus resources that can help advisors working with students who face challenges such as procrastination, cultural misunderstandings and uncertain career goals.

There is no fee. Registration is required and seating is limited. For program details and to register, go to www.grad.illinois.edu/mentoringworkshop2011. For questions, contact the Graduate College at grad@illinois.edu or 217-333-4610.

Staff Human Resources

Nominations sought for staff award

Applications are being accepted for the annual Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the work of the university by staff members.

Any member of the campus community (faculty or staff members or students) may nominate a staff member for the award. Nomination materials and a program description are available at the Staff Human Resources Office, 52 E. Gregory Drive, Champaign. For more information, visit www.shr.illinois.edu/suda or contact program coordinator Amanda Huot at 217-333-3101. Nomination papers are due by 4 p.m. Jan. 15.

Up to eight support staff members will be honored this year with a plaque of appreciation, a $2,000 award, and a 10% increase in salary. The awards will be presented at a ceremony April 5 at the Staff Human Resources office commemorates recipients.

Art and Design

Two exhibitions open Dec. 10.

Two shows—a solo exhibition of drawings and paintings by emerging artist Maria Lux and a collection of lifestyle products designed by UI art students as a study in community-based entrepreneurship—are now on view at Figure One, the School of Art and Design’s exhibition space in downtown Champaign.

Lux’s exhibition is part of the “10 to Watch” series, which introduces 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. Lux utilizes representational drawing and painting to investigate a variety of issues that stem from her interests in science, animal cognition, language and representation. She is a second-year painting and drawing student in the master of fine arts program at Illinois.

The second exhibition, Figure One/Editions, comprises a line of products designed by students in the ceramics, foundations, graphic design, metals and photography programs at Illinois as case studies in product development. Students participating in the project worked with local vendors to produce a collection of limited edition lifestyle products and undertook the breadth of activity required to bring the products to market, from concept to production and promotion.

The inaugural group of student artists—which also includes many of the artists and designers featured in the “10 to Watch” series—worked with Weiskamp Screen Printing to produce screen-printed T-shirts. The Pottery Place to create ceramic cups, and Soybean Press to produce letter-press posters and note cards. Each of the businesses and organizations donated varying amounts of materials, labor and facilities in support of the students’ efforts to design their collections. The collections will be for sale in December at Figure One; proceeds will support its programming.

Figure One, 116 N. Walnut St., Champaign, is open from 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays, and 4-9 p.m. Fridays. The exhibitions will run through Jan. 15. More information is available online at www.facebook.com/figureone.

Information session on wind turbines is Dec. 16

Facilities & Services will host a preliminary information session about the South Campus Wind Turbine Project from 6-8 p.m. Dec. 16 at the Urbana Civic Center.

The public is invited to attend this and additional future outreach events. The purpose of the session is to collect comments, questions and concerns from members of the community as well as to provide information regarding the project. While this project is currently in the proposal phase, information regarding location, budget and desired timeline will be provided by UI representatives.

Additional outreach meetings will be scheduled to address concerns and questions raised at this event and to keep the community updated on the project.

ON THE WEB http://sustainability.illinois.edu/ssc/windturbine.html

Graduate College

Apply now for Focal Point projects

The Graduate College invites proposals from faculty members and graduate students for 2011-2012 Focal Point projects. The full request for proposal, as well as descriptions of current and past projects, is available at www.grad.illinois.edu/focal-point-feature.

Focal Point is an initiative that seeks to stimulate the formation of intellectual communities of faculty members and graduate students addressing topics that undergird important issues and problems. This year there are opportunities for collaborations that bridge international institutions and for work that addresses issues of domestic diversity.

Proposals will be reviewed by faculty/student panels. Final selection will be made by the Graduate College. Selection criteria will include intellectual merit, impact on graduate students and education on campus, contributions to interdisciplinarity and diversity on campus, and establishment of international networks for graduate education.

Up to $15,000 will be granted per project selected. Projects must begin August 2011 and contain activities for two academic semesters or 12 months. Proposals should be uploaded to the Graduate College website by March 25.

Illinois Public Media

Radio doc features advocate for disabled

“Breaking Down Disability Barriers: The Legacy of Tim Nugent,” a new radio documentary by Urbana University High School students, will be broadcast at 2:06 p.m. Dec. 24 on WILL-AM (580). Nugent’s creativity and tenacity in creating a program for disabled veterans and others enabled thousands of disabled people to graduate from the UI and provided a model that transformed the way colleges and universities nationwide treat disabled students.

Among those interviewed for the documentary were wheelchair athlete Jean Driscoll, UI disability resources and services director Brad Hedrick, and many of Nugent’s former students.

University High teacher Janet Morford and Illinois Public Media’s Dave Dickey directed the project. Students from the classes of 2011 and 2014 conducted the interviews.

Art and Design / Krannert Art Museum

High school students’ work featured

Krannert Art Museum and the UI School of Art and Design will showcase the work of young artists in the Champaign-Urbana area in the Area High School Art Exhibition. The exhibition will feature work by students from 10 schools as well as young artists home-schooled or independently schooled. The exhibition will run through Jan. 7 at the museum’s Link Gallery.

The gallery is open 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Tuesday through Saturday, 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Thursday and 2-5 p.m. Sunday. The museum and gallery will be closed Dec. 24-27, Dec. 31 and Jan. 1-2.
Spurlock Museum announces major new collection

The Spurlock Museum at the UI has made a major addition to its collections with a gift of more than 1,000 artifacts from Africa, Asia and Central America.

The artifacts in the new Kieffer-Lopez Collection include a number of textiles and ethnographic pieces, according to Amy Heggemeyer, assistant registrar for acquisitions.

Eight pieces from the collection, including clothing, baskets and dolls, are now on display in the museum’s new acquisitions case, Heggemeyer said. Photos and descriptions for about 300 other pieces can be found on the Spurlock website. Other pieces are still being collected and cataloged.

The collection was donated by Gerald Lopez, who developed it with his wife, anthropologist Margaret Kieffer, who died in 2006, Heggemeyer said.

Kieffer’s research in Guatemala sparked an interest in textiles and textile production, and she began collecting indigenous clothing from throughout the country. She and Lopez also collected masks, figurines and other ethnographic objects from West Africa while living in Ivory Coast.

Their interest in learning about the cultures around them led to the development of a collection from around the world, which includes items not only from Africa and Central America, but also from South and Southeast Asia, Heggemeyer said.

The collection greatly enhances the Spurlock’s holdings from those areas of the world, she said.

The museum’s holdings now number more than 40,000 items.

F&S introduces new system for work management

Facilities and Services has introduced a new Web application for requesting services.

The new portal allows users to request services, track those requests and view status updates more easily. The new system also will help campus units monitor their costs.

Most F&S services, except for printing and parking, can now be accessed through the new system, including service requests, car pool reservations, iStores (the Central Stores ordering system) and contractor service requests. The PI Voucher website also will be replaced by the portal and will go online in January.

The new application behind the portal, called AiM, replaces CHAMPS, which had been in place since 1994. AiM went online Nov. 29.

Greg Gulick, associate director of information technology services for F&S, said the new online system will allow F&S to maintain business continuity into the future.

“The main impetus was to replace a system running on older technology, which is harder to support and becomes less sustainable as time goes on,” Gulick said.

Gulick said the new online service request program allows users to make more specific kinds of requests, and provide more details such as contact information. Improvements to the service request application were made based on input from focus groups.

Previously, workers sometimes failed to do maintenance work on a building and have difficulty finding the right people to ask about the work, or there were often scheduling conflicts that weren’t addressed with the old system, Gulick said.

The new program should provide a more streamlined, efficient system.

Gulick said F&S is seeking input from the campus community to continue to improve the system. Users are encouraged to use the e-mail link on the site to submit comments and suggestions.

“We’re working with campus users and intend to evolve the product over time to make it more useful for them,” Gulick said.

The studios still have deficiencies that need to be addressed to make them energy efficient – the windows need replaced to eliminate drafts, the roof leaks when it rains, the walls and attic lack adequate insulation, and the steam heating system cannot be properly regulated to maintain a comfortable temperature, Larsen said.

Additional support for the project was provided by the College of Fine and Applied Arts, Facilities and Services, the Research Board, the School of Architecture and private donors.
Strategy driving increase in smart-phone litigation

By Phil Ciciora

News Editor

The flurry of smart-phone patent suits at the U.S. International Trade Commission is being driven by technology companies eager to capitalize on the speed and expertise of the specialized venue, says a UI patent strategy expert.

Business professor Deepak Somaya says that this current wave of patent litigation is a “clash driven by company strategies.”

“Smart phones combine lots of amazing innovation from both computing and mobile telephony, and technology companies are seeing their patents as a potential source of leverage, as something that can help them improve their competitive position against other firms seeking to take advantage of this great confluence of technologies,” he said. “When these firms go court shopping for filing patent cases, many of them are choosing to target the ITC over the more typical forum of the federal district courts.”

In research that will appear in the management journal Organization Science, Somaya and co-author Christine McDaniel, an economist with the ITC, investigated when companies targeted the ITC over the district courts for their import-related patent disputes. They found that company strategy, the nationality of the defendant and prior experience with the company strategy aspect that firms were embroiled in patent litigation at the ITC “becomes very attractive for some patent cases, depending on the company’s strategy.”

Taking a patent dispute to the ITC requires that the patent infringement be import-related. Once its criteria are met, however, the ITC “becomes very attractive for a particular type of patent dispute – one in which the company’s strategy requires a quick and reliable decision,” Somaya said.

And, according to Somaya, it is the company strategy aspect that has been attracting more smartphone patent litigation to the ITC.

“Patent cases are usually very complicated, and can take up a lot of time and money to resolve,” he said. “But since the ITC has a streamlined and fast procedure, you don’t have the same burden of educating a judge or jury about what the technology is, what the relevant case law is, and so on. There is a lot of expertise in the forum already, so the adjudication is fast, less random and, relatively speaking, cost effective.”

The one disadvantage to specialized venues such as the ITC is that they’re less conducive to settling outside of court.

“Specialized venues don’t leave much room for either party to play out the negotiation game,” Somaya said. “If you’re thinking about settling, which can be very cost effective in patent disputes, you often need more time – time to conduct negotiations, time for both sides to adjust their expectations, time to devise a mutually acceptable agreement. Going to the ITC might instead rush you through adjudication and force you to incur all the accompanying costs.

“In that case, you may be better off going to a district court simply to have the time and flexibility to negotiate a settlement.”

Time, however, is the one resource that companies like Nokia, Apple and Motorola – all currently embroiled in patent litigation at the ITC – don’t have.

“When the dispute involves a pivotal fast-moving technology, time is of the essence,” Somaya said. “Additionally, these smartphone patents have very high strategic stakes for firms, so you have a situation that might be very difficult for the two parties to settle.”

Once a firm has reached this point-of-no-return with litigation, it makes sense to go with the cheaper, faster, and more expert venue, which is usually the ITC, Somaya says.

“Essentially, there’s so much at stake for the company owning the patents that they don’t see an easy way to settle the dispute, so what they really need is a court decision in their favor,” he said. “A company such as Apple simply wants to shore up the competitive advantage of the iPhone, and may not see much point in trying to negotiate a settlement.”