Study offers insight for returning troops’ relationships

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Troops overseas often want nothing more than to get back home to loved ones – but the reunion period often can be more emotionally taxing than the deployment.

Returning service members are at a greater risk of both depressive symptoms and relationship distress, and research shows the two often go together, says UI researcher Leanne Knobloch. That’s not a good thing, since someone suffering from depressive symptoms “really needs the support of their romantic partner.”

In a study published in August in the Journal of Family Psychology, in a special issue on military psychology, Knobloch, a professor of communication, and co-author fermented U Theiss, a professor of communication at Rutgers University, offer some advice for returning service members: Recognize the uncertainty you might have about the relationship and address them.

And anticipate sources of interference from your spouse or partner in everyday life and routines, and attempt to resolve them.

Those were two issues that showed up in their study as “mediators” linking depressive symptoms and relationship distress, Knobloch said.

“These may be pathways through which people’s depressive symptoms make them dissatisfied or unhappy with their relationships.”

They may help explain why depressive symptoms and relationship distress are connected, she said, “and the why is important because you need to attack the problem, how to break the link.”

Knobloch emphasized that having questions or uncertainty about a relationship is not unusual for those with depressive symptoms.

“People with depressive symptoms have a tendency to question everything around them,” she said.

Feelings of interference from a partner are also not unusual, she said, given that each person has grown accustomed to doing things on their own during the deployment.

The study’s conclusions fit with a model of relational turbulence that Knobloch and others have created to understand transitions in relationships. The study also is one of several in a line of research Knobloch and Theiss have conducted with military couples and their families, with other papers in press or under review.

The study was based on a one-time online survey of 220 service members – 185 men and 35 women from 27 states who had been home less than six months from their last deployments. Of the total, 64 percent were in the National Guard and 28 percent in the Army, with the Air Force, Marines and Navy each representing 3 percent or less. Fifty-seven percent had completed multiple deployments.

Participants were solicited through fliers circulated at reintegration workshops, through online forums, and contacts with military chaplains, family readiness officers and other military personnel.

The authors found that distress in the relationship was no more or less likely for couples who had been through multiple deployments versus those who had been through just one.

“Military couples often say that military deployment is different,” Knobloch said.

They did find, however, that distress was more likely among those in the latter part of their six months after return, which fits with research by others.

“Our findings are important because returning service members and their partners sometimes think that the transition home is going to be a honeymoon period where everything is just romance and roses,” Knobloch said. “They can be disillusioned if they run into obstacles.”

They might be better prepared for the potential upheaval, however, “if they recognize that it’s a normal part of the process, that many couples go through it and it doesn’t mean your relationship is not good,” she said.

“Depression is a really hard thing, and if people can separate their relationship problems from the depression itself, then they’re a step ahead,” Knobloch said. ◆

World survey links religion and happiness – for some

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

There may be a few atheists in foxholes, but a new study suggests that in societies under stress, those who are religious outnumber – and are happier than – their nonreligious counterparts. Where peace and plenty are the norm, however, religious participation is lower among people and they are happier whether or not they are religious, the researchers found.

A paper describing the research appears in the Journal of Personality and Social Psychology.

The study analyzed data from the 2005-2009 Gallup World Poll, a survey of people in more than 150 countries that included questions about religious affiliation, life satisfaction, respect, social support and positive and negative feelings. The researchers also looked at 2009 Gallup polling data from the U.S.

This is the first study to analyze religion and its relationship to happiness on a global scale, said UI emeritus professor of psychology Ed Diener, who led the research and is a senior scientist with the Gallup organization.

Previous studies, many of them focused on the U.S., have said that people tend to be happier than nonreligious people, Diener said. The new findings indicate, however, that religiousness and happiness are closely linked to the characteristics of the societies in which people live, he said.

“Circumstances predict religiousness,” he said. “Different religious practices and their societal contexts lead people to be strongly religious. And in religious societies and in difficult circumstances, religious people are happier than nonreligious people. But in nonreligious societies or more benign societies where many people’s needs are met, religious people aren’t happier – everyone’s happier.”

Religious affiliation appears to boost happiness and well-being in societies that fail to provide adequate food, jobs, health care, security and educational opportunities, the researchers found. Religious people in religious societies are more likely to believe that their expectations, receive more social support and experience more positive and less negative feelings than their peers who are not religious.

In secular societies, which in many cases are wealthy and have more social supports, religious and nonreligious people experience higher well-being and positive feelings. Religious people in secular countries report more negative feelings than the nonreligious do, however.

The same trends can be seen in individual states of the U.S., the researchers found. They found with more people reporting they are religious in poorer states with fewer social supports, Diener said. Religious affiliation also seems to boost their well-being and positive feelings, compared to their nonreligious compatriots.

The differences in religious affiliation between states is quite pronounced, the researchers found, with Mississippi reporting the highest (88) and Vermont the lowest (44) percent of people reporting that religious affiliation is an important part of their daily life.

Religious beliefs and happiness
UI professor emeritus of psychology Ed Diener, who also is a senior scientist for the Gallup Organization, led a study that found that the link between religion and happiness often depends on societal circumstances.

Globally, 68 percent of people surveyed said that they were religious.

The study team included graduate student Sien Chieh (Louis) Tay and David G. Myers, of Hope College, in Holland, Mich. ◆
By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor
217-333-2895, dkdahl@illinois.edu

University embarks on new leadership course

Trustee approve IBHE request for 5 percent budget increase

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor
217-333-2895, dkdahl@illinois.edu

A "basic clamp-down in spending" and tuition increases have left the UI in better financial shape than might have been imagined just a few years ago when the depth of the state's financial decline started revealing itself.

But plans for improvements are needed, including an expected overall decrease in federal funding, according to UI officials reporting to the UI Board of Trustees at its Sept. 9 meeting in Urbana.

Chief Financial Officer Walter Knorr reported the state's ongoing fiscal difficulties continue to cast a shadow over the budgeting process difficult, though trustees approved a $55 billion proposed budget for all three campuses for fiscal 2012's 5 percent increase over 2011.

Trustees also approved a request to the Illinois Board of Higher Education for fiscal 2012 budgeting of an additional 5 percent increase, or $83 million in additional state funding.

"We're firing on all cylinders except for dealing with state funding," said Knorr. "It's still a very large number that's owed to us."

State government is still holding $7.4 billion of UI budget requests and it owes the UI $313 million, but Knorr said recent legislative changes had led to more timely payment of state obligations so far this year.

"We're working on getting there," he said. "But we still need to keep an eye on the larger picture, including expected decreases in state funding."

The UI's 2012 budget includes a $693 million direct state appropriation for operating costs, and an estimated $793 million in "payments on behalf" that the state will pay directly to agencies to cover employee health and pension benefits.

"That hangs over our heads as an area of concern," said Knorr said of expanding university benefit costs.

The budget also includes $939 million from the University Income Fund, made up primarily of tuition dollars.

"We've seen tuition increases, as well as projected annual recurring savings of $26 million from the Administrative Review and Restructuring initiative, is helping the university's ongoing financial picture. By 2014, the university hopes to achieve $60 million in recurring annual savings as a result of the ARV plan."

In addition, UI's hospital operations have shown a $32 million profit last year and $47 million in recurrent annual activities realized a profit of $20 million.

"Sound budgeting, cost-cutting efforts and prudent spending have enabled us to preserve and advance our standing as one of the world's elite universities, despite historical financial challenges," said UI President Michael J.Hyten.

Schook has served as interim vice president for research since March when the academic leadership realignment to streamline and strengthen the university's research mission.

He will continue to serve as senior research officer of the university; advise the president on matters of research, intellectual property, technology commercialization and economic development; and manage the university's nearly $800 million research enterprise.

Pierce has served as dean of the Faculty of Engineering at McGill University in Quebec since 2005. He will begin Oct. 15 and replace Ming-Chin C. Rau, who has held the position since 2007.

Thomas, the former athletic director at the University of Missouri, is part of a group of academic, research and economic development partnerships that are being considered for the UI, said Easter, despite his interim status, had said new investment and endowment strategies are being considered, new purchasing efficiencies already had been enacted, and the university had formulated a plan to cut the nearly $2 billion debt in half.

In addition, Knorr said officials are hearing hopeful signs that legislators might consider funding projects that have appeared in the state's capital projects budget but had gone unapproved in past years.

"We just have to continue to live with the uncertainty," said Knorr.

"I believe we can go well beyond that."

"It's more like we're tunneling out of recession rather than roaring back," said Knorr.

"We have a long way to go," he said.

"I do not propose recent cuts by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn "will go part of the way but will in no way balance the consolidated budget."

Declines in federal aid to states, minimal job-growth prospects and a recent state credit-rating downgrade will make a financial comeback more difficult, though Merriam said, "Illinois still has a lot of capacity to borrow."

"But we still need to have a long-term plan to bring us back to fiscal balance."

More on the budget is online. 

Insideillinois.northwestern.edu is an employee publication of the Illinois News Bureau.

ON THE WEB

http://www.illinois.edu/our/news/

In addition, Knorr said officials are hearing hopeful signs that legislators might consider funding projects that have appeared in the state’s capital projects budget but had gone unapproved in past years.

"We just have to continue to live with the uncertainty," said Knorr.

"I believe we can go well beyond that."

"It's more like we're tunneling out of recession rather than roaring back," said Knorr.

"We have a long way to go," he said.

"I do not propose recent cuts by Illinois Gov. Pat Quinn "will go part of the way but will in no way balance the consolidated budget."

Declines in federal aid to states, minimal job-growth prospects and a recent state credit-rating downgrade will make a financial comeback more difficult, though Merriam said, "Illinois still has a lot of capacity to borrow."

"But we still need to have a long-term plan to bring us back to fiscal balance."

More on the budget is online. 

ON THE WEB


Contracts extended; additional enrollment period to be Oct. 10-28

Central Management Services recently announced the extension of contracts for all current health plan vendors through June 30, 2012. The health insurance rates remain the same.

Employees do not need to do anything at this time to continue enrollment with their current health plan. However, there will be an opportunity to make a health plan change during a special enrollment period on Oct. 10-28.

More information will be sent by email and posted on NESSIE. Changes will take effect Dec. 1.

Questions about benefit plans should be directed to the Urbana UPB Benefits Services office, 217-333-3111, or email benefits@illinois.edu. 

ON THE WEB

http://nessie.uihr.uillinois.edu

More on the budget is online. 

ON THE WEB

http://news.illinois.edu/ii/
Incoming chancellor attends Academic Senate meeting

The Academic Senate welcomed incoming chancellor Jason Hatton on Sept. 12 at its inaugural meeting of the 2011-12 year. West has served since June as Urbana chancellor and vice president of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

At Beckman, which includes a café, an animal-holding area and literally tons of MRI and other imaging equipment, the next issue facing Hatton could turn out to be just about anything.

Last week, “anything” was the discovery of a bat in the second floor of the building’s tower. “They called me and we came and removed it,” he said. “This job’s never been boring and it never stops changing. We’re in charge of everything—from reporting light bulbs that are out to being on call for any type of crisis. Our job is to ensure the building is always in working order.”

Despite pre-emptive efforts, crises do occur at the 25-year-old building. A few months ago, Hatton was called in at night after electricity to the north side of campus went out and Beckman’s backup emergency generators couldn’t keep everything operating.

“There are freezers in here with $30,000 worth of experiments in them, so keeping those cold is pretty important,” he said. The experiments were saved, but the disruption caused significant flooding in the basement when the building system went down.

“The next morning it was literally raining in the basement,” he said. “We had to wait three hours straight to clean it up.”

Hatton also manages two building attendants, two security guards and two receiving clerks.

Oddly enough, Hatton doesn’t have an extensive maintenance or construction background.

He served 13 years in the Army and Army National Guard, was a drill instructor for at-risk youth camps in Arizona and Illinois, and moved back to Illinois for two job opportunities—the Urbana campus may be agent position with and as a supervisor with the Transportation Safety Administration at Midway Airport—when the call from UI came.

“Those two jobs kind of fell through because of funding at the time,” he said. “Next week I knew, I had no job and I was working as a painter and part-time at Walmart.”

He said he earned the UI job because of his varied career, including the building, “I’d say I’ve been transposed to any career.”

“A drill instructor is just someone who is not very smart enough to make sure things are all up to par,” he said. “My training has been on-the-job experience and just learning as you go. If there’s something wrong, I check it out, then know to look out for it the next time.”

He said his varied career forays, including his stint at Beckman, “are just opportunities that propose themselves.”

On the job features UI staff members. To nominate a civil service employee, email insideilinois@illinois.edu.

Senate presents annual report to trustees

By Mike Helenthal

Assistant Editor

UI Board of Trustees Chairman Christopher Kennedy indicated further “streamlining of academic programs on the Urbana campus may be needed to alleviate funding pressures facing the university.”

Kennedy made his comments at the Sept. 9 board meeting in Urbana, following the delivery of the Urbana Academic Senate’s annual report by outgoing Senate Chair Joyce Tolliver.

“It’s something we need to struggle with at some point,” Kennedy said. “How should we do that in an effective manner?”

Kennedy asked Tolliver if the Stewarding Excellence at Illinois process had led to the closure of any other unit besides the Institute of Aviation.

Tolliver indicated that several programs, undergraduate and研究生, had been identified for elimination. The Aviation Institute’s partial “self-initiated” closures that the senate’s Educational Policy Committee had recommended the aviation institute’s partial closure after determining flight training did not support the core mission of the university.

Hatton, who lives in Urbana but is originally from DeKalb, said his enthusiasm in working for the UI is compounded by the fact that several family members work on campus, including his wife, a sister and his father. Another brother is a former employee.

“Being here is an honor, but to work at Beckman is a privilege,” he said.

An avid wrestler since the age of 5, Hatton enjoys physical activity. When he’s not working he is likely to be found outdoors, either kayaking or camping. And when he’s not outdoors, he’s “terrorizing my nieces and nephews.”

He said his varied career forays, including his stint at Beckman, “are just opportunities that propose themselves.”

InsideIllinois

By Mike Helenthal

Assistant Editor

On the job features UI staff members. To nominate a civil service employee, email insideilinois@illinois.edu.

Senate presents annual report to trustees

U of I Board of Trustees Chairman Christopher Kennedy indicated further “streamlining of academic programs on the Urbana campus may be needed to alleviate funding pressures facing the university.”

Kennedy made his comments at the Sept. 9 board meeting in Urbana, following the delivery of the Urbana Academic Senate’s annual report by outgoing Senate Chair Joyce Tolliver.

“It’s something we need to struggle with at some point,” Kennedy said. “How should we do that in an effective manner?”

Kennedy asked Tolliver if the Stewarding Excellence at Illinois process had led to the closure of any other unit besides the Institute of Aviation.

Tolliver indicated that several programs, undergraduate and研究生, had been identified for elimination. The Aviation Institute’s partial “self-initiated” closures that the senate’s Educational Policy Committee had recommended the aviation institute’s partial closure after determining flight training did not support the core mission of the university.

She said core mission support was the underlying question being asked of all academic units.

“We’re beginning to ask precisely that sort of question,” she said, saying it was an area where “we cause it involves those who would be affected.”

Kennedy promised more discussion of the topic in the future, though the exchange continued through a follow-up presentation by Nicholas Burbules, University Senate Congress representative.

Burbules spoke of the teaching value of research and other non-classroom activities by university professors.

“I’d like to talk about the very important, indispensable teaching that takes place outside of the classroom,” he said.

Burbules said he felt compelled to deliver the message after recent criticisms of university professors being “fat and happy” based on their teaching and research arrangements.

He said there is a realization that “there’s going to be greater scrutiny and review of the people who work here’ but

SIE ANNUAL REPORT, PAGE 4
Electric Sentinels are UIPD’s new guardians of the peace

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

C all them conversation-starters. That’s how the UI police are describing the new three-wheeled attention-getting patrol vehicles, called Sentinels, now being used to combat campus crime.

This year the department purchased two Sentinels—funded in part by a $10,000 donation from the Moms Association—and sightings of the unique vehicles have increased across campus.

“They’re kind of unusual looking so they’re highly visible,” said UIPD Capt. Skip Frost. “They really stand out but they’re also highly approachable. The public thinks they’re cool.”

For police, cool is a tool, especially when your job involves keeping order among often-spirted crowds in the 18- to 24-year-old range. Frost said officers using the vehicle are already reporting improved public rapport.

“A lot more people are coming up to talk to them,” he said. “We want to have that communication with people. Contacts are very important.”

There also are numerous tactical advantages with the two-cycle, electric-powered fleet.

“They can go anywhere a car can and most places they can’t,” he said. “They’re not very loud—a bike makes more noise. They’re also chargeable, giving the Sentinels— which are fast enough to catch world-class sprinter Usain Bolt if he needed catching—about 80 miles of patrol power or about 20 round trips of the UI’s north-south border, from the Beckman Institute to the South Farms.

Frosted marked and equipped with police lights, public-address system and siren, the Sentinels are something to avoid if you’re a “bad guy,” Frost said.

That’s one of the reasons they’ll be used by student patrols with Safewalks, the student-led safety program that provides a companion for students seeking a more secure late-night walk home.

“There’s really going to be one of our main focuses for the Sentinels,” he said, noting student volunteers also carry police radios if assistance is needed. “We’re very proud of our student patrol program. Many of our officers started out doing that; many have been hired here as cops.”

Frost said the Sentinels have already seen more than a public-relations success. So far, officers using them have spotted and chased down a drunk driver, and they’re being used to help with crowd control during home football games.

He said the vehicles give officers a better view by positioning them above crowd level.

There is the added benefit of running on electricity, which Frost said saves money and helps meet the university’s environmental goals.

“We’ve already had some documented successes,” he said.

Besides a novel appearance, driving the vehicles also is unusual and demands specialized training, Frost said.

“It’s not hard to navigate until you really get going, then you need to know what you’re doing,” he said. “Once you get the hang of it, it becomes an electric crime-fighting tool.”

Frost said the vehicles are part of a renewed effort to get UI police officers out of their vehicles and mingling with the public, where the so-called “action” is. He said foot patrols and an increased bicycle presence also are parts of that strategy.

“Face-to-face is key to us; that’s what good cops do,” he said. “You don’t make arrests from a squad car.”

Students learn during ‘Week at the Museum’

F ifth-grade students from Urbana’s Wiley Elementary School are attending school at Krannert Art Museum this week. The project, called Krannert Art Museum – Week at the Museum, will run through Sept. 16.

To prepare, students read the book “Chasing Vermeer,” by Blue Balliett, about two sixth-grade students who solve a case of a missing painting by the Dutch artist Johannes Vermeer. The students in the story learn to ask questions, think critically and find clues to solve the mystery.

The book, as well as two museum exhibitions—“At Fifty: Krannert Art Museum, 1961–2011,” and “Makeba!”—and the museum’s collection of 17th century Dutch paintings, serve as the basis for integrated learning activities that include art, music, dance, drama, math, science, writing and history. Throughout the week, students will explore all of these topics through lessons taught not only by Wiley teachers, but also by other guest educators from Krannert Art Museum, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and the Center for Education in Small Urban Communities.

There will be an open house at 6 p.m. Sept. 16 for parents to come and explore the projects that have been created. Families will be treated to a musical performance as well as the opportunity to see student videos, artwork and projects.

KAM-WAM is a pilot program that may be repeated, as well as expanded, to other schools.

ON THE WEB
www.dps.illinois.edu
Ad removed for online version
Six UI faculty members named University Scholars

Six Urbana campus faculty members have been recognized as University Scholars. The program recognizes excellence while helping to identify and retain the university’s most talented teachers, scholars and researchers. The faculty members will be honored at a reception from 4 to 5:30 p.m. Sept. 26 in the Lincoln Room at the I Hotel and Conference Center in Champaign.

Begun in 1985, the program provides $10,000 to each scholar for each of three years to use to enhance his or her academic career. The money may be used for travel, equipment, research assistants, books or other purposes.

The recipients (with comments from their nominating papers):

Jeffrey R. Brown, a professor of finance and Public Policy in the College of Business and Public Policy, is one of the nation’s foremost authorities on the finance and economics underpinning public and private pension plans. His research includes work on public and private insurance markets, the government’s tax and social security policy, and important decisions of individuals regarding their investment choices, including market participation, portfolio choice, retirement and annuitization.

Naira Hovakimyan, a professor of mechanical science and engineering, has made important research contributions to the mathematics of control theory that are having an impact across a broad spectrum of academic disciplines, including mechanical, electrical and aerospace engineering. Her pioneering work in adaptive control has set the stage for solving many real world problems, including robotic flight control.

Paul J. Kenis, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, is an expert in the field of microfluidics. His research program is focused on development of novel microfluidic tools for applications in energy and health. Over the past 10 years, he has built a highly productive and internationally well-known research program at Illinois.

Benjamin J. McCall, a professor of chemistry, is active in a rapidly growing research area, astrochemistry. His research at the interface of astronomy and chemistry broadly includes three major areas: observational molecular astronomy, chemistry of fundamental reactive ion species such as protonated hydrogen, and laboratory detection of molecules important in interstellar chemistry, such as buckyballs or protonated methane. His research in these areas has been nationally and internationally recognized.

The work of Cynthia Oliver, a professor of dance, is involved in uncovering the complicated ways in which culture is lived and expressed. Her evening-length work, “Rigidigidim De Bamba De: Ruptured Ca

UI now No. 13 in U.S. News undergraduate rankings

The UI moved up two spots in the annual U.S. News & World Report undergraduate rankings of colleges and universities released this week.

The UI now is 13th among public institutions (45th overall), according to the magazine (www.usnews.com). “Our faculty, administrators and staff have worked hard to improve our delivery of a world-class education despite the current financial challenges, and we are pleased that U.S. News recognizes those efforts with a two-place increase in our ranking,” said Bob Easter, interim chancellor and vice president.

The College of Engineering’s undergraduate program ranked No. 6 nationally; the College of Business undergraduate program tied for No. 14.

Within engineering, a number of units were ranked in the top 10 nationally: biological/agricultural engineering, 2; chemical, 10; civil, 2; computer, 5; electrical, 5; engineering science/physics, 2; environmental, 4; materials, 3; mechanical, 6.

Within the business school: accounting, 2; insurance/risk, 4; real estate, 8.

Business and engineering programs were the only academic disciplines evaluated by the magazine in this week’s rankings.
Greenhouse shade curtains manage the sun, save energy

By Debra Levey Larson
ACES News Writer

Installing shade curtains in a greenhouse may seem counterproductive, but the new computer-controlled system of curtains in the UI greenhouses controls the reducing energy and costs.

"Before we had the curtains, we had to spray whitewash on the greenhouses every summer to keep the rooms cool, and then every fall we had to take it off," said Ruth Green, a UI plant care facility coordinator who recently retired. "The whitewash itself was an environmentally friendly product but applying it and rinsing it off every year was labor intensive and required special safety measures because it had to be done on high ladders. Whitewash is archaic when compared to today's standards."

Whitewash was applied to diminish the sun's intensity and reduce the interior temperatures. On cloudy days, the rooms became very dark.

"There was nothing we could do except turn the lights on to compensate for the lack of sun – which used electricity and wasted energy," Green said. "With the curtains, the system monitors the light and room temperature all the time, so on a cloudy day the curtains stay open, using natural light more efficiently. We’re not running the electric lights nearly as often. Now we can take advantage of the sunlight and regulate it."

The curtain systems utilize information from a weather station outside the greenhouse that monitors light levels, temperature and humidity, wind speed and direction. Every plant room has a sensor that measures the temperature and humidity inside and a control box in the corridor outside each room that was already turning the lights on and off and regulating the temperature. New modules were installed and a central PC communicates with each of them in the rooms equipped with the curtain system. It reads the data every 10 minutes and automatically adjusts the curtains based on the conditions of the day.

"Researchers who conduct experiments in the greenhouse specify the number of watts per meters squared of sunlight per day that they want, so each room can be programmed for the light intensity required for that specific crop," said Nathan Deppe, plant care facility coordinator. "We have much more control over light levels, which results in higher quality of research, savings on energy, as well as the costs of labor and materials for applying and removing whitewash."

The curtain is made up of alternating stripes of clear material and reflective aluminum strips. In the winter, the curtains act more like a blanket. They close as soon as the sun goes down and/or the lights go off in order to retain the heat.

"All new research facilities have energy shade curtains. They’re state-of-the-art greenhouse technology, but they’re expensive," Green said. "We already had curtains in 18 of the greenhouse rooms and were fortunate to get an interest-free loan from the UI Student Sustainability Committee to install them in nine more rooms."

Energy shades Above, the exterior of a UI greenhouse equipped with energy shade curtains. Without the curtains, the glass had to be whitewashed each summer to block intense sunlight. On cloudy days lamps inside the greenhouse compensated for the lack of sun. At left, an interior view of the shades as they begin to unfurl.
New imaging method sheds light on cell growth

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

The technique is broadly applicable. By comparison, a micron-sized laser beam could only discern a single cell. Yet, the technique is broadly applicable.

“A significant advantage over existing methods is that we can measure all types of cells – eukaryotic, mammalian cells, adherent cells, nonadherent cells, single cells and populations,” said Mustafa Mir, a graduate student and a first author of the paper. “And all this while maintaining the sensitivity and the quantitative information that we get.”

Unlike most other cell-imaging techniques, SLIM – a combination of phase-contrast microscopy and holography – does not need staining or any other special preparation. Because it is completely non-invasive, the researchers can study cells as they go about their natural functions. It uses white light and can be combined with more traditional microscopy techniques, such as fluorescence, to monitor cells as they grow.

“We were able to combine more traditional methods with our method because this is just an add-on module to a commercial microscope,” Mir said. “Biologists can use all their old tricks and just add our module on top.”

Because of SLIM’s sensitivity, the researchers could monitor cells’ growth through different phases of the cell cycle. They found that mammalian cells show clear exponential growth only during the G2 phase of the cell cycle, after the DNA replicates and before the cell divides. This information has great implications not only for basic biology, but also for diagnostics, drug development and tissue engineering.

The researchers hope to apply their new knowledge of cell growth to different disease models. For example, they plan to use SLIM to see how growth varies between normal cells and cancer cells, and the effects of treatments on the growth rate.

Popescu, a member of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, is establishing SLIM as a shared resource on the Illinois campus, hoping to harness its flexibility for basic and clinical research in a number of areas.

“It could be used in many applications in both life sciences and materials science,” said Popescu, who also is a professor of physics and of bioengineering. “The interferometric information can translate to the topography of silicon wafers or semiconductors. It’s like an iPad – we have the hardware, and there are a number of different applications dedicated to specific problems of interest to different labs.”

Co-authors on the paper include graduate students Zhuo Wang, Zhen Shen and Michael Bednarz, along with electrical and computer engineering professor Rashid Bashir, physics professor Ido Golding and life sciences and materials science professor Ido Golding. Michael Bednarz, along with electrical and computer engineering professor Rashid Bashir, physics professor Ido Golding and life sciences and materials science professor Ido Golding.
Managing intellectual property a challenge for firms

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

The increasing complexity of multi-invention technologies such as laptops and smartphones raises serious challenges for firms looking to cash in with the "next big thing," and points to a need for businesses to integrate their patent and business strategies, according to research published by a UI patent strategy expert.

Business professor Deepak Somaya says the successful commercialization of patent-based products that draw upon multiple inventions, whose ownership is often spread across a variety of organizations, can be a cumbersome and thorny proposition.

"Companies need to think about their intellectual property strategy along with their strategy and business models," Somaya said. "Almost all complex innovations are sold to consumers today contains numerous technologies and inventions, most of which are covered by patents and other forms of intellectual property rights. To essentially defer intellectual property strategy until after you've become successful is invariably going to be a costly mistake."

In their paper, Somaya and co-authors David J. Teece, of the University of California at Berkeley, and Simon Wakeman, of the European School of Management and Technology, present a framework for addressing the challenges of commercialization strategies for multi-invention products, as well as strategies for appropriating value from innovation in these contexts.

"A large number of industries and products are now taking a multi-invention form," Somaya said. "In order to create an innovative product or service, a very large number of inventions have to be brought together. The analytical framework advanced in the paper provides a useful guide for firms and innovators in these multi-invention contexts, and enables them to devise suitable business models and patent strategies."

According to the paper, to maximize the chances for success in multi-invention contexts, innovators must determine the relative organizational costs and benefits of different business models, and choose the most effective model for the given context. Somaya and his co-authors provide four case studies to show the application of the key theoretical concepts in real-world situations, and a set of guidelines for choosing from among three types of business models: licensing, compartmentalization and integration. There are also three main strategies for intellectual property -- proprietary, defensive and leverage -- that firms can use and combine in different ways.

"The paper’s main insight is that innovating companies must choose patent strategies that are well aligned with their business models," he said. "You simultaneously have to think about your patent strategy and your business strategy. Innovators must combine inventions and complementary assets in ways that maximize their chances of success, and figure out how best to appropriate value from these unique combinations at the same time. For example, if you’re a component manufacturer or licensor of technology, then it becomes much more important for you to use a proprietary strategy for your intellectual property."

Somaya says Apple and Google provide a good contrast of business models competing in the same market.

"Google is focused on creating a core technology with the Android operating system, but they let other firms develop most of the complementary inventions," he said. "Apple also has a lot of technology partners, but they’re much more integrated than Google. With the iPhone, for example, other firms make all of the hardware components, but Apple’s footprint is much wider and it ultimately controls the final product. HTC is a great example of an integrator in the Android ecosystem that builds off Google’s core technology and adds significant value in the process."

But firms such as HTC are playing defense on the intellectual property front with multiple patent infringement suits from firms such as Apple and Microsoft, and this...

Theory may shed light on dynamics of large-polymer liquids

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

A new physics-based theory could give researchers a deeper understanding of the unusual, slow dynamics of liquids composed of large polymers. This advance provides a better picture of how polymer molecules respond under fast-flow, high-stress processing conditions for plastics and other polymeric materials.

Kenneth S. Schweizer, the G. Ronald and Margaret H. Morris Professor of materials science and engineering at the UI, and graduate student Daniel Sussman published their findings in the journal Physical Review Letters.

"This is the first microscopic theory of entangled polymer liquids at a fundamental force level which constructs the dynamic confinement potential that controls slow macromolecular motion," said Schweizer, who also is a professor of chemistry and chemical and biomolecular engineering and is affiliated with the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory at the UI. "Our breakthrough lays the foundation for an enormous amount of future work relevant to both the synthetic polymers of plastics engineering and the biopolymers relevant to cell biology and mechanics."

Polymers are long, large molecules that are ubiquitous in biology, chemistry and materials, from the stiff filaments that give cells their structure to plastics. Linear polymers fall into two classes: rigid rods like uncooked spaghetti or flexible strands like al dente noodles.

When in a dense solution, linear polymers become entangled like spaghetti in a pot, intertwining and crowding each other. Each polymer is hemmed in by its neighbors, so that the liquid behaves like an elastic, viscous rubber. Given enough time, the liquid will eventually flow slowly as polymers crawl along like snakes, a movement called reptation. Researchers have long assumed that each polymer’s reptation is confined to a tube-shaped region of space, like a snake slithering through a pipe, but have had difficulty understanding how and why the polymers behave that way.

Schweizer and Sussman’s new theory...

Untangling polymer theory Illinois professor Kenneth S. Schweizer developed a new theory that predicts why entangled polymers are confined to a tube-like region of space and how they respond to applied forces.
The new approach sheds greater light on entanglement of neighbors. The theory’s mathematical approach constructs the confining tube from the forces between molecules. The tube concept emerges as a consequence of the strong interactions of molecules. Tube confinement and reptation motion, elasticity,” Schweizer said. Next, the researchers plan to continue to study how external stress or strain quantitatively determine the driven mechanical flow behavior of entangled polymer liquids. They also hope to develop a theory for how attractive forces can compete with entanglement forces to result in soft polymer gels.

The National Science Foundation supported this work. 

---

POLYMERS. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 9

based on microscopic physics, explains the slow dynamics of rigid entangled polymers and quantitatively constructs the confining dynamic tube from the forces between molecules. The tube concept emerges as a consequence of the strong interactions of a polymer with its myriad of intertwining neighbors. The theory’s mathematical approach sheds greater light on entanglement and better explains experimental data. “Our ability to take into account these crucial physical effects allows us to predict, not assume, the confining tube concept, identify its limitations, and predict how applied forces modify motion and elasticity,” Schweizer said. Not only does the new theory predict tube confinement and reptative motion, it reveals important limitations. The researchers found that the “tubes” weaken as applied forces increase, to the point where the tube concept fails completely and the liquid loses its rubbery nature. This is particularly important in plastics processing, which exposes polymer liquids to high stress conditions. Next, the researchers plan to continue to study how external stress or strain quantitatively determine the driven mechanical flow behavior of entangled polymer liquids. They also hope to develop a theory for how attractive forces can compete with entanglement forces to result in soft polymer gels.

The National Science Foundation supported this work. ♦

NEW faces 2011

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.

Sarah C. Williams

life sciences data services librarian and a professor of library administration

Education: M.S. (information systems), Illinois State University; M.L.S. (library science), Indiana University; and B.S. (soil and crop science), Purdue University.

Research interests: User-centered approaches to federated search systems and discovery tools. “Given my new position, my research will likely shift more to data management and data services, but I plan to maintain the user-centered focus,” Williams said. “Sarah Williams comes to us with excellent data skills and a deep understanding of the life sciences. We have high expectations that I’m confident she will meet,” said Paula Kaufman, the Juanita J. and Robert E. Simpson Dean of Libraries and University Librarian. “She will help position the library to meet the increasingly technology- and informatics-dependent needs of our users. This includes current needs in the areas of data curation, digital repository, website development and database development. She will serve as the Content Management System liaison for the Life Sciences Division of the University Library and will be responsible for Funk ACES Library Web development.”

Why Illinois? “Data management is a rapidly evolving and expanding service for academic libraries,” Williams said. “The University Library and the Graduate School of Library and Information Science are at the forefront of significant research and initiatives in this field, so I was drawn by that. I look forward to collaborating with colleagues in library science and the life sciences to make contributions in this exciting field.”

Brian G. Ogolsky

a professor of human and community development in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (family studies and human development), M.S. (family studies and human development), University of Arizona; B.A. (psychology), Western Washington University.

Research interests: Commitment in relationships. “Dr. Ogolsky studies how commitment to intimate relationships changes over time and the developmental processes underlying these changes,” said Robert Hughes Jr., the head of the department of human and community development. “He is particularly interested in the cognitive and behavioral mechanisms that contribute to commitment in close relationships, and the sources of variability in commitment to relationships. In his work, he has studied both same-sex and opposite-sex couples. “At the UI, he plans to extend his exploration of commitment in relationships by exploring the commitment process during stressful situations in relationships, such as the transition to parenting and coping with chronic illness,” Hughes said.

Courses teaching: HCD 590, “Advanced Research Methods”

Why Illinois? “I was excited by the opportunity to take advantage of the multitude of resources available at this cutting-edge research institution and to join the world-renowned faculty that make this institution great,” Ogolsky said. “I was also struck by the collegiality of the faculty in my department and their genuine interest in collaborative efforts to understand and improve the lives of children, couples and families.”

photo by L. Brian Stauffer
Does a CEO have a responsibility to shareholders to inform them of an illness, especially if they may be unable to perform their chief executive duties?

Personal illness is a private matter, but when it comes to CEOs of publicly traded firms with an illness that can affect their performance in the firm, they are obligated to disclose it to the shareholders and stakeholders, and to communicate what plan of action they have for the company. In other words, CEOs are hired to manage the firm in the interests of the shareholders. A serious illness is something that can potentially affect shareholder wealth creation, so it is incumbent upon the CEO to ensure that all shareholders are aware of information that might affect the firm’s performance.

Think about any organization, even the government – there is always a plan B in case something happens to the leader.

If a CEO is readily associated with a company (for example, Warren Buffett at Berkshire-Hathaway, Steve Jobs at Apple), should that factor into the decision and the timing of such an announcement?

Absolutely. These types of announcements should be handled with care because stakeholders might equate the health of the firm with the health of the CEO. Therefore, it’s critical to have a succession plan in place, as well as a few good in-house candidates to replace the CEO. However, it also depends on the ownership and governance structure of the firm. If the CEO is as relevant to the firm as Steve Jobs is to Apple, then I believe it’s better to inform the shareholders in advance. Chief executives in the U.S. tend to be more powerful and charismatic than in other advanced industrialized countries.

Also, research on CEO succession often talks about corporate saviors, and how shareholders and the board tend to give carte blanche to CEOs to restructure companies in exchange for increased transparency, accountability and, of course, good performance.

So succession planning is critical for instilling confidence in the stakeholders on the direction of the firm, particularly when a CEO is seen as near the end of their tenure.

Ever since Steve Jobs’ health issues arose, Apple has taken flak for not having a clear succession plan. Why is it important for a corporation to have a transparent line of authority in place?

When we talk about authority and leadership, that inevitably leads us to the writings of Max Weber, the most influential sociologist of the early 20th century when it comes to organizations. Weber identified three types of authority: traditional, rational-legal and charismatic. Like Jack Welch, Walt Disney and Henry Ford, Steve Jobs is a charismatic leader. These types of leaders are harder to replace because the value of the company is closely tied to their charisma. A charismatic CEO has a firm idea about where the company should go, can communicate it and motivate employees to get behind her vision, and is able to remove obstacles that may impede realizing her vision.

Without a doubt, one of the biggest factors in the success of Apple is Steve Jobs, who has lots of power and is a great negotiator and visionary. On the downside, the corporate governance structure in place at Apple would be considered weak by standard corporate governance metrics – that is, it has a small board of directors with limited independence, no large shareholders and minimal market-related executive compensation. This makes succession planning all the more difficult to design. Having authority concentrated in one individual has worked well for Apple, but if his corporate strategies had failed, it might have been very difficult to remove Steve Jobs.

Interestingly, one of Weber’s arguments was that bureaucracy often succeeds in its own ends. For example, the story of Apple even more interesting is that Steve Jobs left the company once before. In 1985, Apple’s board had to choose between keeping Jobs or then-CEO John Sculley. Well, they let Jobs go, and the company faltered, teetering close to bankruptcy. It wasn’t until Jobs came back as CEO in 1997 that the company started its resurgence.

The other big piece of news that came out by way of Jobs’ resignation is that he’s staying on as chairman of Apple’s board of directors. Generally speaking, is it a bad idea to have a former CEO stay on as chairman of the board of directors?

This is close to the classic problem of dual leadership, where the CEO and the chairman are the same person. Interestingly, in the U.S., most chairmen are former CEOs. There are two sides to this. Some might say that having the CEO as chairman might diminish the legitimacy of the current CEO and prevent the board from bringing new ideas and properly engaging in their duties of advice and monitoring. The other side is that having a former CEO around as chairman might assure a smoother transition, as this person is there as a liaison between the management, the board and shareholders.
Vet Med opens doors to public Oct. 2 with interactive exhibits

One campus, many voices

Inclusive Illinois Day is Sept. 21

Inclusive Illinois, which emphasizes "one campus, many voices," will gather on the UI campus to examine relations between the East and the West in early modern Europe (1492-1700).

The conference, "The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe," will be Oct. 7-8 in the Levis Faculty Center. It is organized by UI professors Marcus Keller, director of French, and Javier Irigoyen-García, director of Studies in French.

According to Keller, the purpose of the conference is to gather scholars who "engage in a broad trans-disciplinary dialogue on the integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

Irigoyen-García said, "Especially in times like ours it's important to reflect on how the modern international law integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

The conference is open to the public. The conference fee is $60 for UI faculty and staff members and $70 for UI students. Web registration is free for UI students. Additional information is available at http://www.earlymodorientalism.illinois.edu/ or email earlymodorientalism@illinois.edu.

Examining early modern Europe

Orientalism conference will be Oct. 7-8

The UI's Urbana campus is now in 3-D on Google Earth, which allows designers and students working on campus projects to use the service for crop management," said Timothy Mies, the deputy director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus to examine relations between the East and the West in early modern Europe (1492-1700).

The conference, "The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe," will be Oct. 7-8 in the Levis Faculty Center. It is organized by UI professors Marcus Keller, director of French, and Javier Irigoyen-García, director of Studies in French.

According to Keller, the purpose of the conference is to gather scholars who "engage in a broad trans-disciplinary dialogue on the integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

Irigoyen-García said, "Especially in times like ours it's important to reflect on how the modern international law integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

The conference is open to the public. The conference fee is $60 for UI faculty and staff members and $70 for UI students. Web registration is free for UI students. Additional information is available at http://www.earlymodorientalism.illinois.edu/ or email earlymodorientalism@illinois.edu.

Examining early modern Europe

Orientalism conference will be Oct. 7-8

The UI's Urbana campus is now in 3-D on Google Earth, which allows designers and students working on campus projects to use the service for crop management," said Timothy Mies, the deputy director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus to examine relations between the East and the West in early modern Europe (1492-1700).

The conference, "The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe," will be Oct. 7-8 in the Levis Faculty Center. It is organized by UI professors Marcus Keller, director of French, and Javier Irigoyen-García, director of Studies in French.

According to Keller, the purpose of the conference is to gather scholars who "engage in a broad trans-disciplinary dialogue on the integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

Irigoyen-García said, "Especially in times like ours it's important to reflect on how the modern international law integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

The conference is open to the public. The conference fee is $60 for UI faculty and staff members and $70 for UI students. Web registration is free for UI students. Additional information is available at http://www.earlymodorientalism.illinois.edu/ or email earlymodorientalism@illinois.edu.

Examining early modern Europe

Orientalism conference will be Oct. 7-8

The UI's Urbana campus is now in 3-D on Google Earth, which allows designers and students working on campus projects to use the service for crop management," said Timothy Mies, the deputy director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus to examine relations between the East and the West in early modern Europe (1492-1700).

The conference, "The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe," will be Oct. 7-8 in the Levis Faculty Center. It is organized by UI professors Marcus Keller, director of French, and Javier Irigoyen-García, director of Studies in French.

According to Keller, the purpose of the conference is to gather scholars who "engage in a broad trans-disciplinary dialogue on the integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

Irigoyen-García said, "Especially in times like ours it's important to reflect on how the modern international law integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

The conference is open to the public. The conference fee is $60 for UI faculty and staff members and $70 for UI students. Web registration is free for UI students. Additional information is available at http://www.earlymodorientalism.illinois.edu/ or email earlymodorientalism@illinois.edu.

Examining early modern Europe

Orientalism conference will be Oct. 7-8

The UI's Urbana campus is now in 3-D on Google Earth, which allows designers and students working on campus projects to use the service for crop management," said Timothy Mies, the deputy director of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign campus to examine relations between the East and the West in early modern Europe (1492-1700).

The conference, "The Dialectics of Orientalism in Early Modern Europe," will be Oct. 7-8 in the Levis Faculty Center. It is organized by UI professors Marcus Keller, director of French, and Javier Irigoyen-García, director of Studies in French.

According to Keller, the purpose of the conference is to gather scholars who "engage in a broad trans-disciplinary dialogue on the integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

Irigoyen-García said, "Especially in times like ours it's important to reflect on how the modern international law integral role Orientalism plays in the complex process of early modern national and European self-fashionings."

The conference is open to the public. The conference fee is $60 for UI faculty and staff members and $70 for UI students. Web registration is free for UI students. Additional information is available at http://www.earlymodorientalism.illinois.edu/ or email earlymodorientalism@illinois.edu.
Ad removed for online version
production of paper, as well as society’s emotional connection to this omnipresent, practical product.

“This exhibition looks at re-tooling our relationship with paper,” said Jimmy Luu, a professor of art and design and coordinator of Figure One, the exhibition space of the UI School of Art and Design. “Paper used to be this utilitarian thing, used for everything. Now there are other ways to transmit information. So paper might become this thing that we have a different relationship with, that’s more special, perhaps.”

One part of the exhibition in the downtown Champaign space shows how paper is mass-produced and the impact that paper mills have on nature; another will show how small, regional paper mills work, and how paper can be used to create different kinds of art.

In another departure from the typical art-show routine, “Pulp” did not have a single opening-night reception. Instead, Figure One is hosting a series of five hands-on workshops in which the public is invited to come in and make paper. The workshops— which will take place Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 23, Sept. 29 and Sept. 30— will be free, with materials and refreshments provided.

“We’re trying to see how it works to draw the same 100 to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think it would be kind of a fun date thing— learn something new, give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but

“Pulp” is curated by Sam Snyder, a senior majoring in industrial design and coordinator of Figure One, the exhibition space of the UI School of Art and Design. “Paper used to be this utilitarian thing, used for everything. Now there are other ways to transmit information. So paper might become this thing that we have a different relationship with, that’s more special, perhaps.”

In another departure from the typical art-show routine, “Pulp” did not have a single opening-night reception. Instead, Figure One is hosting a series of five hands-on workshops in which the public is invited to come in and make paper. The workshops—which will take place Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 23, Sept. 29 and Sept. 30—will be free, with materials and refreshments provided.

“We’re trying to see how it works to draw the same 100 to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think it would be kind of a fun date thing—learn something new, give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but

The workshops—which will take place Sept. 15, Sept. 22, Sept. 23, Sept. 29 and Sept. 30—will be free, with materials and refreshments provided.

“We’re trying to see how it works to draw the same 100 to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think it would be kind of a fun date thing—learn something new, give them a more intimate experience,” Luu said. “I think to 200 people who would attend an opening shebang but

State Universities Retirement System

Retirement seminars Sept. 16 and 27

A representative from the State Universities Retirement System will be on campus for two retirement seminars for employees who are within five years of retiring. The seminars, hosted by University Human Resources and UPB Benefits Services, will provide attendees with the most current SURS information and tools to assist in planning for retirement.

A variety of topics are covered: retirement calculations, qualifying to purchase additional service, service for sick leave, salary averages, qualifying for insurance and returning to employment. Seminars will address both the General Formula and the Money Purchase Formula, including the change in Money Purchase factors that will go into effect July 2, 2012. (More information about the Money Purchase factors change is available in NESSIE at http://go.illinois.edu/SURS_moneypurchase.)

SURS seminars:

• 9:30-11 a.m. Sept. 16 in Room 66 of the main Library
• 2-30-4 p.m. Sept. 27 in Room 100 of the Materials Science and Engineering Building

Registration is required. For more information and to register online, visit http://go.illinois.edu/SURS_seminars_fall11. For registration assistance, contact Laura Czys at 217-333-9063 or email uh@uillinois.edu.

Content for both sessions is the same. These SURS seminars are approved events under Civil Service Policy and Rules, Rule 11.12. Employees may be released from work to attend these events, university operations permitting, and subject to prior approval from their supervisor.

In addition, employers who need assistance with SURS Self-Managed Plan investment options or the university’s 403(b) Plan may schedule on-campus one-on-one counseling sessions with a representatives from Fidelity and TIAA-CREF. For more information and to set up a free counseling session, go to http://go.illinois.edu/retirement_counseling.

Additional information about SURS and supplemental investment options can be found on NESSIE at http://go.illinois.edu/investing_for_retirement.

For assistance with university supplemental plans, contact the campus UPB Benefits Services office at 217-333-3111. For assistance with SURS, call 217-378-8800 or 800-275-7877.

Campus news

President’s blog celebrates campus

Interested in campus news that might just be about you? UI President Michael Hogan says you should check out his blog. And, better yet, contribute to it.

Hogan said he started the blog a year ago—at the beginning of his presidency—to celebrate the many achievements on the university’s three campuses, and to share his own experiences with faculty and staff members, students, alumni and university supporters.

“The blog is mostly my way of spreading the good news about our accomplishments, and recognizing the many individual and groups that make us the envy of universities around the world,” said Hogan, who also blogged as president of the University of Connecticut and as provost at the University of Iowa.

Hogan said the blog, which logged about 60,000 visits in its first year, spotlights fellowships, scholarships and awards; campus programs, milestones and traditions; and the people he meets in his travels around the university’s campuses.

“I hope that people will share their successes with me so I can share them with the campus community,” he said. “But the blog isn’t just for big achievements. If you see me at sporting events or other campus activities, let’s get a picture taken and share the slices of campus life that make this university so special.”

The blog, which posts about four times a week, is at http://prezrelease.uillinois.edu/. To submit entries, write to Hogan at presmike@uillinois.edu.

The blog, which posts about four times a week, is at http://prezrelease.uillinois.edu/. To submit entries, write to Hogan at presmike@uillinois.edu.

Time for annual ethics training

Beginning Oct. 4, all permanent employees (excluding medical resident, undergraduate student and extra help employees) will receive, through their official university e-mail account, their unique log-in ID and password for the 2011 online ethics training program. Employees are encouraged to complete the required training as soon as possible to avoid reminders and additional follow-up during the 30-day training window.

The training must be completed online at www.workplaceanswers.com/uillinois/. The program is available Oct. 4 through 5 p.m. Nov. 2.

For additional information related to the annual ethics training visit the University Ethics Office website.

ON THE WEB

www.ethics.uillinois.edu/training

ONLINE TRAINING: www.workplaceanswers.com/uillinois/
More Illinois students in biggest freshman class

By Mike Helenthal

Despite the challenging economic climate, Illinois has attracted a top-notch freshman class for the fall semester of 2011. It is diverse and reflects the university’s statewide, national and international reputation.

As of Sept. 2, the 10th day of classes – traditionally used as the benchmark for enrollment figures – the number of freshmen enrolled stood at 7,255, compared with 6,936 in the fall semester of 2010. Of the freshmen enrolled, 5,626 are Illinois residents, compared with 5,508 last year.

Additionally, 1,652 Illinois residents are new transfer students this semester, compared with 885 last year. The Urbana campus currently enrolls 31,932 undergraduate students.

Interim Chancellor Bob Easter said the class represents the best students in Illinois, across the nation and around the world.

“We are proud to be preparing the next generation of leaders,” said Easter, who also is a vice president of the university.

“The class of 2015 includes even more sons and daughters of Illinois than last year, and represents nearly every state in the country, as well as dozens of nations. Their academic credentials are impressive, and they have demonstrated their potential in leadership, service, the arts, athletics and much more.”

The 2011-12 freshman class boasts an average ACT score of 28.2, the same as last year. More than 77 percent of freshmen are from Illinois, and they represent 91 of the state’s 102 counties.

Since last year, the enrollment of new freshman Latino/a students increased from 508 to 538, while the number of new African American freshmen jumped from 359 last year to 401.

Students perennially say they choose Illinois for the rich learning environment created by the extraordinary range of extracurricular opportunities.

“When I first started applying to schools, the University of Illinois was not my first choice,” said Urbana freshman David Van Vlierbergen. “However, in the end I chose Illinois because the College of Business impressed me and I knew it was where I wanted to spend my next four years.”

Total enrollment in the UI’s three campuses is about 79,000.

CAS fellows, associates named

The Center for Advanced Study at the UI recently appointed 17 faculty members as fellows and associates for the fall semester. Selected through a competitive process, CAS fellows and associates get one semester of release time to pursue scholarly research or professional activity, present their work to other CAS professors, and participate in CAS events.

The newly appointed associates, their departments and the titles of their proposed studies are:

- Dolores Albarracin, psychology, “Action and Inaction Goals and Change in Socially Relevant Attitudes”
- Harry Dankowicz, mechanical science and engineering, “The Tendency of Complex Systems to Evolve Toward Collapse”
- Praveen Kumar, civil and environmental engineering, “Water Cycle: Predicting the Consequences of Change”
- John W. Randolp, history, “The Singing Coachmen and the Society of the Road in the Early Russian Empire”
- Bruce A. Reznick, mathematics, “Sums of Powers of Polynomials”
- Kenneth S. Suslick, chemistry, “Snell-Seeing: An Optoelectronic Nose”
- Nadya Mason, physics, “Studies of Recognition of outstanding young faculty members’ scholarly contributions.”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Praveen Kumar, civil and environmental engineering, “Water Cycle: Predicting the Consequences of Change”
- John W. Randolp, history, “The Singing Coachmen and the Society of the Road in the Early Russian Empire”
- Bruce A. Reznick, mathematics, “Sums of Powers of Polynomials”
- Kenneth S. Suslick, chemistry, “Snell-Seeing: An Optoelectronic Nose”
- Nadya Mason, physics, “Studies of
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”
- Eric Pop, electrical and computer engineering, “Energy Dissipation in Electronics (atoms to data centers)”
- Leipzig Fellow, computer science, “Theory and Practice of Secure Multi-party Computation”
- Eleonora Stoppino, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, “Ugly Beasts, Talking Monkeys: Animals in Medieval and Renaissance Culture”
- Yingxiao Wang, bioengineering, “A High-throughput Screening Approach for the Development of PRET Biosensor”
- Alexander Yong, Beckman fellow, mathematics, “The Grassmanian”
- Nadiya Mason, physics, “Studies of Novel Electronic States in Hybrid Material Systems”

Ad removed for online version
Hobson to perform complete solo piano works of Schumann

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities

Ian Hobson will perform the complete solo piano works of Robert Schumann in 10 recitals, which began Sept. 12.

Hobson, a UI professor in the Center for Advanced Study and the Swanlund Professor of music, recorded the complete works of Chopin, a contemporary of Schumann, for Zephyr Records.

“Schumann and Chopin were the two greatest romantic composers for piano, but they were very, very different,” Hobson says. “Schumann was more introverted. There was not so much professional polish to his work. It’s much more inner feelings based on literature and on his own psychological makeup.”

“His imagination was incredibly rich – eventually he went insane – but there’s something deeply human about his music.”

Mastering the music wasn’t the only challenge for Hobson; he also had to organize the compositions into a logical set of recitals.

“It took me quite a long time to think about how to do that,” Hobson said. “With Chopin, I did it chronologically, more or less, but with Schumann not at all. I decided to go with groupings and titles that suggested themselves to me.”

The first recital, “Themes and Variations,” comprised every piano piece Schumann wrote that fit that form – including his first composition (“Variations on the name ‘Abeegg,’ Op. 1,” published in 1830) and his last (“Theme With Variations in E Flat Major,” published only a few years ago). Schumann wrote the latter while residing in an asylum; they’re often called “Ghost Variations” because Schumann claimed an angel dictated the theme to him.

Hobson’s second recital in the series, Sept. 26, features all of Schumann’s piano sonatas. The third recital, Oct. 10, is called “Carnival Jests,” and includes the well-known “Faschingsschwank aus Wien,” or Carnival Jests from Vienna, and “Carnival.” In “Faschingsschwank,” Schumann included an excerpt from “La Marseillaise,” the national anthem of France, at a time when it was illegal to play it in Germany.

In “Carnaval,” Schumann wrote a march depicting a confrontation between the Davidsbundler (his imaginary band of brothers) and the Philistines. However, he wrote this “march” in waltz time.

“He was a very amusing, complicated character,” Hobson said.

In addition to pieces that fit the themes of the recitals, they also will include one or two sets of etudes.

Preparation for these recitals has given Hobson a chance to immerse himself in the repertoire, and he has been finding bits of other composers evident throughout Schumann’s works.

“He does little things like quoting from the Ninth Symphony of Beethoven, quoting from (Beethoven’s) ‘Pastoral Symphony.’ You see this all the time with Schumann – subtle things, little messages in bottles, which you’d never think that anybody would discover.”

Hobson plans to record all the Schumann pieces, as he did with the Chopin works, but he doesn’t plan to give another composer this same treatment.

“Chopin and Schumann are the only composers who inspire me to investigate all their music,” Hobson said. “I learn a lot from seeing the totality of their work.”

Hobson has made about 40 recordings as a solo artist, and has performed with major orchestras including the Royal Philharmonic, London Philharmonic, and the symphony orchestras of Baltimore, Chicago, Houston, Indianapolis, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh and St. Louis. He also is a jurist for international piano competitions.

This series of recitals will be performed at 7:30 p.m. in the Recital Hall of Smith Memorial Hall.

- “Themes and Variations,” was performed on Sept. 12.
- “Love Letters,” Oct. 24, including “Nocturnes”
- “Bachian Inventions,” Nov. 14, including “Kreisleriana”
- “Fantasies,” Jan. 23, including “Fantasy in C major, Op. 17”
- “Scenes of Childhood,” Feb. 20, including “Album for the Young”
- “Florestan and Eusebius,” March 12, including “Davidsbundlertanze”
- “Prophetic Visions,” April 2, including “Humoreske in B flat major”
- “Last Reflections,” April 23, including “Gesange der Fruehe”

To learn more, visit www.ianhobson.net.