Gene mapping reveals soy’s dynamic, differing roles in breast cancer
By Sharita Forrest
News Editor

S
cientists have mapped the human genes triggered by the phytoestrogens in soy, revealing the complex role the legume plays in both preventing and advancing breast cancer.

Researchers at the U. of I. found that the compounds in minimally processed soy flour stimulate genes that suppress cancer, while purified soy isoflavones stimulate oncogenes that promote tumor growth. The paper, available online, was accepted for publication in the journal Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Yunxian (Parey) Liu, a graduate researcher in the laboratory of nutrition professor William G. Helferich, investigated more than 22,680 gene expressions in tumors collected from mice. The mice were injected with MCF-7 human breast-cancer cells and fed one of four diets — including one based on soy flour that contained mixed isoflavones, and another diet based on a purified isoflavone mixture.

Each of these diets contained 750 parts per million of genistein equivalents, an amount comparable to that consumed by women eating a typical Asian diet. Genistein is the primary isoflavone in soy, and recent studies have raised concerns about its long-term effects and potential role in carcinogenesis.

Asian women’s risks for breast cancer tend to be three to five times lower than those of women in the U.S., which some researchers have attributed to Asian women’s consumption of soy-based whole foods, such as tofu and soy flour, across their diets.

The paper, available online at http://dx.doi.org/10.1002/mnfr.201401009, was accepted for publication in the journal Molecular Nutrition and Food Research.

Online MBA degree coming to U. of I.’s College of Business
By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

The U. of I. College of Business will launch an online, self-paced Master of Business Administration degree program, pending approval by the U. of I. Board of Trustees.

The program, called the “iMBA,” will be the first online graduate business degree offered in partnership with Coursera, the Silicon Valley educational technology company that already offers a number of U. of I. courses through its platform of massive open online courses, more commonly known as “MOOCs.”

The online degree will democratize access to both the coveted business credential and the world-class faculty of the Urbana campus, said Larry DeBrock, the Josef and Margot Lakonishok Endowed Dean of the College of Business.

“The University of Illinois has a tradition of excellence and a distinguished reputation as a leader of education and research,” DeBrock said. “For business leadership while also democratizing access to the coveted graduate degree, said Larry DeBrock, the Josef and Margot Lakonishok Endowed Dean of the College of Business.

“The stackable credentials” will be offered in topics such as digital marketing, accounting and finance — courses that have their own appeal for current professionals, DeBrock noted.

Illinois also is leveraging Coursera’s innovation-friendly platform to reconceptualize business subject areas. "Rather than simply transferring traditional MBA content online, we’re merging academic disciplines into active-learning packages about how businesses work that are preassembled for students," Echambadi said. "This is part of what makes stackability possible: self-contained classes with execution-ready content."

"We’re entering the online MBA field motivated in part to find new ways to return to the tradition of great public universities making elite education available to all."

The program also amounts to a total rethink of the online MBA degree curriculum, said Raj Echambadi, the associate dean of outreach and engagement for the College of Business and a professor of business administration.

"This will be the first for-credit graduate program from a top university to offer individual certificates in subject areas that can double as building blocks to earning a full MBA degree," Echambadi said.
If making benefit changes, submit them online by June 1

When adding dependent coverage:

An approved statement of health is required to add or increase Member Optional Life Coverage or to add Spouse Life or Child Life coverage. If opting out of health insurance, proof is required of other comprehensive health coverage provided by an entity other than the Department of Central Management Services.

Opt out and dependent documentation should be faxed to 217-244-3135 on or before June 11.

ON THE WEB
senate.illinois.edu

The report recommends a larger role for the senate’s Educational Policy Committee by asking to purview an annual review of the campus Enrollment Management report for academic units and programs undergoing large changes.

The commission believes that the EPC can share experiences and knowledge with anyone considering reorganization of units so that there is more consistency and smooth process, the report says. “Particular attention should be paid to the impact of such changes on other units or programs and their resources.”

It also recommends reviewing the senate committee structure every five years.

U of I employees are reminded that since the May 4 meeting made changes to their health or dental insurance, dependent coverage or flexible spending plan changes must be made using NESSIE, the university’s online self-service benefits application. All changes must be made by June 1 and will have an effective date of July 1.

If no changes are desired to insurance plans, employees do not need to do anything. But employees who want to enroll or re-enroll in the Medical Care Assistant Plan or Student Health Insurance should make changes to their current plan by June 1.

ON THE WEB
go.illinois.edu/BenefitChoice

e.illinois.edu

Information sessions

There are two remaining information sessions sponsored by University Payroll:

1. Reading the report reviewing the full breadth of the responsibilities of the Urbana-Champaign Senate is expected to lead to action following its acceptance at the May 4 meeting. “This framework could turn into more-specific recommendations in the future,” said Kim Graber, a professor of kinesiology and community health, who is vice chair of the Senate Executive Committee and a member of the seventh Senate Review Committee.

The commission, led by Abbas Aminmannour, a professor of architecture, was asked last year to brief the Senate on specific concepts in the roles and responsibilities of such committees.

The report’s introduction:

The commission’s membership included faculty and staff members, campus administrator, Senate members and committee chairs also were consulted.

The commission firmly believes that our senate is a crucial partner in our university’s governance system,” the report’s introduction.

Initial discussions coalesced around five themes: senate membership, senate rule as 13, senior engagement, the Illinois Open Meetings Act issues and shared governance.

As for senate membership, the report recommends allowing units to elect alternate members when a senator cannot attend, and better enforcing current attendance rules.

The report also recommends limiting faculty seats to full-time faculty members, with a predetermined number of seats offered to and selected by retired faculty members. It also suggests “a more uniform mechanism” to elect specialized faculty members and to increase the number of academic professionals who serve on the senate.

As for improving engagement, the report suggests actively recruiting senate candidates, creating a guide for new senators and adding technology that allows resolutions, documents and even motions and amendments to be projected in real time during meetings. It also suggests creating a post-meeting summary that senators could share with constituents.

“Senators should be reminded that their role as senator does not end once a senate meeting adjourns,” the report says. “A culture must be created whereby the role of the senate is perceived as critical to the successful functioning of the university.”

Senate review report may lead to future reforms

By Mike Holenthal Assistant Editor

A proposal to offer winter session to students for two more years received the unanimous backing of senators May 4 at the last Urbana-Champaign Senate meeting of the 2017-18 academic year because the winter break continues to be well received and effective.

The senate approved text revisions made during the senate’s original review.

Senate Procedures Committee provided a side-by-side comparison of the changes made during the senate’s original review.

Senators also approved moving provisions regarding intellectual property from the General Rules to the statutes.

The move does not change university intellectual property rules, said William Maher, university archivist and chair of the USPP.

He said transforming the rules to statutes would ultimately give campus leaders the ability to lobby the U. of I. Board of Trustees for changes. As it stands, only the board can make changes to rules.

“If you want to change them, then it has to be done through the statutes,” Maher said.

Senators endorsed a “Statement on Budget Planning and Reform,” a letter prepared by the University Senates Conference and already delivered to the university president’s office.

The letter suggests that proposed campus financial cuts be targeted in order to protect core educational functions, and cuts should start with administrative functions. It also asks teaching load and short-term strategic planning be replaced with a more long-term strategic plan reflecting ongoing budget constraints.

“Undoubtedly, some short-term strategies may be required to pave the way for long-term structural changes,” the letter says, “but the review and reform processes of developing these longer-term strategies needs to begin without delay.”

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Safety first

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Popular images of journalists have changed little over a century

By Craig Chamberlain
Social Sciences Editor

If you think reporters are scoundrels, you might point to popular culture. If you think they’re heroes, you might do the same.

For more than a century, both depictions have been plentiful and constant, whether in films, books and comics; on TV and radio; or more recently in video games, says a book by two experts on the subject.

And those depictions, in all their variety, “are likely to shape people’s impressions of the news media at least as much if not more than the actual press does,” according to Matthew Ehrlich and Joe Saltzman, in “Heroes and Scoundrels: The Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture,” published in April.

After all, the authors write, few people ever visit a newsroom or any place where journalists work, and research has shown that popular culture influences public perceptions of various professions, whether it’s doctors, lawyers, cops or reporters. So depictions of journalism in everything from “Superman” to “House of Cards” likely influence our views of the news business.

The subject is not a new one for either author. Ehrlich is a U. of I. journalism professor and previously wrote “Journalism in the Movies.” Saltzman is a journalism professor at the University of Southern California and the author of “Frank Capra and the Image of the Journalist in American Film.”

Saltzman also directs the Image of the Journalist in Popular Culture project in The Norman Lear Center at USC, overseeing its database of more than 85,000 items.

In writing “Heroes and Scoundrels,” the authors did not confine their study to just the obvious and prominent examples. They don’t just focus on journalism-centered films such as “All the President’s Men,” “The Killing Fields” or “Anchorman”; or on TV series like “The Newsroom,” “Lou Grant” or “Murphy Brown.”

They take in depictions of journalism in all manner of movies and television shows, in books going back to the 1800s, and in cartoon series, graphic novels, short stories, plays, video games, poetry and music. They reference “The Daily Show,” the news on “Saturday Night Live,” and even the puppet reporters on “Sesame Street.”

The book is not chronological, but structured around themes, among them how popular culture has portrayed journalism history, how it has explored professional ethics and objectivity, and issues of race, gender and sexual orientation. Other chapters look at issues of power, image, war and the future of journalism.

A lot has changed over more than a century of mass media and popular culture, Ehrlich said, but in portrayals of journalism and journalists, “it’s astounding how many things have remained consistent,” one of those being the stereotypes. Among them are the naïve cub reporter; the tough, sarcastic female journalist trying to hold her own in a male-dominated profession; the power-hungry gossip columnist; the gruff and journalists, “it’s astounding how many things have remained consistent,” one of those being the stereotypes. Among them are the naïve cub reporter; the tough, sarcastic female journalist trying to hold her own in a male-dominated profession; the power-hungry gossip columnist; the gruff

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As a result, popular culture can exaggerate both the best of what journalists do, as well as the worst. Ehrlich said. But in doing so, “popular culture heightens how it matters, and I think that’s part of the reason why it’s important that we study popular culture and the stories that it tells about journalism,” he said.

Popular culture can be “a really good, entertaining and provocative means of thinking about what journalism is, what it should be, what it should not be,” Ehrlich said, “and how the debates over these questions have played out over the years.” 
Six professors elected to National Academy of Sciences

By Diana Yates

Six U. of I. professors have been elected to the National Academy of Sciences, one of the highest professional honors a scientist can garner.

Baillargeon, Gary Dell, Steve Granick, Taekjip Ha, Catherine Murphy and John A. Rogers are among 84 new members and 21 foreign associates announced by the academy on April 28.

“National Academy membership is the highest academic honor our nation bestows,” said Phyllis M. Wise, the chancellor of the Urbana-Champaign campus. “These faculty members are recognized today as leaders in biophysics, engineering, molecular biology and psychology. This is a great day for these scholars and for our campus.”

Baillargeon, a professor of psychology, is the director of the U. of I. Infant Cognition Laboratory, where she models mental and physical, psychological and moral reasoning. Her work has challenged previous theories of infant development by demonstrating that even very young infants are able to differentiate events that are similar but not identical to each other that appear to be physically impossible, and that an infant’s ability to see where objects will be in the future will be more sophisticated than previously thought.

Baillargeon is an Alumni Distin- guished Scholar as well as a Center for Advanced Study Pro- fessor. She has received the Fys- ter International Research Prize and a Guggenheim Fellowship, and she is a fellow of the Ameri- can Academy of Arts and Sciences, the Cognitive Science Society and the Association for Psychol- ogical Science.

Dell, a professor of psychol- ogy, studies how people produce and understand sentences. He develops computational models of language production and uses it to simulate possibilities of speech errors, or “slips of the tongue.” He later used related models to understand patterns of pathological speech production resulting from brain damage. His recent work focuses on how linguistic abilities change with experience and how such changes can be captured in neural networks.

Dell is by the end of the 21st cen- tury, for the American Association of the Advancement of Science, the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the Cognitive Science Society, the Association for Psychological Science and the Psychonomic Society.

Granick, professor emeritus of 40-year-old platter wallboard and place them on canvas for framing or storage. “On-site, the art mover and general contractor will work in concert to safely remove the murals from the building,” he said. The building will be stabilized during the removal process and razed immediately afterward.

Consultants last year estimated the cost to remove and conserve the murals at $300,000. The Office of the Chancellor and the Office of the Provost each will provide one-third of the funding, and the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Student Affairs will split the remaining third.

Alicia P. Rodriguez, the academic ad- viser and administrative coordinator for the department of Latina/Latino studies, said the murals hold a special place in the hearts of the department’s students and faculty members, present and past.

“They represent the legacy of La- tina students on campus and their role in and importance to the student population here,” she said.

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise said the murals and the struggle to save them are impor- tant to everyone on campus.

“We want to do all we can to preserve the history of this institution,” she said. “The beauty of the murals and the activist spirit that created them should inspire all of us.”

S

U. of I. campus to support La Casa mural restoration

By Mitke Helenenthal

The campus is the first to save a group of historic campus murals received a boost last week after officials agreed to help fund the project.

The vibrant room-size murals, inside the former site of the U. of I.’s department of Latina/La- tino studies building at 510 E. Chalmers St., in Champaign, which also once housed the La- tino studies building at 510 E. Chalmers St., Champaign, reflect themes of heritage, social justice and strength.

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The National Academy of Sciences is a private organization of scientists and engineers dedicated to the furtherance of science and its use for the general welfare. Founded in 1863, the academy acts as an official adviser to the federal government, upon request, in any matter of science or technology.
A more effective method for closing gaps in atomically thin devices has been developed by a team of researchers, further opening the doors to new transistor technology.

Led by electrical and computer engineering professor Joseph Lyding and graduate student Jae Won Do, a research team has developed a new method of soldering gaps between carbon nanotubes, a new type of transistor.

Through the operation of the transistor, Lyding said, “When electrons go past that junction, they dissipate a lot of energy.”

The connection between the nanotubes is very resistive, resulting in heat pooling at the junctions between the tubes, providing researchers with the perfect opportunity to solve this problem.

Self-soldering

The heat produced at carbon nanotube junctions causes metallic material to deposit onto the junctions, soldering them. The heat results in heat-reactive materials. In 2013, Lyding and graduate student Jae Won Do led a research team to develop a new method of self-soldering gaps between carbon nanotubes.

“With this method, you just send current through the nanotubes and that heats the junctions. From there, chemistry occurs inside the tubes and then we have self-soldering,” Lyding said. “You don’t need a custom, expensive vacuum chamber to do it.”

“Now that we see this effect, how do we get to the next level? How do we improve by another order of magnitude? We’re advancing this work as we speak, with chemicals that have been synthesized specifically for speed,” Lyding said.

Lyding and graduate student Jae Won Do also are affiliated with the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the U. of I.

The next step for the team is to start looking at compounds for the junctions that help to amplify the current even more.

The new technique, the subject of the research paper, is highly resistive and results in slowing the operation of the transistor down, Baber said. “When making small core groups of faculty members, who expect measurable benefits, such as increased enrollment and improved persistence to degree, to justify investments in diversity initiatives.”

Beyond small core groups of faculty members, who expect measurable benefits, such as increased enrollment and improved persistence to degree, to justify investments in diversity initiatives.

Data for Baber’s analyses were drawn from the STEM Trends in Enrollment and Persistence for Underrepresented Students (STEP-UP) research project at the U. of I., which was funded by the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, the National Science Foundation, the Office of Naval Research and the Army Research Office.

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Beyond small core groups of faculty members, who expect measurable benefits, such as increased enrollment and improved persistence to degree, to justify investments in diversity initiatives.
By Diana Yates

Life Sciences Editor

Patients with traumatic brain injuries are not benefiting from advances in cognitive neuroscience research – and they should be, scientists report in a special issue of Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences.

Those who treat brain-injured patients rarely make use of the scientific discoveries that are the result of brain trauma research, according to biosciences professor Jodi Flaws and her colleagues linked BPA exposure in pregnant mice to reproductive problems in the next three generations. Flaws said. "We found that exposing pregnant mice to Bisphenol A (BPA) results in detrimental effects on the nervous system of the offspring and their offspring's offspring.

Reproductive effects of BPA exposure during pregnancy were associated with reproductive problems in the next three generations of mice, researchers report.

"The goal is to develop more precise assessment standards for traumatic brain injury and to translate discoveries from cognitive neuroscience into effective clinical therapies that promote recovery from brain injury," he said.
Economists: Pros, cons to raising the gas tax in Illinois

By Phil Ciciora
Business and Law Editor

After the precipitous drop in crude oil prices over the past nine months, some policymakers in Illinois have advocated raising the state’s excise tax on gasoline, which remains unchanged at 19 cents per gallon since 1990.

Although increasing the gas tax may not have much impact on both in the consumption of fuel and in a few other negative side effects like air pollution, it wouldn’t do much to address two of the biggest problems associated with driving: traffic congestion and traffic accidents, said Fullerton, also a faculty associate at IGPA.

The state also could increase the number of tolls and the price for driving on tollway roads — or even institute “surge pricing” by varying the price of a toll by location and time of day, with a higher toll during congested rush-hour traffic.

“People would have to target congestion and traffic accidents more efficiently,” Fullerton said, who along with Reif is a faculty associate with the Department of Civil Engineering’s 2014 report “State of Illinois: Infrastructure and revenue increases for tolls and, accordingly, the isoflavone diet also decreased tumor size. As a result, the tumors don’t grow or regress, so they’re not exactly like the negative control,” said Helfrich, who has been studying the effects of soy for more than 20 years. “When the estradiol is not present, the tumors regress and almost become undetectable. But with the soy flour by 11 percent.

Although a vehicle-miles-traveled tax and increased tolls would be quite feasible to implement with current technology, they would likely face significant political pushback from drivers accustomed to “free” roads.

The authors emphasized that, like the gas tax, a vehicle-miles-traveled tax would be regressive, and a toll system would take time to implement, as well as a surefire way to increase highway revenue, a higher gas tax wouldn’t make those who benefit the most from the system “associated” with driving, the economists say.

“The gas tax affects the consumption of gasoline, not the driving itself,” said Fullerton, also an associate director of the U. of I. Center for Business and Public Affairs. “Increasing the gas tax might encourage drivers to drive less, which is more efficient cars, but the best way to reduce traffic congestion and traffic accidents is to tax driving directly.”

According to the study, the state could levy a tax on the number of miles traveled based on annual odometer readings or some other technological means.

State gasoline taxes provide the most efficient or effective way of reducing highway costs, says the paper, which was co-written by Don Fullerton, the Gutgsell Professor of Finance; Julian Reif, a professor of finance and of economics; and Kaveh Nafar, a graduate student at Illinois. “In the past nine months, the easiest fix to implement, as well as a surefire way to increase highway revenue, a higher gas tax wouldn’t make those who benefit the most from the system ‘associated’ with driving, the economists say.”

“So the main culprit[s] of these negative externalities are actually paying less in the way of user fees like tolls and gasoline taxes,” Reif said.

Julian Reif

“State gasoline taxes provide a revenue increase of 15 percent of the total fee, which is down from 36 percent in 1994,” Fullerton said. “Since Illinois hasn’t raised the gas tax since 1990, revenue from the tax has declined in absolute terms over the past 25 years. That decline has been partially offset by revenue increases for tolls and, in some years, by motor vehicle taxes. But a large gap remains between total user tax revenue and total highway spending, and it has grown substantially in recent years.”

According to the authors, the gap is likely to continue to grow even larger into the future.

First, “real gas tax revenue is likely to continue decreasing due to inflation and the improved fuel efficiency of cars,” said Reif. “Second, highway spending will probably increase because the state’s infrastructure is in shambles. The American Society of Civil Engineers’ 2014 report card for Illinois infrastructure found that only 40 percent of Illinois’ major roads are in ‘poor or mediocre condition’ and concludes that additional long-term funding sources will be required to pay for the repairs.”

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The authors emphasized that, like the gas tax, a vehicle-miles-traveled tax and increased tolls would be regressive, and a toll system would take time to implement, as well as a surefire way to increase highway revenue from those with the ability to pay, the state’s best option might be to do nothing about it and use general revenues from the income tax to pay for roads. It all depends on what the endgame is for policymakers.

SOY, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lifespans. However, it’s unclear whether pre-menopausal women in the West actually experience the correlated benefits from consuming purified isoflavone supplements later in life. In another recent study, the mice’s ovaries had been removed to simulate pre-menopausal women, and Liu found that the soy flour diet had different effects on their cells’ expression of genes associated with breast cancer.

The mice that consumed soy flour exhibited higher expression of the tumor-suppressing genes ATF2A3 and BLNK, each of which is associated with suppressed tumor growth. Liu noted, these mice also expressed lower levels of oncogenes MYB and MYC, which researchers have found to be critical to tumor initiation during early stage breast cancer, and associated with the uncontrolled proliferation of cancer cells, respectively.

“Most important, we found that the soy flour diet protected against the tumor suppressor genes and thus protected against breast cancer,” Liu said. “The mice that consumed the soy flour diet had higher expression of the tumor suppressor genes than the control mice.”

In another new study at Illinois, researchers found that soy isolates and soy isolates – rather than soy – whole foods, such as soy flour. “There was a difference in the biological responses of mice that consumed the soy flour and those that consumed isoflavone supplements, although both diets contained the same amount of the phytoestrogen genistein,” Liu said. “The findings suggest that it’s advisable for women with breast cancer to get isoflavones from soy whole foods, rather than soy isolates supplements.”

Helfrich, a co-author on the paper, said purified isoflavones behave similarly to isoflavones in the whole diet, which prior studies have linked with the growth and proliferation of breast cancer cells.

“The gene array data for the isoflavones look very similar to estradiol, which turns on many of the same genes, while the raw data for the soy flour look somewhat like the negative control,” said Helfrich, who has been studying the effects of soy for more than 20 years. “When the estradiol is not present, the tumors regress and almost become undetectable. But with the soy flour diet had triple the number of tumors – and had larger tumors – on their lungs, compared with their counterparts in the control groups, Yang found. A paper on the study was published in the April issue of Clinical Cancer Research.

The main take-home message is, if you have breast cancer, isoflavone dietary supplements are not recommended,” said Helfrich. “However, consuming soy from a whole food – along with other legumes – may be better than raising the gas tax, says a policy brief co-written by U. of I. economists Don Fullerton, above, and Julian Reif. Illinois graduate student Kaveh Nafar also contributed to the study.

Soy differences New research by doctoral candidate Yucarina (Fureya) Liu and nutrition professor William Helfrich suggests that soy’s breast cancer preventive properties may stem from eating soy-based whole foods across the lifespan.

“Breast cancer to get isoflavones from soy whole foods, rather than soy isolates supplements,” said Liu.

Liu and Helfrich suggest that soy’s breast cancer preventive properties may stem from eating soy-based whole foods across the lifespan.
Report details racial stereotyping, offers recommendations

By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Humanities Editor

Students of color at the U. of I. say they hear racist remarks, are subjected to stereotypes, feel excluded in group projects or receive other negative messages based on race, according to a new report on race relations.

The report, “Racial Microaggressions at the University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign: Voices of Students of Color in the Classroom,” looks at issues of inclusion, diversity and the racial climate in learning environments on campus. The report was written by Stacy Harwood, a professor of urban and regional planning; Ruby Mendenhall, a professor of sociology and of African American studies; and Margaret Browne Huntt, a research development specialist in the Interdisciplinary Health Wellness Initiative. The research group also produced a report in 2010 on racial microaggressions in student housing on campus.

“Racial ‘microaggression’ is defined as ‘daily verbal, behavior-al or environmental slights and insults that send hostile, derogatory or negative messages to people of color,’ and that can be intentional or unintentional.

The report’s findings are based on an online survey of 4,800 students of color during the 2011-12 academic year, who responded at a 45 percent rate. “The biggest surprise of the whole study was the sheer number of students who responded,” Harwood said.

More than half of the students responding to the survey – 51 percent – reported experiences of stereotyping. A little more than a quarter – 27 percent – said their contributions in the classroom have been minimized because of race, or they’ve been made to feel the way they speak is inferior. And 25 percent of the students said they felt they were not taken seriously because of their race.

In addition to responding to the survey’s questions, the students were given the opportunity to describe situations where they felt invalidated or disrespected, experienced stereotyping or felt unwelcome because of their race.

In addition to documenting students of color during the 2011-12 academic year, who responded at a 45 percent rate.

“The biggest surprise of the whole study was the sheer number of students who responded,” Harwood said.

Harwood noted the U. of I.’s Inclusive Illinois program is a good start, but she said more needs to be done. During the current academic year, Inclusive Illinois sponsored a lecture series, workshops and campuswide conversations on diversity.

Helping students learn to talk about difficult and complex problems gives them a skill they’ll use in their workplaces and their daily lives, Harwood said.

“To be a progressive university, you have to take on these issues,” she said.

“If we can create an environment where people are able to engage in conversations about race, or about gender, social class, sexuality or religion, they will be better prepared to go out in the world and make a difference,” Harwood said.

ON THE WEB

> go.illinois.edu/RMA_Report
> inclusiveillinois.illinois.edu
Faculty and staff members honored for excellence at Illinois

EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING: FACULTY MEMBERS

John Murphy, communication, is known by his students and colleagues alike as a “passionate and highly accomplished educator.” By presenting complex subjects to his students in manageable and creative ways, he prepares his students to move on to higher-level work and apply what they have learned in the course. His teaching philosophy is aimed at “helping students grow beyond a ‘rhetoric as rules’ approach to communication into an understanding of ‘rhetoric in action.’”

Fiona I.B. Ngô, Asian American studies and gender and women’s studies, is an enthusiastic and flexible teacher. She consistently goes above and beyond to provide exceptional learning experiences for her students. She believes that teaching critical analytical skills is indispensable in shaping undergraduate students’ ability to decode the world. Her teaching style is described as having a positive impact on learning and a “transformative effect” in the classroom.

Andrea Stevens, English, is considered one of the department’s “most brilliant instructors, an innovator who galvanizes her students’ enthusiasm for often difficult material, and molds them into strong critical readers and writers.” Her teaching philosophy is to train students to be both literate readers and writers. Her dedication and commitment to her students is a result of his active engagement with “an unparalleled record of teaching excellence and innovation with ‘an unparalleled dedication and commitment to her students’ in her 30 years of teaching at the U. of I. campus. One student said Folliis “cares about how students take the classroom to the real world, and she impacts their future.” With dedication and imagination, she teaches the important role journalists play in society and cultivates an understanding of “rhetoric in action.”

EXCELLENCE IN UNDERGRADUATE TEACHING: INSTRUCTIONAL STAFF

Bradley Sutton, bioengineering, has an incredibly effective teaching approach, and students choose his courses “simply due to his excellence as an instructor.” His teaching reputation is credited to the innovations in his lectures and lab courses, which he unites with a progressive approach when introducing new material. By involving students in the development of models to explain complex concepts related to biological systems, he empowers them with the ability to model anything.

Amy Woods, kinesiology and community health, has a passion for students and their success. She captures students’ attention and engages them fully in the curriculum through her student-centered teaching philosophy. She views her responsibility as an educator to be “both within and beyond the brick-and-mortar building.” She sees her students as equals in the learning process.

Instructional staff members who received the award:

Dawn M. Bohn, the director for Office Programs and a teaching associate of food science and human nutrition, enters every classroom ready to inspire and bring out the best in her students, empowering them to transform themselves into the professionals they aspire to be. She creates a learning environment that is inviting, sincere and promotes critical thinking and responsible learning for students so they will evolve professionally. Her effectiveness is reflected in her students’ steadfast support of her style.

Adam Poetzel, a clinical professor of bioengineering, has a remarkable record of teaching excellence and innovation with “unparalleled dedication and commitment to her students” in her 30 years of teaching at the U. of I. campus. One student said Folliis “cares about how students take the classroom to the real world, and she impacts their future.” With dedication and imagination, she teaches the important role journalists play in society and cultivates an understanding of “rhetoric in action.”

Jennifer Follis, journalism, and Susan Follis, curriculum and instruction, including influencing the curriculum. Faculty members and instructional staff members selected for the awards each receive $5,000 cash and a $3,000 recurring salary increase; graduate teaching assistants receive $3,500.

Other honorees:

John Murphy, communication
Fiona I.B. Ngô, Asian American studies, gender and women’s studies
Andrea Stevens, English
Bradley Sutton, bioengineering
Amy Woods, kinesiology and community health
Jennifer Follis, journalism
Adam Poetzel, curriculum and instruction

John Lambros, aerospace engineering, and Albert J. Valocchi, civil and environmental engineering, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate and Professional Teaching. Each receives $5,000 and a $3,000 recurring salary increase; Lambros has had an important leadership role in graduate education in aerospace engineering. He has contributed to the revision of the graduate curriculum through the creation of innovative graduate courses and the online master’s program. He uses problem-solving techniques and hands-on projects in his teaching, which allow students to apply concepts to real-life engineering structures and materials.

Valocchi has implemented a number of changes to improve the quality of the graduate student experience by giving them a more active voice in the department. With a philosophy that “recognizes that each student is unique,” he shares his knowledge and experience and help students discover their professional goals and define their own measures of success.

Mark Rood, civil and environmental engineering, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Guiding Undergraduate Research. The $2,000 award is designed to foster and reward excellence in involving and guiding undergraduate students in scholarly research. Rood is known as a remarkable mentor as a result of his active and continued accomplishments with undergraduate research assistants for nearly 30 years.
AWARDS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 10

30 years.

Andrew G. Alleyne, mechanical science and engineering, and Violet Harris, curriculum and instruction, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Mentoring, which provides each recipient with $2,000.

Alleyne’s philosophy on mentoring graduate students is understanding each student’s life goals. Understanding each student as an individual allows him to identify their strengths and weaknesses, which helps the students to develop a plan to achieve their goals. He is a dedicated mentor to students, particularly to those in underrepresented groups. Former graduate students said he “recognizes that personal success is just as important as professional success.”

Harris advocates for all students, nurtures their intellectual development, and imbues within them a sense of commitment to intellectual advancement and equality in educational and professional settings. She sets aside personal time to support her mentees, including time on weekends and holidays. She advocates for her students and nurtures their intellectual development. Harris encourages her students to “expand their intellectual horizons” and “open themselves to the possibilities of many perspectives.”

Richard Gorvett, mathematics, and Carol Firkins, an academic adviser for the Community Health Program in the College of Applied Health Sciences, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Advising, which provides each recipient with $2,000. Gorvett has had an intense influence on many students. He believes the best approach to advising students is to consider each one “holistically – not just as a college student earning a degree, but as an entire person.” A former student said Gorvett’s “passion is evident through his connections with students in a manner that inspires them to succeed.”

Firkins is an advocate for students because she takes time to get to know each one of her advisees and invests in their successes. She embraces each student’s diversity and treats them with dignity, value and respect. Her students said, “She has been there to support and encourage us every step of the way.” She always offers her assistance to colleagues, and as an adviser, she aims to foster within students critical thinking skills and self-responsibility.

Anjale Welton, education policy, organization and leadership, received the Campus Award for Excellence in Online and Distance Teaching. The award consists of $5,000 to be placed in the recipient’s research/teaching account and $1,000 for the recipient’s academic unit to further develop the program.

Welton is a strong, capable, and intensely thoughtful scholar and teacher who is able to “mitigate the distance in ‘distance learning.’” Innovative and student-centered, she addresses topics that can be difficult even in face-to-face classes. “That she is able to do this in an online forum is a remarkable testament to what thoughtful scholar-professors can accomplish.” Welton states that because her students lead complex lives, “technology is instrumental in helping them feel connected to the university.”

Three faculty members also were recognized as University Distinguished Teacher-Scholars: Gretchen M. Adams, an instructor and the director of Undergraduate Studies and of the Merit Program in the department of chemistry, and Matthew West, mechanical science and engineering, were honored for 2014-15. Jennifer Amos, a senior lecturer and the director of Undergraduate Programs for bioengineering, was honored for 2015-16.

The University Distinguished Teacher-Scholar Program, sponsored by the Teaching Advancement Board and the Office of the Provost, honors and supports outstanding instructors who take an active role in promoting learning on campus. Although the appointment lasts one year, honorees carry the designation with them throughout their careers.

Photos by L. Brian Stauffer
Dixson and Buras as longtime researchers, perspective on events in New Orleans’ schools presented as case studies in the book. The paper, which was published in the European Journal of Operational Research, analyzed data from a sample of farms in the Catalan region of Spain that specialized in livestock. The researchers analyzed data from a sample of farms in the Catalan region of Spain that specialized in livestock.

The paper was co-written by Robert G. Chambers of the University of Maryland and Alfonso Oude Lansink of Wageningen University. The methodology developed in this paper can be implemented in other empirical settings.

By Sharily L. Buras and Elizabeth K. Jeffers, both of Georgia State University, are the co-authors of a new study led by education policy professor Adrienne Dixson. The paper was co-written by Robert G. Chambers of the University of Maryland and Alfonso Oude Lansink of Wageningen University.

Agricultural pollution Significant room for improvement exists in the environmental efficiency of both crop production and the control of pollution from nitrogen-fertilizer runoff, says a new study from Teresa Serr, a professor of agricultural and consumer economics at Illinois.

“The methodology developed in the paper can be easily used to assign monetary values to pollution in terms of the tradeoff between pollution and crop production,” she said.

Implementing such a redistribution scheme requires empirically based tools to measure and value these effects. The methodology developed in this paper allows one to measure the environmental efficiency of both crop production and the control of pollution from nitrogen-fertilizer runoff, which is important for informing policy decisions.

By Sharily L. Buras and Elizabeth K. Jeffers, both of Georgia State University, are the co-authors of a new study led by education policy professor Adrienne Dixson. The paper was co-written by Robert G. Chambers of the University of Maryland and Alfonso Oude Lansink of Wageningen University.

New Orleans’ school reforms harmful to black community

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School reform The racial implications of the school reform movement in New Orleans is explored in a new study led by education policy professor Adrienne Dixson. The paper was co-written by Robert G. Chambers of the University of Maryland and Alfonso Oude Lansink of Wageningen University.

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By Craig Chamberlain

Tale of colonial Illinois about collaboration not conquest

Empire by collaboration

Illinois' colonial history is a distinctive one, says historian Robert Morrissey in a new book. The French who settled there found a mutual self-interest with the Illinois Indians, forming not only alliances but mixed-race communities. They often worked against the goals of the French empire.

The slave trade became an important basis for Illinois power. Morrissey said, and the Illinois would rank among the most powerful peoples in North America at the end of the 1600s. French settlement began with Jesuits establishing a mission in the 1600s near the Grand Village of the Kaskaskia, near present-day St. Louis. The slaves were appealed to settle the "Illinois County," says Morrissey in a new book. The French and their allies had largely acted from self-interest with the Illinois Indians, and the settlement would attract French fur traders. As far as French officials were concerned, neither the priests nor the fur traders were supposed to be there. They were not part of French plans.

Soon, French men were marrying Illinois women, and with Jesuit encouragement, Morrissey said. The men gained not only wives, but beneficial connections to the tribe, and the women had their own reasons for valuing these arrangements.

The need was so strong that when the Illinois Country became British territory in the 1760s, after the French and Indian War, these villages were practical and ready to accommodate. "There's no nostalgia for France," he said. "They're like, 'OK, what's next? Fine, we'll be British.'" As a result, in the early 1770s, as colonists on the East Coast are beginning to talk about throwing off British rule, the colonists in Illinois are lobbying for more of that rule. "The farmers of Illinois were appealing to the British empire to send them a government," Morrissey said.

But it was too late. By the time these residents of Illinois got the British government's attention, the American Revolution was underway. Under the American government that followed, the collaborative imperial culture in Illinois was overshadowed by new Yankee settlers "with different ideas and more power," Morrissey said.

As a result, much of Illinois' multicultural colonial population migrated west, bringing their distinctive political culture and pragmatism with them.
Stephen Peterson appointed to lead U of I bands program

By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Humanities Editor

The longtime director of bands at Ithaca College will lead the U. of I. in coming months, including the Marching Illini, beginning in August.

Stephen Peterson has been appointed the director of bands, with artistic, academic and administrative leadership of the U. of I. Bands Program. He’ll oversee the associate and assistant band directors, including Barry Houser, the director of the Marching Illini and athletic bands.

“I love the sports. I also love the camaraderie the band directors in the Big Ten have. They are a very close-knit group, and there is great respect amongst all my colleagues,” Jeffrey Magee, the director of the School of Music, described Peterson as “down-to-earth, approachable and demanding, all at once.”

“He is in the prime of an illustrious career, with a long and remarkable list of invited conducting appearances across the U.S. and abroad,” Magee said. “He brings a sterling reputation in every area that matters: music direction, conducting, teaching, leadership, flexibility and creativity. He stands among the nation’s most distinguished concert band conductors.”

Peterson has been the director of bands and a music professor at Ithaca College since 1998. He led the Ithaca College Wind Ensemble, which produced widely respected recordings and performed at Lincoln Center and on a tour of Ireland. Peterson has been a leader in cultivating new musical work through commissions and performances that reached those of his students, taking behind the wheel.

“I deeply love the Big Ten. I’m very happy that anyone is interested in working with the Marching Illini, beginning in August. Peterson said. “I know of no other university where the band can participate in the entire university as it is in Illinois. It really is quite remarkable.”

An Artie Alpert lover, Peterson has connections to the Midwest. He spent 10 years as the associate director of bands at Northwestern University, and he was the director of bands for the Illinois Science Fair and 10 years, taking the band to the 1996 Rose Bowl.

Study: This is your teen’s brain behind the wheel

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

A new study of teenagers and their moms reveals how the absence of a well-developed control center in the brain can greatly influence risky behavior.

In the study, reported in the journal Socia pears of influence revealed teen-taking risk.

“Teens are more likely to engage in risky behavior when mom is there, but not when they’re alone,” Telzer said. “The FPC (the control center) and the ventral striatum (the reward center) are key brain regions involved in adolescent risk-taking behavior, Telzer said. But in the absence of a well-developed control center, adolescents are more susceptible to the stimulating allure of risky behavior.

“We here’s where we’re showing that the risk taking is more significant when teen drivers chose to ig

Mary Ann Armstrong, 71, died April 25 at her Champaign home. She worked for the U. of I. for 10 years, retiring in 2001 as a typist in the College of Fine Arts.

Mary was a graduate of Vandalia High School and an associate degree in business. She worked at the University of Illinois for 34 years, retiring in 1999.

Saada Hamdy, 82, died April 14 at Carle Foundation Hospital Urbana. She was a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor’s degree in business.

She worked at the U. of I. for 34 years, retiring in 1999. She was a supervisor at the Hospital Laboratory.


Richard C. “Buzz” McNally, 49, died March 4 at Carle Foundation Hospital Urbana. He was a cook at the University of Illinois for University Housing from 1996 to 1999. Memorials: A memorial fund to help the family honor his memory, visit www.gofundme.com/9bh6 or contact Mary Lehman, maryemac79@gmail.com.

Francis Louise Sykes, 82, died April 14. She worked at the University of Illinois for 17 years, retiring in 2006. She was a cook at the Hospital Laboratory.


Robert N. Evans, 71, died April 25 at Meadowbrook Health Center at Clark-Lindsey Village Friendship Fund, 499 Old Timber Rd., Monticello, IL 61856.

Gilbert Pierce Haight Jr., 92, died April 27. Haught, a professor emeritus of chemist

Robert B. Ash, 71, died April 25 at Lenoir Woods Senior Living in Columbiana, Ohio. He was a graduate of the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign with a bachelor’s degree in chemical engineering.

He also served as the associate director of bands for F. Austin State University in Na
cogoches, Texas, for four years, and he was a teacher and conduc
tor at high schools in Phoenix and Tempe, Arizona.

Peterson earned his doctorate of music from Northwestern University, and his bachelor’s and master’s degrees from Ari
zona State University.

Peterson succeeds interim di
cector Linda Moorhouse. His ap
pointment is effective Aug. 16.

Peterson’s wife, Elizabeth Pe
terson, also has been hired as a
classical professor of music at the U. of I. School of Music. She’ll be the conductor of the Ithaca Col
gle Symphonic Band and the coordinator of the Instrumental Junior Student Teaching Prog

New leadership

Stephen Peterson, director of bands at Ithaca College, has been appointed the new director of bands for the University of Illinois. Peterson will oversee all the concert and athletic bands.

“Her Illinois roots and national reputa
tion add further luster to this new era in our bands program and hold out the promise of attracting more excellent student musicians to our campus,” Magee said.

The Illinois Bands Program is regarded as one of the world’s top college band programs. More than 650 students participate in the program.
Three elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences

May 7, 2015

By Diana Yates
Life Sciences Editor

T

The three recipients of the Paul A. Funk Recognition Award – Elvira de Mejia, a professor of food science and human nutrition; Brian Diers, a professor of crop sciences; and Ryan Dilger, a professor of animal sciences, received the Faculty Award for Global Impact.

The Senior Faculty Award for Excellence went to members of the STRONG Kids/Illinois Transdisciplinary Obesity Prevention Program (I-TOPP); Kelly Boot, a professor of child development; David Buchner, a professor of kinesiology and community health; Sharon Jocum, a professor of food science and human nutrition; and the Melissa M. Noel Endowed Chair in Nutrition and Health; Fiese; Diana Grigsby Toussaint, a professor of kinesiology and community health; Craig Gunderson, a professor of nutritional sciences; Jessica Hartman, a professor of nutritional sciences; and the assistant director of the Division of Nutritional Sciences; Charles H. Hillman, a professor of kinesiology and community health; Rodney W. Johnson, a professor; and the director of nutritional sciences; Brenda Koester, a professor of human and community development and the assistant director of the Family Resiliency Center; Lee; Janet Liechty, a professor of social work; Brent McBride, a professor of human development and the director of the Child Development Lab; Salma Musaad, a visiting researcher of biomathematics in human and community development; Margarita Teran-Garcia, a professor of food science and human nutrition; Jennifer Thompson, a professor of human and community development; Donna Whitehill, a visiting project coordinator for nutritional sciences; and Angela Wiley, a professor of applied family studies and the director of the Child Care Resiliency Programs.

The Professional Staff Awards for Excellence were given to Elizabeth Reutter, a teaching associate in food science and human nutrition, received the Service Award; Margaret Nance, a visiting teaching associate in crop sciences. The John Clyde and Henrietta Downey Institute, studies how people produce and understand sentences. He developed the first computational model of language production and used it to simulate properties of speech errors, or “slips of the tongue.” He later used related models to understand patterns of pathological speech production resulting from brain damage. His recent work focuses on how linguistic abilities change with experience and how such changes can be captured in neural networks.

Dell is a recipient of the American Psychological Association Early Career Award and is a fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Society of Experimental Psychologists, the Cognitive Science Society, the Association for Psychological Science and the Psychology and Consumer Economics.

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Edward McAusley, a Shahid and Ann Carlson Khan professor of kinesiology and community health, received the college’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award.

Amy Woods, a professor of kinesiology and community health, won the college’s Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching Award for Faculty.

BUSINESS

Gopesh Anand, a professor of business administration, received the College of Business Alumni Association Excellence in Teaching Award for Graduate and Professional Teaching.

Brooke Elliott, a professor of accountancy, received the St. Louis Teaching Award.

Petro Lusovski, a professor of accountancy, and Adel Ibrahim, a lecturer in accountancy, received Head’s Award for Excellence in Teaching.

EDUCATION

Tammie Collins, a facilities manager for the College of Education, received the Distinguished Staff Award.

Hedda Meadan-Kaplansky, a professor of special education, received the Spitze Award for Innovative Teaching.

Karla Moller, a professor of curriculum and instruction, received the Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award.

Yoon Pak, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership, received the Weiss, Morris and Lee Award.

Michelle Perry, a professor of special education, received the Distinguished Teaching Career Award.

Jena Pfotl, an online academic and student service coordinator for education policy, organization and leadership, received the college’s Academic Professional Excellence Award.

Charles Gammine, a professor of physics, has been named a 2015 Simons Fellow in Theoretical Physics by the Simons Foundation. Gammine, who has joint appointments in astronomy and physics, will use the fellowship to continue his leading-edge theoretical work in black hole astrophysics while on sabbatical next academic year at the University of Oxford in the United Kingdom. The Simons Fellow in Theoretical Physics allows time away from the program to pursue research. The foundation’s mission is to advance research in mathematics and the basic sciences.

Joseph W. Lyding, a professor of electrical and computer engineering, has been named one of the first recipients of the Foresight Institute Feynman Prize in Nanotechnology for experimental work. This prize is in honor of the development of scanning tunneling microscopy technology and particularly hydrogen depassivation lithography. Foresight Institute is a leading think tank and public interest organization focused on molecular nanotechnology. These prestigious prizes, named in honor of Nobel Laureate Richard Feynman, are given in two categories, one for experiment and the other for theory in nanotechnology. The award recognizes innovative work in the field. The award recognizes innovative work in the field. This year’s honorees include three researchers from the University, two whose research is focused on molecular nanotechnology.

The Engineering College recently hosted its annual awards reception and announced these recognitions:

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Christopher King, a professor of biology, received the Chicago Section of the American Chemical Society’s Young Investigator Award.

Robert J. Weisheit, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering, received the McMichael Research Award.

The School of Engineering and Applied Science recently announced these awards:

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Edward Van Der Does, a visiting professor, received the Laurence J. Norton Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kathleen Cantor, a professor of kinesiology and community health, received the College of Public Health and Community Health’s Excellence in Teaching Award.

Kim C. Graber, a clinical professor, received the College of Medicine’s Head’s Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Erik B. Stensaas, a research professor of civil engineering, has been named the first recipient of the College of Engineering’s New Transformational Research and Education Mentor Award.

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entire spectrum of potential students, from those who are curious and inquisitive to those who want to earn a full master’s degree. “We accept all students,” he said.

Students also have the option of taking a course sequence free of charge, receiving a Coursera-issued certificate for their studies for academic credit through the Urbana campus. “Students receive the Academic achievement for those who want to round out their STEM or liberal arts educations with business knowledge—how,” Echambadi said.

Students can apply for the iMBA either before they’ve en-
rolled in classes or after they’ve already sampled one or more classes. “A student or working professional could sign up for a class in January, work and keep stacking courses and credits to build toward a full iMBA degree,” Echambadi said. “It’s 100% online, so it’s really flexible business degree system so they’re not confined to the way other b-schools or universities are organized.” Offering an online-only MBA degree will ultimately help the U. of I. connect with students around the world who wish to earn a mas-
sers degree right away.” DelBrock said.

“The iMBA really leverages the power of MOOCs for the first time,” DelBrock said. “The first portion of every course is open access, inviting people from all over the world, not just those who have applied and been accepted into our online MBA pro-
gram. Instructors lead through a cohort system that creates con-
stant, direct interaction among peers.” Daphne Koller, co-founder and president of Coursera, said the iMBA program “reimagines graduate edu-
cation more flexibly to be more affordable.”

“Aspiring professionals from all over the world will be able to earn meaningful certificates for their programming and data science skills,” she said. “And always have the option to earn the full MBA degree, at an inex-
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ACHIEVEMENTS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 16

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T. Brad Harris, a professor of labor and employment relations, received the LER Faculty Teaching Excellence Award.

Charles “Stretched” Ledford, a profes-
sor of mass communication and an editor at the Northwestern University Press Media Editors Innovator of the Year Award for College Students.

Also nominated: Peggy Buchner, an of-
five administrator in the Office of the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Pro-
vost. Raynor Dorsey, an office manager in plant biology in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Michael Foellmer, an office support specialist in political science in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; and Sheila Powers, an office manager in the College of Medicine.

The Secretariat is comprised of U. of I. employees in certain civil service classifica-
tions. Nominees for the Office Professional of the Year Award perform their duties well and enthusiastically support the U. of I. and its programs. The nominee demonstrates potential for and commitment to involvement in the Sec-
retariat organization.

SOCIAL WORK

Sung Wan Kang, a teaching assistant of social work, received the Ackerson Award for Excellence in Student Teaching.

EDUCATION AND OFFICE PLANNING AND BUDGETING

Oscar D. Kearney, the associate direc-
tor for the University Office of Planning and Budgeting, and Jennifer Delaney, a budget analyst and leadership, received a 2014 Charles F. Elton Best Paper Award from the Associa-
tion for Institutional Research for their pa-
ter, “Graduate Tuition Policies and State General Appropriations for Higher Educa-

The award honors scholarship that exempli-
ﬁes the standards of excellence established by the award’s namesake, and makes schol-
ary contributions to the ﬁeld of institu-
tional research and decision making in higher education. The goal is to honor publishable papers and to acknowledge the scholar-
ship of the association is featured in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals.

MICHAEL PHILIPPODOSIS, a professor of electronic programs in mechanical and environmental engineering at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, has been named to the Engineering Council for Outstanding Advising. He received the College of Engineering Stanley L. Relaxin Fellowship Award at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

ASHANG FENG, a professor of mechanical and environmental engineering, is one of the 10 national finalists for the 2015 Engineering Council Award for Outstanding Advising. She was the first Asian woman to win the fellowship based on two new piec-
es that use nontraditional vocal tech-
niques, which she began in 1999 with a composi-
tion’s website, their “mission is to make
the association is featured in a wide range of peer-reviewed journals.
Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund seeks donations during annual drive

Since 1992, the Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund has helped nearly 1,000 employees with assistance during a financial crisis. Last year alone, the generosity of employee donations provided approximately $30,000 in grants to U. of I. employees.

"In a time when many experience stress and closed doors when asking for help, families who have been as- sisted through the FSEF find it gives them hope things will get better," said Karen Wolfson, the director of the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program.

Employees are eligible to apply for assistance if they are experiencing temporary financial hardship because of an emergency situation. Faculty members, academic professionals and civil service staff members with at least a 50 percent appointment, who have collectively worked for at least six months of service at the university qualify to apply for the fund and may apply at any time. Applicants are screened through the Faculty Staff Assistance Program and are reviewed and approved by a confiden- tial committee. All contacts are confidential and assess- ments are free.

However, the fund’s need is outpacing donations. Although contributions can be made at any time of the year, employee support is critical during the annual fund drive, which begins July 1, 2015, and ends on August 31. Each dollar of every 100 percent of every donation to assist employees. Ev- ery gift, regardless of size, will provide much-needed finan- cial assistance to U. of I. employees in times of crisis. Payroll deduction or credit card dona- tions can be made securely online through the founda- tion site, www.giving.illinois.edu. Donations are tax-deductible as allowed by law.

For payroll deduction, click on “Giving to Illinois” in the center of the page, then “Give Your Way,” then “Automatic Payments,” and then “Download a Payroll Direct Deposit Form.”

For credit card payments, go to the drop-down menu listed under “Annual Funds,” click on “Select a Fund,” then click on “Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund,” and then fill in the dollar amount you wish to pledge.

If you wish to send a check, complete the con- tribute form online at fsap.illinois.edu/emergency.html. Checks should be made payable to UI/UUC Faculty and Staff Emergency Fund and mailed to the U. of I. Foundation, Hacker Hall, P.O. Box 3429, Champaign, IL 61826-3429, MC-386.

For more information about the fund, visit fsap.illinois.edu, call 217-244-5312 or contact Debbie McCall, chair, at dmcallam@illinois.edu or 217-244-6240.

The router identifies malicious traffic that is constantly scanning the U. of I.’s network looking for vulnerabilities. Once the router identifies an attack, it automatically routes this malicious traffic through the network, dra- matically reducing the amount of time that the cyberattack can scan to the U. of I. network.

Kevin Morgan, a computer information technology security analyst, compares the bulk of these attacks to a small-time thief walking down a street at night checking every car for unlocked doors. But instead of just one thief probing the U. of I.’s network, there are hundreds of thousands of network scans that must be identified and stopped every week before they find an “open” door.

“During the past few years, security and stopping bad traffic was done by hand. Until that traffic was stopped, the scans were able to continue checking across the whole network. The num- ber of scans reached a high of 904,825 in February. Since implementing the router on March 26, the Office of Privacy and Information Assurance has been able to route thousands of attacks away from the network, reducing the number of attacks down to 48,032 in April.

Morgan cautions that total security is impossible. Man- aging risk rather than preventing it is the daily work of IT professionals.

For more information, contact Wayland Morgan at way- landm@illinois.edu.

Fiscal Year 2015-16 campus holiday schedule announced

The 2015-16 holiday schedule for the Urbana campus is available online at Illinois eduresources/ Holiday_Schedule_2015-16.html.

2015
Friday, July 3: Independence Day holiday
Monday, Sept. 7: Labor Day holiday
Thursday, Nov. 26: Thanksgiving Day holiday
Friday, Nov. 27: day after Thanksgiving (designated holiday)
Sunday, Dec. 13: Christmas Day holiday
Monday, Dec. 21: Christmas Day holiday (half-day excused from traditional programs)
Monday, Dec. 28: Christmas Day holiday (half-day excused from traditional programs)

2016
Thursday, Jan. 1: New Year’s Day holiday
Friday, Dec. 25: Christmas Day holiday
Monday, Dec. 28: Christmas Day holiday (half-day excused from traditional programs)
Thursday, Dec. 31: New Year’s Eve holiday
Friday, Jan. 1, 2016: New Year’s Day holiday

Tech knowledge is the key to improving security

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E LLNORA Guitar Festival to showcase diverse styles

By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Communities Editor

The spectrum of music at ELLNORA: The Guitar Festival this fall will range from traditional Mexican guitar to southern rock, and from jazz to classical guitar. And the diversity is not just in the style of music, but the instruments as well. The guitar festival also features banjo, sarod, Hawaiian slack key guitar and pipa, a four-stringed Chinese lute.
The artists featured at the biennial festival—which began in 2005 and this year will be Sept. 10-12 at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts—include Los Lobos. The Grammy-winning five-member band returns with its blend of rock, Tex-Mex, folk and blues. The band played at ELLNORA (then known as Wall to Wall Guitar Festival) in 2007.

Other musicians include Rodrigo y Gabriela, a Mexican acoustic guitar duo playing a mix of rock and Latin music; Punch Brothers, a five-man band that includes U. of I. School of Music alumnus Noam Pikelny; father-and-son jazz guitarists Bucky and John Pizzarelli; and the Drive-By Truckers, playing Southern rock out of Athens, Georgia.

This year’s artist-in-residence is classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, a three-time Grammy Award-winner. Isbin founded the mandolins, said the guitar department at the Aspen Music Festival. Isbin will give the keynote address and geography professor Ezekiel Kalipi

May 20-22 conference Focus is on health issues in Africa

May 20-22 conference Focus is on health issues in Africa

Biobehavioral Health at Pennsylvania State University, will give the event's second plenary talk, discussing the role of culture in bridging global health inequities. Aizenhenoba is the lab director of the Global Health and Dan Zanes and Friends will also provide family-friendly entertainment in a Sept. 12 show being held at the outdoor event of music and air, featuring a 40-foot-tall inflatable wind turbine with accordion lungs breathing.

For a completely different type of show, ELLNORA offers Squonk’s Pneumatica, an ensemble of acrobats, dancers and musicians. The outdoor event of music and air, featuring a 40-foot-tall inflatable wind turbine with accordion lungs breathing.

Other performers playing free concerts include Rodrigo y Gabriela, a Mexican acoustic guitar duo playing a mix of rock and Latin music; Punch Brothers, a five-man band that includes U. of I. School of Music alumnus Noam Pikelny; father-and-son jazz guitarists Bucky and John Pizzarelli; and the Drive-By Truckers, playing Southern rock out of Athens, Georgia.

This year’s artist-in-residence is classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, a three-time Grammy Award-winner. Isbin founded the

May 7, 2015
Inside Illinois

BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 18

these holidays is subject to departmental approval.

Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment Registration open for iSEE Congress

The Institute for Sustainability, Energy and Environment has scheduled its second annual fall international conference to address a most basic human need: clean, fresh water.


While 11 of the performances at the festival require tickets, at least that many will be free. Among those playing free shows are jazz-rock guitarist John Scofield, who has played and recorded with Miles Davis, Charles Mingus, Pat Metheny, Jack DeJohnette, Phil Lesh, Herbie Hancock, Government Male, Mavis Staples and Jon Cleary.

Other performers playing free concerts include Rodrigo y Gabriela, a Mexican acoustic guitar duo playing a mix of rock and Latin music; Punch Brothers, a five-man band that includes U. of I. School of Music alumnus Noam Pikelny; father-and-son jazz guitarists Bucky and John Pizzarelli; and the Drive-By Truckers, playing Southern rock out of Athens, Georgia.

This year’s artist-in-residence is classical guitarist Sharon Isbin, a three-time Grammy Award-winner. Isbin founded the mandolins, said the guitar department at the Aspen Music Festival. Isbin will give the keynote address and geography professor Ezekiel Kalipi.
By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Humanities Editor

Krannert Art Museum and the School of Art and Design will display the work of graduating seniors in art and design. The School of Art and Design Bachelor of Fine Arts Exhibition opens May 9, with a public reception from 5 to 7 p.m. The exhibition will be on display in the East and Gelvin Noel galleries through May 17.

This annual show allows family members and the community to see the studio art and design work that students have been creating. It will include work from a variety of disciplines, including photography, graphic design, painting, sculpture, metals, industrial design, new media, art education and art history.

“This annual spring exhibition is an opportunity for us to showcase the work of our highly accomplished students, many of whom will go on to become recognized leaders in their field,” said Nan Goggin, the director of the School of Art and Design. “Their work is a source of great pride for the faculty who have watched them develop and mature as artists.”

Sixty-eight seniors will exhibit 139 art and design objects in the show.

Mason Pott, a senior in painting, is one of the student coordinators of the show. He said the show will represent what students have been working on during the past year, but it’s not strictly a thesis show.

“Often students choose work from their thesis, because that is what they are most confident in and what they have spent the most time and effort on,” he said.

Pott will show a 5-foot by 3½-foot painting he created for his senior thesis. It originated from a computer scan of his face, which he made for fun but also to see what it looked like. He scanned his face several times, moving it around until the image was very obscure.

"Then I did some computer manipulations of that image to continue to skew it, and then eventually started painting that image," Pott said. “It’s definitely pretty weird. It’s a portrait, but only in part, because things are stretched and kind of melting and obscured in one way or another.”

Pott is interested in how humans see the world versus how machines do, “and how people are very quick to believe a photograph,” even though it can easily be manipulated.

“I like to make paintings that are very obviously digitally altered, to take this misconception and bring it to the forefront of what people are looking at,” Pott said.

More information about the exhibition, which is sponsored by the museum and John and Alice Pfeffer, is available online.

The museum website includes a complete list of exhibiting artists, an image gallery and links to the online portfolios of many of the students.

ON THE WEB kam.illinois.edu/bfa