Who’s got guts? Young infants expect animals to have insides

By Chelsey B. Coombs
News Bureau Intern

A team of researchers has shown that 8-month-old infants expect objects they identify as animals to have insides. The study appears in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

U. of I. professor of psychology Renée Baillargeon, who led the new study with graduate student Peipei Setoh, said whether in addition to these physical and psychological expectations, infants also possess biological expectations that orient them to view the object as an agent that has more than one property:

“In each case, babies seem to be born equipped with abstract expectations that drive their reasoning,” Baillargeon said.

For a long time, researchers debated whether in addition to these physical and psychological expectations, infants also possess biological expectations that orient them to view the object as an agent that has more than one property:

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“Clearly, students recognize the value of an education and want to be a part of our rich tradition of excellence,” Wise said.

“This is an important finding,” Wise said. “We need to understand more about what drives students to enroll at the U. of I. and how we can improve our recruitment efforts to attract more students.”

Wise said she also is optimistic about the possibilities that come with the diverse makeup of the class, which comprises 100 nations and every state. Illinois students make up nearly three-quarters of the class.

Nearly 22 percent of freshmen are the first in their families to attend college, a slight increase over last year, and underrepresented minority students represent 16.1 percent, a 1 percent increase. Including Asian-Americans, the underrepresented percentage is 33.1 percent, nearly a 1 percent increase.

The top enrollment centers for this year’s freshman class are in science, technology, engineering and math.

University admissions officials had predicted a freshman class of about 7,100 and more than half of the new students – 54.5 percent – were ranked in the top 10 percent of their high school.

Two students, Patrick T. Wise and M. L. Wise said she is impressed with the academic performance of the freshman class and said they will be given the opportunity to make an impact at the U. of I.

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By Mike Helenthal Assistant Editor

The Senate of the University issued its first Request for Information on campus governance themes in a letter last week. The 13-member senate special committee tasked with developing themes put forth the letter to the community asking for feedback. The letter is available online at http://insideillinois.com.

The letter is the first in a series of letters asking for feedback on how the university can improve in areas such as shared governance, mutual respect, and transparency. The letter is also a response to a recent study conducted by the University of Illinois at Chicago that found that Illinois is lagging behind other universities in terms of governance.

The Senate of the University is looking for feedback on a series of themes that will be used to guide the university's governance efforts. The themes are:

1. Shared Governance
2. Mutual Respect
3. Transparency

The Senate hopes to have a list of themes ready by the end of the month, and is asking for feedback from the community on these themes. The letter also invites the community to suggest additional themes for consideration.

If you have any feedback or suggestions, please email them to senate@illinois.edu. The deadline for feedback is May 15, 2013.
On the Job  Tammy Nohren
By Mike Helenthal  Assistant Editor

One day I was listening to Tammy Nohren explain the logic behind her ever-changing, self-created, multilayered office-organizing system, one quickly senses she’s not at home working in the College of Engineering. Think da Vinci meets email.

Nohren, an administrative assistant who is a member of the dean’s office for more than five years, serves as the main conduit for administrators, the college’s 10 academic departments and four research units, university administration and nearly 400 faculty and staff members.

“Everyone wants to see the dean,” she said. “I could interact with just about anyone at any level on any given day. Any miscellaneous questions come to me and I have to make a decision on how to proceed.”

To keep track of it all, she has become a master of her own system. “I pride myself on being organized and as efficient as possible; everyone knows they can come in here and can locate most of the materials they’re looking for. I have things in (non-virtual) files, but I’m very electronic and use the email system to categorize and flag a lot, and it works pretty well.

But, just when someone thinks they have figured out Nohren’s systematic Mona Lisa, she becomes bored with it and, with a stroke of the brush (rather, the click of her keyboard), she re-categorizes everything all over again — and usually with a completely different color or code.

She chooses from a plentiful email markup palette that most can only aspire to.

“Get me a fun for it,” she said. Her penchant for organization and near-encyclopedia memory of campus contacts has earned her a name from office co-workers, whom she calls “the best staff I have ever worked with.”

“These are people who work hard and who want to be a part of being ranked one of the top engineering programs in the United States and worldwide,” she said. “They are proud to be a part of this college. There’s a lot of pressure, stress and volume, but there is always someone here who can provide a positive spin on any issue, no matter how daunting it looks. It’s a breath of fresh air when everyone works well together. That’s really hard to find.”

Nohren, who in January will have been at the university for 17 years, started her career here as an entry-level secretary for Government Relations. She spent eight years at the U. of I. Foundation and a year in the Office of the Chancellor before settling comfortably in the engineering dean’s office.

“I’ve worked with some really good offices with some great people who have given me the opportunity to grow,” she said. “I’ve worked my way up, but have never looked for another job. Someone has always called me with an opening and I’ve had to think hard every time I moved because I’ve enjoyed everything I’ve done here.”

But there’s little doubt the College of Engineering has become her home.

“This is the greatest position I’ve ever been in,” she said. “It’s also the most challenging.”

Nohren’s varied experience has given her that elusive institutional knowledge — something that has proven to be invaluable in work for the dean.

“One year I become more knowledgeable of the different colleges and their staffs, and that information is a very useful tool,” she said. “In a typical day, this office interacts with people from all over campus. It’s amazing how many connections we have; I like being that extra voice that gets things where they need to go.”

Nohren has been married to Grant, who works for the university as a financial reporting coordinator, for 13 years. She said she enjoys being a mom to an 11-year-old son, Logan, and twin 27-year-old stepsons, Matthew and Tyler.

She said sports dominate family life, from watching Illini football and basketball to participating in activities themselves. Grant has been an Illinois High School Association referee for 30 years. Logan plays baseball, basketball and football in school and the twins are athletic trainers in the Chicago area.

“We love going to all of Logan’s sporting events and we love rooting for the Illini,” she said.

Nohren said her ideal vacation involves more relaxation than athletic activity and that the family likes to travel to the Florida Gulf Coast when they want time away.

“We love to travel,” she said, “and any location with a beach or a pool makes me happy.”

On the Job features U. of I. staff members. To nominate a civil service employee, email didiah@illinois.edu.

Senator offers their opinions on SEC task force report
By Mike Helenthal  Assistant Editor

Several senators at the Sept. 16 Urbana Academic Senate meeting provided input on a report prepared over the summer by the Senate Executive Committee’s ad hoc Task Force on Faculty Issues and Concerns.

Senators offered their suggestions during the public comment portion of the meeting, which followed a presentation of the report’s 18 recommendations made by its three primary authors and task force subcommittee chairs, Nicholas Burbules, Randy McCarthy and Joyce Tolleiver. (See the related story on page 2 for more details on the report or visit the senate website for a PDF version of the report.)

SEC Chair Roy Campbell said the idea behind the 14-member task force was to stimulate conversations that lead to action on some of the important issues facing campus.

The meetings also were attended by representatives of the provost’s and chancellor’s offices.

The task force report focuses on faculty salary and benefits, promotion and tenure, campus budget cuts, workload and strengthening the practice of shared governance.

“How do we take these ideas and move forward?” Campbell asked senators. “There will need to be a lot of proactive action in the senate.”

Most of the senators in the public comment portion of the meeting expressed support for the task force’s effort, but a recurring theme in their comments was that any final recommendations should include better protections for non-tenure-track as well as tenure-track professors.

Burbules said the committee had considered adding language to include non-tenure-track faculty issues, but that was not part of the committee’s original charge. University statutes define “faculty” as tenured and tenure-track employees — wording that some have said is at odds with the senate’s own bylaws.

Burbules said some recommendations of the task force report could be extended to apply to non-tenure-track faculty members, but that would entail a “much wider conversation.”

One senator suggested a step-based promotion system for faculty members that includes stronger job protections for everyone. Another was critical of a task force recommendation to expand the faculty reduced tuition program, saying that sends the wrong message to state taxpayers about who really owns the institution.

“We never thought our statement would be final,” Burbules said of the task force report. “Of course, we welcome these wider concerns. That’s why we did this (brought before the Senate for comment).”

Senator Mary Mallory, a professor of library administration and head of the Documents Library, said she would like to have seen more transparency in the task force’s work, and suggested any similar series of discussions in the future adhere to the Illinois Open Meetings Act and be open to the public. She cited the task force’s charge letter statement, which claimed the discussions were not subject to the act.

Mallory asked Campbell about any planned next steps for the SEC’s recently completed shared governance survey and suggested the results should be reviewed by other senate committees, not just the General University Policy Committee as planned.

“It worries me that they are the only committee,” Mallory said.

“Some of the working groups are having one or two meetings and then they’ll be done,” Campbell said.

“At least we want to have a representative from each of the groups,” Mallory said.

“These are people who over a long period of time will be making decisions that will impact all of our lives,” Mallory said.
By Mike Helenthal  
Assistant Editor

**Distinguished Teacher-Scholar to teach ‘scholarly teaching’**

Professionals, teach thyself – that message will provide the foundation for a series of workshops being led by 2013-14 Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Amy Woods and sponsored by the Office of the Provost and the new Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning.

The five-workshop series, “Inquiry in the College Classroom: A Journey Toward Scholarly Teaching,” runs from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Wednesdays beginning Sept. 25. (See schedule below.)

“Faculty members are trained really well in conducting research, but they don’t always think about applying it to their teaching,” said Woods, who is a professor of kinesiology and community health. “It’s just a matter of thinking about the class you teach and deciding you want to examine it in a scholarly way. Teaching needs to be based on more than hunches.”

The workshops will ask participants to develop a research question based on a specific teaching challenge they face, and provide them data-collection techniques and methods that can be employed for analyzing it.

“It’s sort of a luxury to take the time to do it,” she said, “but the payoff in your classroom and the way you feel about your teaching can be huge. It’s not about ‘busy, happy, good’ – you need to be working toward some kind of goal and be purposeful.”

Woods said there are numerous proven techniques to improve the quality of classroom discussion and stimulate more of it, as well as ways to identify the cues students give when they don’t understand a concept.

One way to improve is to team with colleagues to critique the classroom experience and be a “critical friend” with each other’s approach she said.

“I think we can really help each other,” she said. “You don’t do research in isolation and you shouldn’t teach that way either.”

Woods’ specialty is researching the career cycles of elementary and secondary physical education teachers, her dissertation comprised case studies of beginning teachers as she followed them for 25 years. She taught high school P.E. for two years before earning her Ph.D. at the University of South Carolina. Now she teaches prospective teachers, including master’s and doctoral students.

“The attrition rate for teachers is not very encouraging and it’s understandable why teachers don’t always stay,” she said. “There are just too many challenges and it gets to be overwhelming. But among the teachers I have studied, looking at the ones who stay is very valuable; they don’t get burned out. It’s almost like they become these teaching machines.”

Workshop participants will be given the opportunity to share their workshop findings with the campus.

Woods said each participant will be asked to create an electronic portfolio of their work that will be made accessible through publish.illinois.edu and may include student interviews and classroom survey results.

She said they hope to learn from as well as share with workshop participants by publishing her own research findings from the data she collects as facilitator.

“You have to always want to find ways to improve your teaching,” she said. “The students pay well to come here – they want to be challenged and they want you to bring new ideas and innovation.”

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**Suresh is final speaker in chancellor’s lecture series**

Subra Suresh, who took over as president of Carnegie Mellon University in July after being the director of the National Science Foundation, will give the final lecture in the chancellor’s speaker series.

Suresh is scheduled to speak at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 2 on the “Research University in the World of the Future,” a series started last fall by Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise. The event will be at the Alice Campbell Alumni Center.

While on campus, Suresh also will deliver a Center for Advanced Studies/Miller-Comm presentation at 4 p.m. Oct. 1 titled “Crossing Boundaries and Transforming Lives: Engineering, Cell Biology and Medicine.” That lecture will be in the Knight Auditorium at the Spurlock Museum.

Wise said the speakers in the series have presented a thought-provoking range of ideas about the future of research universities and that the campus is fortunate to have someone as accomplished as Suresh rounding out the series.

“He’s been on the front lines of the national debate over research funding and he knows firsthand the foundational importance of science and technology in helping solve some of the world’s most pressing problems and in providing opportunities for economic growth,” she said.

Suresh received his bachelor’s of technology degree from the Indian Institute of Technology, his master’s degree from Iowa State University and his doctorate from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He conducted postgraduate research at the University of California at Berkeley and the Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory.

In 1989, he was promoted to full professor at Brown University, and he joined MIT in 1993, serving as the head of its department of materials science from 2000-2006. He also served as the dean of MIT’s School of Engineering.

He is known academically for his experimental and modeling work on the mechanical properties of structural and functional materials, innovations in materials design and characterization, and discoveries of possible connections between cellular nanomechanical processes and human disease states. His work has shaped new fields in the fertile intersections of traditional disciplines.

Suresh is a co-author of more than 250 journal articles, has 21 registered patents, and has written three widely used books.

As a leader at MIT, he helped create state-of-the-art laboratories, the MIT Transportation Initiative and the Center for Computational Engineering; led efforts to establish the Singapore-MIT Alliance for Research and Technology Center; and oversaw the recruitment of a record number of women faculty members in engineering.

He was nominated to his job at NSF by President Barack Obama and unanimously approved by the U.S. Senate. He managed a budget of $7.1 billion and established several initiatives, including Integrative NSF Support Promoting Interdisciplinary Research and Education.

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**The introspective classroom**

Amy Woods, the 2013-14 Distinguished Teacher-Scholar, will lead a series of workshops this fall that focus on ways to improve classroom teaching by asking students about their perceptions. The class-based research approach can be used to formulate better teaching strategies. ‘Teaching needs to be based on more than hunches,’” Woods said.
Among the newcomers to the Urbana campus are faculty members whose appointments began this summer or fall. Inside Illinois continues its tradition of introducing some of the new faculty members on campus and will feature at least two new colleagues in each fall issue.

Jean Paul Allain
an associate professor of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering in the College of Engineering

Education: Ph.D. (nuclear engineering) and M.S. (nuclear engineering), U. of I.; B.S. (mechanical engineering), California State Polytechnic University
Courses teaching: NPRE 429, Plasma Engineering, and he is helping with NPRE 201, Energy Systems, this fall.
Research interests: irradiation surface science, plasma-surface and materials interactions in fusion devices, advanced nanostructured biointerfaces for regenerative medicine, biomechanics and tissue engineering of nanostructured biointerfaces, and engineering design

Why Illinois? “Dr. Allain returns to Illinois after several years on the faculty at Purdue,” said Jim Stubbins, the head of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering. “He brings a wealth of knowledge and experience in the area of plasma-material processing and materials applications in nuclear fusion. His expertise is applied over a wide range of energy systems, from electronic material to medical applications. His hiring will help build our undergraduate and graduate teaching and research programs.”

Why Illinois? “I chose Illinois for its pre-eminence in engineering (in the top five of graduate programs), the quality of students, the quality and multidisciplinary nature of research and its culture of excellence that connects faculty, students and staff with the ‘Illinois way.’” Allain said. “My move to Illinois will enable my research to reach new levels and engage in new emerging areas of plasma-materials research and nanofabrication. ‘I’m also an alum and so proud of being part of the Illini family.’”

Jessica L. Conroy
an assistant professor of geology and of plant biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Education: Ph.D. (geosciences) and M.S. (geosciences), University of Arizona; B.A. (geology), College of Wooster
Courses teaching: She will create and teach two courses: Geology 100, Planet Earth, a graduate course in global change geology, and an undergraduate course in global change.
Research interests: She extracts records of climate change from lake sediments, and she analyzes those records in light of Earth’s large-scale atmospheric patterns.

Why Illinois? “Professor Conroy is geology’s first hire in the area of global change and Earth system science,” said Thomas M. Johnson, the head of geology. “Her research and teaching interests overlap nicely into the School of Integrative Biology, because of the ecological aspects of her research and the emphasis on global biogeochemistry in her teaching. Plant biology (in SIB) has a strong program in this area, and thus Conroy’s presence fills a strategic need but also connects to existing strengths on campus. Her work also overlaps nicely with climate science research in the department of atmospheric sciences.”

Why Illinois? “When I was assessing my career options, I quickly realized Illinois would give me the best toolkit to excel at my research,” Conroy said. “The available research resources, the top-notch faculty members and the strong spirit of collaboration that pervades the campus all excited me. Being part of an academic couple also influenced my decision to come here. Illinois is incredibly progressive on dual-career issues. Finally, being part of a premier research institution with a land-grant mission to serve society and teach the community really resonated with me. In my field of global change, we can’t just hide in the lab; we must continually strive to ensure the public understands the impact of climate change at a global and a local level.”
In an empirical study of employee benefits litigation from 2006 to 2010 reveals that cases involving long-term disability claims accounted for more than 40 percent of all federal cases, according to research from Sean M. Anderson, a U. of I. expert in employee benefit-plan policy and regulation, says the prevalence of litigation involving long-term disability plans is particularly striking because fewer private employees participate in disability plans than in other types of plans.

“Even though there are fewer people involved in disability plans, they generate a disproportionate share of the litigation that’s happening,” said Anderson, a law lecturer whose study was published in the ABA Journal of Labor & Employment Law. According to the article, Department of Labor statistics released in 2009 showed that only 38 percent of private industry workers participated in short-term disability plans and only 31 percent in long-term plans, whereas 52 percent participated in medical benefit plans, 57 percent in life benefits, and 51 percent in qualified pension plans.

“People who are in the medical benefits plans generate more than half of the employees but those plans generate more than 60 percent of the litigation, whereas 20 percent of all federal cases among those broad categories, including health care, life and accidental death, and those 51 percent in qualified pension plans,” Anderson said. “What that means is, as a society, we’re spending a disproportionate amount of judicial resources on resolving disputes about this one type of plan, even though it’s not the most common one out there.”

According to Anderson, employee benefits lawyers have long known that legal challenges to benefit claims make up a substantial number of cases litigated under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act, the federal law that governs private employee benefits plans. But until now, there hasn’t been an empirical study that deeply examined those cases, said Anderson, who studied hundreds of federal case files to gather data for the study. The article also assessed how frequently the parties in benefits cases raise specific kinds of arguments. One such argument, that the decision-maker who denied a participant’s claim for benefits had a conflict of interest, was more often in disability cases than in涉及 other kinds of benefits plans. Although the study did not address the underlying reasons why plaintiffs in disability cases were more likely to settle than cases involving other types of plans. The study looked at the reason that might underlie that difference, Anderson noted.

“You could guess that since they’re typically about smaller sums of money than, say, life insurance settlements, they tend to involve plaintiffs who are under more monetary pressure to settle and take something as opposed to waiting out the process and attempting to get more,” he said.

“So there are pragmatic litigation reasons why those cases might be more likely to settle.”

One also might expect that a claim of a conflict of interest would make a settlement more likely, Anderson said.

“It might change the calculation for the business as to whether it’s worth pursuing a case to the very last yard — or whether it makes more sense to just pay off the plaintiff to make the case go away,” he said.

And, in fact, the article found that disability cases, in which conflict of interest claims were more common, were more likely to settle than other types of cases. But across all categories of benefit cases, those with a claim of conflict of interest were actually less likely to settle. The reasons for that are not clear, Anderson said.

He also believes an alternative approach to litigation that is available for most health care benefit claims could be applied to disability claims as well. Under either state law or the federal Affordable Care Act, most health plan participants whose claims are denied, instead of going to court, can choose to have an independent doctor who doesn’t work for the employer or the insurance company decide whether they’re entitled to the benefits.

“Because most disability claims, like health care claims, involve medical evidence, review by independent experts might be desirable for disability benefits, too,” Anderson said.

“It would seem that that type of situation would lend itself well to independent review, so then we wouldn’t have federal judges with no medical expertise reviewing decisions about whether or not someone meets the definition of disability”.

**Researcher move endangered mussels to save them**

Researchers have transported two endangered freshwater mussel species from Pennsylvania to Illinois in an attempt to re-establish their populations in the western part of the Ohio River Basin.

The team of biologists, led by Jeremy Tiemann, of the Illinois Natural History Survey, transported to the site of a bridge-replacement project on Pennsylvania’s Allegheny River to collect northern riffleshell (Epioblasma rugiana) and clubshell (Pleurobema clava) mussels. The I N HS is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the U. of I.

The two mussel species historically had inhabited the Ohio River Basin, an area that stretches from Illinois to Pennsylvania and New York to Kentucky. The 2- to 3-inch-long northern riffleshells and their larger clubshell counterparts make their homes three or more inches beneath the surface of the gravel layer they live in, Tiemann said.

There are more than 30,000 individual of these species living under Pennsylvania’s Hunter Station Bridge. The bridge-replacement project brings with it the potential for huge losses of the already endangered species, he said.

Mussels reproduce by attaching their juveniles to certain species of fish, so finding a suitable habitat for them can be a challenge. The northern riffleshell was “last seen alive in Illinois about a hundred years ago,” Tiemann said. There are sites on the Vermilion River in Illinois that serve as the perfect backdrop for the re-establishment of populations in the species’ historical range, he said.

“It is a win-win situation for everybody,” Tiemann said. “We save the mussels and get our new population here in Illinois.”

The team collected the mussels over a two-day period in late August, and then transported the samples to菱州’s lab in Illinois to be tagged with a “microchip similar to what you put in your dog or cat. (It’s) the size of a large grain of rice,” Tiemann said.

Last year, the group collected and transported 1,000 northern riffleshells and 250 northern riffleshell mussels. The benefit of the project stretches beyond simply removing these species from the endangered list. Mussels have “their own little niche within the ecosystem and food webs” of their habitats, Tiemann said.

Their shells provide a home for many fish and insects. They also are effective biofilters that help clean the water. “A group of mussels in a tight area can filter as much water as a treatment plant,” Tiemann said. “Hopefully we will one day be able to pin point the exact monetary value of these Vermilion River mussels so policymakers can translate the science into dollars.”

For now, Tiemann is happy to see the restoration making waves among enthusiastic farmers, government wildlife agencies and concerned citizens.

“A lot of people like to be outside, and this is one thing we can do to restore this scenic river to its pristine condition,” Tiemann said.
‘Pyg Lit’ reading series starts Sept. 27

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

The popular Pygmalion Music Festival, held annually at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, Krannert Art Museum and other venues in Champaign-Urbana, has added a two-day literary festival this year. Among the writers who will be reading from their works: Matt Bell, the author of “In the House Upon the Dirt Between the Lake and the Woods”; Dan Chaon, the author of “Among the Missing” and “You Remind Me of Me”; and James Greer, the author of “Artificial Light,” “The Failure” and “Guided By Voices: A Brief History.”

Nicknamed “Pyg Lit,” the festival reading series begins at 6 p.m. Sept. 27 at Cafetera and Company, 208 W. Main St., Urbana, with a lineup of authors that includes Bayo Ojikutu, Kathleen Rooney and Greer—a novelist, screenwriter and former bass guitarist for the band Guided By Voices—who’s first book of short fiction will be released in October.

At 8 p.m., the festival moves to Buvon’s Wine Bar, 203 N. Vine St., Urbana, for readings by Roxanne Gay, Kyle Minor and Bell, whose epic debut novel about a newly married couple’s efforts to have a child was described by The New York Times as “a grip- ping, grisly tale of a husband’s descent into and ultimate emergence from some kind of personal hell.”

National Public Radio called the book “one of the smartest meditations on the subjects of love, family and marriage in recent years.”

On Sept. 28, beginning at 3 p.m., Amelia Gray and Chaon will read at Mike ‘n’ Molly’s, 105 N. Market St., Champaign. Chaon’s latest novel, “Await Your Reply,” received a starred review from Publisher’s Weekly. Bookmarks Magazine described it as “a novel that evokes the same kind of dread one feels from reading a good horror or science-fiction novel without relying on any of the clichés from those genres.”

Pyg Lit will conclude at Memphis on Main, 55 E. Main St., Champaign, with readings by five authors—including Aaron Burch, Elizabeth Ellen and Lindsay Hunter—starting at 8:30 p.m.

Adding a literary festival to Pygmalion was the brainchild of Caleb Curtiss, who had attended the Mission Creek Festival in Iowa City, Iowa.

“I came back in awe of how their organi- zers were able to engage their audience on a completely different level by combin- ing great indie rock with a world-class litera- ary festival,” Curtiss said.

One of the Iowa City organizers, Andre Perry, will be reading at Pyg Lit. Curtiss had no difficulty persuading Pygmalion founder Seth Fein and Jodee Stanley, the director of the U. of I.’s creative writing program, to help organize the reading series.

“We loved Caleb’s idea of collaborating with Seth and the Pygmalion Music Festi- val,” Stanley said. “It seemed a great way to connect with the community in some off-campus venues, and since Seth and Caleb are both alumni of our program, it’s a perfect fit.”

All literary events are free and open to the public. More information on the Pygma- lion Literary Festival is online.
Six Urbana faculty members named University Scholars

Scott Ahlgren, a professor of mathematics, conducts research on modular forms, which are ubiquitous in number theory and perhaps best known for their role in Wiles’ proof of Fermat’s Last Theorem. They are connected to many other areas such as L-functions, elliptic curves and partitions. Ahlgren’s research involves the interplay between these areas. He is a consummate number theorist, engaging successfully with difficult and important classical and modern problems.

Silvina Montrul, a professor of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese, and of linguistics, focuses her research on the broad question of the nature of the linguistic knowledge of speakers who possess varying degrees of competency in more than one language, and what that research reveals about the mental representation of grammars in the mind. She focuses on a special type of bilingual speakers known as heritage speakers, who are typically second- or third-generation speakers known as heritage speakers, who possess varying degrees of the nature of the linguistic knowledge of speakers who possess varying degrees of competency in more than one language, and what that research reveals about the mental representation of grammars in the mind. She focuses on a special type of bilingual speakers known as heritage speakers, who are typically second- or third-generation children of immigrants who grow up immersed in the weaker, home language until the onset of schooling, when the language of the community becomes their dominant language.

Kevin T. Pitts, a professor of physics, is an international leader in experimental high-energy physics and has made seminal contributions to measuring CP violation in the B meson system at the Collider-Detector Facility experiment at Fermilab. Unraveling CP violation, a tiny difference in the behavior of matter and antimatter, is essential to understanding how our universe evolved from equal parts of matter and antimatter immediately after the Big Bang to its current state of being nearly 100 percent matter.

Jay Rosenstein, a professor of journalism, is a distinguished documentary filmmaker. His 2010 documentary, “The Lord Is Not on Trial Here Today,” won a Peabody Award. He also has won two regional Emmy awards. Since joining the journalism faculty in 2000, Rosenstein has produced a series of nationally recognized documentaries that have explored issues such as the use of Native American imagery by universities and colleges; the story of an Urbana woman who started a lesbian choir and built it into one with a national reputation; and his mother’s descent into dementia. All were broadcast nationally on hundreds of PBS stations.

U.S. News rankings announced

The magazine also ranked business and engineering schools and specialties within those disciplines. The U. of I.’s College of Business is tied at No. 16 (down two places from last year). Within the college, the accounting program held steady at No. 2; finance was ranked No. 16, insurance/risk management No. 7, marketing No. 16 and real estate was ranked No. 11.

The College of Engineering retained its No. 5 (tied) ranking. Within the college: aerospace/aeronautical/astonautical, 5; biological/agricultural, 2; biomedical/biomedical engineering, 19, chemical, 12; civil, 2; computer engineering, 5; electrical/electronic/communications, 4; engineering science/engineering physics, 1; environmental/ environmental health, 5; industrial/manufacturing, 15; materials, 2; mechanical, 6.
Study examines eating disorders in young adulthood

By Sharita Forrest
News Editor

Sept. 19, 2013

Y

outh who diet at early ages and report at least mild depression are at increased risk of developing eating disorders and engaging in unsafe weight-loss behaviors in young adulthood, new research by Janet Liechty and Meng-Jung Lee at the U. of I. suggests.

Liechty, an expert in eating disorders and body-image perception, is a professor of social work and of medicine at Illinois. Lee is a doctoral student.

Published in the International Journal of Eating Disorders, Liechty’s study examined the longitudinal impact of depression, body image distortion, dieting and extreme weight-loss behaviors during adolescence on dieting and eating pathology in young adulthood. Extreme weight-loss behaviors included behaviors such as vomiting or using laxatives or diet pills.

Over the seven-year period of the study, the prevalence of dieting and extreme weight-loss behaviors increased for both males and females, and the rates of extreme weight-loss behaviors among both sexes more than tripled. “These findings point to the need to better understand the natural history of disordered eating behaviors from childhood through adolescence and into young adulthood,” Liechty said. “This could help identify sensitive periods for symptom progression and help to more effectively apply prevention and intervention efforts with young people at risk.”

Liechty’s research was based on a nationally representative sample of more than 14,300 young people in the U.S. Participants completed two in-home health assessments seven years apart – the first, when they were in grades 7-12 and another as young adults, between the ages of 18-26.

Participants reported if they had engaged in two types of weight-control behaviors – dieting to lose weight and extreme weight-loss behaviors – during the prior seven days. Adolescents that reported engaging in extreme weight-loss behaviors were excluded from the sample so that the researcher could assess the onset of these behaviors during the time studied.

As young adults, 27 percent of women and 11 percent of men reported dieting to lose weight. Overall, 4 percent reported using extreme weight-loss behaviors as young adults, up from 1 percent during adolescence.

Depressive symptoms among adolescents were assessed using a 19-item scale that asked participants to rate how frequently their behavior reflected symptoms commonly associated with depression, such as “I feel too tired to do things.” Mean scores ranged from 0-3.

Each incremental increase on the depression scale correlated with a 1.4 percent increase in the odds of young women and men developing extreme weight-loss behaviors in early adulthood.

Liechty found that an early age had a similar effect – multiplying young women’s odds of developing extreme weight-loss behaviors by 1.6 percent. Early dieting also increased the risk of binge eating and extreme weight-loss behaviors among women.

Young adults were asked to report if a doctor had ever told them that they had an eating disorder, such as anorexia or bulimia, and, consistent with prior research, this was used as an indicator of eating disorder diagnosis. The prevalence of disordered eating among young adults ranged from 2 to 6 percent, with binge eating the most common type among both sexes.

Early dieting increased the risk of binge eating and extreme weight-loss behaviors among women only. Adolescent depression was a potent risk factor for young adult eating pathology. Depression was strongly associated with binge eating and eating disorder diagnosis for both sexes in adulthood. For each incremental increase on the depression scale, women’s odds of being diagnosed with an eating disorder doubled – while men’s odds multiplied six-fold. Among females, adolescent males with depression were more than twice as likely to report being diagnosed with an eating disorder.

“Most studies on eating pathology and depression have been conducted on girls and women, but this study adds to a growing body of work that has found similar associations for both genders,” Liechty said. “This underscores the importance of addressing depression prevention and intervention among both men and women to improve health outcomes.”

Adolescent males with body image distortion – a discrepancy between their body mass index and perception of being overweight – were at significantly greater risk of receiving an eating-disorder diagnosis. However, for young females, extreme weight-loss behaviors and early eating were the primary risk factors correlated with an eating disorder diagnosis or the onset of binge-eating symptoms.

The study also found that adolescent risk factors have a cumulative effect. With the addition of each adolescent risk factor, the prevalence of young adult dieting, binge eating, extreme weight-loss behaviors, and eating disorder diagnosis increased incrementally. For example, the rate of young adult binge eating was 3 percent with one risk factor, 5 percent with two, 10 percent and intervention and 14 percent with four adolescent risk factors. Cumulative risk for young adult pathology was found even after controlling for background influences.

“This study highlights the long-term impact of early psychosocial risk factors on disordered eating and unsafe weight loss strategies in young adulthood, and the importance of prevention,” Liechty said. “We need to promote effective emotional coping strategies and safe, non-stigmatizing body-affirming approaches to healthy eating and weight management during adolescence.”

Risk factors
Dieting at an early age and experiencing mild depressive symptoms increase boys’ and girls’ risks of developing eating disorders and engaging in unsafe weight-loss behaviors as young adults, suggests a new study by Janet Liechty, a professor of social work and of medicine at Illinois.

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Ads removed for online version
Do we need legislative term limits in state government to avoid controversies, such as requests for patronage jobs, which are the hallmark of entrenched power? My take on term-limits— or any sort of major institutional reform, really—is that they only work because they touch on a point of potential impact. It brings to mind the old saying, “Hard cases make bad law.” In other words, you don’t want to make a big change in government if it’s an otherwise small problem. You also don’t want to make a big institutional change as a quick reaction to the latest controversy.

Term limits has been on the reform agenda of states for 35 years now. On the surface, people love the idea of it. It fits in with the old American idea of government being simple: The yeoman farmer puts down the plow in the fall, goes to the capital, makes a few laws and then comes back home. Term limits has a lot of appeal as something that might do something to help root out the culture of corruption in politics. And in Illinois, you have to admit that recent history suggests that we need some help in this regard.

So that’s why term limits gets deployed as a political tool, because it’s so popular. It also can help to distinguish a candidate from his or her competition, if that candi¬date is an “outsider” candidate running against long-serving officeholders.

But just because a reform is politically popular doesn’t mean it’s ideal—or even workable. There are multiple implications for any state that adopts term limits. And it’s certainly not a silver bullet that’s going to solve the biggest problems that states—including Illinois—face.

So the appeal of term limits is the George Washington aspect of it? The idea that anyone can serve— but not too long—and then gracefully bow out and serve from public life.

Yes. In the U.S., we believe that virtu¬ally anyone can serve in public office, and that’s a big step toward making our government more represent¬ative of the people. The original colonists were very concerned with standing armies and the tyranny of the nobility—the very things that they rebelled against in the Revolu¬tionary War. The feelings of suspicion of an ongoing political elite remain strong today.

However, the problem is that term limits isn’t a good way to achieve that. Term limits doesn’t give you a citizen state legislature. The thing that really drives whether a state has a citizen legislature or not is how big and complicated the state’s economy. If you want to have a citizen legislature, live in New Hampshire. Live in Arkansas. Live in West Virginia. Those are states whose legislatures meet just a couple of months out of the year. But even in those states, legislators aren’t perfectly representative of the people. It’s still largely, lawyers, insurance salespeople, real estate salespeople and others who have flexible schedules and some resources.

So these people don’t need to make a liv¬ing off of their salary as a representative. These states don’t need to have people year-round; there are just not as many complicated problems there.

Illinois is a big state. It’s as big as some significant countries. And even though we don’t have foreign policy to deal with, we do have a wide variety of public problems. So it’s not unreasonable—especially when we compare ourselves to other states our size such as Pennsylvania, New York. Although to some it might look professional and well-staffed, where those who serve are paid more or less a full-time wage.

Texas is really the only example of a state that is roughly comparable to Illinois that has a citizen legislature. The legisla¬ture in Texas meets every other year, so the executive branch ends up dominating the state. That’s what would happen if we had a citizen legislature in Illinois; the gover¬nor would be a lot stronger.

And that’s probably the clearest impli¬cation of term limits that we know from research on the reform: They make the governor stronger. You might want a stron¬ger governorship, but those who fear the power of a strong executive might not.

What effect would term-limits have on partisanship?

Another one of the findings of the term limits research that I was involved in was that short-timers in the legislature don’t get to know the other side very well. They tend to see things through a more purely partisan lens.

For example, freshman lawmakers are usually more partisan at the start of their tenure because they’re just coming off an election. But once they get working in the legislature, they start to hear about the various public problems in a concrete and practical way. And oftentimes, especially at the state level, these aren’t necessar¬ily problems with a partisan dimension; for example, they might have a regional dimension, or a rural-urban dimension. So the longer you’re in the legislature, typi¬cally, the more you can see the other side’s perspective. You see this especially in comparison between members of committees to tend to be more on the same page with their colleagues than those who are new.

So the problem with term limits is that you don’t get any of those senior people. It’s a recipe for gridlock in that it increases the partisan bickering and polarization because you have more of these newer members who don’t have that broader per¬spective.

You also get less buy-in for the legisla¬ture as an institution under term limits. If you’re only there for a little while, you don’t really care if it works or what you leave in your wake. But if you’ve got a stake in it, you want to see it work long¬term. There’s less incentive to make the legislative functional if you know that you’re leaving after a certain period of time.

In general, people don’t like legisla¬tures because making law can be messy and complicated. But as a place for the representation of a variety of interests, and a place for citizens to have contact with their lawmakers, it’s an invaluable institu¬tion. Legislatures also help to balance the executive branch, which is very important in this state because of our very strong governorship. So the legislature is the way the people’s voice gets heard. It may not always come across that way, but that is its role.
Trustees, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Wilson told trustees the statistic that stands out to her from the 10-day enrollment numbers, after the high academic rankings and the diverse geographic origin of the 2013-14 freshman class, is the fact that 21 percent of the new students are the first in their families to attend college.

“We have an extra responsibility” to assist those students and help them succeed, she said. She said campus-based financial assistance has gone up to $58 million with this year’s budget, up $20 million from last year. “The number one reason students don’t (go to Illinois) is because of money,” she said.

To address the $500 million in campus deferred maintenance projects, $70 million had been set aside for current work and $370 million will be set aside for future projects.

She told trustees that the recent U.S. News and World Report university rankings, which show the U. of I. moved up the public university list to #11, weren’t important except when it comes to outside perception.

“Oh obviously rankings mean something,” she said, “but we don’t study for the test. We’ve been focused on the next 20-50 years … but I think we’ll be doing this in a lot less than 20-50 years.”

Other business:

The board approved an incentive-based bonus of $90,000 for Easter, based on a performance evaluation prepared by its executive committee in July covering the 2013 fiscal year. The bonus program is annual.

The board received a report on the university’s Minority and Female Business Enterprise Program, which had a funding increase of 40 percent to $50 million in fiscal year 2013. The program was created by the state Legislature to promote diversity in state contracts.

Lawrence Schook, the vice president for research, said the leaders of U. of I. Labs are preparing to submit their final project proposal to the Department of Defense by the Oct. 11 deadline for a new digital manufacturing and design innovation institute.

The project, based in Chicago, would use $70 million in DOD matching funds “creating an ecosystem for high-tech research and job creation,” he said. The Illinois proposal involves universities, business, government and communities from 15 states.

DOD will announce awards in December and Schook said the “shovel-ready strategy” in the Illinois proposal means work would begin quickly. He said he expected there to be pilot projects running in the facility within three to five years.

“We’re excited about the national interest,” he said. “We’ve had a number of conversations (with industry leaders).”

SEC, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 2

Wilson provided printed copies of the recently released Strategic Plan, which outlines campus goals for the next three years.

“It was a very intense process with a lot of faculty input,” she said of the work it took to produce the plan. “It’s readable, realistic and ambitious.”

Wilson, speaking on behalf of Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise, who was traveling, said funding for the Targets of Opportunity program was being increased to meet the university’s diversity commitments.

Money in the program earmarked for salary for diverse hires was increased from $70,000 to $85,000; for searches, from $40,000 to $60,000.

“Diversity is a very important priority for our campus,” Wilson said. “We want to remove the barriers to hiring excellent and diverse faculty.”

Wilson said the recommendation came from the chancellor’s four-member faculty diversity council, which also called for forming a faculty recruiting group.

She also reported that strategies are being employed for the “cluster hiring” of faculty members, specifically addressing three of the six themes outlined in the chancellor’s Visioning Future Excellence initiative. That process asked a wide variety of campus offices to plot the university’s future for the next several decades.

“We’re trying to cluster some of these hires around those themes,” she said, which will involve creating new cross-disciplinary connections. “We’re seeing natural clusters across campus; they haven’t looked at each other’s hiring plans before.”

Melissa Madsen, the assistant director of human resources for the College of Fine and Applied Arts and the SEC’s Council of Academic Professionals representative, reported that the State Universities Civil Service System Merit Board has convened an advisory committee to address the job classification exemption authority issue – without anyone appointed to represent the Urbana campus and without any faculty members from any state public university.

Public universities retained exemption authority following merit board hearings last semester, in essence keeping the ability to classify employees based on their own interpretation of SUCSS job classifications.

SUCSS Executive Director Tom Morelock, who appointed the new committee, known as the stakeholders’ group, had sought to take away the universities’ exemption authority, but lost that bid after board members voted against the measure.

He argued that biannual SUCSS audits showed the universities were abusing the authority and misclassifying jobs as academic professional instead of civil service.

The universities, including many speaking on behalf of the U. of I., argued they needed to retain authority in order to staff research and other support positions requiring specialized skills.

Madsen expressed disappointment in not having any faculty or even an Urbana campus representative on the committee, “despite our having asked for it.” She said there were no faculty representatives on the committee.

Campbell said both he and former SEC chair Matt Wheeler provided faculty names to serve on the committee but were not contacted. U. of I. Trustee Karen Haserta also asked SUCSS leaders at one of the earlier hearings to appoint a more representative committee.
Reforms would benefit early childhood education in Illinois

By Sharita Forrest
News Editor

Reforms would benefit early childhood education in Illinois

under-enrollment.
college that had been closed because of
to reopen a Head Start classroom at a city
Horizons, an agency in Chicago, was able
success at recruitment, Centers for New
education.
their communities, talking with families
cies’ programs to serve as ambassadors in
ents whose children had attended the agen-
Childhood Development.
gram and evaluated the efficacy of each of
number of reasons.”
ally hard-to-reach families won’t, for any
dental screenings on their own. But the re-
complete the paperwork and the health and
the families will come to the programs,
“the really successful programs went
to the families and helped facilitate the
whole process,” said Dawn Thomas, proj-
ject coordinator for the Illinois Early Child-
hood Asset Map, a unit at the U. of I. that
provides data on early childhood education
services in Illinois. “The assumption is that
the families will come to the programs,
complete the paperwork and the health and
dental screenings on their own. But the re-
ality of ‘hard to reach’ families won’t, for any
number of reasons.”

Thomas and Susan Fowler, a professor in the
College of Education, worked with the
six agencies throughout the pilot pro-
gram and evaluated the efficacy of each of
their projects in a report that was recently
submitted to the Governor’s Office of Early
Childhood Development.

Three agencies recruited and trained par-
ents whose children had attended the aген-
cies’ programs to serve as ambassadors in
their communities, talking with families in
their homes and at community events to
establish trust and promote awareness of
the benefits of high-quality early childhood
education.

As a result of the parent ambassadors’ suc-
cess at recruitment, Centers for New
Horizons, an agency in Chicago, was able to
reopen a Head Start classroom at a city
college that had been closed because of
under-enrollment.

Casa Central, another Chicago program,
used its funding to create two information-
/registration videos: a Spanish-language
video with English subtitles focused on
parents, and an English-language video fo-
cused on business leaders. After showing
the English-language video at an annual
fundraiser, the agency raised $16,000 to
be used for “scholarships” for families that
temporarily lost their child care subsidies
and needed help paying for their children’s
care.

Three agencies used pilot funds to cre-
te interim services, such as hourlong child
socialization and literacy programs. Elgin
U-46 School District developed a drop-in
program called “Preschool Here,” which
provided an hour of preschool activities
weekly at housing developments, parks and
other public locations. Families with young
children who happened to pass by when
preschool was in session were invited to
participate.

The drop-in preschool became so popu-
lar that the school district expanded it from
to five 12 locations and served 164 children,
57 of whom were enrolled in the district’s
Preschool for All program as slots became
available. The remaining children were
scheduled to begin attending the district’s
regular program this fall.

Many agencies also had staff members at
engaging hard-to-reach families suggests
a need to re-examine current policies and
permit Head Start and Preschool for All
providers to use funds for programming
for eligible families that are on enrollment
waits.

During the pilot program, each agency
was required to use a data system to track
and stay connected with families whose
young children were not being served.

Many agencies also had staff members
maintain regular contact, such as weekly
phone calls, with families of unserved chil-
dren until they were enrolled or other ser-
VICES could be provided.

According to the report, age and birthday
policies, such as requiring children to be
three by Sept. 1 in order to enter preschool
programs, pose barriers to families.

Greater flexibility in the enroll-
m ment policies, including allowing agencies
to transition children between programs,
would enable children to engage with pro-
grams when they were developmentally
ready and space was available rather than
when children met “arbitrary” milestones.

The report, also underway, is making
Preschool for All policies more flexible to
allow programs to set aside funds for re-

SEE EDUCATION, Page 13

Many people would recognize Borden’s Elsie the
Cow or the Real California Milk cows from TV,
but how many have heard about Illini Nellie, the
most famous, record-breaking dairy cow ever to graze the
Urbana campus?

Illini Nellie (1927-1940) was a world champion Brown Swiss milk
producer, who was born and raised at the U. of I. Dairy Farms.
During the 10 years she produced milk, she averaged 93 1/2
pints of milk per day, and her total milk production during her
life was 194,665.8 pounds.

This image, from about 1935, shows Illini Nellie with visiting
state legislators on a biennial inspection tour. The photo
serves as a record of the university’s long history of agricultural
research, which has been invaluable to Illinois farmers and
continues to improve agriculture in many ways. The University
Archives will continue to document and preserve all of these
agricultural accomplishments.

ON THE WEB: archives.library.illinois.edu
Science fiction authors, music featured

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

Best-selling author Kim Stanley Robinson will deliver the keynote lecture at “Writing Another Future,” a symposium on science fiction, the arts and humanities, Sept. 25-27 at the U. of I. In addition to presentations and panel discussions, the event will include several concerts. Organizers hope the symposium will spark interest in science fiction writing as part of the university’s ongoing explorations of science, technology and society.

Robinson is the author of 12 books, including the “Mars” trilogy, “Fifty Degrees Below” and the recently published “2312.” The winner of Hugo, Nebula and Locus awards, Robinson will speak at 4 p.m. on Sept. 26 in the auditorium of the Music Building.

Also on Sept. 26, Minster Faust (Malcolm Azania) – the author of a half dozen novels, including “Shrinking the Heroes,” “The Alchemists of Kush” and “The Coyote Kings, Book One: Space Age Bachelor Pad” – will speak on science fiction and Afro-centricism at 11 a.m. at the Levis Center. Lisa Yaszek, the author of “Galactic Suburbia: Recovering Women’s Science Fiction” and the president of the Science Fiction Research Association, will speak on international science fiction at 9 a.m., also at the Levis Center.

The symposium opens Sept. 25 with a 7:30 p.m. concert by the Illinois Modern Ensemble at Krammert Center for the Performing Arts. The concert will feature premieres by guest composers Fernando Benadon and Dmitri Tymoczko, with Illinois faculty artists Timothy Ehlen and the Jupiter String Quartet.

On Sept. 26, the Illinois Wind Symphony will perform works by Illinois composition professor Stephen Andrew Taylor, Chicago Symphony Orchestra composer-in-residence Mason Bates and Illinois alumnus Perry Goldstein, once the host of a contemporary music show on WILL radio and now one of the most widely performed composers of saxophone music.

Tickets for each concert are $10 for adults, $7 for senior citizens and $4 for students. The lectures and panel discussions are free of charge.

All events are open to the public. More information, including a complete schedule of speakers, panels and performances, is online.

Richard C. Bowman, 49, died Sept. 12 at Kirby Hospital, Monticello. Bowman was an instructor at the Police Training Institute.

Willard R. Cox, 85, died Sept. 4 at Heartland Healthcare Center, Champaign. Cox worked at the U. of I. for 29 years, retiring in 1991 as a building service supervisor for University Housing.

William G. Cummings, 82, died Sept. 1 in Hazel Crest. Ill. Cummings had worked in the U. of I. Capital Programs Office.


Margaret C. Oakes, 88, died Sept. 11 at her Urbana home. Oakes worked at the U. of I. for 11 years, retiring as chief clerk for Photographic Services.


William Smith, 82, died Aug. 29 at the Champaign Urbana Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. Smith worked at the U. of I. for 21 years, retiring in 1994 as an instrument maker for the Materials Research Lab. Memorials: Stratford Park Bible Chapel, 2801 W. Kirby Ave., Champaign, Ill. 61821, stratfordpark.net.

Judith Kritzer Walters, 81, died Aug. 27 at the Piatt County Nursing Home, Monticello. She worked at the U. of I. for 30 years, retiring in 1998 as a staff clerk for University Housing.
Comedian Retta to perform Oct. 1

Retta, who plays office assistant Donna on NBC’s “Parks and Recreation,” will perform at the Illini Union at 8 p.m. Oct. 1. Retta’s comedy has made her a well-known presence on Comedy Central with performances on “Premium Blend,” “Comics Unleashed” and her own “Comedy Central Presents” special. She was on the first season of TV Guide’s “Stilletto” and has made guest appearances on “The Soup” and “It’s Always Sunny in Philadelphia.”

Geography and geographic information science

GScience symposium is Oct. 4

The newly named department of geography and geographic information science (formerly geography) will host the GScience Symposium from 1-5 p.m. Oct. 4 in Illini Union Room 407. The event celebrates the department’s name change, which reflects its growing emphasis on geographic information science research and education, and recognizes the increasingly important role of geospatial data and technologies.

Pathobiology series begins Sept. 25

The department of pathobiology has announced topics for its 2013-14 Pathobiology Seminar Series (although not all lectures have been put on the calendar). At least three events will be held in noon Sept. 25 with “Interplays Between Dengue and the Innate Immune System,” presented by Ana Fernandez-Sesma, a professor of microbiology at the Mount Sinai School of Medicine in New York City.

The full schedule will be posted online at vetmed.illinois.edu/path/pathsem.html. For additional information about the series, contact Paula Mosley, 333-5721.

Forum on Future of Public Education

International conference is Oct. 3-4

The Forum on the Future of Public Education will host an international conference on the impact of privatization and marketization on the education of disadvantaged children and communities around the world. The conference will be Oct. 3-4 in the Architecture Gallery at Temple Hoyne Buell Hall.

The conference brings together several of the world’s leading scholars to consider how market-style mechanisms such as choice, competition or private provision can open up access to quality options for economically marginalized students or impede educational opportunities. In order to examine how different contexts can shape the impacts of market forces on education, the presenters represent different disciplines and nations.

Scholars will discuss a number of issues centered on how public policy should utilize or restrict market models in education. Questions to be addressed: Can private provision through low-fee schools bring education to economically marginalized students or impede educational opportunities? How do these approaches affect the quality and accessibility of education for disadvantaged children and communities? How should policymakers and the public consider these options in order to achieve the best possible outcomes for those most in need of educational opportunities?

The conference is free and open to the public. For more information, to register or to submit a presentation proposal, contact Lawrence Saha, saha@illinois.edu or 244-6684.
“Mother Nature’s Child,” which explores nature’s powerful role in children’s health and development (2 p.m. Sept. 22 in the Knight Auditorium at Spurlock Museum).

An interactive community forum featuring research on the health and wellness benefits of children connecting with the natural world (1-5 p.m. Activities and Recreation Center, U. of I., registration and fee required.)

Family programs and events that provide opportunities to engage children in outdoor activities also are on the agenda. For more information, visit ccfpd.org/child- outside.

U. of I. Wellness Center PARK(ing) Day to raise awareness

The U. of I. Wellness Center will transform two metered parking spaces near Gregory and Armory into a smoke-free park and informational center on Sept. 20. In- formation on the upcoming smoke-free campus policy, as well as information about how decreasing single-person car use and reducing secondhand smoke improves the environment, will be available.

The display is part of a national awareness event called PARK(ing) Day. The goals of the annual event are to raise awareness about how public space is dominated by car-related infrastructure and to reinforce the importance of public spaces in urban environments.

For more information about the upcoming smoke-free campus policy, contact Michele Guerra, mguerra@illinois. edu, or visit go.illinois.edu/smokefree. For information about PARK(ing) day, contact Grace Kyung, gkyung2@illinois.edu, or visit parkingday.org.

Chambana Science Café
Auto speech recognition featured

Preethi Jyothi, a postdoctoral fellow at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, will discuss her research on automatic speech recognition as part of the Chambana Science Café lecture series. Jyothi will speak at 6:30 p.m. Oct. 2 in the Champaign Public Library’s Robes- son Pavilion C.

Science cafés, held the first Wednesday of each month, are informal gatherings that bring scientists out of their labs to public areas to talk about their work and answer ques- tions. The talks are free and open to the public.

Future presentations: Abhi Singharoy, a postdoctoral fellow at the Beckman Institute, on combining computer simulations with X-ray crystallography to image proteins in action (Nov. 6); and Jana Diesner, a professor of library and information science, on social network analysis and study- ing the data traces people leave behind every day (Dec. 4). Both presentations begin at 5:30 p.m. For more information, visit the Chambana Science Café Facebook page at facebook.com/ChambanaScienceCafe.

The Science Café is sponsored in part by the Beckman Institute. ♦

SENATE, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

Chair Tolliver.

“There are some issues that need to be addressed and I’d like to get a plan of action together,” said GUP Committee chair Abhi Singharoy. “I was hoping to get some direction on how the senate should follow up on the survey. Even though the survey was only answered by a small number of people, he said, it did raise significant concerns that need further study by GUP.

“But my reaction to this is that it is very important to address these concerns because there are a number of different committees that need to be involved in this issue.”
24-hour casinos a bad bet for Illinois, gambling critic says

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

Casinos in the state of Illinois want to keep their roulette wheels spinning 24 hours a day, but a leading national gambling critic warns that round-the-clock gambling could be disastrous for the Land of Lincoln.

The Illinois Gaming Board at its Sept. 19 meeting is set to consider allowing casinos in Illinois to operate continuously. John W. Kindt says it’s a bad bet for Illinois taxpayers.

“Slot machines are job killers,” said Kindt, an emeritus professor of business and legal policy at the U. of I. “Every slot machine takes at least one job out of the consumer economy because people aren’t buying cars, refrigerators and the other necessities of life. They’re gambling all that money away. Staying open all day and all night year-round just intensifies this problem.”

Currently, casinos in Illinois have to close for at least two hours per day. But the ability to operate around the clock is an extra opportunity for casinos to take advantage of sleep-deprived, intoxicated or addicted gamblers, said Kindt, a senior editor of the United States International Gambling Report, a six-volume series released between 2008 and 2013, and the author of the 2013 book “The Gambling Threat to World Public Order and Stability: Internet Gambling,” the final volume in a three-book series on Internet gambling.

“There’s a reason why there are no clocks in casinos,” Kindt said. “Now they want to make it even easier for people to gamble away their life savings. There are reasons why bars don’t stay open 24 hours a day – why should casinos be any different?”

Casino operators cite increased competition from video gambling and slot machines at truck stops and bars for their renewed push for the option to stay open the extra two hours.

“My response to that would simply be that gambling at truck stops and bars ought to be cut back to reasonable daylight hours, or at least until midnight,” Kindt said. “Instead of expanding gambling, we need to start restricting it. A good first step would be rejecting this push to keep casinos open 24/7, and then move on to curbing these obvious abuses at bars and truck stops.”

Slot machines also keep people in the bars drinking long past when they should have gone home.

“That makes the drunken driving aspect of it significantly worse, which inevitably leads to more taxes for the people of the state of Illinois to pay for all the extra social costs associated with drinking and gambling,” he said. “The bars love it, because it keeps people in the bars longer, but it just makes everything else a lot worse.”

For a cash-strapped state, it’s a recipe for a continued economic downturn, Kindt said.

“We are creating all these new huge social problems, which puts pressure on taxpayer dollars,” he said. “And secondly, we’re draining jobs away from the consumer economy, because slot machines don’t create jobs – you just dust them off, plug them in and watch them drain away money.”

According to Kindt, both the owners and operators of slot machines take 35 percent apiece of the gross revenue, leaving the remaining 30 percent to the state to divide among itself and the municipality where the casino is located.

“What that means is that the state of Illinoi

Economic impact. Round-the-clock gambling could be disastrous for the state of Illinois, says John Kindt, an emeritus professor of business and legal policy.