Alma Mater sculpture's presence felt more than her absence

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

You couldn’t swing a “no-holds-barred, anything goes” street fight during the sport’s early years, provoking protests from public officials about violence and the potential impact on the American public.

“Public officials saw it as an opportunity, or perhaps a call, to become gatekeepers for what constitutes appropriate American entertainment,” Santos said. “They sought to use their political clout to prevent MMA/UFC events from happening. But as the sport continued to grow and attracted increasing numbers of spectators and economic benefits, public officials came to realize that they couldn’t prevent the growth of MMA, so the only way to position themselves as protecting American social values was to begin engaging in the debate on legislation.”

The political and social conflict and highly charged moral prescriptions surrounding MMA and the UFC appealed to sportswriters and readers, ensuring media coverage while providing sportswriters with familiar ways of framing issues. Media characterized the sport and the UFC as threats to the American social order and public officials as its protectors.

However, the UFC grew, it had to adapt its product and soften its marketing strategy to enter mainstream sports entertainment, get permission to hold events in U.S. cities and broadcast those events on American television.

Dramatic turnaround

Once public officials realized that they couldn’t eradicate the sport or quell its popularity, they decided to regulate events instead, often citing the events’ revenue potential as the reason for their reversal, suggests a recent study by Carla Santos and Scott Tainsky, professors of recreation, sport and tourism in the College of Applied Health Sciences.

“The way that politicians function is so eminently clear in coverage of mixed martial arts,” said Tainsky, who, like Santos, is a professor of recreation, sport and tourism at the U of I.

MMAs, also known as “extreme fighting” or “ultimate fighting,” were marketed as “no-holds-barred, anything goes” street fights during the sport’s early years, provoking protests from public officials about violence and the potential impact on the American public.

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ON THE WEB
Alma Mater restoration videos and photos: https://uoffbx.com/almamater

Media’s role in evolution of ‘ultimate fighting’ documented

By Sh futa Forest
News Editor

nce derided as barbaric and tan- tamoust to human cockfighting by many lawmakers, the mixed martial arts industry was on the fringe of the sports landscape during its early years in the U.S. and was banned in 36 states.

Over the past decade, however, MMA and its foremost promotional vehicle, the Ultimate Fighting Championship, has made a dramatic turnaround, winning mainstream acceptance and legalization in all but two states — Connecticut and New York.

However, New York lawmakers are considering two bills, either of which would reverse the state’s ban on MMA, a move that Gov. Andrew Cuomo supports because the pieces are held together by a variety of different fasteners, some of them hidden. The sculpture is an assembly of as many as 30 cast bronze pieces.

“We are learning a lot about how the statue was constructed in this process and the conservator is learning just how the pieces were assembled as he goes along,” Lev said. “There is a bit of forensics involved in this; we will know much more about Alma Mater when this work is completed; how it was constructed and how it was assembled.

He said the conservators will try, wherever possible, not to disassemble the sculpture. They will also have some of the materials testing done by campus engineers.

“In some instances however, we might be trying to get access to the deteriorated, corroded and missing fasteners,” he said.

The extent of repairs for the water-damaged sculpture means Alma Mater probably won’t be well enough to return to campus by fall, and likely will wait until commencement 2014. Funding for the repairs is being raised through donations.

Lev said plans are being made for the conservator to make his second public presentation on the project in September. He will make a third presentation once the project is completed.
Benefit Choice continues; dependent audit announced

The Benefit Choice period for U. of I. employees will continue through May 31. During this time, employees may make changes to their insurance coverage, such as selecting a new health plan or adding or dropping dependent coverage.

Employees who want to make changes must do so online through NESSIE by 11:59 p.m. May 31. (Click “Benefit Choice Enrollment” at the top of the Benefit Choice page.) If an employee is continuing through the same health insurance, no action is needed although all employees should review the health plans and coverage changes.

Those wanting to re-enroll or enroll in either of the flexible spending account plans (for dependent care or medical expenses) must make the changes by the May 31 deadline as well. (Re-enrollment is not automatic. Participants must sign up each year.)

In addition, Deb Stone, the director of the SEC and affiliated organizations for Campus Information Technologies and University Information Services, said “This is just not the appropriate way to do business,” he said, following a report by SEC member Kostas Yantias, the chair of the Senate’s Academic Professionals Advisory Committee for Teaching and Learning Services for Campus Information Technologies and University Information Services.

Yantias said information for the 2013 audit (positions audited are every two years) shows that the number of academic professors without a full-time appointment has decreased significantly over the last decade and that the number of this group is now under 200.

The 11-member group will comprise senate committee chairs and other senate leaders, whose goal will be to present a report and recommendations to the full senate and administrators by fall. The idea was first mentioned at the April 29 senate meeting by Sen. Nicholas Bur- bules, a professor of education policy, or- ganization and leadership, and Sen. Randy Mayo, a mathematics professor.

The two senators, who previously had debated the pros (McCarthy) and costs (Burbules) of faculty unionization before the senate, jointly proposed at the April meeting a 10-point plan to cooperatively address several areas of faculty concern.

Topics the senate committee will address include salary disparities; promoting policies that protect benefits; identifying and resolving unfair practices in the tenure review process; reviewing family leave practices; developing consistent policies for budget review and protecting faculty rights in the process; ensuring shared governance is being employed in new administrative initiatives; protecting faculty rights during programmatic or organizational changes; developing a plan to address deferred maintenance; and protecting or expanding tuition waiver guarantees.

“We hope that we can begin a discussion among faculty members to discuss faculty concerns and hear ideas for changes they would like to see made,” McCarthy said.

More information about the audit, as well as documents required, will be available online once the audit begins.

Personal Benefits Statement

UPB office staff members are encour- aged to frequently check their earnings statement and CMS Personal Benefits Statement to make sure they are accurate. Both are accessible from NESSIE. If something is not correct, contact UPB immediately.

Flexible Spending Accounts

Effective July 1, the state of Illinois will begin using a new flexible spending account system, administered by WageWorks. There will be several changes of which participants need to be aware for the conversion from the current system to the new system and website.

On the Web

http://benefits.illinois.edu/Benefitschoicesessions

Inside Illinois

The campus newsletter, Inside Illinois, is an employee publication of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, distributed to all employees. Saturday, May 18, 2013

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chancellor won’t support efforts to bring Chief back

The chancellor said she had spent count- less hours in conversation with all sides of the discussion, including Peoria tribal leaders, and had come to the conclusion that the Chief should be to a respectful final re- tirement.

She suggested preserving the Chief’s re- galia in a display case in the Alumni Center along with a contextual explanation of the Chief's role in the university’s history, she said “I really believe you can’t go backwards.”

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Stephen P. Long elected fellow of the Royal Society of London

Stephen P. Long, the Gutgsell Endowed Professor of Crop Sciences and Plant Biology and a faculty member of the Institute for Geonomic Biology, has been elected a fellow of the Royal Society of London, the world’s oldest scientific academy in continuous existence. Members are elected for life on the basis of excellence in science, through a thorough peer review process.

“The Royal Society was just a few miles away,” Long said. “It’s fame as the meeting place of the leaders and luminaries in the science, engineering and medicine was known to us at high school and throughout my academic career, so it was high on my list of things I wanted to do one day be a part of this institution. Of course, this recognition owes much to the many amazing graduate students, research fellows and academic colleagues at Essex and at Illinois.”

Long has been recognized for his leadership in research on the limits to photosynthetic productivity of crops and how these are altered by global atmospheric change. A type of photosynthesis known as C4 is recognized as being the most efficient in terms of use of light, water and nitrogen. Long was the first to discover a C4 plant in a cool climate and also discovered the most pro-efficient plant in the world. Using his expertise, he proposed that the scan and creating a simplified model that could be processed by a mobile device in real time, while retaining the high-resolution detail in its appearance. Meanwhile, Alan B. Craig, the head of the augmented reality unit at NCSA, I-CHASS and the Beckman Institute, standing down to lead the Gates Foundation, worked to build the application, collaborating with graphic designers in the Beckman Public Affairs and Facilities and Services to create the target that the app would recognize.

“This demonstrated the University of Illinois’ technological prowess,” Long said. “We have always illustrated it: We built it.”

Photo by L. Brian Stauffer

Stephen P. Long with digital app used to view the Alma Mater

Stephen P. Long

with a fundamental purpose “to recognize, promote and support excellence in science and to encourage the development and use of science for the benefit of humanity.” Other notable fellows include Albert Einstein, Dorothy Hodgkin, Isaac Newton, Stephen Hawking, Charles Darwin, Francis Crick and James Watson. Forty-four new members are elected each year, from a group of more than 700 candidates proposed by the existing fellowship.
W hen trouble approaches, what do you do? Run for the hills? Hide? Pretend it isn’t there? Or do you focus on the prom- ise of rain in those looming dark clouds? New research suggests that the way you regulate your emotions in bad times and in good, can influence whether—or how much—you suffer from anxiety. The study ap- pears in the journal Emotion.

In a series of questionnaires, researchers asked 179 healthy men and women how they managed their emotions and how anxious they felt in various situations. The team analyzed the results to see if different emotional strategies were associated with mental health.

The study revealed that those who engage in an emotional regulation strategy called reappraisal—temporarily focusing on less severe social anxiety and less anxiety in general than those who avoid expressing their feelings. Reappraisal involves looking at a problem in a new way. For example, a graduate student Nicole Llewellyn, who led the research with psychology professor Florin Dolcos, an af- filiate of the Beckman Institute.

“When something happens, you think about it in a more positive light, a glass half full instead of half empty,” said Dolcos. “You sort of reframe and reappraise what’s happened and think what are the positives about this? What are the ways I can look at this…as a stimulating chal- lenge rather than a problem?”

Study participants who regularly used this approach reported less severe anxiety than those who tended to suppress their emotions. Anxiety disorders are a major public health problem in the U.S. According to the National Institute of Mental Health, roughly 18 percent of the U.S. adult population is afflicted with general or social anxiety.

“Anxiety is one of the most prevalent causes of disability world- wide, secondary only to cardiovascular dis- ease,” Dolcos said. “So it’s associated with big costs.”

Not all anxiety is bad, however, he said. Low-level anxiety may help you maintain the kind of focus that gets things done. Sup- pressing or putting a lid on your emotions also can be a good strategy in short-term situations, such as when your boss yells at you. Dolcos said. Similarly, an always- positive attitude can be dangerous, causing a person to ignore health problems, for ex- ample, or to engage in risky behavior. Previous studies had found that people who were temperamentally inclined to fo- cus on making good things happen were less likely to suffer from anxiety than those who focused on preventing bad things from happening. Llewellyn said. But she could find no earlier research that explained how this difference in focus translated to be- haviors that people could change. The new study appears to explain the strategies that contribute to a person having more or less anxiety, she said.

“This is something you can change,” she said. “You can’t do much to affect the less severe genetic or environmental factors that con- tribute to anxiety. But you can change your emotion regulation strategies.”

The research team also included post- doctoral researcher Sandra Dolcos, graduate student Alexundra Jordan and psychology professor Karen Rudolph. ✤

To suppress or explore? U. of I. psychology professor Florin Dolcos, graduate student Nicole Llewellyn and their colleagues found that those who suppress their emotions tend to suffer more anxiety than those who use an emotional regulation strategy called reappraisal.

Substances in honey increase detoxification gene expression

By Chelsey Coombs

Research in the wake of Colony Collapse Disorder, a mysterious, malady affecting (primarily com- mercial) honey bees, suggests that pesticides and toxins are all playing a role. New research indicates that the honey bee diet influences the bees’ ability to withstand at least some of these assaults. Some components of the nectar and pollen grains bees collect to manufacture food to support the hive increase the expression of detoxification genes that help keep honey bees healthy.

The findings appear in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences. U. of I. professor of entomology May Berenbaum, who led the study, said that many organisms use a group of enzymes called cytochrome P450 monooxygenases to break down foreign substances such as pesticides and compounds naturally found in pollen and nectar. However, honey bees have relatively few genes dedicated to this detoxification process compared to other insect species.

“Bees feed on hundreds of different types of nectar and pollen, and are poten- tially exposed to thousands of different types of synthetic and natural chemicals, yet they only have one-third to one-half the inventory of en- zymes that break down these toxins com- pared to other species,” Berenbaum said.

Determining which of the 46 P450 genes in the honey bee genome are used to metabolize contaminants of their natural diet and which are used to metabolize synthetic pesticides became a “laborintizing scientific question” to her research team, Berenbaum said.

“Every frame of honey (the honey bee hive) is phychomethenically different from the next frame of honey because different nectar and pollen went in to make the honey. If you don’t

Research had previously shown that eat- ing honey turns on detoxification genes that metabolize the chemicals in honey, but the researchers wanted to identify the specific genetic components responsible for this activity. To do this, they fed bees a mixture of sucrose and powdered sugar, called bee candy, and added different chemical components in ex- tracts of honey. They identified P-coumaric acid as the strongest inducer of the detoxi- fication genes.

“We found that the perfect signal, p- coumaric acid, is in everything that bees eat—it’s the monomer that goes into the macrostructure called sporopollenin, which makes up the outer wall of pollen grains. It’s a great signal that tells their systems that food is coming in, and with that food, so are potential toxins,” Berenbaum said.
State budget, pension woes tied to ‘Big Gambling’ giveaways

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

Budget and pension woes in Illinois are inextricably linked to giveaways to “Big Gambling,” a U. of Ill. expert in legal policy says.

If the state had taxed gambling at rates comparable to other states over the past 20-plus years, Illinois would have had an additional $35 billion to $86 billion in tax revenue in its coffers — and most likely no budget crisis, according to John Kindt, a professor emeritus of business and legal policy at the University of Illinois.

“Until Illinois taxpayers wake up and realize that they are subsidizing gambling interests at the expense of teachers, firefighters and police officers, then public employees in the state of Illinois will continue to see reductions in their salaries, pensions and earned benefits,” Kindt said. “The net result is that everyone suffers when Big Gambling is involved.”

Kindt, who has testified before Congress and state legislatures about business and legal policy issues, says the new 555-page gambling expansion bill, which has been approved by the Illinois Senate but still awaits approval in the Illinois House, values casino licenses at $100 million apiece. By even the most conservative of estimates, that’s a $5 billion to $10 billion freebie to gambling interests, Kindt said.

“To be fair, there are other initial fees that would give Illinois a one-time revenue injection of $1.2 billion,” he said. “But that number is dwarfed in comparison to what the state could be getting if it got tough on Big Gambling.”

Illinois House Speaker Michael Madigan must assume some responsibility for these continual giveaways by the state to gambling interests, particularly as he proposes a pension-reduction bill, Kindt said.

“The original Madigan pension bill had an unusual nine-page introduction outlining the supposed history leading to the 2013 budget crisis,” he said. “But nowhere in this so-called historical record is there any mention of the tens of billions of dollars legally given away to Big Gambling’s political insiders during Rep. Madigan’s decades-long tenure as Speaker.”

According to Kindt, in 1990, Illinois sold 10 casino licenses worth a total fair market value of $5 billion for only $25,000 per license. Political insiders quickly snatched up the licenses, Kindt said.

“An independent analysis conducted in 2003 confirmed that the fair market value for each of those licenses was at least $500 million,” he said. “The report also noted that, in 2000, a Detroit casino license was sold for $661 million. In 2001, Argoxy Gaming purchased a suburban Cincinnati casino license for $175 million. And in 2002, the Rosemont casino license, which was originally granted by Illinois for $25,000, got a bid of $615 million.”

Even casinos in regulatory trouble sell for about $500 million, Kindt said.

“When the Nevada-based owner of one Illinois casino ran into trouble in 2001, they sold the casino to another gambling company for $465 million,” Kindt said. “But it should be noted that the initial Illinois license fee they paid was just $25,000. That’s a pretty good return on the initial investment.”

Gambling facilities in Illinois also pay very little in taxes, when compared to other states and venues.

“In Canada, all gambling revenue goes directly into government bank accounts, which technically makes the tax rate 100 percent," he said. “It’s the 7 percent incidence on the service providers, including many of the same gambling companies that operate in Illinois, receive only management fees.”

By comparison, proponents of a Chicago casino have historically argued for an effective tax rate as low as 7.7 percent, Kindt said.

“Over two decades, the relatively low Illinois tax rates on Big Gambling have trended mostly downward through a maze of deductions, all of which are legal,” he said. “That type of financial sleight-of-hand only serves to obfuscate what the Illinois treasury could actually be receiving.”

And under the new Illinois gambling expansion bill, the proposed Chicago casino would, in effect, be allowed to operate as a government unto itself, according to Kindt.

“For starters, the gambling bill’s ethical constraints on political contributions are filled with loopholes,” Kindt said. “But the kicker is that the bill actually proposes laws to indirectly fire the entire Illinois Gaming Board, apparently because the board is performing good regulatory work. In essence, the gambling bill’s ethical constraints on political contributions are filled with loopholes.”

“Why are we subsidizing gambling interests at the expense of teachers, firefighters and police officers?” Kindt asked. “Why are we subsidizing gambling with the supposed history leading to the 2013 budget crisis, apparently because the board is performing good regulatory work?”

“Many other states in the country have long since ditched this horse race to Big Gambling,” he said. “Many other states in the country are looking for something else.”

Guerra said the center also plans to add a walk called State St./Carle Park next month. The center plans to keep updating the website throughout the summer. •
The College of Applied Health Sciences honored its faculty and staff members at a spring meeting and awards ceremony at Huff Hall on May 2.

Marni Boppart, a professor of kinesiology and community health, received the AHS Award for Excellence in Guiding Undergraduate Research.

Laura DeThorne, a professor of speech and hearing science, received the AHS Award for Excellence in Guiding Undergraduate Research.

Carol Fikinsky, an undergraduate academic advisor, received the AHS Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching.

Andiara Schwingel, a professor of kinesiology and community health, received the AHS Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching (teaching assistant).

ENGINEERING

The College of Engineering presented its top awards to faculty members April 29 at the National Center for Computing Applications on campus.

The Dean’s Award for Excellence in Research was awarded to assistant professors Svetlana Lazebnik, computer science; Charles M. Schroeder, chemical and biomolecular engineering; Lane W. Martin, materials science and engineering; Mark Neubauer, physics; and to associate professors Nadya Mason, physics; Olga Milenkovic, electrical and computer engineering; Saurabh Sinha, computer science; Elizabeth Hsiao-Wecksler, mechanical science and engineering.

Brad P. Sutton, a professor of bioengineering, received the Collins Award for Innovative Teaching.

Magdi Ragheb, a professor of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering, received the Everett Award for Teaching Excellence.

The Rose Award for Teaching Excellence was presented to Jennifer Amos, a senior lecturer and chief academic adviser in the Department of Bioengineering, and Greg Elliott, a professor of aerospace engineering.

The National Engineering Teaching Excellence Award was awarded to professor David A. Lange, the Narbey Khachaturian Faculty Scholar in the department of civil and environmental engineering and the director of the Center of Excellence for Airport Technology.

William D. Gropp, the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the department of computer science, was honored with the Tau Beta Pi Daniel C. Drucker Eminent Faculty Award.

Feng Xiong, a doctoral candidate in the department of electrical and computer engineering, received the Ross J. Martin Award.

Other recent awards:

Marcelo Garcia, the Chester and Helen Siess Endowed Professor in Civil and Environmental Engineering, has been elected a Distinguished Member of the American Society of Civil Engineers. Distinguished Members have “attained acknowledged eminence in some branch of engineering or in the arts and sciences related thereto,” according to the society. Garcia is a leader in the field of river mechanics, sediment transport, sedimentation engineering and environmental hydraulics.

Vikram Adve, a professor of computer science, is a recipient of the ACM Software System Award for work on LLVM, an infrastructure designed to help build compilers and other programming tools for a variety of programming languages. According to an ACM news release, Adve and two other researchers were recognized in particular for designing and implementing LLVM, which is noted for “the openness of its technology and the quality of its architecture and engineering as well as its clean, flexible design and easy-to-use programming interfaces.”

Milton Feng, the Nick Holonyak Jr. Chair in Electrical and Computer Engineering, has received the Optical Society’s R.W. Wood Prize “for contributions to the invention and realization of the transistor laser, delivering simultaneously both an electrical signal and a coherent laser output and providing the basis for a revolutionary new higher speed electronic-photonic integrated circuit.” The transistor laser was invented in 2003 by Feng and Holonyak, who is an ECE professor.

Joseph W. Lyding, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, is the recipient of the 2013 Nanotechnology Recognition Award from the American Vacuum Society Nanometer-SCALE Science and Technology Division for his contributions in the field of scanning probe microscopy.

Douglas Beck, a professor of physics, is the co-recipient of the 2013 Outstanding Nuclear Physicist Award from Jefferson Science Associates LLC. for his leadership in the development of the use of parity-violating electron scattering as a tool for the study of nucleon and nuclear structure, and precision studies of the standard model.

Randy H. Ewellot, a professor of mechanical science and engineering, has received the 2013 Distinguished Young Rheologist Award from TA Instruments. The award is designed to help accelerate the research of new academic through grants of rheometer equipment.

The U. of I. Moms Association honored the U. of I.’s La Casa Cultural Latina during Moms Weekend festivities April 13-14.

The 2013 Illini Spirit Award was given to La Casa. The award, now in its sixth year, was created to provide financial support to programs and projects that contribute to the health, safety, development and achievement of students at Illinois.

Funding from the award will contribute to La Casa’s Latina/o Family Initiative, Integrating Latina/o Parents Into Latina/o Life. The award will allow the Latina/o Family Initiative to grow and in turn increase La Casa’s ability to expand outreach to Latina/o families in order to increase Latina/o student retention.
Sacred lotus genome sequence enlightens scientists

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

The sacred lotus (Nelumbo nucifera) is a symbol of spiritual purity and longevity. Its seeds can survive up to 1,300 years, its petals and leaves repel grime and water, and its flowers generate heat to attract pollinators.

New researchers report in the journal Genome Biology that they have sequenced the lotus genome, and the results offer insight into the feature some of its mysteries. The sequence reveals that of all the plants sequenced so far – and there are dozens – sacred lotus bears the closest resemblance to the ancestor of all eudicots, a broad category of flowering plants that includes apple, cabbage, cactus, coffee, cotton, grape, melon, peanut, poplar, soybean, sunflower, tobacco and tomato.

The plant lineage that includes the sacred lotus forms a separate branch of the eudicot family tree, and so lacks a signature triplication of the genome seen in most other eudicots, according to the Wuhan Botanical Garden at the Chinese Academy of Sciences. "Whole-genome duplications – the doubling, tripling (or more) of an organism’s entire genetic endowment – are important events in plant evolution," Ming said.

Ming and his colleagues sequenced the lotus genome.

"A neat thing about the duplication is that we can look at the genes that were retracted and see the pathways," VanBuren said. The researchers found evidence that duplicated genes related to wax formation (which allows the plant to repel water and remain clean) and survival in a mineral-starved watery habitat were retained, for example.

Sacred lotus genome

Robert VanBuren and their colleagues sequenced the sacred lotus genome.

Robert VanBuren, a gradu-ate student at the University of California at Los Angeles (who germinated a 1,300-year-old sacred lotus seed), and Shaohua Li, the director of the Wuhan Botanical Garden at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

"Whole-genome duplications – the doubling, tripling (or more) of an organism’s entire genetic endowment – are important events in plant evolution," Ming said. Some of the duplicated genes retain their original structure and function, and so produce more of a given gene product – a protein, for example, he said. Some gradually adapt new forms to take on new functions. If those changes are beneficial, the genes persist; if they’re harmful, they disappear from the genome.

Many agricultural crops benefit from genome duplications, including banana, papaya, strawberry, sugarcane, watermelon and wheat, said Robert VanBuren, a graduate student in Ming’s lab and a collaborator on the study. Although it lacks the 100 million-year-old triplication of its genome seen in most other eudicots, sacred lotus has a whole-genome duplication about 65 million years ago, the researchers found. A large proportion of the duplicated genes (about 40 percent) have been retained, for example.

"A neat thing about the duplication is that we can look at the genes that were retracted and see the pathways," VanBuren said. The researchers found evidence that duplicated genes related to wax formation (which allows the plant to repel water and remain clean) and survival in a mineral-starved watery habitat were retained, for example.

Looking at changes in the duplicated genes, the researchers found that lotus has a slow mutation rate relative to other plants, Ming said. These traits make lotus an ideal reference plant for the study of other eudicots, the researchers said.

brief notes

Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts

2013-14 season announced

The 2013-14 season at Krahnert Center for the Performing Arts is almost here. The six-week “MIXED MARTIAL ARTS” season begins Aug. 10. Tickets can be purchased online at KrannertCenter.com, by phone at 217-333-6280 or 800-KCPATIX (TTY: 217-333-9714), or in person at the ticket office (10 a.m.-6 p.m. every day).

Faculty members and instructors will also now be able to request audio reserves directly through the new system.

Students will notice an improved experience, as well.

Electronic reserves, or e-reserves, are course reserve readings that are made accessible electronically, either by linking to existing digital versions of the content or by scanning print materials and making them accessible as PDF files.

The new system will provide more flexibility for instructors to manage courses, including adding and removing readings more easily and adding tags to specific items, such as the week or date the reading is assigned or specific subjects covered. There will also be increased transparency of the process, including real-time status updates of any copyright work required by library staff members, keeping faculty and instructors more up to date.

In addition, the new system will provide a more streamlined process for reusing materials from semester to semester, so instructors will be able to easily see all items previously on reserve and choose to reuse an entire list from a past semester or pick items to reuse. The library asks that requests for e-reserves be made as far in advance as possible.

Faculty members and instructors will also now be able to request audio reserves directly through the new system.

Students will notice an improved experience, as well.

Electronic reserves, or e-reserves, are course reserve readings that are made accessible electronically, either by linking to existing digital versions of the content or by scanning print materials and making them accessible as PDF files.

Instead of searching for their courses, they will simply login and be taken directly to a list of all courses in which they are enrolled. Students are able to view and/or print the material 24 hours a day, eliminating the need for multiple print copies and accommodating differing study habits.

E-reserves can be accessed by students through a direct link or through the Online Library Catalog and are accessible from any Internet-connected computer after verification of a U. of I. network ID and password.

Because staff members will be learning the new system along with faculty members and instructors, a longer turnaround time for summer and fall semesters is expected. To help ensure students will have their course readings available for the start of the semester, the library asks that requests for e-reserves be made as far in advance as possible.

Once the new system is fully up and running, a more efficient workflow with faster turnaround times is expected. Although the process for placing e-reserves will change, there will be no changes to the process for placing physical items on reserve at the library at this time.

For more information, go to library.illinois.edu/courseserv or email ipm@library.illinois.edu or 217-244-3773.
Campus book-making machine has short press runs covered

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The era of judging a book by its cover won’t end anytime soon thanks to a new high-tech book-making machine being used at the Illini Union Bookstore.

Last year, employees started using the Espresso Book Machine on site to format, print and bind textbooks, original academic and literary works, as well as some of the 5 million public domain or commercially licensed titles available online.

“There are a growing number of titles becoming available,” said Scott Baseler, the bookstore’s event coordinator. “In some instances we can order the book, but there are many we wouldn’t be able to order because nobody prints it anymore.”

The machine, the only one like it in Illinois and just one of 30 in use in the United States, is actually several machines working in unison. The system is connected by a iMac computer and uses a Xerox copier and Epson printer to make the pages. Those pages are sent through an automatic binder, which cuts off excess paper and glues the pages to a thick cover. The entire internal binding process can be seen through clear plastic walls and takes less than 10 minutes.

The result is a not-so-technical “clunk” as the book drops into a plastic bin. “It was a quick and easy process – and it was really awe-inspiring,” said Sue Steinfeldt, the assistant director of course technology, shows off a finished book in front of the Espresso Book Machine, located on the second floor of the Illini Union Bookstore. The machine can print, bind and cut a book of up to 500 pages in about 10 minutes, making it ideal for limited press-run books. Store managers hope the machine will be used by campus faculty members and students publishing their original work.

“Right now it’s a matter of getting people to know it’s here,” Steinfeldt said. “It was as simple as sending the print-ready PDFs – one file for the interior pages and one for the cover. At 9 cents a page (plus any licensing fees for a specific title), the service is a bargain over print shop or publisher prices, says store managers. Baseler said it also saves the bookstore money because of the potential for reducing unsold inventory.

Books eligible for the machine can be as small as 40 pages and as large as 800. There also are various size options – from 4 ½ by 5 inches to 8 ¼ by 10 ½ inches. The system uses custom ink and paper and special glue pellets for the binding process. Covers are paperback, and color also is available inside and out.

“It’s a very complicated piece of machinery and it all works together,” Steinfeldt said. “It gives us a lot of capabilities, but it took a little while to iron out the kinks.”

She said even the local technician had to learn about the machine because it is so new.

“Not very many people have even seen these machines before,” she said.

Baseler said the number of book selections is growing almost by the day. Several online services offer printable versions of books, most of the big publishing houses are following suit, and the U. of I. has a digital archive of already licensed printable materials.

Selections include everything from out-of-print classic literature to trade, academic or public domain materials. Some of the more recent popular commercial titles aren’t available.

Baseler said he created a book out of a 1902 Robin Hood e-book and even designed his own cover for it.

“It’s the first time it’s been in print in English since the turn of the century,” he said. “I thought that was pretty amazing. The hard part so far for me has been to hold back, knowing I can print just about anything I like.”

Managers say interest in using the machine has even come from off campus through the On Demand Books website, which shows where the Espresso Book Machines are located. (Original content also can be licensed and made available through the network.)

That’s how the UIC architecture department, recently looking for a quick way to print a low-run annual yearbook, found the machine.

“We never even met those people,” Steinfeldt said. “We consulted by phone, they emailed the files and we sent them their books. Every project that has come in is a completely new challenge. It’s been exciting.”

Spine-tingling  Sue Steinfeldt, the assistant director of course technology, shows off a finished book in front of the Espresso Book Machine, located on the second floor of the Illini Union Bookstore. The machine can print, bind and cut a book of up to 500 pages in about 10 minutes, making it ideal for limited press-run books. Store managers hope the machine will be used by campus faculty members and students publishing their original work.