New practice area for Marching Illini solves many problems

By Dusty Rhodes
Arts and Humanities Editor

The U of I's Marching Illini provides the soundtrack for a long list of cherished football traditions. Gridiron games wouldn’t be nearly as much fun without the band leading the players out of the tunnel, playing “Imperial March” from “Star Wars” on third downs, and of course “Okeefe Wow Wow” after every touchdown. But the band is about to abandon one lesser-known custom that dates back several generations—and everybody is happy to see this one go.

In January, the Marching Illini will break ground on a permanent practice field, complete with synthetic turf, lights for dusky rehearsal hours and a two-story observation tower—thereby ending several generations of band practices between the College of Business Instructional Facility and the Krannert Art Museum, or between Memorial Stadium that is currently used for tailgating. These State Farm Center that is now a parking lot, and an area west of Hunk Hall and the Art and Design Building.

"There are spaces that the band has used that weren’t really …" says Barry House, the director of the Marching Illini Site. MARCHING ILLINI, Page 8

Federal shutdown effect on campus mostly unknown

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

As Americans await the uncertain consequences of a shuttered federal government, university leaders are wondering how deeply the shutdown will affect campus programs that depend upon federal support.

Right now, they say, there’s not much to do but watch and wait. “It’s something everyone is very concerned with,” said Melissa Edwards, the director of research communications for the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research. “It’s frustrating because we just don’t know what’s going to happen.”

Edwards said current federal grants and contracts to this point are largely unaffected.

But for applications still going through the various federal “pipelines,” uncertainty rules the day.

The activities of federal agencies that supply research funding have been frozen, which includes agency websites and all other regular points of contact.

“‘For the duration of the funding lapse,’” said the National Institutes of Health website prior to the shutdown, “NHIs extramural employees will be prohibited from working (remotely or in the office). Consequently, there will be no access to voicemail, email, fax or postal mail during this period.”

It is recommended that you delay sending such communications until after operations resume.

The website also discourages researchers from sending new grant applications and indicates that the Web-Site FEDERAL SHUTDOWN. Page 2

Alma mater conservator to talk Oct. 25

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

The Alma Mater sculpture is still getting herself together but it is expected that she will be back to her old form in time for commencement 2014.

Campus leaders overseeing the conservation of the beloved bronze statue say they have been impressed with the level of detailed work done by a suburban Chicago conservator and that once Alma returns, she’ll look as good as the day she was dedicated.

“The amount of work that has gone into this has been amazing,” said Christa Deacy-Quinn, the collections manager at Spurlock Museum and a member of the Alma Mater conservation committee. “It’s being done properly, and it’s been an incredible honor seeing the progress and watching it come back to life.”

Work on campus’s most prominent icon started last year after it was determined that constant exposure to the elements had left Alma—and her partners Labor and Learning—in need of immediate attention. The 13-foot-tall statue was taken away August 2012 and for the first time in more than 80 years was not available for graduation activities.

The work has taken longer than expected because of the extent of the deterioration and because no one knew exactly how the original art-

Eugene Thomas Flynn, 84, died Oct. 9 at his home in Philo. He worked at the U. of I. employee for 34 years, retiring in 1984 as an elevator mechanic at the Physical Plant. He then worked until 1990 as the assistant to the associate vice president for personnel services. Memorials: Saint Thomas Catholi- c School, 311 E. Madison St., Philo, IL 61864.

Mary Z. Glocnker, 86, died Oct. 4 at the Windsor of Savoy. Glocnker came to the U. of I. in 1959 to work as a publications editor for the Small Homes Council (now the Building Research Council). She later worked as an editor for the ERIC Clearing- house on Early Childhood Education and the Illinois State Geological Survey.

Victor N. Smith, 90, died Oct. 11 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He worked for U. of I. Extension for more than 28 years serving as a youth adviser in Perry County, an Extension adviser in Williamson County and a livestock specialist in western Illi- nois. Memorials: Cystic Fibrosis Founda- tion, 4600 Park Road, Suite 100, Charlotte, NC 28209, cff.org.

Robert Earl Walker Sr., 62, died Oct. 10 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Walker worked at the U. of I. for 28 years, retiring in 2006 as a pipettor for Facilities and Services.

FEDERAL SHUTDOWN, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

She said the uncertainty makes it dif- ficult for universities and other research institutions to plan long-term projects due to lost dollars and other grants that could be affected or de- layed with a long-term shutdown.

Robin Kaler, the associate chancellor for public affairs, said the shutdown has not yet had a major impact on the uni- versity’s non-research programs that use federal money.

"Fell grants have largely been re- ceived and we don’t anticipate disrup- tions to students," she said, "but the university has not been told to withhold spending on existing grants and con- tracts."

She said the biggest worry right now is the uncertainty the shutdown causes.

"The longer it takes to get this re- solved, the likelihood of a significant dis- ruption increases, and the longer it will take to return to normal activity," she said.

by Mike Holenthal
Assistant Editor

S
enate Executive Committee members at their Oct. 14 meeting heard several reports on simulta- neous efforts being undertaken to improve campus academic operations. Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise reported on the implementation of the newly minted Strategic Plan, a process she is under- way.

"We’re really working (intensely) on it," she said, "and faculty and staff are being organized to meet a goal of 500 hires in the next five to seven years, with many of the houses being made in “clusters” to address specific academic needs outlined in the plan.

As for unfilled administrative posts, she said committees are being formed to fill the dean positions in the College of Agri- cultural, Consumer and Environmental Sci- ences and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, as well as the Senior Information Officer and Chief Information Officer.

Wise said leaders are also preparing to undertake an academic program review, a process that will be repeated every eight years, as well as to focus on finding ways to fund a comprehensive strategic plan.

"We’ll be starting a series of conversa- tions with campus to get input on how to improve the undergraduate, as well as the graduate, experience," she said. "We’re go- ing to be taking (these conversations) very seriously.

Ilesanmi Adesida, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, said the conversation would go to the core of what it means to earn a U. of I degree.

"What is it in our DNA that we hope to pass on to our students?" he said.

Adesida said the university’s develop- ment of massive online courses will be a part of that conversation, with the face-led Valo committee to soon release a progress report and rec- ommendations on how best to use the new technology.

"We want to know how it can be used for our (campus) students, not just outside stu- dents," he said, adding that the question of how to handle offerings from MOOCs continues to be an open one.

Wise said work also is moving forward to improve campus advancement mechan- isms and increase the funding foundation.

"We realize that we lag compared to our Committee on Institutional Cooperation partners as well as our dashboard peers," she said.

SEC Chair Roy Campbell, a professor of computer science, said a three-campus committee to serve as an umbrella committee is being formed to fill the vacancies.

"The committee is being led by Richard Messinger, an associate vice president for research, and has focused on pre-award and post-award functions, compliance issues and business processes around the univer- sity’s grants and contracts enterprise.

"I think the results will be very useful," he said. "It’s been a comprehensive sort of review.

Matthew Wheeler, who also serves on the task force, said such a review is over- due and that findings could lead to a more streamlined system.

"Some of the flow diagrams are as long as this table," he said, encouraging faculty members to read the full report when it is released. "We need to have a lot more fac- ulty eyes on it."

SEC members also set the agenda for the Oct. 21 senate meeting, using a new statu- tory rule to postpone one item, a resolution concerning the proposed reorganization of the School of Labor and Employment Rela- tions.

Several senators expressed discomfort over the resolution, citing an established protocol for reorganizations that includes committee review and finally a senate vote.

"We have a process that is laid out very clearly in the standing rules and the bylaws," said Joyce Tolliver, a professor of Spanish in agreement with the motion made by Abbas Aminmansour, a professor of architecture, who called the resolution "unappropionate."

Having the item come before the full senate without going through proper chan- nels and lacking an ample explanation of the reorganization, "contradicts the pro- cess we have already defined," she said.

Campbell said he was creating the rec- ommendations of the Task Force on Faculty Issues and Concerns, which were shared with the senate Sept. 19, and will soon de- cide which senate committees will consider which specific recommendations.

"We’re looking at which committee will be the best fit," he said.

SEC reports show that the campus is focused on its focus...
Organ donor promotion at DMV increases registrations

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

M

cally high- and low-registration facilities. It’s not that she needed a job — she had been a preschool teacher for six years and classes included her two children.

To Phillippe, the new job represent-

ed the opportunity to get back into the big people world. “I loved the little ones, but I had spent so much time around children, coming to work in an office with adults was a pleasure,” she said. “My kids were growing up and it was time to move forward.”

Her kids are now fully grown and have their own lives, and the depart-

ment of agronomy is now crop scienc-

es, but Phillippe still enjoys working with faculty and staff members at the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences. She’s enjoyed it so much that she stayed with crop sci-

ences for 14 years then transferred to an administrative assistant position in the dean’s office in 2007.

“The faculty and staff here are all dedicated to making the world a bet-

ter place,” she said. “We have boots on the ground and people working in the trenches all over the world, and they’re helping developing countries with their food and water supplies. You can see the results of their work everywhere. It’s hard not to be proud to be a small part of that.”

Phillippe’s transition to the office en-

vironment was welcome, but not neces-

sarily easy. She admits having few office skills beyond answering phones and typing when she first started, but over time, with the guidance of “incredible” managers and patient supervisors and colleagues, she felt confident enough to take on the dean’s of-

fice job, where she now oversees office staff members.

“I’ve had some really good teachers,” she said, “and I’ve had supervisors who helped me understand the attitude and work you need to excel here.”

Much of her job now is keeping the seemingly endless communications flowing between the college, the campus, the out-

side world and the dean.

“I used to just have a list of things to do that were given to me, I’d get them done and then start on a new list,” she said. “Here, you just keep adding to the list. You have to learn to prioritize and adjust your expecta-

tions. It can’t all be done in one day.”

She said she is lucky to be supported by “an extremely skilled and competent staff.”

“I am thankful each and every day that I share an office with these ladies and our dean,” she said. “We have a good atmos-

phere here and we enjoy working as a team.”

Those staff members are working on sev-

eral projects right now, including a move to digitize the office’s paper files.

At home, Phillippe said she likes to gar-

den and is a seamstress, and she and her husband, Bub, enjoy traveling. Her husband is an audio engineer who traveled with dif-

ferent musical groups.

Raised in Sidney, Ill., she’s been in the Champaign area her entire life, except for a short stint in Los Angeles when the Phillip-

pes’ first child was born.

We didn’t want to raise her out there,” she said. “We wanted to be in the Midwest and coming back to Cham-

paign was exactly where we needed to be.”

By Mike Helenthal
Assistant Editor

We con Carol Phillippe heard about the extra help open-

ning in the department of agronomy in 1992, she quickly filled out the application.

“October issue of the journal Clinical Trans-

plantation vehicles facilities in Illinois shows such ef-

fective, and might be stud-

ied in future research, such as training DMV staff to ask a second time to reg-

ister, Quick said.

Other efforts in driver facili-

ties might also be ef-

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ied in future research, such as training DMV staff to answer questions about do-

nor registration, he said.

Researchers don’t know what keeps more than half the population from reg-

istering as organ donors.

“We are seeking people who were resis-

tant to registering as organ donors,” Quick said.

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Researchers don’t know what keeps more than half the population from reg-

istering as organ donors.

“Sometimes I think people just don’t want to do it, and they just don’t have the heart to tell you they don’t want to do it,” he said.

“Our research suggests, however, that individuals are much more likely to say yes when they under-

stand that as many as eight lives can be saved, and 25 others improved, by a sin-

gle donor,” he said.

The co-authors of the paper were Tyler R. Harrison, a professor of communication at Purdue University; Andy J. King, a professor of public relations at Texas Tech University, and Dave Bosch, the director of communications at Gift of Hope Organ & Tissue Donor Network.

The study was conducted in partnership with Gift of Hope and the Illinois Secretary of State’s office, and was funded as part of a grant from the Division of Transplantation in the U.S. Department of Health and Hu-

man Services.

On the Job

Carol Phillippe

Organ donor promotion at DMV increases registrations

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Quick, whose research focuses on health communication. He is a professor in the de-

partment of communication and in the Col-

lege of Medicine at Illinois. The improvement was not dramatic, but Quick said the findings were meaningful because most of those who registered this time had likely been asked before and de-

clined, as part of their previous license re-

newal. The question has been part of the license renewal process since Illinois cre-

ated its first-person, legally binding consent

campaign aimed at grow-

ning a “mature registry” of donor registration at DMVs brought an increase in

Monitor donor registration at DMVs brought an increase in

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Obesity rates among preschoolers who have been investigated by protective services for alleged maltreatment are nearly three times as high as children in the general population, a new study by researchers at the University of Illinois suggests.

The researchers found that obesity rates among CPS-investigated preschoolers ages 2 through 5 were 20 percent versus 10 percent for their peers, and obesity was prevalent among other youth at risk of abuse/neglect as well.

“We looked at standardized weight-for-age measurements of obesity and found that more than one in four of the children investigated for abuse or neglect by CPS were what would be considered obese — at or above the 95th percentile” on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention’s growth charts, said study co-author Jesse Helton. “That compares to about one in six kids nationally and about one in five children on public aid.”

Helton, who is a faculty member in the Children and Family Research Center, said co-author Janet Liechty estimated the prevalence of obesity using children’s weight as reported by their caregivers and the CDC’s sex-adjusted weight-for-age growth charts.

Prior research has shown that weight-for-age is an acceptable alternative to body mass index data for estimating obesity in populations. When data on both height and weight are not available, said Liechty, who is a professor of social work and Liechty wrote.

The prevalence of obesity among preschoolers and elementary school-aged children is of particular concern because it predisposes them to obesity as adults and the social stigma and lifelong health problems associated with it, including diabetes, cardiovascular disease, asthma, orthopedic problems and metabolic syndrome, Helton and Liechty wrote.

Participants for the study were drawn from the National Survey of Child and Adolescent Well-Being II, a nationwide survey that included more than 5,800 children, ages birth to 17 years, who were investigated for maltreatment during 2008.

“The survey is the only nationally representative data set that exists of children who were investigated for maltreatment, so it’s an important data set to use,” Liechty said. “Even though we didn’t have all the measures of adiposity that we wanted, we had an acceptable proxy for it. If anything, research suggests that using weight-for-age may underestimate the prevalence of obesity, so it’s a more conservative estimate than the BMI would give. It’s unlikely that this measure would inflate the prevalence.”

The problem of obesity among CPS-involved children points to a need for greater emphasis on proper nutrition, exercise and other behaviors that promote healthy weight during social services interventions, the researchers said.

While nutrition and exercise are on the list of things that caseworkers are supposed to address with parents and other caregivers, concerns about children’s safety, education and stability take precedence, and nutrition is often so far down the list that it is not addressed, Helton said.

Children at risk of abuse/neglect are already predisposed to a host of physical and psychological problems, and obesity may add to those burdens.

“These kids face a lot of potential health challenges due to maltreatment, and there needs to be better monitoring so we can get a clearer picture of just how big the problem is and where targeted interventions need to be done,” Helton said. “Oftentimes these kids are very young, but they’re also at risk of being abused or neglected. They are different from children who are living in poverty, but in nurturing homes, and they need a monitoring system that reflects that.”

Consistent with the majority of CPS cases, most of the children in the study were living with their biological parents following an abuse/neglect investigation, often in impoverished neighborhoods that were replete with family stressors and often in neighborhoods with similar barriers to healthy lifestyles, Helton said.

Boys were more likely to be obese than girls, obesity rates were higher among children with maltreatment than among older children (ages 12 and above).

Hispanic girls and African-American boys ages 11 through 17 had the lowest rates of obesity (9 percent and 14 percent, respectively).

Chronic maltreatment may have a greater impact on girls’ weight status than on boys’ weight status. A family history of CPS investigation quadrupled adolescent girls’ odds of obesity, but did not have the same effect on boys, the researchers found.

The study, which is available online, is to be published in the journal Child Abuse and Neglect.

The Children and Family Research Center is a unit within the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

Homecoming week offers variety of activities Oct. 18-26

By Earn Saenmuk

The 2013 Homecoming week at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign will take place Oct. 17-26.

The week kicks off with iHelp, an annual volunteer project that asks U. of I. students and alumni to work together in the name of Alma Mater. The program was created in 2006 by the Student Alumni Ambassadors. Volunteers are asked to pledge their service time online at www.uiaa.org/ihelp and to send photos and video of their activities. This year’s iHelp will be from 3:30 p.m. Oct. 18.

Other activities — including a pumpkin carving contest, a barbecue and bags tournament, and the pep rally and homecoming parade — are described online.

Every year, the Alumni Association invites a group of distinguished alumni to O}{

By Shaftta Forrest

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Every year, the Alumni Association invites a group of distinguished alumni to
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.

Robb Lindgren

assistant professor of educational technology in the department of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education

Education: Ph.D. (learning sciences and technology design) and M.A. (psychology), Stanford University; B.S. (computer science), Northwestern University

Research Interests: His research program focuses on learning and instruction through the use of emerging immersive and interactive digital media platforms such as simulations, virtual environments, mobile devices, video games and mixed reality.

“Dr. Robb Lindgren seeks to understand how contemporary media technologies can be used to construct new identities and generate new perspectives that lead to stronger comprehension of complex ideas in STEM content areas,” said Fouad Abd-El-Khalick, a professor and the head of curriculum and instruction. “His expertise with immersive digital learning ecologies adds tremendously to our capacity at the departmental, College of Education and campus levels in the area of advancing learning and teaching in 21st-century classrooms and platforms. His scholarship connects directly with the campus’ Strategic Plan in terms of the grand societal challenge focused on information and technology.”

Courses teaching: CI507, Digital Learning

Why Illinois? “Coming to Illinois was a great opportunity for my family to return to our Midwestern roots, and for me to be part of an exciting new research initiative in the College of Education that investigates how to enhance learning and teaching with digital technologies,” Lindgren said. “Illinois has historically been a leader in innovative approaches to teaching with technology and understanding the psychological processes that support learning across the content areas. I have come to a place with wonderfully supportive and brilliant colleagues, dedicated students and a friendly and welcoming community.”

Laura Selmic

assistant professor of veterinary clinical medicine in the College of Veterinary Medicine

Education: M.P.H. (applied biostatistics), Colorado School of Public Health; B.VetMed, The Royal Veterinary College, University of London, England. She is a diplomate, American College of Veterinary Surgeons (small animal).

Research Interests: Her research interests include the epidemiology of osteosarcoma and the application of biostatistics and epidemiology to observational studies, clinical trials and experimental research.

“Dr. Laura Selmic brings a unique set of clinical skills to the department of veterinary clinical medicine which strongly aligns with the U. of I.’s Health Sciences Initiative, specifically in the field of cancer,” said Karen L. Campbell, a professor and the head of veterinary clinical medicine. “Her completion of the Veterinary Oncology Surgical Fellowship training will allow her to provide exceptional oncologic surgical procedures to referring veterinarians and pet owners, contribute to the breadth and comprehensive training of professional students enrolled in the veterinary program and substantively contribute to the diversity of cancer-collaborative activities which are developing on the U. of I. campus. In addition, she has a Master in Public Health degree, with an emphasis in epidemiology and clinical trial design, which will aid in the development of a nationally recognized veterinary oncology program.”

Why Illinois? “I was excited to join a college with such strong foundations in small animal surgery and oncology, and a university with so many opportunities for collaborative research,” Selmic said. “After visiting and meeting my talented future colleagues, I knew working at the U. of I. was the ideal next step in my academic career.”
New small-molecule catalyst does the work of many enzymes

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

Researchers report that they have created a man-made catalyst that is an “enzyme mimic.” Unlike most enzymes, which act on a single target, the new catalyst can alter the chemical profiles of numerous types of small molecules. The catalyst – and others like it – will greatly speed the process of drug discovery, the researchers say.

“Numerical method is best approach to classify pollen grains

By Chelsey B. Coombs
News Bureau Intern

Researchers have developed a new quantitative – rather than qualitative – method of identifying pollen grains. This is certainly nothing to sneeze at.

The research appears in the journal Proceedings of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences.

Since the invention of the earliest light microscopes, the classification and identification of pollen and spores has been a highly subjective venture for those who use these tiny particles to study vegetation in the field, palynology.

However, according to the lead author of the study, Luke Mander, a former postdoctoral researcher in the laboratory of Illinois professor of plant biology Surangi Punyasena, the limitations imposed by these descriptive rather than numerical methods have kept researchers from classifying pollen and spores beyond a general level.

“Grass pollen classification is a long-standing problem in palynology,” Mander said. “Many researchers have tried to classify these things by eye, looking down a standard light microscope and noting some differences in their sizes and other aspects of their morphology, but the differences between the species is so subtle.”

Mander said he and his colleagues set out to find a less subjective and more numbers-based method of grass-pollen grain classification and identification.

“We decided to use a quantitative analysis because we wanted to move beyond the idea that we just use natural language to describe the morphology and differences between the species. We wanted to be able to put numbers on them, to generate robust and repeatable classifications,” Mander said.

The researchers began by using scanning electron microscopes to capture detailed, high-resolution images of 12 different species of grass pollen. They measured the size and number of some of the pollen grains’ morphological features, which, under the microscope, look like “little spines,” according to Mander. The team, which included Florida State University mathematics professor Washington Mio and his graduate student Mao Li, then devised a novel method of quantifying the intricacies that exist among these species’ spines.

“If you zoom in on an image it becomes very pixelated, and we thought of those pixels as little nodes in a network,” Mander said.

“We quantified the complexity of the networks that were formed by the pixels and used that measure of complexity to generate our classification.”

This new method was 77.5 percent accurate, classifying 186 out of 240 specimens correctly. When seven human subjects were given the scanning electron microscopy images and a reference library, individually their classifications were 68.3 to 81.7 percent accurate.

Between the subjects, however, there was relatively little classification consistency, as only 28.3 percent of the specimens were correctly classified by every subject.

“Between species with your eyes reasonably well, but individual works have very different classifications,” Mander said.

Classifying pollen A team of researchers at the U. of I. used scanning electron microscopy to produce detailed images of whole pollen grains like that of the Poa australis species shown here, left. A computer program then used the high-resolution grain surface patterns, right, to classify and identify the species of grass pollen.

“Developing better, quantitative ways of describing biologically and shape would allow many fields to establish more rigorous and consistent criteria for working with morphology and assessing morphological differences,” Punyasena said.
What’s the difference between “degraded work” and jobs that just pay a low hourly wage? Which category applies to fast-food work?

Degraded work consists of everything problematic with a job beyond the wages. Take the example of a day laborer. Day laborers often earn $10 or $12 an hour when they’re hired – way over the minimum wage. But they work just a few days a week, their pay often gets stolen, they don’t get breaks or safety equipment, there’s no path forward on the job, and their bodies break down in a hurry. That’s the difference between low-wage work and degraded work.

Our report (released Oct. 15) on fast-food workers’ families are in public assistance programs. How much do these programs cost taxpayers?

By our extremely conservative estimate, the cost is just short of $7 billion per year. Fast food is a relatively small industry, and the average pay of fast-food workers is $8.69 per hour (federal minimum wage is $7.25 an hour), most fast-food workers’ families are in public assistance programs. How much do these programs cost taxpayers? The irony is that you often hear that service-sector jobs are immune to that same process. Well – why? There was nothing inherently good about manufacturing jobs. To the contrary, they’re vulnerable to low-wage offshore competition in a way that fast food and retail aren’t. And there is nothing inherently good about service jobs, but that doesn’t mean they can’t be improved.

The SEIU, listed as one of your research partners, has been involved in a campaign in which fast-food workers have gone on strike. What tactics might be necessary to accomplish the change they’re looking for?

That’s the question everyone is asking. One of the open secrets of industrial relations is that the National Labor Relations Act – your right to form a union – is no longer really enforced. Firing union supporters is illegal. But it’s also easy and effective, and the penalties are very small. I’ll leave the tactics to the experts – but the process has to start with building a popular consensus that something has to change. Which, given stagnant pay and diminished job security for a growing share of workers, should not be hard to do.

You have done extensive research on both the retail grocery industry and the fast-food industry. If you’re the kind of consumer who wants to “vote” with your wallet, where should you get food?

I used to ask myself that same question. But I stopped, because the answer wasn’t important, and because it was beside the point. Right now, our regulatory rules say it’s fine to pay poverty wages, and that breaking basic labor laws carries a very small cost. It’s only natural to search for a better place to shop, but crossing the street to buy a burger somewhere else isn’t going to change the basic problem. Instead, I’d counsel people to reverse the old saw, “think globally, act locally.” If you want to do something about wages and working conditions where you live, join up with a national network pressuring state assemblies and Congress to develop a fairer set of rules. Think locally, act globally.◆

A Minute With …™ is provided by the U. of I. News Bureau. To view archived interviews, visit go.illinois.edu/amw.
ALMA MATER, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
to disassemble the statue only enough to access the interior bolts and to remove and replace those corroded bolts and fasteners.

"Alma came apart in a lot more pieces than we thought," Deacy-Quinn said. The work, which also includes a laser cleaning to remove surface oxidation, will conclude with the reassembly of the statue and delivery this spring.

"The reassembly process will also take time," Lev said. "As the pieces are reassembled, the bronze fasteners are tightened, the seams of the sculpture will be pulled back together very slowly. The seams are very irregular and great care will be taken to assure that the pieces are mated back together correctly and precisely."

Anyone wanting a closer look at the conservation of the Alma Mater will have the opportunity Oct. 25 when Andrzej Dajnowski, the lead conservator for the Conservation of Sculpture and Objects Studio in Forest Park, Ill., returns to campus to participate in a panel discussion about the project during the drought of 2012 brought the problem to the attention of school officials, who sent Facilities and Services personnel to inspect the South Quad field then being used by the Marching Illini. After repeated trampling by 360 pairs of feet, the grass was dead and the soil was so compacted, it would not be aerated, Houser said. F&S advised the Marching Illini to avoid using that field for the next two years.

"Big ten bands do a lot of high yard lines painted (stepping with knees lifted hip-high), fast chair and run-on steps," Houser said. "There's a lot of motion that's digging in, as opposed to the glide step used by corps. We put so much use on those fields that by the end of the fall semester, they're down to dirt and we can't use them again until the next fall."

Beginning in fall 2012, meetings were held involving about two dozen campus officials, all focused on trying to find a permanent home for the Marching Illini. Campus Recreation had a representative at those meetings, but Deterding was dealing with a similar dilemma: She was facing the potential loss of the two grass fields in the Campus Recreation play fields complex. University Housing, hoping to address drainage problems, wanted to turn those two fields into a retention pond.

"That would be a problem for us," Deterding said. "Those fields are used by everything from flag football to soccer to lacrosse. We put so much use on those fields that by the end of the fall semester, they're a construction site."

"Michigan State and Ohio State talked about this collaborative effort where their marching bands practice on their turf fields, and the bands pay for maintenance," she said. "So I proposed to Fine and Applied Arts that we let the band use our new turf fields in exchange for some financial assistance."

The U. of I. Board of Trustees approved the plan at a meeting last summer. The new field should be ready for the Marching Illini next fall. Campus Recreation will have use of the field during the hours before and after band practices.

"Can the stars align any better?" Houser asked. "Housing still gets their retention pond. Campus Rec gets their field, and everyone comes out smiling."

The Marching Illini will present its annual concert of halftime highlights, fan favorites and traditional music at 3 p.m. Oct. 27 at State Farm Center. Tickets are $8 in advance, $10 on the day of the show, with a $2 discount for U. of I. students and school groups. Tickets are on sale now at TheStateFarmCenter.com or by phone at 866-455-4641.

Upright bolting The conservator working on the Alma Mater sculpture had no idea how extensive the damage to the sculpture was until workers took it apart (right). Once it was dismantled, the conservator determined that decades of water damage had corroded the bolts and the interior of the statue. Restoration work also will include laser cleaning of the statue's surface to remove oxidation that also has been yours in the making.

Alma Mater and Quad will remain to unite the campus community and alumni for decades into the next century."
Researchers report that river otters in Central Illinois are being exposed to polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) and pesticides that were banned in the U.S. in the 1970s and 1980s.

Their analysis appears in the journal Ecotoxicology and Environmental Safety.

The Illinois Department of Natural Resources collected 23 river otters between 2009 and 2011 after the animals were incidentally killed (hit by cars or accidentally caught in traps, for example). The agency passed the carcasses along to researchers at the Illinois Natural History Survey for analysis, and the U. of I. Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory conducted toxicological tests.

As part of this effort, the research team, led by wildlife technician Samantha Carpenter and veterinary epidemiologist Nohra Mateus-Pinilla, both with the natural history survey, and U. of I. animal sciences professor Jan Novakofski, looked at liver concentrations of 20 organohalogenated compounds once used in agriculture and industry (all but one of which were later banned). Andreas Lehner, of Michigan State University, conducted the toxicological tests.

The researchers were surprised to find that average concentrations of one of the compounds they analyzed was much larger – an byproduct of the pesticide aldrin (and byproduct of the pesticide DDT) that was used across the Midwest agricultural belt was banned in 1987 – exceeded those measured in eight river otters collected in Illinois from 1984 to 1989.

Liver concentrations of PCBs and DDE (the latter a breakdown product of the banned pesticide DDT) were similar to those in the earlier study, the researchers reported.

“The PCBs, dieldrin and DDE were the contaminants that we detected in highest concentration, in terms of average concentrations,” Carpenter said. “And male river otters had significantly higher concentrations of PCBs compared to females.”

PCBs were once used as insulators and coolants in motors and electrical systems, but were banned in 1979 in the U.S. After studies found that exposure to these compounds caused cancer and some other deleterious health effects in animals, PCBs are classified as “probable human carcinogens” and there are fish consumption advisories for this contaminant in many Illinois rivers.

DDT was banned in the U.S. in the early 1970s after decades of widespread use. Studies indicated that DDT and DDE could cause eggshell thinning in several bird species and are toxic to fish, shellfish and other organisms. In mammals, these compounds can cause gene disruption and interfere with hormone function, particularly in developing fetuses.

Dieldrin was used extensively to kill crop pests, termites and mosquitoes before it was banned in 1987 in the U.S. Its use in the Midwest agricultural belt was particularly pronounced. Before these compounds were banned, U.S. farmers applied more than 15 million pounds of dieldrin and aldrin (its parent compound) to their crops every year – much of it in the Midwest.

“Some studies (of dieldrin) exposure find links to cancer, Parkinson’s disease and Alzheimer’s and some do not,” Carpenter said. “But perhaps most concerning is that both dieldrin and PCBs can act as developmental neurotoxicants, meaning that developing fetuses can be harmed at concentrations much smaller than those that can impact the health of adults.”

Concentrations of contaminants in river otters ranged widely. One male had a concentration of PCBs in its liver of 3.450 parts per billion (ppb), while another had only 30 ppb. Dieldrin concentrations ranged from 14.4 to 534 ppb.

Since the otters were collected from counties all over Central Illinois, the findings could indicate that some watersheds have a worse contamination problem than others, Carpenter said.

“For many of the contaminants we did detect a large range,” she said. “This is a red flag. We need to understand more about what humans and wildlife are being exposed to in different watersheds.”

More research is needed to understand the factors that contribute to the river otters’ exposure to these chemicals, Mateus-Pinilla said.

“We don’t have a good understanding of how much time they spend in a particular area, how long they stay there, how far they go or where they spend most of their time during the winter versus the summer,” she said. “All of these can contribute to differences in exposure.”

The researchers do not know why the male otters in the study carried a heavier burden of PCBs than the females, Carpenter said. It may be simply that the males are larger. They may range farther than the females, picking up more toxins as they go. Or the females might transfer some of the contaminants to their offspring during nursing, as previous research suggests.

“Maternal transfer is particularly interesting,” Novakofski said. “In some watersheds humans may have the same kind of risk because they’re eating the same kinds of fish that the otters might be.”

Studies have shown that PCBs and dieldrin can be transferred through breast milk, he said.

“We don’t know enough about how these contaminants behave synergistically,” Carpenter said, especially since “the cocktail of contaminants that we’re exposed to here in the Midwest differs from what humans and wildlife are exposed to in eastern or western North America.”

The research team also included Illinois pathobiology professor Kuldeep Singh, Robert Bluest of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, and Damian Satterthwaite-Phillips and Nelda Rivera, both of the natural history survey. The INHS is a division of the Prairie Research Institute at the U. of I.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Projects (W-146-R and W-167-R) and the Illinois Natural History Survey provided funding for this research.
**Cellulosic biofuels byproduct used to increase ethanol yield**

By Diana Yates  
Life Sciences Editor  

Scientists report in *Nature Communications* that they have engineered yeast to consume acetic acid, a previously unwanted byproduct of the process of converting plant leaves, stems and other tissues into biofuels. The innovation increases ethanol yield from lignocellulosic sources by about 10 percent.

Lignocellulose is the fibrous material that makes up the structural tissues of plants. It is one of the most abundant raw materials on the planet and, because it is rich in carbon, it is an attractive source of renewable biomass for biofuels production.

The yeast *Saccharomyces cerevisiae* is good at fermenting simple sugars (such as those found in corn kernels and sugarcane) to produce ethanol. But coaxing the yeast to feast on plant stems and leaves is not so easy. Doing it on an industrial scale requires a number of costly steps, one of which involves breaking down hemicellulose, a key component of lignocellulose.

“If we decompose hemicellulose, we obtain xylose and acetic acid,” said U. of I. food science and human nutrition professor Yong-Su Jin, who led the research with principal investigator Jamie Cate, of the Energy Biosciences Institute, which funded the research. Jin is an affiliate of the Institute for Genomic Biology at the U. of I.

“Xylose is a sugar; we can engineer yeast to ferment xylose,” Jin said. “However, acetic acid is a toxic compound that kills yeast. That is one of the biggest problems in cellulosic ethanol production.”

In an earlier study, graduate student Soo Rin Kim (now an EBI fellow) engineered *S. cerevisiae* to more efficiently consume xylose. This improved ethanol output, but the process generated an excess of NADH, an electron-transfer molecule that is part of the energy currency of all cells. The buildup of acetic acid also killed off much of the yeast.

After discussing the problem with Jin, Cate had an idea—perhaps the team could induce the yeast to consume acetic acid. It later occurred to Jin that that process might also use up the surplus NADH from xylose metabolism.

By reviewing earlier studies, postdoctoral researcher Na Wei found that another organism, a bacterium, could consume acetic acid. She identified the enzymes that catalyzed this process and saw that one of them not only converted acetic acid into ethanol, but also would use the surplus NADH from xylose metabolism.

The team was not ready to start putting the genes into their yeast, however. They first had to determine whether their efforts were likely to succeed.

“One challenge with yeast is it has evolved to do one thing really well,” Cate said. “When you start adding these new modules into what it’s already doing, it’s not obvious that it’s going to work up front.”

“Many people are curious about why we don’t have cellulosic biofuel right now,” Jin said. “But it’s not because of one limiting step. We have many limiting steps in growing the biomass, storing, moving, harvesting, decomposing the biomass to the sugar, fermentation and then separation (of the ethanol). The advance that we are reporting involves one of those steps—fermentation. But it also will make other steps in the process a little easier.”

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*Inside Illinois*  
Oct. 17, 2013  

**Increased yield**  
Illinois food science and human nutrition professor Yong-Su Jin, left rear; and, clockwise, graduate student Josh Quarterman, EBI fellow Soo Rin Kim and postdoctoral researcher Na Wei engineered yeast to consume acetic acid and xylose simultaneously, improving ethanol yield from lignocellulosic sources (plant stems and other structural parts).
Illini football players await takeoff at U. of I.’s Willard Airport on Dec. 18, 1983, on their way to California for the Rose Bowl game against UCLA. According to newspaper accounts, many fans came out in sub-freezing weather to see the team depart. The 10-1 team under coach Mike White lost to the Bruins, 45-9.

Among the University Archives’ most popular items with students and alumni are those relating to Illini athletics. The archives has many tapes and videos from the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics that serve as a record of various Illini teams throughout the years. The archives also holds the personal papers of well-known Illini such as Ray Eliot, Red Grange, Lou Henson, Johnny “Red” Kerr and Robert Zuppke.

**Sculpture to be dedicated in honor of U. of I. industrial design mentor**

By Dusty Rhodes

Arts and Humanities Editor

The U. of I. College of Fine and Applied Arts will celebrate the initiation of a new professional mentor program on Oct. 26 with the dedication of a sculpture created by an alumnus and placed in honor of his former professor.

“New Day” – a 15-foot tall sculpture by Jeffrey Breslow made of steel tubing, boulders and stone – will be dedicated in honor of Ed Zagorski at 1:30 p.m. in the Research Park, directly across First Street from the I Hotel and Conference Center.

Breslow, who earned a bachelor of arts degree in 1965 and went on to create his own toy design firm, describes Zagorski as his “lifelong mentor” and friend.

“He basically changed my life,” Breslow said.

In 1961, Breslow was 17 years old and flunking out of Bradley University when he came to the U. of I. to visit friends. He happened to wander into the Art and Design building where he saw a display of a project from Zagorski’s industrial design class. A few yards down the hall, he found Zagorski sitting in his office. After a half hour of conversation, Breslow resolved to transfer to Illinois to study with Zagorski.

Breslow spent more than 40 years as a toy designer before retiring as CEO of Big Monster Toys in 2006 to devote himself to sculpting. But he still stays in touch with Zagorski.

“My story is not unique,” Breslow said. “He has touched many students, in the same profound way.”

Breslow was one of the first alumni contacted when the College of Fine and Applied Arts began recruiting professional artists to serve as mentors. Structured to connect current students with artists, designers, performers and professionals with at least three years of practicing experience, the program requires a minimum of half an hour twice a month for one semester, with the professional having the option to extend the mentorship for a second semester. Breslow not only agreed to participate; he requested assignments to mentor two students – one majoring in industrial design, the other in sculpture.

Michele Plante, the coordinator of career services for the College of Fine and Applied Arts, has more than 100 mentors signed up so far, just in the fields of art, design, landscape architecture, urban planning and dance. Next she plans to begin recruiting mentors in theater and music.

Breslow, Zagorski and Edward Feser, the dean of the College of Fine and Applied Arts, will give brief remarks at the dedication ceremony.
Roger Ebert's Film Festival

Filmmakers will take in all of the 16th annual Roger Ebert’s Film Festival, or “Ebertfest,” can purchase festival passes starting Nov. 1.

The festival consists of screenings by over 12 more screenings during the five-day event, April 23-27 at the Virginia Theatre in Champaign. Related talks and panel discussions will be held on the U. of I. campus.

The festival presents cinematic works overlooked by audiences, critics or distributors. “Almost Home” tells the story of six remarkable teenagers who ran away from home and are now living on the streets. Eventually finding their way to the Covenant House, and writer Tina Kelley. The authors will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Illini Union I-Rooms.

Kelley was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team for its work with trafficked and homeless children made him New Jersey’s first governor-appointed Child Advocate. His book chronicles the lives of six remarkable teenagers who ran away from home and are now living on the streets. Eventually finding their way to the Covenant House, and writer Tina Kelley. The authors will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Illini Union I-Rooms.

The festival was founded by Roger Ebert, a U. of I. journalism graduate and Pulitzer Prize-winning film critic for the Chicago Sun-Times, who died April 4.

Those interested in being a festival sponsor or volunteer should contact Mary Susan Britt, the associate director of the festival, at 217-244-0552 or mar sue@illinois.edu.

One Book, One Campus program

Book on homelessness is campus choice

The Illini Union Bookstore has announced the 2013-14 One Book, One Campus selection: “Almost Home: Helping Kids Move From Homelessness to Hope,” by Kevin Ryan, the president of Covenant House, and writer Tina Kelley. The authors will speak at 7 p.m. Oct. 29 in the Illini Union I-Rooms. The lecture is a free event.

Selected by Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise from a list of books compiled by a panel of students, and faculty and student members, “Almost Home” is about homelessness among the nation’s young people. The book chronicles the lives of six remarkable teenagers from across the U.S. and Canada as they confront life alone on the streets. Eventually finding their way to the Covenant House, the largest charity serving homeless and runaway young people in North America, they find unconditional love and support from virtual strangers. Their stories focus not only on overcoming adversity, but also shed light on those who mentor, educate and support at-risk teens.

Ryan is the president and CEO of Covenant House. His work with trafficked and homeless children made him New Jersey’s first governor-appointed Child Advocate. During her 10 years reporting for The New York Times, Kelley was part of a Pulitzer Prize-winning team for its coverage of human trafficking.

Begun in 2005, One Book, One Campus is sponsored by the Illini Union and is a shared-reading program that promotes and encourages engagement campuswide. Programs are built around the chosen book, including lectures and discussion groups to encourage dialogue.

ACME Awards 2013

Nominations due Nov. 8

Public Affairs is now accepting nominations for its 2013 ACME awards (Awards for Communications and Marketing Excellence) for campus professionals. It’s an opportunity to recognize colleagues for outstanding work in marketing communications.

Award categories include: media relations, crisis communications, being a team player, branding, leadership and innovation in marketing. Nominations are due Nov. 8. The form is available at https://illinois.edu/brm/8185535.

Awards will be presented at the annual Public Affairs Brand U Seminar on Nov. 22. For more information about the categories and to view a list of past winners, visit publicaffairs.illinois.edu/campus/acme/acme.html.

McKinley Health Center

Free flu shots now available

McKinley Health Center is offering free flu shots to benefit-eligible faculty and staff members, retirees and state employees. Of UI employees must present their university ID and proof of state health insurance. State employees must present proof of state health insurance and one other form of ID. Shots are available from 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Friday.

Those not eligible for a free flu shot, but who may receive one at McKinley for $30, include extra-help and academic hourly employees; visiting scholars; part-time employees who do not participate in the health plan (coverage will vary by plan); and dependents or partners who have opted out of the state insurance plan.

In addition, flu shots are available at:

- Undergraduate Library reference area (1-3:40 p.m. Oct. 17 and Nov. 5)
- Illini Union Room B (11 a.m.-2 p.m. Oct. 23, Nov. 12)
- Grainger Library reference area (3:30-6:30 p.m. Oct. 17 and Nov. 12)

State Farm Center

Chris Cringle Crafts Sale is Nov. 1-2

The 34th annual Chris Cringle Crafts Sale will take place at State Farm Center from 3-9 p.m. Nov. 1 and 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Nov. 2. Tickets are now on sale.

The sale is one of the Midwest’s largest craft shows, covering all three levels of the center and featuring more than 150 booths displaying a wide variety of handicrafted items by area artists. This year’s raffle is for a hand-designed holiday quilt.

The hosts of the annual event are the Illinois Heartland Decorative Artists, a local chapter of the National Society of Tole and Decorative Painters. This group meets for programs, demonstrations, seminars and a weekend retreat to promote this form of artwork. The group will offer a free coat check and package check for visitors to the sale. More information about the group is available at ilha.us.

State Farm Center will provide a rest area and refreshments.

Get BRIEFS, PAGE 13

Ads removed for online version
Florin Dolcos will speak on emotion-cognition interactions featured

On Thursday, October 17, 2013, the Beckman Institute’s Thursdays @ 12:20 concert series will feature Thomas van Dijk (Dec. 5) on “Optimization in Enhanced Raman Spectroscopy.”

Chambana Science Café

Imaging protein in action featured

Abha Singhary, a postdoctoral fellow at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, will discuss her research on combining computer simulations with X-ray crystallography to image proteins in action as part of the Chambana Science Café lecture series. Singhary will speak at 5:30 p.m. Nov. 6 in Robeson Pavilion Room C at the Champaign Public Library.

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

The last science café of the semester will feature Jana Dussner, a professor of library and information science, on social network analysis and studying the data traces people leave behind every day (Dec. 4).

The Chambana Science Café is sponsored in part by the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Thursdays @ 12:20 concert series

Black Chorus to perform Oct. 17

The Beckman Institute’s Thursdays @ 12:20 concert series features performances by members of the U. of I. School of Music. The U. of I. Black Chorus Chamber Choir will perform Oct. 17. Performances are held in the Beckman Institute atrium and run for about 30 minutes.

Upcoming performances: the Derrick Cordoba Jazz Combo on Nov. 14; the U. of I. Trombone Consortium on Nov. 21.

The Beckman Institute Café is open for lunch during the concerts and features a variety of beverages, entrees, salads and desserts.

History

Symposium honors landmark book

Fifty years ago a landmark book was published that shaped a generation of historians and the subjects they wrote about. To recognize and celebrate that book, the department of history will host a two-day symposium Nov. 7-8 titled “History From Below: E.P. Thompson’s ‘The Making of the English Working Class’ (1963) Fifty Years On.”

Thompson’s book has been recognized as a landmark in British labor, social and political history. It was the first major history of working class culture in Britain and influenced historians and academia by insisting on the presence of underrepresented subjects in history and across other disciplines.

Scores of books, articles, polemics and careers were fashioned in sympathy with, and in reaction to, the book’s methods, its findings and its implications for history writing “from the bottom up.”

The symposium will open with a screening of the film “Talking History: C.L.R. James and E.P. Thompson,” a 4 p.m. Nov. 7 in 223 Gregory Hall.

Caroline Bressey, from University College London, will present the keynote, “Putting ‘Communitarian Ideals’ to the Test: Catherine Impey and the Making of Victorian Anti-Racism,” at 8 p.m. in the Music Room at Lewis Center.

A full day of panels is scheduled for Nov. 8 in the Music Room at Lewis Center. The program can be found at worldhistoriesfrombelow.org. All presentations and panels are free and open to the public.

The symposium is part of the history department’s ongoing initiative, World Histories From Below. For more information contact Antonette Burton at aburton@illinois.edu.

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Virtual gallery unveils first honorees

The College of Liberal Arts and Sciences is creating a Gallery of Excellence in honor of its 100-year anniversary. This virtual gallery features people and events throughout LAS history.

With the college’s broad range of academic disciplines (more than 60 departments and units are housed in LAS), the gallery features those who have made breakthroughs in research, education and culture, in fields ranging from anthropology to zoology.

The people and developments listed in the gallery have been selected by a college committee after a call for nominations within LAS. Those included in the exhibit are highlighted with photos and biographical sketches. The gallery can be viewed at www.las.illinois.edu/100.

“Countless critical ideas and new concepts can be traced to the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences,” said Interim Dean Brian Ross. “We think it’s important to pay tribute to the outstanding people who have made the college great, while at the same time recognizing that they are only a few of the tremendous people who have emerged from here.”

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BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 13

The list of honorees is not yet complete. Additional hon- 
orees will be announced during this milestone year.

Sudden Sound Concerts

Progressive jazz, world music featured

Leading New York City-based musicians in progressive 
jazz, improvisation and world music will be featured in the 
Sudden Sound concert series at Krannert Art Museum this 
fall. Opening the series at 7:30 p.m. Oct. 24 is bassist Wil-

liam Parker, who leads his quartet in music that traverses 
the history of modern jazz and advances the art form with 
every performance.

At 7:30 p.m. Nov. 7, world music percussionist Adam 
Rudolph is featured with woodwind/reed player Ralph M. 
Jones, whose performances span musical forms, instrumen-
tation and cosmologies of Europe, Africa, the Middle East, 
Asia and the African Diaspora.

A workshop introducing Rudolph's approach to con-
ducted improvisation will take place from 8-10 p.m. Nov. 
6 in Smith Memorial Hall. Musicians of all backgrounds 
and instrumentation are welcome to participate in the work-
shop. Set-up starts at 7:30 p.m.

Sudden Sound concerts are offered free to the public 
and take place in the Gelvin Noel Gallery at Krannert Art 
Museum. The Sudden Sound concert series has been pre-
senting leading artists in improvised music and jazz avant-
garde since January 2005. For more information on Sudden 
Sound programming, visit kam.illinois.edu.

Sustainability Week

Tours, events planned Oct. 21-25

The U. of I. celebrates Campus Sustainability Day with 
a week full of activities to educate and motivate the com-

munity about sustainability.

Sustainability Week includes five days of events, in-
cluding tours of the Sustainable Student Farm, the Woody 
Ferneral Polyculture site, the Energy Farm and the Water 
Transfer Station. New this year is an award ceremony Oct. 
23 that will recognize the campus’ Sustainability Fellows 
and the greatest achievers in energy conservation.

Students for Environmental Concerns will host a water 
taste test to determine the quality of water in our area. 
In addition, they will celebrate National Food Day with a 
pothole at the University YMCA.

As part of Sustainability Week, all students are invited 
to meet plant biology professor Evan DeLucia, the new di-
rector of the Center for a Sustainable Environment. He will 
host a reception at 11 a.m. Oct. 23 at the University YMCA.
Registration is required.

The week provides an opportunity for the more than 
10 environmentally oriented registered student organizations 
on campus to show their commitment and share the suc-
cesses of their initiatives.

Sustainability Week is sponsored by the Center for 
a Sustainable Environment and several other partners. 
For the complete Sustainability Week schedule, visit 
sustainability.illinois.edu/SW2013.html.

Honoring academic professionals

CAPE nominations due Nov. 1

Nominations for the 2013-14 Chancellor’s Academic 
Professional Excellence award are due by 5 p.m. Nov. 1. 
Six awards are given annually. The award recognizes the 
importance of contributions made by academic profession-
als, with nominees being evaluated on their work, personal 
and professional contributions.

U. of I. employers can nominate an academic profes-

sional who is currently working and has worked at the uni-
versity full-time for at least three years (or the equivalent, 
such as 50 percent appointment for six years).

Honorees receive $2,000, a $1,000 permanent salary in-
crease and a $1,000 one-time departmental budget increase 
for the next fiscal year.

Nominations may be made online at go.illinois.edu/ 
capenomination. More information can be found at 
ahr.illinois.edu/cape.html.

International conference

Addressing global urban challenges

The U. of I. is co-hosting an international conference on 
the role of research universities in addressing global urban 
challenges. Delegates from nearly 30 research universities 
from around the world are gathering in Chicago Nov. 18-20 
to discuss how research can address urban challenges of the 
21st century, including urban education, urban health and 
urban vitality. The final day of the conference takes place at 
Student Center East on the UIC campus.

U. of I. President Bob Easter will co-host a plenary ses-

sion with the presidents of Northwestern University and the 
University of Chicago. Easter also is moderating the clos-

ing session.

Among the U. of I. speakers: Nicholas Burbules, a pro-

fessor of education policy, organization and leadership; 
Brian Deal, a professor of urban and regional planning; 
Rebecca Ginsburg, a professor of education policy, orga-
nization and leadership, and the director of the Education 
Justice Project; Kim Graber, a professor of kinesthesiology 
and community health; and Bill Sullivan, a professor of land-
scape architecture.

U. of I. faculty members, scholars and administrators are 
invited to attend.

Registration for the plenary sessions is available online 
(http://tinyurl.com/648dpdj). To join the working group 
sessions, contact Melissa Guinan, program officer, at mgui-
nan@thechicagocouncil.org or 312-821-7554. Faculty 
members may attend without charge but must register.

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, the University 
of Chicago and Northwestern University are the other host 
institutions.

‘Talking Travyon’

Forum to focus on race and media

The Graduate Students Organization of the Institute of 
Communications Research, the Institute of Communica-

tions Research and the College of Media are sponsoring a 
panel discussion at 3:30 p.m. Oct. 18 in Lincoln Hall Room 
1092.

This summer’s Travyon Martin decision was a flash-

point for discussions of race in the United States, forcing 
people to rethink the ways people understand the contem-
porary social moment. This event presents a conversation 
on how people can, and why they need to, historicize the 
contextualize the past and brings to the foreground 
the complicated interactions of race, media and social con-
sciousness.

Panelists include Sadiya U. Noble, a professor of media 
and cinema studies; Janice Collins, a professor of journal-
ism; and Lisa Marie Cacho, a professor of Latino/a studies.

Sudden Sound Concerts

Sudden Sound concerts are offered free to the public 
and take place in the Gelvin Noel Gallery at Krannert Art 
Museum. The Sudden Sound concert series has been pre-
senting leading artists in improvised music and jazz avant-
garde since January 2005. For more information on Sudden 
Sound programming, visit kam.illinois.edu.

Sustainability Week

Tours, events planned Oct. 21-25

The U. of I. celebrates Campus Sustainability Day with 
a week full of activities to educate and motivate the com-

munity about sustainability.

Sustainability Week includes five days of events, in-
cluding tours of the Sustainable Student Farm, the Woody 
Ferneral Polyculture site, the Energy Farm and the Water 
Transfer Station. New this year is an award ceremony Oct. 
23 that will recognize the campus’ Sustainability Fellows 
and the greatest achievers in energy conservation.

Students for Environmental Concerns will host a water 
taste test to determine the quality of water in our area. 
In addition, they will celebrate National Food Day with a 
pothole at the University YMCA.

As part of Sustainability Week, all students are invited 
to meet plant biology professor Evan DeLucia, the new di-
rector of the Center for a Sustainable Environment. He will 
A workshop introducing Rudolph's approach to con-
ducted improvisation will take place from 8-10 p.m. Nov. 
6 in Smith Memorial Hall. Musicians of all backgrounds 
and instrumentation are welcome to participate in the work-
shop. Set-up starts at 7:30 p.m.

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ON THE WEB
go.illinois.edu/committees13

LONG-SERVING STAFF MEMBERS, RETIREES RECOGNIZED

Recently retired and long-serving staff employees will be honored at the 2013 Staff Service Recognition Program Oct. 30 at the I Hotel and Conference Center.

The program will honor 98 employees who retired between Sept. 1, 2012, and Aug. 31, 2013. In addition, employees will be honored for service completed during that time: 112 employees who completed 25 years, 24 who completed 30 years, four who completed 35 years, two who completed 40 years and one who completed 60 years of service. A website for the recognition program is accessible through the Staff Human Resources home page at shr.illinois.edu/service. Retirees and service honoring employees are listed alphabetically by name, department or number of years served. For questions about this year’s program, call 217-333-3101.

ON THE WEB
shr.illinois.edu/service

EDUCATION

Peter Kuchinke, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership, delivered a keynote address at the International Conference on European Higher Education in Vilnius, Lithuania, in early September. The conference marked the assumption of the Lithuanian Presidency of the Council of the European Union and focused on the expansion and internationalization of European Higher Education within and outside of its 28 member states. Kuchinke’s talk addressed the role of European universities for U.S. graduate study and research, and he used the example of the U. of I. to explore student expectations, needs and experiences of overseas study.

EMMYS

U. of I. employees were honored with regional Emmy Awards by the Mid-America Chapter of the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences. The winners were announced at an awards ceremony Oct. 5 in St. Louis.

Tim Hartin and Alison Davis Wood, producers for the Big Ten Network and Public Affairs, won in the new arts/entertainment: program feature segment category for “Nathan and Julie Gunn,” a feature about the two U. of I. music professors. Lauren Pike, a part-time employee for the Division of Intercollegiate Athletics, served as segment producer; he also shared in the honor. Kattlin Dixon and Kevin Southworth, who work for Public Affairs, also worked on the production.

Steve Drake, the video producer for the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, won for his video, “Why Men Are Better Navigators Than Women: Adaptation or Testosterone Side Effect.” The video, which won in the “informational/instructional feature segment” category, highlights the work of Beckman neuroscientist and evolutionary biologist Justin Rhodes. The video was a co-production with the U. of I. News Bureau, with life sciences editor Diana Yates acting as the associate producer. The award was Drake’s third Emmy in three years.

The academy honored journalism professor Nancy Benson’s international reporting class with a Pillar award in the “long-form, non-fiction programming” category for “Illinois Travels to Turkey, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign.”

PRAIRIE RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Training programs for energy auditors and quality control inspectors at the U. of I.’s Indoor Climate Research and Training program have been awarded accreditation by the Interstate Renewable Energy Council Inc.

The ICRT energy conservation training programs are the first to earn accreditation in Illinois. Successful completion of such training programs prepares workers to obtain Home Energy Professional certification under the U.S. Department of Energy’s Weatherization Assistance Program. There are 35 local agencies delivering weatherization services in Illinois, including CEDA and Quality Control Inspector,” said Paul Francisco, the director of the ICRT training center. “Someone who successfully completes our training program can feel confident that he or she has everything they need to pass the HEP examination.”

ICRT is part of the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center, a division of the Prairie Research Institute.
Modifying mandates. In a new study, U. of I. law professor Jay P. Kesan, right, and Timothy A. Slating, a regulatory associate with the Energy Biosciences Institute, say that the Renewable Fuel Standard should be slightly modified, not repealed.

“While the federal government has traditionally incentivized renewable energy development through tax credits and funding R&D grants, these approaches are more costly than simply mandating a market,” said Kesan, who also holds U. of I. appointments in the College of Business, the Institute for Genomic Biology, the department of electrical and computer engineering, and the department of agricultural and consumer economics.

The researchers also contend that the biofuel categories of the RFS ought to be expanded to encompass all emerging biofuel technologies, as well as having its biomass sourcing constraints relaxed.

But while the current RFS policy is by no means flawless, and some of the current implementation issues would necessitate statutory changes, the authors say it would be more efficient for these changes to be made by the Environmental Protection Agency, as opposed to Congress.

“We recommend that Congress simply amend the RFS’ statutory provisions to grant the EPA the authority to address its implementation issues via the regulatory rulemaking process,” Kesan said. “For example, the RFS’ volumetric mandates need to be adjusted to reflect current biofuel production realities. But since Congress has demonstrated an inability to properly set these mandates in the past, it would be more efficient for the EPA to set the RFS mandates for future years through a formal rulemaking process with input from all affected stakeholders.”

“It’s clearly a step in the right direction that the EPA has finally initiated rulemaking to address the issue of RIN fraud and help promote liquidity in the RIN market,” Slating said. "RIN stands for renewable identification number, a number assigned to a given amount of biofuel by the EPA so that its production, use and trading can be tracked.

Although the biggest issue with traditional biofuels usually can be reduced to the food vs. fuel argument, the researchers stress that if the RFS is successful in achieving its goals, it will usher in the use of emerging biofuels that will have significantly less impact on food-related markets.

“The ultimate goal of the RFS is to incentivize the increased commercialization of second-generation biofuels, such as cellulosic biofuels that do not rely on food-related feedstocks for their production,” Slating said. “But in order to efficiently accomplish this goal, the RFS also must continue to incentivize the use of first-generation biofuels like corn ethanol.”

“Stakeholders and markets must be given time to adjust to the existing regime before serious and informed discussion about significantly altering the RFS, beyond what we propose, can be had,” Kesan said. “Likewise, you’ve got to allow some time for the maturation of this pioneering and socially beneficial renewable energy policy.”

The research will be published in a forthcoming issue of the New York University Environmental Law Review.

The Energy Biosciences Institute, supported in part by BP, funded the study.

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

Renewable fuel standard needs to be modified, not repealed

Congress should minimally modify – and not, as petroleum-related interests have increasingly lobbied for, repeal – the Renewable Fuel Standard, the most comprehensive renewable energy policy in the U.S., according to a new paper from two U. of I. researchers.

In the study, U. of I. law professor Jay P. Kesan and Timothy A. Slating, a regulatory associate with the Energy Biosciences Institute, argue that RFS mandates merely ought to be adjusted to reflect current and predicted biofuel commercialization realities.

“The RFS is the first and only federal policy that directly mandates the use of renewable energy in the worthwhile effort to displace the use of fossil fuels for our energy needs,” said Kesan, who also is the principal investigator for the Biofuel Law and Regulation project at the institute.

“As with any pioneering regulatory regime, unforeseen implementation issues will arise,” Kesan said. “But this does not justify throwing out the baby with the bath water. Every effort should be made to keep the RFS in place, but efforts should also be made to revise its regulatory regime to make it operate as efficiently as possible.”

In the paper, Kesan and Slating contend that the RFS can serve as a “model policy instrument” for the federal support of all types of socially beneficial renewable energy technologies.

“By mandating a market for emerging biofuels, it sends a clear signal that if they are produced, they will be effectively commercialized,” said Slating, who also is an adjunct professor in the law school. “This, in turn, provides the necessary certainty to free up credit constraints and incentivize investment in the socially beneficial biofuels industry. Additionally, it does so with very little impact on the federal budget because regulated parties bear its costs.”