**Town Hall touts progress despite state budget concerns**

By Mike Heilenthal

The U. of I. is thriving and, despite threatened state funding, will continue to do great things in the future. That was the message delivered by Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise and Ilesanmi Adesida, the provost and vice chancellor for academic affairs, at the April 9 Town Hall meeting.

"By every measure, we are making impressive strides," Wise said as she recounted the various highly ranked programs at the university, noting the progress already made on the campus strategic plan.

She said the fact that this year’s incoming class is the most academically talented ever and the recent vote by the U. of I. Board of Trustees to create the new Carle Illinois College of Medicine both are proof that great things are still happening at Illinois.

Still, the state’s funding problem remains a threat, she said. Gov. Bruce Rauner has proposed cutting nearly a third of next year’s higher education budget, and the Legislature is considering rescinding an additional $15 million from the current appropriation.

University officials hope the cuts do not go as deep as initially proposed. They have testified before legislators, telling them the cuts would diminish the university’s competitiveness. Officials have made contingency plans in the event the full cut is implemented.

"The final decrease is 31.5 percent, 20 percent or even 10 percent, the numbers are disturbing," he said. "We must realize that everything must be on the table. We must protect our core education and scholarly missions, but to do so will mean carefully examining all of our operations and considering fundamental changes in them."

Adesida said programs and courses with low enrollments would be evaluated to see if restructuring is required.

"We may very well need to look at our ambitious hiring plans — and perhaps slow them or extend them over a longer period," he said.

The campus is in the midst of a hiring plan expected to bring on 500 new faculty members in the next five years. So far, about 150 have been hired and 130 searches have been authorized. Adesida and Wise said they would soon be asking the campus to help update the strategic plan to guide the university for the next five years. The plan will be supported by a new fundraising campaign in 2017, the university’s 150th anniversary.

Despite challenges, Wise said there is no choice for the university but to move forward.

"This is not the time to back away from the campus strategic plan," she said, which was set following a process that provided input from all corners of campus. "It is the time to become even more focused and more strategic and agile. We can’t let long-term opportunities be lost to short-term thinking."

Adesida said the state Legislature will likely make cuts to the university’s budget, but it still is a question of how much.

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Benefit Choice enrollment is May 1-June 1

Changes to health care and other benefits — including medical care and dependent care flexible spending plans — can be made during the Benefit Choice enrollment period, which runs May 1 through June 1. Changes must be made through NESSIE, the U. of I.’s human resources employee website. All changes will be effective July 1. The Benefit Choice Options booklet and online enrollment forms will be available May 1 on NESSIE at: go.uillinois.edu/BenefitChoice.

What changes can be made?
During FY2016 Benefit Choice period, employees can access NESSIE to make the following changes:

Employees enrolled in the Medical Care Assistance Plan and Dependent Care Assistance Plan. MDCAP and DCAP are the only plans requiring re-enrollment every year.

Change health, dental, life and dependent coverage. If you do not want to change coverage, you do not need to do anything. Note that documentation is required to add dependents or opt out of health insurance.

FY2016 premiums
Insurance premiums will not change for full-time employees. The employer portions of the insurance premiums are expected to increase; therefore, part-time employees and dental costs are likely to increase. Part-time rates will be available as soon as the employer portions have been finalized.

Insurance plan changes
There are no provider changes for health, dental and vision plans, although the pre-existing condition limits for the Employer Portion of the Health Care Quality Plan, Coventry Open Access Plan and HealthLink Open Access Plan websites will be noted if a change occurs. Review the Benefit Choice Options booklet on NESSIE, which will be available May 1.

MCAP changes
There are several changes to the Medical Care Assistance Plan program.

- **M**. The annual plan limit will increase to $2,550.
- **A**. All services must be received by June 30, 2016.
- **L**. Employees will continue to have until September 30, 2015, to submit claims for FY2015.
- **E**. MDCAP balances up to $500 remaining after September 30, 2015, will automatically carry over to the FY2016 MDCAP account. A new enrollment is not required to use the carryover funds.
- **F**. This carryover could result in an MDCAP account of $3,050 for the 2016 plan year.
- **C**. The carryover provision does not apply to DCAP accounts.

Employers should monitor their official university email address for University, Payroll and Benefits notifications and update information as necessary.

Dependent audit
Central Management Services has tentatively scheduled the Dependent Eligibility and Enrollment Audit for August 1-10, 2016. Merit-reviewed dependents are expected to be found covering an ineligible dependent may be subject to a financial penalty, including but not limited to repayment of all premiums the state of Illinois made on behalf of the employee as well as expenses incurred by the program.

Employees may remove dependents without providing documentation during the Benefit Choice election period. Employees who need to make changes should use the carryover funds.

Information sessions
- University Payroll and Benefits has scheduled three information sessions to provide employees with Benefit Choice information and answer benefit questions. Registration is not required.
  - **2 p.m. May 6**, Kenberry Commons Student Dining and Residential Programs building, Multipurpose Room 2025 A, B and C
  - **2 p.m. May 22**, Revier Hall, Room 180

Senate backs idea of students serving on conduct boards
By Mike Holenthal

The Urbana-Champaign Senate has backed an April 6 student-sponsored resolution that would encourage schools from including student members on the conduct board. The resolution was constructed in response to recent results were not available by press time. The Senate backs student board service missions.”

Ansel C. Anderson, 81, died March 30 at his Savoy home. He was a professor of history for 31 years, retiring in 1992. He also served as the department head from 1986-92. Memorials: Grand Prairie Friends, P.O. Box 16, Utica, IL 61874, or the Champaign County Forest Preserve Friends Foundation for the Kickapoo Rail Trail, P.O. Box 4030, Mahomet, IL 61853.

Robert A. Brown, 98, died March 29 at his Ludlow home. He was a banker and an instrument maker for 31 years, retiring in 1977. Memorials: Faith in Action, 705 E. Lincoln St. #110, Normal, IL 61761; or the American Cancer Society, www.cancer.org.

Irene Pembroke Bevier, 99, died March 31 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She worked as an accountant for the Illinois State Geological Survey office for 20 years, retiring in 1982. Memorials: First Baptist Church of Champaign at Savoy, 1602 Prospect at Burwash, Savoy, IL 61874

Tom Rembrooke, 75, died April 3 at the C-U Regional Rehab Center, Savoy. She worked for the U. of I. for 38 years, retiring in 1993. Memorials: Pima County Democratic Party, www.pimadems.org; or to Habitat for Humanity of Tucson, Arizona, www.habitatforhumanityoftucson.org. Helen Pauline Mitchell, 99, died March 31 at Carlyle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. She was elected as the 2015-16 Senate Executive Committee chair.

Dennis William Campbell, 73, died March 27 at HCR ManorCare, Champaign. He worked the full-time of his 30 years, retiring in 2000 as a driver for Facilities and Services. Memorials: Alzheimer’s Association, www.alz.org; the Lloyd L. Brown Home, 200 Lincoln Ave., Rantoul, IL 61866, or St. Mary School, 2000 Richmond Ave., Mattoon, IL 61938.

Ralph Talcott Fisher Jr., 84, died April 4. Ralph was a professor of history, retiring in 1988. Memorials: Russian, East European and Eurasian Center, Ralph and Sarah Ingram Endowment Fund, 606 N. First St. #100, U. of I. Foundation, P.O. Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61821-3429, https://www.uofi. illinois.edu/Gifts/StartAving.aspx.

Joanne G. Hartman, 85, died Jan. 20 at her home in Normal, Illinois. She worked in administrative assistant roles for the U. of I. Division of Intercollegiate Athletics and was elected as the 2015-16 Senate Executive Committee chair.

She represents Roy Campbell, a professor of computer science.

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On the Job Laura Manrique

Laura Manrique brought something important to the university, having worked for 18 months as a student. Manrique, a business/administrative associate for the Committee on Institutional Cooperation (CIC), will serve as the foundation of the Mellon Foundation, which was awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to U. of I. faculty members Wendy K. Tam Cho, a professor of political science and of statistics, and Phillip W. Phillips, a professor of computer science.

Cho and Phillips are among 175 fellows chosen for “prior achievement and exceptional promise” from a group of more than 3,000 applied mathematicians, scientists and statisticians. To provide creative freedom, fellows are awarded unrestricted grants that they can apply to work of their choosing.

Cho conducts research on statistical and computational models for social science, looking for ways to advance social science in step with scientific and technological growth. She also is a senior research scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

Her political science research in recent years has included studies of political participation, voter migration, contextual influences on voting behavior, and redistricting. She also studies statistical methods that are applied in a variety of fields, including medicine, economics and psychology.

She will use her fellowship on work aimed at harnessing the power of information by developing statistical and mathematical models to guide computing technology toward intelligent information extraction.

Cho earned her doctorate in 1997 from the University of California at Berkeley and joined the U. of I. faculty the same year.

Phillips works in theoretical condensed matter physics. He has developed various models of how electrons travel through superconductors containing copper and iron and how electrons interact at temperatures near absolute zero.

He is known for devising the random dimer model, a one-dimensional model that conducts electricity, thereby providing a concrete counterexample toward Anderson’s localization theorem, and for developing the concept of Mottness, in which strong electron interactions lead to a break down on the particle concept in high-temperature superconductors.

Phillips plans to apply his award to understand how collective phenomena emerge from strong electron interactions and precisely how the principle of scale invariance simplifies the normal state of copper-oxide superconductors.

Phillips earned his Ph.D. from the University of Washington in 1982. He worked at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology before joining the faculty at Illinois in 1993. He is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and of the American Physical Society.

Two Illinois professors receive 2015 Guggenheim fellowships

By Mike Helenthal

Assistant Editor

A $8.1 million grant will be used to build a two-way street between the Committee on Institutional Cooperation and the Associated Colleges of the Midwest.

The grant, awarded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, will serve as the foundation for a seven-year initiative encouraging students from underrepresented backgrounds to participate in graduate school preparation and to consider careers teaching at liberal arts colleges.

The money will be used for a host of programs meant to increase student opportunity within university administration. She said she has been amazed at the communication and camaraderie between them all.

“I work with some of the best and brightest people I’ve ever been around,” she said.

“We are all very supportive of each other, willing to share and have the common goal of serving the university, which is very humbling. It’s like a family here.”

Manrique manages the relationship between the university and the vendors, which she said requires a lot of communication and sometimes travel.

“One of my favorite things is to go on site and speak with the merchants directly,” she said. “You learn a lot more in person than you would on the phone or by email.”

She said card security is the biggest issue facing the electronic payment industry; it’s an ever-evolving threat that constantly changes.

Manrique and her husband, Peter, moved to Philo in 2001 after he was offered a job in the area.

She quit her financial services job and stopped working altogether — if you consider raising three children and volunteer work and not working.

The children, 9- and 13-year-old sons and an 11-year-old daughter, grew healthy and happy due to the independence and mom started looking to get back into the workforce.

“We still spend a lot of time together and they still keep me very busy,” she said of the myriad activities in which the children are involved. “Now it’s busy in a really good way.”

She said the area has been an ideal place to raise children, and she doesn’t miss the long work commutes she and her husband had in Chicago).

“Life is so much better and more relaxed here,” she said. “It’s just a wonderful place to raise a family.”

The Manrique family loves to travel. She said the most memorable trip was to Ireland, while other favorite vacation spots include New York and California.

“It’s a big world out there, and traveling gives the kids a little bit different perspective than they might otherwise have,” she said. “It has taught us that we should appreciate how good we have things.”

Her personal hobby is learning. “I really enjoy the process of learning,” she said. “There’s no time to rest. I like the process of continual improvement.”

Charging ahead Laura Manrique, a business/administrative associate for the U. of I.’s Merchant Card Services, is in charge of supporting debit and credit card payments on behalf of university departments. The office facilitates payments for almost 200 university merchants.

Last year the university processed more than 2.3 million transactions.

“My job here involves some of the same things I was doing up there,” she said. “When I saw the job description, it seemed like it was written for me. I was able to move right in and apply my skills.”

Her department is in charge of supporting debit card payments on behalf of university departments. They work behind the scenes to set up new merchant locations, help solve problems, provide credit card terminals and supplies, and ensure the proper posting of revenue.

“The office facilitates debit transactions for 350 university merchants, which include not only direct payments made to the university by students, but also goods and services available to the general public.”

If you have a debit card bill at UIC’s hospital with a debit card, Manrique’s office helps facilitate that. The same goes for your cup of coffee at the Starbucks in the Illini Union Bookstore.

The university supported more than 2.4 million transactions last year.

Manrique works with several divisions of university merchants. Last year the university processed more than 2.3 million transactions.

Assistant Editor

April 16, 2015

InsideIllinois

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Arts and Humanities Editor
By Jodi Heckel
Center for Advanced Study and a professor, the director of the CAS, said Tamer Başar, "they have pursued during their residency in the Humanities fellowships is available online for the 2015-16 academic year. The fellowships support research and writing on topics chosen by the fellowship recipients. Faculty fellows are released from one semester of teaching and receive a research allocation. Graduate student fellows receive a stipend and a tuition and fee waiver. All fellows are expected to remain on campus and participate in the research program’s yearlong interdisciplinary Fellows Seminar during the award year. The theme for the seminar and other events during the year is “Intersections” – looking at literal and figurative spaces of coming together and departing, and how ideas, cultures and identities overlap and collide.

“The scholarship produced by our faculty, graduate student and Mellon post-doctoral fellows stands among the very finest work being produced in the humanities,” said Dianne Harris, the director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.
The faculty fellows, their departments and their research topics are:

- Al Chan, media and cinema studies/Institute of Communications Research, “Civic Technoscience, Digital Pedagogies, and Intersectional Research Practice Beyond Innovation Centers”
- Mimi Nguyen, gender and women’s studies/Asian American studies, “The Promise of Beauty”
- John Randolph, history, “When I Served the Post as a Coachman: Empire and Enlightenment in Russia’s Eighteenth Century”
- Maria Todorova, history, “Life in the Times of Utopia: The Lost World of Early Socialists at Europe’s Margins”

The graduate student fellows, their departments and their research topics are:

- S. Moon Cassinelli, English, “We are Here Because You Were There: Kinship and Loss in 20th- and 21st-Century Korean American Narratives”
- Bryce Henson, Institute of Communications Research, “Beauty in the Dark: Racial Politics in Brazilian Hip-Hop”
- Stephanie Rieder, sociology, “Missions of Biomedicine: Transnational Conflicts of Morality, Technology, and Care”
- Devin Smart, history, “Exchanging Meals: Capitalist Culture, Labor Migration and Food History in Kenya since the Nineteenth Century”

Two of the graduate fellowship recipients, Rieder and Smart, have been designated as Nicholson-IPRH Fellows for 2015-16, supported by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Nicholson Endowment Fund.

IPRH also has awarded its 2015-17 Andrew W. Mellon Post-Doctoral Fellowship in the Humanities to Nili Belkind. Belkind earned a doctorate in ethnomusicology from Columbia University in 2014, and will be affiliated with the musicology division of the School of Music while at the U. of I. Her research project is “Music in Conflict: Palestine, Israel and the Politics of Cultural Production.”

In addition to conducting research, Belkind will teach two courses per year and give a public lecture on her research. This is the sixth year of the IPRH-Mellon postdoctoral fellowship program, which is funded by a six-year $1.25 million grant awarded in 2009.

ON THE WEB
iprh.illinois.edu

By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Humanities Editor
The Center for Advanced Study will host an inaugural research symposium April 20-21 to showcase the work of the center’s associates and fellows.

“This inaugural two-day Interdisciplinary Spring Symposium will provide an opportunity for some of our recent associates and fellows to talk about the projects they have pursued during their residency in CAS,” said Tamer Başar, the director of the Center for Advanced Study and a professor of electrical and computer engineering. “The broader campus community as well as the public will have the opportunity to hear about some of the best innovative research recently carried out by faculty members across multiple disciplines.”

Held in the Knight Auditorium of Sackler Museum, the symposium is free and open to the public. It will feature an opening panel discussion of interdisciplinary research at the U. of I. The panel will include the directors of the Center for Advanced Study, Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, the Carl R. Woese Institute for Genomic Biology and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

The panel discussion will be followed by five sessions over a day and a half during which 14 faculty members will discuss their research. The topics range from petascale astronomy to the globalization of music and functional DNA technology to the American Arts Colony.

“ar Center for Advanced Study is one of a kind in the country, serving our faculty and students across all disciplines by providing special recognition for achievement, release time from academic duties for pursuing meritorious special projects, and opportunities for participation in an interdisciplinary scholarly community,” Başar said.

More information about the symposium and the research projects is available online at the center’s website.

ON THE WEB
cas.illinois.edu

InsideIllinois
April 16, 2015

 humansities research program announces fellowship awards

CAS to host inaugural research symposium April 20-21

Ads removed for online version
Absence of copyright has economic value, social benefits

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

A new study co-written by a U. of I. expert in intellectual property law demonstrates that the value of creative works in the public domain such as books, images and music can be estimated at least as precisely as the value of commercially available copyright-ed works.

The implications of the study for both copyright term extension and orphan works legislation are substantial, says law profes-
sor Paul Heald.

“Copyright owners frequently talk about the private value of copyrights, which isn’t difficult to see: If you have a monopoly on something, you get to make a lot more mon-
ey,” said Heald, the Richard W. and Marie L. Corman Research Professor of Law at Illinois. “What they conveniently ignore is that the absence of copyright creates value, and that creative industries rely on public domain works as building blocks for many valuable new creations.”

The paper, co-written by Kristofer Erickson and Martin Kretschmer, both of the University of Glasgow, is one of the first at-
ttempts to quantify in monetary terms a por-
tion of the public domain.

“Calculating the entire value of all pub-
lic domain works would be overly ambi-
tious, so we attempted to calculate the value of a small slice of it,” Heald said.

To put a monetary value on how much creative works in the public domain contrib-
ute to the creation of new works, the authors used Wikipedia pages as an example of new authors creating new works that rely on the public domain in the authorship process.

“We studied the biographical Wikipedia pages of a large data set of authors, compos-
ers and lyricists to determine whether the public domain status of available images leads to a higher rate of inclusion of illus-
trated supplementary material, and whether such inclusion increased visits to individual pages,” Heald said.

The authors found that the most histori-
cally remote subjects were more likely to have images on their Wikipedia pages, most likely because their lives predate the exis-
tence of in-copyright imagery. They also discovered that the vast majority of photos and illustrations used on subject pages were obtained from the public domain.

By estimating their value in terms of costs saved to Wikipedia page builders and increased traffic corresponding to the inclusion of an image, and then extrapol-
ating from a random sample to a further 300 Wikipedia pages, the paper concludes that the total value of public domain pho-
tographs on Wikipedia is $246 million to $270 million per year.

“That really highlights the cost of ex-
cessive copyright law,” Heald said. “As we show in the paper, it’s not just a net win for everybody when we extend copyright. There are clear, measurable and palpable losses. And we believe that the empirical example we provide can demonstrate to policymakers how the absence of copyright can add economic value to a discrete set of works.”

Even though the estimates make use of several proxies, the implications are consid-
erable and significant, according to Heald.

“As long as lobbyists for copyright ex-
pansionists assert that royalty checks go-
ing to private owners is a proper measure of public welfare, then policymakers will need to be confronted with dollar figures on the monetary value of the public domain,” Heald said. “There’s no reason why the public should want to see income streams created through copyright law continue. It increases the value of copyrighted works, which are a proper measure of public welfare, then policymakers will need to be confronted with dollar figures on the monetary value of the public domain.”

Heald said. “That’s why the paper concern photographs. We show that photographs have significant value in the Wikipedia context, and that pho-
tographs pose a particular prob-
lem that other copyrighted works don’t,” he said. “And that’s because it’s very difficult to find out who owns a photograph.”

Photographs from magazines or newspapers from the 1940s, 1950s, 1960s or 1970s could still be protected by copyright – if they were properly registered and published with the proper notice, Heald said.

“But you can’t easily find out if a copyright was renewed or registered properly in the first place, or who owns it, because there’s no easily searchable data-
based at the copyright office,” he said. “Chances are, many if not most of the photos from that pe-
riod are in the public domain and could be used for free, but there’s no system for people to make that determination with any confidence.”

The study also provides a strong justifi-
cation for the enactment of orphan works legislation that has languished in Congress for years.

“Orphan works are creations that are technically protected by copyright, but their owners are unknown or can’t be found,” Heald said. “That type of legislation was proposed by the Library of Congress a cou-
ple of years ago. Then the economic crisis hit, and it got buried. But I think our paper provides a nice argument for resurrecting it. It doesn’t strip copyright; essentially, you get a compulsory license to use the photo-
graph and have to pay fair market value for it if the owner steps forward. So it doesn’t hurt copyright owners because they get a fee, and it would really be a boon to those who find a photograph they want to use and, in good faith, try to track down the its right-
ful owner. It’s really a win-win situation.”

Public domain value

New research co-written by Paul Heald, the Richard W. and Marie L. Corman Research Professor of Law at Illinois, explores the cost of excessive copyright law and the value of the public domain.

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Bullying perpetration decreased by 20 percent over a three-year period among youths with disabilities who participated in a social and emotional learning program, a new study found.

More than 120 students with disabilities at two school districts in the Midwest participated in the research, which was part of a larger three-year clinical trial of the widely used social-emotional learning curricula Second Step.

Funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the study was led by U. of I. bullying and youth violence expert Dorothy L. Espelage. Co-authors of the study were Joshua R. Polanin, of Vanderbilt University’s Peabody Research Institute, and Chad A. Rose, of the University of Missouri at Columbia.

During the sixth through eighth grades, students in the intervention schools received a total of 41 Second Step lessons, which addressed bullying, emotional regulation, empathy and communication skills.

Forty-seven children received the curricula, which addressed bullying, emotional regulation, empathy and communication skills.

At the beginning of the study, students were surveyed on their involvement in verbal and relational bullying, victimization by peers and fighting. Students were reassessed during each of the three subsequent spring terms.

Self-reported bullying perpetration significantly decreased over the course of the study among students with disabilities who received the Second Step lessons.

“The significant reduction in bullying perpetration over this three-year study is a notable finding, because much of the existing literature suggests that students with disabilities are overrepresented in the bullying dynamic,” said Espelage, the Gutgsell Endowed Professor of child development and Hardee Scholar of Education in the department of educational psychology. “Evidence suggests that this may be because they are more likely to have social and communication skills deficits, and these are foundational skills taught in the Second Step program.”

Equal numbers – 47 percent – of youths in the intervention and the control groups had learning disabilities, while the remainder had cognitive, speech/language or emotional disabilities and/or health impairments.

According to prior research, students with behavioral disabilities are more likely to be bullies than their peers in restrictive environments. According to prior research, students with behavioral disabilities are more likely to be bullies than their peers in restrictive environments, according to data from the U.S. Department of Education.

In a 2009 study, Rose and his colleagues found that students with disabilities who received their educational services in restrictive environments were twice as likely to be bullies compared with peers without disabilities.

They also were 1.3 times as likely to bully peers compared with students who had similar disabilities but were educated in more inclusive environments.

Reductions in fighting were not significant among children who received the Second Step intervention or their peers in the control group, a finding that was unexpected, given that significant reductions in fighting were found in the larger clinical trial from which the sample was drawn, the researchers said.

The researchers hypothesized that the SEL programming may have been more successful at teaching students with disabilities to reflect on and actively manage their impulses toward proactive aggression, but not reactive aggression.

“Reductions in fighting were not significant across the intervention and control groups. If these behaviours are disability-related, specific interventions need to be developed – above and beyond universal SEL programming – to identify and address possible triggers and social reinforcers for each child and incorporate them into each child’s Individualized Education Program, the researchers recommended.

Under federal law, each child eligible for special education services must have an Individualized Education Program, a document that specifies how their disability affects their learning process and provides goals and objectives to help them learn more effectively.

The paper is available online ahead of publication in the journal Remedial and Special Education.
Ancient human fossils from Laos reveal early human diversity

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

A n ancient human skull and a jawbone found a few meters apart in a cave in northern Laos add to the evidence that early modern humans were physically quite diverse, researchers report in the journal PLOS ONE.

The skull, found in 2009 in a cave known as Tam Pa Ling in the Annamite Mountains of present-day Laos, and reported in 2012 in the journal Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, is the oldest modern human fossil found in Southeast Asia. Its discovery pushed back the date of modern human migration through the region by as much as 20,000 years. It revealed that early humans who migrated to the islands and coasts of Southeast Asia after migrating out of Africa also traveled inland much earlier than previously thought, some 46,000 to 63,000 years ago.

The jaw was discovered in late 2010 and is roughly the same age as the skull. Unlike the skull, it has both modern and archaic human traits.

“In addition to being incredibly small in overall size, this jaw has a mixture of traits that combine typical modern human anatomy, such as the presence of a protruding chin, with traits that are more common of our archaic ancestors like Neandertals – for example, very thick bone to hold the molars in place,” said U. of I. anthropology professor Laura Shackelford, who led the study with anthropologist Fabrice Demeter, of the National Museum of Natural History in Paris.

This combination of archaic and modern human traits is not unusual, Shackelford said. Other ancient human fossils from Africa, Eastern Europe and China also exhibit this amalgam of characteristics, she said.

“Some researchers have used these features as evidence that modern humans migrating into new regions must have interbred with the archaic populations already present in those regions,” Shackelford said. “But a more productive way to look at this variation is to see it as we see people today – showing many traits along a continuum.”

“Tam Pa Ling is an exceptional site because it shows that very early modern humans migrating and settling in eastern Asia demonstrated a wide range of anatomy,” Shackelford said.
U. of I. expert Linda Tortorelli on funding loss for the Autism Program

Editor's note: April is Autism Awareness Month. Earlier this month Illinois lawmakers announced that $26 million in grant funding for social programs would be suspended to help close a multimillion-dollar budget gap. Among the programs to lose funding is the Autism Program (TAP) of Illinois, a statewide network of 13 nonprofit agencies and four universities, including the U. of I. Linda Tortorelli is the Urbana campus resource coordinator for TAP, which is a collaborative initiative of the departments of special education, and of human and community development. Tortorelli spoke recently with News Bureau TAP, which is a collaborative initiative of the departments of special education, and of human and community development. Tortorelli spoke recently with News Bureau education editor Shanta Forrest about TAP and the latest research on autism spectrum disorder.

What types of services does TAP provide, and what will be the impact if the state funding ends?

We are a community resource center and part of the Family Resiliency Center. We provide information, resources, training and consultations for parents, professionals or anyone interested in autism or working with people on the spectrum.

We are the only parent training and education facility in the Champaign-Urbana community, so when a child is diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder, the family is encouraged to call TAP.

Last year, we provided 270 consultations for parents and educators, and conducted training for 1,700 people, such as teachers, first responders and health care workers.

We also provide internships and educational experiences for U. of I. students.

Students gain experience working with individuals who have autism and their families through our resource center, and they provide support for children with ASD at University Primary School or by participating in our social skills group.

All of our services are free and are not billable under insurance or Medicaid. The state budget reductions targeted programs that don’t have Medicaid matching funds. We have enough money in our rainy day fund to carry us over until June 30, but all of our funds will be gone then if the grant is not reinstated.

What are some common misconceptions about autism?

Some people believe that vaccines cause autism. We have plenty of research that definitively says that vaccines do not cause autism.

Another common misconception is that poor parenting causes autism. We still don’t know what causes autism, but genetics and environment certainly are factors.

Most of the stories in the media focus on children who have autism, but how does ASD affect adults?

ASD is one of the few developmental disabilities where people can have normal or above-average intelligence but still be quite impaired. Everybody thinks that if you have a high-enough IQ, you should be able to do whatever it is you want to do, and that just isn’t the case.

It’s very challenging for people who work with these individuals to understand how to help them compensate for their severe social cognition deficits.

I am working with a young adult who has high-functioning ASD and a master’s degree in engineering, but is unable to get a job because his social skills are so impaired that he is not able to get past the interview. We have seen computer geniuses who are unable to control their impulse to touch other people’s computers.

Because they were so bright, most of these people did not receive interventions as children. People around them had no idea how to address their odd or difficult social behaviors and hoped they would just outgrow these social challenges.

The research shows people with high-functioning autism aren’t faring much better in their adult lives than individuals who have more severe disabilities. More research is needed to figure out how to help them.

Our schools are making strides but still are a long way from helping these individuals obtain the social skills to be successful in the workplace. Many of the higher-functioning people with ASD are unemployed or under-employed.

Are there people who fly under the radar and don’t get diagnosed until adulthood?

I’ve had spouses come in and say, “I think my husband is on the spectrum,” and, usually, they are correct. I try to help them understand what might be going on. I had a very successful educator in his 50s come to my new-diagnosis group, and it offered a lot of hope to the parents of small children and teenagers with ASD who were in that group.

I had a woman in her 60s who received an ASD diagnosis, and it was revolutionary for her to finally piece everything together.

We are available and willing to help anyone with ASD, regardless of age. I have a group of professional women who came to me individually looking to connect with others who have ASD. They meet once a month to network and share their experiences.

We have had groups for teens and adults, and we support other professionals in the community who work with adults.

What might be important to know about working or living with people who have ASD?

People with ASD want the same things that everyone else wants – meaningful relationships, employment and involvement in their communities that contribute to a happy life. Have patience and be open to the unique contributions that people on the spectrum can make when you just take the time to get to know them and help support them so their special gifts can be realized.

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Eight honored with distinguished staff award

Eigh civil service staff employees were honored with the Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award at a banquet April 13. The award recognizes exceptional performance. Recipients received $2,000, and their names were displayed on a plaque displayed in the Staff Human Resources Office. The names of past winners are available online.

Permanent staff employees with at least two years of service or retired employees in status appointments during the calendar year may be nominated for the award. A committee recommends finalists, who are approved by the chancellor.

Carrie J. Anderson, an executive chef for University Housing Dining Services, oversees the chefs and production staff members in residential dining. She also serves as a role model, mentor and teacher to many of these employees.

Michael D. Clark, a clerk for University Housing who nominated Anderson, applauds her commitment and passion. “Her collaborations, relationships with students and employees, and her vast passion and knowledge of food and people forms the very environment that the University of Illinois prides itself on — an enriching experience that engages our future generations,” he said.

Anderson goes beyond her expected duties, Clark said. She has developed recipes for students with food allergies, taught cooking classes and attends culinary conferences to learn about menu trends and new preparation methods.

Anderson also has developed relationships with other organizations at the U. of I. to create themed dinners and events, including the Lunar New Year Celebration with the Asian Cultural Center and the Harvest Meal with the Native American Cultural Center.

During Anderson’s time at the university, the U. of I. Dining’s Annual Chef’s Challenge became an American Culinary Federation-sanctioned event in 2013. She also has received a bronze medal in the American Culinary Federation Sanctioned 2006 Tastes of the World Chef Culinary Challenge.

In addition, Anderson has prepared food for University Housing Dining Services, dealing with pest issues is where Kiddoo shines.

“Her knowledge of the department and university, along with her diligent work ethic, helps her complete projects in a timely manner, handle problems and make good decisions with little supervision,” Lyke said.

Lyke said kiddoo is dedicated to the department and her job, and Ellerbe concurred. "She finds ways to make the work environment pleasant for faculty members. "The department can always count on her to be in attendance making sure that events run smoothly, guests are taken care of and students’ needs are met."

In addition, Soo Ah Kwon, a professor of Asian American Studies, said Ellerbe is the face and heart of their department and "there is always a solution with Mary, no matter how difficult the situation may seem."

“She goes beyond anyone in our department to promote positive morale by displaying a congenial, supportive attitude, and providing service to others.”

Diane K. Kiddoo was hired as the water station subforeman for University Housing in 2013. Her responsibilities include assisting the building craftsmen supervisor with supervisory and administrative duties, along with operating and maintaining the water distribution systems, cooling towers and water softeners. She also works with all pest control operations.

According to nominator Margaret Mach- ele Caston, a water station operator for University Housing, dealing with pest issues is where Kiddoo shines.

“Before successfully relates with students and their parents when dealing with delicate pest issues, informing them of the facts of the situation and what will be done to resolve it,” Caston said.

In addition, Kiddoo trains building service workers to teach them about identifying and protecting themselves from pests, most notably bed bugs. She works to get Housing crafts and trades involved with the exclusion aspect of the Integrated Pest Management program, which includes physically keeping pests out, such as by adding a door sweep or fixing a window screen.

In addition, after much hard work and an on-site evaluation, Housing earned Green Shield Certification by the IPM Institute of North America, becoming only the second institution of higher education to earn this certification.

For the past two years, Kiddoo has attended the Midwest Association of Higher Education Facilities Officers conference as a speaker, teaching Housing’s integrated pest management techniques to other universities.

Jessica R. Risley

Virginia G. Swisher

Kathryn D. Schulz

Mary J. Ellerbe

Diane K. Kiddoo

Carrie J. Anderson

Douglas V. Robertson

Brian K. Wollor

Jessica R. Risley is a veterinary techni-

cian specialist in the department of anes-
thesiology and pain management for the Veterinary Teaching Hospital, performs du-
tes similar to those of a certified registered nurse anesthetist at a hospital for people.

Risley works toward giving her patients the highest standard of care in the intensive care unit. She also manages technicians, residents and an intern.

Ashley Mintek, a veterinary resident for the department of veterinary clinical medici-

cine who nominated Risley, said she goes beyond her assigned job responsibilities and will stay after hours to help a recover-
ing patient or to start an emergency case.

She said other specialists constantly look to Risley for advice and help.

“In a crisis, Jessica is calm and quickly troubleshoots the problem to save lives,” Mintek said.

Risley is one of 186 technicians in the United States who has earned the certifi-
cation of Veterinary Technician Specialist (Anesthesia) after passing a rigorous ex-
amination, demonstrating advanced skills, and logging thousands of critical anesthesia cases. She has taught more than 1,500 veter-

inary students and has anesthetized 7,800 client-owned cats and dogs, 1,000 cats and dogs from humane societies, and eight ti-
gers from when she worked at an exotic fe-

line rescue center.

“I admire her character and willingness to go above and beyond what is necessary to help others make it through the ups and downs of life,” Mintek said.

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The awards were presented by Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise and Pradeep K. Khanna, the associate chancellor for corporate and international relations.

Students receive $1,500 to be used for professional development or other educational activities. Those honored:

Mark Taylor, a professor in the School of Architecture, was honored for his untiring contributions to improve lives in Haiti. In 2010, the magnitude 7.0 Haiti earthquake left the town of Léogâne, at the epicenter of the quake, catastrophically damaged—80 to 90 percent of the town’s buildings affected. Taylor has made many trips to Léogâne to help assess the damaged buildings. His trips revealed the enormous challenges related to building safe and resilient structures in a country where many people live on less than $1 a day. Undaunted by these challenges, Taylor developed collaborations, both internationally and locally, to improve building design, construction practices and the quality of locally produced building materials.

He brought his experiences back to U. of I. students and encouraged them to engage in addressing the real-world problems of building in a very challenging context. Taylor’s direct positive impact on Léogâne exemplifies true engagement. He designed and helped to construct a six-classroom school. He worked to build a midwifery-training center known locally as the Kay Fahnemoen Women’s Health Center.

Taylor lists to the needs of the Haitian communities, understands what skills and resources are available and then works with each community to find the best way to build with resources available.

Whenever possible, he brings this research into the U. of I. classroom, where he incorporates his experiences and work to motivate students to work passionately with underserved communities. He also aims to reach a wider audience through online open-source resources and YouTube videos.

Jerrod Henderson, a lecturer in the department of chemical and biomolecular engineering, is known for his work in the Biomolecular and Plant Sciences, is known for working in collaboration with governmental or non-governmental organizations in Ecuador. He works to build U.S. bridges where there are social divides, and he does it with exuberance and energy.

Vivian Carla A. Flicicio, a doctoral student in the department of curriculum and instruction in the College of Education, exudes the true meaning of public engagement through the work she does related to diversity, multiculturalism and the advancement of the education of socioeconomically challenged children.

Vivian has been a leading advocate and supporter of the Luso-Brazilian Association on the U. of I. campus. She has embraced the challenge of highlighting a culture and language relatively unfamiliar to the Midwest. She has developed programs on Brazilian culture for specific campus and community audiences.

She was awarded a grant from the Brazilian Consulate in Chicago for purchasing literature books for public libraries of Champaign-Urbana. She has engaged in international outreach partnerships with governmental organizations and the private sector in Brazil to improve the educational experiences of students in Brazilian public schools and to increase international relations beyond Brazilian borders.

Noah Lenstra, a doctoral student in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science, is known for working in community informatics. Lenstra has worked to improve the educational experiences of students in Brazilian public schools and to increase international relations beyond Brazilian borders.

Luso-Brazilian Association. He works to build bridges where there are social divides, and he does it with exuberance and energy.

Nicole Allen, center, a professor of psychology, is pictured with many of the students that have helped her with the Psychological Services Center Advocacy Project, which was recognized with a Campus Award for Excellence in Public Engagement. The project serves girls involved in (or at risk for involvement in) the juvenile justice system and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

The Psychological Services Center Advocacy Project, led by Nicole Allen, a professor of psychology, connects the U. of I. with the broader campus community on issues of critical social impact. The project serves girls involved in (or at risk for involvement in) the juvenile justice system and survivors of sexual assault and domestic violence.

This strength-based, client-directed empowerment program connects individuals and families with trained advocates for 10 to 15 weeks to work on their chosen goals. The project is based on an ecological and empowerment approach to intervention. This approach recognizes that for individuals facing complex challenges, there is often a pressing need to change the context in which they are living and to activate and encourage existing strengths so that individuals are posed to proactively respond to their life circumstances and to pursue individual changes on their own terms.

The project has provided a superb opportunity for undergraduates. The effort has trained and supervised hundreds of students and girls mobilized more than 18,000 hours of service for these vulnerable populations who are often grossly underserved by the traditional service-delivery system. The project is delivered through a service-learning framework in the department of psychology. Supervision for the project has been provided by eight graduate students: Jennifer Trottier, Sadie Larsen, Shara Davis, Emily Downkin, Shabnam Javdani, Angela Wisten, Elizabeth Trawick, Miatta Echetebu and Sovanna Meas. The project is changing lives, empowering people and improving the community.
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April 16, 2015

Allerton Park and Retreat Center

‘Forest to Mansion’ dinner is April 26

Take “know your food” to the next level with a “Forest to Mansion” morel mushroom dinner at Allerton Park and Retreat Center. The event takes place from 2:30-7:30 p.m., April 26. The event begins as guests join Allerton’s natural areas manager Naiz Trecce on an educational hike through Allerton Woods to forage for morel mushrooms and learn to identify other spring edibles. Guests then return to the mansion for a meal prepared by Chef Ann Swanson. Cost is $95 per guest for the hike and dinner or $50 per guest for dinner only. Reservations are required and seating is limited. For reservations, call 217-333-3287. For more information visit http://allerton.illinois.edu/event/forest-to-mansion-dinner/.

Allerton Park and Retreat Center

Volunteer sessions are April 25, May 16

For anyone interested in volunteering at Allerton Park and Retreat Center, orientation sessions are April 25 and May 16. Volunteers only need to attend one session. Those interested in volunteering should meet in the visitor center auditorium from 9-10 a.m. to get questions answered and find out about volunteer opportunities. Events and programs are gettings into full swing for the year, and dedicated volunteers are critical to the success of these programs. The events are open to the public and no preregistration is required.

Sexual Assault Awareness Month

Activities aim to create awareness

April is Sexual Assault Awareness Month. The U. of I. is committed to creating and sustaining an environment where sexual violence, both verbal and physical, is unacceptable and will not be tolerated. The university’s commitment to supporting survivors includes opening up dialogues and avenues of discussion, providing educational events and activities, and engaging in conversations to end this social problem.

“One of the largest obstacles we see in sexual assault is that sometimes many bystanders choose to take when they have witnessed or are aware of a sexual assault,” said Kimberly Dalluge, a member of the Rape Awareness and Prevention Committee. “This can be deadly because it could encourage the offender to repeat the same actions.”

To support this cause throughout April, the community is encouraged to participate in the scheduled events found at go.illinois.edu/saam2015. The lineup includes activities to spread awareness and to support victims.

Allerton Park and Retreat Center

Concert series highlights music, nature

Allerton Park and Retreat Center will host a concert series throughout the spring, summer and fall, featuring a variety of musical genres performed in its unique natural setting. The series is presented by the U. of I. Employees Credit Union.

The rustic Allerton Music Barn will be hopping with the Allerton Hootenanny on April 17 featuring three different musical performances: Bow-Dacious String Band (6-7 p.m.), Sam Payne and Friends (7-8 p.m.) and Bones Jugs ‘N Harmony (8:30-10 p.m.). The second annual Children’s Fair and Concert on May 3 will feature The Dreamatrix Shakers in two separate performances.

Young and old will enjoy the lively Irish Fest on June 5, complete with Irish dancing, a Celtic kids’ playground and performances from The Shanties (6-7:30 p.m.) and Fiddler Fire (8-9:30 p.m.). On June 19, the musical Garden Walk will start at the mansion and end in the Sunken Garden with The Chip McNeil Quartet (7:30-9:30 p.m.). Other groups will be announced.

Outdoor summer music continues on Allerton’s gatehouse lawn with Candy Foster and Shades of Blue with his strong vocals and high-energy style 7-9 p.m. July 10. Traditional bluegrass from Big Bluestem String Band (6-7 p.m.) and The Special Consensus (7:30-9 p.m.) is featured Aug. 21. St. Louis-based country/rock Matt Poss Band will perform 7-9 p.m. Sept. 11, and the series will culminate with U. of I. alumnus Viktor Krauss at the Allerton Homecoming concert 7:30-9:30 p.m. Sept. 17.


For more information about performers, concert fees and overnight accommodations, visit allerton@illinois.edu or call 217-333-3287.

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**BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17**

**ISEE/OFPS**

**Great pricing on recycled paper**

The Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and Environment and the Office of Business and Financial Services are encouraging campus units to buy reams of 30 percent recycled paper from Facilities and Services’ iStores page for less cost than reams of virgin paper from OfficeMax or iBuy.

Joining in this effort will help reduce demands on new paper made only from tree pulp. After a recent agreement between Office Depot OfficeMax and Facilities and Services’ iStores and Receiving, Aspen 30 high-quality 30 percent recycled content office paper can now be purchased from iStores for $3.16 per ream, $31.28 per case (10 reams) and $1.226 per pallet (40 cases). By comparison, virgin paper from OfficeMax costs $3.30 per ream.

University Housing is the first customer to take advantage of this offer. As a participant in iSEE’s Certified Green Office program, Housing already had committed to buying at least 30 percent recycled content that is Forest Stewardship Council-certified paper. Housing now will fulfill all of its office paper needs with Aspen 30 purchased through iStores.

The campus uses an estimated 300 tons of virgin paper per year. According to calculations made through the Environmental Paper Network’s Paper Calculator, switching all campus offices from zero percent recycled content paper to 30 percent recycled content paper would annually save 2,182 trees, reduce carbon dioxide equivalent emissions into the atmosphere by 188,026 pounds and save 1,019,769 gallons of water that would otherwise be used for paper production.

Orders may be placed at my.fs.illinois.edu/iStores; prices are subject to change.

**ISEE**

**Green marketing pioneer to give keynote**

Sustainability strategist, green marketing pioneer and former of J. Ottman consulting firm Jacquey Ottman will inspire the U. of I. to make sustainability part of everyone’s work and play during the Earth Week 2015 keynote address April 22.

Ottman will recount her personal journey of integrating sustainability into her marketing career and offer ways students and faculty and community members can do the same.

The keynote begins at 4 p.m. in Room 149 of the National Soybean Research Center, and will be followed by a discussion of the potential for collaborative efforts between stakeholders in the Food System.

**U. of I. chapter of AUPP**

**Promotion, tenure workshop is April 30**

Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Urbana Professor Ilesanmi Adesida will be the principal panelist April 30 at a workshop titled “Achieving Tenure and Promotion – Policies and Procedures on the Urbana Campus” sponsored by the U. of I. Chapter of the American Association of University Professors. The program will begin at 2:30 p.m. in Room 210 Illini Union, the General Lounge.

Adesida and his fellow panelists will make short presentations and then lead a discussion and answer questions from the audience. This program should be of particular interest to new and continuing tenure-track assistant professors and associate professors seeking promotion, and to those mentoring these individuals or serving on promotion and tenure committees.

The panelists (and the topics they will address): Adesida and Abbas Bennamanoun, the vice provost for faculty affairs and academic policies (campus policies, three-year review procedures); Barbara Wilson, the dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (dean’s and college’s perspective); James A. Imlay, a professor of microbiology and past chair of the Campus Committee on Promotion and Tenure (procedures followed by the U. of I. Promotion and Tenure Committee); Craig M. Kloslofsky, a professor of history and past chair and current member of the U. of I. Faculty Advisory Committee (FAC, appeal procedures); and John Prussing, the past president of the U. of I. Chapter of the American Association of University Professors (association’s position and support provided by the association at the national and campus levels).

No prior registration is required and all faculty members are welcome. Refreshments will be served. For further information, contact Harry H. Hilton at 217-333-2653 or h-hilton@illinois.edu.

**U. of I. chapter of the SUAA**

**Local legislators to speak April 26**

A panel of local legislators will discuss major issues facing the Illinois General Assembly this spring session at the spring meeting of the U. of I. chapter of the State University Employees of the State University Retirement System (SUERS) on April 26 at the Hotel and Conference Center.

Refreshments will be served starting at 1:30 p.m., and the panel presentation will begin at 2 p.m. The event is free and open to the public.

The panel will include Sen. Chapin Rose, R-Mahomet; Sen. Scott Bennett, D-Champaign; and Rep. Carol Ammons, D-Urbana. The General Assembly’s spring session will consider many substantive issues facing higher education. The program will begin with a brief presentation from each legislator followed by ample time for questions about the issues of greatest concern to the association’s members.

Linda Brookhart, the executive director for the association, will provide the latest information on the association’s legal challenges to recent health care and pension legislation. There will be a brief business meeting at which members of the executive committee will be elected.

The association is a statewide organization whose members are current employees and retirees of Illinois public universities, community colleges and allied agencies (i.e., those in the State Universities Retirement System). The association’s main purpose is to advocate a strong and secure retirement pension and health benefit system for all SURS members, including active employees or retirees.

**Spring Jam 2015**

**Quad concert noise may impact others**

On April 26, several campus organizations will host the Spring Jam 2015 outdoor concert on the Quad. The show is open only to U. I. students with an i-Card and will feature several national acts. Amplified sound will be in use intermittently on the Quad beginning with equipment sound checks at 10 a.m., with the two bands playing continuously from 2 to 6 p.m.

The hosting organizations are working closely with various campus units -- including the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs, Public Safety, Facilities and Services.
Steven Gonzalez Jr., the founder of The Survivor Games, will present a seminar titled “The Survivor Games: Surviving in a Pandemic through Video Games” at noon April 16 in Room 5062 Beckman Institute.

The Survivor Games is a virtual arcade where teenagers with cancer can play, watch and discuss video games in a safe and supportive environment that builds friendship, confidence and strength so that they don’t have to endure cancer alone. Gonzalez, a cancer survivor, will delve into the journey and the benefits of gaming technology for health.

A roundtable discussion will follow.

The exhibition opens April 11 with a public reception and performance art by Kirsten Simson titled “It’s Heavy on this Side.” A second performance of the department’s “Act of Love: A Multimedia Performance and Art of Design” will be provided.

The 11 performances will be provided. The event is open to the public.

For information, visit the Krannert Art Museum website at kam.illinois.edu/mfa.

Department of Theatre Events celebrate ‘Nightingales’

Several special events will look at the early work of Tennessee Williams in conjunction with a production of Williams’ “Not About Nightingales” at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The department continues April 16-19, the final production in the department’s multyear project to produce Williams’ early plays.

The special events in conjunction with the production:

- Krannert Center’s Studio Theatre Lobby. An exhibition of production photos and designs from six of Williams’ plays.
- 10 p.m. April 16, Studio Theatre. Tom Mitchell will lead a post-show discussion of “Not About Nightingales.”
- 1 p.m. April 17, Krannert Room (Level 5 of Krannert Center). “Recognizing Genius in the Young Playwright.” Undergraduate students will present their papers on the early works of Williams.
- 2 p.m. April 18, Illinois Rehearsal Room (Level 2 of Krannert Center). “Act of Love: A Multimedia Performance of an Early Political Play.” This is a performance of an unpublished early manuscript of Williams, an anti-war play that includes music and the overall care of small pets, horses, cattle or other farm animals.

Brian D. French, a professor of veterinary clinical medicine, said he is impressed with Woller’s ability to quickly trouble-shoot and solve problems while never appearing to be overwhelmed during demanding situations.

“Brian is routinely working to improve the workflow and cleanliness of our hospital, as well as to increase the overall care of our animals where they work with the public and our patients so that they can provide the best care possible,” Swisher said.

Swisher’s job duties range widely and include updating the department website, purchasing supplies and maintaining inventories, scheduling equipment and building maintenance, processing reimbursements as well as making faculty purchases (books, travel and accommodations), maintaining calendars for the chair and the unit, ordering textbooks and inputting courses into Banner, creating the course guide and managing the logistics of departmental event programming.

Foote is gratified to have Swisher in the department.

“Virginia says that she loves her job and truly enjoys being a part of every aspect of the department,” Foote noted.

A second performance of a Williams’s early works of Williams.

Undergraduate students will present their papers on the early works of Williams.

All the events are free and open to the public.

More information about the production can be found on line at krannertcenter.com.

Beckman Institute

Optical imaging workshop is May 26-29

The Fast Optical Imaging Workshop, organized by Gabriel Graton and Monica Fabiani, professors of psychology and partial of the Beckman Institute’s Cognitive Neurosciences Initiative.

The four-day workshop will cover the concepts of fast optical imaging, common applications, and recording and analysis techniques.

The workshop will include lectures and hands-on sessions.

Registration deadline is May 1. More information can be found at publish.illinois.edu/optical-imaging-summer-school.
By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

Americans see a lot of Abraham Lincoln – on our money, in advertising, in photos and films. It’s easy to think that we know the guy. But what we see in Lincoln may say more about us and our times than about him, said U. of I. communication professor Cara Finnegan.

“Today, we get lots of Lincolns,” she said, “but there have been many different versions of Lincoln through the 150 years since his assassination in April 1865.”


Finnegan starts her chapter on the Lincoln photograph with a quote from an unidentified writer, published with a 1917 article in Life magazine: “People take awful liberties with Lincoln … It almost makes you wish that Lincoln had been copyrighted.”

Finnegan writes, “As a result, Lincoln is becoming what you want him to be … a kind of embodiment of the nation.”

Young Lincoln

This photo of a 30-something Abraham Lincoln, the earliest portrait of the future president, brought a flood of letters to the magazine that first published it, three decades after Lincoln’s death.

“This image really did kind of blow people’s minds,” she said. In two later issues, McClure’s would publish seven full pages of letters responding to the image, many of them coming from society’s elite.

A Brooklyn newspaper editor wrote that the photo showed a young man “upon whose brow there already gleamed the illumination of intellect, the inspiration of patriotism.”

A history professor wrote that the portrait “indicates the natural character, strength, insight, and humor of the man.” A former state supreme court justice made note of Lincoln’s “pleasant and kindly eyes, through which you feel, as you look into them, that you are looking into a great heart.”

Yet as Finnegan points out in her book, the photograph is “not particularly unusual” and hardly seems to justify “such broad claims or florid prose.”

For one thing, “we have to keep in mind that people just didn’t see a lot of photographs for much of the 19th century,” Finnegan said. That’s difficult to grasp in the age of Instagram. Viewers at that time also had particular ideas about what a photograph could tell you about a person’s character, influenced by pseudo-sciences about facial traits and the shape of one’s head, Finnegan said. These were ideas that predated photography, but photography had given them new life.

As a result, viewers at the time believed a photographic portrait communicated evidence of moral character, both good and bad, Finnegan said. The same ideas could also suggest that someone was criminal, immoral or not American, often based problematically on features common to certain racial or ethnic groups.

The letters in McClure’s “are a place where you see really concretely how people are using these ideas about Lincoln and these images of Lincoln to support their arguments about what America should be at the end of the 19th century,” Finnegan said. “They also are asking, essentially, ‘what is a true American?’”

As a result, Lincoln is becoming what someone would call the “first American,” or what Carl Sandburg would call the “national head” – a kind of embodiment of the nation.

That’s further illustrated in the way that many of the McClure’s letter writers addressed Lincoln’s physical appearance, “going to great lengths to prove that Lincoln wasn’t the stereotype of a kind of ugly, awkward person that a lot of people said that he was,” Finnegan said. “I think they were going to those lengths,” she said, “because if you want to argue that somebody is an embodiment of the nation, the ‘first American,’ etc., he has to somehow be worth that designation.”

Finnegan starts her chapter on the Lincoln photograph with a quote from an unidentified writer, published with a 1917 article in Life magazine: “People take awful liberties with Lincoln … It almost makes you wish that Lincoln had been copyrighted.”

The need to see Lincoln in a way that fits the times seems as true in the present as in the past, Finnegan said. One example might be found in the 2012 film “Lincoln,” where the president was portrayed as a man “who sought political compromise while trying to keep his moral character intact,” Finnegan said.

For current-day politicians who might want to move beyond political deadlock, she said, that’s a Lincoln who might “resonate.”