Senate committee votes to support closing aviation institute

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The turbulence surrounding the closing of the UI Institute of Aviation diminished a little April 4 as members of the Academic Senate’s Educational Policy Committee voted to shut down most of the institute’s functions. The vote was announced at the meeting of the Senate Executive Council.

The recommendation will go to the Academic Senate April 18, when senators will be asked to take an advisory vote on the institute’s closure. The issue will then go before the University Senate’s Conference and then to the president’s office before it is presented to the UI Board of Trustees.

The institute has been under the microscope for the past year as part of the Stewarding Excellence @ Illinois initiative, which has studied several academic and managerial structures to increase efficiency and reduce costs.

The Stewarding Excellence project team that reviewed the institute recommended it close, citing a savings of $500,000 to $750,000. UI officials say half of the institute’s total budget came from the university’s general revenue fund, with the other half supported by institute tuition.

See SEC, PAGE 12

UI employees back after recent Green Street fire

A March 23 fire in the building occupied by Mia Za’s, Pitaya and Zorba’s (recent photo above) in the 600 block of Green Street started on the third floor. A cause is still not known. The fire initially displaced about 13 UI employees whose offices were in the nearby Freestar Bank building, which suffered water and smoke damage. Those employees are now back in their offices.

The three-alarm fire (under way at right) caused the evacuation of many nearby buildings and forced one block of Green Street to be closed to traffic through March 27. There were no injuries. The fire occurred during the campus’ spring break.

Units affected: Global Studies, the Women’s Resources Center and economics, which occupy office space on the second and third floors at the southwest corner of Green and Wright streets.

UI veterinarians build better ‘mouse trap’ for better diagnoses

By Sharita Forrest
Education/Status Work Editor

Veterinary radiologists in the College of Veterinary Medicine at the UI recently obtained what are believed to be the first 3-D internal renderings of dogs’ larynxes by using a restraint device they created that allows clinicians to perform CT scans on awake small animals without chemical restraint.

The device – which is being tested by veterinary radiologists at universities in Australia, Europe, South Africa and the U.S. – is a significant advance for veterinary patients, enabling faster diagnosis and more effective treatment of life-threatening diseases such as laryngeal paralysis and laryngeal collapse in dogs, and asthma, heart failure and certain cancers in cats.

The device, the VetMouseTrap™, provides a low-heal, comfortable and nurturing environment for small pets that safely restraints them without the risks of sedation or anesthesia.

The VetMouseTrap™ is a Plexiglas tube with a removable top and foam padding in the bottom that limits patients’ motion, keeping them in a neutral sternal position so clinicians can conduct CT scans. Once the patient is inside the VetMouseTrap™, clinicians fasten it to the CT table with Velcro straps.

The tube’s rounded shape doesn’t create “artifacts” on the CT images, one of 16 criteria that the team identified when it set out to design a restraint device for cats, said Robert T. O’Brien, a professor and head of diagnostic imaging in the department of clinical medicine at the veterinary college and leader of the research team.

Accordingly, the transparent acrylic material of the VetMouseTrap™ permits staff to visually monitor patients inside it, and the device closes securely, but has no metal buckles or hinges, keeping the animal contained while allowing quick access to them if needed. Removable padding allows the device to accommodate small patients of different body sizes and behavioral characteristics.

The design is also symmetrical, with ports in each end to accommodate intravenous catheters and oxygen lines so that clinicians need not disconnect and reconnect lines when inserting or removing patients.

“Our goal with our imaging with the VetMouseTrap™ was to provide a higher level of imaging with the lowest cost and the least effects on our patients – without any anesthesia or sedation – so that we can provide that information to the client and the clinician without the need for more advanced, and usually more expensive, procedures to be performed,” O’Brien said.

“That’s not to say that CT is cheap – it’s...

See VETERINARY MEDICINE, PAGE 7

Better mousetrap Robert T. O’Brien, a professor and the head of diagnostic imaging in the College of Veterinary Medicine, demonstrates his invention, the VetMouseTrap™, with his cat Michael.

APs honored

Six academic professionals were honored with the Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence award.

Page 4

Closers look

Researchers hope to find out more about the Egyptian mummy from the Spurlock Museum after a recent CT scan that took place at Carle Foundation Hospital.

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On the Web
www.news.illinois.edu/ii
UI Board of Trustees approves 6.9 percent tuition increase

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The board approved several ac-
tions and heard reports on upcom-
ing issues likely to affect university operations. Many of those actions were approved after a report gave a view on what he said are burdensome-
some regulations – which include federal rules and those established internal-
ly by the board.

“If research is important, we’re going to need to get some relief from some of these issues,” he said.

He said a recent study showed that nearly half of a researcher’s time is taken manag-
ing his diligence in analyzing the needs of the university and for the staffing changes he proposes in order to improve services, reduce costs and strengthen our great uni-
versity,” he said.

Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy said the resolution showed the board’s “broad sup-
port” of actions taken by Hogan since his hiring more than eight months ago.

Kennedy said, while some of the initia-
tives were started before Hogan’s arrival, the university had sought to cap tu-
ition for incoming freshmen. The rate is

Trustees support Hogan, discuss research, suppliers

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The state of Illinois continues to be behind nearly $447 million in promis-
ed payments, which is about two-thirds of the total UI has billed. In addition, Gov.

Knorr said pending legislation also con-
“Tuition increase is expected to gen-
rate about $22 million in additional funds, a portion of which Hogan said the expen-
ses need reasonable rules, reasonable report-
ings, employee compensation and

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On the Job

Keith Restad

Keith Restad joined the UI carpentry crew, a division of Facilities and Services, in 1990. In 1996 he was assigned to the Illini Union, where he is involved in everything from large projects to hanging the signs and art. "I love the variety. I’ve always enjoyed the challenges, including members of the night crew, are charged with keeping campus buildings neatly sound and historically intact.

What led you to a carpentry career?

I’ve been interested in carpentry since I was 14. I took woodshop classes in high school and went through my apprenticeship with Carpenter’s Union 14. I’ve just always liked being able to work with my hands and building something. There’s a sense of accomplishment I get from it. Before UI, I pretty much did construction work on houses – siding, roofing, that kind of stuff.

How did you end up at the UI?

I started full-time in the Union in the fall of 1996. Before that I was part of a crew that was called out to different buildings on campus. Now I work exclusively at the Illini Union or at the Union Bookstore. In addition to maintenance and renovation work, I hang the pictures, signs and banners around the Union and am in charge of hanging the pieces in the art gallery. I’ve pretty much hung just about everything in here.

How does this job differ from private-sector work?

A lot of it is the same – I’ve got a boss now and I’ve always had a boss. I don’t want to use the word relaxed, but I think the competition on the outside is just a little more fierce. Everybody here has a job to do and the expectations are that the work will be done well and in a timely fashion.

Can anyone learn to be a carpenter?

There are people who are more adapted to it, but I feel like it’s something you can learn. I feel like one of the traits I have that helps is patience. Things don’t always go the way you planned, but you have to have the patience to work through it. We run stuff into we haven’t run into before – I want to say daily – we have to learn by the seat of our pants. I think if you’ve gained enough experience in certain things, you can work your way through any project. It’s a way of looking at things. Once you’ve acquired that knowledge, it’s a foundation you keep building on.

What has been your favorite Union construction project?

I guess I’m probably proudest of the (Wellness Center) relaxation room. Everything you see on a curve has turned out really nice, though I wish it was used more. It’s one of the most unique rooms around. We also did a lot of work on the learning alley; we remodeled the whole thing.

What is it that makes the Illini Union stand out from other campus buildings?

Man, I love this place. The architecture of the place is amazing. It’s the place all the students want to go and it’s the place all the alumni want to come back to and see. This is the kind of job where I get the benefit of the cultural things that come to the university and the historical things that are part of the buildings here. It’s cool because you get to see different people and the way they look at things; that’s the most enjoyable part of my job.

How are renovation projects identified?

A lot of times the painting crews find areas where there’s a problem. It might be identified through leak, and then they’ll chase it down to find out where it started. There are people on staff who’s identification. They’ll make a decision on priorities and what projects are needed. I’m usually called in when someone needs additional space or they’re moving to a new area.

Your job seems mostly autonomous.

It’s cool because you get to see different people and the way they look at things; that’s the most enjoyable part of my job.

Is there a sense of pride in what we do?

I really enjoy having people be happy with the job when it’s done.

--- Interview by Mike Helenthal, assistant editor

Senate approves call for universitywide summit

By Mike Helenthal

T he UI Academic Senate on March 28 called for a “wider university discussion” of institutional governance, inviting university administrators and members of the UI Board of Trustees to meet with faculty leaders in a summit.

Some have been discussing recent administrative changes and approved a statement Feb. 28 asking administrators and the board for further dialogue prior to future administrative changes. At the board meeting in Springfield March 23, trustees pledged to consider the issue was prompted by board of trustees and further development at the park. Provisions for Davenport Hall, Smith Memorial Hall and the Education Building: approved the $78 million contract for the construction of Stanley O. Ikenberry Commons residence hall and the demolition of Forbes Hall.

Trustees approved lease agreements for the National Center for Supercomputing Applications and for space to house administrative offices. The NCSA lease for space near the National Science Foundation’s headquarters in Virginia; the administrative space is at 1817 S. Neil St., Champaign.

Trustees finalized amendments to the operating agreement of the UI Research Park, based in Urbana, as well as a 16-year development agreement with Fox/Atkins Development.

According to officials, the agreement includes provisions to benefit the university and further development at the park. Provisions include having at least 20,000 square feet of building space available at all times for potential new tenants, and requirements for marketing and infrastructure development.

Do you ever have to depend on other members of the F&S team to complete a project?

All the time. We constantly go through situations where we need things from the machine shop or the mill or some other specialized piece or part. I’ll definitely put in a plug for the mill; they can use archives and duplicate just about anything. These types of issues come up all the time and we work together on lots of things. Without that support, my life would be miserable. We all have a lot of pride in what we do. I really enjoy having people be happy with the job when it’s done.

--- Interview by Mike Helenthal, assistant editor

ON THE WEB


Call for Universitywide Summit (Includes nine principles) www.senate.uiuc.edu/ Summit_agenda.pdf

For more information, see page 3.
Six academic professionals received 2011 Chancellor’s Academic Professional Excellence awards at a reception April 1 at the I Hotel and Conference Center.

Academic professionals perform a wide range of vital functions for the campus community. They provide critical administrative support, support research laboratories and educational programs, and offer important outreach programs throughout the state. Now in its 23rd year, the program is intended to honor the accomplishments and contributions of selected academic professionals. Recipients are selected for work, personal and professional contributions. Each award winner receives $2,000 — a $1,000 one-time budget increase for his/her department.

“Jack Brighton’s work has been critical to the success of Illinois Public Media for more than 20 years,” wrote Mark Leonard, IPM general manager.

Brighton, director of new media and innovation for IPM, was hired as a producer for WJLL radio in 1987 and helped establish “Focus 580 With David Inge” as one of the best local public radio talk shows in the nation.

As the Internet grew, Brighton grew with it. He learned HTML design and created a number of websites for IPM — some 100,000 pages — including two sites that have won the Campus Webmasters’ “Cool Website” award. Using surplus equipment, he began streaming WILL programming on the Internet in 1998 and later designed an archives automation system using inexpensive software.

Brighton is responsible for all of IPM’s websites, streaming services, social media, digital media systems integration, e-commerce, Web services and applications. He is leading a five-year capital campaign to address future technology needs and innovation, including the completion of the digital TV transition.

Across campus, Brighton is known for his knowledge and ability to gather people and lead them to common solutions. When he was chair of the Campus Webmasters group from 2002 to 2007, membership grew from 200 to 600 people. His leadership drove quality and accessibility improvements to websites across campus.

In 2004 he saw a need for a similar group to address best practices for rich media and formed the Educational Media Group, now called the Center for Media Excellence. Brighton also has become a leader on campus and nationally — in preserving digital media content.

Bill Goodman, assistant dean for business, administration and technology for the College of Applied Health Sciences, leads Sustainability, Web accessibility specialist for the Division of Disability Resources and Educational Services

Curtis T. Sinclair, Extension educator, camp manager and program director; 4-H Memorial Camp

Pamela Ulterback, research specialist in the department of animal sciences

Photography by L. Brian Stauffer

The Center for Latin American and Caribbean Studies at Illinois has been flourishing for the past several years, and one key contributor to that success is Angelina Cotler, associate director of the center in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences. Co-workers say Cotler exudes enthusiasm because she cares deeply about the center, the university and the interdisciplinary study of Latin American culture.

The center is a small unit and Cotler is an “administrative anchor” whose duties vary widely. She supervises undergraduate and graduate programs, both majors and minors; serves as an adviser for several dozen students; works with the director to create academic programming for the center and to write and administer the external grants that pay more than 90 percent of its operating expenses.

She recently helped initiate two positions at the center by training a new outreach coordinator and by defining the job of program coordinator in the center’s new Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies.

Known for efficiency and dependability, Cotler also is recognized for her creativity. Her innovations for the center include the development of two new minor degree programs in Latin American Studies; creation of the CLACS This Week communication to faculty members, students and friends throughout Central Illinois; and the initiation of the Latin American Film Festival at the Art Theater in Champaign.

Cotler has made outstanding choices in developing programming for the CLACS weekly lecture series. Through attractive programming and her efforts to generate publicity, average attendance at those lectures has doubled during her tenure.

Her counterpart at the University of Chicago Center for Latin American Studies, Josh Beck, wrote, “The quality and efficiency of her work, her engaging personal demeanor, and her high degree of professionalism all reflect very positively on the University of Illinois and are deserving of special recognition.”

Bill Goodman, assistant dean for business, administration and technology for the College of Applied Health Sciences, leads the Project Capes.
Larry A. Barringer, 70, died March 16 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was a temperature control mechanic for the Division of Operation and Maintenance (now Facilities and Services) for 16 years, retiring in 1996. Memorials: Rotary Shelter Box, Champaign-Urbana Sunrise Rotary Club, www.casuireresitory.org, or Mennonite Home Research at the Mayo Clinic, www.mayoclinic.com.

John Jay “Jack” Bateman, 80, died March 6 in Fort Pierce, Fla. Bateman was a professor of classics, retiring in 1993 as professor emeritus after teaching at the UI for 33 years. He served as head of the classics department from 1966 to 1973. A memorial service will be June 24 in Elmina, N.Y. Memorials: Human Society.

George Hunter, 93, died March 26 in Urbana. Hunter was a professor of music at the UI for 34 years, retiring in 1982. He was a pioneer in the performance of early music. Memorials: Champaign County Humane Society, 1911 E. Main St., Urbana, IL 61802.

Carolyn L. Killingsworth, 69, died March 16 at her Paxton home. Killingsworth was a library assistant at the UI Library for 18 years, retiring in 2010. Memorials: American Cancer Society, 2509 S. Neil St., Champaign, IL 61820.

Frederick L. Mosbarger, 60, died April 1 at his home in Champaign. Mosbarger worked at the UI for 32 years, retiring in 2002 as a power plant auxiliary operator for Facilities and Services. Memorials: Parkland Band; Hiebert Band; Starlight Band; Bud’s 40’s Group; the American Diabetes Association, P.O. Box 11454, Alexandria, VA 22312; or Lake Fork United Church of Christ, 4101 E. 300 North, Atwood, IL 61913.

James W. “Bud” Ponsler, 88, died March 16 at the Champaign-Urbana Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. Ponsler worked at the UI for 19 years, retiring in 1982 as an assistant chief building operating engineer at the Illini Union.

Kathryn Brown Sayles, 87, died March 20 at St. Mary’s Hospital, Centralia. Sayles was a food service supervisor at the Illini Union. She retired in 1976 after 14 years of service.

Virginia Schreyer, 98, died March 16 at Heltia HealthCare, Champaign. Schreyer was a longtime employee and friend to the student body. In 1956 she received her B.S. in home economics from the University of Illinois. She worked for DEKALB Poultry Research Inc., before returning to campus to work with Parsons. Her interest in poultry, plus her experience and knowledge in poultry nutrition, have made her an important member of the poultry nutrition team.

Utterback manages a flock of adult roust- ers used for digestibility trials. Illinois is one of the few places in the world that runs this type of research. With her numerous industry and academic contacts, she frequently helps students with job placement.

Utterback is an outstanding representa- tive of the university and spends much of her time traveling to speak at such events as the Illinois Poultry Industry Conference; the American Poultry and Egg Council; and the Illinois Poultry Producers Association. Her effort in organizing poultry industry events is matched by her interest in teaching and research. Her interest in poultry, plus her experience and knowledge in poultry nutrition, have made her a respected authority in the poultry nutrition field.

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Leadership needed for Illinois pension reform, expert says

By Phil Chilora  Business & Law Editor

The state of Illinois needs to get serious and create a fiscally sustainable pension-reform plan, a former government economic adviser warns. UI finance professor Jeffrey R. Brown says it’s time for Illinois lawmakers to have an adult conversation with citizens about the state’s bleak financial future, and the role that pension obligations play in the Land of Lincoln’s yawning budget deficit.

“The conversation that we’ve had in Illinois about pensions so far has been very frustrating,” said Brown, the director of the Center on Business and Public Policy in the College of Business. “It has unfortunately devolved into a combative debate about the relative value of public versus private sector workers, rather than a reasoned discussion about the optimal level and mix of pensions and other employee benefits as part of the overall compensation package for public workers. We need someone to step up to the plate and lead a thoughtful, nuanced conversation about this. But I don’t know where that leadership is going to come from in the current environment.”

The most vocal critics of pension reform in the current debate are current or near-retirees — “people who have been scared into thinking their retirement is at risk, which I don’t think is a good place for this discussion to start,” Brown said.

“Current and near-retirees need to be reassured by our state leaders that their pensions are safe. But we also need our legislators to start looking for a solution that recognizes the need to do something about reforming pensions for younger workers.”

According to Brown, a history professor of underfunding the state’s defined benefit plan has created an unsustainable financial burden for the state.

“Politically, we have the same problem with state pensions as we do with the underfunded Social Security system,” said Brown, a former member of the bipartisan Social Security Advisory Board and a senior economist with the President’s Council of Economic Advisers in 2001-2002. “If you accept the notion that we’re going to protect current and near-retirees, then the people who have the most at stake are those in the younger generation,” he said. “They are the ones who will have to spend the rest of their lives paying the taxes to support this system, so we’re really also talking about their taxes and their benefits. But it’s difficult to get the younger generation fired up about these issues. It’s unfortunate, but it’s reality.”

Although the state needs to protect those who are at or near retirement, Brown said current workers who are at least a decade away from retirement have plenty of time to adjust their behavior if changes are made to the defined benefit system.

“Public sector workers aren’t so different from private sector workers that we can’t discuss these things,” he said. “What I find especially puzzling is the idea that taxpayers should be obligated to protect the current pension rules into the indefinite future for younger workers. If you’re in your 20s, 30s or even your 40s, there is a good contractual case to be made that any and all benefits you’ve earned so far ought to be protected. But you might have another 20 or 30 years left to work in the system, and it is really reasonable to think that we can’t have a conversation about what your retirement package should look like going forward from today? That’s not a sensible way to run the state’s fiscal policy, and that’s what needs to change.”

Brown cautions that his’s not in favor of shifting workers from defined-benefit plans to state-sponsored 401(k) plans.

“To be clear, I’m not talking about throwing public workers into the deep end of the pool and seeing if they can swim, which is what has been done in the private sector with many traditional 401(k) plans,” he said. “The private sector initially went a bit too far in that direction, and there’s a lot of empirical evidence to suggest that the average person doesn’t have the financial sophistication needed to make optimal decisions in a do-it-yourself environment. So the traditional 401(k) model isn’t the answer.”

Brown believes a smartly designed hybrid system — with a smaller defined benefit supplement with an income-oriented defined contribution plan that is more akin to a 403(b) plan than a 401(k) — could be a better solution for both workers and state coffers.

“If we were designing a retirement system from scratch today, we wouldn’t give someone only a state-funded defined benefit program, nor would we give them only a 401(k),” he said. “The idea of a hybrid plan is to acknowledge that there is some value to having a baseline level of guaranteed income for people who aren’t in Social Security, but that there is also value to providing individuals with more control over part of their retirement plan.”

Brown says a lot of workers, especially younger workers, would find having more control over their retirement savings attractive, especially since many younger workers “don’t have any confidence in the state’s ability to make good on their financial commitments in the long run,” he said.

“To the extent that younger workers would be willing to accept a reduction in their expected future benefits in exchange for the increased security of having a fully-funded personal account, such an approach could save the state money in the long run,” Brown said. “Because states cannot escape their funding obligations for defined contribution plans in the same way that they can for defined benefit (DB) plans, this approach would also enforce some much-needed fiscal discipline on the state.”

Brown, the William G. Karnes Professor of Finance at Illinois, has been a member of the TIAA Board of Trustees since 2009.
Living wage, health insurance vital for low-income single moms

By Sharita Forrest
Education/Student Life Editor

While welfare-to-work programs mandate employment for welfare recipients, in the labor market, many low-income single mothers have unstable and low-paying jobs that leave families vulnerable to hunger, inadequate nutrition, unmet health care needs and other hardships, according to recent studies by two researchers at the UI.

The studies’ findings emphasize the necessity of jobs that pay living wages and provide universal health insurance, the researchers say.

Mary Keegan Eamon and Chi-Fang Wu, professors in the School of Social Work at Illinois, co-wrote two studies of single-mother families – one study that examined patterns of involuntary unemployment/underemployment and another study that examined the transition from unemployment or underemployment to adequate employment.

The unemployment rate for single-mother families is double that for mothers who are married, and single mothers are much more vulnerable to job problems for single-mother families, the second study indicated. Factors such as work experience and home ownership might have captured available assets that the families would not have when they were unemployed or underemployed.

According to Wu, the relationship between cash benefits and employment problems might be the result of selection bias – that is, single mothers who received cash benefits were more likely to have other problems such as mental health issues.

Mary Keegan Eamon and Chi-Fang Wu, professors in the School of Social Work at Illinois, co-wrote two studies of single-mother families – one study that examined patterns of involuntary unemployment/underemployment and another study that examined the transition from unemployment or underemployment to adequate employment, such as involuntarily working part time or earning near-poverty wages.

Single moms have conducted two research studies on low-income single mothers that emphasize the need for jobs that pay living wages and provide universal health insurance.

VETERINARY MEDICINE. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

just extremely quick. It does what more than anything else is give us confidence in the diagnosis and allow us to aggressively treat conditions with a high degree of accuracy. That is in the best interest of the client and the patient. And I hope, in the end, it means mortality is at issue here – these aren’t diseases that animals always get well from.”

A single CT scan of a cat can be obtained in 15 seconds or so, while small dogs take a few seconds longer, O’Brien said. “Sometimes we have to do multiple images of dogs to figure out where their airway problem is, but we can usually be done within five minutes. This is very fast imaging. And the animals are totally awake and not being restrained or anesthetized.”

During the study’s initial phase, the VetMouseTrap™ was tested with 10 healthy cats – a mixture of outdoor and indoor cats – and the cats’ breathing rates and other responses to being inside the device were monitored. Only two cats – both of them outdoor cats – showed signs that they were so distressed above being in the device that they had to be removed. The remaining cats “didn’t appear to be stressed any more than they would be just from being in a strange place,” O’Brien said.

Images of 22 diseased cats, and then of 16 dogs with symptoms of primary laryngeal or tracheal airway obstructions, were obtained using the device.

“We had a very good correlation between what we saw on this advanced CT imaging and the final answers that they were able to get surgically or with endoscopic evaluation, which is the gold standard,” O’Brien said. “This level of detail has never been seen before in veterinary medicine. We had no imaging modality to image inside the voice box of a dog. It was just not possible. Radiographs could do it. And even if you did CT, MRI or one of the advanced modalities, you had to place a tube down through the voice box. Then you couldn’t image what you’d just placed the tube down.”

Sedation and general anesthesia are especially dangerous for animals in respiratory distress, and veterinarians have had to weigh the hazards of chemical restraint against the possible diagnostic benefit of CT imaging. Rabbits and cats, which respond to pain and stress by hunkering down and not moving, “are perfect candidates for the VetMouseTrap™,” O’Brien said. Large dogs, which usually try to escape confinement by frantically barking and digging, are not amenable to it.

“It’s not a best fit with every patient, but it’s worked with almost every cat and with many small dogs,” O’Brien said. “We think there’s a lot of opportunities in other species.”

Researchers in England and Scotland are exploring modifications to the VetMouseTrap™ for general practice veterinarians there, where radiation safety laws prohibit technicians from being in the same room to restrain animals when scans or X-rays are performed, O’Brien said. The device also has other clinical uses, such as portable oxygen delivery to awake cats that need oxygen therapy, but not necessarily diagnostic scans, in the UI Small Animal Clinic’s emergency room, O’Brien said.

The UI has patented the VetMouseTrap™ and entered into a contract with Universal Medical Systems in Solon, Ohio, to manufacture and market the device as a portable oxygen delivery device for cats. The company also plans to include the device with every veterinary CT scanner it sells. The first 10 units were expected to hit the market April 1, according to the company’s president D.R. Zavagno.

Articles about the team’s work with the VetMouseTrap™ have been accepted for publication in the journal Veterinary Radiology and Ultrasound.
Trendy, tacky or trash? It’s all in the eye of the consumer

By Phil Chiera Business and Page Editor

The ShamWow. The Snuggie. Big-Mouth Billy Bass. And the latest fad, Pajama Jeans. Are these products winners or worthless? For consumers who plunk down their hard-earned dollars on products of questionable utility, it’s all in the eye of the beholder, says a UI marketing expert.

Cele Otnes, a professor of business administration who studies consumer buying rituals ranging from weddings to at-home holiday celebrations, says the allure of products hawked on late-night infomercials by breathless pitchmen is the tacit acknowledgement that consumers are in on the joke. “All of these products that you see on infomercials are all items I would file under the heading, ‘Items we buy but don’t know why we buy them,'” Otnes said.

Yet 2008’s Weissman’s first book, which is perplexing given the continued financial struggles of consumers in the Great Recession. But whoever said consumers were rational? “Everybody loves a funny joke. You can buy the ShamWow, the Snuggie. The Jack-O-Lantern in the weeks leading up to Halloween. Never mind that it will just be collecting dust in the garage for the other 50 weeks of the year.”

The impending nuptials of Prince William and Kate Middleton will likely spark more interest in the British royal family – a gap in the market that will no doubt be exploited by retailers.

“You can buy a product to show everyone else that you get the joke. If you do see it, it has to be surrounded by other things that show everyone else that you get the joke. But you wouldn’t want to just put one piece of kitch, you would want to have a collection, because having more of something is often acknowledged and intensifies the humor and irony of it.”

The appeal of kitch is that it simultaneously in the eye of the beholder, says Otnes. Marketing expert Cele Otnes.

Otnes. “In fact, much of consumer behavior, including gift-buying rituals and holidays, is completely irrational.”

Owning a piece of pop culture – even if its only value may be as an ironic tchotchke – is completely irrational.

“Price plays an important role in perception,” Otnes said. “The lower the prices, the more people look at something as trash. There is quality and price issue with trash, whereas with cute and kitch, the consumer can spend a lot of money on an item meant to last a lifetime.

“Just look at the seasonal products big-box retailers sell before holidays,” she said. “They just figure that consumers are going berserk, so expect to see an outpouring of royal-themed products ranging of varying quality.”

Photographer Berenice Abbott profiled in author’s first book

By Dusty Rhodes Arts and Humanities Editor

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he Realism of Berenice Abbott Documentary, Photography and Political Action” was published in January as the winner of the 2010 Phillips Book Prize. It has been excerpted in Scope, the new magazine started by former Gravitas editor Ian Garrick Mason, and also in Berfrois, a scholarly news aggregation website.

An associated art exhibition featuring the photography of Abbott, Walker Evans and Margaret Bourke-White is on display at the Art Institute of Chicago through May 15. Weissman was a contributing editor to the exhibition’s catalog, published by University of California Press in 2010.

A professor of art history at the UI, Weissman describes her first book as “a monograph in the negative,” because it looks at Abbott’s career not only through her accomplishments, but also through the projects that never came to fruition. “In some ways, in the process of looking at all her failures, I was thinking that it’s the inverse image of her,” Weissman said, “and that it’s precisely the inverse image that allows us to see the contributions that she made.”

Abbott is best known for 1930s images of New York City architecture. Weissman, however, devoted equal attention to Abbott’s work as a portrait artist in 1920s Paris, the remarkable studio images she crafted at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology to illustrate a 1950s physics textbook, and the technologies Abbott invented – including the first macro, or “supersighted” lens – to produce those photographs.

Weisman devoted a chapter to Abbott’s most heartfelt project, which documented rural life in mid-America. Abbott conceived of this sweeping collection of photos as a “portrait of the nation,” but she never found a publisher willing to take it on. Weissman discovered that even Abbott’s trademark photographic project – the photo book titled “Changing New York” – did not turn out as she had hoped. In her research, Weissman came into possession of the original photo captions written by Abbott’s partner, critic Elizabeth McCausland. “They were both more poetic and more Marxist in orientation than the captions that were published,” Weissman said. “When I first read them, my reaction was ‘These are amazing!’ and then ‘Of course these didn’t get published – what was she thinking?’”

Abbott used the term “realism” to describe all of her work, and Weissman’s book examines the fluidity and flexibility of that term. She is working on two more projects related to Abbott’s philosophy of realism: A book about Lewis Hine, the photographer whose documentary work helped change child labor laws, and a book tentatively titled “This is What Democracy Looks Like,” about the visual culture of social protest movements of the late 20th and early 21st centuries.

And Weissman isn’t done with Abbott. She has committed to speaking engagements at upcoming exhibitions featuring Abbott’s work, including Colby College in Maine and an exhibit at MIT in 2013.
Researchers make the leap to whole-cell simulations

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Researchers have built a computer model of the crowded interior of a bacterial cell that—in a test of its response to sugar in its environment—accurately simulates the behavior of living cells.

The new "in silico" cells are the result of a collaboration between experimental scientists at the Max Planck Institute for Biology in Germany and theoretical scientists at the UI using the newest GPU (graphics processing unit) computing technology. Their study appears in the journal PLoS Computational Biology.

"This is the first time that we're modeling entire cells with the complete contents of the cellular cytoplasm represented," said Illinois postdoctoral researcher Elijah Roberts. "We're looking at the influence of the whole cellular architecture instead of modeling just a portion of the cell, as people have done previously."

UI chemistry professor Zaida Luthey-Schulten, who led the research, had done molecular dynamics simulations of individual molecules or groups of molecules involved in information processing, but never of a system as large and complex as the interior of an entire cell. Then in 2006 she saw a paper by Wolfgang Baumeister and his colleagues at Max Planck that located every one of a bacterium's ribosomes, its protein-building machines, inside the cell. That image spurred Luthey-Schulten to think about modeling an entire cell, and she asked Baumeister and his colleague Julio Ortuño if they would repeat the study in *Escherichia coli* (*E. coli*), a bacterium that has been the subject of numerous molecular studies.

Once the new ribosome data were available, Roberts looked to other studies that described the size distribution of the rest of the molecules that take up space in the cell. By adding these to the ribosome data, he developed a three-dimensional model that showed the degree of "molecular crowding" in a typical *E. coli* cell.

Luthey-Schulten was amazed at how little "space" remained inside the cell, she said.

"I think, like everybody else, my perception of the cell up until Wolfgang and Julio's 2006 article that always been that it was a pretty big sack of water where a lot of chemical reactions occur," she said. "But in fact there are a lot of obstacles in the cell, and that is going to affect how individual molecules move around and it's going to affect the reactions that occur."

Other researchers have begun studying the effects of molecular crowding on cellular processes, but never at the scale of an entire cell.

Those studying live cells can—by conducting fluorescence experiments—discover variations in the copy number of a particular protein in a population of cells. But they are less able to observe the microscopic details that give rise to such differences between genetically identical cells. Well-designed computer simulations of whole cells can track every reaction within the cells while also accounting for the influence of molecular crowding and other variations between cells, Luthey-Schulten said.

For example, by running simulations on models of two *E. coli* strains, the researchers were able to see that "bacterial cell architecture does indeed affect the reactions that occur within the cells," Luthey-Schulten said. When sugar was present in its environment, a longer, narrower *E. coli* strain was able to ramp up production of a sugar-transporter protein much more quickly than a bigger strain, the researchers found. That difference had a lot to do with the distribution of molecules in each cell type, Roberts said.

The computer simulation also showed how molecular crowding influences the behavior of a molecule that, when it binds to DNA, shuts down production of the sugar-transporter protein. Even when it wasn't bound to DNA, this repressor remained close to the binding site because other molecules in the cell blocked its escape. These intracellular obstacles reduced its ability to diffuse away.

The new model is only a first step toward an accurate simulation of a whole working cell, the researchers said. The development of better models will rely on the work of those conducting research on actual cells. Their data provide the framework for improving computer models, Luthey-Schulten said, and offer a real-world test of the in silico cells' ability to recreate the behavior of living cells.

Future studies will further develop the *E. coli* models and will focus on methane-generating archaeal microbes.

This research was supported by the Department of Energy Office of Science, the National Science Foundation and the Foundation Fourmentin-Goibert. Computational resources were provided by the NSF through the TeraGrid and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, and also by the CUDA Center of Excellence at Illinois.

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Cell behavior Using data supplied by researchers at the Max Planck Institute, UI postdoctoral researcher Elijah Roberts and chemistry professor Zaida Luthey-Schulten built a computer model of a bacterial cell that accurately simulates the behavior of actual cells.
Civil War set off a social and cultural revolution

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

The American Civil War not only was a series of monumental struggles on the battlefields, it also was a revolution behind the lines – a profound upending of the social order that played out in the South through the four years of the war, says UI historian Bruce Levine. The battles get the attention, and likely will again as the U.S. marks the war’s sesquicentennial starting with the April 12 anniversary of the firing on Fort Sumter. But the social and cultural revolution in the South that the war triggered was just as dramatic and ultimately more important, said Levine, who is working on a book on the topic due out next year.

From the war’s first shots, this “second American revolution” began fracturing the wealthy, confident, and seemingly solid South along its social fault lines, and weakening the institution of slavery, according to Levine (pronounced La-VEEN), the J. G. Randall Distinguished Professor of history and a professor of African American Studies.

It would bring down a powerful and arrogant slaveholding elite that had imposed its will not only on the South, but also to a large extent on the nation as a whole, Levine said.

Most non-slaveholding whites would support the war at the start, and many to the end, Levine said. But many others, starting especially in hill country areas of the South, would gradually come to see the struggle as a “rich man’s war and a poor man’s fight,” he said, and some areas would actively rebel against the Confederacy. Thousands of slaves would be freed by the war, and recently freed slaves would make up most of the 200,000 black men who would eventually serve in the Union army or navy, Levine said.

Just as important, however, the chains were loosened on many more who remained in bondage, he said. With many masters and other white men gone off to war, and the Union army sometimes just a county or two away, many Confederate slaves gained new bargaining power. That led even many slaveholders to recognize that “this was ceasing to be slavery.”

“The Civil War is a revolutionary war,” Levine said. “It is a war that not only, by virtue of the North winning, puts an end to slavery, it’s a war that also puts an end to slavery in the course of being fought,” Levine said.

And the ironies are many. “The South went to war to save slavery and believed slavery would help it win the war,” Levine said. “But instead of being a source of strength, slavery turns into a source of weakness. And by embarking on this war they defeated slavery far faster and more radically than would have happened if they had stayed within the Union and fought this out with purely peaceful methods.”

Levine’s book tentatively is titled “The Fall of the House of Dixie,” inspired by the Edgar Allan Poe short story “‘The Fall of the House of Usher.’” Like Poe’s house, the South of 1860 looked solid and imposing at the start of the war, but the stresses of the conflict widened existing cracks, eventually causing the house to crumble, Levine said.

“All these bonds of loyalty and unanimity that everybody claimed were so strong, cease being so strong,” he said. “It wouldn’t have happened if there weren’t these blows being struck against the walls from the outside, but the walls are fracturing along lines of internal weakness that have always been there.”

Levine places much blame for this miscalculation on the slaveholders, especially the wealthiest who owned hundreds of slaves.

“Having this kind of absolute power over human beings has a profound effect on shaping who these people are, and think they are, in their relationships with everybody,” he said. “There’s a tremendous arrogance and self-confidence.”

In a war being fought to save the institution of slavery as a whole, Levine said planters would often fixate on their own narrow, individual interests. They would refuse to lend or even rent their slaves to the army to help build fortifications, would refuse to pay taxes, refuse to plant needed food crops instead of more-profitable cotton.

“You see in the diaries of some of the major planters their ferocious resentment at the Confederate government for presuming to interfere with their rights as absolute masters,” he said.

Southern masters had gone to war in the first place because slavery was at the center of their vision of the good society, Levine said. They believe “this is the way things should be.” Taking this away “doesn’t just pull the economic rug out from under them, important as that is. It pulls the cultural rug, the intellectual rug, the political rug out from under them as well.”

Cultural revolution The social and cultural revolution in the South that the Civil War triggered was just as dramatic and ultimately more important than the battles of the war, says historian Bruce Levine.
Stretchable balloon electronics assist in diagnosis, treatment

By Liz Ahlberg

Cardiologists may soon be able to place sensitive electronics inside a balloon catheter to perform complex procedures that measure and treat arrhythmias without incising the heart muscle.

April 7, 2011

The tube in search of ir-
a cardiologist maneuvers
two separate, rigid cathe-
mia procedures involve
Current invasive arrhyth-
cells that beat off-rhythm.
and mapping arrhythmias and
the end for detecting and
rhythm disorders use cath-
gists specializing in heart
blood vessels or valves.

Invasive cardio-
rythm disorders use cath-
 with electrodes at the
 procedures as passive mechanical instruments.

Catheters are long, flexible tubes that
 can be threaded through a vein or artery to
reach the inside of the heart. Catheters with
balloons at the end are commonly used for
mapping areas of the heart simultaneously, using in-

Catheters with balloons at the end are commonly used for
mapping areas of the heart simultaneously, using in-

For example, the researchers added tem-

Through a collaboration with researchers
at Northwestern University, led by Young-
gang Huang, the team solved this problem
by mounting the sensors and electrodes on
tiny rigid islands so they wouldn’t be af-
fected by the balloon stretching. They also

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Study predicts large regional changes in farmland area

By Liz Ahlberg
PhD in Environmental Studies Editor

T he effects of climate change and population growth on agricultural land area vary from region to region, according to a new study by UI researchers.

Regions with relative high latitudes – China, Russia and the U.S. – could see a significant increase in arable land in coming years, but Africa, Europe and India and South America could lose land area.

Civill and environmental engineering professor Ximing Cai and graduate student Xiao Zhang published their findings in the journal Environmental Research Letters.

While most other studies of climate change and agriculture have focused on predicting crop yields, the researchers assessed global and regional land availability.

Using international land and climate data, the team systematically studied worldwide changes in soil temperature and humidity with a resolution of one square kilometer.

After synthesizing the trends and data of potential arable land and the possible impacts of climate change from a biophysical perspective, Cai said, “The possible gains and losses of arable land in various regions worldwide vary generation tremendous impacts in the upcoming decades upon regional and global agricultural commodity production, demand and trade, as well as on the planning and development of agricultural and engineering infrastructures.”

Cai and Zhang’s model allowed them to address the uncertainty in trying to predict climate change, such as levels of greenhouse gas emissions, climate change, residential sprawl as population increases, and more “helpful.”

SEC CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Supporters of the institute have beenadamant in its defense.

Last month, the committee voted to not offer its support for the administration’s proposal to close the institute. Abba Aminimour, chair of the committee, said at the SEC meeting that new information led to the committee’s turnabout, though he did not share details. “This has been an evolving situation,” he said. “We’ll present our rationale and statement to the senate (prior to the closure vote).”

The committee voted to support the proposal to drop the Bachelor of Science in Aerospace, according to a new study by UI researchers.

The request for a meeting with Hogan was brought to the senate by pro-reform senator Nicholas Burbules, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership.

“Senator Burbules, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership, was a little more pointed in his criticism, citing a “particular pattern of behavior” by the senator “increasingly asserting his role as spokesman of this campus,”” said Richard Wheeler, interim provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs.

“Wheeler said he hoped future conversation on the topic would be less “incendiary” and more “helpful.”

Senators said they would likely call a special meeting to adhere to the president’s schedule.

OFFICERS ELECTED

The results of last month’s Academic Senate election also were announced.

Matt Wheeler will become chair of the Senate Executive Committee beginning April 16, Tollever, the current chair, will serve as vice chair.

Faculty senators elected to the Committee on Committees: Harley Johnson, mechanical science and engineering; Prasanta Kalita, agricultural and biological engineering; and Brendesya Tynes, educational psychology.

Official results will be presented at the April 18 senate organizational meeting.

SEC members discussed adding more meeting dates in the coming year because of the numerous issues facing the campus.

A subcommittee will be formed to propose exact meeting dates.
Multi-tasking on the street not a good idea for older people

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Older adults may put themselves at risk by talking on cellphones while crossing the street, researchers report in a new study. The researchers found that adults aged 59 to 81 took significantly longer than college students to cross a simulated street while talking on a mobile phone and that their heightened cautiousness in initiating crossing did nothing to improve their safety. Older adults on cell phones also were more likely to fail to cross in the time allotted for the task.

The findings, from researchers at the UI, appear in the journal Psychology and Aging. "Older adults on cell phones, and 18 older adults (aged 18 to 26 years) served as younger controls. Both groups were tested in a simulated street crossing while engaged in a dual-task performance that included talking on a mobile phone or conversing on a hands-free cellphone. The older adults were significantly impaired on the most challenging street-crossing tasks while also engaged in a second activity, with the most pronounced impairment occurring during cellphone conversations. The younger adults showed no impairment on dual-task performance, the researchers found. It should be noted that we have previously found that younger adults show similar performance decrements, but under much more challenging crossing conditions," said lead author Mark Neider, a post-doctoral researcher who conducted the study with Illinois psychology professor and Beckman Institute director Art Kramer. "Combined with our previous work, the current findings suggest that while all pedestrians should exercise caution when attempting to cross a street while conversing on a cellphone, older adults should be particularly careful," Neider said. ◆

Bound states in graphene-superconductor junctions isolated

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

Illinois researchers have documented the first observations of some unusual physics when two prominent electronic materials are connected: superconductors and graphene.

Led by UI physics professor Nadya Mason, the group published its findings in the journal Nature Physics. "Before this, it wasn't really possible to understand the fundamentals of what is transporting the current," Mason said. "This is a unique case where we found something that we couldn't have discovered without all of these different elements – without the graphene, or the superconductor, or the quantum dot, it wouldn't have worked. All of these are really necessary to see this unusual state," Mason said. The U.S. Department of Energy supported this work, conducted at the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory at Illinois. ◆
Illini Summer Academies
Program highlights UI units, leadership
Illinois high school students can explore the UI, college majors and future careers at the 2011 Illini Summer Academies June 27-29. Registration is under way for the program, which offers youths an in-depth, hands-on look at one of seven colleges and departments across campus, or a three-day focus on teen leadership training.

2011 academies are offered in the areas of aerospace engineering, agricultural and biological engineering, art and design, civil and environmental engineering, computer engineering sciences building, engineering, fine and applied arts, liberal arts and sciences, and veterinary medicine.

The program is open to any Illinois resident 14-18 years old by Sept. 1, 2011. Some academies have age or grade restrictions. Participants stay in college residence halls and walk to class during their stay. Joint evening activities are planned.

The program is coordinated by UI Extension State 4-H in collaboration with the colleges of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Engineering; Fine and Applied Arts; Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Veterinary Medicine.

Fees vary according to academy. Early registration discounts are offered until April 15, after that, full registration fees go into effect. Registration is open until academies are full or May 25. For full information on academies, fees and registration requirements, visit http://go.illinois.edu/2011summeracademies or contact Deb Stocker, dstocker@illinois.edu.

Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory
Register now for June workshop
The Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory will host the fifth annual Advanced Materials Characterization Workshop June 8-9. The workshop, in Room 190 of the Engineering Sciences Building, will provide a critical, comparative and condensed overview of mainstream analytical techniques for materials characterization and an emphasis on practical applications. The workshop will benefit students, and faculty and staff members from the UI and other campuses who need to make use of materials analysis for their research and development.

The workshop also will include a vendor show. Product specialists will showcase their products and discuss applications of analytical techniques. Laboratory tours showing the main instruments available at the lab will be given during the workshop.

The deadline for required registration is May 20. For a full list of techniques included in the workshop and to register, visit http://cmm.neri.illinois.edu/Workshop2011/. Email questions to Mauro Sardela, sardela@illinois.edu, or Julie ten Have, tent@illinois.edu.

‘Don’t Gamble With Your Health’
Health Fair is April 20
Faculty and staff members, students and the community are invited to a Health Fair from 10 a.m.-3 p.m. April 20 in Illini Rooms A, B and C at the Illini Union.

Sponsored by the McKinley Health Center’s Special Populations’ Student Health Concerns Committee, the event’s theme is “Don’t Gamble With Your Health.” Entertainment will include a DJ, games and door prizes. Free health screenings and screenings also will be available. Featured: blood pressure screenings, cholesterol screenings, spinal checks, massages, manucures, nutrition education, sexual health information, stress management, eye care, chiropractic services, skin care consultancy, emergency medical information, and drug and alcohol awareness information.

This is the group’s 18th annual health fair. The event is free and open to campus and community members.

Participants include Campus Recreation, Carle Clinic, Champaign Urbana Public Health District, Christie Clinic, McKinley Health Center and Provena Covenant Medical Center. The event is sponsored by the Student Affairs Program Coordinating Council, the Student Cultural Program Fee and the Student Organization Resource Fee.

For more information, call 217-333-2714 or visit http://illinoismedfair.com.

Special Populations Student Health Concerns Committee is a registered student organization at the McKinley Health Center. The group aims to increase health awareness in an effort to promote a positive and healthy lifestyle within the campus and the community. The group serves the general campus student population with particular attention to the health needs of underrepresented groups on campus and in the community, including international students, ethnic/racial minorities, women, disability groups, the LGBT community, and physically challenged groups.

Language and colonial culture
Multidisciplinary conference is April 7-9
Scholars from multiple disciplines will meet on the UI campus April 7-9, for an international conference that will address the relationship between language and cultural identity in a Global World.”

New Francophonies and Colonial Languages in a Global World will consider the ways in which French and other former colonial language communities “imagine themselves through culture – where culture is a means of expressing identity and through spoken and written discourse, literature, drama, speech, and music,” according to conference co-organizer Adajj Murdock, a professor of French and of Francophone literature at the UI.

The conference begins April 7 with a UI Center for Advanced Studies MillerComm lecture by Albert Valdman, a professor emeritus of the Creole Institute at Indiana University. “Local Cultures, Global Inequalities: Is Haiti Poor Because of its Language?” will begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Knight Auditorium at Spurlock Museum.

Panel discussions on a range of topics will take place on April 8, between 8:30 a.m. and 7 p.m., in Rooms 211 and 215 of the Illini Union. Sylvie Dubois, the Gabriel Muir Professor and the director of the Center for French and Francophone Studies at Louisiana State University, will deliver a keynote address, “Distinctive Paths of Linguistic and Cultural Resistance: The Case of Local Vernaculars in Louisiana,” at 2:30 p.m. in Room 314A of the Illini Union.

Panel discussions will continue that day in Room 215 Illini Union, from 8:30 a.m. to 5 p.m. Francose Lionnet, a professor of comparative literature at the University of California at Los Angeles, will give a keynote talk, “World Literature, Francophones and Globalized Oceans,” at 10:30 a.m. in Room 314A of the Illini Union.

On-site registration for students and non-full-time academic participants costs $35 and begins at 8 a.m. April 8 at the conference registration desk on the second floor of the Illini Union. A valid student ID is required. All conference presentations are free for all students.

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This project is being made possible with the assistance of Applied Technologies for Learning in the Arts and Sciences. ATLAS provides information technology services that support and enhance the educational, research, and administrative activities of students, faculty and staff members in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the UI. For more information, visit www.atlas.illinois.edu.

Innovation Summit
Meeting to foster interdisciplinary learning
A two-day meeting will aim to foster a campus dialogue on interdisciplinary research and education for faculty and staff members and students that will support and sustain Illinois as a leading institution of higher education.

“Innovation Summit: Building Bridges to Interdisciplinary Learning at Illinois Integrating Education and Research” will be April 13-14 at the Beckman Institute Auditorium. Organizers say the meeting will ask what it means today and into the future to provide students with an exceptional education, including global knowledge and experience, which will enable them to be innovative leaders in interdisciplinary education and research.

The meeting will be organized to generate concrete proposals for innovation in campus teaching and research. For a complete list of workshops and registration information, go to the meeting website at http://summit.research.illinois.edu. The meeting is sponsored by the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research with support from the Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs.

Annual Thulin lecture
Expert on Islam to speak April 14
John L. Esposito, the author of more than 30 books on the politics of Islam, will speak on “The Future of Islam and Muslim-West Relations” at the annual Marjorie Hall Thulin Lecture in Religion at the UI.

The lecture will begin at 8 p.m. April 14 in the Knight Auditorium of Spurlock Museum. It is free and open to the public.

Esposito said that his lecture will explore the major questions and issues facing Islam and Muslim-West relations: “Who are the reformers in Islam and what are the issues they address? What are issues that have affected and will affect future relations between the West and the Muslim world? How significant is the pro-democracy movement in the Arab world? How representative and widespread are religious extremism and the threat of global terrorism?”

Esposito is the founding director of the Prince Alwaleed bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding in the Walsh School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, where he is a professor of religion and international affairs and of Islamic studies. He has served as a consultant to the U.S. Department of State, the Center for Foreign Affairs and corporations, universities and the news media.


Esposito – born and raised in Brooklyn, New York – is Catholic. He attended parochial school, served as an altar boy, and received his bachelor’s and master’s degrees at Catholic universities (in philosophy and theology, respectively). He earned his doctorate in Islamic studies, with a minor in comparative religions, at Temple University, in 1974.

He was one of the first Westerners to focus on the political aspects of Islam, and has been in demand as an expert and consultant ever since the Shah of Iran was overthrown in 1979.

The UI lecture is endowed by a fund established by Marjorie Hall Thulin (1910-2009), who graduated from Illinois in 1931 and had a successful career in advertising. She endowed the lecture fund with the goal of helping students understand how religion functions in a complex society, especially Christianity in America.

Esposito will be interviewed on “Focus” on WILL-AM (1300) at 11:56 a.m. on April 14. Listeners can call in questions or comments.

For more information, contact David Price, the head of the department of religion, at dhprice@illinois.edu.

Unified Communications Initiative
UC @ Illinois Program Office established
In order to provide a focused program management and communications structure for development and deployment of the campus Unified Communications initiative, now called UC @ Illinois, Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services has established a UC @ Illinois Program Office. The office is managed by Greg Gulick, the director of Application Services at CITES.

Tony Rimovsky, the associate director of Enterprise Infrastructure at CITES, continues as executive sponsor.

Gulick is responsible for overall management of the program schedule, scope and cost. Rimovsky is responsible for the overall technical scope and direction of the program, as he has been since UC @ Illinois began last summer. He also will continue as the primary liaison with campus stakeholders and the UC @ Illinois governance committees, such as the Academic Telecommunications Advisory Group.

The first phase of UC @ Illinois — moving faculty and staff members off of current email systems to Exchange 2010 for email and calendaring — is in progress. The College of Engineering and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences were selected by ATAG to be the first to work with CITES on this transition. The schedule for other college transitions will be announced soon.

Planning for the second phase of UC @ Illinois — the telephone and voice mail transition — is under way. CITES expects to have 3,000 users using the full service by this summer.

For more information about UC @ Illinois visit www.cites.illinois.edu/uc/. Questions about the program can be emailed to consult@illinois.edu.

Department of urban and regional planning
Asian carp controversy discussed April 8
The controversy about Asian carp will be the subject of a symposium hosted by the department of urban and regional planning on April 8. “The Challenge of Asian Carp: A Symposium” will be from 1 to 2:30 p.m. in Plym Auditorium, 134 Temple Buell Hall. The event is free and open to the public.

Asian carp are large, invasive fish that have rapidly spread upstream through the Illinois River since the 1990s. Their recent arrival in Chicago-area canals have sparked concerns that the fish might invade the Great Lakes and damage the region’s multi-billion-dollar fisheries.

Four speakers prominent in the controversy will present their perspectives on Asian carp. The presenters: Shamel Abou-el-Seoud (U.S. Army Corps of Engineers), Mark Biel (Unlock Our Jobs), Josh Ellis (Metropolitan Planning Council) and Reuben Keller (University of Chicago). Writer Glenn Sandfor, from the department of urban and regional planning, will serve as moderator.

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Center for Teaching Excellence

Presenters, facilitators needed

The Center for Teaching Excellence offers an opportunity for faculty members, academic professionals and veteran teaching assistants to share their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for teaching by being presenters at the 2011 Graduate Academy for College Teaching on Aug. 16-17, and/or the 2011 Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours on Aug. 17.

The Graduate Academy for College Teaching is a required pre-seminar conference for TAs who have classroom responsibilities (teaching lecture, discussion, laboratory or studio sections). It includes large-group presentations on teaching and grading concepts; small-group sessions on questioning strategies and lesson planning; concurrent sessions that offer choices on diverse teaching topics; and microteaching sessions in which TAs practice teaching and receive feedback (held on Aug. 18-20). The Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours is a shorter program for those TAs who do not have classroom responsibilities. Both programs include sessions about cultural issues related to teaching that are required for international TAs.

Faculty members, APs and veteran TAs are invited to design engaging concurrent sessions about teaching, including sessions on culture and diversity; to facilitate small-group sessions on foundational teaching topics; and/or to facilitate microteaching sessions. Details about the sessions, times and expectations can be found online at http://go.illinois.edu/Aug2011PresentersCall.

The website includes a form for submissions as well as links to draft programs of the Graduate Academy and Graduate Symposium. Deadline for submissions is June 10. Con- tact Sandy Finley, sjfinley@illinois.edu, with questions.

4-H Japanese Exchange

Host families needed

Despite the tragedy in Japan, Illinois 4-H will continue its long-standing tradition of providing home-stay opportunities for Japanese youths and their adult chaperones this summer through the 4-H Japanese Exchange.

This year, the 4-H Japanese Summer Exchange will provide a language-immersion experience for 57 Japanese students, ages 12 to 15, to experience an English-speaking culture on a daily basis. They are members of Labo and students, ages 12 to 15, to experience an English-speaking summer through the 4-H Japanese Exchange.

There are also opportunities to host adult chaperones for two to four weeks. Families who host chaperones are not required to have children in the home.

Japanese families involved in the language programs recognize the value such programs offer their children. Like American families, Japanese families see our world becoming more global and look for ways to expose their children to different cultures.

The 4-H Japanese exchange is scheduled for July 21 to Aug. 19. Illinois 4-H hopes to have all participants placed by April 15.

Families interested in hosting can contact Miriam Rosen- bohm at rosenbohm07@comcast.net, Sue Herren at sher- ren@peaknet.net or their local UI Extension office. Host family application materials are available at http://web. extension.illinois.edu/state4h/members/international.cfm.

College of Business

Lecture on ethics and leadership is April 11

The College of Business will host the Leighton Lecture on Ethics and Leadership on April 11. Bart M. Schwartz, chairman and CEO of International LLC and a member of the board of HMS Holdings Corp., will speak at 4 p.m. at Deloitte Auditorium in the Business Instructional Facility.

For more than 30 years, Schwartz has managed complex investigations, prosecutions and security assessments, and provided sophisticated investigative services to a wide array of private and government clients. He has been appoint- ed by various courts to monitor high-profile cases including BP, Deutsche Bank AG, Hewlett-Packard, Merkin-Madoff and others. His extensive experience as a trial lawyer, corporate adviser and private company CEO pervade his in- sights and tactical client solutions.

The event is co-sponsored by the Center for Professional Responsibility in Business and Society in the College of Business. For more information, email gwinter@illinois.edu.
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May Berenbaum to receive 2011 Tyler Prize

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

U
1 entomology professor and de-
partment head May Berenbaum
will receive the 2011 Tyler Prize
for Environmental Achievement,
an international award that recognizes
"those individuals who have contributed in
an outstanding manner to scientific knowl-
edge and public leadership to preserve and
enhance the environment of the world."

Previous Tyler Prize recipients include
American biologist and Pulitzer Prize-win-
ning author Edward O. Wilson, primatolo-
gist and animal conservationist Jane Good-
all and conservation biologist Paul Ehrlich.

"Just about all my scientific heroes have
been Tyler Prize recipients," Berenbaum
said. "I didn’t consider that I was up in that
orbit.

"Professor Berenbaum has done more
to advance the field of entomology and ex-
plain its significance than nearly any other
researcher today," said Owen T. Lind, a
professor at Baylor University and the chair of the Tyler Prize executive
committee. "Her expertise on bees and the
causes behind declining bee populations has
further positioned her as a leading resource
for the media, policymakers and peers."

The Tyler Prize consists of a $200,000
cash prize and a gold medal.

In addition to her ongoing research on
the chemical interactions between plant-eat-
ing insects and their host plants, Berenbaum
has built a second career as a science com-
municator. She has written or co-written
numerous books on insect fact and folklore,
and has led several projects aimed at com-
 municating science to the public and engag-
ing "citizen scientists" in the process of col-
lecting data on environmental subjects.

In 1984, Berenbaum founded the annual
Insect Fear Film Festival, a popular campus
event that combines insect horror movies
with basic education about the creatures
portrayed in the films. In 2007, she initiated
the BeeSpotter website, a tool for collect-
ing information about the abundance and
diversity of wild bees in the U.S. The web-
site helps people identify local wild bees
and post photographs and enter geographic
information about them.

Berenbaum has been a prominent advo-
cate for pollinating insects. She chaired the
committee on the status of pollinators in
North America, which released its findings
in October 2006 – months before apicultur-
ists first reported the widespread disappear-
ance of honey bees in North America, a phe-
onomenon known as Colony Collapse Disorder.
Berenbaum emerged
as spokesperson for the scientific community
on the disorder, and has conducted research,
written op-ed essays and testified before Congress
on the issue.

"The university is fortunate to have a faculty member of such expertise, energy and enthusiasm for her work," said Bob Easter, interim vice presi-
dent and chancellor of the Urbana campus.

"In addition to her groundbreaking entomol-
ogy research, she is an outstanding teacher
and public spokesperson for the sciences..."

Berenbaum will deliver a public lecture
April 14 at the Davidson Conference Cen-
ter of the University of Southern California,
which administers the Tyler Prize. She will
receive the prize at a private banquet on
April 15.

Jay Rosenstein film receives Peabody Award

"The Lord Is Not On Trial Here Today," a
documentary produced by UI journalism
professor Jay Rosenstein, in partnership
with WILL-TV, was one of the winners of
the 70th Annual Peabody Awards, an-
nounced last week.

The awards committee said: "A beauti-
fully researched documentary by a Cham-
paign, Illinois, station, it examines a First
Amendment case critical to the establish-
ment of separation of church and state in
public schools."

The film tells the personal story of
Vashti McCollum’s lawsuit against the
Champaign public school system after her
son, Jim, was abused by classmates and
punished by the school for not taking part
in a voluntary Protestant religion class.

After she lost in lower court decisions,
won a resounding 8-1 decision in the U.S.
Supreme Court, establishing the founda-
tion for the separation of church and state
in public schools.

Rosenstein said he was stunned and
humbled by the recognition provided by
the award. "I am thrilled that this award
will help a new generation of Americans
learn about the inspirational story and
courage of the late Vashti McCollum," he
said.

The documentary also recently won a
2011 Gracie Award for Outstanding Docu-
mentary from the Alliance for Women in
Media, and also won two regional Emmy
Awards (Mid-America Region), a CINE
Golden Eagle, the Broadcast Education
Association’s Best of Competition Award
in the faculty long-form documentary divi-
sion, and a bronze Telly Award in the docu-
mentary category.

Rosenstein’s production debuted in Oc-
tober 2010 on WILL-TV, and is scheduled
for national broadcast by PBS during May.

The complete broadcast schedule will be
available on the film’s website at www.the-
lordsnotonntrial.com.
New details revealed during CT scan of Egyptian mummy

By Mike Heenthal

ew details are already
arising from last week’s
CT scan of the Spurlock
Museum’s nearly 2,000-year-old
Egyptian mummy, according to
museum director Wayne Pitard.
The scanning took a little more
than an hour and was done free
of charge March 29 by Dr. Joseph
Barkmeier of Carle Foundation
Hospital. Spurlock’s collections
management team spent a year
planning the five-minute trek to
Carle and constructed a specially
designed case to keep out the el-
ements and reduce impact on the
mummy from any movements.
Pitard said the mummy, “prob-
able our most popular artifact,”
was first scanned at Carle in 1989,
but the scanner wasn’t detailed
enough to show the mummy’s age,
cause of death, or even whether
the child was male or female. In-
stead, the information was used
to digitally reconstruct the child’s
face. The hope this time around is
that two decades of CT technolo-
gy advances will provide answers
to all of the questions – and maybe
answer a few that haven’t yet been
asked. Pitard said the researchers,
which include Sarah Wisseman,
of the Illinois State Archaeologi-
cal Survey, and UI alumnus David
Hunt, a forensic anthropologist
with the Smithsonian Institution,
would continue to pore through
the data and release new informa-
tion at a November symposium.
“They’ve started the work,” Pitard
said, “but they’re not ready to
draw any conclusions.” The child
is estimated to have been between
7-9 years old, but a crushed pel-
vis and the mummy’s pose (with
hands over the “critical anatomical
location”) have made it dif-
ficult to determine much else.
Pitard said researchers won’t yet
release findings, but the new tests
have provided more details. “I’m
very encouraged by the prelimi-
nary notes that have been sent to
me. We have some potential hints
of what killed the child,” he said.
“We’re going to have a great deal
of new information, and they
have some other tricks up their
sleeves.”