Voice component now in use campuswide

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

A fter two years of planning and implementation, officials at Campus Information Technolo-
gies (CITES) announced the successful switch to a campuswide computer-based unified com-
munications system. "It’s been a long haul and a lot of work, but the switch has been made and the system is up and running," said Greg Gulick, director of CITES.

The $4.8 million switch to Microsoft Lync software eliminated 10,600 phone landlines and is expected to save the campus an estimated $3 million annually.

"It’s like going into people’s homes," said Dempsey. "They’re going into buildings that are occupied by faculty and students. It’s like going into people’s homes," Dempsey said. "Somebody who’s been here 10 years will say, ‘It’s not just the crafts and trades positions, it’s people across campus asking, ‘Who is it that does this now?’ It’s not just the crafts and trades positions, it’s people who possess decades of ‘institutional knowledge.’"

That concern is shared across the university, he said, as many of the newly retired have been working on the Urbana campus for decades.

"Somebody who’s been here 10 years can get things done more efficiently and effectively," he said. "There are going to be a lot of people across campus asking, ‘Who is it that does this now?’ It’s not just the crafts and trades."

Other challenges include making competitive offers to workers despite recent benefit reductions for new employees, and finding ways to keep them for the long term despite continued financial uncertainty.

And despite the difficult period, Dempsey said he is confident F&S will persevere, with minimal interruption and continued top-notch work.

"I think people are just going to step up and make it happen," he said. "This is a chance, as an employee, to stretch yourself. We just have to rise to the challenge."
New way to grow, isolate cancer cells may help fight disease


Carolyn S. Genzel, 67, died July 1 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Genzel had worked at the UI for 27 years. She was an office manager at the Coordinated Science Laboratory. Memorial: the Impotent Oncology Department, www.carle.org; or St. John’s Lutheran Church, 109 N. Oak St., P.O. Box 5, St. John, IL 61879.

Herbert H. Osterloh, 82, died June 23 at Memorial Medical Center, Springfield. He retired from Facilities and Services as an operating engineer in 1984 after 30 years of service. Memorials: Hope United Church of Christ Foundation Repair Fund, 23334 State Route 49, Armstrong, IL 61812.

Curtis Lee Porter II, 67, died June 22 at Provista Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Porter retired in April as a building service department worker with Facilities and Services after 17 years of service. Memorial: Trinity Lutheran Church, 401 E. Green St., Champaign.

Nearby “Dot” Weecks Richardson, 90, died June 9 at Country Health Care, Gibson City. Richardson worked at the Elini Union. Memorials: Trinity Lutheran Church, www.trinity-urbana.org/

Barbara G. Anderson Shirley, 97, died June 5. Shirley worked from the UI Memorial Hospital, 216 S. Cedar St., St. Sometimes, when you put things on a surface, they may appear to be flat, but the truth is that they are three-dimensional. This can be seen clearly in the study of cells. Cells, for instance, are not flat, but rather have a three-dimensional structure. This is why it is important to consider how we view and interact with the world around us. In the same way, we need to be aware of the complexity of the systems we are studying, whether they are biological, physical, or social. By doing this, we can better understand how these systems work and make more informed decisions about how we interact with them.
Idea Garden provides inspiration, as well as meditation

By Milne Holenthal
Assistant Editor

The Champaign County Extension Master Gardeners’ Idea Garden, an annual focal point for the UI Arboretum, is more than an oasis of brightly colored flowers and unique plants. It is an exercise in democracy. Each flowing section within the garden’s 15,000 square-foot footprint sprouts as the result of a team of Master Gardeners charged with deciding what to plant and who will deliver daily care. The section leaders, along with three Idea Garden coordinators, form the garden’s governing committee.

“If any one of the sections is planning to do something big or unusual, they have to bring it to committee,” said Sandra Mason, a UI Extension educator. “We’re a public garden, so we have to keep that in mind. It’s been effective in maintaining an organized approach.”

The team approach, which draws from nearly 200 members of the Champaign County Master Gardeners’ chapter, has led to a consistent annual presentation in which even walkways and common areas are agreed upon. New volunteers are quickly incorporated into the team, learning new techniques along the way.

“Design is always the hardest thing because it’s such a personal expression with each gardener,” Mason said. “It usually works out in the end because everyone is here just for the love of gardening and we all want to share it.”

While some members participate more than others, Mason said as many as 75 volunteers keep the Idea Garden flourishing, with thousands of maintenance hours logged since the garden’s creation in 1997. Volunteers log more than 2,500 hours annually for its upkeep.

Champaign County Master Gardeners’ volunteer she also helps to create and care for several other community gardens, including those at the Urbana-based Crisis Nursery, the county’s Juvenile Detention Center and Alzheimer’s Garden at the Champaign County Nursing Home.

“I felt like I was doing it right until I became a Master Gardener,” she said. “That’s when you realize how little you know about gardening when you joined.

A self-described “rabid” gardener, she said the group’s committee and inner structure gives everyone a voice — and a way to move up the chain of responsibility.

“One of my first jobs was pulling the same kind of weed, over and over,” she said. “Out here, it’s a shared thing. There is a core group who puts in a tremendous amount of time. We’re happy for any hours that people can contribute.”

Mary Morris, a retired X-ray technician from Texas and a 2001 Master Gardeners’ graduate, said the organization is a humbling experience for anyone who thinks they know how to garden.

“I felt like I knew it right until I became a Master Gardener,” she said. “That’s when you realize how little you know about gardening, it’s a shared thing, everyone’s all over again.”

She said the camaraderie among members is unmatched because everyone is dedicated to learning — and sharing that knowledge freely.

“You have to have teamwork because you’re going to need help at some point,” she said. “Our motto is kind of, ‘you help me and I’ll help you.’”

She said gardening has numerous benefits, especially for seniors. It’s good exercise and relieves stress. She said upper body strength is of primary importance, especially when it comes to weeding or moving dirt.

“You’re using every muscle imaginable, including your core power,” she said. “Getting out in the garden is very therapeutic. There’s something about playing in the dirt.”

And there also is a feeling of legacy among members. They are keenly aware that healthy, well-maintained plants can last generations.

“We trade personal plants all the time and you remember who you traded with,” Morris said. “If that person is deceased, you remember even more. There are lots and lots of friendships that have been made here.”

**Wild things** This undated photo shows a zoo-themed topiary section that once was part of the Idea Garden. Any substantial additions or subtractions at the garden must be approved through a Master Gardener committee system.
What advice do you have for parents whose children are capable but uninterested in reading?

Alliterate kids – those who know how to read, but choose not to do it – can be a conundrum for parents, teachers and librarians.

First, recognize that reading isn’t always about someone getting lost in a novel. Look for “hidden” reading – websites, text messages, baseball cards, magazines, cereal boxes, whatever – acknowledging and encouraging when you notice it.

Second, go with your kids to the library or a bookstore regularly; make it part of your family’s time together. If a child won’t select the books you would, remember, it’s not about you and what you think.

Third, find other ways to make reading a family activity. Make sure your child sees you read – whether for work or for pleasure. Talk about what you’re reading. Read aloud to your child. That’s an activity that often stops when your child learns to read on his or her own, but it doesn’t have to. Listen to audiobooks on family trips or even while running errands around town.

Parents tend to regard comics as the “candy” of the reading pyramid – treats to be consumed sparingly, and only after reading “real” books. Should parents worry if their kids gravitate toward comics?

My short answer is, no. For many decades, librarians, teachers, parents and other folks who care about kids and forms of expression other than books that reading comics can be like food or ladders or steppingstones. These metaphors get old, after a while, all ages develop empathy, learn new ideas and more.

In a lifetime of reading comics, this medium has challenged me to consider what makes the American political myths both inspiring and troubling (for example, Men in Black and “Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles”). I’ve learned about important events in history (Jim Ottaviani’s “T- Minus: The Race to the Moon”), gained insights into life in little- understood realms (Guy Delisle’s “Pyyong: A Journey in North Korea”) and related at- tractive and sometimes successful – to get newspapers to cease printing comics. When comic books entered the American cultural landscape in the mid-1940s, some of those same fears were reactivated.

In the years following World War II, comic books became one of the many scapegoats for a perceived increase in juvenile delinquent behavior, leading to sustained public outcry and, subsequently, restrictive self-regulatory actions in the comics industry. Although more than 95 percent of American kids read comics regularly in the 1940s and earlier, it’s not likely that the NFL will consider doing away with hard helmets, thereby making the game much less violent by forcing players into a more passive protective style of play.

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Parental conflict may manifest itself in preschooler behavior

By Sharita Forrest

News Service

Behavioral problems in preschoolers may mirror the anxiety and frequency of their parents’ marital conflict and signal possible child maltreatment, suggests a new study co-authored by Jun Sung Hong, a doctoral candidate in the UI School of Social Work, and researchers at Ewha Womans University and Duksun Women’s University, both in Seoul, South Korea.

The study, which included more than 200 children, their mothers and their teachers at 20 day care sites in Korwa, was part of a larger research project exploring possible links between family conflict and school violence. The researchers also were investigating programs for at-risk children.

“Considering that many social problems have their roots in family life, scholars have become interested in exploring potential family factors – including marital conflict – to better understand children’s aggression,” said the study’s lead author, Hong. “Children of divorcing families and their families in Korea, the findings could be relevant to children in the U.S. and other countries because child maltreatment and family violence are worldwide social problems.”

Additional co-authors were Nana Shin, Min-Jung Kim and Sangwon Kim, Ewha Womans University, and Mi-Kyung Choe, Duksun Women’s University.

The children in the study, all 3-year-olds, met the criteria for juvenile homicide such as fighting with other children, breaking other people’s belongings and bullying peers through physical and relational aggression – on the Child Behavioral Checklist, a widely used parent-report questionnaire to assess children on maladaptive behaviors and emotional problems.

Mothers who reported experiencing the most severe and frequent conflict with their marital partners were more likely to report that they also neglected or physically or psychologically abused their children.

Accordingly, the severity of the children’s aggression was significantly associated with the level of maltreatment and with the frequency and severity of marital conflict reported by the mothers.

Several prior studies suggested that children’s aggression might be correlated with inter-parental conflict. However, the current study showed that child maltreatment might be involved as a mediator between child aggression and parental conflict. The findings indicated that the mediating relationship was consistent for the case of both boys and girls as well as boys.

Prior research has shown that children who witness inter-parental violence may model that behavior, viewing aggression as an acceptable means of resolving conflict.

“It’s important for practitioners to focus on aggressive behavior at an early developmental stage as young children are likely to be more responsive to primary prevention than adolescents,” said Hong.

Traditionally, parochial social values in Korea treated marital conflict and domestic violence as private affairs with never any discussion about the pathways to the intervention of the research agenda, he said.

In a related project, Kim, Dob and Choi collaborated with Nana Shin, Min-Jung Kim and Jun Sung Hong, a doctoral candidate in the School of Social Work, collaborated with researchers at two universities in Seoul, South Korea, on studies that examined the origins of preschoolers’ aggressive behavior and tested an intervention program.

“Children who reported exposure to conflict reported by the mothers significantly increased among the children who participated in the intervention, and their mothers scored higher on measures of warmth and acceptance at the end of the program,” Hong said.

The study about the intervention was published last year in the journal Children and Youth Services Review. The marital conflict study became available online in May with the same journal in advance of publication.

‘Negative leakage’ could be key to reducing carbon emissions

By Phil Cliarla

By Phil Cliarla

Balancing the unilateral efforts of a single country or region to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases could reduce exports, increase imports and lead to higher emissions elsewhere – what economists call “leakage.”

Unilateral efforts could, however, work better if other sources of energy were used as substitutes, thereby creating “negative leakage,” according to research by UI energy policy experts.

Don Fullerton, a finance professor and former deputy assistant secretary of the U.S. Treasury Department, says he’s “convinced that any country raising its own costs of production, thereby putting firms out of business, is a good that doesn’t really exist in the world.”

If the context were two countries, says Fullerton, “It’s hard to know how to do that, exactly, except maybe for oil or coal,” Fullerton said. “Who knows how much carbon dioxide was associated with the production of, say, a washing machine, toaster oven, or some other oven?”

Although it seems somewhat esoteric, the concept is important, Fullerton says.

“Every economist who studies leakage seems to assume it must be positive,” he said. “They just can’t fathom any way in which it can be negative. They automatically assume that anyone who unilaterally imposes a carbon tax must be raising the cost of their own production, thereby putting themselves at a competitive disadvantage and vying for sales to other countries who, when they increase their output, will increase their emissions. Therefore the carbon tax doesn’t do any good.”

But that’s not necessarily the case.”

Childhood aggression

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Critical development. A new study by David Strauser, a faculty member in community health, sheds light on why adult survivors of childhood cancer often have trouble keeping employment, particularly if they were diagnosed during a critical developmental period between the ages of 6-12.

Using a 26-item Developmental Work Personality Scale that he developed, Strauser assessed the extent to which the cancer survivors’ career decisions were affected by confusion, anxiety, reluctance to commit and external conflict such as self-perception and input from others.

The study sample comprised young adults ages 18-30 who had been diagnosed with brain tumors during childhood. The average age of onset was 9 1/2 years, and participants had been problem free for an average of more than seven years.

Cancer survivors’ scores were compared to those of 295 college students that ranged in age from 18-23.

“Kids who were diagnosed before the age of 6 and after the age of 13 had higher work personality than the group that was diagnosed between the age of 6-12,” Strauser said. “Those diagnosed before age 6 had some stabilization in their cancer care by the time they began school as compared to the ones diagnosed after 13, they were already past that critical period. When they were diagnosed in the age 6-12 range, that was when their involvement in school was disrupted, and they missed a lot of the social interactions and activities that would reinforce their work personality. So that was very supportive of our theory, too, that’s it’s a really critical age.”

Recent studies have found that many individuals who survive childhood cancer struggle with obtaining and maintaining employment as adults. Survivors of central nervous system (CNS) tumors — who have higher prevalence of functional limitations and participation restrictions — are especially vulnerable to career and educational problems. They are less likely to work or attend school than their siblings and five times more likely to be unemployed than peers that did not have cancer. CNS cancer survivors also are more likely to quit jobs, be employed in lower-skill positions, be socially isolated and have problems with appropriate career and educational goals.

Until now, the work personality theory of vocational development has been used mainly in relation to workers with disabilities, but Strauser believes that it has broader implications, influencing career readiness and believability in the non-disabled population as well.

In a related study, which appeared in the June issue of the Journal of Employment Counseling, Strauser and his co-authors found a positive relationship between work personality, work engagement and the amount of effort that cancer survivors invested in their academic work.

“We validated our notion that work personality and educational goals have broader implications for a significant portion of the variance in the amount of effort that non-disabled individuals reported putting into their studies,” Strauser said. “So it is an important construct for everybody. It was predictive of higher levels of academic effort, particularly for male students.

Work personality was an important predictor of academic effort among female students as well, but work engagement — feelings of fulfillment, dedication and absorption — had an even greater impact on women’s academic effort.

The inventories developed for the research could be used to identify vocational behaviors such as task orientation that can complement traditional work personality tests.

“So a person that’s not as high achieving, someone that is going to work at factories, manual labor or service-related jobs who might have trouble keeping those jobs because they don’t get along with people or because they have problems showing up to work on time, we can identify some of those deficiencies and design interventions to help them,” Strauser said.

The study was co-written by Deirdre O’Sullivan, a professor in the educational psychology, counseling and special education department at Pennsylvania State University, and Alex W.K. Wong, a graduate student at Illinois.

Anti-bullying efforts should be tailored to victims’ needs

By Sharita Forrest

Girls with poor self-control become as physically aggressive as the average boy when they’re bullied, suggests a new study by psychologists at the UI.

Whether victims become more aggressive or develop a different sense of how to react to being bullied depends on the extent to which their behaviors are influenced by their temperaments, gender and the type of bullying they experience.

Intervention programs need to be sensitive to these differences and provide resources and strategies tailored to victims’ individual needs, said the study’s co-author, graduate student Nixwak Sugimura and Karen D. Rudolph, a professor in the department of psychology.

The researchers tracked 283 second- and third-grade students’ psychological adjustment for a year, examining how temperament and sex influenced bullying victims’ subsequent development of aggression or depression.

The children and their teachers were surveyed about the children’s victimization by peers, and their responses influenced behaviors toward others. Overt bullying includes physical assaults and verbal taunts on peers; relational bullying is intentional and excluding a child from a group or spreading rumors about them.

Parents also completed questionnaires about their children’s moods and temperaments that corresponded with depressive symptoms and reported on two traits pertaining to their children’s temperaments — inhibitory control and negative emotionality.

“Inhibitory control is like self-control,” Sugimura said. “Kids with poor inhibitory control have trouble stopping themselves from doing something too quickly or they don’t think before they act. Negative emotionality refers to how easily kids become angry, frustrated or sad. Children with high negative emotionality not only become angry easily, they become more likely to stay angry.”

Not all children with high negative emotionality are depressed, although they may be more likely to respond to stress than other children when they face a severe problem such as bullying, Rudolph said.

In the study, girls with high negative emotionality who had been bullied overtly or relationally were more likely to show depressive symptoms a year later. However, boys with high negative emotionality who showed more depressive symptoms regardless of the amount of bullying they experienced, while boys with low negative emotionality showed depressive symptoms only in response to relational bullying.

“We know that there is a genetic component to some of these traits, so it might be that boys with high negative emotionality are predisposed to depression,” Rudolph said. “And it doesn’t matter what their experiences are; they’re just more likely to be depressed. However, boys with low negative emotionality who had been bullied overtly or relationally were more reactive to, and less able to cope with, such a stressor; so they were more reactive when they were bullied and became depressed.”

Contrary to the researchers’ expectations, girls — not boys — with poor inhibitory control were more reactive to overt and relational victimization and were more likely to display heightened aggression later on, becoming as physically aggressive as the average boy.

Sugimura and Rudolph weren’t certain why, but theorized that girls with low inhibitory control may be particularly impaired in their abilities to regulate their behavior. Or because overt aggression is less common among females, girls may view it as a greater threat and afford, prompting them to react violently.

“They might be doing is trying to defend themselves when they’re bullied and trying to regain status within their group,” Sugimura said. “And if they were to have poor self-control, they might rely on kicking and hitting instead of trying to solve the problem.”

Responding aggressively to bullies tends to incite — not prevent — further victimization, researchers say. Studies of college students have shown that the researchers want to figure out ways to interrupt that cycle, developing interventions that protect victims against some of the emotional effects and keep them from becoming more aggressive.

Although recent media attention on bullying...
**brief notes**

**Deputy CIO search**

Finalists to make public presentations

Finalists for the position of deputy chief information officer/executive director of Campus Information Technologies and Educational Services are making public presentations to the campus community and CITES staff members.

Candidates are describing how, if they were to be chosen, they would support and advance the strategic goals of the U of I.

Feedback from the campus community is an important part of the search process. To provide feedback, go to www.cites.illinois.edu/news/2012/deputycio-candidates.html.

Log-in is required; feedback is anonymous.

Mathew Behrens, the infrastructure services division administrator for the state of Iowa, made his presentation June 27.

Remaining forums will be held in Room 141 Wohlers Hall:

- Joseph (Greg) Gulick, the application services director, CITES, 11 a.m. July 10
- Michael Com, the chief privacy and security officer (Urbana campus) and university chief information security officer (university administration), 11 a.m. July 12
- Marsha Henfer, the chief information officer, University of Wisconsin-Extension, University of Wisconsin Colleges, 11 a.m. July 17

For more information, go to http://www.cites.illinois.edu.

**OUTSIDE at the Research Park**

Free outside concerts are July 13, Aug. 3

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts joins Fox/Atkins Development LLC, to present two summer concerts at the UI Research Park. Both outside concerts are free and open to the public.

OUTSIDE at the Research Park offers music, food, and an open, relaxed environment. The performance space and seating area are located just south of the building at the corner of First Street and St. Mary’s Road in Champaign.

The Brazilian-rooted, Deep South funk band Nation Beatz will perform July 13 with opening act Row-Dacious String Band beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Bluegrass rockers The Giving Tree Band are featured Aug. 3 along with Mo’ Betta Music. A Green Fair and Bike Rodeo (with tips on bike handling and safety) begin at 6 p.m. with music beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Free parking is available in the lot south of the Caterpillar/SAIC Building at 1901 S. First St.

**Public hearing**

Meeting: Beckman moving to OVCR

A public hearing will be held 4 to 5 p.m. July 13 in Room 1005 of the Beckman Institute regarding the transition of the Beckman Institute from the Office of the Provost to the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

In addition, comments may be sent to Frances Miller (familleyr@illinois.edu) by July 6. Comments may be confidential.

**BULLYING, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6**

Bullying – suicides believed to have been caused by bullying – and school shootings by bullying victims have prompted mandates for anti-bullying curricula in schools. Few of the programs have shown much efficacy with children in the U.S.

“Most of the programs focus on intervening at the level of preventing something bad from happening, but we also need to work on skill-building and teaching kids emotional competence skills,” Rudolph said. “Of course, it’s important for schools to prevent bullying from happening in the first place, but if kids respond to bullying more effectively, this also might reduce bullying eventually. If you teach kids with poor self-control or high negative emotionality how to think before they act and to deal with emotions effectively, you’re increasing the positive skills that they can rely on; this may help prevent some of the negative cycles that evolve.”

The study, available online, has been accepted for publication in the Journal of Clinical Child and Adolescent Psychology.

An Arnold O. Beckman Award and a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health supported the research.

**PHONES, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1**

It’s not always easy to adapt to a new system, but we’ve had great participation from campus in getting this implemented,” he said. “We want to thank everyone for their time, patience and partnership throughout this whole project.”

He also thanked CITES employees for their extra effort during the switch.

“They have really gone the extra mile to implement the system, working many late hours to ensure everyone understands the process and the system is working as it should,” he said.

One early glitch discovered during testing was that the locational element of the university’s E-911 service wasn’t compatible with the local emergency dispatch system. He said employees worked tirelessly with campus Public Safety and Metrocall until a solution was found.

“No it’s working and you likely won’t notice any difference from the old, landline-based system,” he said. “When you call 911, the system will receive location information.”

He said officials are still awaiting word for how to dispose of or recycle the old phones. In the meantime units are asked to store the phones until a disposal program is developed. Gulick said CITES managers will continue monitoring the performance of the new system to ensure it’s working as it was designed.

And they are urging anyone with complications to call for help so that solutions can be quickly identified and implemented.

“We’re encouraging anyone who is experiencing problems with the new system to contact us,” he said. “We want it to work for everyone, no exceptions.”

Problems may be reported by emailing the CITES Help Desk at consult@illinois.edu or calling 217-244-7000.
In siding with the left wing of the court, do you think Chief Justice John Roberts became worried that his court would be viewed as too political? Is he embracing the "umpire" role he talked about during his confirmation hearings, or is it more a matter of the Constitution being clear on the power of Congress as a taxing authority? I think we have to assume that Chief Justice Roberts believed what he wrote represented the proper interpretation of the law. It would not be the first time that the chief justice has embraced a broader interpretation of federal power than Associate Justice (Anthony) Kennedy. What makes the case surprising was the chief justice’s reliance on the tax power to uphold the mandate, an argument that had been rejected by every lower court. The weaker the argument, of course, the more people will conclude Roberts’ opinion represents more an act of institutional politics and less a good faith interpretation of the law.

In fact, his argument that the law is not a tax for the purposes of the Anti-Injunction Act but is a tax for the purposes of the constitutional power analysis, as well as his conclusion that the mandate is not really a mandate and the penalty is not really a penalty, will be debated for years. However, whether the argument is persuasive, I nevertheless presume it represents what the chief justice truly believes. Does the court’s rejection of the Commerce Clause and the Necessary and Proper Clause signal a major blow to the authority of Congress to pass social welfare laws or otherwise intervene in national affairs? Chief Justice Roberts agreed with the four dissenting justices that the insurance mandate would be an unconstitutional exercise of the Commerce Power. The Article I, Section 8 power to regulate interstate commerce does not include the power to force people to engage in commerce. Even if one considers it dicta (a point of law unnecessary to the actual judgment), this seems to represent the reading of the Commerce Power by a majority of the Supreme Court. This is a significant development.

In the past, many legal commentators argued that this was a frivolous theory of the Commerce Clause. No longer. But this new reality does not threaten any current federal programs. The Congress has never before tried to force people to enter into private commercial contracts. The real impact would have been if the court had accepted the argument that the Commerce Power allows Congress to compel people to purchase products. This would have opened the door to a very attractive regulatory option in times of economic stress. Of course, the court has now opened the door for Congress to do the same thing under the taxing power. It remains to be seen whether Congress will find exercising the taxing power is as attractive as exercising the power to regulate commerce.

In interpreting the individual mandate as a tax, do you foresee the tax code now being used more extensively to pass other laws pertaining to big issues of national importance? There is a reason why Congress declined to call the mandate a "tax." One presumes it is the same reason that President Obama insisted on national television that this was not a "tax." People generally oppose higher taxes and they often punish politicians at the polls who increase taxes for reasons that are not broadly persuasive. Chief Justice Roberts saved the mandate by calling it a "tax." This allowed Congress to pass a law that escaped the criticism that would have occurred had the public known that Congress was passing an enormous tax increase. However, the public is now on notice that any similar "penalties" proposed in the future are actually proposed "taxes." That fact alone may deter Congress from walking through the door just opened by the chief justice. Chief Justice Roberts is just 57 years old, and will probably lead the court for at least another 20 years. What kind of insight into the philosophy of the Supreme Court can we glean from this ruling and the other major rulings of the last week of this term?

To date, Chief Justice Roberts has been far bolder in leading the court toward his vision of due process, equal protection and individual rights than he has been in crafting a jurisprudence of federalism and limiting the general scope of federal power. Compare his forceful opinions in the Citizens United and Parents Involved cases with his quiet joining of Associate Justice (Stephen) Breyer’s opinion in United States v. Comstock (upholding federal power to extend incarceration for federal prisoners beyond their served sentence) and his almost apologetic embrace of Associate Justice Breyer’s theory of the taxing power in NFIB v. Sebelius (the new name for the health care cases).

On the other hand, I think we would be unwise to ignore those aspects of Chief Justice Roberts’ opinion that insist on maintaining a federal government of limited enumerated powers. A majority of the court not only announced significant limits to the Commerce Power, they also limited the scope of the Spending Power. Don’t forget, in the second half of his opinion, Roberts joined four other votes in striking down the attempt by Congress to condition all federal Medicaid funding on the states’ willingness to expand their current Medicaid benefits. This is the first time since the New Deal that the Supreme Court has actually enforced limits on the national power to “tax and spend.” This shows that the chief justice is not afraid to apply principles of federalism even where they have real bite.

In the end, the chief justice may have planted seeds in NFIB v. Sebelius that will grow in later cases.