Blind mole-rats are resistant to chemically induced cancers

By Diana Yates

Life Sciences Editor

Like naked mole-rats (Heterocephalus glaber), blind mole-rats (of the genus Spalax) live underground in low-oxygen environments, are long-lived and resistant to cancer. A new study demonstrates just how cancer-resistant Spalax are, and suggests that the adaptations that help these rodents survive in low-oxygen environments also play a role in their longevity and cancer resistance.

The findings are reported in the journal Bombed Central: Biology.

Assistant Editor

Chancellor Wise says new academic year is one of action

By Milen Heintelhal

Assistant Editor

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise is delighted that the new academic year is underway.

Part of the reason is that she has spent a lot of time spurring a campus self-assessment process leading to the recently unveiled Strategic Plan, a three-year plan requested by university President Bob Easter. Initiating that plan is the next step.

“This year you’re going to start seeing that this plan is being put into action,” Wise said. “Too many people (faculty, staff, students and external stakeholders) have spent too much precious time and effort for this to be one of those plans that is not executed.”

NEW LEADERSHIP

See new leaders, page 3.

Hiring that many new faculty members will serve many purposes, Wise said. Among them, bringing faculty numbers more in line with student demand and utilizing “cluster” hiring to bring teams of specialists from emerging and cross-disciplinary fields.

Wise said the effort also would bolster parallel efforts to promote innovative learning and research opportunities for all students, particularly undergraduates.

The chancellor and provost have appointed a faculty committee that has conducted its own “listening and learning” tour in recent months to discuss with deans and departments efforts to improve the search process and meet the recruiting goals in the Strategic Plan.

Wise said this fall’s enrollment numbers may break records for the number of international students. And average GPA scores also are up this year.

“Coming to Illinois is a great opportunity to know and be a part of the global environment,” she said. “I’m encouraging students to go out of themselves and reach out to someone who is different from them.”

Wise said she is confident that this year is a year of action because the campus has gotten firmly behind the principles outlined in the Strategic Plan.

“It’s everybody’s strategic plan,” she said. “So many people helped create it and we hope everyone embraces it as their own.”

She said she and her leadership team have grilled in their short time working together and she is optimistic about the future.

“I am so pleased with the team around me,” she said. “I’ve been here long enough now where I know who to turn to for an answer. They’ve been tremendous, and there are repercussions everywhere across the campus: It affects all aspects of the institution because of the knowledge they possess and the things they’re able to accomplish. These are very unique times in higher education and we have to anticipate the need to manage change as opposed to being managed by changes.”

In this issue

Preserving history

The University Archives is looking to the future in its approach to preserving the past.

Performance exhibitions

Dance performances are being featured this month at Krannert Art Museum.

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Inside Illinois

For Faculty and Staff, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign • http://news.illinois.edu/ii

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New SEC chair expects busy, productive year

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The Senate Executive Committee’s first meeting of the academic year was light on business — but don’t expect that to become a trend, said new chair Roy Campbell after the Aug. 26 meeting.

Campbell said he expects the 2013-14 year to bring a heavy workload for the Urbana Academic Senate, SEC and its 18 committees. The issues likely will come before them for consideration.

He noted the recent submission of the campus Strategic Plan to university administrators and the speed at which those strategies are implemented will likely lead to an increase in senate business, as will the current internal review of senate operations and procedures.

Campbell said that activity will lead to an agenda because in some form or fashion, all of those things will come back to us,” he said. “I think we’ll have many tasks set aside for us to consider. A year is very short and it would be nice to make a lot of progress.”

Outside of affecting administrative and academic departments, Campbell said the discussion and implementation of the strategic plan represents an opportunity for the senate to directly affect funding decisions.

“We’ll have to budget decisions from careful planning, and being at the table for these larger discussions is important,” he said.

He said the review of the law of the ad hoc task force this summer, which will be compounded by a need to act “nimbly” as Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise put it, when they come up for consideration.

Graber said SEC members are encouraged by recommendations made in the Strategic Plan, as well as by the importance Wise and Rasmussen accord the vice chancellor for academic affairs and provost, have indicated they place on the concept of shared governance.

“I think everyone understands the need to focus our energies for the future, and the work of the ad hoc task force will be informed by both faculty members and the administration,” she said. “It was shared governance at its best, and it’s a good sign.”

Campbell said that the senate’s review of its own role within the shared governance structure is important as well, considering the convergence of so many future-focused academic issues. And it’s especially precious considering the university administration is simultaneously conducting its own internal review.

He said he sees one of his main roles as maintaining and increasing communication between all of the interested parties, “because we’re all dedicated to making this university better.” He said he would emphasize the need to make senate meetings and correspondence transparent and meet the criteria of the Illinois Open Meetings Act.

“We’d like to make our (senate) decision-making more effective and timely, but at the same time we want to encourage debate,” he said. “I think the senate structure, as it is, strong, but are there ways we can improve? The answer is always ‘yes.’”

Nine faculty members named to Center for Advanced Study

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

The Center for Advanced Study has announced nine new appointments to its permanent faculty - one of the highest honors the U. of I. campus bestows for outstanding scholarship.

The new CAS professors are James D. Anderson, policy education, organization and leadership; Nigel Goldenfeld, physics; Stephen Long, plant biology; Tere O’Connor, dance; John Rogers, materials science and engineering; Jay Rosenstein, journalism; Klaus Schulten, physics; Jonathan Sweedler, chemistry; and Maria Todorova, history.

They join 18 other CAS professors who direct departments across the campus, and will continue to serve as full members of their home departments while they fulfill the future of CAS by selecting associates and fellows for the center. They each receive a research fund of $5,000 per year. Their appointments are permanent, and were approved by the U of I Board of Trustees during its July meeting.

Anderson heads the policy education, organization and leadership department and is a Gates Professor. His teaching and research focus on the history of American education with a special interest in the history of African-American education, history of desegregation and diversity in all levels of education, and the history of minority schools in the Midwest.

Goldenfeld is a Swanlund Professor in the physics department and leads the bio-complexity theme at the Institute for Geonomic Biology. He is the director of the Institute for Universal Biology, part of the NASA Astrobiology Institute network. His research encompasses physics, mathematics, ecology, evolutionary biology, fluid mechanics, materials science and quantitatively analyzing complex systems, with a focus on understanding spatiotemporal evolution of patterns over time, such as the growth of snowflakes, the microstructures of materials, the flow of fluids and spatial organization of ecosystems. He also is the author of a popular graduate textbook on statistical mechanics, published by the Springer-Verlag.

Long, a Guggenheim Professor in plant biology and cropping sciences, studies photosynthetic efficiency, through both mathematical and experimental study and practical investigation at the field-crop level, focusing on global change. He has identified some productive varieties that have been validated through their success. He has led the development of SoyFACE, a facility that analyzes the effects of atmospheric change on crops, and the Urbana-campuse component of the biofuels research initiative, Energy Biosciences Institute. He now directs the opening of the new Bioenergy Lab and the U.S. Department of Energy to improve photosynthetic efficiency in a variety of crop species.

O’Connor has been choreographing contemporary dance since 1982, creating more than 35 works for his own company, Tere O’Connor Dance, as well as commissioned works for companies around the world including the Lyon Opera Ballet and solo pieces for Jean-Pierre Bonnefous and Mikhail Baryshnikov. He’s known for his dance advocacy through writing, teaching, mentoring and speaking engagements, and has won numerous awards, including the recently the Doris Duke Performing Artist Award.

Rogers is a Swanlund Professor and is director of the Seitz Materials Research Laboratory. He is well-known for his pioneering work on merging hard and soft materials into unusual electronic devices with an emphasis on bio-integrated devices and bio-inspired design. Recent examples include injectable, cellular-scale optoelectronics, “insect” eye digital imagers and bio-inspired circuitry.

Rosenstein is a documentary filmmaker and is one of the few modern filmmakers specializing in social issue stories. He has won a Peabody Award and two regional Emmy awards. His work has been broadcast on the PBS series “POV” and “Indie-Lenten” and on the Independent Film Channel. His films have been screened at film festivals worldwide including the Sundance Film Festival. His 1997 documentary, “In Whose Honor? American Indian Mascots in Sports,” helped influence the NCAA’s decision to ban the use of American Indian mascots. His 2010 documentary, “The Lord is Not on Trial Here Today,” about the First Amendment case that established the separation of church and state in public schools, was named best TV program for fostering the public’s understanding of law by the American Bar Association.

Schulten, a Swanlund Professor, heads the theoretical and computational biophysics group at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and co-directs the Center for the Physics of Living Cells in the physics department. He was the first to demonstrate that parallel computers can be employed to solve the many-body problem in biomolecular modeling and the first to accomplish a simulation of an entire life form (the satellite tobacco mosaic virus).

His group recently discovered the molecular structure of the HIV capsid, offering far greater insights into the virus and potential future treatments for AIDS. His research is focused on investigating the roles that peptide hormones, neurotransmitters and neuromodulatory agents play in behavior, learning and memory.

Todorova, the Gutgsell Professor of History, specializes in the Balkans in the post-communism. She is the author of more than 30 books, and has received numerous awards, including a Guggenheim Fellowship.

Urbana Academic Senate, SEC and its 18 committees will likely lead to an increase in senate business, as will the current internal review of senate operations and procedures.
New leadership appointments announced

Many new administrators or changes in appointments have been announced within the last few months:

■ Bob Easter, the president of the university, has been extended through June 2015.

■ Michel Bellini, the interim director of the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning, has been extended through the 2013-2014 academic year.

■ Marie Childress, a professor in the School of Labor and Employment Relations, has been appointed interim dean since 2010. She came to Illinois in 2004. His appointment as interim associate dean is effective January 2014. Constable is a professor of veterinary clinical sciences and the head of that department. He was a professor of veterinary medicine at the University of Michigan.

■ Christopher Z. Mooney, the director of the Geospatial Science and Technology in Moscow.

■ Donald Edward Seidell (Jan. 15, 2014), the director of the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, was the senior vice president of research and innovation at the Skolkovo Institute of Science and Technology.

■ Jan Slater, the director of the College of Media. Slater had been serving as interim dean since 2010. She came to Illinois in 2007 to become the head of the College of Media.

■ John P. Wilkin, the University at Buffalo, has been appointed dean of the School of Labor and Employment Relations. A professor in the school, he has been on the faculty since 1979.

■ Bryan Endres, the interim associate provost for international programs and director of International Programs and Studies. Endres has been a professor of agricultural and consumer economics and a professor of agricultural law at Illinois since 2003.

■ Robert R. Flaherty, the interim dean of the College of Veterinary Medicine, has been appointed interim dean since 2010. He came to the university in 2007 to become the head of the College of Veterinary Medicine.

■ Margaret M. Stratman, the executive director of Facilities and Services. Stratman retired recently from the Navy.

■ Elizabeth Lehman Frizzell, 93, died Aug. 10 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She was an illustrator at the University of Illinois from 1955 to 1985.

■ James Bruno Risatti Jr., 71, died recently. Risatti was a geochronologist in the Organic Geochemistry Section of the Illinois State Geological Survey for 29 years, retiring as head of the section in 2006. Memorials: Alzheimer’s Disease Research Foundation, alzheimers-research.org; The Nature Conservancy, 8 S. Michigan Ave., Chicago, IL 60603, nature.org; or St. Patrick’s Catholic Church, 2101 S. Prospect Ave., Chicago, IL 60625, carle.org; or Carle Hospice, 205A W. Anthony Drive, Champaign, IL 61822, carle.org.

■ Sonja J. McManaway, 64, died Aug. 22 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She was a project engineer at the University of Illinois from 1973-1985. Memoria
Campus shifting to emphasize undergraduate research

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

It’s been just a year since the Office of the Provost created the Office of Undergraduate Research and it already has produced tangible results.

The new office, led by Paul Diehl, the Henning Larsen Professor of political science, is creating a broad-based undergraduate research program to provide more opportunities across disciplines, and to increase financial and project support, and multiple ways for students to showcase their work.

Students are clamoring for the opportunity to conduct research and the university owes it to them to be able to do so, said Diehl, who for 10 years has been the leader of the Teaching Academy in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

A significant increase in participation at the 2013 Undergraduate Research Symposium is a sign of students’ desire for research — the number of posters and presentations increased from 203 in 2012 to 342 this year.

The undergraduate research office has identified a number of new approaches to connect undergraduate students with research opportunities that transform their U. of Illinois experience, Diehl said.

“There are a number of initiatives that we’ve identified as important and some of them are already being incorporated in the classroom.”

The annual faculty retreat, in February, was attended by more than 200 people, who discussed ways to incorporate undergraduate research opportunities in existing classes and developing new programs that support such research.

“These are things that have to be initiated and put in place at the unit level to be successful,” Diehl said. “We’ve already been working individually with several colleges and departments to get some of these things going.”

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise said the focus on undergraduate research was important enough to include in the university’s recently completed Strategic Plan.

“We want every single student to have the opportunity to have the best education they can imagine,” Wise said. “Undergraduate research opportunities are a big part of that, and that includes those who don’t choose a research career.”

Providing undergraduate students with research opportunities is the equivalent of giving them hands-on experience, she said. “When you ask those graduates what their favorite college experience was, she said, “many times they’ll tell you that getting to conduct research with a world-class faculty member is what they enjoyed most.”

Diehl said his office has focused on two broad areas. One is providing more support environment for young researchers, and the other is to better incorporate research concepts into teacher training.

As for the support network, work is proceeding to create undergraduate research journals, offer certificates to undergraduates successfully completing a sanctioned research project, make available summer fellowships, and provide a conference and travel assistance program for students wanting to present their work off campus.

Diehl said the new initiatives don’t just focus on providing opportunity.

“A great deal of work also is going into changing the nature of undergraduate courses,” he said, which means reconsidering courses that in the past may not even have been thought of as research-adaptable.

To that end, this fall the Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning is offering a faculty workshop series led by Diehl that focuses on integrating research opportunities into the curriculum, identifying research opportunities in the humanities and fine arts, and providing research opportunities for large introductory classes.

Charles Tucker, named vice provost for undergraduate education and innovation in February, said the transition to a research-based undergraduate education is a good thing.

“I really like undergraduate research,” he said, “because it gives students a place to take initiative.”

He said the initial success of the Office of Undergraduate Research has been encouraging.

“The people who will address these problems are the students we’re teaching now,” he said. “It’s our duty to prepare them well.”

Flash Index holds steady; economic growth slows

ON THE WEB
Current annual report of the Office of Undergraduate Research: provost.illinois.edu/our

T he U. of I. Flash Index for August shows that economic growth in Illinois is continuing but that the pace of that growth has slowed to a crawl. The index remained at 106.5 in August, the same level as the previous month.

The reading of 106.5 is the highest for the index since it stood at 106.7 in July 2007, which was before the 2007-2009 recession began.

It should be remembered that this does not mean the Illinois economy is not growing, just that growth is not accelerating,” said economist J. Fred Giercz, who compiles the Flash Index each month for the university’s Institute of Government and Public Affairs. An index level of 100 marks the dividing line between economic growth and decline.

“Recently released national data indicate that the national economy in the second quarter of 2013 grew at a faster pace than originally reported (2.5 percent vs. 1.7 percent),” Giercz said. “This is consistent with the relatively strong performance of the index during this period. But we also note again that the growth of the Illinois economy has made little impact on the unemployment rate, which increased slightly in July to 9.2 percent.”

As with July, two components of the index (individual income and sales tax receipts) were up moderately in real terms in August compared to the same month last year, while corporate tax receipts were down slightly.

The index is a weighted average of Illinois growth rates in corporate earnings, consumer spending and personal income. Tax receipts from corporate income, personal income and retail sales are adjusted for inflation before growth rates are calculated.

The growth rate for each component is then calculated for the 12-month period using data through Aug. 31, 2013.

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NEW faces 2013

Megan J. Dailey
an assistant professor of animal sciences in the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (biology), Georgia State University; post-baccalaureate study (psychology), University of Pennsylvania; B.A. (psychology), University of South Florida

Courses teaching: ANSC 222, Anatomy and Physiology, one of four foundation courses for all animal sciences students. She also will develop a physiology course to broaden the physiology training of upper-level undergraduate students.

Research interests: Her research will help scientists understand nutrient sensing in obese and lean individuals, as well as provide an understanding of the mechanisms responsible for cellular adaption in the intestine. The broader impact is in finding a therapy for intestinal disorders that include Crohn’s disease, irritable bowel syndrome and cancer.

“We hired Megan because of her strong discovery research training and her abilities to work across disciplines in multiple departments,” said Doug Parrett, the interim head and a professor of animal sciences. “Her research associated with obesity and brain-to-gut metabolism is a great fit for animal sciences and also human health issues. She also has great enthusiasm for teaching and has experience in developing new and engaging teaching strategies that will benefit our students. I particularly like her high energy level and her great ability to engage others in topics and projects.”

Why Illinois? “I chose to be a part of U. of I. because the faculty, staff and students set the university apart from other academic institutions,” Dailey said. “Faculty members are passionate about their jobs and creative in their research endeavors. The university is continuing efforts to improve teaching and enhance the learning environment of the students. I am excited to get involved in the interdisciplinary research that occurs throughout the campus and to contribute to the university’s success.”

Andriy Norets
an associate professor of economics in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (economics), University of Iowa; M.A. (economics), National University of Kyiv-Mohyla Academy, Ukraine; Diploma (applied mathematics and computer science), National Technical University of Ukraine

Courses teaching: Norets will be teaching required and elective Ph.D. courses in econometrics, as well as an advanced undergraduate course in econometrics.

Research interests: His research focuses on Bayesian methods in econometrics.

“ANDRIY NORETS comes to Illinois from Princeton University, where he was an assistant professor,” said Martin Perry, the head of economics. “He has made important contributions to the analysis of dynamic discrete choice problems. His work has applications to a wide variety of economic decision processes including retirement decisions and firm entry and competition. He has published his research in the leading econometrics and statistics journals and has recently received a three-year National Science Foundation grant to explore unification of classical and Bayesian inference in econometrics.”

Why Illinois? “Among other factors, the presence of renowned researchers in my field and plans to hire new economics faculty in multiple fields over the next few years played an important role in my decision to come to Illinois,” Norets said.
A disagreement among state courts as to whether drunk-driving homicide can be resolved by requiring the prosecution to prove in these cases not that the driver’s intoxication caused the fatal accident, but merely that the underlying illness would kill them.”

“Nobody has put the two ideas together,” he said. “With this paper, I want to make judges, prosecutors and defense lawyers notice the connection between the two ideas.”

According to Johnson, in cases involving drunk-driving homicide, the courts are divided equally on the question of whether the law requires a “causal nexus” between the defendant’s intoxication and the outcome of the conduct – and the fatal accident.

“There’s this division in the courts, and the defense lawyers I spoke with said they don’t see the law going in this direction. That’s why we should look for a middle ground.”

It’s a question that gets litigated frequently in state courts, each of which applies its own distinctive state criminal law to the subject, Johnson said.

“The courts have come to different conclusions on this. But if you’re encouraging the prosecution to prove that the defendant contributed to the causal mechanism behind the accident, you’re demanding what the law appears to require, which is proof beyond a reasonable doubt that the defendant would not have occurred, but for intoxication.”

Johnson’s own intuitions about the problem also were divided. On one hand, the position that the intoxication’s causal role shouldn’t matter at all in those cases struck him as “intuitively wrong.” But he also recognized that in many cases the government would find it next to impossible to prove that the accident would not have occurred “but for” the driver’s intoxication.

“In some states, the prosecution needs to satisfy the ‘but for’ standard – that is, it has to prove beyond a reasonable doubt that the accident would not have occurred ‘but for’ the defendant’s actions. What the government can prove is that the defendant contributed incrementally to the causal mechanism behind his death. And that’s enough in a case like this.”

Drunk-driving homicide cases also involve causal overdetermination, Johnson says.

“In drunk-driving homicide cases the causal mechanism behind the accident usually is the interaction of a roadway hazard – a pedestrian on a blind curve, for example – with inherent limitations on the abilities of human drivers to perceive and react to hazards,” he said. “That combination is what causes the accident. But the driver’s intoxication contributes to the danger posed by that combination in exactly the same way that taking away a sick person’s medication contributes to the danger posed by their underlying illness.”

If drunk-driving homicide cases are caused by intoxication, then courts that require a “but for” causal connection between the intoxication and the accident are requiring too much. By the same token, courts that require no causal connection at all are requiring too little.

“The answer really lies in the middle,” he said. “What’s required is only that the driver’s intoxication contributed to the mechanism behind the crash. So if the accident occurred under circumstances where the driver’s intoxication made matters worse, where it’s even possible that a sober driver would have been able to avoid the accident, then the crime’s causation element is satisfied.”

According to Johnson, this is the kind of issue that lawyers deal with all the time.

“It’s probably one of the most frequently litigated questions in drunk-driving homicides,” Johnson said.

Although it sounds purely academic on the surface, “it’s easy to see how it could be reduced to a jury instruction in a criminal case,” he said.

“You could do that very easily – you’d tell the jury that the only question is whether the accident occurred under circumstances where the driver’s intoxication ‘might’ have made a difference. The government doesn’t have to prove that his intoxication ‘would’ have made a difference.”

As a former prosecutor who worked in the offices of the attorneys general of New York and of Alaska before becoming a criminal law scholar, Johnson says he would like to see the law go in that direction.

“The government shouldn’t have to prove that the accident definitely wouldn’t have occurred; it’s enough that the driver was drunk, which increased the risk, and the accident occurred,” he said.

The paper will appear in the Connecticut Law Review. ▪
The Campus Charitable Fund Drive starts

**SEPTMBER 16!**

The annual 8-week employee fund drive to support charitable organizations.

2013CCFD

Kick-off and Agency Fair

September 16, 2013
12:15-1:30 p.m.
Illini Union, Room C

All employees and retirees are invited to attend and learn more about the 11 agencies we support. It’s your chance to ask any questions regarding your contributions and fill out a pledge form.

Donate or learn more about the agencies at [ccfd.illinois.edu](http://ccfd.illinois.edu)

**EVERY PLEDGE COUNTS!**

This is an approved event. Your attendance must be approved by your supervisor who will make the decision based on the operating needs of your department.
Designated Levels of Giving Donors

Some members of the campus community who contributed to the success of last year’s drive are listed here. This list was compiled from payroll and fund-drive records at the end of the 2012 Campus Charitable Fund Drive. We apologize if any names were inadvertently omitted. This list is also available at ccfd.illinois.edu.

**Level Minimum Donation Listed**

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- **Ben and Georgeann Jones***
- **Christine Beatty**
- **Kristen Bogenschutz**
- **Laura Jordan***
Archives’ approach looks to the future, preserves the past

By Mike Holenthal
Assistant Editor

Mynard Brichford wasn’t thinking about the past when he was given the task of starting the University Archives.

He was looking to the future. Brichford had become the university’s first professional archivist in 1963 after campus leaders decided creating a central “place” dedicated to collecting and preserving the university’s historical record was long overdue.

“Up to that point there were many collections of records and papers on campus, but they were scattered all over the place. Stored in boxes and closets and not accessible for users,” said William Maher, who took over as university archivist in 1995 after working alongside Brichford for 18 years. “There wasn’t anything connecting them.”

Brichford set out to change that, developing an organizational scheme and a preservation approach that focused on accounting for and protecting campus records and faculty papers before they were lost. “They get here by various routes,” Maher said. “We need to continue to grow and we need to be constantly adding new material because the archives become sort of a shrine to just one version in all formats,” he said. “If not, the archives will diminish over the years,” he said. “That means that even things which might initially put someone in a less than optimal light should eventually become available for research, even if it takes a few decades. The integrity of the record and value of history mean that we have a responsibility to support this transparency.”

A trip to the archives can take you to just about any place and any moment in time. Some collections, like personal papers and sensitive records, have been collected internally or given to the university outright for safekeeping. For example, the notes kept in the mid-1800s by Gregor Mendel, considered the father of the study of genetics, can be found there, and the archives is acquiring the paper and electronic files of the late Carl Woese, a renowned U. of I. geneticist who has been called “the modern Darwin.”

“Faculty papers can take you well beyond the borders of our campus,” Maher said.

Others, such as the archives Advertising Council historical collection, known for such public awareness campaigns as Smokey Bear and the “Crash Dummies,” are sponsored by an outside organization and managed by University Archives’ staff members.

“They get here by various routes,” Maher said of the items in their collections. “Regardless of the origins, the archives is a veritable treasure trove for researchers looking to connect the dots for some lost or yet-undiscovered story.

“Our treasures aren’t the kind you put on a shelf and admire,” he said. “They’re here for people to use. We have things you wouldn’t expect to find here — but you find it. Seeing what researchers do with this information is just amazing. We’re about the university, but about so much more.”

Maher said he would like to see the University Archives’ anniversary as a springboard to begin the conversation about expanding its facilities. While neither dark nor dank, the main archives quarters in the University Library are cramped, and the off-site storage site at the Horticulture Field Laboratory is in need of an updated ventilation system to keep the oldest of the items from crumbling away.

“We need to continue to grow and we need to be constantly adding new material all formats,” he said. “If not, the archives become sort of a shrine to just one version of the past.”

He said part of growing is not just adding collections, “which have a habit of just showing up from time to time,” but expanding the “user community” as well.

The Sousa Archives, for example, has offered programs in its space and at area schools for students from elementary through high school, and it has broadened its focus to include the history of American music. Maher said it draws researchers from all over the world.

“We can’t compete with the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame,” Maher said, “but we can focus on engaging the local community and the international community that the university brings to our door.”

Other archives staff members are working to bring items of relevance from certain collections into the classroom to add depth and a campus connection.

“The Student Life and Culture Archives has brought hundreds of students to the archives who wouldn’t necessarily have come here,” he said. Intent alone will not keep the archives up with the times. The archives already is the sole repository of university records, but paper records have given way to electronic ones, and Maher said archives staff members have fought mightily to keep ahead of the technological curve.

In addition, the archives is constructing an initiative to capture electronic records of university administrators and is working to digitize other materials in an effort to make them more accessible to the public.

“These are things that are used to be put in file cabinets, then boxes and sent to the basement to wait for the archivist,” he said. “That’s why we are working to manage electronic records as they are created and used, so that the university will not enter a digital dark age.”

He noted that the Library has just received word of approval from the National Endowment for the Humanities grant in support of a new, state-of-the-art environmental system for the south campus Archives Research Center.

There also are plans in the next year to move some of the archives functions to a more- accessible and visible first-floor location in the main Library.

However the future unfolds, a university archivist is sure to be there documenting it. “Our plan for the future is to be here for the present will be there in the future,” he said.

“We spend a lot of time thinking about the future.”

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Murray Nettles and Stanton’s principal, who has since retired, also collaborated on a research report that was published in a guidebook for educators on promoting resilience.

Murray Nettles said that her belief in the value of community partners helping children adjust to school was sparked early in her career, when she worked with political scientist and author Charles Murray at the American Institutes for Research evaluating the educational access and equity program PUSH for Excellence as well as the public education reform initiative Communities in Schools, formerly known as “Cities and Schools.”

“Necessary Spaces” is a culmination of some of the things that I learned along the way about children’s development, especially among black children and poor children, in schools and neighborhoods,” Murray Nettles said. “There’s a wealth of information out there on child and youth development, but I think there’s a dearth of narrative accounts that parents can use on a daily basis. That’s what my book represents. I wanted to write in a personal way that children can relate to, to other community members, and at the same time provides social science data on the issue.”

The book provides a guidebook for educators on promoting resilience among at-risk children and youth. In her research, Murray Nettles has examined issues of gender, race and ethnicity, and the influence of community and environmental factors such as environmental toxins on children’s academic performance. Resilience has been a particular focus of Murray Nettles’ research. And interwoven with the personal stories and insights in the book are social science theory and research, including examinations of several successful community-based initiatives, that promote and sustain resilience among at-risk children and youth.

Among these is Stanton Elementary School in Washington, D.C., a high-poverty district that was plagued with deteriorating facilities and marginal academic performance when Murray Nettles began her longitudinal research project there in 1996. Four years later, the turnaround in black male students’ academic achievement at Stanton – brought about by the collaborative efforts of Stanton’s principal, faculty members, parents and community partners – was the focus of an ABC “Nightline” documentary.

The researchers did “data collection on a shoestring,” according to Murray Nettles, and for the Northeast 74 percent, even though only 16 percent had units.

On the other hand, 80 percent of those in any form, at 87 percent, even though only 16 percent had units. In the West were the least likely to have black studies in some form, at 56 percent, even though 23 percent had units.

The figures for the Midwest were 79 percent and 22 percent. For the Northeast the figures were 74 percent and 23 percent.

The researchers found that nearly half of all black studies units, or 49 percent, use terms in their unit names such as “Afro,” “African and African American,” or “Pan-African” that reflect the larger African diaspora or the different waves of African-descended peoples who have come to the U.S. The highest percentage was in the Northeast, at 65 percent, which the researchers suggested might be due to recent immigration into those states. National names – including African American, Afro-American or Black – are used by 32 percent of all programs.
A
n analysis of enzymes that load amino acids onto transfer RNAs – an operation at the heart of protein translation – offers new insights into the evolutionary origins of the modern genetic code, researchers report.

The researchers focused on aminoacyl tRNA synthetases, enzymes that “read” the genetic information embedded in transfer RNA molecules and attach the appropriate amino acids to those tRNAs. Once a tRNA is charged with its amino acid, it carries it to the ribosome, a cellular “workbench” on which proteins are assembled, one amino acid at a time.

Synthetases charge the amino acids with high-energy chemical bonds that speed the later steps of protein synthesis, called the peptide bonds. Synthetases also have powerful editing capabilities; if the wrong amino acid is added to a tRNA, the enzyme quickly dissolves the bond.

“Synthetases are key interpreters and arbitrating of how nucleic-acid information translates into amino-acid information,” said Gustavo Caetano-Anollés, a U. of I. professor of crop sciences and of bioinformatics. Caetano-Anollés, who led the research, also is a professor in the Institute for Genomic Biology. “Their editing capabilities are about 100-fold more rigorous than the domains that recognize the region on the tRNA, called an anticodon, that tells the synthetase which amino acid that tRNA should carry.

“Remarkably, we also found that the most ancient domains of the synthetases were structurally analogous to modern enzymes that are involved in non-ribosomal protein synthesis, and to other enzymes that are capable of making dipeptides,” Caetano-Anollés said.

The researchers hypothesize that ancient protein synthesis involved enzymes that looked a lot like today’s synthetases, perhaps working in conjunction with ancient tRNAs.

“Researchers have known for decades that rudimentary protein synthesis can occur without the involvement of the ribosome, Caetano-Anollés said. But few if any have looked to the enzymes that catalyze these reactions for evidence of the evolutionary origins of protein synthesis.

Alerted to the potential importance of dipeptide formation in early protein synthesis, the researchers next looked for patterns of frequently used dipeptides in the sequences of modern proteins. They focused only on proteins for which scientists have collected the most complete and accurate structural information.

“The analysis revealed an astonishing fact,” Caetano-Anollés said. “The most ancient protein domains were enriched in dipeptides with amino acids encoded by the most ancient synthetases. And these ancient dipeptides were present in rigid regions of the proteins.”

The domains that appeared after the emergence of the genetic code (which Caetano-Anollés ties to the emergence of the tRNA anticodon) “were enriched in dipeptides that were present in highly flexible regions,” he said.

Thus, genetics is associated with protein flexibility, he said.

“Our study offers an explanation for why there is a genetic code,” Caetano-Anollés said. Genomics allowed proteins “to become flexible, thereby gaining a world of new molecular functions.”

**BLIND MOLE-RAT.** From Page 1.

Tfibroblasts, cells that generate extracellular factors that support and buffer other cells. Previous studies of naked mole-rat cells have found that fibroblasts and their secretions have anti-cancer activity. Similarly, the researchers at Haifa found that Spalax fibroblasts were efficient killers of two types of breast cancer cells and two types of lung cancer cells. Diluted and filtered liquid medium drawn from the fibroblast cell culture also killed breast and lung cancer cells. Mouse fibroblasts, however, had no effect on the cancer cells.

To help explain these results, Band and his colleagues looked to the gene expression profiles obtained from their previous studies of blind mole-rats in hypoxic environments. The researchers had found that genes that regulate DNA repair, the cell cycle and programmed cell death are differently regulated in Spalax when exposed to normal, above-ground oxygen levels (21 percent oxygen) and conditions of hypoxia (3, 6 and 10 percent oxygen). These changes in gene regulation differed from those of mice or rats under the same conditions, the researchers found.

Spalax naturally have a variant in the p53 gene (a transcription factor and known tumor suppressor), which is identical to a cancer-related mutation in humans, Band said. Transcription-factor genes code for proteins that regulate the activity of other genes and so affect an animal’s ability to respond to its environment. The research group in Israel showed “that the Spalax p53 suppresses apoptosis (programmed cell death), however enhances cell cycle arrest and DNA repair mechanisms,” he said.

Hypoxia can damage DNA and contribute to aging and cancer, so mechanisms that protect against hypoxia – by repairing DNA, for example – likely also help explain the blind mole-rat’s resistance to cancer and aging, Band said.

“So now we know there’s overlap among the genes that affect DNA repair, hypoxia tolerance and cancer suppression,” he said. “We haven’t been able to show the exact mechanisms yet, but we’re able to show that in Spalax they’re all related. One of the lessons of this research is that we have a new model animal to study mechanisms of disease, and possibly discover new therapeutic agents.”

The United States-Israel Binational Science Foundation and the Israel Cancer Association supported this research.

**Cancer resistance.** Mark Band, the director of functional genomics at the U. of I. Biotechnology Center, and his colleagues have studied the blind mole-rat’s extraordinary cancer-resistance.
Law professor Sara R. Benson on Illinois’ same-sex marriage ban

Editor's note: Cook County Circuit Judge Sophia Hall is expected to rule on a challenge to the state of Illinois' 17-year-old same-sex marriage ban when court resumes later this month. U. of I. law professor Sara R. Benson, an expert on sexual orientation and the law, spoke with News Bureau business and law editor Phil Ciciora about the ongoing fight to legalize same-sex marriage in Illinois.

How similar is the fight to allow same-sex couples in Illinois to marry to California’s headline-grabbing Proposition 8 battle of a few years ago?

In some ways it is very similar—especially with regard to the legal issues involved. The main similarity is that people are being treated unequally on the basis of sex or sexual orientation. We heard similar arguments in the Prop. 8 litigation, and this is also the basis for just about every same-sex marriage legal battle. Whether the litigation takes place in California or Iowa or Illinois, the point of contention is that people are being treated unequally under the law.

On the other hand, the Illinois lawsuit is a challenge to a state law providing that marriage is only permissible between a man and a woman. This is different from the California litigation because Prop. 8 was not a state law—it was a resolution passed by a vote of the people. In California, the voting public essentially tried to amend their constitution to forbid same sex marriage, which is different than challenging a long-standing state law.

In light of last June’s Supreme Court decision in U.S. v. Windsor, which overturned the Defense of Marriage Act, people’s lives and livelihoods are at stake in the current litigation because the outcome could affect their taxes, Social Security benefits and other spousal benefits. Before the DOMA decision, same-sex partners weren’t allowed to file joint tax returns because federal law prohibited it. But now, with DOMA overturned but only civil unions legal in Illinois, there are greater things at stake, especially after the government issued a statement announcing that civil unions will not be treated similarly to marriage under the U.S. v. Windsor decision.

In other words, only individuals who qualify as married to their same-sex partner can benefit from the Windsor decision. Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan and Cook County State’s Attorney Anita Alvarez both declined to defend the law that bans same-sex marriage. What can we infer from that?

This is another parallel to the Prop. 8 case. In both instances, the individuals charged with defending the law declined to do so. In Illinois, one of the clerks named in the lawsuit has publicly stated that he does not support the law and will not defend against the lawsuit.

Public officials are thinking about their roles at a higher level. This public stance also is similar to (President) Obama’s stance on DOMA—saying, in effect, the federal government will follow DOMA, but will refuse to defend it in court because it is unconstitutional. By being so bold as to publicly endorse that position, Obama really set the tone for future public officials such as the clerk in Illinois. That’s been the playbook that other public officials have followed ever since.

It also helps that Obama was re-elected, which created political cover. How long until this case is resolved?

Right now the case is only at the trial court level, and it’s in the early stages. By no means will it be an overnight case. This will likely be drawn out for some time through the appellate process. But that doesn’t mean this process goes on in a vacuum. My feeling is that there will be more movement in the Legislature as well. It could be that the Legislature beats the courts to legalizing same sex marriage in Illinois because of the machinations of the appeals process.

Also, if the suit is dismissed, that could be the end of the lawsuit, barring an appeal—but that doesn’t mean it’s the end for same-sex marriage in Illinois. The Legislature could still go forward with another bill to legalize it.

Whatever happens, it will be an ongoing process, one where there’s not likely to be a quick resolution. The bill that would have made Illinois the 13th state to allow same-sex couples to marry fell a few votes short in the Illinois House earlier this summer. Where does the state of Illinois sit on the spectrum of gay rights?

The state of Illinois is the next fighting ground for gay rights. This lawsuit is happening at this time because Illinois has made some progress. That is, we have civil unions, and the state Legislature has been proposing same-sex marriage and gotten it passed through one legislative body.

But are we on the cutting edge? No. DOMA has already been struck down; the Prop. 8 litigation has been settled, and states like Iowa and Massachusetts have already legalized same-sex marriage.

So Illinois is certainly not at the vanguard. But is it important? Yes. The Supreme Court made it very clear in Windsor that they consider gay marriage to be a state law issue. Part of the decision in Windsor is an idealized federalism, saying, in effect, that this is an issue for the states to figure out, and we’re not going to unilaterally say we need same-sex marriage for everyone. That means you’re going to see the fights rev up at the state level, and Illinois is a prime example. ✮
Dance performances, new art exhibitions featured at KAM

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

Dance performances both live and in video installations are being featured this month at Krannert Art Museum – not to be confused with Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The dance exhibitions represent the second installment in the art museum’s Openstudio series, which presents live musical or dance performances in conjunction with artist residencies, intended to forge interdisciplinary learning and cultural exchange.

Four new art exhibitions also are on display at KAM. U. of I. dance professor and choreographer Tere O’Connor premieres “Sister,” the latest work in his “Bleed” project, on Sept. 11 and 12 at 7:30 p.m. Earlier this year, O’Connor received a Doris Duke Artist Award worth $275,000. He has previously been named a Guggenheim Fellow, and has received multiple grants from the National Endowment for the Arts. With his New York-based company, Tere O’Connor Dance, he has won three New York Dance and Performance (Bessie) Awards.

Commissioned by KAM, O’Connor’s “Sister” will feature two members of his company, Cynthia Oliver and David Thomson, who have each won numerous honors in the areas of dance, choreography, higher education and arts advocacy. Oliver is a dance professor and University Scholar at the U. of I. Thomson is an artist-professor and University Scholar for arts advocacy. Oliver and Thomson are dance advocates. Oliver and Thomson are dance advocates.

Cynthia Oliver and David Thomson will perform at KAM on Sept. 19. Illinois dance professor Jennifer Monson will present an hour-long solo performance as a component of “Live Dancing Archive.” The piece includes a video installation using footage from Monson’s 2002 trip tracking the migration of ospreys from Maine to Venezuela, during which she and three colleagues danced on beaches and in parks along the way. A digital archive of photos, scores and journal entries from that journey is another component of the piece.

The dance performances will occupy KAM’s east gallery, which is the largest gallery on the main floor. But even when it’s not being used for a rehearsal or performance, the space will still be filled with dance, thanks to professor Renée Wadleigh’s “Dance on Video” installation. A former dancer and teacher with the Paul Taylor Company, Wadleigh has been collecting videos of dance performances for more than three decades. The pieces in the installation illustrate correspondences between developments in contemporary art and dance that took shape in the 1960s and intensified through the 1990s. Wadleigh will give a gallery talk, “The Intersection of Dance and the Visual Arts,” at 5 p.m. on Sept. 9 and her installation will be on view through Sept. 22. Also currently at KAM:

On the Web
kam.illinois.edu
York City.
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Also currently at KAM:

“Return to Sender: Ray Johnson, Robert Warner and the New York Correspondence School” uses the ephemera from a “mail art” event that Johnson – a collagist who founded the “New York School of Correspondence” in the late 1950s – staged in Illinois in 1974. Johnson, a contemporary of Andy Warhol, came up with the concept of mail art when he began sending letters or objects to artists, writers and celebrities around the world with a request to modify the item and mail it to a second artist, who would modify it and return the item to Johnson. In 1988, he gave Warner – a New York artist, optician and printer – 13 boxes of mail art and other items. For this exhibition, Warner will reinstall Box 13, along with 25 collages Johnson made for gallery exhibitions.

On Oct. 10, KAM will screen a pair of films related to this exhibition: “Ray Johnson Correspondence School,” a campy, unreleased short by John Orlandello documenting a performance and exhibition that Johnson made as an artist-in-residence at Western Illinois University in the early 1970s; and “How to Draw a Bunny,” a 90-minute documentary by John Walter and Andrew Moore that explores Johnson’s life and mysterious death. A companion exhibition, “Correspondents of Ray Johnson,” shows works from KAM’s permanent collection by artists who participated in Johnson’s mail-art network. This exhibition highlights artists who shared similarities to Johnson’s aesthetic, such as Robert Indiana, James Rosenquist, Ed Ruscha and Karl Wirsum.

“Hello World! or: How I Learned to Stop Listening and Love the Noise” is an installation comprising 5,000 unique video diaries gathered and arranged in a grid with a multi-channel, immersive soundscape by the artist Christopher Bakker, a scientists-turned-artist whose work has been presented in exhibitions across North America, Europe and the United Kingdom. He is a professor in art and technology studies at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

Artist Yun-Fei Ji uses traditional Chinese materials such as ink and watercolor on handmade mulberry or xuan paper to address the destruction wrought by China’s Three Gorges Dam project.

Openstudio 2 Cynthia Oliver and David Thomson will perform at Krannert Art Museum at 7:30 p.m. Sept. 11-12 in the premiere of Tere O’Connor’s “Sister,” the latest work in his “Bleed” project. This dance exhibition and others are part of the museum’s Openstudio series.

The world’s largest hydroelectric plant, this dam was conceived as a means of achieving green energy production, but it has displaced more than a million people, submerged industrial sites, and wiped out acres of forests and agricultural land. Ji’s images capture the struggle and despair of people forced into poverty and degradation as a result of the project, and raise questions about industrial development in the affected communities. “Manufactured Landscapes,” a 90-minute film following photographer and artist Edward Burtynsky across the globe as he documents industrialization and its effects, will be shown continuously throughout this exhibition.

The three visual art exhibitions continue through Jan. 5, 2014.

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By Dusty Rhodes Art and Humanities Editor

The fall 2013 Center for Advanced Study/MillerComm lectures begin Sept. 18 with Gunther Schuller – musician, composer, conductor, educator, historian and publisher. He has won a Pulitzer Prize, a MacArthur Foundation “genius” award and three Grammy Awards. Schuller, a George A. Miller Visiting Artist, has composed more than 180 works covering genres from symphonic to operatic to jazz, founded publishing and recording companies, and served as the president of the New England Conservatory for a decade. Instead of giving a lecture, Schuller will be interviewed at 7:30 p.m. by U. of I. French horn professor Bernhard Scully, who is performing Schuller’s Quartet for Horn and Strings the next night (Sept. 19) at the Allerton Music Barn Festival in Monticello, Ill.

Martha Crenshaw, a senior fellow at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation and the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, is one of the few scholars who was investigating terrorism long before the attacks of Sept. 11, 2001. Her latest book, “Explaining Terrorism: Causes, Processes and Consequences,” documents the development of her research on this topic through essays she wrote during the past three decades. Her lecture, at 4 p.m. on Sept. 26, will focus on her current research into the varied responses of governments to terrorist attacks and an evaluation of their effectiveness.

On Oct. 1 at 4 p.m., Subra Suresh will address “Crossing Boundaries and Transforming Lives: Engineering, Cell Biology and Medicine.” Suresh is the president of Carnegie Mellon University. In 2010, he was appointed director of the National Science Foundation; previously, he was the dean of the School of Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He has co-written more than 250 journal articles, registered 21 patents and written three books. His talk will provide specific examples of cross-disciplinary developments in understanding human diseases.

Susan Goldin-Meadow has found that deaf children invent their own language-like system using manual gestures, and that gestures used by people with normal hearing can convey secrets of the mind. Goldin-Meadow is the Bearsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor in the psychology department at the University of Chicago. Her lecture, “How do Hands Use Live Music and Images to Explain how American Music Reinvents Itself when People Reshape the Songs of a Shared Repertoire,” begins at 4 p.m. on Oct. 24.

Kevin Featherstone, a professor of contemporary Greek studies and European politics at the European Institute, will discuss the endemic problems in Greek government and the challenges they present not only for Greece but also for the European Union. His talk, “A System Fit for Purpose? The Challenge of Governance in Greece,” begins at 4 p.m. on Nov. 14.

All MillerComm lectures are free and open to the public. Goldin-Meadow will speak in the Ballroom at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center. All other MillerComm lectures take place in Knight Auditorium at the Spurlock Museum.
Sinfonia kicks off 30th season with gala, performances

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

Sinfonia da Camera, the professional chamber orchestra led by Ian Hobson, a professor emeritus of music at the U. of I., celebrates its 30th anniversary season with a gala at 6 p.m. Sept. 15 in the lobby of Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Cocktails, a formal dinner and dessert will be served while Hobson, guest soloists and Sinfonia musicians perform classical chamber music favorites and jazz standards. The evening will end with a live auction and dancing. Tickets are $150 per person (half of that amount is a tax-deductible gift) and are available through the Sinfonia da Camera office.

The first concert of the season, on Nov. 2, “Opening Night Romance,” will feature Brahms’ Serenade No. 2 in A major, Op. 16, which he dedicated to Clara Schumann, followed by Poulenc’s melancholy “Aubade,” depicting two lovers separating at dawn. The evening will end with Strauss’ “Le Bourgeois Gentilhomme,” a lighthearted orchestral suite that captures the humor of Molière’s famous play.

On Nov. 21, Illinois voice professors Barrington Coleman (tenor) and Ricardo Herrera (bass-baritone) and the U. of I. men’s and women’s glee clubs will join Sinfonia to present Verdi’s Messa da Requiem, a Mass so dramatic that the German conductor Hans von Bülow famously described it as “Oper in Kirchengewande,” or “opera in ecclesiastical dress.” Coleman has described it as “Oper in Kirchengewande,” or “opera in ecclesiastical dress.” Coleman was the bass soloist in Beethoven’s Symphony No. 9 in D Minor, and his European debut at the Oldenburgisches, europian debut at the Oldenburgisches Symphony Orchestra and the “Oedipe” and as Figaro in Sinfonia’s production of “Nozze di Figaro.”

During the holiday season, Sinfonia da Camera will collaborate with the Champaign Urbana Ballet to present six performances of Tchaikovsky’s “The Nutcracker.”

On March 14, soloists, including voice professors Herrera, Dawn Harris, Yvonne Redman and others, will join Sinfonia to present one of the most popular operettas of all time, Gilbert and Sullivan’s “The Mikado.”

Sinfonia will end its 30th season on May 3 with “Three’s a Charm,” a trio of Beethoven number 3s – the “Leonore” Overture No. 3, Op. 72a; the Piano Concerto No. 3 in C minor, Op. 37, featuring Hobson at the keyboard; and the “Eroica” Symphony No. 3 in E flat major, Op. 55.

All Sinfonia concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in the Foellinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Cocktails, a formal dinner and dessert will be served while Hobson, guest soloists and Sinfonia musicians perform classical chamber music favorites and jazz standards. The evening will end with a live auction and dancing. Tickets are available through the Krannert Center ticket office.

SINFONIA DA CAMERA
30th Season Gala
Sept. 15
“Opening Night Romance”
Nov. 2
Verdi’s “Requiem”
Nov. 21
“The Nutcracker”
Dec. 5-8
“From Russia With Love”
Dec. 5-8
“The Mikado”
March 24
“Three’s A Charm”
May 3

sinfonia.illinois.edu
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 Ads removed for online version
Novelists, poets to take part in Carr Reading Series

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

Award-winning novelist Micheline Aharonian Marcom will read from her latest book, "A Brief History of Yes," to open the fall 2013 Carr Reading Series at 4:30 p.m. Sept. 18 in the Illini Union Bookstore. Marcom is the author of five novels. Her first, "Three Apples Fell From Heaven," was a New York Times Notable Book and a Los Angeles Times and Washington Post Book of the Year in 2001. It served as the first installment of her trilogy on the 1915-17 Armenian genocide and its aftermath. The Times Book Review credited the "fierce beauty of her prose" for confronting readers with "breathtaking cruelties" and carrying readers past them. She has written just as fiercely about love triangles, female sexuality and mourning in her other two novels, "The Mirror in the Well" and "A Brief History of Yes." She has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the PEN/ USA Award for Fiction and a Fulbright Fellowship.

On Sept. 18, Marcom will read from her latest book, "A Brief History of Yes," to open the fall 2013 Carr Reading Series at 4:30 p.m. in the Illini Union Bookstore. Marcom is the author of five novels. Her first, "Three Apples Fell From Heaven," was a New York Times Notable Book and a Los Angeles Times and Washington Post Book of the Year in 2001. It served as the first installment of her trilogy on the 1915-17 Armenian genocide and its aftermath. The Times Book Review credited the "fierce beauty of her prose" for confronting readers with "breathtaking cruelties" and carrying readers past them. She has written just as fiercely about love triangles, female sexuality and mourning in her other two novels, "The Mirror in the Well" and "A Brief History of Yes." She has received numerous fellowships and awards, including the PEN/USA Award for Fiction and a Fulbright Fellowship.

On Nov. 4, poets Ladan Osman and Roger Reeves will read from their works. Osman has received several fellowships, including one from the Michener Center for Writers, and her chapbook, "Ordinary Heaven," will appear in "African Poetry: A New Generation Anthology" next year. Reeves' poems have appeared in "Ploughshares," "Ameri can Poetry Review," "Boston Review" and others. He has received several awards and fellowships, including a 2013 National Endowment for the Arts fellowship.

Sara Levine will read on Nov. 13. She is the author of a short-story collection, "Short Dark Oracles," and "Treasure Island!!" – a comedic novel in which the female protagonist uses Robert Louis Stevenson's classic as a self-help book, adopting boldness, resolution, independence and horn-blowing as her core values. The San Francisco Chronicle called the book "unstoppably funny and not a little frightening," and The New York Times described it as "a rollicking tale, shameless, funny and intelligent." She is a professor in the writing program at The School of the Art Institute of Chicago.

The readings take place in the Author's Corner on the second floor of the Illini Union Bookstore. All Carr events are free and open to the public.

SURVEY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 11

They also found that 46 percent of black studies unit heads were women, showing that these units “have been as successful as any in higher education in recognizing and promoting gender equity in their leadership,” Bailey said.

In addition, the researchers found that 53 percent of units were located on campuses that also had Latino studies units. Bailey described this finding as “essential,” given changing demographics and the need to build coalitions between blacks and Latinos in the larger society.

Gauging the state of black studies in its broad, historical context is important, Bailey said, because its influence has often gone beyond its size.

“Many people assume that black studies was simply a political response to the turmoil of the 1960s,” Bailey said. “What is not fully appreciated is that black studies also spurred and inspired many significant transformations in higher education. For instance, it produced one of the first big discussions of interdisciplinary scholarship, and of what is now known as service learning. It is a discipline and field connected by countless threads to communities and to other disciplines and arenas of scholarship in higher education, both in the U.S. and around the world.”

Did you know that campus units can place a 1/8th-page ad in Inside Illinois for only $105?

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Center for Advanced Study

Initiative to look at cultures of law

Legal reforms adopted by East Asian countries over the past two decades reflect a shift toward “participatory legitimacy,” but may prove unstable, according to Tom Ginsburg, the Leo Fitz Professor of international law at the University of Chicago Law School.

Ginsburg will speak on “From Modernism to Participation in East Asian Law” at 4 p.m. Sept. 10 in the Spurlock Museum’s Knight Auditorium. Ginsburg is the director of the Comparative Constitutions Project and has served as an adviser to the Judicial Commission of Afghanistan and worked in several Asian countries on legal and constitutional reform.

The talk marks the beginning of the Center for Advanced Study’s 2013-14 Initiative on the Cultures of Law in Global Contexts.

Illinois Club

Group hosts fall expo Sept. 9

The Illinois Club will host a fall expo 4-6 p.m. Sept. 9 in the Illini Ballroom of the Hilton Garden Inn, 1501 S. Neil St., Champaign.

The free event is meant to help prospective members learn about the organization and meet current members. Refreshments will be served.

The club is a registered university organization that offers more than 20 interest groups, including hiking, wine, book clubs, bridge, mahjong and five foreign languages. In addition, the group hosts local and statewide tours, luncheons with speakers and other events. There also are events just for new members.

Philanthropy is an important component of the Illinois Club. Through its endowments, the club awards more than $20,000 in scholarships to U. of I. students each year.

Its members are mainly U. of I. employees and their spouses and partners, but some also are community members.

For more information, go to TheIllinoisClub.org or email Peri Ceperley at president@theillinoisclub.org.

MS4 Technical Committee

Green conference is Sept. 17

The Green Infrastructure Conference will feature a presentation from noted landscape architect Marcus de la Fleur and a tour of a local green infrastructure. The conference will be Sept. 17 at the I Hotel and Conference Center.

The event will include discussions about stormwater management, mosquito abatement, an Environmental Protection Agency regulatory update and homeowner projects.

The conference and lunch, hosted by the Municipal Separated Storm Sewer Systems Technical Committee, is free to attend, but registration is required.

For more information and to register, visit go.illinois.edu/greencconference.

The MS4 Technical Committee is a collaboration between the U. of I., the cities of Champaign and Urbana, the Village of Savoy, Champaign County, Champaign County Soil and Water Conservation District, and the Prairie Rivers Network.

College of ACES

Salute to Agriculture Day is Sept. 7

The College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences will host its annual Salute to Agriculture Day from 9-11 a.m. Sept. 7, just prior to the Fighting Illini football game.

The public tailgate at the ACES tent is located west of the main entrance of State Farm Center.

Adult breakfast tickets are $15, student breakfast tickets are $10. A cash bar will be available and individual game tickets may be purchased for $20. An auction of State Fair prize-winning meat packages will be held prior to kickoff.

The event will allow attendees to meet U. of I. President Bob Robert. In the season premiere, to be broadcast at 7:30 p.m., Henson, the all-time Illinois leader in men’s basketball victories, talks about how he got the best out of his teams and the danger of expecting too much from a player. “You try to be positive. You’re trying to make them better. If you jump on a player all the time about his weaknesses, he may get worse,” he said.

He also talks about his early life on a farm, his relationship with former Indiana University basketball coach Bobby Knight, overcoming health problems, why he started wearing his trademark orange blazer and whether it irritated him that TV sportscaster Dick Vitale made fun of his hair, dubbed the “Lou do.”

The third season of “Illinois Pioneers” features interviews with people who have made significant contributions to life in Central Illinois. Inge said he didn’t have to think for long before deciding to host the series in retirement. “I thought, ‘It could be fun, it could be challenging, and I think I know how to do it.’ ” Inge was the keynote speaker is Atieno Adala, of the African Virtual University in Nairobi, Kenya. A VU is the largest online provider of mathematics and engineering courses in Africa.

Other presenters will include open learning and access expert professor Laura Czerniewicz, of the University of Cape Town, and professor Yettunde Folajimi, an internationally renowned computer science and game designer at the University of Ibadan in Nigeria.

The speakers will be joined by online education experts and practitioners from the U. of I., including Rob Ruttenbar, the head and a professor of computer science, and Deanna Raimer, a professor and the associate dean of Instructional Technologies and Information Services. Provost Ilesanmi Adesida will open the conference.

For the complete schedule, go to afst.illinois.edu. For more information, contact Terri Gitler at tgitler@illinois.edu.

Talmudic perspectives on poverty

Thulin Lecture in Religion is Sept. 12

Moohe Halbertal, a professor at New York University Law School and a professor of Jewish thought and philosophy at Hebrew University, will deliver the annual Marjorie Half Thulin Lecture in Religion at 8 p.m. Sept. 12 in the Knight Auditorium of Spurlock Museum.

The lecture, “On the Needs of the Poor – A Talmudic Perspective on Charity and Dignity,” is sponsored by the U. of I. department of religion and is free and open to the public. It was originally scheduled for April but was cancelled because of inclement weather.

Halbertal also is a member of Israel’s National Academy for Sciences and the Humanities. He earned a Ph.D. at Harvard University in 1989, and from 1988-1992 he was a fellow in the Society of Fellows at Harvard University.


Born in Uruguay in 1958, Halbertal was raised in Israel in a modern Orthodox family. His father was a Holocaust survivor from Lancut, Galicia (Central-Eastern Europe) and his mother was an Israeli who had come to Uruguay to teach Hebrew.

Halbertal is profoundly committed to the democratic process. “Democracy is a nonviolent form of adjudicating different ideologies,” he says. “It’s very easy to be nonviolent when stakes are low, in Israel, we are in a condition where the stakes are very high.”
Incarceration’ is theme for fall lectures

The University YMCA’s fall 2013 Friday Forum lecture series will focus on “Rethinking Security: Beyond Mass Incarceration.” The series, Fridays at noon at the University YMCA’s Latzer Hall, will delve into current issues involving incarceration and will feature expert views on current issues at the local, state and national levels.

September speakers: Darrel Cannon and Jon Burge, “Chicago Police Torture and Justice for Survivors” (Sept. 6); Rebecca Ginsberg, “Teaching on the Inside: Reflections From the Education Justice Project” (Sept. 13); Marianne Kuba, “Neighborhood Portraits of Juvenile Justice in Chicago” (Sept. 20); and Angela Davis, “Abolishing the Prison-Industrial Complex” (Sept. 27).

For more information and the full schedule, go to universityymca.org/fridayforum.

Illini Union

Giancarlo Esposito to speak Sept. 18

Giancarlo Esposito, the Emmy-nominated and Critics Choice Award-winning actor of AMC’s “Breaking Bad,” will speak at 7 p.m. Sept. 18 in Room 112 of Gregory Hall. Esposito will talk about his involvement in the movie “School Daze,” which was made 25 years ago and considered one of Spike Lee’s most innovative and progressive films.

Both presentations are co-sponsored by the Illini Union Board, the Bruce D. Nesbit African American Cultural Center, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Access, and the Multiracial/Multiethnic Student Initiative.

Asian Educational Media Service

AsiaLENS film series begins Sept. 10

Asian Educational Media Service and Spurlock Museum will host the first film in the AsiaLENS documentary film series Sept. 10 with a screening of “Beijing Besieged by Waste” at 7 p.m. in Spurlock Museum’s Knight Auditorium.

With a focus this fall on environmental concerns in contemporary Asia, this 2011 documentary by award-winning photographer Wang Jiu-liang reveals through his observations of more than 500 landfills the huge problem of waste created by an ever-growing population and the industrial and urban expansion that follows. Karin Chien, the president and founder of dGenerate Films, which distributes this film in partnership with Icarus Films, will be available through Skype for a post-screening discussion.

Also featured this semester:

■ “Tokyo Waka: A City Poem” (7 p.m. Oct. 8). Directed and produced by John Hapinis and Kristine Samelson, the documentary explores the interwoven lives found within the city by focusing on its population of more than 20,000 crows. The introduction and discussion will be led by Elizabeth Oyler, the director of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the U. of I.

■ “A Perfect Soldier” (7 p.m. Nov. 12). Director John Severson follows the adult life of Aki Ra, a former soldier under the Khmer Rouge regime, who devotes himself to undoing some of the violence he took part in by removing landmines that still litter the Cambodian countryside. His actions have led to the establishment of the Cambodian Landmine Museum and School. He was recognized as one of CNN’s Top 10 Heroes in 2010.

Asian Educational Media Service organizes the film series in collaboration with the Spurlock Museum to give access to films that address issues of contemporary life in Asia. The educational screenings are free and open to the general public, who are invited to further explore these issues in post-screening discussions with local experts. AEMS is a program of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the U. of I.

For more information on the AsiaLENS series, go to aems.illinois.edu.

University YMCA

Exhibition features Chinese art

The University YMCA is sponsoring a fall exhibition, “Speak Out: Works From the Yunnan School of Painting,” featuring a series of paintings produced by a group of Yunnan artists that represent a variety of styles from the school. A reception in the Spurlock auditorium will follow the presentation.

The opening reception will be 6-8 p.m. Sept. 5 at the University YMCA’s Murphy Gallery. Comments by Wang will begin at 5:30 p.m.

Both presentations are co-sponsored by the Illini Union Board, the Bruce D. Nesbit African American Cultural Center, the Office of Diversity, Equity and Access, and the Multiracial/Multiethnic Student Initiative.

Concert commemorates 9/11

The 12th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks will be observed Sept. 11 with a brief concert by the Illinois Early Music Group – an a cappella ensemble of eight student and faculty vocalists – at Smith Hall on the U. of I. campus. The 15-minute performance will begin at 7:46 a.m., coinciding with the time the first hijacked plane struck the World Trade Center in New York City. This memorial will follow the tradition set by previous 9/11 concerts at the U. of I. with music, rather than speeches, being the sole focus. Audience members are asked to enter and leave in silence.

The concert, which is free and open to the public, will include works by Tomas Luis de Victoria and Juan del Encina, and Bobby McFerrin’s arrangement of Psalm 23.
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