UI composer unencumbered by space, time in new opera

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

A ll artists utilize space, but in the case of UI composer Stephen Taylor, it was all-encompassing.

Taylor, a UI professor of music, wrote the music for “Paradises Lost,” a futuristic opera being presented at 7:30 p.m. April 26-28 and at 3 p.m. April 29 in the Tyrone Festival Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The production, based on a novella by Ursula K. Le Guin, is the final performance this season for the School of Music Opera Program.

The story follows a starship crew traveling to colonize a distant planet, the trip taking so long it consumes several generations before the goal is reached. The crew grapples with issues of confinement and mortality, and must reassess its very mission after members adopt a religion founded during the trip.

“Science fiction plays such a huge role in movies, which have a lot in common with opera,” Taylor said. “So it seems natural to have a science-fiction opera.”

Taylor, who teaches courses in theory and composition, was inspired to create the opera after reading the novella in 2002. (It’s the final story in the collection “The Birthday of the World.”) As part of opening night of the world-premiere, Le Guin and playwright Marcia Johnson, who wrote the opera’s libretto, will join Taylor for a post-performance discussion.

“She is such a sophisticated storyteller, able to combine heady concepts with human urgency,” he said of Le Guin. “Her language is so beautiful.”

It’s Taylor’s first hall-sized performance, though he and Johnson collaborated on a short chamber opera, commissioned by Tapestry New Opera Works, of Toronto. Still, he feels confident being surrounded by a competent production crew.

“With today’s technology, it’s possible to do lots of amazing things with projections and staging,” he said. “David Warfel and Regina Garcia, the main designers for the production, are incredibly talented; Ricardo De Herrera, the stage director, has a really penetrating insight into the story and he’s a wonderful singer, so he understands how to work with opera singers.”

Taylor will be satisfied, however, only if the audience leaves entertained.

“If it gives them something to think about, that’s icing on the cake,” he said. “I just hope people like it. I’ve had to stop myself from revising it any more because if I do, the singers won’t be able to memorize everything. It’s been a long journey, but it’s exciting to see it launch.”

Taylor worked hard to contain the opera.

“It’s just under two hours of music, so with a 20-minute intermission, people will be out the door before 10 p.m.,” Taylor said.

The cast, all of whom perform dual roles, has been rehearsing since March, following a production of “The Barber of Seville.” The New Music Ensemble will be conducted by Robert W. Rumbelow, the director of bands. Artistic director for the production is Eduardo Diazmuñoz, a professor of music and the director of opera studies.

Although the work is sung in English, it is presented with supertitles.

Science-fiction opera Cast members for “Paradises Lost,” who have been rehearsing since late March, do their first walk-through April 13 on the stage in the Tryon Festival Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The futuristic opera, based on a novella by Ursula K. Le Guin, was composed by UI faculty member Stephen Taylor (at right). The world premiere of the opera April 26 will feature a post-performance discussion with Taylor, Le Guin and Marcia Johnson, who wrote the libretto. Tickets are still available for all performances.

‘Visioning Future’ tour gives individuals a voice

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

C hief Professor Steve Marshak, who attended an earlier this year at the Illini Union.

Participants were asked to share what they thought would be the most pressing issues facing higher education in the future and how to address them.

“I have a project to talk to each person there.”

Marshak was asked to share what he thought would be the most pressing issues facing higher education in the future and how to address them.

“We need to get back to where we’re working in the same direction,” he said.

The Visioning Future Excellence program is still available for all performances.

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DEATHS 5

On bended ear Urban Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise visits with English professor Robert Parker, left, and geology professor Steve Marshak, who attended a Visioning Future Excellence luncheon earlier this year at the Illini Union. Participants were asked to share what they thought would be the most pressing issues facing higher education in the future and how to address them.

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Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

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Anybody out because the outcome of these issues of global importance, as well as those the UI can harness its academic power to solve those questions. There are no easy questions and many that we have to say."

"It was amazing to see how all of us, on our own, came up with some of the same ideas," she said.

Becky Burkland, a recruiting assistant at the College of Business, echoed Westland. "I'm very pleased," she said after the session. "It seems like a very great way to get feedback and I'm anxious to use the survey and carry out the chancellor's initiative.

"It's like voting," said Jenny Gibson, a business manager with the department of landscape architecture in the College of Fine and Applied Arts. "You don't have a right to sit back and complain about it unless you participate.

"You sometimes think, 'Do they really want to know what I think?'" she said. "The chancellor even stood up and listened for a while and watched us discuss all of this. I feel like she's not afraid to talk to us and not afraid to listen to what we have to say."  

Speaker series to discuss the research universe of the future

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

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The series will be a series of talks from renowned speakers, two of whom have committed to speak in May and two others in the fall. Details for the fall sessions are being completed and more speakers could be added.

"The hope is, this will help us establish a long-term vision for our campus," Wise said. "We are inviting leaders of borderland disciplines and research to dream along with us. We want them to discuss their vision for the research university 20 years hence as it was 20 years ago."

The second speaker in the series, Wei Yang, the president of China's Zhejiang University, is scheduled to deliver his public address from 4:30 p.m. May 31 in the auditorium of the Beckman Institute.

Yang, a nanoscience researcher and past president of the Association of Pacific Rim universities, also will meet with campus leaders during his visit, including at a post-seminar reception and roundtable discussion with administrators and senior faculty members.

Wise, in her first year as chancellor, also is completing an involvement initiative, Visioning Future Excellence, addressing the university's future. She said she is eager to hear the leaders share their vision of higher education's future.

"These are some of the same things we're already talking about and thinking about," she said. "Some of the very issues we face are the same for our international colleagues. I'm eager to hear their perspectives and learn from their experiences."  

Online survey gets instant response

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

I took less than 24 hours for leaders in the UI Provost’s office to discover people across campus had something to say.

In that amount of time, more than 1,200 Urbana employees and students had answered a questionnaire Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise encouraging them to participate in the Visioning Future Excellence online survey.

"It tells us that people are engaged and thinking about the future of the campus," said Jason Kosovski, senior coordinator for evaluation and assessment coordinator for the Office of the Provost and Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs, which has assisted in the delivery of the survey and carrying out the chancellor’s Visioning luncheon initiative.

"It means people are eager to have their voices heard," he said. "We’re really trying to hit a broad section of campus and people seem so appreciative. The chancellor has been a very active participant and has interacted with all of the groups.

Kosovski said leaders appreciate the feedback, which is being compiled and will be included in a final report once the process is completed. The online process was to run through April, but that deadline may be extended as more stakeholders are added to the process.

If you haven’t been asked to part of a Visioning Future Excellence luncheon session you still may participate by filling out an online survey. The survey will take 15 to 30 minutes.  

Speaker series to discuss the research universe of the future

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The series was announced in May, designed to give educators a multidisciplinary view of higher education as it changes and to encourage them to participate in the process.

In addition to the seminar, a luncheon will be held with several campus leaders during the day, including the chancellor’s cabinet, the provost, the Council of Deans and faculty members. She also will invite panelists to tour the university’s libraries and the Blue Waters supercomputer facility, and lead a roundtable discussion with administrators and senior faculty members.

Nazaré is a past president of Portugal’s University of Aveiro, has invited leaders of her homeland to participate in the European University Association, which has assisted in the delivery of the survey and carrying out the chancellor’s Visioning luncheon initiative.

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Academy helps students get down to business

By Phil Clisora
Business and Law Editor

A generation ago, all an entrepreneur needed was an idea and a garage. Nowadays, people need little more than an Internet connection – and, for UI students, the help of a university that can guide them as they turn their ideas into reality. "One of the things we do is link students with all the resources that are available in the campus community," Clarke said. "We organize boot camps and workshops where we take students and introduce them to people in the entrepreneurial community both here and in Chicago. That way, we're able to bring in a lot of alumni and other successful entrepreneurs and business people.

"Being deployed is the easiest thing in the world because your only focus is to do your job and make sure you're safe," Brogdon said. An extra help position was adding up to four months notice before the most recent deployment. "When I found out, I just went in and had a conversation with my supervisor and we made a plan to deal with it," he said. "Our primary focus is the people," he said. "John Fazzell and Dan Klein, both former UI students and faculty and community members, are available in the campus community," he said. "They help the co-founders find the right tools to help their businesses grow," Clarke said. "We wanted to make sure they have everything they need to get their business started."
Eight honored with distinguished staff award

Eight civil service staff employees will be honored with the Chancellor's Distinguished Staff Award at a banquet April 24. The award recognizes exceptional performance.

Each recipient receives $2,000 and a plaque. Recipients' names also are engraved on a trophy plaque displayed in the Staff Human Resources Office. The names of past winners are online.

Permanent staff employees with at least two years of service or retired employees in status appointments during the calendar year may be nominated for the award. A committee recommends finalists, who are then approved by the chancellor.

ON THE WEB http://shr.illinois.edu/cdsa/cdsahall.htm

Alice S. Lafond

Tony J. Hynes

Lisa J. Leininger

Frank P. McCurry

Tracy L. Oshy

Norris S. Purdy

Clara M. Thorpe

Cathy J. Warmbier

See CDSS, Page 5
Norris S. Purdy is a distribution clerk for the UI Library. Purdy works in the mail and distribution area and receives, sorts and delivers materials coming into and then out again through the university library system.

“Purdy begins each day by checking in countless books, making sure that the contents of the boxes received are as indicated on the packing slip and that books are not damaged,” said Mike Cinker, the library facilities manager. “This is a huge task, considering that the UI library holds one of the largest collections in the world.” Even when he receives more material than expected, Purdy maintains a positive attitude.

“You could easily call Purdy the unit ‘cheerleader’ because he is always upbeat, nudging others to perform well and making a person feel like they can meet and accomplish a challenging situation,” said Cindy Kelly, the head of library human resources.

“Norris is an invaluable member of the staff who regularly conducts himself in a manner that reflects well both on the library and the university while doing work that is complicated, fast-paced, physically demanding and absolutely essential to the library and the 4 million-plus people it serves last year,” said Scott Walter, the assistant director of academic services for DRES.

“Clara has worked on many projects from various staff and departments within DRES that have different personalities and needs, and she prioritizes and completes them all in a timely and error-free manner.”

Cathy J. Warmbier has worked for 18 years in UI Extension’s state 4-H office, and the past nine as office administrator. In addition, she has coordinated two major office relocations in less than three years and has served as the office administrator for four state 4-H directors.

Warmbier’s tasks as office administrator include personnel management, clerical support, working with outside vendors, and understanding and using Banner. Warmbier’s position requires not only computer and fiscal skills but also technical expertise. “Clara’s greatest strength is identifying and resolving problems — often before anyone else knows they are problems,” said Madonna Weese, a 4-H curriculum specialist. “We all count on her to help us prevent problems whenever possible, and to solve them when they do come up. She never fails to help us or to point us in the right direction to find a resolution.”

Warmbier’s overall performance on the job is “stellar,” said Richard W. Clark, a professor of agricultural leadership education. “She was quick to master new tasks and always wanted to learn new information. She requested opportunities to go to training in order to keep on the cutting edge of office administration duties. She also encouraged all of the office staff to never be satisfied with their current level of knowledge and to work for excellence in their job performance. She was prepared for meetings and was always willing to go the extra mile to get reports and other materials ready on time and with accuracy.”

Deaths

Albert E. Blair, 88, died April 2 at the Champaign County Nursing Home, Urbana. Blair was a UI refrigeration mechanic in the Division of Operations and Maintenance (now Facilities and Services) for 20 years, retiring in 1984. Memorials: First Presbyterian Church of Tolono, 104 E. Vine St., Tolono, IL 61880, http://tolono.presbyterian.org.

Dorothy M. McKinney, 80, died March 31 at her Champaign home. McKinney was a cook in the Varsity Room for the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics for 14 years, retiring in 1996. Memorials: Carle Home Health, 206-A W. Anthony Drive, Champaign, IL 61821.

Howard M. Ziff, 81, died April 10 in Amherst, Mass. Ziff was on the journalism faculty from 1968 to 1971. Memorials: Howard Ziff Lecture Series at the Journalism Program of the University of Massachusetts. www.umass.edu/giving/.

InsideIllinois
Organ donor campaign

Research shows teenagers respond to simple over flashy

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

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Academy, Continued from Page 3

including access to a network of knowl-
edgeable people in the food and beverage
industry.
According to Nasralla, his experience
working for Triesta has informed his educa-
tion, providing a valuable real-world ap-
plication of his studies. The experience has
made him that much more disciplined in his
studies, he says.
In a weak economy, student entrepre-
nership is on the rise, Clarke said.
“We’re seeing is that there are lot of
students who have ideas, and would like to
start businesses,” he said. “What we’re
most effective by far. Quick said.
Those receiving the letter alone registered
at almost double the rate of those who received only
the higher-cost mailings, which was “kind of shocking,” he said.
After accounting for mailings returned as undeliverable, the reg-
istration rate for direct mail to a prospect list was 1.38 percent, according to
figures he cited from the Direct
Marketing Association.)
The difference in the rates be-
tween those receiving only the
letter and those receiving both the
letter and brochure was statisti-
cally significant, indicating the
brochure had little apparent ben-
erit and was not worth the added
cost, he said.
Given the registration rates, undelivered mailings cost about
various costs of materials and
mailing, the average cost per reg-
arization was $13.19 for those re-
ceiving only the letter, $7.14 for
those receiving both items, and
$6.41 for those receiving only the
letter, Quick said.
As to why the letter was so
much more effective, the study
could not determine, but it may be
a matter of simply cutting through
the multimedia clutter, Quick said.
Young adults now receive
numerous slickly produced bro-
chures from groups as diverse as
college admissions offices and
military recruiters, as one teenager
noted in a focus group. Quick said.
“It’s easy to think fancy is better,
but fancy’s the norm now. A stan-
dard letter from the Secretary of
State isn’t the norm.”
The letter also looks official, is
personalized with the recipient’s
name, and tells them their decision
to become a donor is their own.
For 18-year-olds who “don’t like being told what to do,” that
“can be read as empowering,” Quick said.
Just as surprising among the
results from the campaign: Nearly
three-quarters of those who regis-
tered chose to mail in their form
rather than go online, even though
the respondents, from a genera-
tion raised with the Internet, were
leery about registering this impor-
tant decision online.
No matter what materials they
were shown, or how they responded,
the study showed the benefit of
promoting organ donation among
this age group, and the value of di-
rect mail in doing so, Quick said.
Nearly 7,000 18-year-olds were
registered at an average cost of
$6.41 for those receiving only the
letter, $7.15 for those receiving both
the letter and brochure, and
$6.30 for those receiving only the
brochure.
In the “lowest rate would
be considered successful, given
the serious nature of the request,”
Quick said. The average response
to direct mail to a prospect list was
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chures from groups as diverse as
Kevon Kelly has four jobs, and they’re all about making noise. He hosts “Live and Local” on WILL-FM (90.9), and directs three distinctly different musical groups – the East Central Illinois Youth Orchestra, the choir at Emmanuel Memorial Episcopal Church and The Prairie Ensemble – a small orchestra known for its quirky programming and unstuffy presentation.

“I constantly feel like I’m not doing a very good job at anything,” Kelly says. But he has thrived at each of these gigs. Under his direction, the youth orchestra has grown from fewer than a dozen local music students to a regional group of 60. The Prairie Ensemble – a whimsical idea Kelly hatched with a handful of friends more than 15 years ago – will be performing its 57th concert April 28. And at WILL, where Kelly hosts drive-time classical music programming for more than a decade, then-program director Jake Schumacher created “Live and Local,” the noon-hour interview and music show, specifically for Kelly.

He was still a graduate student, earning dual master’s degrees in orchestral and choral conducting, working at the UI Library and waiting tables on the side, when he was hired to conduct the youth orchestra in 1993. He has been at the other jobs since 1996, when he received multiple job offers. “I had decided to go somewhere like Illinois. I was still a graduate student, earning a surprising response. “I think I’m a good talent, he gives what some might consider unstuffy presentation.”

As he called friends to participate, he found himself having to answer questions about the purpose and intent of the event. When he met with a few of those friends for coffee, they decided to form an ensemble.

“We started asking ourselves: If we were to start a group, why would we do it and what would it be about? And what we came up with was, essentially, The Prairie Ensemble,” Kelly said.

The group’s mission statement, he said, is “to make first-rate music fun, approachable and affordable.” They have developed a reputation for creative programming, playing pieces by lesser-known composers as well as better-known composers’ more obscure works. For example, the April 28 concert will feature “Music for a Farce,” by Paul Bowles; Suite From “Much Ado About Nothing,” by Erich Korngold; as well as pieces by Mozart and Mendelssohn. The ensemble avoids all the formal trappings that can make classical concerts intimidating. Instead of tuxedos, the musicians wear bright colors. Instead of huge concert halls, the group performs in the more intimate settings of churches and nightclubs, where the audience is closer to the performers. And Kelly discourages anyone from addressing him as “maestro.”

“I’m just the guy who happens to be conducting,” he said. “At some point, in order to get a rehearsal done, I have to say this is how it’s going to go. That’s not me on a podium. What am I going to ask them that they haven’t answered a hundred times? Probably nothing. So why sweat it? I just try to get a conversation started and go from there,” Kelly said. “The most important aspect of my radio job is to be able to listen. If you’re not listening as an interviewer, you might as well just not show up in the first place.”

As a conductor, Kelly typically does most of the talking in rehearsals, but the suggestions and directions he issues from the podium have to come in response to what he hears, whether it’s a bassoon coming in too soon or a cello melody that needs to be brought out. Beyond that, Kelly said, the job demands listening to the musicians as people. “I try to be a facilitator,” he said. “I’m a conductor, but more in the electrical sense.”

Local music

Kevon Kelly, host of WILL-FM’s “Live and Local,” directs three area music groups, including The Prairie Ensemble, which will perform at 7:30 p.m. April 28 at Faith United Methodist Church in Champaign.

The Prairie Ensemble was born about July 1996, out of Kelly’s effort to gather a group of musicians to run through some pieces he had agreed to conduct for a concert in his hometown, Chambersburg, Pa. Nothing,” by Erich Korngold; as well as pieces by Mozart and Mendelssohn. The ensemble avoids all the formal trappings that can make classical concerts intimidating. Instead of tuxedos, the musicians wear bright colors. Instead of huge concert halls, the group performs in the more intimate settings of churches and nightclubs, where the audience is closer to the performers. And Kelly discourages anyone from addressing him as “maestro.”

“For this reason, he prepares for his “Live and Local” interviews with some printed biographical notes in front of him, but no scripted questions. “I’ve heard too many interviews where you can tell the interviewer had questions written down, because they don’t listen to the answer to the first one – they just ask the second one,” he said.

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THE PRAIRIE ENSEMBLE ... performs April 28 at Faith United Methodist Church, 1719 S. Prospect Ave., Champaign. The concert begins at 7:30 p.m., preceded by Kelly’s concert talk at 7, and features soprano Ottie Watts Davis, mezzo-soprano Elizabeth Buckley, and actors Joli Hefftosmer and Henson Keys. Amsanog also will perform. For tickets, call 217-355-9077 or order online at prairieensemble.org.

Adverts removed for online version
Collaboration with Swedish universities benefits all

The odds are good you won’t see an umlaut above the university’s name any time soon. But an Urbana campus summit with the leaders of three prestigious Swedish universities April 25-26 shows just how big a partnership with Sweden is becoming.

“It’s innovative and unique,” said Tim Barnes, director of the year-old Illinois Strategic International Partnerships. “There’s never been anything like this; we are looking to build very broad and deep collaborations, sustained over time, of mutual benefits, and which affect all of the core missions of the partner institutions.”

The summit’s origins go back two years, after officials from Sweden’s KTH Royal Institute of Technology approached university officials about investigating a mutually beneficial academic partnership.

An agreement was signed and the consortium held a symposium on the Urbana campus in 2010, and a second at KTH last May in Stockholm, attended by a contingent of more than 40 UI faculty members and academic leaders. The effort also led UI leaders to form the Illinois Strategic International Partnerships and its pilot program, INSPIRE, Illinois-Sweden Program for Educational and Research Exchange.

The upcoming summit will continue facilitating the search for identifiable, cross-disciplinary collaborations, but it also could lay the foundation for an expansion of the INSPIRE partnership to include two of Sweden’s other prestigious universities, Stockholm University and Karolinska Institutet.

Leaders of the two institutions, which already have extensive collaborations with KTH in strategic areas, also will participate in the symposium, as will civic leaders and corporate executives from both countries.

“They are basically the CEOs of these universities and it’s very unusual to have them all together in the same place,” Barnes said.

Mirror images

Barnes said adding the institutions to the consortium would broaden its academic reach and round out the partnership, considering Stockholm University features comprehensive liberal arts, natural science, law and education programs, and Karolinska Institutet is a world-class medical research and teaching university.

“We see great opportunities that align with campus priorities,” Barnes said. “We’re looking at the same science questions and it makes great sense to look at some of these things together.”

In all, the Swedish three-campus footprint is very comparable to the UI structure, with 70,000 students and a broad realm of academic and research activity. “The (April) symposium is all about trying to foster those interconnections,” Barnes said, noting that higher-education research partnerships normally form at the personal level—an inherent weakness that makes them difficult to sustain over time. He said that’s why university officials have worked so hard to ensure the Swedish partnership— and others in the future—goes beyond one-to-one contacts and becomes integrated throughout the institution.

“It takes the will and desire of the individual faculty and departments to make those connections really happen,” he said. “Then it’s a matter of corralling them and pulling them all together. By pooling our limited resources we can do much bigger things. It becomes mutually beneficial if you do it right.”

Urbana Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise said the partnership, such as the one written about with Stockholm and Karolinska, is tantamount to sustaining the UI’s world-renown reputation.

“These types of partnerships can have an almost exponential effect,” Wise said. “And not only do they lead to new relationships and research that produce new and innovative ideas and partnerships, they create answers.”

Beyond the obvious academic benefits, the defined partnership with Swedish universities will help sustain a broadly engaged, economy of scale opportunities and a regional presence with a European Union member. Wise said.

“Our future as a top-tier research university depends on maintaining global pre-eminence in an ever-changing competitive environment,” she said. “That can only be achieved by reaching out, discovering new opportunities and then adding our footprints.”

Barnes said the partnership is further enhanced by the fact that Sweden has a high population of English speakers. The country also is ranked among the highest in the world for its investment in research and development (as a percentage of gross domestic product) and the number of citizens who hold doctoral degrees, on a per capita basis.

“We’re looking at the INSPIRE alliance as a kind of gateway to Europe,” he said. “The university hasn’t had a go-to partnership like this that can take advantage of connections within the European Union.”

Teams approach

Collaborations between researchers at the two institutions started forming prior to the first meeting, according to two Urbana professors serving as faculty liaisons and involved with the INSPIRE process since its inception. In fact, already there are more than two dozen collaborative projects being conducted between UI and Stockholm researchers alone. One of the projects with the most immediate impact is a joint interdisciplinary and co-taught class on the Arctic and climate change. The class is being offered at KTH over the summer.

“By attracting the interest of all our stakeholders, namely students, faculty and the commercial and civic societies of the state of Illinois and Sweden, we aim to build an alliance that can provide global leader- ship in higher education, research collaboration and civic engagement,” Dankowicz said.

Another new project has teamed researchers of the Illinois Rail Transportation and Engineering Center with the KTH Railway Group. The partnership led to a workshop last November and eventually could aid in the development of a federally proposed high-speed rail system in Illinois.

“Sweden and the U.S. both have a lot to gain from close collaboration in higher education. INSPIRE is another way for faculty and students to gain access to more resources and help provide additional opportunities for global impact and significance.”

Anna Westerståhl Stenport

By Mike Helenthal

April 19, 2012

ON THE WEB
www.inspire.illinois.edu
What has played an important role in reducing ethanol costs?

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

A new study from the UI concludes that learning-by-doing, stimulated by increased ethanol production, played an important role in inducing technological progress in the corn ethanol industry. It also suggests that biofuel policies, which induced ethanol production beyond the free-market level, served to increase the competitiveness of the industry over time.

The study, co-written by Madhu Khanna, a professor of agricultural and consumer economics at Illinois, and Xiaoguang Chen, of the UI Energy Biosciences Institute, quantifies the role that factors such as economies of scale, learning-by-doing, induced technological innovation as a result of rising input prices and trade-induced competition played in reducing the processing costs of corn ethanol in the U.S. by 45 percent while also increasing production volumes seventeen-fold from 1983 to 2005.

“The purpose of this article was to see if we could disaggregate the extent to which various factors contributed to a reduction in cost,” Khanna said. “The existence of learning-by-doing has been empirically validated for many technologies, including other forms of renewable energy. But in the case of corn ethanol, the main contribution of this paper was to see if there were some missing variables that had affected the estimate. We found that the impact of learning-by-doing in reducing the processing costs of dry-mill corn ethanol from 1983 to 2005 was twice as high as previously estimated.”

For a retrospective analysis, a long time-series of data is necessary, the researchers say. “The main limitation to conducting a retrospective analysis is that it takes 20 years to get 20 observations,” Khanna said. “Looking forward, what this suggests is that one can expect similar cost reductions through learning-by-doing with new technologies and that there is, in fact, a case for providing government support for nurturing new innovations in energy.”

“If we think about what it might mean for second-generation biofuels, it suggests a need to continue mandates despite all the skepticism about their efficacy,” Chen said. “This definitely shows that government mandates that accelerate production to higher levels than would otherwise occur can induce cost reductions in the future.”

The study also concludes that the tariff on Brazilian sugar-cane ethanol imports made the corn ethanol industry more competitive, but only slightly. “On the one hand, because the tariffs protect the domestic corn ethanol industry they can induce more domestic ethanol production, which can contribute to lowering costs,” Khanna said. “But on the other hand, it also reduces competition, which reduces the incentives for the corn ethanol industry to be as efficient as it might have been otherwise. We found the latter effect offset the benefits of the larger domestic production induced by the tariff.”

The researchers also say the learning-induced cost reductions are flattening out. “The reduction in cost is approaching its limit,” Chen said. “Additional reductions in production costs of corn ethanol, simply based on learning-by-doing, will become a lot harder to come by because they would require very large additional production over already-high current levels. The gains from learning are largest for an infant industry in its initial stages of growth; the justification for policy support decreases as the industry expands.”

“Our estimates show that each doubling of cumulative corn ethanol production decreased its unit costs by 25 percent,” Khanna said. “But there’s an upper limit that has been reached to increasing corn ethanol production because of the concerns about its impact on food prices. So we may never get to that level where we see further reductions in costs as a result of an increase in total production – not because the technology has hit a wall, but simply because current policy does not allow production to expand to that level.”

Other factors such as the rising prices of energy and labor did serve to lower processing costs, but the effect was not statistically significant. “One of the standard theories about induced innovation is that higher input prices will lead the industry to become more efficient and lower costs,” Chen said. “But we didn’t find any strong evidence of that here despite the increase in energy prices and labor costs. Instead, we found it’s really experience and learning-by-doing that’s working.”

“The demand for those inputs is not very responsive to prices, so that’s not where industry would make significant improvements,” Khanna said. “I think it’s improving the process of conversion, and improving conversion efficiencies; that’s where the real gains came from.”

The study will be published in the May issue of the journal Energy Policy.

The research was supported by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the U.S. Department of Energy, and the Energy Biosciences Institute at the University of California at Berkeley. ♦
The definition of data curation that we propose and make new discoveries. We work with information to solve problems and make sociological predictions. The Graduate School of Library and Information Science has recognized the need for this expertise could help scientists do less data work and more research.
Bullying: A look at victims, perpetrators and countermeasures

By Shalita Forrest
News Editor

A
tnew report by researchers at the UI offers sobering information about bullying. Students who are the most vulnerable — those with health problems or learning/developmental disabilities, who are poor or are racial/ethnic or sexual minorities — are more likely to be victimized by their peers.

And as schools in the U.S. attempt to comply with state mandates that they implement anti-bullying programs, they may be adopting curricula that have little or no impact on reducing bullying behaviors among American children, although the programs may be effective with schoolchildren in other countries.

The report, which appeared in the journal Aggression and Violent Behavior, cited several meta-analyses of anti-bullying programs implemented in the U.S. that were based largely on programs developed in other countries.

The paper was written by Jun Sung Hong, a graduate student in the School of Social Work, and Dorothy Espelage, a professor of educational psychology in the College of Education and an internationally recognized expert on bullying.

Since the 1999 massacre at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colo., and numerous episodes of school violence and student suicides in recent years that were believed to have been precipitated by bullying, 45 states enacted laws directing school districts to adopt anti-bullying policies, according to a recent report from the U.S. Department of Education.

While it’s encouraging that legislators and educators are taking bullying seriously, the etiology of bullying and victimization is complex and “requires an ecological approach in intervention design and evaluation” that is not reflected in the prevention programs being implemented in U.S. schools, Hong and Espelage wrote.

Some schools are adopting programs that have yet to demonstrate consistent efficacy with American children, such as the Olweus Bullying Prevention Program, developed by researcher Dan Olweus in Norway. A 2004 meta-analysis of 14 school anti-bullying programs based on the Olweus model showed moderate reductions in self-reported victimization and small to negligible effects on perpetration.

While a more recent analysis of 44 anti-bullying interventions, most of which were based on the Olweus program, indicated that the programs reduced bullying and victimization by 17-23 percent — those findings were applicable only to schools outside the U.S.

However, the more elements a program included, the greater the impact it had on reducing bullying.

Interventions need to address environmental factors — in the classroom, the school, the community, the family and society — that foment aggression and victimization; and negative school environmental factors, such as a lack of adult monitoring, all contribute to bullying and victimization.

The programs most likely to be successful in the U.S. would entail interventions at the individual, classroom, school and community levels that addressed behavioral changes and social skills development in victims as well as bullies, and which involved bystanders, teachers and parents as well, the paper indicated.

The multiple ecologies that affect bullying and the risk factors that increase children’s likelihood of being bullied have been studied extensively by researchers in other countries but have not been explored thoroughly in the U.S., Hong said.

“It’s very important for practitioners, researchers and teachers to look at what the culture of bullying is,” Hong said. “Simply taking punitive measures, such as zero-tolerance policies that weed out perpetration and other behavioral problems that could be threats, will probably overlook this culture.”

Teachers, school administrators and parents also need to be aware of the risk factors that have been associated with children’s being victimized or becoming perpetrators.

Characteristics that make children different — whether it’s their sexual orientation, religion, socio-economic status, weight, disability status or emotional problems — can elevate their risk of being bullied, studies indicate.

Despite the stereotype of the maladjust- ed, not-so-bright schoolyard bully, many kids that bully others are intelligent, some of them even gifted, and are socially astute, manipulative and popular with their peers.

“Parents also need to be aware of the risk factors that have been associated with children’s being victimized or becoming perpetrators.”

Hong said. “It’s also important to raise parents’ awareness and foster more school-home collaboration. Oftentimes, parents may not know how to deal with bullying or may overlook the severity of a bullying situation.”

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Researchers use brain-injury data to map intelligence

By Diana Yates Life Sciences Editor

The claim that Chicago public school teachers aren’t working enough hours during the school day is unwar-anted at best and intellectually dishonest at worst, according to research from a UI labor expert. The contentious debate between Mayor Rahm Emanuel and Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis over the length of the school day has focused on how much time teachers devote to the job.

The conclusions drawn between May-r-and of Neurology, is unique in that it in-cludes patients (for research) who have brain dam-age from pen-tral 30 hours of professional develop-ment training while the school year is not in session, according to the research. The study also analyzes how teachers’ in-class hours are allocated.

“It’s a workload study, looking at ac-tivities, but also measuring time allocation, in addition to in-class hours working at home in the evening,” Barbey said.

In 2011, in the final year of what was the National Conference on Children Learning--Thinking & Acting. “We wanted to show just how long, and how much time teachers are allocated to non-instruction-related activities,” Barbey said.

The authors included several recommen-dations based on their findings:

School day The claim that Chicago public school teachers aren’t working enough hours during the school day are unsanctioned at best and intellectually dishonest at worst, according to research from UI labor expert Robert Bruno.

Bruno, along with Steven Ashby, a pro-fessor of labor and employment relations at Illinois, and Frank Munoz IV, a research assist-ant and graduate student at the Univer-sity of Chicago, are co-authors of a paper that surveyed 983 Chicago Public School teachers. The study profiles a teacher’s standard school-day workload and the time they devote to the job.

The findings include:

- Teachers work 58 hours per week on average during the school year.
- Teachers work for 10 hours and 48 minutes on average during a standard school day, and spend almost an ad-ditional two hours working at home in the evening.
- Teachers work another three hours and 45 minutes of school-related work over the weekend.

“It’s at a minimum a 58-hour work week, which is more than 800 hours a year, a com-plete full-time job,” Bruno said.

Teachers spend an average of 12 days during summer break doing at least one school-related activity, and an addi-tional 30 hours of professional develop-ment training while the school year is not in session, according to the research.

The study analyzes how teachers’ in-class hours are allocated.

“It’s a workload study, looking at ac-tivities, but also measuring time allocation, in addition to in-class hours working at home in the evening,” Barbey said.

The authors included several recommen-dations based on their findings:

- Teachers should be the primary voice in determining how school time is used.
- Teachers should be released from other non-instructional time-consuming du-ties while increasing the time spent on actual instruction.
- Teachers should be paid an appropriate

As a result, much of the work imposed on a teacher draws from the time designed for reading, writing and math.

The authors included several recommenda-tions based on their findings:

- Teachers should be the primary voice in determining how school time is used.
- Teachers should be released from other non-instructional time-consuming du-ties while increasing the time spent on actual instruction.
- Teachers should be paid an appropriate

S

Scientists report that they have mapped the physical architecture of intelligence in the brain. There’s one of the largest and most comprehensive analyses so far of the brain structures vital to general intelligence and to specific aspects of cognitive functioning, such as visual and working memory.

Their study, published in Brain: A Jour-nal of Neurology, is unique in that it in-cludes patients (for research) who have brain dam-age from pen-tral 30 hours of professional develop-ment training while the school year is not in session, according to the research.

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Energy design assistance center shines new light on bulbs

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

How many gardeners does it take to change a light bulb? Three – one to change it and two to argue about whether this is the right time of year to plant new bulbs.

In fact, there’s no need for argument: Now is the perfect time for schools, libraries, businesses and public offices to change light bulbs if they are currently using fluorescent T12 bulbs. T12s are being phased out by the U.S. Department of Energy to encourage use of more energy-efficient bulbs. After July 1, those ubiquitous 48-inch-long tubes that have long been the standard lighting for businesses and institutions will no longer be manufactured in the United States. The phase-out of T12s means replacement bulbs will become rare and expensive.

But that’s not the only reason to change bulbs now, according to engineers at the Smart Energy Design Assistance Center, managed by the School of Architecture at the UI. “If you do it now, instead of waiting until the last minute, you can actually get some money paid to you to ease the financial pain,” says SEDAC technical director Ben Sliwinski.

Utility companies such as ComEd and Ameren Illinois are offering incentive programs for private sector building owners, and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity has similar incentives for the public sector. These incentives are funded by fees already added to all Illinois electricity bills.

“So if you don’t take advantage of these incentives, you will end up paying for your competitors to upgrade their lights,” Sliwinski said. “And the bigger reason to do it is that the newer technology T8 and T5 lamps are more energy efficient than the T12 lamps.”

SEDAC provides comprehensive analysis and advice on energy efficiency to businesses and public facilities in Illinois. Upgrading lighting systems is one of the easiest and most cost-effective energy improvements any office can make. For example, in 2010, after an energy efficiency assessment by SEDAC, the Peoria Civic Center replaced more than 1,300 ballasts and 2,600 T12 fluorescent lights with the newer, more energy efficient lamps, resulting in a savings of $7,300 per year in electricity costs, according to SEDAC.

This highly visible project had the added benefit of enlightening civic center employees to energy concerns. “It brought an awareness to the staff,” said Marc Burnett, director of sales and marketing. “People were actually taking more responsibility, on a person by person basis, so if you saw one of the garage doors open in the exhibit hall, we would walk over there and say, ‘What’s going on?’”

For details on current incentive programs:

- Private sector building owners can consult the website of their electric company (ComEd or Ameren Illinois).
- Public sector building managers can visit the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity website: www.illinoisenergy.org

For a complete range of energy-saving options, building owners and managers can contact SEDAC for a free energy assessment.

http://sedac.org
Engineering professor awarded Guggenheim Fellowship

By Liz Altherr

Professor Huimin Zhao has received a 2012 Guggenheim Foundation Fellowship. Zhao, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, has been named a 2012 Guggenheim Fellow. The fellowship provides support for one academic year for the intellectual activity of a scholar in any field of the creative or research arts. Zhao, who joined the UIUC faculty in 2000, is known for his work in synthetic biology tools for drug and energy development, and his research on biosynthetic tools for drug and energy development was recently featured in the journal Science. His research focuses on biosynthetic tools for drug and energy development, and his work on biosynthetic tools for drug and energy development was recently featured in the journal Science. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering. ◆

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

ACHES

Kelly Tappenden has been named the Kraft Foods Human Nutrition Endowed Professor. The professorship is part of a $1 million permanent endowment from Kraft Foods to the Division of Nutritional Sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. Tappenden’s research focuses on governance of small intestinal function by variant nutrients and gastrointestinal-specific peptides. Tappenden also will receive the 2012 Excellence in Nutrition Education Award from the American Society for Nutrition at the Experimental Biology meeting in April.

AES

Angela Black, a professor of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Health Sciences, received the Outstanding Young Alumna Award from the Tulane School of Science and Engineering for her contributions to the field. The award was presented at the school’s ceremony April 12 in New Orleans.

Black’s research focuses on the links between stress and health in African-American women, and cultural competence skills and awareness of health practitioners.

IPRH

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities has chosen its 2012-13 faculty fellows, along with the research projects they will undertake. The fellows will participate in faculty-driven, interdisciplinary public programs. IPRH will host its annual award reception April 25 honoring faculty members, and graduate and undergraduate students.


LAS

Clare Crowston, a professor of history, was chosen as a Collaborative Research Fellow by the American Council of Learned Societies. Crowston’s work focuses on labor history and the history of women and gender. Her work with Steven Kaplan (also a fellow from Cornell University) studies apprenticeships and their role as a “total social phenomenon.” The fellowship program brings together 15 fellows from different institutions, disciplines and countries whose varied perspectives will yield advances in research. The council is a private, nonprofit federation dedicated to advancing scholarship and strengthening relationships among learned societies.

The department of atmospheric sciences’ online course ATM 120, “Severe and Hazardous Weather,” received a Distinction Learning Courses/Meritorious Course award from the University Professional and Continuing Education Association. The online course, offered through Online and Continuing Education, is taught by instructor Eric Snodgrass.

The award recognizes new and innovative courses that utilize one or more forms of instruction at a distance in college, K-12 and non-credit courses. The course is dedicated to continuing professional higher education.

Library

Kirstin Dougan, a music and performing arts librarian, has been selected to participate in the Frye Leadership Institute for her contributions to her field.

The institute will take place from June 3-8 in Washington, D.C., and will address challenges in higher education through a variety of topics, empowering librarians and information technologies to initiate conversations and take action on issues of importance not just to their individual institutions but also to the entire higher education community.

MEDIA

Matthew Ehrlich, a professor of journalism, was recognized by the Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication. His book, “Radio Utopia: Postwar Audio Documentary in the Public Interest” (UI Press/2011), was named one of three national finalists in the association’s Tankard Book Award competition. Ehrlich’s work details how audio documentaries have educated listeners while reflecting the political and cultural climate of post-war America.

The association is a nonprofit organization dedicated to promoting the highest possible standards for journalism and mass communication education.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS

L. Brian Stauffer, the photographer for the UI News Bureau, has been recognized by the University Photographers’ Association. Stauffer’s photo, “Flango at the Museum,” which features two dancers at the Krannert Art Museum as they dance past a piece by Andy Warhol, placed third in the general features and illustrations category at the association’s Monthly Image Competition.

The association is an international organization of college and university photographers concerned with the application and practice of photography as it relates to the higher education setting.

Ads removed for online version
A tribute to support staff members across campus during Administrative Professionals Week.

The Office of the Provost would like to thank all administrative professionals for their daily contributions to the faculty, staff, and students across campus. Your efforts are crucial to the excellence of the University of Illinois.

We would like to send special thanks to the assistants at right—we depend upon and work closely with these dedicated professionals each day!

CIIO/ CITES — Judy Lubben
College of ACES — Carol Phillippe and Holly Foster
College of Applied Health Sciences — Robbin King
College of Business — Dionna Williams and Jane Kappes
College of Education — Debbie Kemphues and Beth Warner
College of Engineering — Robin Dennis and Tammy Nohren
College of Fine and Applied Arts — Carey Ann Cash
College of LAS — Paula Hays and Charisse Jones
College of Law — Cheryl Long
College of Media — Cindy Curtiss
College of Medicine — Debbie McCall
College of Veterinary Medicine — Yvonne Sargent
Division of Biomedical Sciences — Cathy Tingley
Division of Management Information — Mary Sappenfield
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Phyllis Wise
Vice President, University of Illinois
Chancellor, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

To the wonderful administrative professionals at the College of Medicine

To the wonderful administrative professionals at the College of Medicine Urbana-Champaign

Thank you for your invaluable dedication, superb professionalism, and loyal support on behalf of the faculty, administration, and students.

Coming together is a beginning.
Keeping together is progress.
Working together is success.

Henry Ford

Penny Ames
Sally Eakin
Candy Edwards
Lila Evans
Patti Grove
Suzi Harmon
Christine Hopper
Molly McLaughlin
Kathy Painter
Julie Smith
Valerie Youngen

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GSLS is a wonderful, welcoming place in which to learn, study, and work.
To our outstanding staff ~

With deep appreciation, the College of ACES applauds your exceptional service in our teaching, discovery and engagement missions.

Thank You!

The School of Labor and Employment Relations expresses sincere thanks to the staff in our unit who serve our students and stakeholders with dedication.

Maria Dokes
Pam Hartke
Lynne Hoveln
Martha Glotzhober
Wendy Gooch
Kathy Kuntz
Mary Kay McCallen
Jill Ranneburger

Tammy, Leana, Cindy, Bruce, Meg, Sherry, Alex, Ed, Sharon, Kristy, Matt, Jen, Jim, Stephanie, Scott, Brad, Jesse, Connie, Shelby, Sandy, Vicki, Karen, Gregor, Sherry, Anita, Hamzah, Courtney, Kenny, Viki, & Cheryl

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Jean Soliday
Deanna Spivey
Susan Vinson

On behalf of those who benefit from your dedicated service, the College of Applied Health Sciences extends our sincere thanks to you, our extraordinary administrative professional staff!

The College of Media extends a heart-felt thank you to our administrative staff for their kindness, professionalism and service to students and faculty. Thank you for everything you do to make the College of Media a great place to work and learn.

Kalee Ackerman
Michele Andrews
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Cindy Curtiss
M. Denise Davis
Tara Derossett
Cheryl Gerber
David Ivy

Randy Musselman
Robin Price
Jan Ruffner
Elizabeth Weathers
Susan Weiss
Tracy Wikoff
Janette Bradley Wright
Brenda Zimmerman

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Voice Mail from Business, College of (23 seconds)
sent by Business, College of
Sent: Thursday, April 19, 2012 8:01 AM
To: Administrative Staff, Business

Voice Mail Preview:

Business Administrative Staff,

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- Your friends in the College of Business

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You keep us running.
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Thanks for your commitment.

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UIF
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Peacekeeping forces often barrier to lasting peace

By Craig Chamberlain

Could peacekeepers actually be a factor in ending a war and finding long-term peace? An analysis of conflicts since World War II shows that that’s the case more often than not, says two experts on the subject.

“In general, peacekeeping actually reduces the occurrence of diplomatic efforts aimed at settling conflicts,” according to co-authors J. Michael Greig, a professor of political science at the University of North Texas, and Paul F. Diehl, the Henning Larsen Professor of Political Science at the UI.

“When peacekeepers are deployed, the likelihood that warring parties will attempt direct negotiations or accept offers of mediation to help settle their conflict sharply reduces,” they wrote in an article in the March issue of the Yale Journal of International Affairs.

As a result, a peacekeeping force “can, paradoxically, undermine the achievement of a comprehensive peace agreement,” Greig and Diehl call it the “peacekeeping-peace making dilemma,” and their conclusions are based on the analysis of data from civil wars and wars between nation-states since 1945 — though peacekeeping operations have been much more numerous in recent decades.

Perhaps the classic example is Cyprus, Diehl said, where peacekeeping forces remain nearly a half-century after they were first deployed.

In some cases, conditions may almost complete, Diehl said. “I think the point of our research is that there shouldn’t be an illusion that a peacekeeping force is a panacea that solves all different kinds of problems and has all positive effects,” he said.

Instead, policymakers choosing whether to insert a peacekeeping force should recognize that each choice is a tradeoff and “incomplete,” Diehl said.

In some cases, conditions may almost require international intervention to contain an escalating conflict or prevent mass killing. “That’s a pretty good tradeoff,” he said, even if it makes long-term peace more difficult.

Schools. Continued from Page 12

The results of the study suggest that Eric Bruno, a professor of education at Northern Illinois, Bruno says.

“For the teachers, the problem isn’t the length of the day,” he said. “The bigger question is, what are you actually going to do with the content of the day? A certain percentage of that is going to go toward behavioral management, emotional needs, handling data and paperwork. What are you going to end up with? Another 15 minutes of instruction? That’s not going to get you anywhere. You wouldn’t get a higher performance in the STEM (science, technology, engineering, mathematics) subjects unless you dealt with things like the children’s emotional needs and behavioral management issues.”

According to Bruno, the study also draws from a field of research that looks at time-intensification in the labor process — how workers are forced to multi-task, what happens when they’re forced to rush to do work, and how they perform after more and more demands are placed upon them.

“The results are that they don’t perform at their highest level, and they certainly have higher levels of stress and turnover and job satisfaction,” he said. “So if you’re going to demand more of the teachers, you can’t do it by simply adding more minutes onto the day. It’s a much more complex issue.”

The turnover rate of public school teachers in Chicago is higher than usual, Bruno notes.

“The turnover rate is almost 50 percent of faculty within five years,” he said. “Nobody ever quite steps back and says, ‘What are we doing to these teachers in this five-year period that’s generating such turnover?’ One of the recommendations we make is for an examination of the impact of nearly 60-hour workweeks on teacher stress, creativity, job satisfaction and turnover.”
Majora Carter to speak April 19

Majora Carter redefined the field of environmental economic reform. Starting in the South Bronx in 2001, she is now a leading figure in the environmental movement, serving as president of her own economic consulting firm, Sustainable South Bronx. She pioneered green-collar job training and placement systems in one of the most environmentally and economically challenged areas of the U.S. Carter also is a MacArthur Fellow and is president of her own economic consulting firm.

Since 2008, the company, Majora Carter Group LLC, has exported climate adaptation, urban micro-agribusiness and leadership development strategies for business, government, foundations, universities and economically underperforming communities.

Student Life and Culture Archival Program

National archives conference is June 21-23

The 2012 National Archives Conference for Fraternities and Sororities at the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities will be held June 21-23. This year’s conference will address issues related to audiovisual materials in archives, examine the relationship between student employees and the U.S. government, and explore lessons from the board of the U.S. Green Building Council and the Wilderness Society. From 2001 to 2008, she was the executive director of the non-profit she founded, Sustainable South Bronx. She pioneered green-collar job training and placement systems in one of the most environmentally and economically challenged areas of the U.S. Carter also is a MacArthur Fellow and is president of her own economic consulting firm.

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Two faculty elected to American Academy of Arts & Sciences

U of I professors Edward Diener and Jennifer A. Lewis are among 220 new members named to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The academy, founded in 1780, is one of the oldest honorary societies in the nation. Fellowship honors outstanding leadership and scholarship in a variety of fields. New members join the ranks of Albert Einstein, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Benjamin Franklin, George Washington and other influential Americans.

“The election of professors Diener and Lewis highlights their extraordinary contributions in scholarship and leadership,” said Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise. “They are world leaders in behavioral science and materials research, adding their legacies to the distinguished company.”

Diener, the Joseph R. Smiley Distinguished Professor of Psychology at Illinois, was selected for his pioneering contributions to psychological science. Diener also is a 2012 recipient of the American Psychological Association’s Distinguished Scientific Contribution Award.

Now an emeritus professor of psychology at Illinois and a senior scientist with the Gallup organization, Diener joined the Illinois faculty in 1974. Much of his career has been devoted to measuring well-being and understanding the cultural, personality and economic factors that influence it.

Diener is a fellow and past president of the International Positive Psychology Association, the International Society of Quality of Life Studies, and the Society of Personality and Social Psychology. He also is a fellow of the American Psychological Society, the APA, the Society of Personality and Social Psychology and the Society of Experimental Psychology.

Diener has written, edited and co-edited several books on subjective well-being. He is a co-author of Diener, of “Happiness: Unlocking the Mysteries of Psychological Wealth.” Diener was one of the first researchers to analyze happiness and income from the Gallup World Poll, the first worldwide survey of more than 136,000 people in 132 nations.

Diener earned his bachelor’s degree in psychology from California State University at Fresno and his doctorate in personality psychology from the University of Illinois.

Lewis, the Hans Thurnauer Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, has made pioneering contributions to the directed assembly of soft functional materials. Her research focuses on engineering the flow behavior and structure of soft matter composed of colloidal, polymeric and metallic building blocks. She applies her expertise to the design of functional inks for planar and three-dimensional printing. Recently she and her research group have produced highly conductive electrode inks for printed electronic and solar devices, scaffolds for tissue engineering and lightweight structural materials.

Lewis also serves as the director of the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory at the UI, one of the premier interdisciplinary research facilities in the nation.

Lewis earned her doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1991. She joined the faculty at Illinois in 1990, where she also is affiliated with the chemical and biomolecular engineering department and with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Lewis has written more than 100 published papers and holds eight patents. Among many other honors, she has been named a fellow of the Materials Research Society, the American Physical Society and the American Ceramic Society.

The American Academy for Arts and Sciences has more than 4,000 Fellows and 600 foreign honorary members, including more than 250 Nobel laureates and 60 Pulitzer Prize winners. ◆

BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22

Young Alumni Award and Family Spirit Award

ACES seeks nominees for awards

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences is seeking nominees for its Outstanding Young Alumni Award and ACES Family Spirit Award.

“ACES grads are setting high standards of achievement and service all over the world,” said Tina Veal, the college’s director of alumni relations. “Please let us know if you are aware of excellent candidates for these awards.”

The Outstanding Young Alumni Award is given to up to three exceptional graduates in the college under the age of 40 who have demonstrated outstanding professional achievement, or through their outstanding leadership or service have significantly enhanced the lives of others.

The Family Spirit Award recognizes families who have demonstrated their support of the college as alumni and/or current students.

Nominations are due by May 15. To make a nomination, go to http://acesalumni.illinois.edu/site/awards/

Center for Teaching Excellence

Presenters and facilitators needed

The Center for Teaching Excellence offers an opportunity for faculty members, academic professionals and experienced teaching assistants to share their knowledge, experience and enthusiasm for teaching by making a presentation at the 2012 Graduate Academy for College Teaching on Aug. 20-21 and/or the 2012 Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours on Aug. 21.

The Graduate Academy for College Teaching is a re-semester conference-style program for new teaching assistants 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 lesson planning and questioning strategies, concurrent sessions that feature discussions of diverse teaching topics, and microteaching sessions during which TAs practice teaching and receive feedback (held on Aug. 22-24). The Graduate Symposium on Grading and Office Hours is a shorter program for those teaching assistants who do not have classroom responsibilities. Both programs include sessions about cultural issues related to teaching that are required for international teaching assistants.

Faculty members, academic professionals and experienced teaching assistants are invited to design engaging concurrent sessions about teaching – including sessions on culture and diversity – to facilitate small-group sessions on foundational teaching topics for which the lessons and training are provided and/or to facilitate microteaching sessions. About the sessions, times and expectations can be downloaded at http://go.illinois.edu/CITEcall (PDF file).

This document includes a link to a Web-based form for submissions as well as links to draft programs of the academy and symposium. Submissions are due June 15.

For more information, contact Sandy Finley at sfinley@illinois.edu.

Staff Advisory Council

Nominations sought for SAC

Staff Advisory Council seeks nominations for one representative from the Skilled Craft/Trades group, one from the Technical/Paraprofessional group, and one from the Secretarial/Clerical group to serve a four-year term beginning July 1. The council acts in an advisory role and meets regularly with the provost and other administrators.

Nominations are due by April 20, 2012. For more information, visit http://www.illinois.edu/hr/council/sac.html

Secretary of State

Mobile unit will be on campus April 25

The Secretary of State’s mobile office will be on campus from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. April 25 in Room 314 Illini Union. Employees can renew, replace or correct driver’s licenses and state IDs and buy vehicle registration renewal stickers for license plates and UI passenger vehicles and B-truck license plates. For more information, visit http://www.cyberdriveillinois.com. ◆

April 19, 2012

InsideIllinois

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A new study offers compelling genetic evidence that head and body lice are the same species. The finding is of special interest because body lice can transmit deadly bacterial diseases, while head lice do not.

The study appears in the journal Insect Molecular Biology.

Scientists have long debated whether human head and body lice are the same or different species. The head louse \textit{(Pediculus humanus capitis)} is a persistent nuisance, clinging to and laying its eggs in the hair, digging its mouthparts into the scalp and feeding on blood several times a day. The body louse \textit{(Pediculus humanus humanus)} tends to be larger than its cranial counterpart, and is a more dangerous parasite. It lays its eggs on clothing, takes bigger blood meals, and can transmit relapsing fever, trench fever and epidemic typhus to its human host.

Previous studies have found that even when they are both present on the same host, head and body lice don’t stray into each other’s territories. They don’t breed with one another in the wild, but they have been shown to successfully reproduce under specific laboratory conditions. The presence of head lice has little to do with human hygiene, but body lice seem to appear out of nowhere when hygiene suffers – in times of war or economic hardship, for example.

In the new study, researchers compared the number and sequences of all of the protein-coding genes expressed at every stage of the head and body louse life cycles. “We were interested in understanding potentially how closely related head lice and body lice are,” said UI entomology professor Barry Pittendrigh, who led the study. “Do they have the same number of genes? Do those genes look very similar or are they very different? What we found is that these two organisms are extremely similar in terms of their protein-coding genes.”

The researchers also exposed the lice to a variety of environmental conditions to capture the greatest variety of gene activity. “My colleagues at the University of Massachusetts, led by veterinary and animal sciences professor John Clark, collected lice at every developmental stage, exposed them to every pesticide they could get their hands on, multiple bacterial challenges, several physical challenges – cold, heat – to get the lice to express as many genes as possible,” Pittendrigh said. Very few differences were detected in the number or sequences of genes they expressed.

“The differences in their sequences were so minor that if we didn’t know they were separate groups, we would have considered them the same species,” he said.

“As body lice transmit diseases and head lice don’t, this system provides a unique opportunity to understand subtle changes that allow body lice to transmit human diseases,” said graduate student Brett Olds, who conducted the genetic analysis.

The study team also included Illinois animal biology professor Kenneth Paige; entomology graduate students Laura Steele and Tolulope Agunbiade; and S.H. Lee, from the department of agricultural biotechnology at Seoul National University. The National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases at the National Institutes of Health supported this research.