Assembly Hall renamed State Farm Center

Representatives from the U. of I. and State Farm announced April 29 that Assembly Hall would be renamed State Farm Center, in accordance with a 30-year $60 million agreement. The iconic campus building is set to undergo major renovations with completion of the project scheduled for 2016. "We are extremely proud to announce this relationship with State Farm," said Mike Thomas, the Illinois director of athletics. "State Farm has been an outstanding partner for the University of Illinois for more than two decades, and this agreement will carry that partnership forward for at least the next 30 years." Assembly Hall is one of the most recognizable structures in the nation, and at 50 years of age, has served the campus, community and Central Illinois very well. This agreement with State Farm Center will serve those same constituents, and even more, for many years to come."

The longtime relationship between State Farm and U. of I. includes the State Farm Research and Development Center — along with the fact that the corporate headquarters are just 50 miles from campus, for a natural partnership on the project. "We are thrilled with this announcement," said Urbana Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise. "The University of Illinois is a world-class institution and it deserves world-class facilities. The renovated and renamed State Farm Center will provide a gathering ing, performance and competition space to serve our students, faculty, staff and neighbors."

"We are proud to be a part of the renovation of this classic Illinois venue and further expand our longstanding relationship with the University of Illinois and the state where our company has been headquartered for more than 90 years," said Randall Harbert, the executive vice president and chief agency, sales and marketing officer for State Farm Insurance Companies. The name State Farm Center is effective immediately and will be incorporated into the building when as soon as possible as the renovation project moves forward. Some utility work on the building and surrounding grounds could begin this summer, with the first major phase of the project expected to begin in March 2014. State Farm Center is scheduled to be completed in time for the 2016-17 basketball season. "From the very early stages of this project, it was clearly apparent that naming rights for the building would play a major part in the funding model," Thomas said. "This agreement complements support from campus and our students while supplementing support from the community."
Chancellor reports on campus efforts to retain faculty

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

A ttery of a lot has been put to campus efforts to revolutionize unionized education and recruit and attract faculty members from outside the university. At the April 22 town hall meeting, campus leaders announced a new initiative to hire 500 faculty members in the next five to seven years to bring numbers up to the historical peak of 7,000.

But in addition to those efforts, Chancell-
or Phyllis M. Wise told members of the Urbana Academic Senate at its April 29 meeting that the university is working to attract and retain the outstanding faculty (mem-
bers) here, right now, today.

She said several initiatives are being put into motion that will benefit faculty mem-
bers through the addition of academic re-
sources and greater collaborative opportu-
nities.

“Our faculty members are the competi-
tive advantage of the university,” she said. “We can’t grow bigger or better if you are not at the heart of our future plans. It means investing in you directly.”

Several officials are working on offer-
ing more contractual incentives as well, including an attempt this year to secure enough state funding to ensure a raise merit process.

“We are committed to pursuing an ag-
gressive merit program this year within the constraints our final budget may place upon us,” she said.

Additionally, U. of I. President Bob Es-
en recently announced that furlough lan-
guage was being removed from employee contracts.

(“Furloughs” are off the table, perma-
nently, Wise said. “We cannot balance the university budget on the backs of our fac-
ulty and staff.”)

HISTORY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

design. The project has received nationwide publicity because of its design,” the report

One Dependent One Dependent

To learn more about this year’s Benefit Choice options, employees are encouraged to attend the Benefits Fair on May 14 and to sign up for one of four Benefit Choice Information Sessions.

BENEFIT CHOICE. CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

EMPLOYEE PREMIUM COMPARISONS

Health Plan

Employee

Managed Care

Quality Care

FY13

FY14

FY13

FY14

$30,200 & below $47.00 $68.00 $72.00 $93.00

$30,201-$45,600 52.00 86.00 77.00 111.00

$45,601-60,700 54.50 103.00 79.50 127.00

$60,701-$75,900 57.00 119.00 82.00 144.00

$75,901-$100,000 59.50 137.00 85.00 162.00

$100,001 & above 59.50 186.00 84.50 211.00

Coventry HMO $92 $111 $130 $156

Coventry OAP 92 111 130 156

Health Allure 94 113 133 159

Healththink OAP 105 126 149 179

Quality Care 196 249 226 287

health Allure; and Gay Miller, a professor of biology, speaking against and McCarthy, a professor of mathematics, concerning future discussions over campus faculty unionization efforts.

The two said they wanted the issue to move beyond “divisive debate to a prob-
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**On the Job: Dean Carlson**

Dean Carlson, the food and beverage director at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts for nearly a decade, found his "inner foodie" almost by accident. When he was 16, he took a fast-food restaurant job after high school many years ago.

"It was a natural progression and my interest has grown the longer I've been in it," he said. "My thirst for knowledge has grown over the years. I keep hoping there's a foodie out there who might donate enough for an upgrade for a specific dish. Carlson regularly receives gastronomical inspiration from the food on the menu.

"I'll see something and say, 'I'm going to try that,'" he said. His favorite celebrity chef is Andrew Zimmern, mostly out of some of his proximity for eating "bizarre foods" prepared around the world.

Carlson said he makes an extra effort to use locally grown and tried new and unusual things. His dedication to fresh food extends to his home as well.

"There used to be a lot of things I didn't like or didn't care to try," he said. "Now I'll try anything and will try to cook it."

"I've attempted to teach them to reduce an organization's carbon footprint, is recognized as one of the world's top philanthropists, having created The Siebel Foundation. He also has headed up Krannert Center's catering service – which also has to ensure food served at the Intermezzo Café is fresh, local and, of course, delicious. Carlson also heads up Krannert Center's service – which also has to ensure artists happy prior to show time – and manages the Stage 5 Bar.

The café uses corn-based, recyclable packaging and utensils, and has earned certification for its sustainability from the Illinois Green Business Association.

"We're very conscious that everything we do here is not only high quality, but sustainable," he said. Carlson says the café is capable of serving 300 people over the lunch break, with the help of a steady stream of part-time employees.

"Almost everything we serve is fresh and made with non-processed ingredients. The café uses corn-based, recyclable packaging and utensils, and has earned certification for its sustainability from the Illinois Green Business Association. He said the food is made with fresh ingredients, "meaning it isn't processed and doesn't have added preservatives."

"We looked everywhere," finally finding the brand in a Charleston, Ill., store. "It's been a natural progression for breakfast, lunch (and dinner on show nights), and includes everything from all-beef burgers to vegetarian fare. Carlson said he makes an extra effort to use locally grown food and tree the full array of customer tastes.

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**Commencement kudos**

**Union.**

Babette Hiles, who has led the planning of U. of I. Commencement ceremonies for 19 years, doesn’t lose sleep worrying about sputtering microphones or collapsing stages.

She has learned to accept the likelihood that something somewhere will go wrong, just as she did with an elaborate event a year ago that went as planned, and she is confident that, if that happens, she and her team will be able to correct it.

“You do your best planning and assume that there’s going to be an emergency to take care of once the event starts,” she said. “The chances are good you’re going to need your emergency to take care of once the event starts.”

The team is always ready for unexpected events, with a dizzied Hiles and staff ready for down time, the call came again – with instructions to set up a second Nobel Prize ceremony.

“At that point I told the caterers, ‘Serve whatever you have, it’s a delight. We just want to have something.’ It was an exhilarating time. It felt good to be a part of it – everyone around here was walking tall and feeling proud to be a part of this task.”

**VIP treatment**

Speakers at commencement or other events range from presidents to poets, and each visitor’s stay has been distinctive. Hiles said, “I should have been keeping a diary.”

For campus staff members, some of the more demanding VIP scenarios – physically and mentally – have involved politicians.

A visit from former President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore brought similar challenges as campus officials worked with a seemingly uncommunicative, unumbilicated Secret Service, the presidential advance team and the president’s press office.

One of the difficulties that visit included the last-minute replacement of university lecterns with the honored speakers’ custom lecterns.

Those were three teams that didn’t play well together,” she said. “It was maddening because they kept changing things. One group would tell us one thing and the other would say, ‘Ignore what they said, do this.’ You’d think they’d be better coordinated. It reinforced my appreciation for being a team player and communicating.”

Despite those difficulties, Hiles knows her job is to keep calm, take things in stride and, ultimately, ensure an event runs smoothly.

“I don’t like problems that are the result of poor planning from people who should know better, but at the end of the day I’m an ambassador for the chancellor’s office,” she said.

**Event planning 101**

Most campus events don’t involve nationally or globally known celebrities. For example, the university hosts events for alumni, donors, community members and state legislators, including all of the events hosted by the Office of the Chancellor that range from groundbreakings to homecoming get-togethers to hall-size gatherings.

“Every change has been completely different,” she said. “When you get a new chancellor, it’s almost like you have a new job.”

**Protocol can affect image**

Event protocol can affect image and a positive image can university outreach, Hiles said.

That means every gathering calls for a unique event-planning template and the type of ceremony dictates everything, including who is invited. “You’ve got to know the purpose of the event before you even take the first step,” Hiles said. “It affects everything from food to seating to room décor.”

And then there are the gray areas, which again, most often have roots in politics.

For example, legislators are coming and the university would like to impress and/or woo them. What do you serve for dinner?

According to Hiles, not filet mignon. That could be construed as a meal served by a university swimming in money. It’s not.

But serving peanut butter and jelly in the end is all right and an altogether different signal.

Who knew state funding could be a distraction from pageantry? State legislators, including all of those who should know better, “roll their eyes at this,” she said. “It’s those weird little details that people may roll their eyes at, but gives an event just the right feel,” she said. “There’s a method to our madness.”

**The big one**

Hiles said the two annual commencement ceremonies are hands down the best campus events.

In addition even has its own language. Caps and gowns, for example, are called “custom regalia,” banquets with university emblems, gonzalos.

“The biggest change since I’ve been here are the visuals,” she said.

Robes have gone from black to blue and orange, and projection screens give the audience live views of the ceremony. At one time, the event was recorded on audiotape, but now the ceremony is streamed live on the Web. The Web also has made the process for ordering the regalia much easier.

Hiles said for years students had to wait in long lines at the Illini Union just to be measured.

“The line from the second floor would go down the hall, down the stairs and through the front lobby,” she said. “It was quite a sight. Now it’s just a matter of getting the word out to students (when to order online).”

In addition to the two commencement ceremonies (because Assembly Hall can’t hold everyone for one ceremony), the university holds 34 convocations and several other conglomarate ceremonies.

While Hiles doesn’t work on the smaller graduation events on campus, aren’t the only ones. The university also hosts 34 convocations and other conglomarate ceremonies.

Hiles adheres to the common day custom that has presenters carrying a black folder as opposed to a white one. She said the white folder looks less weighty in its presentation and that lighter colored ones can present a distracting reflection to the audience.

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**Best laid plans**

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Volunteers come together to feed hungry on Day of Service

Nearly 1,100 volunteers helped make and deliver more than 81,000 meals for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank during the area’s April 20 Day of Service event.

The meal, a stovetop Italian casseroles that required only adding water and heating, was developed by the U. of I.’s National Soybean Research Laboratory for maximum nutrition.

U. of I. volunteers included faculty and staff members and students, as well as Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise and Ilesanmi Adesida, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, who helped pack meals along with food bank director Jim Hires.

“I was so impressed with the dedication and determination of all the volunteers,” Wise said. “It was really amazing and inspiring to see everyone come together so efficiently, so effectively and so powerfully to make a difference in our local community.”

In addition to campus employees, the student-led Illini Fighting Hunger group chipped in, as did local companies who raised around $30,000 for the meal’s ingredients.

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In addition to campus employees, the student-led Illini Fighting Hunger group chipped in, as did local companies who raised around $30,000 for the meal’s ingredients.

Statistics show that one in four of people within the food bank’s multi-county coverage area cannot afford adequate food and that many are children.

Lesley Lee, a U. of I. library specialist, said she brought her children to help package food and teach them the importance of giving to the community.

“I brought my children to volunteer with me because I wanted them to realize they make a significant contribution to local needs just by showing up and doing their small part,” she said.

“I loved working side-by-side with my children because each bag of food we packed reiterated that they were an essential part of the team.”

Volunteers will be utilized over the next few months to pack and distribute meals with the remaining ingredients to reach the project’s goal of 146,000 meals – 1,000 meals for each year of public engagement since the U. of I. was chartered.

Feeding the hungry Volunteers packaged more than 81,000 meals for the Eastern Illinois Foodbank on April 20 as part of the Day of Service, which sought to encourage people to volunteer as well as provide meals for the hungry in our community. Among those volunteering for the food packaging project were (from left) Lesley Lee, a U. of I. library specialist, her daughter, Jenna Purnell, age 7; and Parkland College student Pamela Roper.
By Mike Holenthal
Assistant Editor

Ready to move? Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise made the call at the April 22 town hall meeting, laying out an ambitious and aggressive plan to set the campus on a firm academic and fiscal course over the next half-century.

Wise was joined by Iliasseni Adesaide, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, before an overflow crowd of 350 at the Beckman Institute auditorium. The campus leaders unveiled a long-range plan to transform the university navigate the next several decades. The two leaders, whom Wise said had worked closely together in developing the plan, promised to add 500 faculty members in an effort to bring faculty totals back to around 2,900.

The most immediate tangible part of the plan calls for the hiring of 500 faculty members in the next five to seven years, an effort the leaders said would bring faculty levels back to about 2,000 following a period of heavy turnover caused by early retirement and other factors.

The envisioned campus plan would “rebuild” campus faculty and that the strategy would include “cluster” hiring to target already-established researchers with an interdisciplinary track record and help “quickly build critical mass in specific areas.”

He said special attention would be given to “mature disciplines.” We have a core of disciplines, but the humanities and arts as well, because having strength at all points along the educational spectrum creates “broadly educated students” and new academic opportunities.

“I have seen that more broadly educated students are more creative,” he said. “And I have seen how science and technology open new artistic horizons. This is how we bring in new energy, new perspectives, and this is how we ignite the scholarly creativity that is the hallmark of the best institutions.”

He said two working groups are already being convened to propose new initiatives supported by the Office of the Provost and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research.

The campus plan was formulated following a year-and-a-half of exercises initiated by Wise to assess strengths and goals, and to discover how they can be harnessed to serve future societal needs. In all, more than 4,000 people, on and off campus, were surveyed and participated in brainstorming sessions with the chancellor during the Visioning Future Excellence process.

“We really do want this to be a two-way conversation,” she said. “Your advice, your guidance and your engagement in our planning process this year is being put into viable and strategic action.”

The result of the campus soul-searching effort was captured in a word cloud that revealed six major themes of focus: energy and the environment; health and wellness; social equality and cultural understanding; information and technology; and economic development.

“Icorporating those themes into the academic plan is changing rapidly,” Wise said. “We plan demanding cooperation, innovation, and financial course over the next half-century. The campus leaders unveiled a long range plan designed to help the university navigate the next several decades. The two leaders, whom Wise said had worked closely together in developing the plan, promised to add 500 faculty members in an effort to bring faculty totals back to around 2,900.

The researchers pump gases containing indium, gallium and arsenic into a chamber with a graphene sheet. The nanowires are grown on graphene with composition settles on the outside of the wires. This is unexpected,” Li said. “A lot of devices require a core-shell architecture. Normally you grow the core in one growth run and then you have to grow the shell on the outside of the wires. This is un-expected, done in one step. The other good thing is that since it’s a spontaneous segregation, it produces a perfect interface.”

So what causes this spontaneous core-shell structure? By coincidence, the distance between atoms in a crystal of InAs is nearly the same as the distance between whole numbers of carbon atoms in a sheet of graphene. So, when the gases are piped into the chamber and the material begins to crystallize, InAs settles on the graphene, a perfect fit, while the gallium compound settles on the outside of the wires. This was unexpected, because normally, with van der Waals epitaxy, the respective crystal structures of the material and the substrate are not supposed to match.

“InAs nanowires grow on graphene with surprising structure. These InAs nanowires grown on graphene and single phase InAs nanowires grown on a different substrate. Thanks to its thinness, graphene is flexible, while silicon is rigid and brittle. It also conducts like a metal, allowing for direct electrical contact to the nanowires. Furthermore, it is inexpensive, flaked off from a block of graphite or grown from carbon gases. “One of the reasons we want to grow on graphene is to stay away from thick and expensive substrates,” Mohseni said. “Around 80 percent of the manufacturing cost of a conventional solar cell comes from the substrate itself. We’ve done away with that by just using graphene. Not only are there inherent cost benefits, we’re also introducing functionality that a typical substrate doesn’t have.”

The researchers pump gases containing gallium, indium and arsenic into a chamber with a graphene sheet. The nanowires self-assemble, growing by themselves into a dense carpet of vertical wires across the surface of the graphene. Other groups have grown nanowires on graphene with compound semiconductors that only have two elements, but by using three elements, the Illinois group made a unique finding. The InAs nanowires grow on graphene spontaneously segregate into an indium arsenide (InAs) core with an InAsGallA shell around the outside of the wire.

This is unexpected," Li said. “A lot of devices require a core-shell architecture. Normally you grow the core in one growth run and then you have to grow the shell on the outside of the wires. This is unexpected, done in one step. The other good thing is that since it’s a spontaneous segregation, it produces a perfect interface." So what causes this spontaneous core-shell structure? By coincidence, the distance between atoms in a crystal of InAs is nearly the same as the distance between whole numbers of carbon atoms in a sheet of graphene. So, when the gases are piped into the chamber and the material begins to crystallize, InAs settles on the graphene, a perfect fit, while the gallium compound settles on the outside of the wires. This was unexpected, because normally, with van der Waals epitaxy, the respective crystal structures of the material and the substrate are not supposed to match. We didn’t expect it, but once we saw it, it made sense," Mohseni said.

In addition, by tuning the ratio of gallium to indium in the semiconductor cock- tail, the researchers can tune the optical and conductive properties of the nanowires.

Next, Li’s group plans to make solar cells and other optoelectronic devices with their graphene-grown nanowires. Thanks to the graphene’s ternary composition and graphene’s flexibility and conductivity, Li hopes to integrate the wires in a broad spectrum of applications. We discovered a new phenomenon that confirms that registry does count in van der Waals epitaxy," Li said. Josh. Said the plan offers additional support for grant writing and proposal con- struction, and even a plan to help faculty develop programs to excel in applying for grant resources and to plan to create “virtual centers” for collaboration. “We will be the pre-eminent public re- search university with a land-grant mission and a global impact,” he said. “That is our goal. We want to be the best at what we do and that’s going to contribute to dif- ferentiate and distance ourselves from our peers.”

Wise said all of the initiates will die on the vine unless the campus participates fully in the open process.

“We are going to make rapidly but strategi- cally,” he said. “Everyone has to be at the table and everyone has to share this vision to be successful."
Three professors elected to National Academy of Sciences

By Liz Alltberg

Physicists

Three faculty members at the U. of I. have been elected 2013 fellows of the National Academy of Sciences. Eduardo Fradkin, Martin Gruebele and Sharon Hammes-Schiffer are among the 84 new members and 21 foreign associates announced in a ceremony at the National Academy of Sciences last week.

Election to the NAS is one of the highest honors a scientist can garner. Chosen by their peers, the 2,179 members and 11 foreign associates are an elite group distinguished by their outstanding contributions to the fields of science and technology. Fradkin, 60, is the only Illinois professor to be elected to the NAS in recent years. He is pleased to see three more of our finest faculty members among their peers in this prestigious institution.”

Fradkin, a professor of physics, is highly distinguished for his work in condensed matter physics and quantum field theory, thanks to his pioneering work bringing the two fields together. With a fresh perspective in applying concepts from one area to the other he has led trailblazing work in gauge theories, Dirac fermions, superconductors, quantum phase transitions, entanglement and electronic liquid crystal states.

Fradkin earned his doctorate in physics from Stanford University in 1979. He then came to the U. of I. as a post-doctoral research associate before joining the faculty in 1981. He is a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Association for Women in Science and the American Physical Association.

Gruebele, the James R. Ensdorf Endowed Professor of Chemistry, is high-profiled for his work in understanding of physics and of biophysics and computational biology, has distinguished himself in structural and biological physics. Using laser manipulation techniques and computational modeling, his work has increased the understanding of protein folding in the test tube and how energy flows through molecules and how glass surfaces morph and move.

Gruebele earned his doctorate at the University of California at Berkeley in 1988. Since joining the U. of I. in 1992, he has earned a number of awards for both teaching and research, including a Packard Fellowship, a Cottrell Scholar Award and an Alfred P. Sloan Fellowship. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the Deutsche Akademie der Naturwissenschaften (Leopoldina/Physikalisch-Technische Gesellschaft) and the National Academy of Sciences.

Hammes-Schiffer earned her doctorate from Stanford University in 1987. She then moved to the U. of I. as a post-doctoral research associate before joining the faculty in 1991. She is a fellow of the American Physical Society and of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and a member of the American Chemical Society and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

The National Academy of Sciences is a private, non-profit membership society of distinguished scholars engaged to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. Founded in 1863, the academy acts as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology.

With... the documentary "The Tenth Inning" and the author of "Playing America's Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line" and "Cuban Star: How One Negro League Owner Changed the Face of Baseball." He spoke with News bureau social sciences editor Craig Cherambian.

So what makes Robinson so important? Did it take Jackie Robinson to open the majors to black players? Minor league blacks were racially segregated for most of a century up to 1946 when Jackie Robinson was hired by the Brooklyn Dodgers to fill the Negro League plug. Through dint of his utter determination and sheer force of will, he became the first unambiguously black man to perform in organized baseball since black players had been barred by the white major league clubs.

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In pioneering the integration of baseball, Robinson became the target of its institutional racism. The story of the breaking of baseball’s color line is often told only in black and white. That Latino stars such as Minoso, Or-lando Cepeda, Roberto Clemente and Juan Marichal are well-known figures, however.

Robinson’s unambiguous black man performance in baseball in the 1940s and 1950s in the face of continued racial and ethnic hostilities as a black Latino who was a hero to millions of Americans from all racial and ethnic backgrounds due to how he responded to this intense public trial by fire – though another black player, Robinson had been exiled, though there were quite a few, and the Color Line” and “Cuban Star: How One Negro League Owner Changed the Face of Baseball.”

For a Hollywood movie, “42” is as compelling an integration story as the Negro League owners for Campanella and Jethroe insisted on being compensated. How Robinson became a Negro League owner who 1947 Dodgers debuted. In pioneering the integration of baseball, Robinson became the target of its institutional racism and of white individuals who supported – and had benefited from – its segregated nature.

Baseball integration society could not have been without the support of black players who were racially ambiguous and yet were able to play in the minor leagues. However, the Negro Leagues during that same period.

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Baseball historian Aburdo Burgos

on Jackie Robinson and the movie ‘42’

Editor’s note: Jackie Robinson broke Major League Baseball’s color line 66 years ago when he played his first game for the Brooklyn Dodgers. His story gets a fresh look in the movie “42.”

On April 15, every player in a major league game will wear the number “42,” Robinson’s uniform number, as part of an annual day in his honor. U. of I. historian Adrian Burgos Jr. is a member of MLB’s Jackie Robinson Scholars Committee, was a consultant on Ken Burns’ new documentary “The Tenth Inning,” and is the author of “Playing America’s Game: Baseball, Latinos, and the Color Line” and “Cuban Star: How One Negro League Owner Changed the Face of Baseball.” He spoke with News bureau social sciences editor Craig Cherambian.

What does it get right about the times and what Robinson was up against? And what should audiences know that was not part of the movie? For a Hollywood movie, “42” is as compelling an integration story as the Negro League owners for Campanella and Jethroe insisted on being compensated. How Robinson became a Negro League owner who1947 Dodgers debuted. In pioneering the integration of baseball, Robinson became the target of its institutional racism. The story of the breaking of baseball’s color line is often told only in black and white. That Latino stars such as Minoso, Orlando Cepeda, Roberto Clemente and Juan Marichal are well-known figures, however.

Continued from the previous paragraph:

So how was it accomplished? What was Rickey’s motivation and what was the story behind the scenes? Baseball integration society could not have been without the support of black players who were racially ambiguous and yet were able to play in the minor leagues. However, the Negro Leagues during that same period.

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Research: Poor math skills affect legal decision-making

By Phil Ciclora
Business and Law Editor

The stereotype of lawyers being bad at math with numbers may persist, but new research by two U. of I. legal scholars suggests that law students and lawyers are surprisingly good at math, although those with low levels of numeracy analyze some legal questions differently.

According to research from Arden Rowell and Jessica Bregam, there is a “highly significant relationship” between law students’ math skills and the substance of their legal analysis, suggesting that legal analysis and extension, legal advice may vary with a lawyer’s native math skills.

“We find that this is a dangerous system,” Bregam said. “And I’d add that clients should start paying attention to their attorney’s math skills as well. Just by asking an attorney three simple math questions, we could predict how they would answer legal questions, which ought to create concerns about the quality and consistency of legal decision-making.”

According to Rowell, the paper represents the first empirical study of how numeracy affects legal thinking.

“In this study, it looks like there is a difference in how law students analyze legal questions based on their math skills,” she said. “But that said, we don’t know which group is doing a better job at a legal analysis — the ones who are good at math, or the ones who are poor at math yet whether people who are bad at math are actually worse at law.”

There are many different types of decisions that lawyers make, and many of them involve predicting other people’s decisions, Rowell says.

“For example, if there are questions about how likely a client is to be found negligent if they failed to take a precaution, an attorney facing the same facts is more likely to think not only about the law but also about how judges and juries make decisions about the law,” she said.

So it could actually be that people with low levels of numeracy do a better job at predicting everyone else’s decision-making.

“If judges or juries also have low math skills, it could be that attorneys who are less good at math are the more accurate predictors,” Rowell said. “But we need a lot more research about numeracy and legal decision-making before we can tell for sure.”

Prior research has found that people with poor math skills have a whole host of negative implications, ranging from subject to cognitive bias, and more likely to be “fooled or tricked by the ways things are presented to them,” Rowell says.

“If this is also happening with attorneys — well, don’t you want an attorney who is easily fooled by framing effects,” she said. “People who are bad at math should start getting very anxious.”

The researchers were compared with legal analyses performed by general members of the population, who had no legal training, and attorneys who were less susceptible to framing effects and biases either because of the effects of legal education, or because people who become lawyers are naturally skeptical.

“People who decide to become lawyers are also people who like to read the fine print, and to advise — skills that so far seem to have little or nothing to do with numeracy,” she concluded.

Study: Bullying more violent in school with gangs nearby

By Sharita Forrest
News Editor

The presence of gangs in the vicinity of schools creates a pervasive climate of fear and victimization among students, teachers and administrators that escalates the level of aggression in bullying incidents and paralyzes prevention efforts, suggest a new study in the journal Child Abuse & Neglect by two U. of I. legal scholars.

Gang presence causes incidents of victimization toward students and teachers to become more violent. And, fearing for their own safety, bystanders, teachers and administrators may ignore issues out of fear, children feel trapped, powerless and fearful and view their environment, affecting both students and teachers,” Forber-Pratt said. “Whatever is happening around them, they are afraid to report it. We really need to explain to people who care that they have to address this reality. We really need to explain to teachers, administrators and to the public that false ideas that law schools have traditionally focused on teaching lawyers and judges to think about other people's decisions, and many of them involve predicting other people’s decisions, Rowell says.

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Virtual program encourages creativity, offers safe place to explore

Virtual lab encourages creativity, offers safe place to explore.

The growing demand for translators (who convert text) and interpreters (who convert oral communication) is due in part to the increasing need for communication with international organizations and governments. The Illinois Department of Employment Security projects an increase of 20 percent by the year 2020, and a new program at the U. of I. will offer a master’s degree to equip translators and interpreters.

The Center for Translation Studies, one of five comprehensive programs in the U.S., provides instruction in 37 languages, Lowe said. “We’re excited about this new graduate degree,” she said. “What’s unique is its location at the U. of L, which is a comprehensive research university with an incredible depth of resources. Our library is one of the best in the world, and we have a rich online library resource site where people in the online program can do their research.”

The online and on-campus courses will have the same timelines and requirements, except on-campus students will take two courses concurrently for 16 weeks, while online students will have the option of taking two consecutive eight-week courses, because, Lowe said, research has shown that online students are more satisfied if they can focus on one course at a time while balancing other responsibilities.

More information about the application process is online.

Program will train translators, interpreters

By Liz Ahlberg

Phisical Sciences Editor

It’s a typical day in the lab: Walk to your assigned lab bench. Wait for the teaching assistant to set up equipment. Load a sample, set a few knobs and begin taking measurements. Check the information icon hovering over a particular knob on the machine if you want to learn more about it.

Welcome to the virtual lab, a digital replication of the nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering undergradu- grade laboratories. The virtual lab is a detailed first-person video game developed to guide students through lab setup and procedure, though it soon could provide a training environment for advanced classes in nuclear engineering and beyond.

“The discussion of online education continues to grow, the one topic I don’t hear being discussed is lab exercises and how are we going to get them online,” said Peter Haddad, a May 2012 NPRE graduate who did much of the programming and software design for the virtual lab. “Our labs are realistic rendering, multuser capabilities and natural interaction are nonexistent in online education today,” he said. “Our online lab instructors are only limited by their imaginations as we can build any environment and any equipment.”

Virtual lab was born as a way to address space and time constraints. When labs were in-
troduced as part of the NPRE 100 curriculum, enrollment was about 15 students per year. But recent years have seen the enrollment swell to about 60 students per year – more than could fit in the lab. The instructor, NPRE professor Rizwan Uddin, was forced to cut one of the two lab activities so that the space could accommodate multiple groups.

With the virtual lab software, the students can experience both labs: one about physical space and one in the virtual space. While they are doing the first experiment in the lab, the instructors demonstrate what the equipment is and what students can see that it looks like before performing the activity in the virtual lab. They can also watch any other video game, with sufficient instructions for the students to conduct the experiment.

The students, particularly those who are well-versed in video games, responded positively. However, there was one missing feature that students clamored for: a fast-forward button. Currently, all processes in the virtual lab occur in real time, to give students a feel for how long the data collection takes in the real lab. Adding a fast-forward button would cut down on the time required to complete a lab, and would also enable instructors to include activities that otherwise would take too long – measuring the 5,700-year half-life of carbon-14, for example. The software de-

The development team also hopes to expand the virtual lab technology to include other labs. They already have created a vir-
tual model of the undergraduate chemistry lab in Noyes Annex. The “game” is programmed to be a training exercise that shows students where the safety equipment is located in the lab and tests them on safety procedures. Uddin also hopes to program activities for some of the more advanced NPRE courses. In particular, he hopes to re-create the campus reactor, which was dismantled in 2010, to allow students to experiment with real reactors.

“Let’s have a lot of processing power that allows us to make more real- istic and interactive experiences,” Haddad said. “The availability of these engines with realistic rendering, in an educational lab, is not common – that’s what makes this novel. At the same time, we have not even begun to fully uti- lize game engines (or any other types of 3-D rendering engines) in other educational environments.”

And all Mario had were bricks and sewer pipes.

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Lab partner The game developers put painstaking detail into the virtual lab in order to make it feel that the equipment looks and functions the way it does in the physical lab.
Eleven faculty members, four academic professionals and five graduate teaching assistants at the U. of I. were honored April 23 for excellence in teaching and advising. The group was recognized during a reception at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

Faculty members honored with the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching:

Bruce Fouke, geology, has led more than 400 undergraduates in intensive field courses in the Arctic, Caribbean and European Alps in his 15 years at Illinois. In that time, 23 undergraduates have changed their majors to geology after taking his introductory courses. His enthusiasm for the material he teaches is noted as a great strength by his students and this year he discovered one name that motivates them to tackle difficult material in his courses.

David Hayes, landscape architecture, structures his courses around the notion that everyone has creative potential. His introductory course has broad appeal and is taken by many nonmajors. Former students describe his influence on their careers as “profound,” and relate feeling challenged by his material and at the same time feeling empowered by the knowledge gained in his courses.

Steven Petruzzello, kinesiology and community health, is so committed to active learning in his courses that he learns the names of every student, even in courses with more than 120 students. Over the last 20 years, he has pushed the department to offer more discussion sections of his classes and revised another course so that it could meet the intensive writing requirements of an advanced composition general education course.

Brian Quick, communication, brings energy and creativity to courses large and small. It is widely remarked that he takes learning beyond the classroom, as exemplified by the opportunities he provides for students to work on health campaigns in the community. Students say that they appreciated the “fun” he brought to classroom discussions as well as the “real-world connections” he made with course material.

Kirk Sanders, classics, keeps his students engaged with challenging subjects by using examples familiar to them. Whether he is referring to popular or comic books, his students appreciate his command of the material, especially as it is combined with his robust sense of humor. While his students are mindful that he has high expectations for their work, they appreciate that he makes complex concepts accessible to them.

Instructional staff members who received the award:

Amy Fischer Brown, a teaching associate in animal sciences, is the primary instructor in the companion animal biology and humane education program. Many of her students go on to veterinary careers, but she is committed to exposing her students to a broad set of experiences and opportunities. Her goal is to produce capable scientists as well as “positive members of their community and society.” Her impact is felt beyond campus places such as American Samoa, where she and some of her students volunteered on a large-volume animal sterilization campaign.

Julie Price, a senior lecturer in English, has appeared on the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent each of the 25 semesters she has taught at Illinois. Her inspired and inspiring approach to writing workshops has “enriched the classroom experience,” and her willingness to teach beyond the classroom is also valued. Described by students as “knowledgeable, demanding, humorous and compassionate,” Price says her favorite challenge as a teacher is “steering students away from their white-knuckled grip on clichés and toward other vivid possibilities.”

Graduate teaching assistants who won the award are: Molly Briggs, art and design; Almee Rickman, human and community development; and Julius Riles, communication.

The awards recognize professors, instructional staff members and graduate teaching assistants who display consistent excellence in the classroom, take innovative approaches to teaching, positively affect the lives of their students, and make other contributions to improving instruction, including influencing the curriculum.

Faculty members and instructional staff members selected for the awards each receive $5,000 cash and a $3,000 recurring salary increase; graduate teaching assistants receive $3,500.

Other winners honored:

Sandra Kopels, social work, and Trish Loughran, English, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. Each receives $5,000 and a $3,000 recurring salary increase.

Kopels has taught Social Work and the Law 91 times since 1990, teaching more than 2,450 students, and making the List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent all 91 times. She brings complicated concepts to life through humor and a deep appreciation of the law and its impact on social work practice. Her peers explain her teaching as a process of rediscovery of the material with each class and each new student.

Loughran’s teaching style has been characterized as “relentlessly rigorous,” and each seminar she teaches has been described as an “immersive intellectual odyssey.” She challenges her students as well as provides them with the support they need to tackle the 12 to 13 books — and many more — that make up the course curriculum.

The awards bring $12,500 to the programs for undergraduate teaching assistantships, and $10,000 to the graduate students selected for the awards. In total, the awards recognize 77 professors, instructional staff members and graduate teaching assistants who display consistent excellence in the classroom, take innovative approaches to teaching, positively affect the lives of their students, and make other contributions to improving instruction, including influencing the curriculum.

Faculty and staff members honored for excellence at Illinois
May 2, 2013

CAMPUS AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

articles – she typically assigns in a semester. She describes graduate education as a “long-term intellectual practicum, an everyday kind of commitment.”

Amy Wagoner Johnson, mechanical science and engineering, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Guiding Undergraduate Research. The $2,000 award is designed to foster and reward excellence in involving and guiding undergraduate students in scholarly research. Because her work is interdisciplinary, she has influenced undergraduates in a variety of academic disciplines, including mechanical engineering, bioengineering, animal sciences and veterinary biosciences. Johnson encourages undergraduates to explore new research frontiers and motivates them to meet and even surpass their own research goals, answering questions in creative and unique ways.

Stacy Dymond, special education, and Michael Loui, electrical and computer engineering, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring, which provides each recipient with $2,000. Dymond’s mentoring style is extremely collaborative. While actively involving each graduate student in her research, she shares multiple opportunities for them to publish, often pushing them to submit the work as first author. She provides each with the additional support and guidance they need to grow as professionals and contributors to the field of special education.

In his mentoring, Loui works to develop “the whole student.” Not only does he work with them to develop their skills as engineers, he also brings the same level of rigor and thoroughness to their growth as communicators, especially in their writing. One former student said that Loui “expects a lot from his students” while being “active in their journey toward success.”

Emad Jassim and David Miller received the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, which provides each recipient with $2,000. Jassim, the director of undergraduate programs in mechanical science and engineering, is a tireless advocate for undergraduate education and is dedicated to expanding opportunities for the more than 1,000 students in his department. Combining his academic background with industry experience, Jassim has created a department advising manual and implemented group advising, among other innovations.

Miller, a professor of animal sciences, is often the first faculty member students and parents meet, and he sets them at ease by providing pertinent information in a compelling fashion. Not only does he advise students as they progress through their degrees, he also serves as a research adviser and helps students explore their interests through undergraduate research projects. Miller also coaches the U. of I. Dairy Cattle Judging Team and is an adviser to the Illini Dairy Club.

Cris Mayo, education policy, organization and leadership, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Distance Teaching. Despite her students’ varied geographic locations, Mayo is committed to creating a sense of “dynamic community” in her courses, even encouraging her students to find online spaces outside of class to meet. One student commented that she appreciated Mayo’s “rigorous online presence and insightful interjections from a distance,” which contributed to the student’s development of analytical, interpretive and writing skills.

Also honored were University Distinguished Teacher-Scholar for 2012-2013 Mark Micale, a professor of history, and Amy Woods, a professor of kinesiology and community health, who was named 2013-14 Distinguished Teacher-Scholar. The title is permanent throughout their careers at Illinois.
Common component strategy could improve profits

By Phil Ciciora

Business and Law Editor

When designing product lines, one key strategy in positioning and manufacturing managers must consider is whether to use common or product-specific components. While the use of common components can reduce manufacturing costs, firms have traditionally shied away from that strategy over concerns of intensifying competition. But according to research from two University of Illinois business professors, commonality can actually reduce potential cost savings, and that the potential cost savings can be maximized by designing products that take advantage of commonality across the spectrum of consumer preferences, because consumers value different aspects of a product's attributes, Chhajed said.

But according to research from two U. of I. business professors, commonality can actually reduce product line cannibalization, a finding that could allow firms to redesign their product lines and improve profits.

When consumer preference is "nondominating," commonality and its associated cost savings can help firms design better product lines with common components and attributes, Chhajed says, and his research sheds light on the commonality strategy.

"People in marketing are afraid of firms using common components for their products because that means that the products lose uniqueness, what differentiates them from the competition," Chhajed said. "But it turns out that the potential cost savings from product line cannibalization in product lines, which means marketing managers should be encouraged to pursue it."

"It seems counterintuitive, but employing commonality can actually soften the potential product line cannibalization," Liu said. "So managers should consider it, even though it runs counter to the conventional marketing wisdom, both in practice and in academia."

The research, co-written with Kulsan Kim, of Sogang University, in Seoul, South Korea, also debunked a crucial assumption long-held by scholars that one component's attributes dominate a product's attributes dominates another's preference structure. For some goods, there is a dominating consumer preference, however, for other product categories, consumer preferences can be very different. But such "nondominating" preference structures are found for many products, the researchers say.

"This suggests that firms are more likely to choose a common attribute that exhibits a large potential cost savings, and that the characteristics of the consumer market are relatively less important," said Chhajed, who also is director of the master's programs in marketing science.

Researchers say.

"We claim that a nondominating preference structure is quite common in practice since a dominating preference structure entails strict ordering of preference among segments for all attributes," he said.

Nitrogen has key role in estimating CO2 emissions

By Liz Ahlberg

Physical Sciences Editor

A new global-scale modeling study that takes into account nitrogen -- a key nutrient for plants -- estimates that carbon emissions from land use change, such as deforestation to expand cropland, are found for many products, the researchers say.

"This suggests that firms are more likely to choose a common attribute that exhibits a large potential cost savings, and that the characteristics of the consumer market are relatively less important," said Chhajed, who also is director of the master's programs in marketing science.

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Dilip Chhajed

Yunchuan "Frank" Liu

But a careful examination of the consumer preference structure in a particular market is necessary before marketing managers adopt the commonality strategy. So marketing managers should examine how their preference structure may have changed, and how dynamic the change is, the researchers say.

"I think marketing managers need to look at differing consumer tastes," Liu said. "Consumer tastes can change. Consumer taste is very dynamic. But if you don't do it correctly, the strategy could backfire, because every object then looks the same," Chhajed said.

The research will appear in a forthcoming issue of the journal Marketing Science.
1986 law has helped ‘govern immigration through crime’

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Three key issues were at the center of the 1986 Immigration Reform and Control Act: the money for border enforcement, a pathway to citizenship and making it illegal to hire undocumented workers.

But another provision of the IRCA, often overlooked, has had far-reaching consequences, leading to the rash of immigrant deportations in recent years, more than 400,000 last year alone, says Jonathan Inda, a professor of Latina/Latino studies at the U. of I., in an article for the journal Migration Studies.

That provision called for the quick deportation of “criminal aliens,” understood to be anyone who has been convicted of a crime involving violence or a drug offense, or who has a final deportation order.

The law’s motivation was to create a bigger pool of native-born workers, but the provision has had the unintended consequence of deporting immigrants who were not criminal aliens.

Inda said.

“Especially the task of border security has come to the U. S. interior, making it all a “seamless security space,” Inda said — or a “continuum of border security” in the words of one federal official in a paper to be published in a law journal.

Law and order measures have become the preferred means for governing undocumented immigrants and other marginal populations, he said.

“For the most part in any given year, the majority of people who end up in deportation proceedings are people who have no criminal record, just people who happen to be undocumented,” Inda said.

Of course, in the controversy over immigration, one person’s “undocumented” immigrant is another person’s “illegal” immigrant, who has broken the law just by entering the country.

What Inda lays out in his paper, however, is how the “criminal alien” provision of the 1986 law has been built upon, under both Democratic and Republican administrations.

At first, federal programs worked with state and local law enforcement to identify the more serious criminal offenders among their prisons. Now, however, those programs extend local police as proxy immigration agents.

Likewise, legislation since 1986 has increased the number and types of crimes that can bring about deportation, extending even to certain misdemeanors, Inda said.

“Noncitizens currently being deported as ‘criminal aliens’ are thus not necessarily what the word ‘criminal’ would mean for someone who represents a threat to the public’s safety, but more often than not are low-level, non-violent offenders,” he said.

“The logic is that they’re only going to commit more crimes,” he said, and disre- gards research showing that the crime rate is driven by one’s work history and not their native-born population.

Even brought to the U. S. as chil- dren, who might otherwise qualify for the proposed DREAM Act and for the “de- portation of undocumented immigrants” bill in the Senate, they could be deported.

“Many organizations and groups have joined the nationwide effort to pressure Congress to pass immigration reform that is just, comprehensive and humane. These groups are concerned that a complete prohibition of immigration reform will continue to weaken our nation’s economy and social fabric,” Inda said.

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Labor Editor

Tenure rollback policies allow tenure-clock members to roll back their clock when they take family leave, which can bring about deportation proceedings, as could the woman who calls the police to report domestic abuse, he said.

“It really has increased the vulnerability of undocumented immigrants largely, and created a great distrust between the immigrant community in general and the police,” he said.

The immigration reform legislation being proposed in Congress appears unlikely to change this emphasis on enforcement, Inda said. “They’re continuing the same policies that they’ve undertaken since 1986,” he said. “For me, it’s really hard to see how it’s actually reform.”

Status quo

Jonathan Inda, a professor of Latina/Latino studies at Illinois, says the reform legislation being proposed in Congress offers little change from current policies heavy on enforcement — policies that can be traced to the major immigration reform act in 1986.

Inda said the reform legislation being proposed in Congress appears unlikely to change this emphasis on enforcement. "It really has increased the vulnerability of undocumented immigrants largely, and created a great distrust between the immigrant community in general and the police," he said.

Family-friendly tenure policies result in salary penalty

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Labor Editor

Well-intentioned policies to make academia more family-friendly actually have negative consequences for the salaries of faculty members, a study co-written by a U. of I. labor and employment relations professor shows.

Whether it’s for the birth or adoption of a child, or a spouse or other family member who passed away, extended caregiving, both male and female faculty members who “stop the tenure clock” suffer a salary penalty that cannot be explained away a year following the use of the rollback, according to the paper.

“Termination of faculty members to roll back their salary clock is just one exam- ple of family- and life-supportive policies that have on their career prospects,” Kramer says.

If you offer family and life-friendly policies to your employees, make sure usage of these policies does not result in negative outcomes for employers, he said.

“Otherwise, your star employees, those you would like to keep, will not take advantage of that benefit and might consider moving to a more supportive organization,” Kramer said.

For tenure-track professors, Kramer suggests thinking carefully about the implications of using family- and life-related policies in organizations that formally have these policies but may informally discour- age their use.

“Many organizations can and do offer other family- and life-supportive policies such as flexible work arrangements, tele- commuting options, job share and com-
Researchers at the U. of I. have identified biomarkers that can be used to determine ovarian cancer survival and recurrence, and have shown how these biomarkers interact with each other to affect these outcomes. These things appear in the journal PLOS ONE.

Researchers try to find molecules called biomarkers that help determine a person's likelihood of getting a disease or, if they have already been diagnosed, how far the disease has advanced. Genes, transcription factors and microRNAs are often used as markers because these molecules can be heralds of disease or potentials of susceptibility.

While no single biomarker is used for proteins or other molecules that perform the functions of the cell. Transcription factors regulate these genes binding to specific DNA sequences, preventing or inducing the genes to be "expressed" at higher or lower levels. MicroRNAs, as their name suggests, are small RNA molecules that regulate an intermediate stage of gene expression. Transcription factors and microRNAs also can regulate each other.

The relationships among transcription factors, microRNAs and target genes can be complex and can become invasive tumors that proliferate and differentiate, undergo cancer can offer insight into how tumor. These intricate webs are often used to determine how diseases such as cancer proceed. Analyzing how these networks function in health and disease allows researchers to discover cell proliferate and differentiate, undergo programmed cell death, and how likely they become invasive tumors.

According to the American Cancer Society, an estimated 22,240 women will be diagnosed with ovarian cancer in 2013, and 14,230 will die of the disease. This makes ovarian cancer the fifth most common cause of cancer death in women.

The high prevalence of ovarian cancer and ovarian cancer deaths in the U.S. has prompted researchers to examine how we can more accurately predict survival or age at cancer recurrence considering hundreds of interacting biomarkers simultaneously.

"We knew that there are specific biomarkers that have been associated with ovarian cancer, but we were wondering whether we could make more accurately predict survival or age at cancer recurrence considering hundreds of interacting biomarkers simultaneously," Rodriguez-Zas said.

The team used data from the Cancer Genome Atlas, which contains information about ovarian cancer patients' age, survival, cancer recurrence, treatment, tumor stage, common cancer and genomics expression. The researchers then performed statistical tests to tie these factors to patients' survival time, measured in months from diagnosis to death, and their recurrence time, measured in months from diagnosis to recurrence.

"The networks change for people who have different rates of survival, so we looked at what's being expressed in high-survival patients compared to what's being expressed in low-survival patients," Delfino said.

"The team was able to confirm the association of 21 microRNAs with ovarian cancer and the ovarian cancer- and survival- and recurrence- and risk factors. The network we used in this study accurately predicted tumor stage and overall survival regardless of treatment and as we continue to collect data, the network is improving in predictive accuracy," Rodriguez-Zas said.

Delfino believes that the future opens the door to the creation of less invasive diagnostic tests and more specialized treatment options for women with ovarian cancer.

"In the future we'd like to be able to just take a little sample of your DNA and be able to tell you what's going to happen, how we can do to prevent it, and how we can cut cancer off before it ever reaches that point," Delfino said. "Everyone is different, and hopefully, we will be able to specify the treatment that will best treat the individual patient."
Enzymologist Gene Robinson on disappearing honey bees

Editor’s note: The mysterious syndrome that is killing off honey bees, called Colony Collapse Disorder, has recently gotten worse. Commercial beekeepers reported a bigger loss rate of honey bees in 2012 than in any year before. U. of I. entomologist and Institute for Genomic Biology director Gene Robinson, an expert on honey bee behavior, genomics and biology, describes the advances genomics and technology have made in understanding the causes of CCD. He spoke to News Bureau life sciences editor Di- ana Yates.

Is there an effort to get a geographic sense of which bees are most affected? Some have been done that report on the severity of bee losses by location, by state. The U. S. Department of Agriculture generates maps of how big the losses have been in different parts of the country. There’s no strong geographic pattern. This is because CCD losses occur in places where the bee is living. When a hive is stressed and CCD occurs and commercial beekeeping in general is on wheels — beehives are trucked throughout the country for pollination purposes.

There are several migratory routes that these hives follow. As many as two-thirds of the commercial beekeeping that occurs in the U.S. is in commercial beekeeping operation areas. We’ve been observing declines for many years now. Are we any closer to understanding what’s going on? Yes, we are closer, but progress is slower than we’d like because many factors are contributing to CCD. Moreover, there is pretty good evidence that there are synergies between these factors. This explanation is reasonable, but it doesn’t mean that solutions will come quickly. It’s reasonable because we have a general intuition that many organisms in the environment are under increasing stress, that it’s harder to make a living in the environment these days than in the past because of anthropogenic changes. Whether one considers introduced pests or pathogens, degraded habitats or more extreme climate, it’s just harder to thrive out there. And so the notion that we are putting species closer to a tipping point than we realize, or that CCD means is that when an already stressed bee hive is exposed to yet another factor, the bottom falls out and we see CCD, a complete collapse of the bee.

What factors do scientists think contribute to CCD? First of all, if a bee is sick, a parasite of honey bees, has been the real game changer. It is not the cause of Colony Collapse Disorder, but it has contributed. It has weakened bees by the pathogens that it harbors that it passes along to the bees and perhaps also by damage that it does directly to the bees. There are also nutritional stresses associated with migratory beekeeping. When you use bees for pollination your objective is to benefit the plants, not the bees. Sometimes for a major crop like almonds, which blooms early in the spring, the fate of the whole crop depends on whether the temperature gets above bee-flight weather for just a few hours during the two-week bloom period. Sometimes it’s gorgeous and sunny every single day, and then there are many more bees than needed. But sometimes it’s touch-and-go for an entire bloom period, so farmers are willing to pay to ship in extra colonies as a kind of insurance, so that if a few weeks of favorable weather, there will be enough bees to take care of the pollination, even in a very short time period.

The high density of bees is good for the plants and good for the farmers, but not good for the bees. The bees are often nutritionally stressed as a result of their pollination activities because their densities are too high. In addition, focusing in one homogeneous agro-ecosystem for weeks at a time may not provide the optimal mix of nutrients for good bee health.

In addition to pathogens, parasites and poor nutrition, pesticides are also implicated. The newer pesticides are much safer for humans. They also are being applied in ways that make them safer to humans, but they also have negative effects on beneficial insects.

One topic that’s just starting to be examined is the synergy between the sub-lethal effects of pesticides and the effects of a pathogen, or a parasite, or poor nutrition.
Physical Sciences Editor

The hope for patients with myotonic dystrophy. A new small molecule developed by researchers at the U. of I. has been shown to break up the protein-RNA clusters that cause the disease in living human cells, an important first step toward developing a pharmaceutical treatment for the as-yet untreated disease.

Steven C. Zimmerman, the Roger Adams Professor of Chemistry at the U. of I., led the group in developing and demonstrating the compound. The National Institutes of Health supported the work published in the journal ACS Chemical Biology.

Myotonic dystrophy type 1 is the most common form of muscular dystrophy in adults. It affects one in 8,000 people in North America. It causes progressive weakness as the muscles deteriorate over time. There is no treatment available for the disease; though a few measures can help ease some symptoms, nothing can halt their inevitable progression.

“This is a disease that currently doesn't have any treatment, so we have a huge interest in finding therapeutic agents,” said graduate studentAnh Huynh, the first author of the paper.

Myotonic dystrophy type 1, called DM1, is caused by a mutation in a gene. In a healthy person, one small segment of the gene -- a DNA sequence of CTG -- is repeated a few times. In someone with DM1, the sequence is repeated more than 50 times, even up to thousands of repeats. The sequence is transcribed into RNA over and over, like a skipping record stuck in a loop. The repetitive RNA binds to the protein MBNL1, which is essential for regulating protein balance in cells. The RNA traps the MBNL1 protein in aggregates within the cell's nucleus.

“The RNA is functioning in an abnormal way, and I think that's what's toxic,” Zimmerman said. “MBNL regulates a process called alternative splicing that controls how much of different proteins are made. Affected cells make the proteins, just not at the right levels, so all the levels are imbalanced. There are more than 100 proteins that are affected.”

The Illinois group developed a small molecule that could infiltrate the nucleus and, in a sense, open the door to remove the MBNL1 protein. The molecule has been a challenge for researchers for years, but researchers at the Illinois group were able to watch the entry and use the molecule in fruit flies and mice. Although the molecule will need many rounds of testing for toxicity, efficacy, metabolism and possible side effects before human trials can begin, finding a molecule that works in living cells is an important first step toward making a drug that can treat myotonic dystrophy.

“We're close to developing drug candidates that can be tested in animals. And if it works in animals, then we have a way to proceed forward with clinical trials with humans,” Zimmerman said. “It's heartbreaking, at one level, to say we're years away from something that's going to be in the clinic. On the other hand, we now have targets. We now know how to go after this disease. It gives patients and their families a bit of hope.”

New hope

Chicago 16

EMPLOYEES, FROM PAGE 14

value their workplace relationships, Americans tend to be task-oriented, viewing the social aspects of their jobs as less important and pushing them to the sidelines.

"Nobody that I interviewed in Mexico City considered their work relationships," Korte said. "Because Latin cultures are typically very family-oriented, maybe they view their work groups as family. Several people in the Mexican study said they would sooner miss a family gathering than be late for work." Lin is a professor at the National Chiao Tung University in Taiwan.

The study was published in the journal Human Relations.

AMW: ROBINSON, FROM PAGE 15

affect large-scale agriculture. In modern agriculture, huge numbers of plants come into bloom at the same time and rapidly need to be pollinated at the same time. Only large-scale commercial beekeepers can provide the millions of bees needed to get the job done.

Is there any overlap between declines in honey bees and declines in wild bees?

Yes. Bumble bees, the next best studied bees after honey bees, have experienced serious population declines. There is a feeling that honey bees are like the canary in the coal mine – we’re all watching anxiously.

Kenneth L. Appel, 88, died April 19 in Do-

Arlington, N.J. Appel was said to have ushered the venerable mathematical proof into the computer age, solving a longstanding problem concerning colors on a map with the help of an IBM computer making billions of decisions. He was a professor of mathe-

matics at the U. of I. for 32 years, retiring in 1993.

Donald Lyman Burkholler, 86, died April 14 in Urbana. Burkholler, a renowned mathematician who helped to revolutionize interdisciplinary studies in the areas of probability theory and analysis, spent his 43-year career at Illinois. He was appointed to the Center for Advanced Study in 1978 and retired in 1989 as professor emeritus of mathematics. Memorials: In honor of his daughter, Kathleen L. Burkholler Gradu-

ate Student Award Fund, U. of I. Foundation, uofi.uillinois.edu; or the Friends of the Urbana Free Library, urbanafreelibrary.org.

Wanda Jamison, 84, died April 17 at Champaign-Urbana Regional Rehab Cen-

ter, Savoy. Jamison worked at the U. of I. for 32 years, retiring in 1992 as a typing clerk II for Admissions and Records. She then worked 11 more years as an extra help professional.

Joseph Kelly, 88, died April 24. Kelly was a professor at the Police Training Institute for 18 years, retiring in 1987.

Lauran M. Strater, 92, died April 16 at Heartland Healthcare, Paxton. Strate-

er worked at the U. of I. for 23 years, retiring in 1990 as a maid for University Housing.
CHAMP
International conference is May 23-24


The conference will be part of the new Trans-Atlantic Dialogues in Cultural Heritage conference series and feature 15 speakers on the topic of “Encounters With Popular Past: Meanings and Myths at the Interface Between Popular Culture and Heritage.” The conference will take place from 9 a.m.-5 p.m. in the Krannert Art Museum auditorium. The opening is open to the Urbana campus community free of charge; registration by May 13 is required.

The registration form can be downloaded at champ.anthro.illinois.edu. The completed form should be emailed to Helaine Silverman, helaine@illinois.edu.

‘Molecules Under Pressure’
Flygare lecture rescheduled for May 8

The Flygare Memorial Lecture, “Molecules Under Pressure,” has been rescheduled from its original date and will take place at 4 p.m. May 8 in Room 8102 of the Chemical and Life Sciences Laboratory.

In the lecture, Russell J. Hemley, of the Carnegie Institution of Washington in Washington, D.C., will describe some of the unexpected and surprising effects on the chemistry of materials caused by high pressure. These studies have changed the understanding of the physical and chemical properties of elements and molecules.

Established by friends and family, this lecture series honors Willis H. Flygare, a chemistry faculty member from 1961 until his death in 1981.

Illinois Public Media
May Community Cinema is May 14

Illinois Public Media’s May Community Cinema event looks at the work of Amlan Ganguly to empower India’s poorest children to become activists and educators.

Ganguly helps children living in Calcutta’s slums transform their own neighborhoods and lives – cleaning up trash dumps, going to school, reducing malaria infection. The See BRIEFS, PAGE 18
The small animal emergency service at the U. of I. Veterinary Teaching Hospital is one of nine U.S. veterinary hospitals and clinics to be provisionally designated as a Veterinary Trauma Center by the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care.

The new designation is part of an initiative to improve treatment outcomes of animal trauma cases by creating a network of lead hospitals that will foster development of trauma systems nationally. These hospitals will work collaboratively on standard protocols, care and training, and dissemination of information that improves trauma patient management efficiencies and outcomes.

"To achieve this designation, a hospital must have board-certified emergency care experts, facilities and equipment designed to support trauma care, and a strong commitment to training and education," said Maureen McMichael, who directs the small animal emergency and critical care service at the U. of I. Veterinary Teaching Hospital.

"At Illinois we have the expertise and facilities needed to manage every aspect of care for the small animal trauma patient, from emergency stabilization through medical and surgical care and rehabilitation. Our team approach to care means our emergency/critical care experts work closely with our surgeons, anesthesiologists, radiologists and other specialists to tailor care to individual patient needs."

Among the goals of the veterinary trauma center network is to create a database of information related to animals sustaining trauma care that can be used for research and to develop standards of care and training.

Other veterinary emergency care providers designated as the inaugural veterinary trauma centers are private hospitals in Irvine, Calif.; Los Angeles; Tampa, Fla.; and Paramus, N.J.; and veterinary colleges at North Carolina State University, Tufts University, the University of Minnesota and the University of Pennsylvania.

Guidelines and requirements for the new centers were generated by a multinational group of veterinary critical care specialists. A subcommittee of the American College of Veterinary Emergency and Critical Care will work with the centers throughout the first year to ensure all guidelines are being met.

For more information on accepted donations or to volunteer, go to universityymca.org/dumpandrun.

Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund
Emergency fund seeking donations
Donations are being sought to enable the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund to continue to help U. of I. employees in times of financial need.

"Donations have fallen off as the demand has increased," said Katie Wolfsen, director of the Faculty and Staff Assistance Program, which administers the fund. "The reality is, we’re giving out more grants than we’re taking in right now and at some point we’re going to run into difficulty."

Since its inception in 1992, the fund has helped more than 870 campus employees, assisting them during times of financial crisis with small grants for rent or mortgage payment, utility bills, medical bills, and food or clothing.

"The purpose of the Faculty and Staff Assistance Committee is to get an annual contribution – no matter how much – from every university employee. There are no administrative costs associated with the fund drive, so all donations go directly to the fund through the U. of I. Foundation."

"Donations received during last year’s fund drive have been spent helping employees in need, and each year it is important to replenish the fund," said Debbie McCull, chair of the volunteer fundraising committee. "This is our special chance to help our Urbana campus colleagues who may experience a financial crisis at one time or another." McCull said.

Wolfsen said the program thrives on small donations, mostly through payroll deductions, though donors may pledge online with a credit card or write a check to the fund.

A university employee does not have to contribute to apply for assistance. Faculty members, academic professionals and civil service staff members with at least a 50 percent appointment and who have completed at least six months of service at the university qualify to apply for the fund and may apply at any time.

Applications are reviewed through the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program and reviewed and approved by a confidential committee. All contacts are confidential and applications are kept on file.

The Faculty and Staff Assistance Program Office recently moved to 1011 W. Springfield Ave., Urbana.

The contribution form can be found online at fsap.illinois.edu. Checks should be payable to UIF/UC Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund and mailed to the University of Illinois Foundation, Harker Hall, MC-366. Payroll deduction or credit card donations can be made securely online through the foundation website, www.giving.illinois.edu. Donations are tax deductible.

For more information about the fund, visit fsap.illinois.edu or call 217-244-5312.

Campus to participate in pilot program to enhance safety

The U. of I. is one of nine Illinois universities and colleges chosen to participate in a pilot program to enhance campus safety. The Illinois Emergency Management Agency announced on April 22 the participants for the pilot program, called Ready to Respond Campus, with a full rollout of the program expected in January 2014.

"The Ready to Respond Campus designation will let current and prospective students and their parents know that safety is a top priority on the campus," said Lt. Todd Short, of the U. of I. Police Department. "We are strong advocates of this initiative and are encouraged by the number of higher education institutions in Illinois who are also participating. This pilot program will undoubtedly help other campuses throughout Illinois respond more effectively during emergency situations."

"The Ready to Respond Campus program is the latest component of Illinois' Ready to Respond effort. In 2012, IEMA announced the Ready to Respond Campus initiative. The program is endorsed by the Illinois Campus Law Enforcement Administrators Association and supported by IEMA and the U. of I. Center for Public Safety and Justice."

On the웹

vetmed.illinois.edu/vth/
**ACES**

Kelly Tappenden, a professor of nutrition and gastrointestinal physiologist in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, has won the 2013 Distinguished Nutrition Support Dietitian, Advanced Clinical Practice Award given by the American Society for Parenteral and Enteral Nutrition. The annual award recognizes a dietitian member for outstanding contributions in leadership, practice and advancement of dietitians in the field of nutrition support. Tappenden is a recognized expert and leader in clinical nutrition who specializes in enteral and parenteral therapies that benefit patients who rely on intravenous feeding.

**AHS**

Kim C. Graber, a professor and associate head of the department of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Health Sciences, received the Physical Education Award from the National Association for Sport and Physical Education during the 128th National Convention of the American Alliance for Health, Physical Education, Recreation and Dance last week in Charlotte, N.C. The nation’s most active professional society for health, physical education, recreation and dance, the association was established to highlight the accomplishments and activities of social and behavioral scientists at the U. of I. and to enhance research strengths in these areas, especially through interdisciplinary collaboration.

Recipients:
- Two faculty members were honored with the Best Junior Faculty Paper Award: Aeron Barney, a professor of speech and hearing science in the College of Applied Health Sciences and of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for “Distributed Neural System for Emotional Intelligence Revealed by Lesion Mapping”; and Joseph P. Robinson, a professor of education in the College of Education, for “Bullying Explains Only Part of LGBTQ-Heterosexual Disparities: Implications for Policy and Practice.”
- The Mid-career Research Award was presented to Eddy Verona, a professor of psychology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.
- The Outreach and Policy Impact Award was presented to Brian L. Quick, a professor of communication in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, for his work on donor organization.
- David H. Tewksbury, a professor of communication in LAS, received the Outstanding Educator Award.
- Edward MoAuley, a professor of kinesiology and community health in the College of Applied Health Sciences, received the Outstanding Career Achievement Award.

**SECRETAIRAT**

Beth McKown received the 2013 Office Professional of the Year Award from the Secretariat at the U. of I. McKown, an office administrator in the director’s office of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, was honored at an April 17 awards luncheon.

Also nominated: Geraldine Goldberg, an office support specialist for the department of animal sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; Anne Jackson, an office manager in the dean’s office of the College of Fine and Applied Arts; and Rebecca Nash, an office administrator for urban and regional planning in the College of Fine and Applied Arts.

The Secretariat is made up of U. of I. employees in civil service classifications with qualifications that meet or exceed those of office support associates.

**UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION**

Several university administration employees who work on the Urbana campus have been awarded the Distinguished Employee Leadership and Team Award. The DELTA award is designed to recognize individual employees and teams for their exceptional accomplishments, service and dedication to the university. Recipients were honored April 4 at an awards ceremony and reception.

Individual award recipients from the Urbana campus:
- Kaeji Bohlen, a certified public purchasing buyer who is a senior contract administrator in the Office of Business and Financial Services, has led multidepartmental implementation initiatives, as well as vendor cost recovery efforts and contract negotiations. She was recognized as having earned the respect of her peers by focusing on solutions that are models of efficiency and ethics, and that adhere to short timelines.
- Vicki D. Clements, the administrative assistant to the university president, has handled several transitions in the office and has been responsible for maintaining the office during these transitions. Clements was recognized as a hard-working, professional university employee who has tackled demanding and challenging position with intelligence, goodwill and a positive attitude.
- Kelvin M. Touchette, a senior software engineer for OBFS Business Information Systems, primarily does programming, coding and database work. Touchette has played a key role in maintaining the inner workings of the main database for the university’s Student Health Insurance Office. With only 50 percent of his time alloted to the student insurance unit, he created solutions for many of its problems.
- Supervisory award recipients from the Urbana campuses, Laura C. Curtis, a senior associate director for employee relations and human resources, is responsible for overseeing, developing and implementing all human resource processing initiatives and functions for all personnel in university administration units.
- Angela M. Foster, an assistant director for University Employee Relations and Human Resources.

**Summer 2013 Publication Schedule**

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Five years ago, with a Fulbright Fellowship funding his summer study in Malta, U. of I. architecture professor Mir Ali agreed to assist the Malta Environmental and Planning Authority and the University of Malta in determining whether more skyscrapers should be built in the tiny island nation. As one of the most densely populated countries in the world, Malta consists of a group of islands, the largest of which is the “rock,” just off the toe of Italy. The Republic of Malta’s government had recently passed 50-50 proposals for developers wanting to build high-rise office buildings, hotels and condominiums.

While formulating that report, Ali was contacted by the government of Amman, Jordan, with a similar request for advice on the feasibility of erecting skyscrapers there. During his trip to Jordan, Ali realized that many cities were confirming the same questions. “I realized that this is a worldwide topic,” he said. “There are no clear guidelines for urban design with respect to tall buildings.”

Ali, a professor emeritus who had already written, co-written or edited four books on skyscrapers, knew that he could help answer those questions with another book. For this one, “The Future of the City: Tall Buildings and Urban Design” published by Wessex Institute of Technology Press, he brought in Kheir Al-Kodmany, a U. of I. alumnus who is a professor of urban planning and policy at UIC, as co-author. Complementing each other’s expertise, Al-Kodmany, whose research is in structural engineering, addressed all aspects of tall buildings, from pragmatic considerations such as land prices, population density, technology and infrastructure demands to more subjective elements such as cultural and architectural context, spatial strategies, skyline aesthetics and even the role that human ego plays in the urge to build ever taller skyscrapers. They worked on the 420-page volume for four years, during which Al-Kodmany traveled to 25 cities around the world to photograph, research and examine the architectural and urban design aspects of the newest, tallest and most iconic buildings.

How tall does a building have to be to be called a skyscraper? There is no universally accepted answer, Ali said. The Council on Tall Buildings and Urban Habitat, an international organization founded in the late 1960s, defines a tall building by a combination of three criteria: Its height relative to its surroundings, its incorporation of height-related technology (vertical transport systems, certain structural systems) and its height relative to girth. This last criterion Ali calls “the quality of tallness.”

“It has to look tall,” he said.

Ten or 12 stories is the minimum height for a building to be considered tall virtually anywhere in the world, Ali said. In 1884, Chicago’s 10-story (138 feet) Home Insurance Building was considered the world’s tallest. It was soon dwarfed by surrounding structures and demolished to make room for a taller building in 1931. That same year, the 102-story (1,250 feet) Empire State Building was completed in New York, and it resided at the top of the list of world’s tallest buildings for almost 40 years.

The Council on Tall Buildings coined other terms for buildings meeting specific heights: “supertall” or “ultratall” for build-

ings more than 300 meters (984 feet) tall, and “megatall” for buildings more than 600 meters (1,968 feet). Worldwide, there are currently at least 30 supertall buildings and “megatall” for buildings more than 600 meters (1,968 feet). Worldwide, there are currently at least 30 supertall buildings and “megatall” for buildings more than 600 meters (1,968 feet). Worldwide, there are currently at least 30 supertall buildings and “megatall” for buildings more than 600 meters (1,968 feet). Worldwide, there are currently at least 30 supertall buildings and “megatall” for buildings more than 600 meters (1,968 feet).

Complementing each other’s expertise, Al-Kodmany and Ali explain in this lavishly illustrated book, the trend toward more fluid lines and forms, but it has been criticized for its lack of connection to the historic context of its surroundings.