Computer tool teaches pronunciation to acting students

By Melissa Mitchell

Move over, Henry Higgins.

The man who transformed Eliza Doolittle into a gentlewoman in “My Fair Lady” may just have a pair of real-life counterparts at the UI, where theater professor Christine Sevec-Johnson and journalism professor Brian Johnson have developed a computer tool for teaching correct English pronunciation to acting students. The tool, called Phonetics Tutor, is a software program designed to enhance the learning of phonetics, a system that describes and analyzes the sounds of a language – in this case, English.

“A number of sounds in the English language have been lost or obliterated during our times,” Sevec-Johnson said. But for actors, who are frequently confronted with the need to portray regional or international dialects, speak like Elizabethans or even deregionalize their own speech, “it’s particularly important to begin by knowing what is standard,” she said. For that reason, acting students are required to study phonetics for a semester and a half at the beginning of their course of study at the UI. They also use phonetics when working on Shakespeare or other classical texts.

To the uninstructed, a college class that focuses on speaking may sound like a no-brainer, but Sevec-Johnson says that’s not the case at all. “It’s actually very complicated, and the book [that the course is based on, “Speak With Distinction” by Edith Skinner] is filled with drills and exercises that are complex and tedious.”

Johnson’s ultimate goal is to acquire permission from the publisher of the course text to market a CD-ROM version as a companion tool.

Keck Center will elevate genome research

By Jim Barlow

A new multidisciplinary center designed for state-of-the-art genome research at the UI will become operational by the fall semester thanks to a $1.25 million grant from the W.M. Keck Foundation of Los Angeles.

The W.M. Keck Center for Comparative and Functional Genomics will elevate the university’s DNA-sequencing capabilities to full-scale genomics and allow researchers to understand how thousands of genes work simultaneously to make functioning organisms.

The Keck Foundation grant will be used to purchase seven automated DNA sequencers, advanced computers, workstations and other related equipment to aid in comparative and functional genome analyses.

The new center will build upon a long history of leadership in microbial, plant and livestock genomics conducted by UI scientists, said Harris Lewin, a professor of animal sciences and director of the UI Bio-technology Center.

“The Keck Foundation grant will boost research in several fields, particularly in biology, medicine and agriculture,” Lewin said. “This is the beginning of a new era for biology on our campus. More than 30 researchers and numerous students from different disciplines will benefit.”

Lewin and Shankar Subramaniam will be co-directors of the center. Subramaniam, a professor of physiology and a scientist at the National Center for Supercomputing Applications, specializes in bioinformatics – the application of computer technology to the comprehensive management of biological information, particularly in genetics.

“The Keck grant to the UI will put the university in the front ranks of those universities sequencing microbial genomes, and greatly enhance its presence in all areas of genomic research,” said microbiologist Carl Woese, who holds the Stanley O. Ikenberry Endowed Chair.

Woese, who changed the way scientists classify life on Earth by his discovery of the archaea, will use the center in his continuing collaboration in a project to sequence genomes of various members of the archaea.

“The center will be located in the Edward R. Madigan Laboratory, 1201 W. Gregory, Urbana. In addition to the Keck grant, the center is receiving $526,000 of university funds and a grant from the Illinois Council for Food and Agriculture Research. The center is a collaborative effort of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences, the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign, the College of Veterinary Medicine, the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, and NCSA.

The foundation’s grant to the center is the second the foundation has given to the Urbana campus. The W.M. Keck Foundation is one of the nation’s largest philanthropic organizations. Its primary mission is to provide grants to universities and colleges throughout the United States, with a particular emphasis in the fields of science, engineering and medical research.
Trustees approve additional retirement programs

By Shannon Vicle

The UI Board of Trustees approved the addition of two new retirement programs for university employees at its Feb. 13 meeting in Urbana.

Under legislation enacted last year, state universities and other agencies covered by the State Universities Retirement System (SURS) have the right to offer their em-

ployees two new retirement options—self-

managed and portable retirement programs.

The board’s approval of the item allows UI employees to participate in those programs, which will be offered through SURS.

The self-managed program allows em-

ployees to direct their retirement contribu-

tions, along with employer contributions, to a broad spectrum of external investment funds.

The portable plan enables employees to remain with the basic SURS umbrella, but provides an option that permits them to with-

draw funds from SURS at a lower penalty than the traditional SURS program.

Under the portable plan, an employee who leaves the university may be able to recover more of his or her retirement account’s value than he or she would under the traditional plan.

All UI employees will be asked to select one retirement program at the time of enrollment. The option they choose will be permanent, and the employee will not be able to switch to another program in the future.

SURS will provide additional informa-

tion, seminars and counseling sessions to assist employees in the decision-making process. It is expected SURS will begin accepting UI employees’ retirement pro-

gram selections by April 1. UI participation will become effective July 1.

New housing for Springfield

The board also approved a $2.5 million construction project to create about 20 more housing units on the university’s Spring-

field campus. The units will provide resi-
dential space for 80 to 100 students.

Currently, there are 126 residential units on the Springfield campus, which house more than 400 students. The project re-

flects an immediate need, since students who used campus housing must be put on a waiting list, said UIS Chancellor Naomi Lynn.

The project will be paid for with funds originally set aside to add two stories to the Paulina Avenue parking structure on the Chicago campus.

After a review of the Chicago project, UI administrators determined that it was no longer in the best interests of the campus, since the site for the new ambulatory care facility is no longer located next to the parking structure and UIC picked up several hundred parking spaces near to a build-

ing it acquired in the area.

BLD Architects of Decatur will con-

struct the townhouse-style residential units on the Springfield campus. The firm has been involved with several housing projects on the Urbana campus, including the con-

struction of Busey, Evans, Taft and Van Doren residence halls, as well as the remod-

eling of Daniels Hall and restoration of Harker Hall.

The fate for the units will be determined during the development of the master plan for the Springfield campus.

In other action on construction projects, the board:

• Approved contracts for elevator reno-

vations at the Clinical Sciences Building in Chicago and the Peabody Drive Residence Halls in Urbana.

• Approved contracts for the expansion of the Cogeneration Facility in Chicago.

• Authorized the remodeling of the Me-

chanical Engineering Building in Urbana and hired an architect for the project.

• Hired an architect for remodeling of the Kiln House in Urbana.

• Hired architects or engineers for sev-

eral repair and renovation projects on the Urbana campus to be funded with state-

appropriated funds.

Among those projects are roof replacements for the Krannert Cent-

er for the Performing Arts, Armory and Physical Plant Services Building.

In other business

Former U.S. Sen. Paul Simon stopped by Friday’s meeting. Simon was on campus to give a lecture to UI law students and to appear at a book-signing.

Simon briefly addressed the board about the need for increased federal funding for education. In 1949, 9 percent of the federal budget was spent on education, but in the previous fiscal year, education garnered only 1.4 percent of the budget, he said.

The trustees also approved the appoint-

ment of Thomas Mengler as the UIUC vost designate and vice chancellor of aca-

demic affairs at the Urbana campus.

Mengler, who will retain his position as dean of the College of Law, will receive an annual salary of $151,250.

Chancellor Michael Aiken gave a report on enhancements in undergraduate educa-

tion at the Urbana-Champaign campus. Among the programs highlighted were the First-Year Impact Program, freshman con-

vocation, first-year Discovery courses, and listening and learning communities in campus residence halls.

Provost Larry Faust also reported on enhancements in general education require-

ments, including requirements for a second course in writing and three semesters of a foreign language.

Student-alumni address board

During a public-comment session Feb. 12, the trustees heard from three speakers:

Taru Kukreja, a junior in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at the Urbana-

Champaign campus, called upon the UI to implement a code of conduct that would help the public monitor the university’s contractual relationships with businesses, private persons and other outside interests.

A code of conduct would help ensure that contractual decisions made at the univer-

sity are ethical and socially responsible, Kukreja said.

Patrick Ory, a 1995 UIUC graduate, expressed his “anger and disappointment” at the university’s handling of issues of color. Specifically, Ory cited the university’s handling of its cultural studies programs and failure to hire a dean of Native American studies.

Brooke Anderson, a sophomore in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at UIUC, extended an invitation to thetrust-

ees to participate in a public panel discuss-

ion on the use of Chief Illiniwek as the UIUC symbol.

During the Friday session of the meet-

ing, members of the Graduate Students’ Organization picked and handed out let-

ters to board members informing them that the organization has filed unfair labor prac-

tice charges against the university concern-

ing its treatment of graduate assistants.

The GEO is charging that the university has converted graduate assistantships to hourly jobs without tuition waivers and that a new merit system has tied the granting of assistantships and salary raises to a gradu-

ate employee’s progress.

Senate approves changes to Athletic

Board, new policy on intellectual property

By Shannon Vicle

The Urbana-Champaign Senate approved several changes to the composition of the Athletic Board at its meeting last week.

The Athletic Board serves as an advis-

ory committee to the chancellor and the ath-

letic director on the fiscal and opera-

tional aspects of intercollegiate athletics.

With the board’s approval of the item allows employees to participate in those programs, which will be offered through SURS.

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ployees to direct their retirement contribu-

tions, along with employer contributions, to a broad spectrum of external investment funds.

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After a review of the Chicago project, UI administrators determined that it was no longer in the best interests of the campus, since the site for the new ambulatory care facility is no longer located next to the parking structure and UIC picked up several hundred parking spaces near to a build-

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ing its treatment of graduate assistants.

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ate employee’s progress.
What is your job at the UI and how long have you worked here?

I'm a certified veterinary technician. I've been here 12 years and I work at the small animal clinic.

What kinds of things do you do as a veterinary technician?

This is a licensed position. We have to take a board exam when we finish school and then 10 hours a year of continuing education. Some of the things we do are under the direction of a veterinarian. We can't diagnose, give rabies vaccines or sign health certificates, but we can do a variety of things. We do a lot of client communication.

I've worked in the emergency room, the ICU [intensive care unit] and most areas of medicine. I've been working in the dermatology section for the past four years since I've found immunology and allergies really interesting. My job includes setting up for the procedures, such as skin tests or laser surgery. One of the things I've done is start up the allergen hot line. Once the doctor diagnoses an animal's problem, we set up treatment therapies to attack the problem and build the immune system. It's just like with humans; We start them on a small dose of what they are allergic to. In order to process the diagnosing [prepare the medication] we use to help the patients. The hot line allows clients to call in and order the allergens for their animals, and if they have questions, to leave a message for me to call them back. People used to call the front desk or the pharmacy, but they need to talk to our department to make an order. I make up their order and they can pick it up or we can mail it to them.

Since animals are so often the cause of people allergies, it's interesting to find that they can have allergies, too. Are people surprised to find that their animal might have an allergy and what they are allergic to?

People are so amazed we can do this kind of thing. Their animals might have itching or watering eyes, but once we diagnose the animal's problem, usually because there is some kind of other infection, we can test for and treat the environmental or inhalant allergies. They can be allergic to house dust, molds, pollen – the same things people can be allergic to. And just like with humans, spring, summer and fall are our busiest times. Animals also can react the same ways as humans to allergens. I usually attend veterinary seminars for my continuing education but a few years ago I attended a human dermatology conference. There were 10,000 people there. I did a poster on allergic reactions in animals, such as hives on horses, and many of the people came by and said, "Wow! Dogs can get that?" and, "You can treat that?" They were just amazed.

How many people are in your department?

It's a great group. We have four people. A staff dermatologist who is a tenured professional, two residents who are attaining their specialty in dermatology and me. You seem to have a real commitment and affection for animals. Do you have any pets yourself?

My husband and I have a small farm. He has a background in animal sciences, too. We have seven dogs, cats, fish, parakeets, a horse, a pony and other assorted animals. We just got some sheep that our two shelties will practice herding. We have two boys, ages 9 and 7, and they help with the chores and are learning how to show the shelties. They're not old enough yet to actually show, but I do 4-H projects with them. We also are involved in sports. I've coached soccer and hope to do that again. We also enjoy scuba diving. I'm interested in marine life and sea creatures.

How do you find time for all this?

I'm just crazy. Eventually I'd like to study marine biology, but as you can tell, I'm a little busy right now. Maybe in the future.

- Nancy Koeneman
IPRH names inaugural fellows, speakers series

B andrea lynn

The UI’s new Illinois Program for Re- search in the Humanities has chosen its inaugural class of fellows.

Set IPRH Faculty Research Fellows and five Graduate Student Fellows have been named for 1998-1999, all of them drawn from the ranks of both graduate and undergraduate students and arts disciplines, and all of them “innova- tive scholars,” said Michael Bérubé, the UI English professor who last fall was named the program’s first director.

The main job of IPRH’s new humanities program is “above all, to galvanize broad- based interest in the arts and humanities both on campus and off,” Bérubé said.

Widely regarded as an articulate and outspoken voice in the so-called “culture wars,” as well as an outstanding scholar- teacher, Bérubé is putting his own scholar- ship on hold to lead the effort to win some overdue recognition for his university’s arts and humanities faculty members and gradu- ate students. Aiding him is Christine Catanzarite, IPRH associate director.

Faculty Research Fellows and their projects:

• Brenda Farnell, anthropology, is exam- ining the construction of identities in the works of contemporary Native American artists and intellectuals. Her project focuses on genres of performance that extend beyond traditional practices in indigenous communities.

• Maria, history, is writing about the cultural history of the segregated citrus-growing areas of Los Angeles County. Cali. His study illuminates how interethnic relations were expressed through several significant artistic and social enterprises between 1900 and 1960.

• Zine Magubane, sociology, is exploring the influence of African-American expres- sive culture on South African cultural pro- duction, from missionary efforts in the early 1900s to today’s hip hop.

• Joseph Squirer, art, is studying the role of artists in the “digital diaspora” and how the world expands its horizon through the world into myriad new tribal alliances.

• Zohreh Sullivan, English, is writing about new diasporic writers who have relocated outside their native lands. Her study exam- ines the ways in which these writers, from Bharti Mukherjee to Derek Walcott, reimagine issues of identity through the construction of new local communities.

• Angharad Valdivia, communications re- search, is examining the salsa-music sub- culture in contemporary Champaign-Urbana.

Graduate Student Fellows are:

• Kevin Cardoza, program in comparative literature; Gregory Dietrich, music; Sascha L. Goloboff, anthropology; Dana E. Katz, art; and Kathleen A. Mapes, history.

IPRH also has announced its inaugural speakers’ series, which is free and open to the public.

All talk will be held in the Levis Faculty Center. Speakers and their topics are:

• Feb. 26, Jewell Parker Rhodes, director of the MFA Program in Creative Writing, Arizona State University, “MAGIC CITY: Re-imagining the Racial Gulf,” 7:30 p.m.

• March 1, D. Date, time and topic to be announced, Columbia University, “How Blacks Al- most Became Immigrants: Social Science Representations of Blacks in Postwar America,” 7:30 p.m.

• Date, time and topic to be announced, Professor of mechanical engineering at the UI, has been serv- ing as acting head of the department since Feb. 1. He is succeeding former head A.L. “Tad” Addy, who has re- tired.

Buckius has been at the UI since 1975. He served as associate head of the department of mechanical and in- dustrial engineering from 1985 to 1987. From 1988 to 1991, he served as associate vice chancellor for research.

During his tenure at the university, Buckius has won several teaching awards, including the university’s highest teaching award, the Samuel Award. For Excellence in Undergradu- ate Teaching (now the Luckman Dis- tinguished Undergraduate Teaching Award), the College of Engineering’s W.L. Evertt Undergraduate Teach- ing Award, and for excellence in the mech- anical and industrial engineering department’s Alumnus Teaching Award, which he has received five times.

He has extensively published in the area of thermal sciences, including heat transfer, fluid dynamics and com- bustion. He also co-wrote “Fundamen- tals of Engineering Thermody- namics,” a widely used textbook now in its second edition.

Buckius earned his bachelor’s, master’s and doctoral degrees in me- chanical engineering from the Uni- versity of California at Berkeley.

deaths

(Continued from page 6)

The Office of Academic Human Resources, Suite 420, 107 W. Wright St., maintains the listees for faculty and academic professional positions. More complete descriptions are available in those offices during regular business hours. For further information contact w 333-1070, ext. 3141, or visit http://www.uiuc.edu/acrh/faculty.htm. Any other information may be obtained from the person indicated in the listing.

Buckius named head of M&E

By Shannen Vicie

Richard O. Buckius has been ap- pointed head of the UI department of mechanical and industrial engineer- ing. The appointment is approved by the UI Board of Trustees at its Feb. 13 meeting in Urbana.

Buckius, a professor of mechanical engineering at the UI, has been serv- ing as acting head of the department since Feb. 1. He is succeeding former head A.L. “Tad” Addy, who has re- tire.
Four named AAAS fellows

By Jim Barlow

Four UI researchers — Paul W. Bohn, Cleora J. D’Arcy, Sung-Mo “Steve” Kang and Steven C. Zimmerman — are among the 270 scientists who were recognized Feb. 14 as new fellows of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Fellowship recognizes “efforts toward advancing science or fostering applications that are deemed scientifically or socially distinguished,” according to the association. With more than 144,000 members, the AAAS is the world’s largest science organization.

The tradition of naming fellows began in 1874. The elected scientists were honored during the AAAS annual meeting Feb. 12-17 in Philadelphia. The AAAS elected the new fellows in late October 1997.

Bohn, a professor and head of the chemistry department, is an expert in the field of analytical spectroscopy in which he explores the domain between molecules and matter. His work has led to the development of atomic force microscopy, which he explores the domain between molecules and matter. His work has led to the development of atomic force microscopy, which is noted for his research in organic chemistry and for his work on the ethical dimensions of being a professional scientist. D’Arcy joined the faculty in 1978. In addition to her teaching and research, she is teaching coordinator for her department.

Kang, a professor and head of the department of electrical and computer engineering, was recognized for his general interest in science and engineering. His research interests include very large-scale integrated microprocessors and network planning. He holds five patents and has co-written six books, including a leading textbook on integrated circuits. He joined the UI faculty in 1985 after spending 10 years as a scientist at AT&T Bell Laboratories in Murray Hill.

Zimmerman, a professor of chemistry, is noted for his research in organic chemistry as it applies to problems in pollution and human disease. His work has led to the development of a molecule that is useful in detecting infected plants and to produce antibodies that can be used to detect infected plants in the field. She also teaches a course on the ethical dimensions of being a professional scientist. D’Arcy joined the faculty in 1978. In addition to her teaching and research, she is teaching coordinator for her department.

Findings indicate trees, grass foster children’s play and encourage adults to supervise

By Jim Barlow

Trees and grass do more than make a person feel closer to nature. In the midst of a public housing complex in inner-city Chicago, such greenery supports children’s play, particularly creative forms of play, and encourages the presence of adult supervision.

The findings — published in the January-February issue of Environment and Behavior — pose implications for urban policymakers and for the general health and well-being of children growing up amid the poverty of America’s concrete jungles, say UI researchers.

In 64 outdoor spaces of Chicago’s Ida B. Wells housing development, almost twice as many children ages 3-12 played in areas with trees and grass than in barren spaces. Creative forms of play occurred considerably more frequently in non- or low-vegetation areas.

“I think from a policy standpoint, the findings about children’s play are exciting because play in general has important implications in children’s development,” said Frances E. Kuo, co-director of the UI Human-Environment Research Laboratory.

Specially trained observers also watched for the presence of adults, finding that children’s access to either partial or full adult supervision was doubled in areas with vegetation. Observations were done during after-school hours and on Saturdays.

The sites, differing only in the amounts of vegetation, are about equal in size and within the complex of 1000- to four-story apartment buildings. On average, 16 families share a single courtyard. Of the 5,700 residents in the complex — one of the 10 poorest neighborhoods in the nation — 97 percent are African American and 44 percent are children under age 14. Unemployment is 93 percent.

“I think the public often has a sense that the conditions of the inner city are at least partially due to the behaviors of individuals who live there,” Kuo said. “It’s important to remember how many children are growing up in these conditions. We want kids to stay in school and be socially responsible and hold decent jobs. We really need to think about the environments they are growing up in.”

Schools can’t be considered the only fix for fostering the healthy development of inner-city children, said study co-author Andrea Faber Taylor, a Jonathan Baldwin Turner graduate fellow at the UI “What about children’s free time? We need to consider where they spend that time. Children need nearby spaces that support activities, such as play that are important for healthy development.”

A new study by four UI researchers confirms that trees and grass have a positive impact on children’s play. The co-authors are (from left) Angela Wiley, visiting assistant director of the UI Children and Family Research Center in the School of Social Work, Andrea Faber Taylor, a Jonathan Baldwin Turner graduate fellow, William C. Sullivan, a landscape architect in the UI department of natural resources and environmental sciences, and Frances E. Kuo, co-director of the UI Human-Environment Research Laboratory. The findings appear in the January-February issue of Environment and Behavior.

The study — funded by the National Urban and Community Forestry Advisory Council — carefully documented previous research that links the importance of play on social and cognitive development of children and the accessibility the children have to responsible adults.

“This study argues that the way we design our cities has a very critical impact on the people who live in them, in particular the children who are growing up there,” said co-author William C. Sullivan, a landscape architect in the UI department of natural resources and environmental sciences.

Fourteen appointed CAS associates

By Shannon Vicol

At its Feb. 13 meeting in Urbana, the UI Board of Trustees appointed 14 professors as CAS associates. The appointments are designed to create the conditions for the pursuit of promising and productive research careers. The CAS addresses the overall research environment within the faculty to encourage the pursuit of promising and productive research careers.

The appointments provide the professors with one semester of release time to carry out work on self-initiated programs of research or professional activity. Associates are selected in an annual competition among the faculty members of all UI colleges and departments.

Two of the appointees have been designated Beckman Associates. Named for UI alumnus and benefactor Arnold O. Beckman, the appointment recognizes outstanding younger candidates who have made distinctive scholarly contributions in the sciences.

Faculty members named Beckman Associates, and the research they intend to pursue:

- Randy McCarthy, mathematics: an application of dual calculus to algebraic K-theory.
- Philip Phillips, physics: the origin of the conducting phase in a two-dimensional electron gas.
- Faculty members named CAS associates, and the research they intend to pursue:
- Narendra Athaig, electrical and computer engineering: structure-based communication of images and video.
- Craig Benthic, geology: groundwater microbiology — specifically the development of quantitative methods, based on principles of geochemical and biogeochemical analysis, for describing the role of bacteria in environmental processes.
- Jayanta Bhakta, linguistics: sociolinguistic analysis of multilingualism in Africa.
- Walter Feinberg, educational policy studies: the reconstruction of a core value model of education.
- Milton Feng, electrical and computer engineering: cryogenic microwave measurement on the fundamental noise properties of transistors in order to search for a noise-free transistor.
- John Wilbert Hill, music: the publication of a book to be titled ‘Baroque Music,’ which will be a synthesis of the history of music during the 17th and early 18th centuries.
- Eric Hostetter, art and design: research on the findings of excavations on the northeast slope of the Palatine Hill in Rome, which will situate those findings within the historical, social and economic contexts of Rome and the empire.
- Alan M. Nathan, physics: experimental investigations of Compton scattering from the nucleus.
- Andrew Pickering, sociology: the development of a new analytical framework of an account that recognizes the co-evolution and reciprocal structuring of specific social formations, technological systems and science.
- David Prochaska, history: approaches for writing world history after Edward
Study shows how to revitalize old brands

By Mark Reutter

Brian Wansink, a professor of marketing at the UI, has made a specialty of studying how to revitalize old packaged goods. At his behavioral lab at the College of Commerce and Business Administration, he uses panels of consumers, test kitchens and cooperating grocery stores to understand what influences "kitchen psychology" or the way consumers buy inexpensive household goods.

In a study of 1,037 homeowners, he found 12 non-traditional uses for a common brand increased usage by 73 percent over ads touting common uses of the same product. The key to repositioning is to make the new use seem different — but not too different — from the established norm.

"Suppose a person sees an ad which encourages her to eat cranberry sauce with a weeknight chicken. Since eating cranberry sauce with chicken is not so very different from eating it with turkey on Thanksgiving Day, this 'attitude halo' can help bring cranberry sauce to mind when ever-weekday chicken is served," he developed.

Brian Wansink, a professor of marketing at the UI, has made a specialty of studying how to revitalize old packaged goods. At his behavioral lab at the College of Commerce and Business Administration, he uses panels of consumers, test kitchens and cooperating grocery stores to understand what influences "kitchen psychology" or the way consumers buy inexpensive household goods. In one study, Wansink found that ads suggesting non-traditional uses for a common brand increased usage by 73 percent over ads touting common uses of the same product.

Nearly 600 UI faculty and staff members — so far — are part of a major initiative to develop a strategic plan for the administration of human resources, business and finance, and information technology.

The plan, commissioned by UI President James Stukel, is to be completed by the end of the current school year. The project is called "S3: Support Services Strategy."

"This is a central part of our overall goal of administering the university in the most efficient and economical way possible," Stukel said. "S3 holds out the promise of streamlining what we do, reducing paperwork and, we expect, making administration serve our essential work of teaching, research and outreach, not the other way around.

Some of the pieces are already in place.

"The university already has moved forward with a procurement redesign and several 'core applications,' such as the electronic, standard time report and the electronic change of status," said Rick King, assistant vice president and director of S3 and director of the University Office for Planning and Budgeting. "If we had started the strategic plan two years ago, those other projects logically would have been part of the plan. As it is, they are fully compatible — just a little out of sequence.

The day-to-day work of the project is managed by a business team, composed of 13 people from all three campuses. That team reports to a steering committee, chaired by Craig Bazazzzi, vice president for business and finance. Separate campus advisory teams meet periodically to review the business team's work and make recommendations as to what the next steps should be. Finally, consultants from Arthur Andersen are working side-by-side on the business team. They provide an outsider perspective and knowledge of strategies that other universities and businesses are successfully using that could be applied to the UI.

Since late November, members of the business team have spoken face-to-face or by telephone with hundreds of university employees in the three target areas. The interviews with "process experts" — employees who know how things are done now — are completed. Several other groups of "end-users" will take part in focus groups and customer-satisfaction surveys. This work will yield an understanding of how the three target areas perform now and will identify possible areas for improvement. All the interviews are confidential and, according to business team members, have been fruitful.

"As we hoped, people have been frank and full of observations and ideas," said Ann Borelli, associate vice president for administration and human resources who is heading up the human resources portion of the project.

The team also is making presentations about the strategic plan to such groups as the Secretariat, the Staff Advisory Councils, the campus senates, and department and college business representatives.

When all this groundwork is done, the team will examine how the university works now and compare that to "best practices" in the public and private sectors. The team then will develop the outline of a strategic plan, which — when widely understood — will enable the university to set priorities and create action plans to get things accomplished. Within the next few weeks, many university employees will be surveyed as the Web about changes. A confidential survey will probe people's feelings about university leadership, communication, values and attitudes about change.

"Any plan will require a resolve to change, and it must project improvements for everyone," said Tony Graziano, associate dean in the College of Engineering. "If the business team does its job well, the campuses surely will embrace the tasks that outline work for years to come."

Although the strategic plan will focus on human resources, business and finance, and information technology, its impacts likely will be felt throughout the entire university. Because of that, the business team hopes to keep all members of the university family interested in the project as it develops.

"The success of S3 depends on good will, our ability to change and patience," Stukel said. "The university needs you to make this happen.

The project Web site is http://s3.ui.uiui.edu. Comments also can be sent to the project office mailbox at 244-8998.

Deaths

Frank Costin

Frank Costin, a former professor, died Feb. 5 at Burke Health Center, Fairfax, Va. He was 80.

Costin was a professor of psychology at the UI. He lived in Champaign for 30 years before moving to Fairfax. He was a member of Sinai Temple while living in Champaign. Survivors include his wife, Lela; two daughters; two sisters; and five grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Alzheimer's Association, Northern Virginia Chapter, 10300 Lee Highway, Suite 210, Fairfax, VA 22030.

Andrew De Grado

Andrew De Grado, professor of music, died Feb. 4 in Madrid, Spain. He was 37.

De Grado received his BA at Kean College of Liberal Arts and Human Sciences, Pennsylvania University. He joined the UI faculty in 1991.

He had a nationwide reputation and has performed in the United States, Europe and Asia as a recitalist, chamber musician and soloist with orchestra.

De Grado began his piano studies at age 4 and was performing by age 12. He was on the University of Iowa, Japan, Europe and Brazil with violinist Joshua Bell and made appearances on the "Tonight Show." He continued to tour with Bell after coming to the UI and also collaborated with UI piano professor Ian Hobson as well as cellists Steven Isleris and Nathaniel Rosen.

He was in Spain on a concert tour with Bell at the time of his death. Survivors include his mother, stepfather, a sister and stepbrother.

Memorial contributions may be made to the UI Foundation. Gifts should be designated for the School of Music's De Grado Memorial Fund.

Gertrude S. Goldhaber

Gertrude S. Goldhaber, former re¬search physicist, died Feb. 2 at Brookhaven Memorial Hospital in Patchogue, N.Y. She was 82.

Goldhaber was born in Germany, where she earned a doctoral degree at the Univer¬sity of Berlin in 1938. She was credited with the discovery that spontaneous fission is associated with the emission of neutrons. She taught physics at the University of Wisconsin and York College as a rec¬search physicist at the UI, but it was classified top secret and not announced until after World War II.

Goldhaber added to the knowledge of the structure of the nucleus when she found regularities in nuclear excited states. She also did research on long-lived isomers and heavy ions. In 1948, while at the UI, she and her husband, Maurice Goldhaber, deter¬mined that beta rays were identical with electrons. She left the UI in 1950 to become the first woman with a Ph.D. in physics on the Brookhaven facility. She retired as a senior scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory in 1976.

She was a elected a fellow of the Ameri¬can Physics Society in 1947 and the Ameri¬can Association for the Advancement of Science in 1980, and to membership in the National Academy of Sciences in 1972.

Orrin Gould

Orrin Gould, professor emeritus, died Jan. 30 at his home. He was 72.

Gould received a bachelor’s degree from Iowa State University and a doctorate from the University of Minnesota. He served as
New statistics show decrease in crimes against people

By Shannon Vicic

Crimes against people decreased by nearly 23 percent on the UI campus and in the surrounding community during the last four months of 1997.

From Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1997, there were 72 crimes against people in the statistical reporting area, down from 93 crimes against people in that area from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1996.

From September to December 1997, there were six more aggravated assaults and batteries in the statistical reporting area, but there were nine fewer sexual assaults and 20 fewer robberies in that area than during the same months of 1996.

On university-owned property, there were 13 crimes against people committed from Sept. 1 to Dec. 31, 1997, five fewer than during the same period of the previous year.

“We’re very pleased to see a pattern of decreased crime in and around our university campus,” said O.J. Clark, chief of the UI police department. “It’s good to know that we’re keeping pace with the national trend of reduced crime.”

However, Clark noted that it’s still too early to tell whether the decrease will be sustained throughout the academic year.

The drop in crime may be attributable in part to the UI police department’s recently implemented coordinated policing efforts with the departments of Champaign and Urbana, he said. This effort with the Champaign department has led to a greater police presence in the northwest quadrant of the statistical reporting area, where the greatest concentration of crimes against people typically occurs.

“We also have increased staffing levels at the UI police department, which has helped us to implement a problem-solving philosophy through which officers and the community work together to address public safety issues,” Clark said.

Captain Kris Fitzpatrick, public information officer for the UI police department, cited safety-education programs as another potential factor in the decrease.

The university sponsors a mandatory sexual-assault awareness program for freshmen and resident-adviser training programs in university residence halls. In addition, university police officers present safety information to students in summer orientation.

The university also continues to sponsor the campuswide Truth or Dare safety campaign to help educate and raise awareness about campus-area crime patterns.

“Since this is the second year of Truth or Dare, we now have two groups of students who have been exposed to those messages, which may mean we have a larger population that’s better educated about staying safe,” Fitzpatrick said.

The UI police department is planning to conduct a survey during the spring semester to help determine whether its safety education programs are reaching students and others on campus.

Some other patterns revealed by the crime statistics:

- Most aggravated assaults and batteries occurred outside, Friday through Sunday, between 9 p.m. and 6 a.m.
- Men were victims of aggravated assaults and batteries nearly five times as often as women.
- An equal number of men and women were victims of robberies. Robberies occurred nearly every day of the week.
- Most thefts are the result of personal belongings being left unattended in places and situations where they can easily be taken.
- Credit cards were stolen more often than any other property.
- The crime report is the first of three statistical reports on campus-area crime to be released this year by the police department. The second report will be released in May, covering both semesters of this academic year, and the third will be released in September, covering the year ending Aug. 31.

The UI Department of Public Safety maintains a Web page at http://www.dps.uiuc.edu/.

Crime Map

Sept. 1, 1997 through Dec. 31, 1997

The statistical reporting area includes both the UI campus and neighboring parts of Champaign and Urbana. It is bordered by the Illinois Central railroad tracks on the west (near Neil Street), Race Street on the east, University Avenue on the north and Windsor Avenue on the south. The shaded area on the map represents the area covered by the campus master plan and therefore roughly encompasses university-owned property but also includes property and businesses owned by others. However, the shaded area differs significantly from the jurisdiction of the UI Police Department as well as the area from which the department draws its annual campus-only statistics for federal reports.
Asian American Awareness Month

Asian American Studies Committee and the Office of the Dean of Students sponsors a variety of Asian American Affairs are sponsoring the following lectures and an Asian American Film Festival in observance of Asian American Awareness month at the University of Illinois.

- “Beyond the Immigrant Paradigm: The Situation of Asian Americans and the Filipino Diaspora.” 4 p.m. March 2, third floor Levis Faculty Center. E. San Juan, professor of Ethnic Studies, Bowling Green State University, will use the documentary film “Savage Acts: Wars and Fairs” to approach the situation of Filipinos in the United States as a product of a long historical process that began with the colonization of the Philippines at the turn of the century. A CAS/MillerComm98 lecture.

- "Redefining America: Asian Americans and Asian American Studies in the University” 4 p.m. March 11, third floor Levis Faculty Center. Kenyon Chan, founding chair of the Asian American studies department and the director of the Liberal Studies Program at California State University, Northridge. The lecture will examine and interrogate “Asian American” as a social and political construction and its contributions in defining the new American identity. Further, this lecture will situate Asian American studies within the university and define how this relatively new field of scholarship broadens and deepens our understanding of life in the United States.

- "Asian American Film Festival" 7:30 p.m. nightly March 5-6, Main Library. March 5: "Sewing Woman” (1982), 14 minutes. "Forbidden City, U.S.A.” (1989), 56 minutes.
- March 6: "Licensed to Kill” (1997), 80 minutes.
- March 7: "aka Don Bonus” (1995), 55 minutes.

For more information, contact Jonathan Ying, jying@staff.uiuc.edu or 333-0050. Information for the events also may be found at the 1998 Asian American Awareness Month Web site at http://www.osos.uiuc.edu/aspas/aaaw08.htm.

Children may audition for spring musical

Two child actors are needed for the Illini Union Board's spring musical, “Tommy.” Boys and girls, ages 4 to 13, may audition for the younger roles of Tommy and must be able to sing well. Auditions will be from noon to 5 p.m. Feb. 21 in the Illini Union Ballroom and from 1 to 4 p.m. Feb. 22 in 314 Illini Union. Children's rehearsal times likely will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The show will be presented at 8 p.m. April 24, and at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 25. For more information, contact Nikki Sansone at 333-3663 or by e-mail at nsansone@students.uiuc.edu.

CDL accepting child-care applications

The UI Child Development Laboratory is accepting applications for the 1998-99 school year until April 1. Half-day preschool programs for 2-, 3-, and 4-year-old children meet Tuesday through Friday for three hours a day during the regular academic year. Full-day child-care programs for 3- and 4-year-old children are in session Monday through Friday for five hours a day, five days a week. For further information or to obtain an application, call Debbie Trought at 244-8063.

Kinley lecture announced

"Rethinking Myths About Education and Training" is the title of this year’s David Kinley Lecture presented by James J. Heckman, an economist who evaluates the impact of this year's David Kinley Lecture presented by James J. Heckman, an economist who evaluates the impact of

- "Evaluating Social at 7:30 p.m. March 5 in the Foellinger Auditorium.
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WILL-FM signal strong at 101.1

The broadcast, scheduled from 1 to 3 p.m., will be followed by local case studies and discussion. Although registration is full for the conference, people may call 333-5010 or e-mail winson@uiuc.edu to be put on a waiting list. "Every Student a Reader: more about the teleconference visit http://www.pbs.org/learn/als/programs/live/market/.

The telecast is sponsored by the Continuing Education and Public Service. Continuing Engineering Education and the Campus Communications Council.

Program sponsors two lectures

The Program in South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies is sponsoring two lectures this month. “Women’s Rights to Property and Other Splendid Myths About Women’s Na races' will be presented at 8 p.m. April 24, and at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 22 in 314 Illini Union. Children's rehearsal times likely will be from 5 to 8 p.m. Monday through Thursday. The show will be presented at 8 p.m. April 24, and at 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. April 25. For more information, contact Nikki Sansone at 333-3663 or by e-mail at nsansone@students.uiuc.edu.

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calendar of events

19 Thursday
“The American-Jewish Relationship.” Moron Medlan, Hebrew University and Tel Aviv University. 7:30 p.m. 314A Illini Union. South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies Discussion. Plym Foundation. ETHELYN PROGRAM FOR JEWISH CULTURE AND SOCIETY, DISARMAMENT AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY.
20 Friday
“Trust Our Welfare to Work.” Kathy Simms, Center for Women in Transition. Lunch 11-45 a.m.; speaker 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Friday Forum.
23 Monday
“Mud Pits and Blooscks: The Role of Imagination in Tectonic Process.” Marco Frascari, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University. 7 p.m. Plym Auditorium, Temple Hoyne Buell Hall.
24 Tuesday
“Teaching Classroom Technology into the Fabric of Effective College Pedagogy.” Marie Helsegen, U. of Illinois at Chicago. 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Know Your University.
26 Thursday
“Magic City: Re-imagining the Racial Gaud.” Jewell Parker Rhodes, Arizona State University. 7:30 p.m. 407 Levis Faculty Center. Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.
27 Friday
“Who Is There Humoriness in a Boomming Economy?” Leonard Koren, University of Illinois. 11-45 a.m.; speaker 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Friday Forum.
2 Monday
“Beyond the Imminent Paradigm: The Situation of Asian Americans and the Philippine Diaspora.” E. Evan Hsu, Bowling Green State University. 3 p.m. Third floor, Levis Faculty Center. Center for Advanced Studies.
3 Tuesday
“The Role of Imagination in Humanities.” Jewell Parker Rhodes. 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Auditorium.
8 Sunday
“Universal Service in the Digital Age: The US and the Telecommunications and Information Infrastructure.” Peter D. Neumann, University of Cambridge. 4 p.m. 141 Loomis Lab. Physics.
10 Friday
“Cardiovascular Toxicity of Fumonisins in Swine.” Peter D. Neumann, University of Cambridge. 4 p.m. 141 Loomis Lab. Physics.
15 Tuesday
“Digital Age: The Future of Information and Medicine.” Dan Schrag, Harvard University. 4 p.m. 316 Lincoln Hall.
19 Thursday
“The Role of Imagination in Humanities.” Jewell Parker Rhodes. 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Auditorium.
23 Monday
“Miniaturized NMR: Instrumentation for Trace Analysis and Detection.” Tim Peck, UI. Lunch 11:55 a.m.; speaker 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Know Your University.
24 Tuesday
“Saving Nature’s Legacy: Conservation Biology and Planning on a Regional Scale.” Reed Noss, Society for Conservation Biology and Conservation. 4 p.m. 103 Mumford Hall.
26 Thursday
“India, Women, Migration: Gendering the National Body.” Rhythmia Monja, UI. Noon. Women’s Studies Building, 911 S. Sixth St., Champaign. Women’s Studies. 4 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Friday Forum.
31 Friday
“The Trip.” Jon Gunderson, UI. 8:30 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.
8 Sunday
“Reckless.” Rick Barrows, director; and “Zipless.” Sean Aguilar, director, and “The Trip.” Labya Pugh, director. 8 p.m. UI Armony. Armony Free Theater.
12 Thursday
“The Valentine Fairy” and “Zilpah.” Sean Aguilar, director; and “The Trip.” Labya Pugh, director. 8 p.m. UI Armony. Armony Free Theater.
16 Saturday
“The Valentine Fairy” and “Zilpah.” Sean Aguilar, director; and “The Trip.” Labya Pugh, director. 8 p.m. UI Armony. Armony Free Theater.
20 Friday
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23 Monday
“A Brief History of Just-in-Time.” Urs Hezel, University of California, Berkeley. 4 p.m. 3320 Digital Computer Laboratory. Computer Science.
24 Tuesday
“Women’s Rights to Property and Other Spousal Myths About Women’s Nature: Contemporary Indian Women’s Inheritance Norms.” Sharmi Banerjee, University of California, Berkeley. 4 p.m. 3320 Digital Computer Laboratory. Computer Science.
28 Saturday
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807 S. Wright St., Suite 520 East, Champaign, MC-314, or to insideil@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 330-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is available at http://www.uiuc.edu/calendar/.
28 Saturday

“The Pirates of Penzance.” 8 p.m. Tryon Festival Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

29 Sunday


30 Friday

“The Pirates of Penzance.” 8 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

“RCO.” 8 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

“RCO.” 8 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

26 Thursday

Master of Music Recital. 11 a.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

27 Friday

Senior Recital. 5 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

28 Saturday

Composition Division Recital. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Concert of Taiwanese female composers. Admission charge.

Undergraduate Recital. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

Doctor of Musical Arts Recital. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

29 Sunday

Music Festival. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Concert of Taiwanese female composers. Admission charge.

25 Wednesday

Master of Music Recital. 11 a.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

24 Tuesday

Music Festival. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Concert of Taiwanese female composers. Admission charge.

23 Monday

Assistant Professor Recital. 7:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

22 Sunday

Symphony String Quartet. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

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9 Monday

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8 Sunday

Symphony String Quartet. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

7 Saturday

“The Pirates of Penzance” in the Colwell Playhouse at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Rachel Lampert is the guest director for the production with performances at 8 p.m. Feb. 28 and March 5, 6 and 7 at 3 p.m. March 1 and 2. In this rousing Gilbert & Sullivan musical, a band of pirates storms the beaches of the Fiji Islands and, with thoughts of marriage, captures the daughters of a British major general stationed there.

“This is a show about innocence, youth and love,” Lampert said. “It’sunny and energetic. “Displaying both their comedic and singing talents, are Kriska Motley as Mabel, Daniel Tatar as Frederic (foreground) and David Beeeman as the pirate king. Accompanying the cast are pianists James Wells, also the production’s music director, and Nicholas Temperey, professor emeritus of music and a Gilbert & Sullivan expert.

26 Thursday

Master of Music Recital. 11 a.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program will feature two new works written for J.B. Smith by students. Admission charge.

25 Wednesday

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22 Sunday

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4 Wednesday

Interval; Live Arts and Lunch. 1 p.m. Segar Building, Mariachi Band. Noon. Fellowship Great Hall, Krannert Center. An evening with Rodgers and Hammerstein in a tribute to America’s favorite musicals. Admission charge.

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(Continued from page 9)
22 Saturday

25 Wednesday

28 Saturday
Insect Fear Film Festival. 7 p.m. Foellinger Auditorium. Featuring a variety of short films in addition to feature films. Also mechanical insects, T-shirts, displays of a variety of cockroach species. Entomology and Entomology Graduate Student Association.

3 Tuesday
Asian American Film Festival: "Sewing Woman of Forbidden City." Arthur Dong, director. 7:30 p.m. 66 Library. Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific American Affairs.

4 Wednesday
Asian American Film Festival: "Licensed to Kill." Arthur Dong, director. 7:30 p.m. 66 Library. Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific American Affairs.

5 Thursday
Asian American Film Festival: "aka Don Bonus." Spencer Nakakudo and Sekiy Niy, directors. 7:30 p.m. 66 Library. Asian American Studies and Asian Pacific American Affairs.

22 Sunday
Opéra Theater. Illinois Opera Theater.

25 Wednesday
"La Bohème." Kurt Klipstatter, conductor, and Richard Barrett, guest director. 3 p.m. Tryon Festival Theater, Krannert Center. Sung in Italian with English surtitles. Admission charge.

1 Saturday
"La Bohème." Kurt Klipstatter, conductor, and Richard Barrett, guest director. 8 p.m. Tryon Festival Theater, Krannert Center. Sung in Italian with English surtitles. Admission charge.

Ray, piano; and Claudia Bobak, soprano; Steven Chester Alwes, conductors. 7 p.m. Huff Gym. Admission charge.

30 Thursday

Women's Gymnastics. UI vs. Illinois State University. 7 p.m. Huff Hall. Admission charge.

19 Thursday
Coffee Hour: Kenyan. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Richard Makopendo, Kenyan Student Association, will present a talk about his native country. For more information, call 367-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

22 Sunday
International Dinner Series: Indian. 6 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Members of the Indian Student Association will collaborate on a feast. For more information and to make reservations, call 367-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

26 Thursday
"The Indispensable Employers." 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Third floor, Levis Faculty Center. Registration required; call 333-8342. Human Resources Development.

Reading and book signing, 4:30 p.m. Author's center, second floor, Illini Union Bookstore. Jewell Parker Rhodes will read from and sign copies of her latest book, "Magic City." For more information, call 333-2050. Illini Union Bookstore.

Coffee Hour: Japanese. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. An interactive demonstration by Karamu Ohta on how to prepare sushi. For more information, call 367-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

1 Sunday
Easter Egg Painting and Ukrainian Egg Decorating. 2 p.m. World Heritage Museum. Vera Samycia, Chicago, will demonstrate Easter egg painting and lead a workshop on decorating Ukrainian eggs. For more information and to register, call 333-2560. Admission charge. World Heritage Museum.

4 Wednesday
"Handling Employee Discipline and Performance Mistakes." 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Third floor, Levis Faculty Center. Registration required; call 333-8342. Human Resources Development.

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Cockroach is featured guest at Insect Fear Film Festival

By Jim Barlow

One of the world’s most dreaded enemies—the cockroach—is returning as guest of honor Friday at the 15th annual Insect Fear Film Festival at the UI.

The unsung creature, against which Americans commonly deploy $250 million worth of toxins every year, was first featured as the focus of a festival in 1991. This year’s event, dubbed “Roaches Redux,” brings them back to showcase films of 1996 and 1997, beginning at 7 p.m. in Altgeld Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

The return of the cockroach to the festival—hail from UI entomologist May Berenbaum as a fun way to educate people about insects—is no coincidence. In fact, cockroaches are reproducing rapidly as central characters on the big screen. Berenbaum wrote in a 1996 issue of the American Entomologist. At the rate they are appearing on screen, she calculated that by the 22nd century there will be 300 cockroach films every five years (or about one a week). All this for an insect that humans would rather kill than understand.

Berenbaum is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and head of the UI entomology department, and her supporting cast includes UI’s Graduate Student Association, plan a diverse evening of films of 1996 and 1997, beginning at 7 p.m. in Altgeld Hall. Doors open at 6 p.m. Admission is free.

So we should love them because they are good! “Well good is a relative term, isn’t it? Good for whom? Most cockroaches are detritivores; they eat dead stuff,” she explained. “And humans tend to keep to a dead stuff in their homes.”

Cockroaches live in places, too, such as ant nests, in deserts, in rotting logs, she noted. “They live in all kinds of habitats where they happen consume decaying material and contribute to the release of nutrients back into the ecosystem.”

Other creatures actually depend on cockroaches. There are tiny mites that live on the bodies of cockroaches, and tiny wasps lay their eggs inside the egg cases of cockroaches.

“Allcockroaches are interested in

Crawling into your underwear drawer,” Berenbaum said. Some species, she added, show advanced maternal behavior and have sophisticated chemical communications systems.

Last year’s event drew about 1,100 attendees. This year’s event will feature a variety of short films, as well as mechanical cockroach robots, T-shirts, roach racing and trivia, and displays of a variety of cockroach species, insect mummies, as always, will be available for consumption, but cockroach roaches will not be there. Cockroaches are used for food and medicinal purposes by indigenous tribes in such places as Thailand, Australia and French Guiana.

May Berenbaum, a member of the National Academy of Sciences and head of the UI entomology department, demonstrates a mechanical cockroach robot that will be part of the 15th annual Insect Fear Film Festival Feb. 28. Berenbaum began creating films as a way to educate people about insects.

http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/