Newly discovered Sandburg poem focuses on power of the gun

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

In an apparently unpublished and previously unknown poem, Carl Sandburg addresses the topic of guns. Titled “A Revolver,” the short piece was discovered Jan. 10 among Sandburg’s archives, housed in the Rare Book and Manuscript Library of the U. of I.

Sandburg, an Illinois native, was the recipient of the Pulitzer Prize for poetry in 1919 and 1951, and for history in 1940 for his biography of Abraham Lincoln. The poem was found last week by Ernie Gullerud, a retired U. of I. professor of social work who has volunteered at the library every Thursday for more than seven years, helping to index the more than 4 tons of material that make up the Sandburg collection.

Gullerud, who is 83, is in the process of documenting the first and final lines of all Sandburg’s poems to make them searchable online.

“This poem, typed on a manual typewriter, begins: ‘Here is a revolver.’ It ends 11 lines later: ‘And nothing in human philosophy persists more strangely than the old belief that God is always on the side of those who have the most revolvers.’”

As Gullerud entered this basic information, “A Revolver” felt compelled to read the lines in between.

“It’s just amazing how something written ten way back then is relevant today,” he said.

With the recent mass shooting in Newtown, Conn., and the subsequent debate over gun control in mind, Gullerud decided to share the poem with Valerie Hotchkiss, the head of the Rare Book and Manuscript Library.

“I think it’s so interesting that Sandburg says poetically what we all know about that murder,” Hotchkiss said. “He takes the idea one step further by meditating on the effect of guns on freedom of speech – how the First Amendment is watered down by the Second Amendment. If somebody has a gun to your head, you can’t speak freely.”

Kathryn Benzel, a Sandburg scholar who is the Martin Distinguished Professor in English at the University of Nebraska at Kearney, called the poem “an amazing find.”

Hotchkiss has a lot of anti-war poems, poems that undercut the sense of war as the answer to whatever question somebody might have,” she said. “So the fact that he would write this poem is really indicative of his perception of violence in society.”

The final line, she said, echoes another Sandburg theme of “raiding against hypocrisy.”

George Hendrick, a U. of I. English professor emeritus who edited several volumes of Sandburg’s poems, said this poem may have been inspired by the Lincoln assassination. “Sandburg was very concerned about that murder, and the use of the gun that killed Lincoln,” Hendrick said. “It sounds to me as if he had thought about this problem for years and years before he wrote this poem.”

The poem is undated (Sandburg died in 1967), but Hotchkiss is certain of its authenticity. “The style is a perfect match other poems from Sandburg’s typewriter.”

“This has all the marks of a Sandburg poem on it,” she said. “This is clearly written on Carl Sandburg’s dreadful onioscious typewriter paper.”

Store layout important for retailers

By Phil Cislorar
Business and Law Editor

A retailer’s optimal store layout is the result of balancing the interests of two different types of markets — consumers and suppliers, says new research co-written by a U. of I. business professor.

According to Yunchea “Frank” Liu, a retailer’s strategic manipulation of store layout is driven by an incentive to balance the shopping process of “fit-uncertain consumers” and the pricing behavior of upstream suppliers.

“Retailers face two different kinds of markets – the consumers who buy goods and the manufacturers that supply goods,” he said. “It’s a very important variable for local retailers and it has important implications for local retailers and it has important implications for local retailers and it has important implications for local retailers.”

As Liu explains, “For basic goods like toothbrushes, the fit probability is really high, because that’s something that online retailers can’t do.”

Another way retailers can compete with online merchants is by making the physical act of shopping as convenient as possible for consumers. In a market characterized by what the researchers call “consumer-fit uncertainty,” a retailer may design the layout of a store to facilitate the simultaneous inspection of products, Liu says.

“For basic goods like toothbrushes, the fit probability is really high, because that’s something that online retailers can’t do.”

Balancing act: Yuncha “Frank” Liu, a professor of business administration, says a retailer’s optimal store layout is driven by an incentive to balance the shopping process of uncertain consumers and the pricing behavior of upstream suppliers.

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Trustees propose new look at admission requirements, approve smallest tuition increase since ’94

By Sonya Booth
UIC News

Should admission requirements for the University of Illinois’ flagship campus be expanded? ACT scores and more emphasis on other factors?

That’s a question members of the U. of I. Board of Trustees asked university administrators to study after a discussion of student recruitment and retention at the Jan. 24 meeting in Springfield.

Earlier in the meeting, the board approved a 1.7 percent tuition increase for in-state freshmen entering Fall 2013 — the smallest increase for UIlinois since 1994 — and passed increases in student fees and campus housing rates. Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy said the university take a fresh look at “what issues are considered in relation to admission to the university, recommend changes to policy that tie admissions to success, and articulate what we mean by success.”

“Our policy says the ACT is the primary consideration for admission,” said University President Bob Easter. “What should be our goal? Is it to focus on criteria that are predictive of success that may not include these factors? These are fundamental questions that affect the future of UI and vice versa.”

The tuition increase, passed at the board meeting in Student Center West, matches the rate of inflation.

“This modest increase will help us be competitive in student recruitment,” said the university president, university vice president for academic affairs. “It also allows for necessary investment in essential academic quality.”

The relatively small increase means the university must closely contain costs, but it will sustain financial aid programs, Pierre said.

The guaranteed four-year tuition is the equivalent of a 0.7 percent increase per year during the four years that rates are locked in under the state’s guaranteed tuition law. The tuition guarantee, a state law that took effect in 2004, sets tuition rates for public universities for the four years required to complete most undergraduate degree programs.

The recommended increase follows a policy passed by the board two years ago and holds down costs by limiting increases to an index of the cost of living, barring significant reductions in state funding or university support.

Tuition rates set for incoming in-state freshmen next fall:

- Urbana: $198 increase to $11,834 per academic year
- UIC: $174 increase, to $10,406 per academic year
- WS: $138 increase, to $9,248

In dollars, the increase would be the smallest since the 2000-01 academic year in Urbana and Chicago and the smallest since 2001-02 in Springfield.

In a statement released by the university, Easter said the tuition proposal was adopted “with the help of ongoing cost-cutting efforts that have netted more than $50 million in annual savings over the last three years.”

“Last year, we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the Morrill Act, which created land-grant universities like the U. of I. and opened the doors of higher education to the children of all social classes,” Easter said.

“It helped fuel the most dramatic social and technological advances in our nation’s history, and it is critical that we ensure those same opportunities for new generations of students.”

U. of I. tuition increases have decreased over the last several years. Last year’s increase for incoming, in-state students was an average 4.8 percent. Tuition rose 6.9 percent for 2011-12 and 9.5 percent for 2010-11 to help offset steep declines in state funding. The university’s annual state appropriation.

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On the Job

Todd Moeglich

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

C onducting an interview with Todd Moeglich from the Champaign-Urbana area, it becomes quite apparent that Moeglich is an outstanding bookstore clerk. His years of experience and his exceptional ability to be empathetic with customers have made him a favorite among shoppers. Moeglich’s experience in the retail industry has taught him how to handle challenging customers in a professional manner. He understands the importance of providing excellent customer service, and he always seeks to ensure that customers are satisfied with their experiences. Moeglich’s dedication to his job has earned him the respect and admiration of his colleagues and customers alike.

The Illinois Store

Todd Moeglich, a clerk at the Illini Union Bookstore who recently was promoted to general merchandise manager, handled all types of store merchandise during his workday – but not books. Moeglich, a U. of I. graduate with a cinema studies degree, has 15 years retail experience and will do almost anything to ensure customers are being treated in a manner that will make them return.

Moeglich’s wife of four years, Erika, also is an retail, which gives the couple an unusual perspective on one another’s work. “I’m the bookstore, he said the couple always discusses their work, wife part ways.”

"She’s not a big fan of those genres, so if I watch them, I usually have to watch them alone." 

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

Faculty Retreat focuses on undergraduate research

T he 2013 Annual Faculty Retreat on Teaching and Learning will take place Feb. 22 in Illini Union Rooms A and B. This year’s theme, “Creating and Learning Meet Undergraduate Research,” explores the concept that teaching and learning can be significantly enhanced when students are engaged in collaborative research and scholarship. The retreat, now in its 19th year, brings together faculty members from across campus to share and expand best practices and innovations.

The plenary speaker will be Allis-son Snow, the founding director of the Ohio State University Undergraduate Research Office and a professor of evolution, ecology and organismal biology. She is a member of the National Council on Undergraduate Research and a fellow of the Committee on Institutional Cooperation’s Academic Leadership Program. In 2002, Snow received the Distinguished Scholar Award from OSU and was recognized by Scientific American as one of the nation’s “Top 50 Researchers in Science and Technology.”

In addition, Paul Dheft, the director of the U. of I. Office of Undergraduate Research, will talk about undergraduate research practices on the U. of I. campus. The office, which opened last fall, is designed as a clearinghouse for campus undergraduate research activities, providing students a common access point and professors a blueprint from which to foster new collaborations.

The retreat will offer many opportunities for participants to engage in discussion and to expand upon the plenary talk, in addition to learning what is happening on campus to engage students in quality research and scholarship. The retreat also will offer interactive concurrent sessions, each of which will focus on a topic introduced by members of the Teaching Advancement Board, with faculty members who have successfully incorporated undergraduate research experiences in innovative ways into their courses.

A pre-lunch poster session that highlights research on teaching and learning and a working lunch for sharing ideas will fill out the afternoon with the retreat concluding at 2 p.m.

This event, organized by the Center for Teaching and Learning Excellence, is co-sponsored by the Office of the Provost, and Online and Continuing Education.

The Faculty Retreat is free; advance registration is required and seating is limited. To register online, go to http://conferences.illinois.edu/facultyretreat2013.

Illinois engineer receives Humboldt Research Award

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

S cholarship and teaching go hand in hand for Scott White, a U. of I. aerospace engineering professor, who has been chosen to receive the prestigious Humboldt Research Award for his teaching achievements. White has been a leader in the field of autonomous materials – synthetic materials that respond and adapt to stimuli on their own. His research applies principles of biological systems, such as healing and vasculature, to materials such as plastics, electronic circuits and batteries. White is best known for designing materials embedded with microcircapules that rupture when cracked or damaged, filling leaks and “healing” the plastic or circuit. Humboldt award recipients are each awarded a prize of 60,000 Euros (nearly $80,000 at current exchange rates) and extended an invitation to pursue research of their choice in Germany. White will use his award to work with professor Peter Fritz at the Max Planck Institute of Colloids and Interfaces in Potsdam-Golm, Germany. The two will continue to design bio-inspired and biomimetic materials systems.

Peter Fritz is one of the world’s foremost au-

thetic materials. White said, “His labs offer unprecedented access to scientists, engineers and medical researchers to learn about regeneration and remodeling of materials systems, a topic that I am particularly interested in pursuing in my future research.”

White earned his doctorate in engineering me-

chanics at Pennsylvania State University in 1990, joining the faculty at the U. of I. the same year. He also is affiliated with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. He has received widespread recogni-


FACULTY RETREAT 2013

“The Teaching and Learning Meet Undergraduate Research” 8 a.m.-2 p.m. Feb. 22 Illini Union Rooms A and B http://conferences.illinois.edu/facultyretreat2013
Charles Tucker III, the recently installed vice provost for undergraduate education, is well aware of the inherent challenges of producing a high-quality undergraduate education experience.

"I've been working to improve undergraduate education for the last 10 years," he said. "My decision leaves me in the classroom and more recently I've enjoyed contributing to college- and campus-level processes, things I really care about, things I want to help on a larger scale. Now, instead of working 'retail' I'm in 'wholesale' – it's undergraduate education broadly."


cTucker's experience has come from the highest levels of the university.

"I work in a place where I want to help on a larger scale," he said. "I've always loved being in the classroom and the audit processes, saying both have caused confusion among those being audited." He said the discussions started at the full board because of "public meeting ordinances"..."I didn't feel welcome because I wasn't invited," Hasara said.

"I support more talks on the issue. That language needs wording," of the new rule, Parks said. "It needs to last for years, but to be temporary, they're trying to erode the numbers of people eligible for collective bargaining. This demands a change." Tucker has been working to improve the undergraduate student experience for the past four years, Tucker worked on a host of initiatives to improve undergraduate education, most aimed at increasing support for underrepresented students, enhancing recruiting practices, encouraging curricular innovation and retaining mentorships.

His familiarity with those themes has made him eager to take on the newly created position.

"I'm going to need to talk to..." he said. "I've always loved being in the classroom and the audit processes, saying both have caused confusion among those being audited." He said the discussions started at the full board because of "public meeting ordinances"..."I didn't feel welcome because I wasn't invited," Hasara said. Morelock said he also had "asked for a senate audience" on the Urbana campus, but the two groups "haven't been able to hook up." Speaking in favor of transferring exemption rules to the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, said audit results haven't been helpful, too many people are not involved in the process. Tucker's experience would be invaluable as he does.

"He knows the college well and it's going to be a very smooth transition," Tucker said.

Adesida said Tucker's appointment is a sign of the university's commitment to high-quality undergraduate education. "It's given us good, quantitative information," he said, "and as it been said, the plural of anecdote is not data." He said he also is committed to the idea of accessibility and affordability in higher education.

"The vision for a land grant institution is that it's an opportunity for everyone," he said. "The vision is that we want that person to have a chance to come here and to succeed."

Tucker's position in the College of Engineering will be Umberto Ravaio, the senior assistant dean for undergraduate programs, who Tucker said takes undergraduate education as seriously as he does.

"He knows the college well and it's going to be a very smooth transition," Tucker said. Adesida said Tucker's appointment is a sign of the university's commitment to high-quality undergraduate education. "Having a vice provost dedicated to this area is key," he said. "It means we will have a leader that will work with the colleges to ensure that students at Illinois have the best possible experience, especially during the freshman and sophomore years. "

Barbara Wilson, the executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs, said Tucker's experience would be invaluable for the Provost. "Chuck is widely admired on this campus for his dedication to undergraduate affairs," she said. "He has spearheaded several programs for undergraduates in engineering, and he has worked with other colleges on campus-level initiatives. We are excited to have him join our team in the Provost's Office."
Campus Community,

Our 2012 Campus Charitable Fund Drive was an amazing success despite difficult financial times. Our drive raised over $1.2 million for local, national, and global charities. We remain by far, the single largest charitable donor among state agencies. While charitable giving was drastically reduced in many other drives, our donors continued to demonstrate their compassion and selfless spirit in maintaining strong giving.

Our state and nation have been weathering a very difficult period, in which the burden on the poor is disproportionately large. Food pantries and agencies serving the needy have seen record increase in demand for their services. CCFD donors have continued to step up to plate to serve those who are currently struggling.

On behalf of all those who are served by your donations, I would like to thank you for your generosity and kindness. I would also like to thank the Chancellor’s Office which provides the financial backing for the drive, insuring that every dollar pledged goes directly to charitable agencies. Finally, I’m grateful for all the unit leaders and CCFD volunteers who work tirelessly during the drive to assist and encourage donors and coordinate our efforts. Our community is strengthened by each of you.

With sincere appreciation,

Nick Glumac
Chair of the CCFD Advisory Board
Professor and Cannon Faculty Scholar
Mechanical Science & Engineering Department

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### 2012 CAMPUS CHARITABLE FUND DRIVE

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Sponsored by the Office of the Chancellor and managed by the Office of Public Engagement at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, the Campus Charitable Fund Drive is the annual, eight-week employee fund drive that supports charitable organizations.
Easter sees improvement, plenty of challenges ahead

By Mike Holenthal
Assistant Editor

honest introspection, vigorous discussion, strong leadership, and a strategic planning will not keep the U. of I. from the tumult encompassing higher education. The planning will not allow the U. of I. to navigate any challenge placed before it.

University President Bob Easter delivered that message Jan. 28 during his state of the university remarks to members of the Senate Executive Committee.

Easter did not mince words about some of the issues facing higher education – and universities specifically – citing continued state-funding problems, threats to federal research funding and the speed with which the online revolution is calling into question instructional delivery or even the need for walled classrooms.

“These are things we need to talk about -- even if it’s difficult,” he said. “We have to be sure that we are engaging in these types of conversations.”

The president said much work had been done internally over the last year to break down institutional barriers and improve communication among the board of trustees, the administration and the three campuses. He said that work has shown internal university structures are capable of reacting to change, a trait necessary to face ever-changing challenges.

“I think we’ve managed to get things done,” Easter said. “The governing process is working well and I think we’re in a good position.”

Still, Easter said he has called for a study of the university’s administrative structure and expects to have recommendations by the end of the academic year. The senate’s standing-committee chairs recommended members to be appointed to the president’s committee.

“I don’t think there’s been … a careful look for a while,” he said. “We need to ask, ‘Are all the things we do at U. of I. noticeable to the students?’ The focus should be on their needs.”

While stopping short of advocating for a one-university approach, Easter said there are many untapped opportunities for synergy between academic leaders and researchers at all three campuses.

“How do we leverage the power of three campuses?” he asked. “The campuses have to work together.

For his part, Easter said he is working hard to establish relationships at the state and federal legislative levels. He said he meets with local legislators regularly and has the impression most see the university as a key player in turning the state’s economic prospects around (as evidenced with the positive press reports about the new UI Labs venture; see story on page 2).

As for the U. of I.’s limited influence over the pension issue, Easter said “we feel like we’ve made some headway” convincing legislators about the importance of maintaining contribution levels in the years to come.

He said the state last year did make some changes in the high-end luxury items -- jeans, shirts, sweaters -- that he believes the university and some of the more onerous obstacles after officials asked for changes.

“We continue to work those issues and must balance that strategy with consumers’ perception of the store,” he said.

“Think about Bloomingdale’s versus Sears. They’re high-end luxury items, ‘necessity’ basic items,” Liu said. “Sears puts all of its manufacturers’ products together. If you’re looking for a table at Sears, they’re all stock stacked together. If you go to Bloomingdale’s, you’ll notice that they sell furniture by brands. If you go to this room, it has everything from one manufacturer. If you want to look at another set of table and chairs, you have to go to another room.”

That’s because, for basic products, such as the table from Sears, the product’s price is very high, Liu says.

“But if you go to Bloomingdale’s, they have the high-end luxury furniture, and for high-end products, people have different tastes,” he said. “So Sears wants manufacturers to compete on price, while Bloomingdale’s wants manufacturers to compete for the best location in the store.”

It also depends on the product itself, Liu says.

“Even within high-end stores, individual product strategies will be different,” he said. “For some product categories, such as kitchenware, which is quite standard, even a high-end retailer will sell everything together. Name-brand clothes, however, are usually sold by the brand.

“Macy’s sells some products from compet- ing manufacturers together, but if you’re looking at clothing – jeans, shirts, sweaters – they usually sell them by brand,” he said. “Calvin Klein is here, but Ralph Lauren is over there.”

But for low-fit probability products such as shirts, where each shirt is different, “even if retailers put them all together, like toothbrushes, the price competition is not that intense, because consumers have different preferences for shirts than they do for toothbrushes,” Liu says.

“Even if one shirt manufacturer is running a promotion with a lower price than the competition – if that shirt doesn’t fit me; if its material irritates my skin; if it doesn’t have the color I like, it doesn’t matter how low the price is, because I won’t buy it,” he said.

“In this case, if the retailer sells all of the products together, it doesn’t intensify the competition from the manufacturers. So the retailer should put the products in different locations so the manufacturers have to compete with each other. Although many retailers also offer the price-matching policy with online retailers like Amazon.com, that’s really not the smartest strategy, according to Liu.

“Retailers probably do not want to play the pricing game with online retailers,” he said. “They have certain inherent advantages in their store, in that the consumer has to find the right ‘fit’ for certain products. That’s the frontier on which they have the advantage. So they should not give ground by playing the pricing game.”


ON THE WEB

http:// senate.illinois.edu
This change in policy came after a unanimous decision by the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the nation’s highest military leaders, and did not appear to be forced by politicians. Did that surprise you, especially given the previous resistance to gays in the military?

Yes, I was surprised, but only because I had not known that this was an issue that the administration had prioritized. In any case, I wholeheartedly agree that the time had come. Lynn has lectured at war colleges and other military institutions in the U.S. and abroad, and served as president of the U.S. Commission on Military History. He says he had not known that this was an issue that the administration had prioritized. In any case, I wholeheartedly agree that the time had come.

Part of your book on women, armies and warfare deals with stories of women in combat roles. If women have the option to take a combat assignment but men are compelled to do so, then there is a double standard. The military will have to be certain to treat women and men evenhandedly.

In what ways, if any, are women thought to be different from men in terms of combat roles? There is little room for giving women special accommodations and conditions in combat. They will have to deal with the same discomfort, danger and loss of privacy as the men. If they do not bear the same duties, labors and risks as the men, they will not command the respect of their male comrades. Military women are up to the task.

Many of those praising the policy change are highlighting the new opportunities it opens for women, since combat roles are often the route to military promotion. You note, however, that it also introduces an issue of inequality. How so?

For there to be true equality, qualified men and women must have the same opportunities to serve, but also the same level of compulsion in being assigned military roles. If women have the option to take on a combat assignment but men are compelled to do so, then there is a double standard. The military will have to be certain to treat women and men evenhandedly.

College of Engineering receives $100 million pledge

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise announced Jan. 28 that the Grainger Foundation, of Lake Forest, Ill., has pledged $100 million to support the College of Engineering by establishing the Grainger Engineering Breakthroughs Initiative. The contribution is in memory and honor of William W. Grainger, a 1919 Illinois graduate in electrical engineering, and the founder of W.W. Grainger Inc.

“We are tremendously grateful for this extraordinary gift from the Grainger Foundation, which is an investment in the future of engineering, the future of our engineering faculty and students, and, indeed, an investment in the campus as a whole,” Wise said. “This transformative gift will ensure that Illinois continues to be a pre-eminent, globally recognized institution.”

The Grainger Foundation, a long-term benefactor of the College of Engineering, has made this pledge to ensure the continued global standing of the engineering program by providing the support and infrastructure necessary for Illinois to lead the most important engineering breakthroughs of the future. The support will enable the college to continue its national leadership and enhance its global reach far into the future.

The resources from the Grainger initiative will support faculty members, students and facilities of the college. It also will allow the college to consistently and repeatedly create new engineering breakthroughs by investing in research areas of transformative impact to society and to attract and educate the engineering leaders of tomorrow.

A portion of this gift also will provide the leadership gift to begin a $100 million fundraising campaign for an endowed chair in engineering research collaborations. The gift also will create an endowed chair in engineering research collaborations.
Study: Odd biochemistry yields lethal bacterial protein

By Diana Tato
Life Sciences Editor

While working out the structure of a cell-killing protein produced by some strains of the bacterium *Enterococcus faecalis*, researchers stumbled on a bit of unusual biochemistry. They found that a single enzyme helps form distinctly different three-dimensional ring structures in the protein, one of which had never been observed before.

The new findings, reported in *Nature Chemical Biology*, should help scientists find new ways to target the protein, which is associated with acute infection in humans, said U. of I. chemistry professor Wilfred van der Donk, who conducted the study with graduate student Weixin Tang. "Almost 100 percent of patients develop the disease is more prevalent in males because the mutation on to their children. Some sometimes develop muscle weakness in their teens or 20s into their early 30s, dis...

The researchers don’t know how the protein accomplishes this feat, but found a clue in the sequence of amino acids that make up the protein rings. The chemical characteristics of the three amino acids in the middle of the ring structure and their proximity another group of amino acids in the sequence, determined whether the rings took on a D-L or L-L stereochemistry. "The two components are both cyclic peptides, one with three rings and the other with two rings," van der Donk said. "Curiously, a single enzyme makes both components.

In a series of experiments, the researchers found that one ring on each of the proteins adopted a (D,L) stereochemistry that is common in lantibiotics (see image, above). But the ring chains all had an unusual (L,L) configuration, something van der Donk had never seen before.

Scientists had assumed that the enzyme that shaped enterococcal cytolysin, a lantibiotic synthetase, acted like a three-dimensional framework that gave the rings structure of cytolysin the exact same stereochemistry, van der Donk said. "But we found that the enzyme produces it at very low concentrations of cytolysin, because the bacterium does not harm its host. Some virulent strains, however, produce cytolysin (sigh-toe-LEE-sin), a protein that, once assembled, attacks..."}

**Fighting infection** U. of I. chemistry professor Wilfred van der Donk and graduate student Weixin Tang determined the unusual structure of a bacterial toxin.


**Approach shows promise for Duchenne muscular dystrophy**

By Chelsey Coombs
News Bureau Intern

Researchers have shown that transplanting stem cells derived from normal mouse blood vessels into the hearts of mice that model the pathology associated with Duchenne muscular dystrophy (DMD) prevents the decrease in heart function associated with DMD.

Their findings appear in the journal Stem Cells Translational Medicine. "If the heart function, but that can’t replace the..."}

**Step one** While mice have two X chromosomes and must have the mutation on both of them to have the disease. Females with the mutation in one X chromosome sometimes develop muscle weakness and heart problems typical of DMD. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that DMD affects one in every 3,500 males. The disease is more prevalent in males because the dystrophin mutation occurs on the X chromosome; males have one X and one Y chromosome, so a male with this mutation will have DMD, while females have two X chromosomes and must have the mutation on both of them to have the disease. Females with the mutation in one X chromosome sometimes develop muscle weakness and heart problems as well, and may pass the mutation on to their children.

Although medical advances have extended the lifespan of DMD patients from their teens or 20s into their early 30s, disease-related damage to the heart and dia phragm still limits their lifespan. "Almost 100 percent of patients develop dilated cardiomyopathy," in which a weakened heart with enlarged chambers prevents blood from being properly pumped through out the body, said U. of I. comparative bio sciences professor Suzanne Berry-Miller, who led the study. "Right now, doctors are treating the symptoms of this heart problem by giving patients drugs that try to..."

**Step two** These vessel-derived cells might be good candidates for therapy, but the more important thing is the results give us new potential therapeutic targets to study, which may be activated directly without the use of cells that are injected into the patient, such as the ADM in the current study," Berry-Miller said. "Activating stem cells that are already present in the body to repair tissue would avoid the potential requirement to find a match between donors and recipients and potential rejection of the stem cells by..."

**Step three** Despite the encouraging results that show that stem cell transplantation can provide a functional benefit when administered before pathology arises in DMD mouse hearts, a decline in heart function is seen in mice that were already showed the characteristics of dilated cardiomyopathy. One of these characteristics is the replacement of muscle tissue with connective tissue, known as fibrosis. "This difference may occur, Berry-Miller said, as a result of stem cells landing in a heart that already has many (L,L)-configured lantibiotic protein components of cytolysin the exact same stereochemistry, van der Donk said. "But we found that the enzyme produces it at very low concentrations of cytolysin, because the bacterium does not harm its host. Some virulent strains, however, produce cytolysin (sigh-toe-LEE-sin), a protein that, once assembled, attacks..."
Researchers map emotional intelligence in the brain

By Phil Ciciora

Research: Bad news can spur strategic change in businesses

By Diana Yates

A new study of 152 Vietnam veterans with combat-related brain injuries offers the first detailed map of the brain regions that contribute to emotional intelligence—the ability to process emotional information and navigate the social world. The study found significant overlap between general intelligence and emotional intelligence, both in terms of behavior and in the brain. Higher scores on general intelligence tests corresponded significantly with higher performance on measures of emotional intelligence, and many of the same brain regions were found to be important to both.

The research appears in the journal Social Cognitive & Affective Neuroscience.

"This was a remarkable group of patients to study mainly because it Illinois, we used computer-aided content analysis to determine the degree to which damage to specific brain areas was related to impairment in specific aspects of general and emotional intelligence," said study leader Aron K. Barbey, a professor of neuroscience, of and speech hearing science and psychology at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the U. of I.

A previous study led by Barbey mapped the neural basis of general intelligence by analyzing brain images of a larger sample of Vietnam veterans impaired performance on tests of fundamental cognitive processes. In both studies, researchers pooled data from CT scans of participants' brains to produce a collective, three-dimensional map of the brain regions that contribute significantly to emotional intelligence. The frontal cortex is known to be involved in regulating behavior. It also processes feelings of reward and plays a role in attention, planning, and memory. The parietal cortex helps integrate sensory information, and contributes to bodily coordination and language processing.

"Historically, general intelligence has been thought to be distinct from social and emotional intelligence," Barbey said. "The most widely used measures of human intelligence focus on tasks such as verbal reasoning or the ability to remember and efficiently manipulate information, he said.

"Intelligence, to a large extent, does depend on basic cognitive abilities, like attention and perception and memory and language," Barbey said. "But it also depends on interacting with other people. We're fundamentally social creatures, and understanding not only involves basic cognitive abilities but also involves productively applying those abilities in a way that's socially optimal so that we can navigate the social world and understand others." The new findings will help scientists and clinicians understand and respond to brain injuries in their patients, Barbey said, but the results also are of broader interest because they spotlight the fact that the media can have an influence on both general and emotional intelligence in the healthy mind.

The research team also included Roberto Colom, of the Universidad Autonoma de Madrid, and Jordan Grafman, now at the Rehabilitation Institute of Chicago. This study was conducted in part at the Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington, D.C. with support from the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism and the National Institute on Aging.

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News

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Lincoln Hall to be rededicated on Feb. 12

By Mike Holenthal
Assistant Editor

ormal wear isn’t required to attend the Lincoln Hall rededication ceremony, to be held Feb. 12 on the U. of I.’s Urbana campus. But wearing a stovepipe hat wouldn’t totally be out of order.

The ceremony, held on Lincoln’s birthday and 100 years to the day of the original building dedication, starts at 4 p.m. in the Lincoln Hall theater and will celebrate the end of a two-year, $64 million top-to-bottom renovation project.

The project was funded with nearly $58 million in state capital development funds and almost $6 million from the U. of I.

For the rededication, U. of I. Board of Trustees Chairman Christopher G. Kennedy and U. of I. President Bob Easter have invited Gov. Pat Quinn and other state dignitaries to join them in delivering remarks on the efforts leading to the hall’s completion.

There also will be a ceremonial ribbon-cutting, a performance by the U. of I. Black Chorus, refreshments and self-guided tours of Lincoln Hall, whose offices and classrooms were reopened last fall.

“We’re excited to have the governor on our campus and we are grateful to the state for supporting the renovation of Lincoln Hall.”

The building was given a complete makeover, with special care taken to restore the historical integrity of the building – originally built as an homage to the 16th U.S. president.

Lincoln Hall is the most frequently academic building on campus, with most of the 40,000 who attend the university annually taking a class there at some time.

Two years of preparation work and two more for the actual construction work dispelled thousands of students and employees as the interior of the building was redesigned and classroom, research and office space was expanded.

“The end result is a state-of-the-art facility appropriate for teaching, learning and scholarship for the 21st century,” Watkins said.

Classrooms are now outfitted with new computer-aided projectors, large screens and speaker systems, and designers switched the orientation of some of the larger lecture halls, putting professors closer to students.

The Lincoln Hall project was as much restoration as renovation.

The theater work demanded artisans painstakingly restore original plaster wall reliefs; and the bronze Lincoln bust in Memorial Hall – its nose rubbed raw for good luck by thousands of U. of I. students over the years – was polished, refurbished and readied for another 100 years of rubbing.

Outside, the slate roof, oak trim and terra cotta panels depicting Lincoln’s life were carefully restored.

In addition, the building was mechanically retrofitted to meet LEED environmental standards, and includes “smart” sensors that adjust light and temperature controls automatically as part of an overall “sustainable design.”

**Deaths**

Paul T. Bateman, 93, died Dec. 26 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Bateman was a professor of mathematics for 39 years, retiring in 1989. During that time, he served as department head for 15 years. A memorial service will be held at the mathematics department in the spring. Memorials: Paul T. Bateman Fellowship Fund, c/o U. of I. Foundation, www.ui foundation.edu.

Lilian H. Beck, 76, died Feb. 1 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She was a professor of molecular and integrative physiology at the U. of I., and was an assistant dean advising undergraduate students on their health care careers. Memorials: Sinai Temple Deckard Fund, sinaintemple.org.

Juliet M. Frankenberg, 74, died Jan. 13 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She developed the Health Professions Information Office at the U. of I. and was an assistant dean advising undergraduate students on their health care careers. Memorials: Sinai Temple Deskard Fund, sinaintemple.org.

James F. Hicks, 68, died Jan. 25 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He worked at the U. of I. for 33 years, retiring in 1998 as a building service worker at the Illini Union. Memorials: American Cancer Society, cancer.org.

James Melville Kraats, 76, died Feb. 1 at his Champaign home. He worked as a principal specialist in computer-based education at the U. of I. for more than 30 years. Donna F. Knudson McPherson, 100, died Jan. 12 at Clark-Lindsey Village, Urbana. She came to the U. of I. in 1944 to be the librarian in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Memorials: Clark-Lindsey Village, clark-lindsey.com, or the Urbana Free Library, urbanafreelibrary.org.

Esmail Meisami, 70, died Jan. 22 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was a professor of molecular and integrative physiology at the U. of I., retiring in 2010 after 24 years on the faculty.

Joseph Charles Mitsdarfer, 92, died Jan. 12 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Mitsdarfer retired from the agronomy department in 1983 after 34 years of service. He also worked as an extra help employee for the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics for more than 40 years, working through 2007.

Roland F. Payette, 86, died Jan. 16 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Payette was a professor of education at the U. of I. for 22 years, retiring in 1986. Memorials: American Cancer Society, cancer.org, or the St. Jude Children’s Research Hospital, stjude.org.


Becemmire Sylvia, 64, died Jan. 16. He worked at the U. of I. for 30 years, retiring in 2010 as a lab animal care specialist for Vet DEATHS, Page 11.

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Inside Illinois

Feb. 7, 2013

ON THE WEB

http://lincolnhall.illinois.edu
By Mike Helenthal

The Academic Senate on Feb. 4 voted to support the temporary establishment of a Confucius Institute on the Urbana campus.

The decision solidifies a preliminary agreement last fall between Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise and officials of Janggu Normal University during the chancellor’s outreach trip to China.

The institute’s charter will run for five years and emphasize collaborative research and the Chinese language, said Sen. Nicholas Burbules, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership, and the chair of the General University Policy committee, which recommended the proposal’s adoption.

There are about 350 Confucius Institutes worldwide, he said, which are financially supported by the Chinese Ministry of Education as vehicles for cultural and linguistic outreach. The Urbana institute will start with $150,000 in annual funding.

Burbules said an institute’s outreach many times goes beyond the boundaries of the host campus and into the community, with some sponsoring cultural events and some going so far as to provide Chinese language teachers for local high schools.

Burbules said some committee members had voiced concerns over the possibility of Chinese government influence on the activities of the institute. He said the discussion had led to safeguards ensuring the institute is controlled by the principles of academic freedom.

After five years, the institute would submit to a review process that “will look at the institute’s success in achieving its mission, its performance in external fundraising, and its record in preserving institutional autonomy, institutional neutrality, and academic freedom,” said the proposal that was considered by the GUP.

“You have the option of not renewing it,” Burbules said.

Wise said the partnership expands opportunities for even broader collaborations.

“It’s a pilot that has potential to grow into other areas,” she said.

The institute will be overseen by International Programs and Studies, in collaboration with the College of Education, the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, and the Chinese language program in the department of East Asian languages and cultures.

Hua-Hua Chang, a professor of educational psychology and of psychology, will serve as the institute’s director.

Other business

Senators approved the formation of the TIAA-CREF Center for Farmland Research, which will study asset valuation and financial performance from a variety of agricultural perspectives.

The center is being supported with $200,000 annually from TIAA-CREF and will be a unit within the department of agricultural and consumer economics.

The center’s research will be disseminated on ACE’s farmdoc website. Under the center’s structure, researchers will retain control of their work.

Senators were given an update on the university’s involvement with Coursera, a massive open online course (MOOC) aggregator the U. of I. joined last year.

Sen. Randi McCarthy, a professor of mathematics, argued that unionized strength could be used to improve shared governance and fight “administrative bloat.”

“We need to get the balance back,” he said. “We need a means to raise our collective voices to administration so that we will not only be politely listened to for advice but once again respectfully invited as a partner in the debate of our campus’s future.”

Sen. Burbules argued against unionizing, saying such an arrangement would threaten quality, cause many faculty members to leave the university, create an adversarial atmosphere to the detriment of shared governance, and enhance neither the mission of the university nor the rights of faculty members. He said many of the monetary issues that unions typically bargain for wouldn’t be relevant because they are determined at the state level.

“At a time of diminishing revenues, the problem is not ‘bosses’ who refuse to pay workers more,” he said, “but the budgetary constraints imposed on the university by the state of Illinois.”

Transcripts of the remarks from McCarthy and Burbules are posted online at http://news.illinois.edu/11/03/0207/senate.html.

DEATHS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

 animal care services.

Memorial Service

Memorial services for Marshal Dean McGlamery will begin at 2 p.m. March 9 at Lake Prince Woods in Suffolk, Va., and at 2 p.m. April 20 at Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, 600 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Urbana. McGlamery, 80, died Jan. 25 in Suffolk, Va. He was a professor of crop sciences for 39 years, retiring in 2000. Memorials: Alzheimer’s Association, alz.org, or the PABC Building Fund.
Doolen Graduate Scholarships

Scholarships available for study of aging

Applications are being accepted for the annual Paul D. Doolen Graduate Scholarship for the Study of Aging, sponsored by the Retirement Research Foundation.

Two graduate students, one from the biological-biomedical sciences and the other from the behavioral-social sciences, will each receive a $4,000 scholarship for the 2013-14 academic year. The award will be given to students whose principal scholarly interest is in the field of aging. Students who hold in assistant-professor or professorialship will receive priority consideration for the award.

Scholarship applications can be submitted online at www.aup.uiuc.edu/doolen. The deadline for submissions is Feb. 11.

The Retirement Research Foundation uses the award to stimulate and support interest in the biological or sociological aspects of aging or the treatment of diseases of the elderly.

Urbana Chapter of AAUP

Promotion/tenure workshop is Feb. 12

Provost Ilesanmi Adesida will be the principal panelist Feb. 12 at a workshop on “Achieving Tenure and Promotion – Policies and Procedures on the Urbana Campus.” The workshop is sponsored by the Urbana Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Room 314B Illini Union.

Adesida and his fellow panelists will make short presentations, lead the discussion and answer questions from the audience. This program should be of particular interest to new and continuing tenure-track assistant professors, associate professors seeking promotion and to those mentoring these individuals or serving on promotion and tenure committees.

The panelists (and the topics they will address): Adesida and Barbara Wilson, the executive vice provost for faculty and academic affairs (campus policies, three-year review procedures, etc.); Patrick O’Brian, associate professor of microbiology and past chair of the Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee (procedures followed by the Urbana Campus Promotion and Tenure Committee); Billie Jean Theide, a professor of theater arts (design and chair of the Urbana Faculty Advisory Committee (appeal procedures); and Leslie Struble, president of AAUP’s Urbana chapter (AAUP’s position on the process). For more information, contact Harry H. Hilton, 217-333-2653 or hhilton@illinois.edu.

Blue Waters petascale supercomputer

Researchers may apply to use Blue Waters

The Blue Waters petascale supercomputer will soon permit researchers to apply to use this powerful tool for research and education. Each year that Blue Waters is in operation, about 3 to 4 million node-hours will be allocated to projects from the Urbana campus. As each node has many powerful cores, this is significantly more computing power than most universities have available for their use, and this resource provides Illinois faculty and staff members with the opportunity to perform groundbreaking work in computational science.

The Blue Waters system, operated by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, is intended for problems that are too demanding for any other system. Projects should make use of the unique capabilities of Blue Waters at large scale, such as floating-point speed, total memory, data size or data bandwidth or even computational scale. Project proposals should demonstrate that no other resource would be suitable for a given problem.

Startup allocations are available for those who need to prepare code to run at petascale, and general allocations are intended for large-scale research and/or education projects. Applications are due Feb. 15.

For more information and instructions on how to apply, go to http://parallel.illinois.edu/allocation-time-blue-waters-uci.

Recognizing excellence in humanities scholarship

Nominations sought for IPRH Prizes

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities has recognized outstanding humanities research in numerous ways during its 15-year existence. The IPRH Prizes for Research in the Humanities celebrate excellence in humanities scholarship, and IPRH is soliciting submissions and nominations for the 2012-13 academic year. These prizes recognize outstanding humanities research at the U. of I., with awards given at the undergraduate, graduate and faculty levels. The awards will be presented at a reception on May 1. Submissions are invited from scholars in all sectors of the university with focus on the humanities and humanities-inflected research.

The awards are open to all full-time U. of I. students and tenured and tenure-track faculty members. All nominations are due by 5 p.m. March 13. The nomination form can be downloaded from the IPRH website, www.iprh.illinois.edu. The nominations must contain no references to the applicant’s name or other identifying details. Submissions that do not follow these guidelines will not be considered.

Specific funding information and application guidelines for each application category are on the IPRH website, www.iprh.illinois.edu/programs/humanitiesprizes.

Questions about these awards and the nomination procedure should be addressed to Nancy Castro: ncastro@illinois.edu.

University Library

Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey

The University Library will invite faculty members to participate in the Ithaka S+R Faculty Survey during February. Faculty members will receive an email invitation with instructions on how to participate in the Web-based survey. The survey will allow faculty members at Illinois to express their attitudes and practices related to research processes, teaching processes, scholarly communications, and the library and scholarly societies.

The faculty survey will be used to develop information services that support faculty members in a rapidly changing environment. For more information, e-mail assessment@library.illinois.edu.

Moms Association

Proposals sought for Illini Spirit Award

The Moms Association is seeking funding proposals for its Illini Spirit Award, to be awarded this spring. Proposals should promote the growth and development of students at the Urbana campus. The recipient will receive $2,000 to support the event and/or program submitted in the proposal.

The committee will recognize the recipient at the Moms Weekend annual board meeting April 13.

Proposals should include the name of the project, program, event or organization nominated to receive the award; a description of the project, program, event or organization and how it promotes the growth and development of students at the Urbana campus; and a budget proposal that includes funding from all sources and unmet financial need (compiled in listed format rather than narrative format).

Proposals can be directed to J.B. Bailey at 217-333-7043; jmb1@illinois.edu.

Call for volunteers

Day of Service announced

Faculty and staff members and students are invited to participate in the Community and Campus Day of Service on April 20. The campus and local communities will come together to kick off National Volunteer Week, which takes place April 21-27. A number of projects will be offered on April 20, including a food packaging project that will benefit the Eastern Illinois Foodbank. At least 500 volunteers are needed to package 146,000 meals that represent 1,000 meals for each year of public engagement by the U. of I.

Those wishing to participate also can report a different service project that they plan to participate in. More information is available at http://go.illinois.edu/DayOfService2013, including registration for projects.

Informational meeting, open house announced

UPS enrollment begins

University Primary School is now accepting enrollment applications for the 2013-14 academic year. The school is an early childhood lab school affiliated with the College of Education at the U. of I. and serves preschool through third-grade children in a project-based curriculum. For more information, contact Rosemary Aalen at 217-333-3704; aalenrne@illinois.edu.

Inside Illinois
Nina Totenberg to speak on Feb. 11

NPR legal correspondent Nina Totenberg will give the keynote address at the University of Illinois’ Banana Ball fundraiser this weekend.

Tottenberg has been an NPR correspondent since 1975, but her first trip to the University of Illinois campus is as the latest John Charles Houston Prize recipient.

Her visit to the Illinois campus is “a wonderful opportunity for students, faculty and people in the community to have engagement with someone who has achieved what the most powerful institutions in our country,” Martin said.

Among other activities during Totenberg’s stay will be a dinner for University faculty members and administrators, a visit with a journalism class and a lunch at the law school.

Totenberg formally received her award Oct. 5 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. She is the fifth journalist to win the award.

“Nina has long been a thoughtful chronicler of the biggest stories of America’s time,” Tottenberg said.

(Courtesy of NYSU)
social movements in Greece, Egypt, Spain, and Yemen. His lecture will outline a new theory of nationalism that incorporates the personal into the impersonal and help explain why certain nations exist.

March 7 at 7:30 p.m., “Leveraging Science and Technology to Transform International Security: The Social Responsibility of Engineers and Scientists,” with Charles D. Ferguson, the president of the Federation of American Scientists and a co-chair of the U.S.-Japan Nuclear Working Group. Ferguson will discuss the concept of security from military defense to the assurance of adequate energy, food, and water around the world. Ferguson is the author of four books, most recently “Nuclear Energy: What Everyone Needs to Know.”

March 26 at 4 p.m., “Responding to Global Terrorism: Provocation, Retaliation and Deterrence,” with Martha Crenshaw, a professor of political science and the author of “Brainwashed: Challenging the Myth of Black Inferiority.” Burrell will present examples of media messages that reinforce racial biases and strategies to combat such perceptions.

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**ENGINEERING**

Rashid Bashir, a professor of electrical and computer engineering and of bioengineering, has been selected as a fellow of the American Physical Society for 2013. Bashir directs the Micro and Nanotechnology Laboratory and is affiliated with the Beckman Institute, the Institute for Genomic Biology and the Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory. His research interests include BioMEMS, Lab-on-a-chip, nanobiotechnology, interfacing biology and engineering from molecular to tissue scale, and applications of semiconductor fabrication to biology, all applied to solve biomedical problems.

James J. Coleman, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, has been named the recipient of the 2013 John Tyndall Award from the Optical Society and the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ Photonics Society. Coleman, a researcher in the Micro and Nanotechnology Lab, was recognized for “contributions to semiconductor lasers and photonic materials, processing and device designs, including high reliability strained-layer lasers.” The Tyndall Award is the highest recognition in optical communications.

David N. Ruzo, a professor of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering, is the 2012 winner of the Plasma Prize, given by the American Vacuum Society’s Plasma Science and Technology Division, “for his pioneering contributions to the science of processing plasmas and the societal benefits of plasma technology.” The AVS Division created the award to recognize sustained contributions by a person to the science and technology of plasma processing.

Biomedical science and engineering professors Joseph Bentsman, Kenneth T. Christensen, Harry Dankowicz and Marley T. Johnson have been named fellows of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, the group’s highest membership grade of distinction.

**FAA**

Conrad Bakkee, a professor of art and design, will receive a $25,000 Joan Mitchell Foundation Painters and Sculptors Grant for 2013. The grant program was established in 1995 to acknowledge painters and sculptors creating work of exceptional quality through unrestricted career support. An anonymous jury panel including prominent visual artists, curators and art educators select 25 recipients annually.

The small studio, an ongoing series of teaching and research projects that focus on detail and tectonics at the U. of I. School of Architecture, received the 2012 Honor Award for Sustainable Design from the Central Illinois Chapter of the American Institute of Architects. Studio critic professor Jeffrey S. Polsa received the award on behalf of his spring 2012 graduate architecture design studio and summer 2012 research team for their projects with the campus’ Sustainable Student Farm. So far, the team has completed a graphics and master plan concepts for the farm, a pair of portable deployable farms stands to transport and display the produce, and the first phase of the Wash/Pack Pavilion, a multi-use structure for preparing produce for market and a location for the “Fresh Press” crops waste papermaking startup.

**IGB**

Victor Jongeneel, the director of High-Performance Biological Computing at the Institute for Genomic Biology, has been appointed to the PubMed Central Advisory Committee of the National Institutes of Health. The committee advises the NIH on the content and operation of the PubMed Central repository and also establishes criteria to certify groups submitting materials to the system, monitors the operation of the system, and ensures that PubMed Central evolves and remains responsive to the needs of researchers, publishers, librarians and the public.

Gene Robinson, the director of the Institute for Genome Biology, a Swanlund Chair and a Center for Advanced Study Professor in Entomology and Neuroscience, has been elected to the National Advisory Mental Health Council of the National Institute of Mental Health. His term will run through Sept. 30, 2014. NAMHC advises the secretary of Health and Human Services, the director of the National Institutes of Health and the director of the National Institute of Mental Health on all policies and activities relating to the conduct and support of mental health research, research training and other programs of the institute.

Atlantic magazine named “Evening’s Empire,” by U. of I. history professor Craig Koslofsky, one of the 15 best books reviewed by the magazine or published in 2012. Benjamin Schwarz, the magazine’s literary editor, assembled a top-five list for the year, followed by a list of 10 runners-up, where Koslofsky’s book appeared.

Schwarz described “Evening’s Empire” as an “engaging work” in which Koslofsky “mines rich and varied sources to probe with dexterous imagination a long-overlooked historical development – the transformation in nighttime activities and attitudes toward the night in 17th- and 18th-century Europe – and rightly pronounces it a cultural ‘revelution.’”

The 2011 book was reviewed in the April 2012 issue of the magazine.

**NCSA**

Bill Kramer, the deputy project director for Blue Waters, and Bill Gropp, the Paul and Cynthia Saylor Professor of Computer Science and chief applications architect for Blue Waters, have been named two of the top 12 people to watch in 2013 by HP-Cwire. The list pays tribute to individuals whose exceptional achievements and contributions to high performance computing will influence the direction of technology. Kramer has “expertise in managing world class, trend-setting organizations, a commitment to excellence, a record of fostering the education and development of the next generation of researchers and leaders and a track record for building sustained collaborations and relationships,” HPCwire said. As for Gropp, “he is widely acknowledged as playing a major role in the development of the MPI message-passing standard.”

**LER**

Monica Bielski Boris, a professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations, was named a 2012 Wurf Fellow, an honor bestowed by the Labor and Worklife Program at Harvard Law School. The Jerry Wurf Memorial Fund was established in memory of the late president of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees. Boris used the fellowship to continue her research and writing on young worker activism in the labor movement. She completed a case study of Next Wave, the organization for young members of AFSCME, and taught the study, “Catching the Next Wave Younger Workers Programs,” last month at the Harvard Trade Union Program.

**Ads**

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New look at cell membrane reveals surprising organization

By Liz Ahlberg
Physical Sciences Editor

ight would dramatically alter a blind man’s understanding of an elephant, according to the old story. Now, a look directly at a cell surface is changing our understanding of cell membrane organization.

Using a completely new approach to imaging cell membranes, a study by researchers from the U. of I., Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory and the National Institutes of Health revealed some surprising relationships among molecules within cell membranes.

Led by Mary Kraft, a U. of I. professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, the team published its findings in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Cells are enveloped in semi-permeable membranes that act as a barrier between the inside and outside of the cell. The membrane is mainly composed of a class of molecules called lipids, studded with proteins that help regulate how the cell responds to its environment.

“Lipids have multiple functions serving as both membrane structure and signaling molecules, so they regulate other functions inside the cell,” Kraft said. “Therefore, understanding how they’re organized is important. You need to know where they are to figure out how they’re doing these regulatory functions.”

One widely held belief among cell biologists is that lipids in the membrane assemble into patches, called domains, that differ in composition. However, research into how lipids are organized in the membrane, and how that organization affects cell function, has been hampered by the lack of direct observation. Although the cell membrane is heavily studied, the imaging techniques used infer the locations of certain molecules based on assumed associations with other molecules.

In the new study, Kraft’s team used an advanced, molecule-specific imaging method that allowed the researchers to look at the membrane itself and map a particular type of lipid on mouse cell membranes. The researchers fed lipids labeled with rare stable isotopes to the cells and then imaged the distribution of the isotopes with high-resolution imaging mass spectrometry.

Called sphingolipids (SFING-go-libids), these molecules are thought to associate with cholesterol to form small domains about 200 nanometers across. The direct imaging method revealed that sphingolipids do indeed form domains, but not in the way the researchers expected.

The domains were much bigger than suggested by prior experiments. The 200-nanometer domains clustered together to form much larger, micrometer-sized patches of sphingolipids in the membrane.

“We were amazed when we saw the first images of the patches of sphingolipids across the cell surface,” said Peter Weber, who directed the team at Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory. “We weren’t sure if our imaging mass spectrometry method would be sensitive enough to detect the labeled lipids, let alone what we would see.”

Furthermore, when the researchers looked at cells that were low on cholesterol – thought to play a key role in lipid aggregation – they were surprised to find that the lipids still formed domains. On the other hand, disruption to the cell’s structural scaffold seemed to dissolve the lipid clusters.

“We found that the presence of domains was somewhat affected by cholesterol but was more affected by the cytoskeleton – the protein network underneath the membrane,” Kraft said. “The central issue is that the data are suggesting that the mechanism that’s responsible for these domains is much more complicated than initially expected.”

In addition, the new study found that sphingolipid domains were incompletely associated with a marker protein that researchers have long assumed dwelled where sphingolipids congregated. This means that data collected with imaging techniques that target this protein are not as accurate in representing sphingolipid distribution as previously thought.

“Our data are showing that if you want to know where sphingolipids are, look at the lipid, don’t infer where it is based on other molecules, and now there’s a way to directly image them,” said Kraft, who also is affiliated with the department of chemistry.

Next, the researchers plan to use the direct-imaging method in conjunction with other more conventional methods, such as fluorescence, to further determine the organization of different kinds of molecules in the membrane, their interactions and how they affect the cell’s function. They plan to begin by targeting cholesterol.

“Cholesterol abundance is important,” Kraft said. “You change that, you tremendously change cell function. How is it organized? Is it also in domains? That’s related to the question, what’s the mechanism responsible for these structures and what are they doing?”

The National Institutes of Health, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, the National Science Foundation and the Burroughs Wellcome Fund supported this work.

Co-author Joshua Zimmerberg directed research at the Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development, part of the National Institutes of Health.