Neglected classrooms getting much-needed renovations

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

U

I students have access to the most modern facilities in the

country, said Dean Roger Lehmkuhl, the campus provost responsible for Facilities & Services.

“I've been working with a lot of professors in the country who have said access to the most modern facilities is a priority.”

Lehmkuhl added that while funding issues continue to be a challenge, Reeser said the classroom renovation initiative is the result of a comprehensive funding partnership encompassing a student maintenance fee, Provost allocations, the comprehensive funding partnership initiative, and the Chancellor’s Office.

“With this initiative we’ll be on track to meet contemporary expectations and future needs,” Reeser said.

The initiative, a five-year, $70 million campus classroom renovation plan, will not only address immediate needs but also start the discussion over the design of the classroom of the future.

By Madeline Loe
News Bureau Intern

Illinois’ summer drought may dull fall color

The deep reds, crisp oranges and golden yellows that usually punctuate the fall landscape may not be as spectacular this year after a summer of statewide heat and drought.

“Drought is bad for fall colors,” said Jeffrey Dawson, a professor emeritus of natural resources and environmental sciences at Illinois. “In a normal fall season with plenty of rains after the leaf buds begin to change in October. In a fall season such as this one, we are seeing a premature leaf drop. This affects fall colors because with leaves falling from the trees earlier, fewer leaves are left to actually change color.”

Even then, the deep reds, crisp oranges and golden yellows that are crisp but not below freezing. If the color change process is not complete, the leaves will not be able to return the next year after a summer drought.

ON THE WEB
http://go.illinois.edu/FallColor

Digging up history
Researchers have just begun analyzing long-buried secrets of the ancient settlement now known as Greater Cahokia.

University Scholars
Seven Urbana faculty members are named University Scholars, the university’s highest honor.

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Register for emergency alert messages

F

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Additional information about the Illini-Alert service is available online at http://cites.illinois.edu/illinalert.

Even those who have registered previously are encouraged to go online to make sure registration is up-to-date.

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Accounting Senate considers course agreement process

By Mike Haide

The board approved the university’s fiscal year 2013 budget and system-wide budget process, and will be submitted to the Illinois Board of Higher Education and the Illinois Board of Trustees.

The budget includes a second consecutive year of pay increases for UI faculty and administrators. The total $50.4 million, up $2.5 million from the previous year,

The board also approved the university’s operating budget. The fiscal year 2013 budget, which includes the new approach to classroom design.

In addition, Wiseman said she had increased the amount of time faculty members to find ways to bring the new high-speed applications to use on the new Advanced Chemical Technology Building.

The project is being funded through a federal grant and a state grant, and will be completed in the summer of 2014.

The project is starting with providing fiber-optic service to the building, and will be followed by a wireless network.

The university has invested in foundational projects, the university’s request for state operating funds for fiscal 2014, which begins July 1, 2013. The proposal seeks $749 million, up $81.5 million from the previous year.

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Five-year NASA-funded research grant awarded

The Illinois has been selected as one of only five new research teams studying the origin and evolution of life, on a five-year grant totaling about $8 million.

Nigel Goldenfield, the Presidential Professor of Physics at the Institute for Genomics and Molecular Structure of Materials, will lead a five-year research team investigating the relationship between the origin and evolution of life anywhere in the universe. The multidisciplinary effort to define and characterize "universal biology" will include the fields of microbiology, geochemistry, computational chemistry, genomics and physics.

The ILIAS project will use genome databases to explore deep evolutionary time, looking for signatures of early collective states of life. The group will also perform laboratory work to study the interactions between individual cells, respond and adapt to changing environments. The team will work to find signatures of the major transitions that life must make as it evolves through changes in its environment from being commensal to the modern era where there are inescapable individual organismal images. It is important to develop the full field of universal biology, because we may never encounter life on other planets. But if we understand what life is genetic, maybe even the most crucial aspects of the laws of physics, then we'll know for sure that we are not alone," Goldenfield said.

Co-investigators on the research team include Elliott Weinstein, Anca-Cristiana Diaconu, David Bruce Fokin, Rod Mac, Bob Ober, Zane Kohler, Charles Weiss, Rachel Whitehead and Carl Woese from Illinois, Scott Dewey from the University of California, Berkeley, and Stephen Marchbank from Bayer College of Medicine in Houston.
By Craig Whitaker

Byron T. White is a retired U.S Supreme Court Justice. He was the author of the majority opinion in the 1962 case in which the justices unanimously ruled that the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution applies to state governments. The ruling, United States v. Virginia, was a landmark case that established the principle of equal protection under the law as a fundamental right.

The court’s decision in the case was based on the constitutional principle that a state government can violate the 13th Amendment by using its powers to impose slavery on individuals. The court held that the amendment applies to states as well as the federal government and that it prohibits states from using their powers to enable or facilitate the use of slavery.

The decision in the case was a significant victory for civil rights activists and for the movement to end slavery. It was a landmark case that established the principle of equal protection under the law as a fundamental right.

The case is also notable for the fact that it was decided by a vote of 9-0, with all nine justices agreeing with the majority opinion. This was a rare occurrence in the history of the Supreme Court, and it reflected the strong consensus among the justices that the 13th Amendment applied to state governments.

The decision in the case had a profound impact on the development of civil rights law in the United States. It established the principle that the Constitution protects all people from discrimination on the basis of race, color, or national origin, and it paved the way for future cases that would expand the scope of the 13th Amendment and protect civil rights for all Americans.
Scientists aim to put a pox on dog cancer

By Madeline Ley

New approach

In a recent study published in the American Journal of Veterinary Research, a team of researchers found that treating cancers with viruses could potentially have several advantages over standard cancer therapies, as viral therapies can be used successfully in animals that received the viral therapy had significantly less regrowth of the cancer than those that weren’t exposed to the virus after surgery. Some other studies have shown that once a tumor is treated with a viral therapy, it doesn’t develop tumors. MacNeill said, “We wanted to make sure that the dog cells were like the human cells because we want to use these viruses not only to cure dog cancer but also to use the dog as a model for human cancer.” She said, “People are beginning to see the logic of this approach. These dogs have spontaneous tumors just like humans. They’re living in the same environment as humans, they’re exposed to the same carcinogens in the water if there are any and they sometimes even share our food." She calls this approach a “win-win” for dogs and humans. This way we can test the therapy in dogs while at the same time treating them,” she said. Other researchers can take results and use them to develop therapies for human patients. In the new study, the researchers wanted to see if spontaneously occurring cancers in dogs were responsive to infection with a virus that is not a pathogen in humans or dogs. They found that cancers and healthy canine cells respond as human cells do to myxoma infection: The virus invades cancer cells and leaves healthy cells alone. The team also showed that a version of the myxoma virus with a single gene deleted was four times better at killing cancer cells than the unmodified virus. The deleted gene codes for a protein that hinders cell death in infected cells.

New approach [Image 44x610 to 118x684]

On vacation?

Adams removed for online version

Book corner

By Malvinder Singh

Book compares lives of black Canadian and Caribbean women in the diaspora

Urbana campus ranked No. 13 by U.S. News

The Urbana campus of the UI was ranked No. 13 nationally among U.S. public universities granting doctoral degrees, according to U.S. News & World Report, which released rankings as part of its “America’s Best Colleges” issue. The College of Engineering’s undergraduate program ranked No. 5 nationally among schools whose highest degree is a doctorate. The UI business school’s undergraduate programs were ranked 14th. Within the engineering disciplines, two specialties were ranked No. 1: agricultural engineering and civil engineering. Other specialties at the UI ranking high were: astronautics/astronautical/astronomical (8), chemical (9), computer (5), electrical/electronic/communications (4), engineering sciences/ engineering physics (2), environmental/environmental health (4), materials (2), mechanical (5). The specialties that moved up one spot: agricultural, chemical, civil, electrical/electronic/ communications, materials, mechanical. In the College of Business, the UI accounting program was ranked No. 2, finance No. 15, marketing No. 12 and management No. 14. Business and engineering undergraduate programs were the only programs evaluated in the Sept. 12 issue of the magazine.
Researchers find evidence of ritual use of ‘black drink’ at Cahokia

By Diana Yates

Life Sciences Editor

People living 700 to 900 years ago in Cahokia, a massive settlement near the confluence of the Mississippi and Missouri rivers, ritually used a caffeinated brew made from the leaves of a holly tree that grew hundreds of miles away, researchers report.

The discovery — made by analyzing plant residues in pottery beakers from Cahokia and its surroundings — is the earliest known use of this “black drink” in North America. It pushes back the date by at least 500 years, and adds to the evidence that a broad cultural and trade network thrived in the Midwest and southeastern U.S. as early as A.D. 1050. The new findings, published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, highlight the cultural importance of Greater Cahokia, a city as large as modern St. Louis, in the days of the largest prehistoric North American settlement north of Mexico.

“This finding brings us to a whole new spectrum of religious and symbolic behavior at Cahokia that we could only speculate about in the past,” said Thomas Emerson, the director of the Illinois State Archaeological Survey and a collaborator on the study with researchers at the University of New Mexico, Idaho State University, the University of Missouri, and the Illinois State Archaeological Survey.

While scientists have long known that Cahokia’s inhabitants traded with people in other parts of the U.S., the new research indicates they were also taps into a vast network that stretched from the Midwest to as far as Mexico, in A.D. 1100-1125 consumed liquid representing water and the underworld and are covered in designs that might indicate the source of their drinking tools.

The researchers chose to look for evidence of black drink in the beakers because the pots were distinctive and fairly rare. Emerson said the team found key biochemical markers of the drink — theobromine, caffeicine and uricosuric acid — in the right proportions to each other in each of the eight beakers they tested. The beakers date from A.D. 1050 to 1250 and were collected at ritual sites in and around Cahokia.

Cahokia was ultimately a failed experiment. The carving of figures and the mound building there came to an abrupt end, and the population dwindled to zero. But its influence carried on. Cahokian influences in art, religion and architecture are seen as far away as Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana and Wisconsin, Emerson said.

People have said, well, how would you ingrate this?” Emerson said. “One of the obvious ways is through religion.”

Emerson said the water and underworld reference is consistent with the use of the drink in other parts of the country where Native American communities have long understood that coffee, chocolate and cacao beans represent a potent mixture of spiritual and practical elements.

Despite decades of research, archaeologists are just now beginning to analyze their finds or publish their insights into Cahokian culture. There are still secrets, rushing to finish their work before new developments erase much of the history of this ancient settlement now known as Greater Cahokia once extended across more than 50,000 square miles in what is now St. Louis, East St. Louis and the surrounding five counties. Researchers have spent decades trying to uncover Cahokia’s vast buried secrets, rushing to finish their work before new developments erase much of the history of the area. The largest organized dig in the area, a multimillion dollar excavation in East St. Louis funded by the Illinois Department of Transportation, will come to a close in December.

Scientists have gathered tens of thousands of objects and uncovered more than 1,300 homes of the elite as well as burial places for rulers. Over the years, but have only now begun to analyze their finds or publish their insights into Cahokian culture. There are some spectacular finds. Here are some of the highlights of the five years of field excavations conducted at the East St. Louis portion of Cahokia by the Illinois State Archaeological Survey.

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**Bone art**

Mark of Cahokia’s art of bone, wood, basketry and cloth has endured and remained but occasionally unusual situations preserve items such as this bone weaving, with a human face carved on it.

**Owl effigies**

Many native societies associated the owl with death and the underworld. The recovery of this cluster of red effigies from a house at East St. Louis suggests its owner was someone associated with a religiously powerful individual.

**Sharks and shells**

Cahokia was hundreds of miles from the Gulf coast, yet shells such as these and shark teeth are evidence of a broad trade network with residents of coastal areas.

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**Mound architecture**

The people of Cahokia built huge mounds that towered over the surrounding landscape. Although short-lived or Cahokia, the mound-building idea continued for centuries in other parts of the U.S.

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**Fertility figures**

These researchers found several stone sculptures, like this one thought to look like single-serving, cylindrical pots with a handle on one side and a tiny lip on the other. Many are carved with symbols representing water and the underworld and are reminiscent of the whale shells used in black drink ceremonies (recorded hundreds of years later) in the southeast, when the Tupan holly grew.

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**Sharks and shells**

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T he Andrew W. Mellon Foundation has awarded $100,000 to the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign to fund the planning of an extensive consortium of humanities institutes in the Midwest and beyond. By leveraging the strengths of multiple distinctive campuses across the Midwest and beyond, the grant is designed to create new avenues for collaborative research, teaching and the production of scholarship in the humanities, with the hope of creating new areas of inquiry that can be created or sustained by no single campus or institution acting alone.

The paper was published in the Journal of Law, Economics and Organization.

IPRH receives grant for Humanities Without Walls

By Samo Tisma

The IPRH (Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities) at UIUC has received a $100,000 grant to fund a project titled “Humanities Without Walls.” The grant will fund the planning of an extensive consortium of humanities institutes in the Midwest and beyond. The grant is designed to create new avenues for collaborative research, teaching and the production of scholarship in the humanities, with the hope of creating new areas of inquiry that can be created or sustained by no single campus or institution acting alone. The grant will be used to fund the planning of a multi-institutional consortium among faculty members and graduate students at the 13 institutions that belong to the Common Market for Arts, Sciences, and Technology (CMASST). The goal of this consortium is to create a new model for how humanities research is conducted, one that is more flexible and responsive to the needs of the contemporary world. The grant will be used to fund the planning of a multi-institutional consortium among faculty members and graduate students at the 13 institutions that belong to the Common Market for Arts, Sciences, and Technology (CMASST). The goal of this consortium is to create a new model for how humanities research is conducted, one that is more flexible and responsive to the needs of the contemporary world.
A new study of giant viruses supports the idea that viruses are a subset of organisms, not just nucleic acid-based machinery that seems to be very similar to the host proteins to do the work for them. The new analysis adds to the evidence that viruses evolved very early in the history of life, and that they diversified along with the host organisms they infected. The study's findings suggest that viruses evolved before the first unicellular organisms appeared, and that they have been co-evolving with hosts ever since.

The researchers analyzed a diversity of one-group or in another group. These structural motifs, called protein folds, are relatively stable molecular fossils of proteins. These ancient protein structures can be traced back to the common ancestor of all living things, which means that in bad times, the number of beneficiaries goes up, and more adults and children become hungry. "The economy is the most important predictor of food insecurity," said Gundersen. "And this study offers more evidence that viruses share with viruses have a particular kind of host proteins to do the work for them. The new analysis adds to the evidence that viruses evolved very early in the history of life, and that they diversified along with the host organisms they infected. The study's findings suggest that viruses evolved before the first unicellular organisms appeared, and that they have been co-evolving with hosts ever since.

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Children are aware of positive issues as early as third grade

By Nina Frost, News Editor

Children’s social goals at the beginning of the school year may predict whether they will be more popular or less popular – by the end of the academic year, a new study conducted at the UI suggests.

As young as third grade, children are attuned to issues of popularity, social preference and social vulnerability and strategize to enhance or diminish their social status using prosocial or aggressive behaviors, or both, the research indicated. This model of social competence was previously thought to apply to adolescents but researchers were less certain of its persistence to young children.

The study found that third and fourth graders, just like adolescents, may have one of several social orientations or motivations – social desirability, domination, popularity/high social status or avoiding exposure of low social status – that influence their behavior and, ultimately, their social standing among their peers.

Using peer nominations from the children who concerned most with avoiding criticism and frequently fought with others or were intent on demonstrating their social status, researchers found. Children with this social orientation also were more aggressive and engaged in favorious prosocial behaviors than their classmates, according to their teachers.

“We found that the goals kids had were quite predictive of their behavior and their social status,” said Philip Rodkin, a professor in the College of Education at Illinois and one of the study’s co-authors. “Kids who really want to become more popular will become a little less popular, but they are more likely to do that through aggression – physical, relational social and verbal aggression – so it was a little more social than we thought.

“Some researchers have wondered whether the popularity of aggression is truly an adolescent phenomenon, and this paper helps to say, ‘no, it’s not.’

Although the children who were intent on demonstrating their popularity were put as more pop by their classmates at the end of the year, they also lost favor among those peers, who preferred them less when the school year ended.

So, it’s not that it went away completely, children can be popular – have high status, influence and prestige – but not be well liked or preferred by their peers, said Rodkin, who research focuses on the development of prosocial behavior, bullying and children’s social worlds.

“In a way, the distinction between popularity and likability is the difference between social status and prosocial behavior,” Rodkin said. “Power and attractiveness are fundamental to interpersonal relationships in any society, and they’re important right at the beginning of the school year. The meaning and importance of power and aggression as well as the meaning and importance of being low social status, influence and prestige change when children reach adolescence and young adulthood.”

Children with a social development orientation increased their popularity too, but their classmates preferred them more at the end of the year. According to their teachers, these children were not aggressive and demonstrated more prosocial behavior than their classmates.

Children focused on avoiding social gaffes and perceptions of low social status, whose teachers perceived as neither prosocial nor aggressive, fared the worst. They became less popular with their peers by the end of the school year.

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Some studies include the current research to help children with the transition between aggression and popularity. One study published in the journal Development and Psychopathology discusses some insights into children’s social motivation that could aid in developing more effective bullying intervention programs, Rodkin said.

“For kids who perceive bullying as a way to gain social status and be more popular, part of the answer may be motivational in terms of determining what these kids believe and what they value,” Rodkin said. “Maybe you have to get at how they can want and how you can help nurture a classroom and school environment in which kids can achieve both power and for a popular for other reasons of the notion of others.”

The study, “Social Goals, Social Behavior and Social Status in Middle Childhood,” is available online in advance of publication in the journal Developmental Psychology.

Rodkin is a member of the University of Michigan, Toronto M. Wilens (Boston Children’s Hospital and Harvard Medical School) and Robina Hanson, assistant in medicine, were co-authors on the study.
First illustrated Japanese book is 13-millionlibrary volume

F. Ulrich has added its 13-milion-

book to its collections, main-

taining its status as the largest pub-

clic university library in the country. The "Monogatari" (or "Tales of the

hero"), the first illustrated Japanese printed book, in an

amazing compilation of 203 poems and 125 episodes from a poet's life. Enormous-

ly popular, "Tales of the" becomes the amaz-

ing explosion of an imagined literary

world, often identified with Armour no Naletara

(628-90), one of the six "ages" of Japanese

poetry.

The library's copy is the first printed

copy of the classic work and was published in 1688 by Sesshuza Akira, a wealthy

entrepreneur and art commissioner, in co-

operation with Hitotsu Kato, the famous

painter, calligrapher and polishman, and

Nakano Michikatsu, a writer, literary

scholar and editor. The illustrator of the

book is unknown, though some have attrib-

uted the woodcuts to Kusumi. "Tales of the"

hero" is also one of the earliest illustrated

Japanese books.

ACHIEVEMENTS.

Continued from Page 18

New European computer. Participants receive a small stipend, with travel and lodging costs covered by the program.

MEET THE PRESS

Matthew Ephraim, a professor of pa-

trnology and the Institute of Communications

Research, has been awarded the winner of the

Trivial Book Award competition for "Ra-

dus Utopia: Protracted Auditory Democracy in

the Public Interior."

The award is administered through the

Standing Committee on Research of the Association for Education in Mass Media

and Mass Communication, and is given to books that "exemplify the highest standards of new," according to the award guide-

lines. The prize, which includes a $5,000 award and a cash prize to the winner and

Social Science.  Hock will also be the recep-

tion of the Linguistic Society of America.  Hock will

the project's principal director.

The award recognizes Ulrich's principal

for "deploying an innovative, open-access fo-

rmat to the home network and teaching

head the model of starting with the most lucrative areas by prioritizing first-

low-income and underserved communities.

The award recognizes Ulrich's principal

focus on high-performance, aggressive design of new types of ads and systems and de-velopment of noveloved ceramic and metal matrix composites.

MetroLibrary.

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Seven Urbana faculty members named University Scholars

Seven Urbana faculty members have been named University Scholars. The university-wide program recognizes excellence in teaching, scholarship and service. The faculty members were honored at a campus reception Sept. 10.

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

The Urbana campus recipients:

Elizabeth Ainsworth, a professor of plant biology, works at the interface of basic and translational plant biology. She has investigated the current and potential impacts of global and environmental change on natural and managed plant ecosystems. Published in 2005, her analysis of 120 published studies on free air carbon dioxide enrichment was the most highly cited paper that year in the journal New Phytologist. Her analysis has been cited more than 500 times. She is studying the genetic basis for tolerance to the normally damaging effects of ozone pollution on soybean yield.

Steven M. LaValle, a professor of computer science, is a specialist in the interdisciplinary field of robotics and is recognized as a world leader in motion planning, a fundamental research area not only in robotics, but also in other research and commercial applications, ranging from computational biology to virtual prototyping, architectural planning and video-game design. His most recent work has centered on determining the minimal sensing requirements needed to solve tasks using machines that combine sensing, actuation and computation.

Phillip Newmark, a professor of cell and developmental biology, recognized that his discipline’s next frontier would be in the biology of tissue and organ regeneration. He now is recognized as one of the foremost proponents of reviving the use of planaria as a new model organism ideally suited for molecular and genetic analysis of regeneration. Today, a growing number of scientists use the planarian system in their research. He has applied his planarian system to several key problems in regeneration biology, including stem-cell differentiation, and germ-cell specification and differentiation. An increasing number of scientists now are using the planarian system in their work, attesting to the impact of Newmark’s work.

Leslie J. Reagan, a professor of history, is a leading scholar in modern U.S. history, gender and sexuality studies, legal history and the history of medicine. Her current research is analyzing the transnational effects of chemical warfare, with a focus on Agent Orange in the Vietnam War and its lasting impact on reproductive health. She received the President’s Book Award from the Social Science History Association for her first monograph, “When Abortion Was a Crime: Women, Medicine, and Law in the United States, 1867-1973.” Her most recent book, “Dangerous Pregnancies: Mothers, Disabilities, and Abortion in Modern America,” has won three prizes, including the 2012 Joan Kelly Memorial Prize in Women’s History from the American Historical Association.

Kara D. Federmeier, a professor of psychology, focuses on the critical and under-studied issue of how people use context to perceive and extract meaning from visual information. Her research has explored the impact of aging, context and mood on the extraction of meaning. She has pioneered work on hemispheric asymmetries in language representation. Among her discoveries is that the brain’s right hemisphere is capable of more sophisticated language processing than previously thought.

Tami C. Bond, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, conducts research in aerosol characterization and global emissions inventories. She identified major knowledge gaps about global emissions through uncertainty analysis. She has formed partnerships with the World Bank to measure emissions from diesel vehicles in developing nations and with nonprofit organizations to measure biofuel-cooking emissions.

Conrad Bakker, a professor of art and design, has had 23 solo exhibitions in his ongoing “Untitled Projects” series since arriving at the UI in 2001. His work has been exhibited nationally and internationally, including at the Tate Modern in London, and at the Art Institute of Chicago. His visually compelling, often humorous artwork calls attention to the complicated relationships between people and objects.

Leslie J. Reagan,

Elizabeth Ainsworth,

Conrad Bakker,

Tami C. Bond,

Kara D. Federmeier,

Steven M. LaValle,

Phillip Newmark,