Contributions from gaming interests threaten political process

By Mark Reuter

Political contributions by the gambling industry have increased sevenfold over the last three election cycles and "threaten to overwhelm governmental decision making," a UI expert writes in a just-published academic article.

In "Follow the Money: Gambling, Ethics and Subpoenas," John W. Kindt, professor of commerce and legal policy at the UI, analyzed data on the contributions by gambling interests in federal elections. His results were published in The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science last month.

Kindt reported that gambling interests increased their contributions to $5.4 million in the 1995-96 federal election cycle, including $3.7 million in "soft-money" donations that go to political action committees (PACs) rather than to specific candidates.

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The gambling industry funneled $1.6 million in soft money in the 1993-94 federal election cycle and $457,600 in the 1991-92 election cycle.

Over the same 1991-96 period, according to Kindt, more than $100 million in contributions were made to political campaigns on the state level, where legislatures have the power to legalize or expand gambling. "The industry spent, for example, $16.5 million in a 1994 campaign to legalize casinos in Florida, which was more than was spent on the 1994 gubernatorial campaigns of Gov. Lawton Chiles and his challenger Jeb Bush combined," he wrote.

The UI professor has written extensively about the gambling industry and has testified before various legislative bodies.

"The research documents that casino operators have become one of the most powerful lobbying forces in many parts of the country," Kindt said in an interview. "In New Jersey, however, there are three ethics rules that regulate contributions by gambling interests to politicians and their campaigns.

"Otherwise, there are no meaningful safeguards regarding the industry's influence in the political arena," Kindt said. "This is especially worrisome from a policy standpoint because legalized gambling can be approved or disapproved if the public perceives the industry's influence to be too great."

New program spruces up old buildings

The UI campus is filled with historic buildings and an architectural legacy dating back to the mid 19th century. But some of these historic – some would call them 'old' – buildings are in need of a little extra tender loving care.

The UI Division of Operation and Maintenance has decided to provide that TLC in the form of a new program that started on a trial basis last week. Altgeld Hall was the first recipient of the extra attention.

The revitalization program – which does not have an official project name yet – is a concentrated effort and the project coordinator. "We hope not only to improve the building's appearance but also to improve morale among the occupants of the building."

According to Tess Rannebarger, math business office secretary, "residents" of Altgeld seem pleased with the quality and quantity of the work done. "Everyone involved in the cleanup was pleasant and helpful," said Rannebarger. "The entire operation went very smoothly and everyone has been pleased with the results."

I think removing the clutter has brightened everyone's outlook."
Faculty/Staff emergency fund seeks donations

When Deloris Holiman, business manager at the UI Library, saw several co-workers suffering through financial difficulties, she felt there should be a campus fund to help faculty and staff members weather those hard times.

Six years later, the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund has disbursed more than $70,000, helping more than 200 employees and their families.

One employee had a house fire. While her insurance took care of some of the bill, it didn’t provide for some items like work clothes that she lost in the fire. The Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund provided immediate help so she could purchase clothes for work. She was grateful for the assistance she received. “I came at a time when we really needed it. Thank you. The program is wonderful and it has helped our home and our lives are normal again.”

Another employee missed a lot of work due to illness. “I’ve been ill for many days and eventually required an 18-day hospitalization. The employee was only paid for two days before she had depleted her sick leave benefits due to his ongoing medical problems. Funds she received from the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund helped her purchase medical products for him that were not covered by their health insurance, as well as to pay a utility bill. She said, “I didn’t know where to turn for help. My little boy needed the medical supplies, and I needed help with our utility bill. I was very grateful that the Faculty/Staff Emergency Fund was there to provide help.”

Funded fully by donations from colleagues, families and friends, Holiman is thankful to the many who have assisted in making this a success story. “All of us – the faculty and staff members who have contributed to the fund, all of us need to think about building an endowment,” Holiman said.

Contributions of any amount may be made to the fund. Checks should be made payable to UIF/UUIUC Faculty/Staff Emer- gency Fund and mailed to the UI Founda- tion, Harker Hall, MC-386.

Faculty and staff members, academic professionals, department heads, retirees and members of the employee’s household are eligible for funds administered by the Faculty/Staff Assistance Program. All con- tacts should be confidential. Funds are available immedi- ately. Robert Heldman, research analyst, systems analyst or related field is available at 333-3147. He can be reached by phone at 244-5312. E-mail him at rheldman@uiuc.edu. Closing date: May 17.

The Office of Academic Human Resources, Suite 420, 107 W. Green St., maintains the listings for faculty and academic professional positions. The listings are available in that office during regular business hours. Job listings are also updated weekly on its Web site at: http://www.oc.uiuc.edu/hrjobs.htm. Any other information may be obtained from the person indicated in the listing.

Clarification

For the article “Population shifts being studied from arts, humanities perspective” that ran in the March 19 issue of Inside Illinois:

The Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities’ advisory committee, which recently helped choose IRPH’s first set of faculty and graduate student Research Fellows, is composed of “faculty from a wide range of disciplines and institutional locations in the university, with different interests but also with a history of commit- ment to the arts and humanities at the UI,” said Michael Birnbaum, inaugural IRPH director. The advisory committee includes Birnbaum and IRPH associate director Christine Catanzarite; Jean-Philippe Mathy, French; Sonya Michel, history and director of women’s studies; Melissa Ortle, political science; Kathy Perkins, theater; S. Leigh Star, Graduate School of Library and Information Science; and Thomas Turino, School of Music. Members serve staggered two-year terms.

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Calendar
Student Assistant

News Bureau contributors:
John Barcus,
Bill Wiegand,
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Director and principal.

Champaign, conducts open and continuous testing for civil service classifications and laboratory certifications. More information is available by calling 333-2137. Visit us at: Wb site at: http://www.uiuc.edu/provider psocps.html

The Academic Information Systems and Computing Services (AISCS) is a large academic information systems consultant. AISCS is responsible for providing a significant EPX experience and background in business management required. Available immediately. Lawrence Bronson, 333- 1596, cmtg@uiuc.edu. Closing date: May 1.

Administrative Information Systems (AIS) is responsible for providing technical support, including minimum 18 years' experience in business management required and information technology. Available immediately. Susan Nelson McLaren, 333- 6833, asong@uiuc.edu. Closing date: April 22. Full-time position.

Computer support specialist. BA/BS in computer science or related area and minimum six years' experience required. Available immediately. Christine Catanzarite; Jean-Philippe Mathy, French; Sonya Michel, history and director of women’s studies; Melissa Ortle, political science; Kathy Perkins, theater; S. Leigh Star, Graduate School of Library and Information Science; and Thomas Turino, School of Music. Members serve staggered two-year terms.

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What is your job at the UI and how long have you worked here?

I'm an operator with Printing Services at the Undergraduate Library Graphics Services. I've worked for the UI since 1988, starting as extra help while I went to Parkland College. I've been here full-time for seven years.

What do you do as an operator at the Undergraduate Library Graphics Services?

I manage this satellite office for Quick Copy – one of 10 offices on campus that are part of Printing Services. I manage the day-to-day operations of this shop and have seven students who work for me. This is a new office that opened in January.

What kinds of services does your office provide?

Students using the computers at the library can send items to us, through the computer, to be printed on our laser printer for a fee. We also have a scanner that we use for putting reserve readings on the network. Professors used to have notes on reserve and students could check them out for a few hours. Now they have the option of looking them up on public terminals and printing out a copy. We also have a large-format copier that is a scanner, printer and server. We can do blueprints, maps – anything up to 36 inches wide and 500 feet long, I guess, since that’s how long the roll of paper on the copier is. We can do color copies and regular copies. We also sell film and film processing. This is all brand new equipment and brand new technology. We were lucky because IBM wanted to do some beta testing on new equipment. We’ve had some of this equipment since November, but it didn’t come out on the market until January. We helped them work out some of the bugs. Everything here is on the network and we hope to soon be able to take jobs from departments on campus through the network. We are lucky here in that we have more leeway than other Quick Copy offices and can take payment not only through department accounts, but through checks and cash, so we’re able to deal with the public more easily.

So do you run a copier all day?

That’s what people think I do – the same thing every day – run a copier. Sure when I’m doing copies, I’m doing copies, but I get to hop from one job to another easily.

What do you like to do outside of work?

I haven’t much time for anything except helping to rebuild my parents’ home which was destroyed by a tornado. Rebuilding took about six months. We worked every night of the week and every weekend with very few days off. It’s ironic because my whole family lives in Ogden. We have the four corners of town covered. We all had some damage, but we were all able to still live in our homes except for my parents. The night of the tornado, we had 15 people at our parents’ house. My great-aunt was there and my sister was there with her 3-day-old baby. When they put out the warnings, we didn’t really pay attention. We pay attention now. It was really sudden. We didn’t really have time to get things done to our homes. We had to grab items and come to the village for purposes other than just to get to a classroom.

The village – actually a site on the World Wide Web – is still very much in the prototype stage. Mastny noted. Construction began about nine months ago, and content developers expect the site to continue to evolve as users begin to discover and use it. At this stage of development, the village comprises several neighborhoods and subdivisions open for exploration. Visitors can click on a number of places to see charts, graphs, or interactive maps about CEPS programs, classrooms, distance learning, instructor’s tools, student services, library and information services and communication technologies. Another feature of the village is a “chat” area which allows students to communicate with one another, or with other students, instructors or Web Tech Group staff members who may be logged on to the system. Still under development are areas such as Illinois Blvd., which will include everything from news and weather updates to information about student and alumni organizations and cultural and sports events at the UI, and the Village Monitor, an electronic magazine. Guided tours, site maps and “help” options are also planned.

Mastny noted that a primary goal in developing the IDEA Village was “to create some online presence” so distance learners don’t feel isolated. “There will actually be people there,” he said, “who want to talk to you.”

Another idea the Web Tech Group is working on, Wadsworth said, is compiling a database of experts. When a student enters the online help desk with an inquiry, “we perform a quick search of a database of experts currently online and will be able to put the expert and the person with questions in a ‘room’ with each other,” where they can communicate directly.

While the IDEA Village was conceived mainly to serve distance learners, graduate student Carey Campbell, one of the Web Tech Group’s content developers, said, “UI faculty and staff members will be part of the community and will benefit as well.”

The most obvious form of participation will take place when village support staff members receive inquiries from off-campus students and field questions to faculty and staff members and students on campus. But campus users – and anyone else who visits the Web site – also may access useful information on the site. For instance, faculty members may want to browse information in the “instructor’s tools” or “communication technologies” sections.

Mastny sees yet another benefit for campus faculty and staff members.

“I’m fairly convinced that the IDEA Village could be of use to other populations on campus as well – a template or tool. In the future, we could see multiple villages that will come to a larger village.”

The URL for IDEA Village is www.library.uiuc.edu.

New database offers access to nine years of the "QB" staff members in the UI’s Office of Continuing Education and Public Service believe that in today’s fast-paced, high-tech world, it takes more than state-of-the-art communication technologies to run a successful distance-learning program. It takes a village.

With that in mind, CEPS’s Web Technology Group has constructed the IDEA Village, a new virtual community designed to serve as a common destination for distance learners in search of information, resources, services, online support and even social interaction.

The purpose of IDEA Village is to create a sense of community for those students enrolled in distance learning, either through extramural courses or the Guided Individual Study program," said Fred Mastny, CEPS’s associate head for distance learning.

“Within a village context, the hope is that students will take ownership and come to the village for purposes other than just to get to a classroom.”

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It is now possible to search an archive of nine years of Question Board questions and answers. The Question Board archives is available at www.library.uiuc.edu/ql/get_boardsearch.htm. Users simply type in keywords and the search results of relevant questions and answers, complete with sources consulted and date of the answer, are given.

The Question Board archives, which contains nearly 3,000 questions and answers dating back to 1989, complements the existing Question Board Online, which allows users to submit questions and check current answers via the World Wide Web. Established last summer, Question Board Online is at www.library.uiuc.edu/ugb/ql/default.asp.

The original Question Board, established in 1970, is a cork bulletin board located on the lower level of the Undergraduate Library. Affectionately nicknamed “QB,” it provides an outlet for patrons to anonymously pose questions on a wide variety of subjects, ranging from the trivial to the sensitive. The Question Board is an extension of the Undergraduate Library’s Reference Desk.
Gerontology conference set for May 1

The eighth annual Spring Conference on Gerontology and Aging will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 4:15 p.m. May 1 at the Levis Faculty Center. “The Brain and Aging: From Genes to Human Performance” will be the topic of the conference hosted by the UI department of community health and Office of Gerontology and Aging Studies.

The conference is designed to enhance participants’ knowledge and understanding of vital issues for health and aging. There will be three lectures in the morning devoted to the biological processes of the aging brain. The afternoon session will focus on brain-related changes in motor performance in the elderly, such as clinical implications, treatment and community/legal issues.

The $50 conference fee will be waived for UI students and faculty and staff members. Participants may request a free certificate of attendance to apply for CEUs (continuing education units) from their professional organization. The deadline for advance registration is April 25. A limited supply of conference materials will be available for those registering on day of the conference. For further information, call 333-6993.

Run for the Roses is April 18

Alpha Omicron Pi is holding its seventh annual Run for the Roses to benefit arthritic research. The 5K/10K run/walk will begin at 9:30 a.m. April 18 at Crystal Lake Park, Urbana. There will be live music, race T-shirts, a continental breakfast after the race and awards for all age groups.

Registration is $12 if postmarked by April 10 or $15 after. Participants may come early on race day to register. For more information, contact Michelle Svetic at 367-1153 or svetic@uiuc.edu.

Foreign language classes to be offered

Free foreign language classes for faculty and staff members and their spouses and dependents again will be offered during summer Intersession I. The Intensive Foreign Language Intersession Program (IFLIP) will offer noncredit courses in beginning, intermediate and advanced French, German and Spanish; and beginning Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. Classes will be from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., Monday through Friday, May 18 to June 5.

Each class is limited to 25 participants with enrollment on a first-come, first-served basis. Deadline for registration is May 14. For more information and registration forms, contact Cheryl E. Schnuer at 333-5010 or e-mail schnuer@uiuc.edu. The lecture is presented by the Library Colloquium Committee.

‘Taste of the Arts’ to be April 18

The Krannert Center Student Association will host its first “Taste of the Arts” from 5 to 8 p.m. April 18 in the main lobby of the UI’s 1947按 the program, Berenbaum said she was pleased to have a scholar who had a special interest that relates to the sea. The person who finds the most interesting challenge is one who lives the most of his time to the sea. The world's first fish will be a large sea fish. Entries will be judged by the museum staff members with a prize to be awarded by the museum.

The World Heritage Museum is located on the fourth floor of Lincoln Hall.

University Primary accepts summer apps

University Primary School is accepting applications for its summer program. The program is open to 4-, 5- and 6-year-olds and those children who will be 3 years old by July 1. Deadlines for submitting applications are May 1 and May 15.

The program is divided into two sessions. The first session is four weeks, June 22 through July 17, and the second session is two weeks, July 20 through August 3. Tuition is $200 for session 1 and $100 for session 2. Applications may be submitted either at the University Primary School’s Children’s Rechenzelle and the Children’s Research Center, 51 Gerty Drive or Colonel Wolfe School, 404 E. Healey. For more information, call 333-3996 (mornings) or 333-4892 (afternoons).

Retiree supplement published

The offices of Publications and Administrative Information Systems and Services have published a supplement to the Student/Staff Directory. The supplement contains names, addresses and phone numbers of retired faculty and staff members who were inadvertently omitted from the current directory. Copies of the supplement have been distributed to all campus units and to retirees residing in Champaign-Urbana. Additional copies may be requested by writing Directory Editor, Office of Publications, 807 S. Wright St., Suite 520, MC-315.

A change in the shared benefits program

The shared benefits program was implemented in 1994 and established a sick-leave pool for employees who have exhausted leave balances but who are unable to work due to an illness or accident. The shared benefits program provides a disability claim pending before the State University Retirement System.

In addition to establishing the Shared Benefits Program for staff employees may be directed to Sue McCree at 333-2144. Academic employees should contact Kathy Seybert at 333-2947.

Procedures Manual updated

The online Business and Financial Policies and Procedures Manual, at http://www.oba.uiuc.edu/ manual, has been updated with revisions noted under “What’s New.” To receive a copy of the policy changes, Joanne Berbaum at 333-6797.

Funds available for Chinese studies

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies has funds available to support international conferences or seminars in all disciplines that involve leading experts on topics of scholarly interest that relate to China. Though the primary focus must be China, the conference topics need not be restricted to China alone but may include the relationship of other cultures and societies with China and/or China in a comparative perspective.

The conference or seminar, in composition and format may vary, but the intent is to foster one to 1/2 day meetings involving eight to 10 or more leading foreign or American scholars in a selected area. Longer meetings with more participants also will be considered. It is expected that each participant will present an original paper and that the conference or seminar will result in a publication.

The conference or seminar will be held on the Urbana-Champaign campus, need not be a public event in the usual sense, although institutional members and graduate students might be invited to attend. In addition, plans might include public lectures by some of the participants.

Berenbaum profiled on ‘Prairie Fire’

Entomologist May Berenbaum and the history of the insect Fear Film Festival she founded are featured on “Prairie Fire” as of April 9. The program, Berenbaum said she was pleased to have a luscious entomologist named after her in a 1996 “The X-Files” episode, especially since the character was a great scientist.

The conference/seminar composition and format may vary, but the intent is to foster one to 1/2 day meetings involving eight to 10 or more leading foreign or American scholars in a selected area. Longer meetings with more participants also will be considered. It is expected that each participant will present an original paper and that the conference or seminar will result in a publication.

In addition, Basbanes will be interviewed on “Focus” episode, especially since the character was a great scientist.
briefs
(Continued from page 4)

The maximum available funding from the center for each conference/seminar is $10,000. It is expected that other support sources also will be sought. Evidence of financial and other support by the applicant’s home unit is required. Applications for awards for the 1998-99 academic year are due April 1. Applications should be no more than three to five pages, including a budget proposal, and should be sent to Conference Committee, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, 230 International Studies Building, MC-483. Notification of awards will be made by May 15. For more information, call the center at 333-7273.

CAS/MillerComm lectures

Three upcoming CAS/MillerComm lectures will focus on Billie Holiday, Indians in America, and U.S. options in the Persian Gulf.

Farah Jasmine Griffin, author of several books and professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania, will explore some of the myths surrounding jazz artist Billie Holiday as well as Holiday’s image and voice are used to sell cars, clothing and evoke atmosphere in restaurants, coffee shops and bookstores. “Lady of the Day: The Myths and Meanings of Billie Holiday” also will examine Holiday’s own contributions to the various myths surrounding her as well as reveal a lot about the place of jazz music and culture in the United States. Griffin’s lecture begins at 7:30 p.m. April 6 in the Music Building auditorium.

LaDonna Harris will speak on “Tribal America at the Crossroads: Cultural and Political Autonomy Within Larger Governmental Systems” at 7:30 p.m. April 14 in the Levis Faculty Center. She will discuss how traditional Native American tribal methods of consensus-building have been used to facilitate conflict resolution throughout the world. Harris, founder of INDIANet, the first Native American owned and operated telecommunications network, also will address the impact of computer technology and the Information Age on tribal communities.

This presentation is designated the Eighth Daniel S. Sanders Peace and Justice Lecture in honor of the late Daniel S. Sanders, dean of the School of Social Work from 1986-1989.

David Cortright, president of Fourth Freedom Forum, and Warren Marik, retired senior Central Intelligence Agency official, will give a presentation on “Options in the Persian Gulf” at 7:30 p.m. April 16 in 114 David Kinley Hall. Both men have been publicly visible and very active in the national debate over policy towards Iraq. Their dual presentation will serve to open up the debate on the Persian Gulf, provide fresh insights in the way in which the United States is planning to confront and punish the Saddam Hussein regime and suggest some new policy corridors.

These lectures are presented under the auspices of the MillerComm ’98 series of public events, a program of the Center for Advanced Study. All MillerComm events are free and open to the public. For more information, consult the Center for Advanced Study. All MillerComm events are free and open to the public. For more information, consult the Center for Advanced Study.

& M plans for summer projects

The Building Operation Section at Information and Maintenance is again planning its summer custodial projects. In the past, fliers were distributed to campus offices so employees could indicate the services they would like to have performed in their area.

This year, Q&M customers may request these services via the Web at http://www.oandm.uiuc.edu. Click on “Operation Summer Cleanup” for information about this program and to submit your request.

To request a hard copy of the request form (or for questions), call Randy Kornegay at 333-6417.

Town Meeting focuses on accessibility

The Committee on Campuswide Access at the UI will host a town meeting from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. April 8 at the Illini Union’s Courtyard Cafe so that members of the campus and local communities can discuss methods for improving the accessibility of the UI campus to those with disabilities.

The goals of the meeting are to raise awareness about the range and variety of disabilities that affect UI students and faculty and staff members and others who use university services, and to garner clear and concrete ideas about how the campus, as well as its programs, facilities, academic resources and public events, can be made fully accessible to all.

Those who want to comment will be limited to five minutes. The Courtyard Cafe is wheelchair accessible, and a sign-language interpreter will be on hand.

During the meeting, several computers with adaptive technology also will be available so that individuals who do not wish to speak publicly can register their viewpoints electronically and confidentially. Those who are unable to attend the meeting are invited to share their thoughts with the committee by e-mail. Comments can be e-mailed to ACCESS#uiuc.edu through April 15.

To find out more about the Committee on Campuswide Access, visit the committee’s Web site: http://www.als.uiuc.edu/drsc/ACCESS/

Nominations sought for SAC

The Staff Advisory Council is seeking nominations for one representative each for EEO group 06 (skilled crafts) and EEO group 07 (service and maintenance) to serve a four-year term beginning July 1. The council acts in an advisory role and meets regularly with the director of the Personnel Services Office. To be considered for a post, petitions can be picked up in 141 Personnel Services beginning April 20. The deadline for returning petitions is April 27. Ballots will be mailed to staff members for Men 13; winners will be announced May 26. For more information, contact Lonnie Clark, 333-4395 or e-mail lclark6@uillinois.edu.

Women’s Club to fund scholarships

The Women’s Club is selling commemorative decorative tiles to raise funds for student scholarships. The green tiles, which show several ears of corn with husks flowing, honor the UI’s Morrow Plots, the oldest permanent soil experiment fields in the United States. Made by Motawi Tileworks in Ann Arbor, Mich., the 4-inch by 4-inch tiles sell for $25 each with proceeds benefiting undergraduate student scholarships on the Urbana campus. To order a tile or get more information, contact Val Cook at 352-1450 or lcook4@pdnt.com. The Women’s Club, with a membership of more than 400 men and women – provides an environment for social interaction within and across the university community through interest groups and new comer programs.

Library asking users for assessment

The University Library is conducting a campuswide library needs assessment from April 6 to 19, surveying faculty and staff members, students and other users of the library. The survey will provide library administrators with information about user satisfaction with services and collections, as well as general librarians research experiences in conducting these kinds of assessments on an annual basis. The results of the survey will be used by library administrators and departmental librarians to prioritize services, focus on collection issues and plan for areas to build on, as well as survey library.

The survey is being administered by Karen Schmidt, director of Collections and Assessment, and Sue Searing, head of Research and Planning for User Services, working in conjunction with students in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science. Schmidt and Searing will address the impact of computer technology and the Information Age on tribal communities.

The survey team is focusing its efforts on a Web-based survey that will be introduced to students and faculty and staff members through e-mail. The survey also will be available as a selection on the Library Gateway menu and Library departmental library menus. The team will conduct short clipboards surveys. Schmidt and Searing are also expecting to provide a prize incentive for e-mail respondents who want to toss their names into a “virtual hat” when they complete the survey.

The results of both surveys will provide a strong practical experience in collections and services.

Ione C. Bollman

Ione Compton Bollman, a former UI housekeeper, died March 19 at the Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. She was 80.

Bollman was employed at the UI for 39 years before she retired in 1988. She was a member of the Pennsylvania Avenue Baptist Church, Urbana, and the Urbana Senior Citizens. She also was a member and past chair of the Pytiana Sisters No. 125 at Urbana.

Surviving are a son, three daughters, a brother, two sisters, seven grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren and two great-great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the Provena Covenant Medical Center Hospice Program, Urbana.

Russell K. Johnson

Russell K. Johnson, former UI roofer, died Feb. 25 at his Tolono home. He was 87.

Johnson retired from the UI in 1975 after 35 years of service. He was a former ex-patriot of the Roofers Union and Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 630 in Urbana. He served in the Army during World War II in the South Pacific.

He is survived by his wife, Lillie; one daughter, two great-grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Memorial contributions may be made to the organization of the donor’s choice.
The 5,500 staff employees of the UI— from cooks to clerks, technicians to typists, machinists to mail messengers— make a daily contribution that keeps the UI among the top-ranked universities.

Eight of these employees were honored March 31 as recipients of the Chancellor’s Distinguished Staff Award. Each recipient received $1,000 and a plaque honoring his or her exceptional contributions.

Winners were nominated by co-workers and supervisors, evaluated by a selection committee and approved by the campus director of personnel services, the vice chancellor for administrative affairs and the chancellor. A complete list of finalists is posted on the Web at http://www.uiuc.edu/providers/pso/pso.html.

Photos by Bill Wiegand

Robert R. Cicone, local area network administrator, electrical and computer engineering

“Bob Cicone is an extraordinary employee who has devoted more than 30 years to serving the UI. . . . Through his knowledge and initiative, the ECE department has become a campus leader in the use of technology to meet its administrative needs. . . . Bob has assumed complete responsibility toward the automation and maintenance of administrative system functions with very little guidance or direction.”
—Molly Tracy, assistant to department head, electrical and computer engineering

“Bob Cicone has helped the ECE department use computers to become a much more efficient and productive organization. He has set up a model Web environment to support the academic mission of the department. He also has computerized the ECE storeroom, saving the department considerable money. And he is responsible for network security and backups, as well as all of the department’s Web pages.”
—Burks Oakley II, associate vice president for academic affairs and professor, electrical and computer engineering

Jeffrey T. Christ
Division of Public Safety

“In addition to his special assignments, Randy Emer is Department Tactical Relations Officer, Fire Coordinator, Security the first operations management officer. He has given law enforcement counsel.

“In my capacity as an inside courtesy we need to have a great relationship with our customers. Randy has always been a key part of our team. He is known for his ability to handle difficult situations and always ends up being very successful in negotiations. . . . He is always professional and approachable, which is very important in his job.”
—Carle Miller

Randyl W. Emer
Operation and Maintenance Division

“Randy Emer is a true believer in the importance of maintaining and sharing knowledge. He is always willing to help others and is known for his ability to train and motivate his team. His performance is exceptional in all aspects of his job.”
—George T. Mathes

John R. Mathes, building service worker, Operation and Maintenance Division

“John Mathes is a building service worker on the 9 p.m. to 7 a.m. shift. He works on the floor crew that maintains floors in several buildings including Huff Gym, Armory, Band and Labor Relations. John and his partner strip, clean, wax and do whatever is called for to keep the floor up to par. . . . John demonstrates excellence in overall work performance. He accepts responsibilities and performs duties above and beyond what is expected. He never wastes a minute and gives 110 percent. . . . John always tries to improve himself as well as to develop and recognize others. He has passed on his knowledge and skills to dozens of people. Sometimes he is called upon to train new employees to do floor work. Only the best are asked to do this.”
—Tim Warmouth, building service worker, Operation and Maintenance Division

“John Mathes is one of the most dedicated, loyal, hard working and pleasant people I have had the pleasure to know. He comes to work every night with not just a good attitude, but a great one. Always a smile and a good word for everyone. John over the years has set a standard of work and demonstrated attitude that we would all do well to try and follow. John also is a complete team player, always willing to do whatever it takes to get the job done.”
—Terry Jamison, building service worker, Operation and Maintenance Division

“I am amazed at both the volume of work that crosses Ruth’s desk every day and the quality and speed with which she turns it out. Her complex job responsibilities are broad and difficult. The environment she works in is both large and diverse. The many skills she has acquired at the dean’s office to set high standards, maximize resources and provide leadership to the college.”
—Pat Justice, assistant chancellor

Ruth M. Mathes, administrative assistant, Division of Academic Affairs

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Ruth M. Mathes, administrative assistant, Division of Academic Affairs
Lynn M. Stanke, secretary IV transcribing
Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

“From her first day, Lynn Stanke displayed a tremendous amount of organization and initiative as she quickly learned the duties of her position and established good rapport with all members of the department of Spanish, Italian and Portuguese. A few months later, the position of Graduate Records/Study Abroad Secretary became available (for the sixth time in eight years)! … Lynn was promoted and again she has consistently done outstanding work and has shown utmost responsibility and dedication to her position.”
– Marita Romine, administrative secretary, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

“Lynn has consistently looked for ways to reorganize the office and save both time and effort. She has put all forms, documents and other materials into electronic format and makes them available to faculty and staff members in this way as well as in hard copy. Lynn has developed electronic means for tracking past and present students (and their records) and worked closely with me in developing an in-house placement service for graduate students.”
– Bill VanPatten, professor of Spanish and associate head, Spanish, Italian and Portuguese

Barbara E. Elmore, secretary IV transcribing, geology

“Barb is responsible for all aspects of student affairs: She works with students from the time they first register until they graduate. She makes sure students meet requirements to obtain their financial aid, schedule the courses they need and meet all graduate requirements. She is responsible for juggling the conflicting needs of timetable preparation and managing our participation in U of I Direct. What makes Barb such an asset to our department is that she sees her job not as a set of abstract administrative duties, but as a means of helping the students as individuals.”
– Peter A. Michalove, assistant to the head, geology

“Barb Elmore’s performance in all aspects of her job has been exemplary – the department of geology could not function without Barb’s steady hand. … She has handled the transition from less than 400 students to almost 4,000 … supervised the transition to U of I Direct registration and has supervised the transition to computerized room assignments. Barb has made the transition to computerization a transparent process, and thereby has greatly enhanced the operating efficiency of her office.”
– Stephen Marshak, professor and associate head, geology

Mary Ann See, photographer I
Office of Printing Services

“Mary Ann See is one of the most inspiring people I know. In the face of adversity, she maintains her enthusiasm, optimism, professionalism and her sense of humor. She is an example at all Printing Services and personally is an inspiration to me. She helps us all face the challenges of maintaining quality, adding new services, serving customers, promoting our operation, working together, solving problems and just getting the day-to-day work done.”
– Geoffery Bant, director Office of Printing Services

“The excellence Mary Ann exhibits in her overall work performance has proven to be highly valuable to Photographic Services over the years. One example is her volunteering for a critical role in organizing our first Quad Day promotional effort at the beginning of this school year. Mary Ann took it upon herself to arrange for a large portion of the materials that we distributed to the university community that day and spent more hours than anyone else in the actual sorting and packaging of those materials. She then spent most of the day – which was very hot and humid – stationed near the Alma Mater to take free pictures of students.”
– Alan Reiff, photographer III
Office of Printing Services
**calendar of events**

**2 Thursday**

“Path,“ Billie Tsien, Tod Williams, and Billie Tsien Architects + Partners, New York. 7 p.m. Pyle Auditorium. Temple Hoyne Buell Hall. Architecture.


**3 Friday**


**6 Monday**

“Lady of the Day: The Myths and Meanings of Billie Holiday,” Farah Griffin, University of Pennsylvania. 7:30 p.m. Music Building auditorium. MillerComm.

**7 Tuesday**


“Astronomy and Psychological Support for Space Missions,” Al Holland, Pennsylvania Space Center, Houston. 7:30 p.m. 228 Natural History Building. Blue Space Development Society.

**8 Wednesday**

“Eurus: Greek Fated Figure of Flight,” Karl Killian, University of Chicago. 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Art museum auditorium. Archaeological Institute of America and Krannert Art Museum.

**9 Thursday**

“Restoring the Casa de los Caballos (House of the Deers) of the Palace of the Inca and Its Projects in Cartagena, Colombia,” Jaime Hernandez-Perez, George A. Miller Visiting Professor. 7 p.m. Pyle auditorium. Temple Hoyne Buell Hall. Architecture.

“New Christians and New World Fears,” Irene Silverthine, Dalek University. 8 p.m. 407 Levis Faculty Center. Dribus Interdisciplinary Program for the Study of Jewish Culture and Society.

**9 Thursday**

“From Painting to Media: From Here in There,” Maria Madalena Campos-Pons. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Krannert Art Museum. MillerComm.

**10 Friday**


**14 Tuesday**

“Digital and Analog Authors,” Mark Pozner, University of California, Irvine. 7:30 p.m. 407 Levis Faculty Center. Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

“Trial America at the Crossroads: Cultural and Political Autonomy Within Larger Governmental Systems,” Leda Donnina Harris, American Indian Opportunity, New Mexico. 7:30 to 9:30 p.m. Levis Faculty Center. MillerComm.

**15 Wednesday**

“Displacing the Jews: Historiographing the Idea of Diaspora,” Ion Stoianov, Carlyle, Middlebury College. 7:30 p.m. 407 Levis Faculty Center. Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

**16 Thursday**


“Pathways From Poverty From Inception to Reality,” Gene Summers, University of Wisconsin, and Jane Poetter. 7 p.m. Ilinois Faculty Center. Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities.

**17 Friday**

“Campus and the Social Implications of Technologies of Enhancement,” David Rothman, Columbia University. Noon. 177 Medical Sciences Building. Graduate School of Science, Technology, Information, and Medicine, and Medical Humanities and Social Sciences.


“Dinosaurs on Ice: Discovery of Jurassic Dinosaurs in Antarctica,” Bill Hammer, Augustana University. 3 p.m. 219 Levis Faculty Center. Geology.

**18 Saturday**

“From the Study of Jewish Culture to an Interdisciplinary Program for the Study of Jewish Culture and Society,” Antjie Tischler Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is available at http://www.uiuc.edu/uicalendar/cal.html

**2 Friday**


“Towards a History of Death in America,” David Cortright, UI. Noon. 1201 W. Main Street, Champaign. History.

**2 Friday**

“Shape and Enlightenment Time (almost),” Christopher G. Atkeson, Georgia Institute of Technology. 10 a.m. 297 Digital Computer Lab. Computer Science.

“Building a Teraflop (One Megaflop Windows) NT Supercomputer and Its Implications for Distributed Software,” Andrew A. Chien. UI. 4 p.m. 1320 Digital Computer Lab. Computer Science.

**3 Friday**

“Java-Based Tools for Electronic Instruction and Experiments From the Scientific American Science 100,” Dina Zinat and David David UI. Noon. 59A English Building. English.

“Shape and Enlightenment Time,” David Keenmag, University Yoga. 4 p.m. 1230 Digital Computer Lab. Computer Science.


“Anacreon’s Lesbian Girl: An Idiotic Suggestion Revised,” Stephen Tsarkov, UI. 7:30 p.m. 225 Veterinary Medicine. Veterinary Pathology and Veterinary Biosciences.

“Germanic History: A History of the Study of Jewish Culture and Society,” Jon Stratton, Duke University. 7:30 p.m. Levis Faculty Center. Early Modern England.

**3 Friday**


**4 Friday**


“Chasing the Wild Tomato Exploration, Conservation and Utilization of Germplasm,” Charles R. Johnson, University of California, Davis. 4 p.m. 1405 Environmental and Agricultural Sciences. Building. Agriculture, Conservation, and Environmental Sciences.

**5 Friday**

“Why Go to Extremes? A Ruritanian Sect and “Historians’ Dilemma,” Laura Fiegenstein, Princeton University. 3:30 p.m. 317 Gregory Hall. History.

**7 Tuesday**


“Animating Human Memory,” Jessica Hodgins, Georgia Institute of Technology. 4 p.m. 1310 Digital Computer Lab. Computer Science.


**8 Wednesday**


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**16 Thursday**

Downstate playwrights featured

By Melissa Mitchell

Colloquium Committee.

“Two Great Alchemists: Arth and Bauer,” T. V. Lan, University of California, Berkeley. 4 p.m. 314 Altgeld Hall. Waldtemeyer Memorial Lecture/Mathematics.

16 Thursday


“Four Great Adventures Among the Genty Mad,” Nicholas Barboussis, author. 1:30 p.m. 62 Krannert Art Museum. Library Colloquium Committee.

Downstate playwrights featured

When Bruce Halverson cast his net in search of downstate Illinois’ best writing talent, the theater department head had no way of knowing his catch would turn up so much talent in his own backyard.

Five of the eight playwrights whose work is featured in the Illinois Repertory Theater production “Downstate Playwrights,” which opens April 2 at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts, are UI students or residents of Champaign-Urbana. They are UI graduate students Chad Bergman and D.J. Sanders and C-U residents Rita Marie Nishara, Jeff Roberts and Jon T. Edwards.

The three remaining works are by Ken Bradbury, a high school teacher and newspaper columnist from Arenzville; Chad Bergman, a playwright and director. "Reminiscence." The two other works by Nishara and Jeff Roberts and Jon T. Edwards. The three remaining works are by Ken Bradbury, a high school teacher and newspaper columnist from Arenzville; Chad Bergman, a playwright and director. "Reminiscence." The two other works by Nishara and Jeff Roberts and Jon T. Edwards.

The four Downstate playwrights featured are from the UI or Champaign-Urbana. Featured in the “Downstate Playwrights” production by the Illinois Repertory Theater are from left to right: Innsak Rajase, Armand Vasquez, Sara Lampert Hoover and Barbara Ridenour. Five of the eight playwrights whose short plays are featured are from the UI or Champaign-Urbana.

“Theatre," By Melissa Mitchell

When Bruce Halverson cast his net in search of downstate Illinois’ best writing talent, the theater department head had no way of knowing his catch would turn up so much talent in his own backyard.

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“When I came here, I was aware that Chicago had a lot of opportunities, but there just was not too much downstate,” he said. And he added, most all playwrights – those just starting out as well as experienced writers – "often feel the pressures..."

After soliciting scripts through a notice in the Illinois Theater Association’s newsletter and from community and college theater departments statewide, Halverson found out that a lot of people had something to say. Fifty entries were submitted by 35 different writers. Halverson and his assistant, Deborah Duden, read through all the scripts submitted and narrowed the field, then brought in an additional theater faculty members to help make the final cut.

Performances of “Downstate Playwrights” are set for 8 p.m. April 2-4 and at 3 p.m. April 5 at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.
The UI department of theater presents William Shakespeare’s enchanting comedy, “A Midsummer Night’s Dream,” in the Colwell Playhouse at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts at 8 p.m. April 24 and 25 and April 30-May 2 and at 3 p.m. April 26 and May 3.

“This production is a springtime escape into romance,” says director Christine Sever-Johnson, professor of theater. “While we bring out the magic and romance in our dreamy production, we don’t lose sight of the characters. There are three quite separate worlds colliding in ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream,’ and they all influence each other.”

Pictured are (from left) Reggie Nelson (Demetrius), Libya Pugh (Helena), Anne Kubicki (Hermia) and Will Sims (Lysander). Emily Parker (Puck) is in the background.


Master of Music Recital. Roger Sodroski, baritone. 7 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Senior Recital. Lauren Schweitzer, cello. 7 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Monday

Cello + ... 5 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Rudolf Haken, viola and harpsichord; Suren Bagratuni, cello; Cheryl Magon, double bass. James Scott, flute; T. David Harris, clarinet; Timothy McGovern, bassoon; Kazimierz Machala, horn; and William Heeler, harpsichord.

Tuesday

Cello + ... 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. With guest artists Dmitry Berlinsky, violin, and Adrian Performs, piano. Trio for flute, cello and piano, as well as for strings and piano make up this recital program.

Wednesday


April 19, 2002

Sports

Baseball, UI vs. Pennsylvania State University. 1 p.m. Atkins Tennis Center.

Women’s Tennis, UI vs. Penn State University. 1 p.m. Atkins Tennis Center.

Senior Recital. Dina Holte, clarinet. 11 a.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

Illini Symphony, Jack Ranney, conductor. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. With the UI Glee Club, UI Orchestra, Jeff Stoltzfus, conductor. Admission charge.

Music Education Senior/Undergraduate Recital. Stephanie Fall, violin, and David Bruns, tuba. 5 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. Admission charge.


Studio Recital. 7 p.m. Music Building auditorium. UI saxophone quartets.

Friday

Baseball, UI vs. Northwestern University. 2 p.m. Illinois Field. Admission charge.

Saturday

Baseball, UI vs. Northwestern University. 3 p.m. Illinois Field. Admission charge.

Tennis

Women’s Tennis, UI vs. Minnesota State University, Mankato. Noon. Atkins Tennis Center.

Senior Recital. Lauren Schweitzer, cello. 7 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. Admission charge.
2 Thursday
"Constructing Latin/ Latina/Latinx Identities and Dislocation," 8 a.m.
Levi Faculty Center.
Keynote speakers: Norma Cano, University of Arizona, Department of Education, and Archy Ojebaje, Chicago Tribune. For more information, call 265-0730.
Continues tomorrow. Latinx/ Latino Studies.
Coffee Hour: Irish. 7:30 p.m.
Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Call for information and to perform Celtic music. For more information, call 333-3670.
Cosmopolitan Club.
4 Saturday
Veterinary Medicine Open House. 9 a.m.-4 p.m.
Veterinary Medicine Basic Science Building. Discover the art and science behind the care of animals. Veterinary Medicine open house.
Juniors Curator: “Native American.” 11:15-30 a.m.
Fourth floor, Native American Cultural History Building. This class is designed for 8-10-year-olds. Pre-registration and deposit are required. Deposits are returned if the child attends or if the class is canceled. Registration forms are available in the third-floor gallery of the Museum of Natural History or online at www.mnh.org.
5 Sunday
Children’s Spring Festival. 2-5 p.m.
Ballroom. A multi-cultural event featuring local and international performers. For more information and tickets, call 333-5000 or visit Ticket Central at the Illini Union. American Student Association
Illini Union Faculty-Staff Social Coordinator.
15th Annual International Dinner and Entertainment Night sponsored by the Illini Student Union, University YMCA. Many countries around the world will be represented by their various culinary specialties. After dinner, performances representative of several world cultures will entertain. Registration and information and to make reservations, call 333-3079. Cosmopolitan Club. International Programs and Affairs University YMCA.
6 Monday
Tornado Safety Seminar. 6-8 p.m.
Medicine Large Animal Clinic. Ed Kessler. WILL-AM 580 meterologist, will present safety and video footage. WILL-AM.
7 Tuesday
Book Signing. 4 p.m.
Illini Union Bookstore.
8 Wednesday
“Superleaders: Leading Others to Execute Themselves.” 8-30 a.m.
Illini Union Bookstore.
The Confucius Institute, 1702 S. State St., Champaign. Registration is required; call 333-8432. Human Resources Development.
Town Meeting. 11 a.m.-
2 p.m. Community Cafe, Illini Union. To discuss methods to increase the accessibility of the UI campus to people with disabilities. For more information, see the Web site at www.als.uiuc.edu/ACCESS/.
9 Thursday
“Supervising the Next Generation of Researchers.” 9 a.m.
Third floor, Levin Faculty Center. Register; 333-8432. Human Resources Development.
10 Friday
Conference on New and Re-Emerging Infectious Diseases. 8 a.m.
Levin Faculty Center. To provide an overview of disease emergence and the dimensions and the potential for transmission and to communicate recent advances in the study of these diseases. A tentative schedule and information regarding registration is available at http://alexia.lis.uiuc.edu/;
11 Saturday
Safari Saturday: “Digging Dinosaurs.” 10 a.m.
Museum of Natural History. An original fairy tale written by Ginger Levar, puppeteer. For children of all ages. Call for more information. Registration forms are available in the first-floor gallery of the Museum of Natural History or call 333-2600. Museum of Natural History.
International Dinner Series: Korean. 6 p.m.
Illini Union Bookstore, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Eunha Kim, University of Illinois, will present Korean culture and cuisine.
13 Monday
Poetry Reading and Signing. 4 p.m.
Author’s corner, second floor, Illini Union Bookstore. Peter Macak, East Coast University.
Coffee Hour: Irish. 7:30 p.m.
Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Irish music group, “Mind the Gap,” composed of Dan Nin, vocals/guitar and John Coyle, percussion/keyboard. For more information, call 333-3829.
14 Tuesday
Field. Admission charge. 8-10K walk/run to benefit Roses. 9 a.m. Illini Union Bookstore.
15 Wednesday
“Division of Rehabilitation Education Services: 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration” Thursday; 9 a.m.-3 p.m.
Champaign. Moorim Shinoh, UW, will talk about his new country. For more information, call 367-3079.
Cosmopolitan Club.
16 Thursday
“Read a Geography of Latin Americanism.” 2-3 p.m.
Music room, Levin Faculty Center. Register; 367-3079.
“合作协议和国力的变迁与中美关系的中性化.” Lupe Aminoo, Illinois University, will present the concept of China’s new foreign policy. Call for more information. Registration forms are available in the first-floor gallery of the Museum of Natural History or call 333-2600. Museum of Natural History.
17 Friday
Field. Admission charge. 3 p.m.
18 Saturday
Field. Admission charge. 4 p.m.
19 Sunday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
19 Monday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
20 Tuesday
“Beyond the Himalayas.” 7 p.m.
First floor, Illini Union Bookstore.
Joseph Alco, UI. For more information, call 333-2600.
Illini Union Bookstore.
21 Saturday
“Winnie the Pooh.” 10:30 a.m.
Author’s corner, second floor, Illini Union Bookstore. For more information, call 333-2600. Illini Union Bookstore.
22 Sunday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
23 Monday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
24 Tuesday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
25 Wednesday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
26 Thursday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
27 Friday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
28 Saturday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
30 Monday
Puppet Show: “The Mermaid’s Duc.” and “The Monkey’s Tale” 2-3 p.m.
World Heritage Museum. For children and adults.
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New Hours. 7 a.m.-5:30 p.m. on weekdays, weekdays, 7 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. on weekends; and a half hour earlier on weekends, before 5:30 p.m. after performance on Saturday and Sunday.
Kramer Center for the Performing Arts
Tours. Saturday; 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Meet in the main lobby.
Promenade gift shop: 10 a.m.-6 p.m. Monday-Sunday. Close before 30 minutes after all programs have ended.
Library Tours
Self-guided audiocassettes of main and undergraduate libraries available at the Information Desk, see floor of the main library or the Media Center of the undergraduate library.
Library Schedules:
102 Memorial Union Labs Lab 1-3. 1:30 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday. 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Saturday. For call for information, call 333-1361. Call for hours.
Paulette Cafe and Bookstore: 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Monday, Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Wednesday, 10 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Saturday. 3:40 p.m.-4:30 p.m. Kramer Center for the Performing Arts.
Robert Allerton Park Open to the public. Daily. “Allerton Legacy” exhibit at Vegetable Garden, 6:30 p.m. daily. 244-1035. Garden tour at 4:30 p.m. Saturday.
World Heritage Museum Heritage Bazaar gift shop closes at 5 p.m. Thursday. 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Friday and Saturday. 8-3 p.m. Sunday. Tours. First and second floor. Open to the public. 1900-2100 at 9 a.m. and by appointment for tours of 10 or more.

New organizations
Classified Employees Association 11:45-4:30 a.m. first Thursday/Monday. Call for more information.
Contra Dancing
To live fiddle music with featured callers in an atmosphere friendly to both singles and couples. Visit http://contra.uiuc.edu/; info@contra.uiuc.edu or call 333-0729.
Illinois Folk Dance Society 8-10 p.m. Tuesday and Saturday. Call for more information.
Illinois Glider Club
Meet the first Monday of each month at 12:00 noon. Come and see. Call Anne Martin, 398-6680.
Illinois Outdoor Club
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I had really come up against a wall trying to think about the endangered animals," Hovasse said. "We started reaching more recently about the swamp and pretty quickly outlined the story – each of us contributing ideas as we went.

From there, Halverson took the outline and drafted a rough script over the winter semester break. After that, the department head – who needed to get cracking on his own spring IRT production, "Downstate Playwrights" – handed the project off to Hovasse.

"When we returned from break, I started rehearsing," Hovasse said. "With a terrific group of actors, we started plugging through the script. Each night in rehearsal, we would add and delete from the script we went. It truly was a wonderful collaborative process."

On and off stage, Morsette and the theater students were at work on their own additions to the collaboration.

"Zoe's role in all of this was to help us build the soft-sculpture costumes for the dog and the eagle [characters]," Halverson said. "She created the heads of both of these animals and led the actors playing the 'swampies' [characters that create the entire atmosphere of the swamp] and Tombigee [the main character who represents the 'spirit of the swamp'] through the process of creating their own masks – which are beautiful."

Though this was a first-time collaboration for the Hovasse-Halverson team, both have written professionally for the theater in the past. "I had written plays before and Nancy has done a lot of work with theater for young audiences," said Halverson. "So I found this to be a natural collaboration." His own background includes founding a national touring company for deaf and hearing actors while directing the theater for the Hovasse-Halverson team, both have written professionally for the theater in the past. "I had written plays before and Nancy has done a lot of work with theater for young audiences," said Halverson. "So I found this to be a natural collaboration." His own background includes founding a national touring company for deaf and hearing actors while directing the theater program at the National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. He wrote plays – in sign language – for the company. Hovasse's writing experience includes creating "a lot of 'industrials' for companies like Digital, and the YMCA," as well as a show that was the opening act for Jesse Jackson's Arizona campaign tour during his run for the presidency. Hovasse said industrials are "short productions that are solicited by companies or individuals to promote or celebrate something specific."

"In addition," she said, "I worked for a professional theater company called Metro Theater Company at St. Louis, whose work is all created by the company members through a collaborative process. "So this process was not new to me, and I actually love it," said Hovasse, who also serves as co-chair of the Champaign County Cultural Consortium, which promotes the creation of collaborations between schools and local artists."

"Tombigee!" will be performed at 7 p.m. April 9, and at 3 and 7 p.m. April 10-11 at the Studio Theater at the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.