President Killeen’s first day includes town hall, call to action

By Mike Helenthal

Making an impact on the 21st century will require the vision, cooperation and collaboration of all three U. of I. campuses.

That was the message of Timothy L. Killeen as he delivered a town hall meeting address May 18 to a near-capacity crowd and began his tenure as the university’s 20th president.

The event, held in the Tryon Festival Theatre at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts and followed by a reception, included remarks by the three campus chancellors and a question-and-answer session led by Killeen.

“The challenges that lie ahead, said Killeen said that as president, he will protect the university’s world-renowned reputation, keep students and faculty members satisfied and contribute to the public service as the core foundations of its work.

It won’t be successful unless everyone contributes,” said Killeen.

“There is nothing stronger than a shared vision,” said Killeen, who has been directed by the U. of I. Board of Trustees to develop a strategic plan to guide the university’s future. He said the process will be inclusive, melding the campuses’ strategic plans and input from the university community into a single working document.

He said his immediate priorities include responding to the findings of a university task force that is currently reviewing university programs for efficiencies, starting with the administration, and formulating a response to threatened state budget cuts.

He said he would like the result of a June leadership conference to be the creation of a “readable document” on the guiding principles behind university decision-making.

“We will move aggressively on several fronts,” he said. “Teamwork and mutual respect will be the way to do business on campus.”

Intercampus collaboration will be emphasized on his watch, he said, as the increased development of partnerships with government and industry.

The end result will be even more life-enhancing discoveries by a thriving academic community.

“This word ‘public’ is very meaningful to me,” he said. “We’ll be defining what the land grant means in the 21st century. This is a defining moment for us.”

Killeen recalled the words of U. I.’s fourth president, Edmund J. James, who said higher education “is fundamental to human progress” as well as the “scientific arm of the government.”

Killeen, a geophysicist and space scientist, was the vice chancellor for research and the president of the research foundation board of trustees six months ago, said it will take thoughtful planning, teamwork and a bold approach for the U. of I. to overcome the challenges of the 21st century.

By Diana Yates

Life Sciences

Dolphins found stranded on Gulf of Mexico beaches following the 2010 Deepwater Horizon oil spill were much more likely to have severe lung and adrenal gland damage “consistent with petroleum product exposure” than dolphins stranded elsewhere and prior to the spill, researchers report. One in five dolphins from the spill zone also had primary bacterial pneumonia.

These effects were most extreme among dolphins found stranded on beaches around Barataria Bay, Louisiana, one of the most heavily oiled coastal areas after the spill, the team reports. The researchers’ findings support a previous health study of live bottlenose dolphins in Barataria Bay after the spill, the team reports. Dead dolphins from the study area had thin adrenal glands compared to dolphins from other coastal regions outside the spill area and time frame.

The study found that one in three of the dead dolphins from the study area had thinning of the adrenal gland cortex. This part of the adrenal gland produces hormones such as cortisol and aldosterone — that regulate metabolism, blood pressure and other bodily functions. Only 7 percent of the reference dolphins had adrenal cortical thinning.

“Adrenal abnormalities have been previously noted in other animal species exposed to petroleum products,” the researchers wrote.

“Animals with adrenal insufficiency are at risk of life-threatening adrenal crises,” said National Marine Mammal Foundation veterinary epidemiologist Stephanie Venn-Watson, who led the study. “When other stressors occur, those animals can rapidly die from shock.”

“We found that in other mammals, exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons can injure an animal’s lungs,” said U. I. veterinary diagnostic laboratory professor Kathleen Colegrove, the study’s lead veterinary pathologist.

Dolphins were particularly susceptible to inhalation effects due to their large lungs, deep breaths and extended breath-hold times,” Venn-Watson said.

The team looked at possible contributors to the dolphin deaths. They tested for infection with morbillivirus (which has contributed to large-scale dolphin die-offs in the past) and brucellosis (a bacterial infection that can affect the brain, lungs, bones and reproductive function). They also looked for evidence of botulism, which can result from the toxins produced by mass toxicity.”

Colegrove said.

The team found relatively few morbillivirus infections among the study dolphins.

Killed dolphins from the study area had bacterial pneumonia.

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Board OKs budget resolution, names new hall after Wassaja

The U. of I. Board of Trustees approved a resolution on May 7 meeting meant to keep the university operating legally after its current fiscal year expires June 30.

The annual resolution is required to pay bills and maintain operations until the Legislature finalizes a new state budget for the fiscal year that begins July 1. The resolution authorizes expenditures for fiscal 2015 is $5.6 billion.

The board will consider the university’s operating budget for fiscal 2016 later this year.

After the meeting, some trustees, President Bob Easter and other top administrators joined alumni and supporters at the state Capitol to advocate on behalf of the university as the Legislature considers decisions critical to its future.

The university’s efforts included a push for state funding to maintain the academic programs critical to its future.

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Four receive awards for excellence in faculty leadership

Four faculty members are the inaugural recipients of awards for Excellence in Faculty Leadership. The three annual awards for excellence in faculty leadership, given by the Office of the Provost, recognize faculty members who distinguish themselves with their vision of the future and their effort to enable and promote others in shaping that future.

Huseyn Leblebici, a professor of business administration, received the Excellence in Faculty Mentoring Award; Wojtek Chodzko-Zajko, a professor and the head of kinesiology and community health; and Dianne Harris, a professor of landscape architecture and the director of the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities, received the Academic Service and Leadership Excellence Award; and Nicholas Burbules, a professor of education policy, organization and leadership, received the Outstanding Faculty Leadership Award.

They were honored at the Celebration of Academic Service and Leadership Excellence on May 13 at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology. Each award consists of a recurring salary increase of $2,500, a three-year appointment for the personal use of the recipient and a personalized commemorative plaque. The event also recognized members of provost committees.

Huseyn Leblebici

His work has been focused on addressing the blood and sweat of the soldiers,” he said. “The piece was never intended to glorify war.”

Chancellor Phyllis M. Wise said the return of the monument is an important step in the Lincoln Hall rejuvenation project. “This is a memorial to Illinois students who have served their country,” she said, “and there is no more appropriate home for it than in Lincoln Hall – our most historic monument to student learning on the campus.”

History Peace

Workers next week are expected to return the popular ‘Peace Memorial’ artwork to prominence in the south courtyard of Lincoln Hall. The concrete bas-relief work, created by Dan Molner, a retired campus landscape architect, was commissioned by the U of I Classes of 1918 and 1919 to mark the 50th anniversary of World War I. It was moved into storage during the renovation of Lincoln Hall.

The Office of the Chancellor is funding the relocation efforts, which will include the services of an artist and crane to lift the 2-ton sculpture into place. An adjacent plaque explaining the piece also will be added. Don Molner, a retired campus landscape architect, designed and built the sculpture. He chose varied typography to illustrate the era of students who served and sacrificed during World War I and II, and the Korean and Vietnam wars. To provide authenticity, he also imbedded several metal pieces, including a plowshare, bayonets and military helmets.

The artwork originally included a working fountain, though the pipes connecting it to a water source have long since been removed. “Mr. Molner was agreeable to having it reinstated without the fountain,” said Melyn Skvarla, the campus historic preservation officer at Facilities and Services. He said Molner also felt that not placing the rusting metal pieces in the monument provided another artistic entry point for the viewer. “He felt the rust could symbolize the Office of the Chancellor is

DOLPHINS. Continued From Page 1

In previous known dolphin morbillivirus-associated die-offs, more than 60 percent of cases tested positive for the virus,” the researchers wrote.

Biotoxins were undetectable or detected in lower levels in the study-area dolphins, the researchers found. And of the study dolphins found in areas affected by the spill, only two were confirmed to have Brucella in the lung, “demonstrating that Brucella was not the driver for increased bacterial pneumonia,” the researchers wrote.

The study team included representatives from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration’s National Marine Fisheries Service; NOAA’s National Ocean Service; the National Marine Mammal Foundation; the University of Georgia; the Dauphin Island Sea Lab and University of South Alabama; the Institute for Marine Mammal Studies, Gulfport, Mississippi; the Louisiana Department of Wildlife and Fisheries; the Audubon Aquarium of the Americas, New Orleans; the Monite Marine Laboratory, Sarasota, Florida; the Texas Marine Mammal Stranding Network, Galveston; and Marine Mammal Pathology Services, Olney, Maryland.

This work was completed as part of the Northern Gulf of Mexico Unusual Mortality Event Investigation and a part of the Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment conducted cooperatively by NOAA, other federal and state trustees, and BP.

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news.illinois.edu/i/
Killeen. Contrived From Page 1. of the Urbana-Champaign campus, resulting from higher education investment, the need for resource stewardship has never been more challenging than today.

“We’re making every case we have for (adequate funding),” he said. “But we have to make sure we’re doing our part as efficiently and effective as possible. We can’t sacrifice excellence.”

Killeen told another questioner who asked about the future of liberal arts and small programs on campus that “U of I should not be the sole measure of university academic programs.”

“Vitality and vibrancy on campus flow out of these pursuits,” he said. “Things shouldn’t decline one another.”

Killeen told another questioner that he “passionately” supports academic freedom and academic discourse.

He said he already had met with local leaders of the American Association of University Professors to discuss the university’s response to proposed cuts, raising taxes or some combination of those options. But the environment is foreboding. On May 12, Moody’s Investor’s Services, citing the Supreme Court decision, downgrad- ed Chicago’s bond rating to junk status, making it more expensive than ever for the city to borrow.

Some have speculated that the state—already carrying the lowest bond rating in the country—also will be downgraded in light of the court decision.

The U. of I.’s bond rating is four levels above the state’s rating, though that also could be tested as budget projections indicate cuts to higher education of nearly a third.

Earlier this year, the U. of I. endured a budget rescission of 2.1 percent from the current budget, equaling an $18 million cut. Meanwhile, departments across all three campuses have been asked to find ways to reduce costs and increase efficiencies.

Killeen, who has been a source of pride.

Easter said he is absolutely free to the right time.

“It’s an opportunity to redefine what a state university system is,” she said. “It’s a bridge to the 21st century.”

Easter said there would be about 30 new science and engineering programs in the state to the university.

Easter said what the outcome in the state Legislature, some modicum of future pension system stability would be welcome.

“Pensions are a key in a competitive compensation program that is critical for attracting and retaining faculty and staff,” he said.

Having pension questions would make recruiting less difficult, he said. The Supreme Court decision protected employer benefits, but it also created more uncertainty for legislators trying to make up for lost pension hole, but that tax expired this year.

The state pension system is responsible for health and pension benefits, and 15 percent of operating costs. The state also is adding direct state funding covers about 15 percent of operating costs. The state also is adding 40 percent of operating costs. The state also is adding 40 percent of operating costs.

There also have been discussions at the state’s court to transform some employer benefits from the state to the university.

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College readiness declines when schools focus on test scores

By Sharita Forrest
Education Editor

Education reform policies that penalize struggling schools for poor standardized test scores may hinder — not improve — students’ college readiness, if a school’s instructional focus becomes improving its test scores, suggests a new study that explored efforts to promote a college-going culture at one Texas high school.

Published recently in The High School Journal, the case study reveals the unintended consequences of school reform policies, and how these mandates may warp schools’ instructional focus and thwart students’ academic success.

In 2008, Texas adopted statewide College and Career Readiness Standards that established student performance benchmarks for math, science, reading and geography. Texas also is one of 26 states that require students to pass an exit exam — usually taken during students’ junior year — to receive a high school diploma.

Anjale D. Welton, a professor of educational policy at the U. of I., and Montrischa Williams of the American Institutes for Research, explored the impact that these mandates had at Green High School, a pseudonym the authors used for a school located in a semirural community near a major city in Texas.

Poor academic performance on federal and state accountability tests for three consecutive years had garnered Green High School an “academically unacceptable” rating from the state education agency. As a result, teachers and staff at Green were under pressure to produce improvement with the next year, prompting them to center instructional time and resources on preparing students for the exit exam.

Many teachers revised their curricula to focus on the basic skills emphasized on the exam, and made instructional decisions, such as not assigning homework, that compromised students’ college readiness, according to the researchers.

More than half of Green’s students were enrolled in some form of intervention for the exit exam during the time Welton and Williams were collecting data. Because so many students were being steered into these interventions, the school eliminated some advanced placement courses due to low enrollment, the researchers discovered. Some students expressed frustration about the lack of academic rigor in their remaining AP courses, which they linked to inexperienced teachers’ lower academic expectations for students.

Students were highly aware of Green’s negative academic reputation and told the researchers that they felt “stigmatized” and “humiliated” by it.

A high turnover rate among Green’s teaching staff made it difficult for youth to receive the social support that is essential to creating a college-going culture, especially among first-generation college students, the researchers found.

“This school was so focused on meeting the demands of state policy that it was unaware of the toll it was taking on the culture and climate of the school,” Welton said.

“The goal of standards and assessment is to make students more prepared for the rigors of college, but are schools implementing these measures in a way that emphasizes college readiness? Are they sending the message that students should go to college, and assisting them in applying and finding financial aid and scholarships? We should be able to do both — hold schools accountable and create a college-going culture.”

The community surrounding Green High School had experienced a major demographic shift over the prior decade as urban families relocated to the city’s outskirts. However, the researchers observed that school officials and teachers were unprepared to meet the needs of low-income and minority youth, and blamed these students for Green’s academic decline.

While Green implemented some promising programs to increase the number of graduates going to college, these initiatives reached few students, leaving most youth on their own to figure out how to access college information, according to the study.

Although Welton and Williams’ research focused on one school, they believe that other schools across the U.S. are experiencing similar difficulties, suggesting a need to examine the true impact of accountability mandates and help schools develop teaching practices that support students’ academic success and postsecondary aspirations.

“Schools with large populations of youth of color and low-income youth are overwhelmingly targeted for reform initiatives, and, as a society, we need to examine how schools become ‘highly minoritized’ and why they have large numbers of students with various needs,” Welton said.

“In states such as Texas, people of color are the majority population, and we need to rethink how we label schools for reform purposes.”

Rather than centering performance problems on students and teachers, policymakers should take into consideration the systemic injustices and larger sociopolitical contexts in which schools operate,” Williams said. “We also need to be more aware of the impact of labeling schools ‘high minority, high poverty,’ and ‘low performing,’ because these descriptors convey deficit connotations.”

Demographic shift: Students’ college readiness may decline when reform policies shift schools’ instructional focus to improving students’ performance on mandated tests, concludes a new study co-written by education professor Anjale D. Welton. Montrischa Williams of the American Institutes for Research was Welton’s co-author.
Krannert Center announces its varied 2015-16 season

By Jodi Heckel
Arts and Humanities Editor

Krannert Center for the Performing Arts’ 2015-16 season will feature international stars whose roots are in Champaign-Urbana or at the U. of I.
The lineup also includes jazz from a legendary Chicago musician and a big band telling a futuristic urban fable. A baroque orchestra will perform on period instruments, and a percussionist will make music on a bicycle. Flamenco artists, Chinese acrobats and the Moscow Festival Ballet all will occupy a stage during the season.

Early in the season, Julie and Nathan Gunn will give five performances together in a cabaret-style setting in the Studio Theatre. Nathan Gunn is a world-renowned opera singer, the general director of the U. of I.’s Lyric Theatre program, a professor of voice at Illinois and an alumnus. Julie Gunn is a pianist, music director, vocal coach and song arranger, the director of the Lyric Theatre program, a professor of accompanying and an alumna. The couple has performed together in the past in the Great Hall at Krannert Center, but their performances in the Studio Theatre will offer audiences a chance to see them in a more intimate setting.

Singer and songwriter Somi was born in Champaign to African parents and is a U. of I. alumna. She performs a fusion of jazz and African music, and her most recent album, “The Lagos Music Station,” is the product of 18 months spent in Lagos, Nigeria, in search of new inspiration. She’ll also perform in a club-style setting in the Studio Theatre.

In “Steel Hammer,” the SITI Company and Bang on a Can All-Stars explore the cost of hard labor on a person’s body and soul. The music-theater piece, revolving around the legend of John Henry, was written by composer Julia Wolfe of Bang on a Can. Wolfe won the 2015 Pulitzer Prize for music.

The National Theatre of Scotland will present one of its signature pieces, “The Strange Undoing of Prudencia Hart.” The story about an academic’s dreamlike journey of self-discovery is based on Scottish border ballads and features live music, “devilish encounters and wild karaoke.”

Take 6, an a cappella group with 10 Grammys among its numerous musical awards, will take the stage of the Tryon Festival Theatre in March 2016. Its visit will coincide with the Intercollegiate Men’s Choruses Centennial Seminar, to be hosted by the Varsity Men’s Glee Club and director Barrington Coleman.

Legendary jazz drummer Jack DeJohnette of Chicago will make his first appearance at Krannert Center, performing with tap dancer Savion Glover.

JazzReach: An Evening with the Metta Quintet will bring the jazz quintet to the stage, along with local high school students.

Brooklyn Babylon features an 18-piece big band performing an original score and incorporating live painting and projected animation. The urban fable it tells imagines a futuristic Brooklyn with a giant tower in its center.

Among the performers in Krannert’s Great Hall series are some of the finest...
University Primary School
Register now for summer camp
University Primary School will offer Summer Camp for children in the 3- to 7-year-old group from 8 a.m. to 3 p.m. for children ages three to 12. Camp experiences for the 3- to 7-year-old group will primarily occur in the schoolyard and playground, while campers will spend time in the classroom and with staff and friends. Camp experiences for the 7- to 12-year-old group will include art projects and exploration in science. Both groups will be given an array of activities including literacy time. Visit www.education.illinois.edu/ups to download a registration form.

Seifritz Materials Research Laboratory
Material Characterization Workshop
The Frederick Seitz Materials Research Laboratory will host its annual Material Characterization Workshop on the Urbana campus June 2-3. This workshop provides a critical, comparative and condensed overview of characterization facilities at the National Laboratories, characterization with emphasis on practical applications. Sessions will cover basic and advanced topics geared toward both novice and experienced scientists, including

ENGINEERING

Tomasz Kozlowski, a professor of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering, is the 2015 winner of the American Nuclear Society’s Landis Young Member Engineering Award. Kozlowski recognizes an individual who has made significant technical contributions in any one or more of the fields served by the society. He was recognized for the development of advanced computational tools (for best estimate safety codes) and his expertise in the development of the next generation of users of these methods and codes at international workshops.

Daniel P. Shoemaker, a professor of civil and environmental engineering, has been awarded the American Society of Civil Engineers’ 2015 Walter J. Huber Civil Engineering Research Prize for 2015. Ouyang received the prize for his “pioneering research on transportation planning and management, particularly as it relates to sustainable, resilient and safe design of complex transportation networks and integrated transportation systems against internal and external risks and uncertainties.”

David Padua, a professor of computer science, will receive the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers’ (IEEE) 2015 Computer Society Technical Achievement Award. Padua is recognized for his contributions to the multiprocessor architectures and thread-level speculation.

Rizwan Uddin, a professor of nuclear, plasma and radiological engineering, is the 2015 winner of the American Society for Engineering Education’s Glenn Murphy Award for Outstanding Service. Uddin is recognized for his strong and enduring commitment to advancing the quality and impact of education in engineering so that students may fully engage in learning through innovative teaching styles and techniques.

LAS
Brian Allan, a professor of entomology, and Evan DeLucia, a professor of plant biology, have been named members of the American Society of Civil Engineers’ 2015 J. McCowen Distinguished Staff Service Award. Allan is named an early career fellow, an honorary title he will hold for five years. Only a select number of members of the society are selected as members of the J. McCowen Distinguished Staff Service Award. All members are recognized for their contributions and potential contributions to the discipline. Allan is named an early career fellow and has been recognized as a member of ASCS for having made outstanding contributions to a wide range of fields served by the society. The LAS Staff Award is the highest honor that the LAS Staff can bestow upon a member of the LAS Staff. It is awarded to staff members who have made significant contributions to the LAS mission. The LAS Staff Award is the highest honor that the LAS Staff can bestow upon a member of the LAS Staff. It is awarded to staff members who have made significant contributions to the LAS mission.

Karen L. Abbott, 63, died May 5 at her home in Sidney, Illinois. She was a building engineer at the Urbana Center of the Illinois State University Foundation.

Percy McNutt, 73, died May 1 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was a carpenter for the U. of I., retiring in 1999. Memorials: Veterans of Foreign Wars, https://www.vfw.org/Contribute.

Delmar Francis Wilken, 93, died May 4 at his home in Urbana. He worked at the U. of I. for 38 years. He was a professor of agricultural economics and received the LAS Outstanding Faculty Award. He is survived by his wife, who is an Illinois Farm Management Program for U. of I. Extension, retiring in 1985 as professor emeritus.

Krahnert Center, Pritz Foundation
cheaters in the world. The Chicago Symphony Orchestra makes its annual visit to the UIUC’s Illinois Union. The Sinfonia Boroi Orchestra will perform music by George Handel on period or reproduction period instruments, while the Polish Orchestra will feature the music of Tchaikovsky.

Mezzo-soprano Isabel Leonard will perform with Grammy Award-winning classical guitarist Sharon Isbin. Isbin is the artist-in-residence for ELLNORA: The Guitar Festival, which offers an entire season of concerts. Finally, the Utah Symphony Orchestra will feature a percussion soloist when it visits Krahnert for the first time at season’s end next April.

Classical music lovers can hear the Ju- por String Quartet in late September at its first of three performances next season. The Classical Mix series also includes the string quartet Takacs Quartet; cellist Matt Haimovitz and the vocal ensemble Voces8, which will perform “If Music Be the Food of Love,” a concert including Shakespearean song in honor of the 400th anniversary of Shakespeare’s birth; pianist Rich-ard Goode, who will perform a concerto of Haydn’s symphonies; and TToo Voe, a group featur- ing piano, violin and cello, known for its interpretations of music from the Baroque era. Flamenco dancer and choreographer José Porcel and his company will present classic flamenco in “Compaňia Flamenc a José Porcel: Flamenc o Fire.” PHILADANCO, the Philadelphia Dance Company, will present a tribute to its found-er, Joan Myers Brown, as well as to James Brown. Other dance performances next season include the Moscow Ballet Bal-lerinas, which will perform “Swan Lake”; “Don Qui xe” and “Cinderella,” and the Mark Morris Dance Group, returning to its Mid-west home.

Summer season also will include an appearance by The National Circus and Acrobat's of the People’s Republic of Chi-na, and Evelyn Perry's SPIN, “starting the bicycle as muse, musical instrument and agent of social change.” SPIN is inspired by the first woman to ride a bicycle around the world in 1894. The spoken word/theater music performance features a percussionist whose instrument is a bicycle.

Tickets for the 2015-16 season go on sale Aug. 15. A complete schedule is online.

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