Leaders welcome new era
Chancellor Wise sees campus momentum building

By Mike Heinlenthal
Assistant Editor

There are challenges ahead for sure, but these days University Vice President and Urbana Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise is having a hard time hiding her optimism.

“I see this year as marking the start of a new era of opportunity,” said Wise, beginning her second full academic year as leader of the Urbana campus.

That era will be led by a new group of administrators, some of them already familiar with the university and how it works after spending years teaching and conducting research.

“I think we have a great team in place and it’s been my good fortune to work with Bob Easter,” she said. “His roots at this university and in this community run broadly and deeply.”

In addition to Easter, who took over the three-campus presidency in July, a new provost,Ilesanmi Adesida, has replaced Roi and Wheeler, who served as interim since 2010 and recently became the visiting associate vice president for academic affairs.

And Peter Schiffer joined the Urbana leadership team as vice chancellor for research.

In August, she said the new administrators are “wonderfully capable” of setting the university up for success.

“We don’t want to be doing things at even the B-plus level,” she said. “The students come here because they expect excellence – we want to surpass their expectations.”

In addition, she said officials this year have filled key academic positions and soon will announce the outcome for the search for the vice chancellor for institutional advancement.

“We’ve very successfully recruited this,” she said.

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In addition to Easter, who took over the three-campus presidency in July, a new provost, Ilesanmi Adesida, has replaced Roi and Wheeler, who served as interim since 2010 and recently became the visiting associate vice president for academic affairs.

Adesida credits the strength and excellence across disciplines in the humanities, arts and social sciences – coupled with excellence in physical and life sciences – as making Illinois among the world’s very best.

“The provost has to work with everybody and play to the strengths of this campus,” he said. “I believe everyone who walks through that door is very important. When the professors are successful, the students are successful, then, we are successful in our mission.

“I’m very excited about how we address the critical issues of undergraduate education as we move into the future.”

Skull is earliest of modern human fossil in Southeast Asia

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

A human skull recovered from a cave in the Annamite Mountains in northern Laos is the oldest modern human fossil found in Southeast Asia, researchers report.

The discovery pushes back the clock on modern human migration through the region by as much as 20,000 years and indicates that ancient wanderers out of Africa left the coast and inhabited diverse habitats much earlier than previously appreciated.

The team describing its findings in a paper in Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, say the findings support the view that modern humans occupied that part of the world at least 60,000 years ago.

“This is the first fossil evidence that supports the modern human theory of human origins rather than a multi-regionalism model,” said Laura Shackelford, who led the study with anthropologist Fabrice Demeter, of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

“The discovery also bolsters genetic studies that indicate that modern human migrants from Africa out of Africa theory of modern human origins rather than a multi-regionalism model,” she said.

The researchers used radiocarbon dating and luminescence techniques to determine the age of the soil layers above and surrounding the skull, which was found near 2 1/2 meters (about 8.2 feet) below the surface of the cave.

Researchers at Illinois used uranium thorium dating to determine the age of the skull, which they determined was about 63,000 years old.

Fact or fiction?
A UI expert on retirement and taxation addresses some of the issues surrounding Medicare.

Undergrad research
The new campus Office of Undergraduate Research aims to expand undergrad research opportunities.

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Campus issues final Stewarding Excellence report

The Stewarding Excellence initiative at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is in its final year, with final reports issued Aug. 14 for the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the Institute for Genomic Biology and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

Stewarding Excellence was launched in 2010, with campus-led project teams reviewing over 19 separate topics affecting campus, from academic units to general university practices.

"We engaged campus leaders, worked in many different units, the project team had the infrastructure to choose our comprehensiveness. We must examine the range of activities taking place across campus and the resources in place to support those activities. He said the newness of campus leadership, as well as changes across the campus, can be turned into a difficult and productive experience if we work together for the future. He is hopeful the changes will usher in an era of stability that will lead to solid planning and the development of successful strategies.

Thankfully, he said, the university already has developed strong training and re-entertainment programs designed to "nourish and develop" new hires. During the transition, Adesida also worked closely with Richard Wheeler, who had been the interim provost since 2010.

Professor Phyllis M. Wise said she expected Adesida to flourish in the new spot and that the campus will greatly benefit from his leadership. The new provost will be the "point person" in implementing strategic initiatives stemming from the chancellor's Visioning Future Excellence academic planning initiative.

"He has an outstanding record of scholarship, a proven commitment to excellence and an ability to successfully collaborate with colleagues at Illinois," she said. "He will be a critical asset for our campus as we seek to more aggressively advance our mission." Adesida will still keep a hand in research, though it will take him "a lot of time and verifying whether we're moving in the right direction," she said. "There are very few decisions in academia that are permanent or written in stone."

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New leadership

Many new administrators have been named within the last few months. Most are not new to campus, but they are all part of the new team that Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise credits with helping to usher in a new era for Illinois.

Bob Easter, the president of the university

Ilesanmi Adesida, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs

Michael B. Bragg, the interim dean of the College of Engineering

Jeff Christen, the police chief and the executive director of the Division of Public Safety

Paul F. Diehl, the director of the campus Office for Undergraduate Education

J. Fred Gertz, the interim director of the Institute of Government and Public Affairs

Stacey Kostohryz, the assistant provost of enrollment management and the director of admissions

Faye L. Lesit, the interim di rector of the Office of Online and Continuing Education

Joseph J. Martocchio, the interim dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations

Roy Mortenson, the dean of the Fire Service Institute

Allen H. Johnson, the interim dean of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science

Peter E. Schiffer, the vice chancellor for research
On the Job
Heather Blair
By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

Heather Blair, an office support associate for the School of Music, has two passions: music and her job.

“Some of them are really good and I get to listen to,” she said. “But some- times it gets overwhelming because the music is all going on at once.”

“As chief assistant to the director with an office located near a hallway filled with practice rooms, the soundtrack of her workday tends to drift up and down the dial. “Some of them are really good and I get to listen to,” she said. “But sometimes it gets overwhelming because the music is all going on at once.”

“At one in the world with a computer and an Internet connection, learning how to use Coursera agreement, how campus experience can be used to improve the platform becomes a reality once you get on board.”

“The Coursera initiative has energized a lot of people who never thought about teaching online,” he said, “but it won’t be (an opportunity available to) everyone who wants to teach in it. I do hope it will lead to a greater discussion of e-learning.”

Adesida said the committee to judge MOOC proposals will be focused on a specific question: “How does it benefit the campus?”

Buruble said one of the advantages of the Coursera open source platform is that it can be modified locally to better serve the university’s needs.

SEC discusses opportunities, development of Coursera

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

Online, policy changes streamline academic hiring process

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant editor

Life got just a little easier for UI human resources officers and everyone else on campus involved in the hiring process.

On Aug. 21, Phyllis Wilson, former director of academic human resources, announced sweeping changes to the academic search/hiring processes, changes designed to simplify and eliminate paperwork, and generally streamline approval procedures.

Several changes that reduce paperwork, developed by the Office of Human Resources, the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action, have been offered, are already in effect, and several more are on the way.

Most of the changes target faculty member and academic professional hires.

“This process was a three-party effort with the common goal of trying to address what the chancellor was hearing,” said Elyne Cole, the associate provost for human resources.

And what the chancellor had been hearing, visiting positions, and sets calendar and travel arrangements for the director.

Blair also assists with payroll duties and other human resources functions.

“We do a lot of elections for School of Music committees,” she said. “That by itself keeps me pretty busy. I like the variety and I like seeing different faces. There’s a lot of multi-tasking and it’s not the same day every day.”

Her first State on the campus was for UI move, which was student-oriented, but that she enjoys working with the university department’s faculty and staff members.

“A lot of them are really good and I get to listen to,” she said. “But sometimes it gets overwhelming because the music is all going on at once.”

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It’s never come up and I’ve just never mentioned it,” she said.

“The chancellor was hearing,” said Cole. “There have been a lot of questions that have been raised and we will be working on finding some of those answers,” Wilson said. She said the financial model will have to be considered, as well as which types of courses should be offered. Legal and policy directives also will need to be reviewed and further developed.

In addition to an Academic Senate review, Wilson said matters related to Coursera would be evaluated by a new general policy implementation committee led by Provost Ilesanmi Adesida. New course proposals would be screened by a separate committee.

Buruble said that committee would be an invaluable conduit for approving courses and helping set general campus MOOC priorities.

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Buruble said one of the advantages of the Coursera open source platform is that it can be modified locally to better serve the university’s needs.

“Some of our course designs are better (than Coursera’s),” he said, “(Coursera) already has changed some of their online platform to match the university’s practices. They will help us and we will help them.”

Wilson said Wise was pleased that she was able to act so quickly in signing the agreement after consultation with academic leaders.

Wilson said the speed of the initial discussion was dictated by a deadline to join Coursera in time for the fall semester.

“We had a very short window of time to get this done,” she said. “Consultation was still made, but we had to move more quickly. This was a good example of being more agile as a campus and not getting so bogged down that we can’t make decisions.”

“I get to listen in,” she said. “But some- times it gets overwhelming because the music is all going on at once.”
New office to expand undergraduate research opportunities

By Mike Holenthal
Assistant editor

Less than a month old, the Urbana campus’s Office of Undergraduate Research doesn’t even have an actual office.

But campus leaders have big plans for it nonetheless.

Created by the Office of the Provost, the new office is expected to become the nexus for the expansion of undergraduate research activities.

Though several effective undergraduate research efforts already exist on campus, Vice Provost Barbara Wilson said the new office is being designed as a clearinghouse for campus undergraduate research activities, providing students a common access point and professors a big leap from which to foster new collaborations.

“Our annual survey of seniors tells us that part of the problem is that many students are unengaged, unclear of what they want to do after college,” she said.

To solve that problem, the office will publicize opportunities on campus, bringing together undergraduates interested in research and professors seeking more engaging ways to teach students.

Starting initially with a modest budget, the office is designed to promote greater research opportunities, identify successful models that can be duplicated in other units, offer awrds, expand student field research opportunities, integrate undergraduate research into the curriculum and even offer travel subsidies for students to present their research at national conferences.

“An important element of the office will be a conduit to assist departments in structuring courses and activities around research,” Wilson said, “so that students can get involved in research in many other fields and disciplines.”

Paul Diehl, the Henning Larsen Professor of Political Science, who for 10 years headed the Teaching Academy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, has been tapped to form the office, which includes the search for a half-time coordinator.

“We want to do more,” he said. “This is one of the world’s great research universities and there are exciting things going on. We have the opportunity to give students some amazing types of experiences.”

Diehl is gathering data on existing undergraduate research programs and is meeting with faculty and administrative leaders to discuss how to enhance those programs.

“Right now it’s been done by either individual instructors or departments on largely an ad hoc basis,” he said, “but we need the faculty commitment to expand these activities. I think the student demand is there. We need professors to share good ideas and new approaches. The university is certainly committed to it.”

Diehl said adopting such an approach more generally across campus would represent a “growing shift away from a lecture format and toward new forms of active learning.”

But, he added, a wider institutional change demands new approaches, pedagogies and discussion of best practices.

“We’re talking about undergraduates who are identifying research topics, conducting original research and presenting findings, as opposed to sitting and listening to lectures and taking multiple choice tests,” he said. “Those are the kinds of skills we are hoping to develop and nurture for more students here at the U. of I.”

Offering such courses widely also would be one more tool for continuing to recruit the best and brightest students in the world.

“There are a lot of untapped opportunities and it’s something other institutions are already doing,” he said. “It’s the next logical step and it’s something we’ve got to address if we want to continue to ensure that going to the U. of I. is a special experience.”

Diehl also is developing a strategic plan, which is being tailored to feedback he is collecting as he meets with campus stakeholders and gathers new information.

He said several new initiatives will be announced in the coming months.

“It’s what I call a work in progress. I’ve updated it every week, so it’s more of a working document,” he said. “We’re going to be gathering lots of information. We want to find out everything that’s out there. We also plan to keep and expand the signature Undergraduate Research Symposium, a spring semester event in which hundreds of students present their original research conducted over the academic year.”

Two Illinois chemists named top young innovators

By Liz Ailiherr
Physical Sciences Editor

Two chemistry professors at the UI – Ryan C. Bailey and Prashant K. Jain – have been chosen as two of the world’s top young innovators by Technology Review, the world’s oldest technology magazine.

Selected by the editors of the magazine published by the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, the TR35 recognizes the world’s top innovators under the age of 35 for their contributions to biomedicine, energy, the Web, computing and materials, among other emerging fields. The 2012 honorees were selected from more than 250 nominations.

Bailey’s research interests lie at the interface of bioanalytical and biomaterials chemistry. He was honored for his work with chip-based tests to detect diseases at their earliest stages and then help clinicians choose the best course of personalized treatment. Unlike tests that rely on added fluorescent tags for protein detection, Bailey’s chips are sensitive to the presence of the target molecule itself, which could make it fast and easy for physicians to see results.

Bailey earned his doctorate in chemistry from Northwestern University in 2004 and joined the faculty at Illinois in 2006. He also is affiliated with the department of bioengineering, Institute for Genomic Biology, and Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory at the UI.

Jain’s research investigates interactions between light and matter. The magazine recognized Jain for his work with quantum dots with tunable optical properties. By tweaking the dots’ chemical composition, Jain can control the wavelengths of light that the dots emit or absorb. This can be done on the fly allowing the dots to be turned on and off. This control means that the quantum dots could act as optical switches, key components for computers that could use light instead of electricity to transmit data – at ultra-high speeds.

Jain earned his doctorate from the Georgia Institute of Technology in 2008, and held postdoctoral positions at Harvard University and the University of California at Berkeley before joining the faculty at UI in 2011. He also is affiliated with the department of physics and the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

“This year’s TR35 recipients are applying technology to some of our generation’s greatest challenges, and innovating to improve the way we live and work,” said James Pontin, editor-in-chief and publisher of Technology Review. “We look forward to watching these young technology leaders grow and advance over the coming years.”

Bailey, Jain and the other TR35 winners for 2012 will be featured in the September/October issue of Technology Review and online.
What are your views on New York’s proposed soda ban? Does it make sense to regulate soft-drink consumption or are sodas just an easy scapegoat for a complex public health problem?

I really agree that we should limit the sizes of sodas. In the 1960s, sodas were about 6 ½-7 ounces. We now have easy access to 20- to 32-ounce bottles, and in some places, even larger containers.

When drinking a soda, we don’t get the same level of satiety that we would achieve if we consumed sugar by itself, and it becomes a very serious problem. A 32-ounce bottle of soda may contain almost half a cup of sugar – or more than 25 sugar cubes – and 4 cups of water. If you just ate the sugar by itself or drank water alone, you wouldn’t eat or drink that much. But when you drink a soda, you don’t notice it. The brain just doesn’t receive the satiety signal that tells you to stop.

Soda provides all these empty calories that we consume in excess and we gain weight.

Individual responsibility is affected by environmental factors. Some individuals are less responsive to environmental cues, but we need to facilitate people’s making the right choices to achieve better health outcomes, and we have a responsibility to educate people about how to make them. Some health experts have identified high fructose corn syrup, the sweetening agent in many sodas, as particularly egregious. Is it really that bad?

The criticism is justified in that some research provides evidence of a relationship between high consumption of sugar-sweetened beverages and excessive caloric intake. Certain people also might have trouble metabolizing the excess calories and develop metabolic diseases, including what is known as fatty liver disease, or non-alcoholic hepatic steatosis. There is epidemiological data that link the inclusion of high fructose syrup in soda and food and the parallel development of the current obesity epidemic.

A recent study that followed 91,000 women for eight years found that they were more likely to develop high blood pressure and diabetes if they drank one or more servings of soft drinks a day. What is the impact of genetics on obesity?

The evidence from family and twin studies indicates that 40 to 70 percent of susceptibility to obesity could be attributed to genetics. However, the environment – which includes access to fruits and vegetables, the amount of physical activity and the availability of resources for exercise – accounts for about 30 to 60 percent. Cultural practices may account for up to 10 percent of those environmental factors.

Genetics is the part that we really need to understand better and how it interacts with the environment to predispose people to developing the complications associated with obesity.

The traditional Latin American diet is rich in fruits and vegetables but the transition to a Westernized diet with its greater consumption of processed food has been associated with weight gain. Lack of access to fresh fruits and vegetables in areas called “food deserts” also promotes obesity development in many Latin American communities in the U.S.

I’m working on a multidisciplinary project with a major university in Mexico in which we’re exploring how genes and environment interact to predispose some young adults ages 18-21 in Mexico to metabolic syndrome.

Losing weight is a real struggle for many people, and many who lose weight, regain it. Do genetics stack the deck against us in battling the bulge?

Predisposition is not genetic determinism. Even if you have a genetic predisposition to store weight, diet and exercise can help overcome that. And you can delay the onset of diseases such as diabetes by many years through proper diet and exercise.

It is very difficult to lose and maintain weight as adults but many people do it – and it doesn’t take that much exercise to achieve it. And it pays off in a better quality of life.

We need to implement more nutrition education and lifestyle changes as early as possible in children’s lives to help the next generation be successful. When I was doing my pediatric residency, we didn’t see children with Type 2 diabetes and high blood pressure as we commonly do now. Why is abdominal fat in particular considered a serious health threat?

Fat cells not only store fat, they secrete hormones – cytokines and adipokines. For example, the gene leptin is produced by fat cells once the body has stored enough fat and sends signals to the brain that control satiation and tell you to stop eating.

With excess fat, adipocytes become sick; the tissues around them become inflamed, and there is a spillover effect that sends signals to the muscles and the heart, where fat stores can interfere with proper function. It also promotes insulin resistance, the first step toward diabetes and fatty liver disease. Over time, excessive fat accumulation predisposes you for heart attack and arteriosclerosis.

Abdominal obesity – fat surrounding the abdominal organs – has been the most strongly correlated with insulin resistance, increasing the risk for developing diabetes by two-fold, and of having cardiovascular disease by three-fold. ♦

What is the impact of genetics on obesity?
NEW faces 2012

Among the newcomers to the Urbana campus are faculty members whose appointments began this summer or fall. Inside Illinois continues its tradition of introducing some of the new faculty members on campus and will feature at least two new colleagues in each fall issue.

Nichelle C. Carpenter

an assistant professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations and the department of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (industrial/organizational psychology), Texas A&M University; M.S. (applied psychology), University of Baltimore; B.S. (psychology), Grand Valley State University

Courses teaching: LER 593, Quantitative Methods in Labor and Employment Relations, and PSYCH 465, Organizational Psychology

Research interests: Disentangling issues regarding the measurement and understanding of job performance. Carpenter is most interested in how to measure counterproductive and prosocial behaviors; construct redundancy issues; and the relationship between performance theory and measurement. “Her training as an industrial-organizational psychologist uniquely positions her to study LER topics such as workplace accommodation of recognized disability under the Americans with Disabilities Act from the employee’s perspective,” said Joseph Martocchio, the interim dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations. “Her expertise will enhance the educational experience of LER’s and psychology’s graduate students by challenging students to comprehend the complexity of managing employees in complex work environments.

Why Illinois? “Because of the opportunity to be a part of not only one, but two departments with rich traditions for excellence in scholarship,” Carpenter said. “There was also a genuine spirit of collegiality among my colleagues that was immediately evident when I visited the campus, so I knew that Illinois was the best place for me. I’m a Midwesterner at heart, so I was also happy for the opportunity to be closer to my family and friends.”

Peter Schiffer

the vice chancellor for research

Education: Ph.D. (physics), Stanford University; B.S. (physics), Yale University

Research interests: Areas of experimental condensed matter physics: magnetic materials and granular materials

“In Peter Schiffer we were able to find an extremely successful researcher, an award-winning teacher and a strategically minded administrator,” said Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise. “These are exactly the combination of skills that will allow him to lead our efforts to increase our broad research and discovery mission. I am excited that he chose to join our leadership team and I’m sure he and his family will find a warm welcome from the Illinois community.”

Why Illinois? “The UI is a world-renowned institution that I have admired for my entire career,” Schiffer said. “The breadth and depth of its research portfolio are simply stunning. The position of vice chancellor for research gives me the opportunity to engage with outstanding researchers from across the UI, and I am looking forward to working with the full range of what the scholarly community has to offer.

“The faculty and other researchers at the UI are already among the very best in the world, and their work has wide-ranging impacts both within their fields and for the public good. My goal as the vice chancellor for research is to continue to build on the tradition of excellence, to foster an environment in which Illinois researchers can be creative and productive, and to facilitate their efforts in whatever ways I can.

“On a personal note, I grew up in the Chicago suburbs, and I welcome the opportunity to return to the Midwest.”

Ads removed for online version
Images on health websites can lessen comprehension

By Shantia Forrest

hua the difference in the way patients view health information. Nearly 60 percent of adults use the internet to find health information, but researchers have found that the information presented on health websites can have a negative impact on older adults’ comprehension of vital health information, especially those elderly patients who have a limited understanding about their medical conditions. In an effort to boost awareness about the importance of health literacy, the researchers conducted a study to understand the impact of the images on health websites.

The study involved participants who were divided into two groups: one group viewed websites with images and the other group viewed websites without images. The results showed that the group with images had a significantly lower comprehension of the health information compared to the group without images.

The findings suggest that health websites should consider the use of images carefully to improve health literacy. The study highlights the importance of designing patient education materials that are easy to understand and effective in promoting health literacy.

Key points:
- Nearly 60 percent of adults use the internet to find health information.
- Researchers found that the use of images on health websites can have a negative impact on older adults’ comprehension of vital health information.
- The study involved two groups: one with images and one without images.
- The group with images had significantly lower comprehension of the health information.
- The study highlights the importance of designing patient education materials that are easy to understand.

For more information, please visit the study’s website at [Link].
Bird lice study shows how evolution sometimes repeats itself

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Birds of a feather flock together and — according to research — do their lice. A study of the genetic heritage of wing lice indicates that their louse ancestors first colonized a particular group of birds (ducks or songbirds, for example) and then “radiated” to different habitats on those birds — to the wings or heads, for instance, where they evolved into different types, according to a new analysis — so do their lice.

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One can argue that wealthy people should pay more, but the point is that we already have means-testing in Medicare.

Another popular myth is that Medicare is politically untouchable. Not true, says Kaplan.

“Medicare has become a lightning rod simply because it is eating up more federal resources every year.” Among the myths that have sprouted, perhaps the most popular one is that Medicare is going bankrupt, Kaplan says.

As the baby boomer generation becomes direct beneficiaries as program enrollees, Medicare has become one of the most controversial federal programs for numerous reasons, but misinformation has played a key role in fostering criticism of it.

“Medicare is an important and complicated program that has no counterpart in the American health care system, and its significance to Americans of all ages is impossible to overstate,” said Kaplan, the Peer and Sar-

Evolutionary path Illinois Natural History Survey ornithologist Kevin Johnson and his colleagues determined the evolutionary relationships of various feather lice, related across bird groups, he said. The history of feather lice turns out to be a very robust example of convergent evolution, Johnson said.

“The lice are converging on similar solutions to the problem of survival in different microhabitats on the bird.” The Illinois Natural History Survey is a division of the Prairie Research Institute.

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NCAA football exploits players in ‘invisible labor market’

By Phil Ciciora

College football exploits players in an “invisible labor market,” according to a labor relations and collective bargaining expert.

Since traditional collective bargaining is impractical for student-athletes, an “invisible union,” derived from what labor scholars call the “union substitution effect,” could be a viable way to circumnavigate the amateur-professional boundary that has become increasingly blurry in the multi-billion-dollar sport, says Michael LeRoy, a professor of law and of labor and employment relations at Illinois.

“College football players participate in an invisible labor market,” LeRoy said. “The only way for the NCAA monopolizes their services by strictly limiting and allocating the labor force. Student-athletes are in the same product market as their professional counterparts.”

While the NCAA recently attempted to adopt reforms that would address some of the problems identified in LeRoy’s study, its board of trustees ultimately quashed any efforts to implement change. “What that means is that players have no voice in their welfare,” LeRoy said. “These Saturday heroes are solely dependent on a monopoly to enact regulations for their welfare. This is the impetus for proposing collective bargaining for college football players.”

According to the study, college football players have real grievances and would support collective bargaining because they function like employees. “Student-athletes generate great wealth for institutions but have so little of it,” LeRoy said. “Additionally, they are subject to non-negotiable, one-sided agreements imposed by a monopoly. They receive less than a four-year scholarship, pay out-of-pocket money for a stadium shortfall, and are penalized for transferring to other schools. They also happen to play in a sport that on occasion – on rare occasions, death – but are usually disqualified from worker’s compensation and are uninsured for long-term medical disabilities. And, of course, many student-athletes exhaust their eligibility without earning a degree.”

LeRoy’s study proposes a unique and limited form of collective bargaining customized for college football, one that does not involve wage negotiations or strikes, but reforms itself slowly, he said. “An invisible union is a plausible middle-ground approach to address the interests of student-athletes. Without a credible threat of unionization, schools have little incentive to concede that they are essentially professionalizing college football.”

By Phil Ciciora

Student-athletes College football exploits players in an “invisible labor market.”

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Advertisement

Deaths


Mary A. Houk, 88, died Aug. 30 at Champaign Urbana Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. Houk was a payroll supervisor at the UI for 30 years. Memorials: Little Galilee Christian Assembly, c/o First Christian Assembly, Urbana, IL 61801, MC-114.

Euline Dallas Eilbracht, 96, died Aug. 29 at the Champaign Urbana Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. Eilbracht taught at the UI for 21 years, retiring in 1978 as an assistant professor of metallurgy and mining engineering. Memorials: Provena Covenant Women’s Auxiliary.

Eudene Dallas Eilbracht, 98, died Aug. 28 at the Champaign Urbana Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. Eilbracht taught at the UI for 21 years, retiring in 1978 as an assistant professor of metallurgy and mining engineering. Memorials: Provena Covenant Women’s Auxiliary.

Thomas "Sonny" Wimmer Jr., 80, died Aug. 16 at the VA Palliative Care Center, Danville. Wimmer retired from the UI. Memorial Service A musical celebration of the life of Daniel J. Perrino will be from 1 to 4 p.m. Sept. 9 at Alice Campbell Alumni Center. Perrino, 91, died Aug. 17 at Carle Hospital, Urbana. Perrino was a UI professor of music for 28 years and also was an associate dean for the College of Fine and Applied Arts from 1976 until he retired in 1988. He was one of the founding members of the Medicare 7, 8 or 9 Jazz Band. Memorials: Champaign-Urbana Schools Foundation Daniel Perrino Urbana Bands Education Fund, www.cuschools-foundation.org; Dan Perrino Scholarship Fund, School of Music, UI Foundation, Harker Hall, 1305 W. Green St., Urbana, IL 61801, MC-386.

The research team also included scientists from Université Toulouse III; the French National Center for Scientific Research, Paris; the Department of National Health, Lao PDR; the Institute of Geology, University of Strasbourg, France; the Louvre, Paris; the Illinois State Geological Survey, and the geology department, both at the UI.
Parallels between individual and collective memory examined

By Mackenzie Dankle

Memories are essential to our personal identities, and to understanding life and our surroundings. The book, “Individual and Collective Memory Consolidation” (MIT Press), co-written by a multidisciplinary team of researchers at the UI, explores the process by which we organize and retain memories.

The authors’ primary thesis is that similar processes shape personal and group memories. Groups of people share information and build collective memories that are “different than the sum of the isolated memories of the individuals,” they wrote.

The authors suggest that collective retrograde amnesia—the mutual loss of memories of events that occurred prior to a large-scale social trauma, for example—also occurs.

For example, many Chinese lost their memories of certain traditions after the Chinese Communist Party tried to replace traditional Chinese culture (and collective memory) with Marxism and state approved memories.

People rely on intellectuals, academics and artists as well as politicians and government officials to make decisions for the group, and often it is these figures who give meaning and stability to memories of recent and older events, the authors wrote.

Every person plays a part in long-term memory formation; it just depends on how involved they want to be, said Thomas Anastasio, a professor of molecular and integrative biology at Illinois and a co-author of the book.

“There are people who make the news, and there are those who decide the meaning of the news and whether that should be part of collective memory,” he said.

Co-authors also include history graduate student Krister Ehrenberger, cognitive neuroscience graduate student Patrick Watson and anthropology graduate student Wenyi Zhang.

ON THE WEB: http://mitpress.mit.edu

Exploring human mobility and its cultural, political and social effects

By Madeline Ley

Historians have long been interested in patterns of human movement. Throughout history, people have had to move to survive, either through regular circuits that bring them to communities and resources or through occasional, long-distance migrations, in search of new ways of life.

“Russia in Motion: Cultures of Human Mobility Since 1850” (C3Press 2012), edited by two Illinois professors, explores human mobility and its cultural, political and social effects in Russia during the 19th and 20th centuries.

John Randolph, a professor of history, and Eugene Avrutin, a professor of modern European Jewish history and the Tobor Family Scholar in the Program of Jewish Culture and Society, conceived of the book after they organized a campus event, the 2008 Ruth and Ralph Fisher Forum, “Russia’s Role in Human Mobility: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives.”

“Gene and I were motivated in organizing the conference because we sensed that we could learn a lot about Russian life if we understood the movement of the people who live there,” Randolph said. “We wanted to create a book that began to highlight the phenomenon, across time, 1850 to the present.”

The themes of migration and mobility explored in the book are important for those looking to gain a richer understanding of Russian history.

“Movement creates spaces—political, cultural, social,” Randolph said. “It’s been used intentionally by Russian governments (as by other governments) to shape and order the life of the polity. It’s a major theme in Russian literary and visual arts, as well.”

With its deep historical context, “Russia in Motion” is certain to intrigue scholars of history. However, even the most casual of history buffs could be drawn into the personal stories the authors explore. One such story, told by UI alumna Sarah Phillips, an anthropology professor at Indiana University, delves into the inspirational story of Russian wheelchair athletes who complete “super-marathons” across the country to affirm their rights as citizens in the new Russia.

In addition to the contributions of Randolph and Avrutin, the book includes an essay by UI history professor Diane Koenker that examines a cruel contrast at the heart of Stalinist culture in the 1930s; the simultaneous expansion of resort tourism for workers and the forced exile of millions of others to the Gulag.

Randolph has high hopes for the impact of “Russia in Motion” among scholars: “Illinois has been one of the great American centers for Russian and East European studies since the late 1950s. We’re trying to honor and build upon that legacy today.”

ON THE WEB: http://press.illinois.edu

Ads removed for online version
**Center for Global Studies**

International Film series begins Sept. 5

Wednesday at 7 p.m. this fall, the Global Lens film series will showcase critically acclaimed films by independent international filmmakers at the University YMCA.

Global Lens films often dig deep into complex political and personal issues inspired by the director’s country of origin or sings of global Armitage. The series, 5, tells the story of relationships between prisoners in Albany. The next film, “Craft,” on Sept. 12, is a Brazilian film about a group of prisoners in a prison who are trying to educate their cellmates. The film will be reviewed by staff members at NCSA as well as by students at the University YMCA. It is anticipated that festivals will begin in spring semester 2013.

Future festivals will have access to the NCSA’s advanced computing, data and visualization resources at Illinois and at the Center for Supercomputing. Applications for low-performance computing, data science, and visualization resources that use the NCSA’s cloud computing, data science, and visualization resources will be reviewed by staff members at NCSA as well as by students at the University YMCA. It is anticipated that festivals will begin in spring semester 2013.

**Cyprus Institute/NASA**

Research fellowships available

Qualified candidates are invited to apply for postdoctoral and graduate research fellowships at the UI. Candidates will have access to state-of-the-art research facilities and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. The fellowships are open to all disciplines, and will be reviewed by staff members at NCSA as well as by students at the University YMCA. It is anticipated that festivals will begin in spring semester 2013.

**BRIEFS**

Radio documentary series explores C-U’s counterculture from 65-75

During the height of protests against the Vietnam War on the UI campus, students confronted the National Guard, conducted sit-ins to protest recruiting on campus by defense contractors and chemical companies, and met in hippie houses in the area where Kent State was shot. The films are a part of the counterculture movement in the 1960s and 1970s, and will be reviewed by staff members at NCSA as well as by students at the University YMCA. It is anticipated that festivals will begin in spring semester 2013.

**Counter Culture**


The one-hour documentary will be broadcast at 6 p.m. Sept. 22 on WILL-AM. The students interviewed 16 men and women, including Gorski. The documentary, produced by Aishwarya Guntam, Shruti Vaidya and Sarah Yockey, features different stories from those included in the series.

Dave Dickey, of Illinois Public Media, and Uni High teacher Janet Morford directed the collaboration of Uni High students and Illinois Public Media. Others interviewed were Richard Atkins, Nathaniel Banks, Debbie Cox, Vern Fees, Victor Fein, James Holiman, Joseph Miller, Renee Pollack, Mark Rubel, Howie Schein, Claire Shelly, Phil Strang, Hester Suggs and Billy Taylor.

**Illinois Public Media**

Community Cinema series begins Sept. 11

The 2012-13 season of its monthly Community Cinema series with “Half the Sky,” inspired by “Half the Sky: Turning Oppression Into Opportunity for Women Worldwide,” the acclaimed book by Kristof and WuDunn and celebrity activists America Ferrera, Diane Lane, Eva Mendes, Meg Ryan, Gabrielle Union and Olivia Wilde as they share the stories of courageous individuals from around the world who are forging meaningful solutions in health care, education and economic empowerment for women and girls around the globe.

On the panel for the discussion will be Jenny Allen, of the Center for Women in Transition; Ann Sibley, of Project Bloom; Andrea Beswick, of the Southern Illinois University Women’s Resource Center; and a panel of women economically; and representatives of the Tostan organization at Danville High School. Tostan is a Senegal-based group dedicated to empowering African communities to bring about sustainable development and positive social transformation based on respect for human rights.

The film, part of an Independent Lens special presentation, will be broadcast on WILL-TV at 8 p.m. Oct. 1 and 2.

**Lemm Institute**

Brazilian studies conference is Sept. 6-8

The University will host the 11th International Congress of the Brazilian Studies Association (BRASA) Sept. 6 to 8 at the Williamson Alfred Memorial Library. The sessions on Sept. 7 and 8 include academic panels, invited speakers, workshops, plenary sessions and cultural activities. Sessions will be split into three venues: the Alice Campbell Alumni Hall from 6 to 8:30 p.m. and the Lemann Institute for Brazilian Studies, with its mission to promote study and research on Brazil by faculty members and students at Illinois and Brazil’s Brazilian counterparts.

Campus community members are encouraged to visit the education stations, located in high-traffic areas throughout campus, to learn about the initiative, programs and events. For more information, visit www.inclusiveilinois.org/makeyourcommitment.html.
Art Editor

By Dusty Rhodes

A n art exhibition in the Murphy Gallery at the University YMCA will feature drawings and paintings created by inmates of the Danville Correctional Center, a medium- to high-security prison for men. The exhibition was coordinated by five prisoners enrolled in the UI Education Justice Project – part of the College of Education – which provides upper-level college courses, workshops and seminars to inmates who have already earned 60 or more hours of college credit.

EJP doesn’t offer courses in art, but EJP director Rebecca Ginsburg, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership and of landscape architecture, said a handful of EJP students initiated and developed the art exhibition. Since none of them had ever attended an art show, bringing this idea to reality provided learning opportunities. They created a flier seeking inmate art, distributed it throughout the prison, and curated the submissions, accepting every piece that met their “family-friendly” criteria. After studying a variety of art exhibition catalogs, they called a meeting of the 15 men whose work will be displayed, and taught them how to write artists’ statements introducing their work.

“They’re main concern was that people who come to the exhibition not leave with the romantic idea of prisoners captured in a cell but still expressing beauty through their artwork,” Ginsburg said. “They want to be thought of as artists, first and foremost, and they want people to know that there’s nothing romantic about being in prison.”

They settled on the title “Beyond the Lines.”

“The ‘lines’ refer not only to the lines that separate them from the rest of the world, but also to the lines that regulate their lives in prison,” Ginsburg said. “In prison, everywhere you go, you go in a line – the chow line, the gym line, the library line. They wanted to say that, beyond the lines that divide and control us, there are other things going on.”

Most correctional facilities in Illinois have some sort of art program, though the format and the materials allowed are left to the discretion of each facility’s warden. At Danville, there is an “art room” with 28 lockers and a waiting list of inmates seeking access, according to Greg Watson, who recently retired from the Illinois Department of Corrections after 18 years as the leisure time services supervisor assigned to the art studio.

Inmates interested in using art supplies had to show Watson work that proved some level of skill, and then take an eight-week course in pastels, acrylics or oil painting, or drawing. The classes are taught by three highly skilled inmate artists, Watson said.

After the eight-week course, inmates are allowed to use some art supplies in their cells. Last week’s opening reception was videotaped and shared with the artists. The exhibition will be open 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily through Oct. 14 at the University YMCA.

Unexpected artistry

Chris Garner, left, created this painting of a couple sharing a ceremonial drink from a gourd as a wedding gift for a friend.

State Universities Civil Service System

Nominations for advisory committee

Nominations are sought for an advisory committee of the State Universities Civil Service System.

An election will be held Oct. 16 to elect one representative to the State Universities Civil Service System advisory committee. The elected representative will serve a term beginning Jan. 1, 2013, and ending Dec. 31, 2016. Any full-time status civil service employee who, at the time of the election has at least three current and consecutive years of employment with the UL is eligible to be a candidate for election to the committee.

The purpose of the committee is to advise the State Universities Civil Service System Merit Board on all matters pertaining to SUCSS.

An eligible employee who wishes to become a candidate for this committee must complete and return a Petition for Candidacy Form bearing the signatures of at least 25 civil service status employees from the Urbana-Champaign campus. Forms will be available online at www.sur.siu.edu/SUCSS_Advisory_Committee.html beginning at 8:30 a.m. Sept. 14. Forms must be returned by 4 p.m. Sept. 21 to the Labor Relations section of the Staff Human Resources Office. Additional information is available online.

State Universities Retirement System

Retirement seminars announced

The State Universities Retirement System is offering three retirement education seminars at its Champaign office at 1901 Fox Drive. These popular one-day seminars for SURS members enrolled in the Traditional and Portable Plans are scheduled from 9:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Sept. 11, Oct. 24 and Nov. 13.

See BRIEFS, Page 24
**WILL-AM (580)**

'Focus' has new host; 'Talk' debuts

WILL-AM (580) unveiled two changes earlier this week. Craig Cohen is the new host of "Focus" and NPR's "Talk of the Nation" debuted on WILL.

"Focus," produced locally by WILL-AM, continues to be broadcast weekdays at 10 a.m., followed by "Fresh Air," which moved from 1 p.m. to 11 a.m.

Cohen succeeded longtime host David Inge, who retired June 30. Cohen said the show will remain much the same. "It will still be a thoughtful, respectful conversation about the issues and ideas affecting our world," said Cohen, who also is the director of news and public affairs for Illinois Public Media.

Because of staff retirements and a tightened budget, "Focus" will become a one-hour program, Cohen said. "But it also challenges us to make every hour as vibrant and engaging as possible."

The program will become more interactive than it has been in the past, he said. "We will continue to invite people to call in during the show, but our goal is also to continue the conversation after the show online and through social media."

While WILL-AM’s "Morning Edition" host from 1995-2002, Cohen was a regular substitute host for "Focus." At NPR station WITF in Harrisburg, Penn., he started the station's first daily talk/call-in program and became the permanent host of the award-winning show. WILL staff member Travis Stansel, a former "Focus" and "Afternoon Magazine" producer, is interim producer for Focus as the station conducts a search for a permanent producer.

"Talk of the Nation," which will be broadcast from 1 to 2 p.m., features host Neal Conan offering listeners the opportunity to join discussions with decision-makers, authors, academicians and artists from around the world on topics from breaking news, science and education to religion and the arts. "It’s one of NPR’s most popular shows. We’re thrilled to be able to add it to our lineup," Cohen said. Each Friday, "Talk of the Nation" turns its attention to news and issues about science and technology in another NPR listener favorite, "Talk of the Nation Science Friday" with Ira Flatow.

"Fresh Air" will be repeated at 7 p.m. and "Focus" repeated at 8 p.m. each weekend.

**BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13**

Topics:

Social Security: A Social Security representative will be available to discuss eligibility for Social Security and Medicare, how Social Security benefits are affected by SURS and other general Social Security information.

Insurance: An insurance representative will present information on eligibility, coverage, cost and dependent information for both state of Illinois insurance and the College Insurance Plan.

The SURS session for Traditional and Portable members will cover retirement eligibility, purchasing additional service credit, calculating benefits, death and survivor benefits and how to apply for retirement benefits.

The enrollment fee is $20 per member and $10 for a non-member guest. Lunch will be provided. Contact Karen Maggio at 217-378-8813 or email kmaggio@surs.org to register.

This seminar is not an approved event for excused time; therefore, employees who wish to attend during scheduled work hours must obtain prior approval from their supervisor and use leave time in accordance with university policy.

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**BRIEFS, PAGE 15**
BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

University YMCA

Friday Forum series begins Sept. 14

The fall Friday Forum lecture series will feature expert views on vital policy questions and shed light on local, state and national races as they unfold. Focusing on larger trends beyond the candidates’ qualifications, the series will peer deeply into current debates among diverse sociopolitical and socioeconomic sectors of the American public.


Friday Forum is a free weekly lecture series open to the public. For the fall schedule, visit www.universityymca.org/friday_forum.

Prairie Research Institute

PRI to host ‘lightning’ mini-symposium

Prairie Research Institute staff members will host the Prairie Lightning Mini-symposium at the Illini Union on Sept. 20 to showcase the institute’s work.

Scientists will present fast-paced “lightning” talks and posters on research and projects from all five state scientific surveys. Featured state Climatologist Jim Angel will speak on the drought; Joe Spencer on corn rootworm; and the latest on the archeology of “America’s first city” will be presented. Talks will run from 9 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. and repeat from 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. The poster session will run throughout the morning. Light refreshments will be served.

The mini-symposium builds on the success of the first Prairie Lightning Symposium last fall, which included 50 talks and 27 posters presented over a day-and-a-half to institutes, staff members, Executive Director Bill Shilts and institute staff.

“I thought it would be a good, rapid way to share information across the surveys and for scientists to promote their research and investigate possible collaborations with their colleague in other surveys,” Shilts said. “I had heard that the lightning talk format is a fun, fast-paced way to allow many speakers to make their points in a short time frame.”

The campus community is invited to network and explore collaboration and student job opportunities at the mini-symposium. Each year, UI faculty members and students work with institute scientists and their clients across the state, region, and the world on research projects spanning the scientific spectrum. The mini-symposium will be held in Illini Union Rooms B and C and is free and open to the public.

For more information, go to www.prairie.illinois.edu.

Department of French

Conference honors work by Schehr

A conference to assess the impact of the scholarship of Lawrence R. Schehr will be held Sept. 13-14 in the Levis Faculty Center. Titled “Articulations of Difference,” the conference honors work by Schehr’s father, the late Lawrence R. Schehr, who died in June 2011, was a professor of French studies to a broader understanding of itself and its disciplines with their colleagues in other surveys,” Shilts said. “I had heard that the lightning talk format is a fun, fast-paced way to allow many speakers to make their points in a short time frame.”

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For more information, go to www.prairie.illinois.edu.
Metabolism in the brain fluctuates with circadian rhythm

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

The rhythm of life is driven by the cycles of day and night, and most organisms carry in their cells a common, roughly 24-hour beat. In animals, this rhythm emerges from a tiny brain structure called the suprachiasmatic nucleus (SCN) in the hypothalamus. Take it out of the brain and keep it alive in a lab dish and this “brain clock” will keep on ticking, ramping up or gearing down production of certain proteins at specific times of the day, day after day.

A new study reveals that the brain clock itself is driven, in part, by metabolism, the production and flow of chemical energy in cells. The researchers focused primarily on a phenomenon known as “redox” in tissues of the SCN from the brains of rats and mice.

Redox represents the energy changes of cellular metabolism (usually through the transfer of electrons). When a molecule gains one or more electrons, scientists call it a reduction; when it loses electrons, they say it is oxidized. These redox reactions, the researchers found, oscillate on a 24-hour cycle in the brain clock, and this “brain clock” will keep on ticking, ramping up or gearing down production of certain proteins at specific times of the day, day after day.

In the new study, led by Cell and developmental biology professor Martha Gillette, her colleagues at Illinois discovered that metabolism influences the excitable state of that part of the brain.

“The fundamental discovery here is that there is an intrinsic oscillation in metabolism in the clock region of the brain that takes place without external intervention. And this change in metabolism determines the excitable state of that part of the brain.”

The new findings alter basic assumptions about how the brain works, Gillette said.

“Basically, the idea has always been that metabolism is serving an electrical signal to determine what kind of role that particular part of the brain sends to the other cells in its tissue, as well as the other parts of the brain nearby,” said UI cell and developmental biology professor Martha Gillette, who led the study. “The fundamental discovery here is that there is an intrinsic oscillation in metabolism in the clock region of the brain that takes place without external intervention. And this change in metabolism determines the excitable state of that part of the brain.”

The team then tried to determine how this fluctuation might affect the activity of SCN neurons. Tests revealed parallel changes in the redox status of the cells and their potential to transmit nerve impulses. Drugs that altered the redox state of the cells also changed their excitability in predictable ways.

Further experiments showed that potassium ion channels in the membranes of neurons were opening and closing in response to alterations in the redox state of the cells. Previous studies have shown that the flow of ions through specific potassium ion channels has a pronounced effect on neuron excitability.

Tick-tock. Cell and developmental biology professor Martha Gillette and her colleagues at Illinois discovered that metabolism influences time-keeping in the brain.