Campus gearing up to sharpen the focus of biotechnology

By Jim Barlow

What do brewing beer, breadmaking, recombining DNA, biogene carrying corn, compost, and the production of antibiotics, insulin and interferon have in common? They are among the very diverse end products of biotechnology. Such diversity in the international burgeoning field of biotechnology—the use (manipulation, if you will) of microorganisms and plant and animal cells to produce better crops, food, medicine and chemicals—also appears to be the focal point of a challenge facing the UI.

Biotechnology is being done everywhere, from the engineering-physical sciences north side, to the chemical and biologically oriented central campus, to the south-campus’s research involving animals, crops and food. However members of a special committee appointed by the vice chancellor for research say there is no central focus uniting the research, educational training and development. Without that, they conclude, it is difficult to attract major research funding, high-caliber scientists and students—all of which are key ingredients to putting the UI on the world’s biotechnology map. One solution, committee members and administrators seem to agree, is the coordination of already existing programs that can be gathered under one umbrella to create both undergraduate and graduate-level academic training in biotechnology.

“There is fertile soil here, but it never has really been seeded and nurtured in an optimal way,” said John Katzmann, a holder of the Southwest Endowed Chair of chemistry and chairman of Vice Chancellor Richard Alkire’s Biotechnology Advisory Committee. “There are a lot of elements from which the university could provide a program that would play into a tremendous intellectual scholarship opportunity, and one that also would have a lot of commercial applications.”

The Biotechnology Center’s Directory of Faculty Research lists more than 150 scientists from 16 departments who are doing biotechnology-related work, but there are no academic degree tracks with biotechnology in their names. “The campus has been missing a lot of opportunities, both from the point of view of academic programs and research infrastructure,” said Harris Lewin, director of the Biotechnology Center.

“Among the reasons for a heightened awareness of biotechnology needs on campus was the creation of the W.M. Keck Center for Comparative and Functional Genomics—an announcement formally in January. The Keck Center’s modern DNA sequencing and related instrumentation, when operation begins in the fall, will elevate university efforts to understand the basis of genetic disease simultaneously to make functioning organisms.

Perhaps as important, Lewin and Katzmann hope the center’s creative support brought people together, resulting in meetings among the deans and directors of the collaborating units: the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; the School of Life Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign; the College of Veterinary Medicine; and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications. “The creation of the Keck Center created a lot of discussion on campus about the need for more coordinated activities in biotechnology and biosciences across the campus,” Lewin said.

Alcoa initially appointed a committee to focus on the Biotechnology Center, which provides service and support to researchers but is not affiliated with any academic unit. The panel was soon expanded to 14 members—five from the engineering-physical sciences, two from the social sciences, and nine from the humanities to provide wide coverage of the issue. Among the deans and directors of the collaborating units: the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences; the School of Life Sciences in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; the College of Medicine at Urbana-Champaign; the College of Veterinary Medicine; and the National Center for Supercomputing Applications.

The Biotechnology Center is the latest in a long line of notches on the campus map for a focus of research. From the engineering-physical sciences north side, the Institute of Labor and Industrial Relations; the Graduate School of Library and Information Science; and the School of Social Work will receive degrees at the 127th Commencement of the UI at Urbana-Champaign May 7, 1998.
The real thing: Contracts signed for $10 million pouring rights

A decision to dismiss a petition by the Graduate Employees Organization (GEO), which has been seeking union recognition by the UI, was affirmed by the Illinois Educational Labor Relations Board on April 9. The GEO has 35 days to appeal the decision.

The hearing officer for the board ruled last year that the UI’s 5,800 graduate assistants are students and therefore are not allowed to form unions under state law. The group appealed that finding to the board.

The decision was expected in January, but was not issued until April.

The GEO began its effort to unionize in spring 1996. The organization has received the support of the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the AFL-CIO and the Illinois Education Association.

The GEO also is waiting for decisions on unfair labor practice complaints filed against the UI administration in February, charging the UI was trying to change the conditions of graduate student employment to make it conform to the position being argued by the UI to the state labor board. The organization objects to the conversion of sala- ried graduate student assistantships to hourly positions.

The second complaint is against the purpose of the Graduate Student Advisory Council. The GEO says it’s a ruse to make it appear the UI is sensitive to graduate student concerns.

According to Bill Murphy, associate chancellor for public affairs, the council is open to all graduate students as a vehicle to deal with issues related to the entire range of graduate student concerns, not just stipends, benefits and working conditions of graduate students. ""
What is your job and how long have you been at the UI?

I'm in my first year as director of the physical activity program in the department of kinesiology. I was coordinator of the physical activity program for six years. I've been involved with the program since 1991.

What do you do as director?

I am an academic professional, and I teach in the undergraduate kinesiology curriculum for physical education teacher preparation. I teach a variety of courses, such as the introduction to movement analysis classes, analyzing movement in team sports, and the coaching theory class. I'll be teaching the children's movement course for elementary education next year. I also supervise graduate students who teach in physical activity classes and train them in what we teach in the classes. I evaluate their instruction and help with curriculum development.

Who takes these physical activity classes?

We see those classes as an opportunity for all students on campus to pursue sports and physical activity. We introduce the skills to those sports and we hope the students will develop an interest in being physically active. When I started here we offered 225 sections per semester and taught 8,000 to 10,000 students per year, with 50 to 60 teaching assistants. Next year we will have 21 sections in the fall semester, serving about 800 students.

Are students no longer interested in taking activity classes?

The reductions are because of budget reform. Of course, departments all across campus are dealing with this. Right now all of the classes we will offer, only four are funded by kinesiology. The others are funded by DCR (the Division of Campus Recreation) and the residence halls. Like so many places on campus, we've had to really cut back. Unfortunately, student interest is more than we can offer now. We're still trying to figure out completely what will happen in the future but we hope to rebuild and offer more sections and more opportunities for students. The demand is there for these classes.

Isn't this just a recreation-for-credit kind of class, or an easy credit for athletes?

This is more than recreational. What we do is different from that. We are teaching skills and developing movement skills in these areas. Some of the classes taught include conditioning and weight control, where standards for beginning players and help them develop the skills so they can go out and enjoy this activity. These classes also provide visibility for the profession.

What kind of courses do you hope to have?

We have offered multiple skill levels of classes and bowing classes at the Illini Union. We would like to get back into personal defense, tai chi and ballroom dance courses.

Do you run any other programs for students?

We have the sports fitness programs in the summer for children age 7 to 12. The classes last eight weeks and we have 12 instructors in a variety of activities. We have three doctoral students plus three undergraduate students for each section.

- Nancy Koeneman
The immeasurable gift of time

Volunteers' work is 'lifeblood' for many UI organizations

By Nancy Koeneman

staffing envelopes, answering phones, soliciting donations, leading tours, staffing resource centers, caring for animals, directing parking at events. The list of help provided is endless and the paycheck is nonexistent for the unsung heroes of organizations across campus.

There are many places at the UI where the efforts of volunteers help keep budgets in line and programs up and running. What might surprise some is that more than a few of those volunteers already work on campus at other offices, or are retired UI employees.

Singing their praises

Interest in the arts and promoting the arts is one of the motivations for volunteers at Krannert Art Museum and Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. “Volunteers take on important jobs here,” said Diane Schumacher, interim director of education at Krannert Art Museum. “For a visitor who comes to the museum, the only contact they may have with the museum besides the artwork is the docent who makes a personal contact.” Volunteers also staff the information desk and the resource center, where teachers, students, and the public can use or check out more than 1,500 resources that include books, kits and other informational materials. The volunteers serve as hosts on the annual Culture Bus tours and provide arts programming for public schools. Members of the museum’s customer service plan and help put on the fund-raising events for the museum, provide food for show openings and member nights, and provide other fund-raising support.

“We greatly value and depend on our volunteers,” Schumacher said. “They are few and far between anymore. A lot of people in the work force who at one time volunteered find they no longer have the time.”

Retiree Norma Howard now has the time.

“Before I retired, I didn’t feel I had the time to do it,” Howard said. She was information sources coordinator for ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

Howard had an interest in the arts and when she saw an article in the newspaper about volunteering at Krannert Art Museum, she decided to call and see what kind of opportunities were available. She had to take an art class, then needed working in the resource center.

“For me, it seems like the good part of the work I did before retiring,” Howard said. “I like meeting people and finding the materials they can use. The people using the center are interesting to me.”

A benefit is that she’s getting a better perspective of what’s going on there. “I see all the new exhibits as they are going up. I feel it puts me in the position to appreciate the things happening at the museum,” she said.

Volunteer opportunities at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts vary from serving as ushers during the daytime Youth Series programs and the children’s performances, to working on the bulk-mailing team that assembles inserts for mailings and materials for schools attending events at the center. Some volunteers serve as tour guides. Most help with the fund-raising events that provide money for the center’s building and equipment fund.

“A lot of volunteers donate their time, effort and expertise to these events,” said Crystal Wombly, the community liaison for the center.

The center has volunteers who are working and those who are retired. Many of them are part of the Retired Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), Wombly said. The RSVP program keeps track of the hours its volunteers work as part of the program’s federal funding support.

“Last year, RSVP volunteers put in approximately 700 hours. We figured out the pay this represents at minimum wage, and it came to just more than $30,000,” Wombly said.

Barb Nelson, a secretary for the athletic department since 1979, has been a member of the children’s theater board since 1980 and volunteers as an usher for the youth and children’s programming.

Joyce Hofmann, a research biologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey, has been a volunteer for the WILL stations for more than a decade. She regularly works with the fund drive and the following thank you mailings. Hofmann considers volunteering a good way to ensure a better community and values the services of the public radio and TV stations.

“I feel it’s always good to give back to the community and Krannert is such an asset to our community,” Nelson said. She and her husband also are volunteers with several other community organizations and both serve on boards for the groups. “We keep busy. It’s fun. When I retire, I hope to do more. I think it’s important, and there are never too many volunteers.”

Watching their efforts grow

Allerton Park and Conference Center is a UI site that relies heavily on volunteer efforts.

“They are invaluable,” said Tamzin Holman, outreach associate at Allerton. “One of our volunteers loves the Fu Dog garden and the Buddha pavilion. She comes in on weekends so we can open that for the public. Otherwise, we wouldn’t be able to do that. Another couple does research and catalogs the archives. We have people who are now training to do tours of the gardens and house. We always need two or more volunteers at the 50 or more weddings a year in the gardens. Those volunteers serve as hosts, help with parking, secure the area during the ceremony and help the bride with anything she needs.” The weddings are a source of income for the park, which doesn’t charge admission to its visitors. Volunteers also help at the visitor center front desk and greet guests and give them directions. Others help with clerical duties, work on the database and prepare mailings. They also work very hard during park events, such as concerts at the park and fund-raising events, such as the Holiday Showcase, Holman said.

Vira Siraprapasiri works at the documentary library at the UI, but is in her third year of volunteering at Allerton. She is especially fond of the Fu Dog pavilion and, as a Buddhist, can provide special insights into the Buddha statues there. “I can tell people more about them, why the Buddha is postured that way, what it means. I think it makes it more meaningful for them,” she said.

She also helps with the Holiday Showcase at the Allerton House, other fund-raising efforts and has served as a hostess at weddings at the park.

Even though she does it because she believes it’s good work and doesn’t expect a return, she finds she’s benefited from the time spent.

“It’s not only educational, but it’s nice to meet people. It’s widened my horizons. I used to be so shy, but through doing this volunteer work, I’m not so much anymore,” Siraprapasiri said. The drive to the park is beautiful and relaxing and the park itself is a wonderful place, she said.

Jane Schwolter, a faculty member at the UI, started the Holiday Showcase at the Allerton House. “That was my baby,” she said. Her connection to the park also is a personal one — her uncle was John Gregg Allerton, the adopted son of Robert Allerton.

“So I got interested in it,” she said. “As a child, I had never been down here. When we came here, I got interested because of the family connection. It’s a great asset to the community and the university.”

She serves on the outreach committee and the steering committee for the showcase and is very enthusiastic about the park.

“I want to make it a better place for the community to enjoy,” Schwolter said.

A wilder experience

RoseAnn Meccoli was drawn to her volunteer job by a cranky old owl. A parasitologist for the College of Veterinary Medicine, teaching assistant and research specialist for professors in the school, she was invited by a student to visit the Wildlife Clinic.

“She asked me if I’d like to see an owl,” Meccoli said. “Of course I wanted to. I’ve only seen them in books, so I went over. She opened the door [of the cage] of the great horned owl and it essentially tried to kill her. Then she asked me if I wanted to put on a glove and try to hold him. Eventually I went back and he did [let me hold him.] Now I work with him every day. He bites me every day. He’s still grouchy, but I wouldn’t change that. It’s his nature.”

Meccoli takes care of the five resident animals of the clinic that can never be released because of their injuries or because they’ve impressed on humans. She does the educational presentations around the area and helps out in the clinic when students, who normally work with the animals, are on break.

She spends as many as 15 hours a week as a volunteer for the clinic, but doubles that when the “orphan” season starts, she

(See Volunteers, page 5)
Dow Chemical presents the UI department of chemistry with a check for $40,000. May 7 to support programs in beginning chemistry classes. The money will be used for the Chemistry Merit Program for Emerging Scholars. Dow, which becomes the second corporate sponsor of the program, has pledged similar support for each of the next two additional years.

The Merit Program targets underrepresented minorities, women and students from small rural high schools.

“Our goal is to help retain these high-potential students in the areas of the physical sciences, engineering and mathematics,” said program director Susan Arena-Zumdahl. There are about 200 students enrolled in the program.

“One of the main objectives of the Merit Program is to foster a sense of community among participating students in the beginning chemistry classes,” Arena-Zumdahl said. “The students learn to exchange ideas and work together with colleagues to understand concepts and solve problems as part of a team. This provides a community of scholars to support and encourage success in later courses.”

Merit students attend the same lectures, do the same assignments and lab work, and take the same examinations as all other students in the course. In place of the traditional, hour-long discussion session held each week, however, Merit students meet twice a week for two hours in active-learning workshops. During these workshops, the students work together in small groups on challenging problems. As the students assist one another, they form a community of learners.

“The Merit Program focuses on active learning in discussion with other students,” Arena-Zumdahl said. “The Merit classroom becomes a social-academic community. By working together to solve difficult course problems, and by developing friendships based on common academic interests, the students inspire each other to maintain a high level of commitment to excellence.”

As a corporate sponsor, Dow joins Abbott Laboratories, now in its second year of supporting the Merit Program. Grants from the companies will be used to fund additional teaching-assistant fellowships, materials and supplies. ◼

Volunteers (Continued from page 4)

said. Orphan season is the time of year when very young animals, such as rabbits and squirrels, are somehow separated from their parents and end up at the clinic for care.

“It’s not as glamorous as some might think,” she said. “It looks really good to stand there with these beautiful animals and give a talk, but there is a lot of scrubbing and cleaning involved with wildlife care.”

Nearly 200 students and volunteers work at the wildlife clinic are students who are seeking hands-on experience before their curriculum involves animal contact.

Graduate student Julie Towlle coordinates the college’swide volunteer program.

“There would be no wildlife clinic if it wasn’t for the volunteers,” she said. “It’s a great volunteer experience. [The students] get to help injured wildlife and learn medicine from real cases. It’s also good for the college because people get to see veterinarians as compassionate people.”

“RoseAnn is wonderful,” Towlle said. “She is one of only a few staff members who volunteer and often get overlooked because she’s not a student. She does 60 to 80 educational talks a year. She does almost everything – helps with laundry, feeding and other care of the animals.”

Broadcasting the benefits

Volunteers at WILL-AM-FM-TV are an integral part of the local public radio and television stations.

“I’ve been here a year, I didn’t train them, I inherited them and I feel pretty lucky,” said Heather Miller, membership projects manager, as she spoke of WILL’S volunteers.

“There are people who give up their time for free. It’s a bonus to get to work with people like that. Most people can give you a donation of money, which we really appreciate of course, but people work and go in 10 different directions, so giving up personal time is very generous.”

WILL volunteers not only help by answering phones during fund drives, but also put in many hours with mailing projects and the follow-up work for fund drives.

Joyce Hofmann, a researcher with the Illinois Natural History Survey, has been volunteering for WILL since the early 1980s.

“I really enjoyed the TV station and radio stations and when the opportunity presented itself that I could help out, I just thought I should do it,” Hofmann said. She helps with the fund drives and mailings, and keeps coming back year after year because, she says, “It’s fun.”

“And the people who work for WILL are really nice. They’re so dedicated. I also think public broadcasting is an important community resource.”

Hofmann considers volunteering in general a good way to ensure a better community.

“It’s a matter of if everybody gave a little time or effort, this could be a much better place. The payoff is very large,” she said.

Cathy Eastman, an entomologist with the Illinois Natural History Survey and an affiliate in three departments at the UI – natural resources and environmental sciences, crop sciences and entomology — agrees that volunteerism is a way to connect with the community, and that WILL is an asset she wants to support.

“You can see they need help and that they put every dollar to work,” she said. “There are so few of them.”

Eastman likes knowing that her work helps ensure that WILL will be around.

“You have the lifetime of the station. If we don’t help, we could lose what we have,” she said.

Being a volunteer also can help a person feel they belong to the community, that they have a stake in it, she said.

“You can write a check and be unaf- fected, but you’re more committed and appreciative of the service when you feel you’ve helped to bring it here,” she said.

A driving force

Every year, a group of volunteers campuswide begin the work of the Campus Charitable Fund Drive. Departments, divisions and offices from every corner are asked to participate and encourage their employees to contribute. The dollars raised go to a variety of resources in Central Illinois, including the Red Cross, the East Central Illinois Food Bank, the Salvation Army and the United Way.

Gary Rossman, assistant director for the operations department at the Operation and Maintenance Division (O&M), has worked on the fund drive for eight years with Bob Ward, locksmith with O&M, also a long-time participant. Their work encourages the employees at O&M to donate to the drive.

“It does require some bit of time,” Rossman said. “We have meetings with the various shops, so when the fund drive starts, we have a very busy two- or three-week schedule.”

Rossman emphasizes that it’s also fun. Although he’ll be retiring this month, he’s offered to come back and help with the annual drive.

“I feel strongly about it and enjoy this. I think it’s very worthwhile,” he said.

Over the past several years, Rossman and Ward have developed strategies to encourage giving, and giving has increased by at least four times in the last 10 years. Rossman started in the early 1990s.

“The year before I started, I think we collected $11,000 or $12,000 for the entire O&M division. One unit [building service workers] did that last year. Now we bring in $45,000 to $50,000 a year.”

The first few years, the shop that made 100 percent of its goal got to pick someone in their office to throw a pie at Ward for their prize.

“That was pretty popular. It was quite an event,” Rossman said. They also created a Oneoo Club for those who give $100 or more a year. “We give special recognition and have a board up in the hallway of the plant where we display all their names. They also get pins,” he said.

The last two years they’ve used a stockcar theme and units get to move their cars on the wall for each level of the goal reached.

“We’ve always got something going to create a little interest,” he said. Artie All the end of the year, they have a lunch for the shops that win the contest.

Rossman plans to become more involved as a volunteer after retiring, although he hopes to also keep a hand in the CCFD. “When we have the collection [of pledges] on Thursdays, I bring in doughnuts. If I don’t bring the doughnuts next year, they won’t be very happy.”

Sherry Slade, administrative secretary to the dean of the College of Education, has been involved in the CCFD for several years, taking the initiative to serve as a unit leader when she was head secretary, before she had her current position. She’s now a section leader.

“It’s very rewarding,” she said. Slade volunteers not only at the UI, but in the community, working with the Champaign County Humane Society, Preservation and Conservation Association, the Champaign-Urbana Theater Company and WILL-AM-FM-TV.

“I’ve always been active in one thing or another,” she said. “If you really have an interest in something, it gives you an opportu-nity to give of yourself. But the reward is I meet many interesting people and I have done many interesting projects. I’ve met wonderful friends and been able to create bonds.” ◼
Discovery may support prediction of Einstein’s theory

A meeting of the American Physical Society April 20 in Columbus, Ohio, astrophysicists announced that the discovery of very high oscillations in the brightness of some X-ray-emitting neutron stars has yielded important new constraints on the properties of the centers of these stars. The data also may represent the first evidence for a unique effect — strongly curved space-time predicted by Einstein’s theory of gravity but never before observed.

The new measurements were made using NASA’s Rossi X-Ray Timing Explorer satellite. “The Rossi Explorer was designed to probe closer than ever before the strongly curved space-time near neutron stars and black holes,” says Jack H. Lamb, a professor of physics and of astronomy at the University of Chicago. “These new results are based on the earlier dramatic discovery by Rossi that the brightness of many neutron stars varies more than a thousand times each second. These variations are the highest frequency oscillations ever detected in any astrophysical object.”

Neutron stars are the dense cinders left behind when stars of about 10 times the mass of the sun explode in violent events called supernovae. Neutron stars have masses about the same as the sun but are only about 10 miles in diameter. Consequently, the matter at their centers is much denser even than the matter in atomic nuclei. According to Einstein’s theory of gravity, neutron stars are so massive that the space-time curvature near them is strong enough to trap light. “This is one of the most exotic objects in the universe,” Lamb said. “We had expected to see a cacophony of frequencies, but the data show these nearly pure tones.”

Rossi satellite found that these neutron stars are producing three nearly pure tones. “The pureness of these tones makes it possible for us to use them to investigate how matter moves in the strongly curved space-time near these neutron stars,” Lamb said.

According to Einstein’s theory of gravity, space-time near neutron stars is strongly curved. Observation of the effects of strongly curved space-time would be the first confirmation of a strong-field prediction of general relativity.

“The clockwork of the universe is much more orderly than we had dreamed,” Lamb said. “The pureness of these tones makes it possible for us to use them to investigate how matter moves in the strongly curved space-time near these neutron stars.”

Einstein’s theory predicts that if the star is sufficiently massive and compact, there is a region of space around it where space-time is so strongly curved that there are no stable circular orbits. Gas orbiting this close to the star will inevitably spiral inward to its surface.

The calculations of Miller, Lamb and Psaltis show that the frequency of the X-ray brightness variations should increase as the gas flow onto the neutron star — and hence its X-ray power — rises, until the clumps producing the oscillations are at the innermost stable orbit. At this point the oscillation frequency should become constant as the X-ray power continues to rise. A paper describing the team’s results has been accepted for publication in the Astrophysical Journal.

In the March 27 issue of the journal Science, editor Philip H. Abelson wrote that a genomics revolution is dawning and that there will be changes comparable to those brought about by the Industrial Revolution and the computer-based revolution. “Ultimately, the world will obtain much of its food, fuel, fiber, chemical feedstocks and some of its pharmaceuticals from genetically altered vegetation.”

A titanic prediction, but one that leaves the UI and many other research institutions lining up at the dock for a financially lucrative ship they don’t want to miss. Sinking is not acceptable.

“I think that if we can strengthen the focus of biotechnology on this campus,” Bahr said, “that will also help the state of Illinois.”

The state, she said, like the UI, has not kept pace with the field. “The East Coast and the West Coast have a lot of biotech firms that are making a lot of money. We need to attract and educate the brightest students who have an interest in biotechnology and employ them here in Illinois.”

Those who now get training in Illinois are leaving for the coasts, Bahr said. A quick, unscientific search of two highly visible sites on the World Wide Web (www.bio.com and www.bioview.com) shows that up to 41 of 47 listed companies are east of the Mississippi. A search of jobs available on April 30 turned up 342 postings: 87 percent in California; 8 percent in Washington state and the remaining 5 percent spread elsewhere; none in the Midwest.

Lewin also has had a role in the state’s review of biotechnological opportunities, which began in 1992 with the Illinois Biotechnology Working Group chaired by Becky Doyle, director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.

The group’s initial report in 1993 found that the state was losing money and opportunities and recommended strategies to stop the losses. “The Biotechnology Center could take a leading role, but its lack of financial support has left the campus behind,” said Katzenellenbogen and Lewin said.

For example, in the last five years, for every $24 billion by 2006, and for agricultural biotech products from $295 million to about $1.74 billion.

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“I think that if we can strengthen the focus of biotechnology on this campus,” Bahr said, “that will also help the state of Illinois.”

The state, she said, like the UI, has not kept pace with the field. “The East Coast and the West Coast have a lot of biotech firms that are making a lot of money. We need to attract and educate the brightest students who have an interest in biotechnology and employ them here in Illinois.”

Those who now get training in Illinois are leaving for the coasts, Bahr said. A quick, unscientific search of two highly visible sites on the World Wide Web (www.bio.com and www.bioview.com) shows that up to 41 of 47 listed companies are east of the Mississippi. A search of jobs available on April 30 turned up 342 postings: 87 percent in California; 8 percent in Washington state and the remaining 5 percent spread elsewhere; none in the Midwest.

Lewin also has had a role in the state’s review of biotechnological opportunities, which began in 1992 with the Illinois Biotechnology Working Group chaired by Becky Doyle, director of the Illinois Department of Agriculture.
Three win Guggenheim awards

By Shannon Vicie

Three UI faculty members have won 1998 John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation Fellowship Awards. Alma Gottlieb, professor of anthropology; Bruce Berndt, professor of mathematics; and Eduardo Fradkin, professor of physics, were among the 168 fellows selected this year from more than 3,000 applicants nationwide.

Guggenheim fellowships are selected on the basis of distinguished achievements in their fields and exceptional promise for future accomplishment.

Gottlieb will study the infant-rearing practices of the Beng people of the West African nation of Côte d’Ivoire. Her research will focus on Beng infant development as it is shaped by cultural practices that in many cases are significantly different from those common for infants reared in Western societies.

Gottlieb came to the UI in 1983 after earning a doctorate at the University of Virginia in anthropology and the University of the Cape of Good Hope in psychology. She is the author of “The Kapok Tree: Identity and Difference in Beng Thought” and has written numerous articles and book chapters. She is currently completing “Politics of Condensed Matter Systems,” and he has written or co-written nearly 90 articles for scholarly journals in his field.

Gottlieb received her doctoral degree from the University of Wisconsin at Madison in 1966. He came to the UI in 1967, after spending a year as a lecturer at the University of Glasow in Scotland.

Fradkin will do research on the theory of the fractional quantum Hall effect of the two-dimensional electron gas in very strong magnetic fields. He will investigate a novel class of condensed states that support excitations that carry fractional charge and non-commutative statistics. He also will study the physics of high-temperature superconductors.

Fradkin earned his doctorate at Stanford University. After graduating in 1979, he came to the UI as a postdoctoral research associate. He began teaching at the UI the following year.

In 1991, he wrote the book, “Field Theo- ries of Condensed Matter Systems,” and he has written or co-written nearly 90 articles for scholarly journals in his field.

During its 75-year history, the John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation has granted more than $180 million in fellowships to more than 14,000 people.
by the trustees.

Friedman noted that the board has many precedents for saying no to the senate. Whether we like it or not, state law vests the board with authority for the university.

Kagan said he shared Kaufman’s concern that the senate isn’t being taken seriously by the Senate Council. As far as the board is concerned, the Senate Council resolution is the Senate’s resolution. It is the Senate’s resolution to provide benefits to domestic partners of UI employees. The board’s decisions are made by the trustees, and they are in effect by the trustees, and by the board they are in effect.

Earl Schacht, the chair of the senate, said that Stukel had consulted with the university’s legal counsel, Thomas Philpott, on the benefits resolution, which was senate-approved undergraduate minor will have the minor listed on their official university transcripts.

Senate elections

During an organizational meeting that preceded its regular meeting, the senate was informed of the following recommendations already recently conducted by mail-in ballot. Richard Schacht was re-elected chair of the Senate Council, and Erica McClure, a professor of educational psychology, was elected vice chair.

Library Committee

At a supplemental meeting held on May 4, the senate endorsed the establishment of a Campus Library Policy Committee to advise the provost and work with the university librarian on matters concerning library policies and priorities.

The formation of such an advisory body was one of the recommendations contained in a report on the future of the campus library recently completed by the Library Task Force.

The additional meeting was called so that the senate could take action on that recommendation before the end of the academic year in order that a committee could begin work during the summer. The recommender of the recommendations in the library report won’t be analyzed until the following academic year.

There is a sense of urgency to current planning efforts because the library has experienced some “slippage” in recent years and continues to face challenges relating to the rising costs of materials and technological development, said interim Provost Thomas Mengler.

The new committee is charged with helping to shape general library policies and priorities as well as specific policies on collections priorities, major strategic initiatives, staffing models and overall organizational issues.

The committee originally was designed as the Campus Library Policy Board, but its name was amended by the senate to reflect that the committee isn’t a permanent body and that it serves in an advisory capacity.

Several senators expressed concerns about faculty representation on the board. The item approved by the senate does not specify how individual academic units will be represented on the board. However, other senators noted that Mengler wasn’t required to obtain the senate’s endorsement to form an advisory committee.

The university’s Cooperative Extension, and specialty advisor, was the director of the James Scholars Program before he retired in 1972.

Survivors include his wife, Marilyn; two daughters; seven grandchildren, 9 great-grandchil- dren, and one great-grandchild.

Norman D. Peters

Norman Peters, 84, former UI employee, died at 8:18 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. He was 61.

He graduated from Purdue University in electrical engineering in 1966, and was an electrical engineer at the Center for Electronic Microscopy at the UI until he retired in 1990.

He played the domino and mandolin for the Russian Folk Orchestra at the UI.

Survivors include his wife, Marlene; a son; three brothers; a sister; and a

(See deaths, page 9)
**Campaign Illinois progresses toward year-end goal of $1 billion**

The UI Foundation collected nearly $208 million last year to bring the $1 billion Campaign Illinois up to drive total to $896.1 million as of March 31, 1998.

George M.C. Fisher, chairman of the UI Foundation board, and of Campaign Illinois, revealed the milestone figure at the foundation’s “Spring Gathering” April 24 before more than 450 members of the university’s major donor organization, the Presidents Council.

Fisher, a 1968 alumnus, is chairman, president, and CEO of Eastman Kodak Co. Joining him as co-chairs of Campaign Illinois were Richard G. Cline, chairman, and B. Kenneth West, former chairman of Harris Bankcorp Inc.

The $896.1 million total includes nearly $604 million in campaign pledges and gifts received plus more than $382 million in commitments by donors made through trusts, life income plans, bequests and other deferred giving arrangements.

As of March 31, more than $147.9 million had been designated by donors to the university’s endowment, the major priority of the campaign, to provide support for academic programs, faculty chairs/professorships and student financial assistance. Gifts designated for scholarships, fellowships and loans alone amounted to nearly $15.5 million according to the campaign report.

Nearly 37 percent of all gifts-to-date have come from alumni, with non-alumni providing 18 percent, corporations 27 percent, private foundations more than 14 percent and other sources 4 percent.

Fifteen private gifts and grants totaling $47 million earmarked for programs at the UI Foundation, or the Center for the Study of Free Enterprise and Entrepreneurship, Graceland College, 700 College Ave., LaGrange, IA 50653.

**Peter J. Stubing**

Peter J. Stubing, former UI staff psychia-

trist, died April 14 at Miles Memorial Hos-
pital, Damariscotta, Maine. He was 67.

Stubing earned his bachelor’s degree at Yale University and a doctor of medicine degree at the University of Florida. He was board certified in the practice of psychiatry and neurology by the American Board of Psychiatry and Neurology.

Most of his career was spent at the UI as staff psychiatrist, culminating in his appoint-

ment as head of the UI mental health depart-
ment. He also held several professorships.

Survivors include his wife, Kathryn; two sons; a daughter; a brother; and two sisters.

**Karen K. Wendte**

Karen K. Wendte, former UI groundskeeper, died April 25 at her home in Champaign. She was 43.

Wendte also worked in the ware-

house at J.M. Jones Distributing Co., Urbana.

She is survived by her husband, Leon; a daughter; her father; and her stepmother.

Memorial contributions may be made to the St. John’s Lutheran School Building Fund or to an organization of the donor’s choice.

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**Teaching College helps engineering faculty members teach better**

By Nancy Koeneman

Students often take college or pre-college courses to learn how to “learn.” For the past four years, professors and instructors in the College of Engineering have been learning how to teach — better, at the Teaching College.

A faculty-development effort for fac-
ulty members in the College of Engineer-

ing, the 22-week course grew out of the undergraduate and graduate experiences of Bruce Litchfield, “In-class observers” by members of the Teaching College staff helped me become aware of the effective tech-

niques that could be integrated into the classroom and laboratory activities to improve student comprehension and learning.

The in-class observations of the course Damiano was teaching forced him to be more introspective about his teaching meth-

ods and offered some useful perspectives in his approach to teaching, he said. “Perhaps the most beneficial part of the course for me, however, was the opportu-

nity to discuss with my peers common issues regarding teaching that concern us.”

Electrical and computer engineering profes-
sor Elyse Rosenbaum also said the course had been helpful.

“I learned to be more student-focused. I learned that the measure of good teaching is not material, but how well I understand the mate-
rial,” she said. She also learned tips to help her structure her course so students learn effectively, such as emphasizing major points during the lecture and letting stu-

dents learn the fine details through reading and homework, or by us-

ing problem-solving in the classroom.

This year, the Teaching College held its first evaluation of the program, done by students at the UI in an evaluation course in which students study the Teaching College course in the same way it is taught. Litchfield said. However, the com-

ments he heard so far, have been positive.

The 1997-98 GE Scholars class of 17 faculty members were honored at a recep-
tion April 24.
Panel discussion of ALN use is May 8
Faculty members from the UI’s Sloan Center for Asyn-
chronous Learning Environments (SCALE) will take part in a panel discussion from 3 to 5 p.m. May 8 in 407 Levis Faculty Center. Lanny Arvan, associate director of the SCALE project, will moderate the discussion, which is part of an evaluation effort regarding best practices of asyn-
chronous learning networks (ALN). Faculty members will talk about which ALN practices they believe have worked well and why.
SCALE, established in March 1995 with a grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation and a match from the UI, is a three-year project that will conclude at the end of this semester. The project was to develop undergraduate ALN courses to be offered on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Through the project, the campus has witnessed widespread ALN course development. This semester, SCALE sup-
ports about 80 courses that in total enroll more than 2,000
students.

Pl Index available on the Web
A new index on the World Wide Web lists more than 500 Partnership Illinois programs and services at http://
www.ceps.uiuc.edu/partnership/. The index, as well as the search engine on the university’s Web site at http://
www.uiuc.edu/search.html, are excellent aids for helping faculty and students locate programs that may benefit the public.
How can I find an expert? What kind of cultural pro-
gress programs can I participate in at the UI? When fielding calls with questions like these, by asking a few simple questions about the caller’s interests, a search of the index can yield a list of programs and services related to the caller’s interests. You click on a title and get a description of the program, the primary college sponsor, a contact person, how to reach them, and links for the program if there is one. In addition, faculty members can use the search to learn what outreach and public service other colleges are doing.

Partnership Illinois is a campuswide commitment that raises visibility and improves access to university re-
sources through partnerships with schools, businesses, government agencies and private organizations.
“We knew there were many faculty members from this campus reaching and serving the citizens of Illinois, but we had no idea of the number and broad spectrum of programs they represented,” said Steven F. Schomberg, asso-
ciate chancellor and Partnership Council coordinator. “We hope that the index will help the university gain more public visibility and enable faculty members to find poten-
tial campus collaborators for future programming ven-
tures.”

Colleges and departments, who have public service activities not currently in the Pl Index but would like to be

Cooking up a new summer series
Inside Illinois is planning a summer recipe series for this summer. That means we want your summer recipes so we can share them with the rest of campus. We’re looking for a variety of recipes that might be quick and easy, use garden-
fresh items, be easy to make on picnics or are refreshing desserts and beverages. We’re re-
leasing the options open for the creative cooks out there. We’d also like any little nuggets of information and stories you’d like to share about the recipe. The entries chosen for publication will go into a hat for a drawing for . . . something . . . at the end of the summer. Please submit your recipes and stories with your name, position at the university, phone number and e-mail to: koemen@uiuc.edu or by campus mail [please, no handwritten recipes, if possible] to: Nancy Koemen, University of Illinois, 507 S. Wright, Suite 520 East, MC-314.

included, may call John Katz at 265-0496.

YMCA offers service learning project
The University YMCA will offer a new service-learning project for students called Internships for Action (INFAC). The program is designed for UI students inter-
ested in activism and will give them a chance to do hands-on work with grass-roots community groups in Champaign-Urbana. Students can sign up for the program through an inde-
pendent study option with approval of a faculty mentor. More information is available from Patrick Oray at the University YMCA at 337-1514 or pray@prairienet.org.

AIken, Askew on appear on ‘Talking Point” UI Chancellor Michael Aiken and Pat Askew, vice-
chair for student affairs, will appear on WILL-
Channel 12’s “Talking Point” at 8 p.m. May 7. “Talking Point” host David Inge and the two administrators will discuss higher education issues and campus concerns during the hourlong program.

Workshop may affect custodial services
Because of the annual Building Operation Workshop on May 21, there will be no regularly scheduled custodial services that day or evening. Normal service schedules will resume following the Memorial Day holiday. Departments are encouraged to check their work schedules to determine how this will affect the area. Workers will continue to lock and unlock the buildings, to clean auxiliary units as requested, and to clean where operations require a high degree of sanitation. Attempts will be made to provide services if there is a critical need. If there are questions, call Kip Mecum at 337-1492, Randy Kornegay at 337-6417 or Charles Hartman at 701-5459.

New exhibitions open at I space
Three new exhibitions are opening during May at I space, the Chicago gallery of the UI at Urbana-Champaign.

“Gaet Stack: mild warnings” runs through May 16. The exhibition features untitled oil paintings on paper by the Chicago-born artist who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in fine arts from the Urbana-Champaign campus. Stack’s multi-layered paintings combine stenciled pat-
tterns drawn from art-historical references with words and phrases in various languages to form a complex and secretive visual diary.

“Lewis DeSoto: Ka’pa” runs through May 23. The San Francisco-based sculptor’s installation – an arrangement of two columns of coyote and human bones – draws its title from a term that refers to the measure of an eon in Hindu and Buddhist literature. DeSoto describes the installation as representative of an overpopulation of the last detail in a case, showed: “the teacher never explained the limits – when you can and cannot copy the layout and HTML of a page.”

“Talking Point” is on view May 19 through

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9 Friday The Mind, Brain and Language Conference, 7:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m. Levitz Faculty Center. Registration required via the World Wide Web at www.cas.uiuc.edu or 333-6729. Center for Advanced Study, Liberal Arts and Sciences and Beckman Institute.

23 Saturday Children’s Book Reading: “Ceremony” 10:30 a.m. Author’s corner, second floor, Illini Union Bookstore. For more information, call 333-2050. Illini Union Bookstore.


“Spiritual and Devotional Practices in Late Medieval and Early Modern Hispania” Through May 31. Rare Book and Special Collections Library.

“War By Any Other Name” Through May 31. Undergraduate Media Library.


“Engineering of the Titanic” History of Engineering


“Master of Fine Arts Exhibition” Through May 17.

Contemporary Art Series #6: “Blind Volley” Watercolors by Jacqui Morgan: “Eros Botanico” Through June 14. Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion. 9 a.m.-4 p.m. Tuesday, Thursday and Friday; 9 a.m.-7 p.m. Wednesday; 10 a.m.-4 p.m. Saturday. Admission to the Museum is free; a donation of $2 is suggested.


“Beyond the Himalayas” “Of Kings, Crusaders and Craftsmen.”

“In Search of Ancient Egyptians” “Pamukkale U.C.”

“From Alexander to Constantinople” World Heritage Museum.

Fourth floor, Lincoln Hall. 9 a.m.-5 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday.

7:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m. Monday-Thursday; 7:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. Friday. East end of Law School Building, 504 E. Pennsylvania Ave., Champaign.

Kooy, GWcom Inc., Santa Monica. Through June 14.

Through May 17. 20-3 p.m. Tuesday and Thursday monthly.

13 Tuesday Center for Teaching and Learning.

Monday-Saturday; one hour before and after performances and one hour before and after performances on nonperformance weekdays. Tours: First, second and third Sundays at 2:15 p.m. and by appointment for groups of 10 or more.

Second Sunday concerts are part of the WILL-FM’s Prairie Performance series.

The online UIUC Events Calendar is available at http://www.uiuc.edu/uicalendar/cal.html

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to Inside Illinois Calendar, News Bureau, 807 S. Wright St., Suite 520 East, Champaign, IL 61820, or to insideil@uiuc.edu. More information is available from Marty Yeakel at 333-1085. The online UIUC Events Calendar is available at http://www.uiuc.edu/ucalendar/ical.html

UI music professor Sherban Lupu and students from his violin class will perform virtuoso violin works by Niccolò Paganini, Henry Wieniawski and Camille Saint-Saëns through the Second Sunday Concert at 2 p.m. May 10. The free concert at the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion will be broadcast live on WILL-FM (99.9) with host Brian Mustain. Second Sunday concerts are part of WILL-FM’s Prairie Performance series.

8 Friday Superstar Concert Band Contest, Pete J. Griffin, coordinator. 7:30 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Competition for leading school bands with nationally prominent adjudicators.

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10 Sunday Second Sunday Concert, Sherban Lupu, violin. 1:30 p.m. Krannert Art Museum. With Sherban Lupu, violin. 2 p.m. UI music professor Sherban Lupu and students from his violin class will perform virtuoso violin works by Niccolò Paganini, Henry Wieniawski and Camille Saint-Saëns through the Second Sunday Concert at 2 p.m. May 10. The free concert at the Krannert Art Museum and Kinkead Pavilion will be broadcast live on WILL-FM (99.9) with host Brian Mustain. Second Sunday concerts are part of WILL-FM’s Prairie Performance series.

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Tickets on sale now for Krannert Center’s 1998-1999 season

Celebrating 30 years of presenting performing artists in Central Illinois, Krannert Center for the Performing Arts announces its 1998-1999 season of 46 events. The season includes resident productions — collaborative presentations by Krannert Center and the UI departments of dance and theater and the School of Music — along with Marquee events — performances by guest artists. Both series and single-event tickets are now on sale at the Krannert Center Ticket Office.

Krannert Center continues to offer Great Hall, Chamber Music, Sunday Salon, Opera, Theater, Dance and Family Fixed Series during its 1998-1999 season. New this season is the Flex Series, which allows patrons to create their own series with a choice of five or more Krannert Center Resident or Marquee presentations. When patrons purchase multiple events as either Fixed or Flex Series, they will receive a discount. Also new this season are youth prices for high-school and grade-school children. Whether orders are for series or single-event tickets, the Krannert Center ticket office will fill them in the order they receive them; the earlier patrons place their order, the better their seating location.

The 30th Marquee Season

During its 30th season, Krannert Center celebrates the power of the human voice, the grace of the human body, the art of the spoken word and the eloquence of musical expression. Several events cross the boundaries covering more than one area: Hot Mouth is an a cappella ensemble that also expresses itself through theater and dance; the Joe Goode Performance Group and the Margaret Jenkins Dance Company with Olympia Dukakis are dance companies that also express themselves theatrically; and “Monsters of Grace,” a collaboration between composer Philip Glass and director/designer Robert Wilson, is a musical/poetry/film event.

Krannert Center’s season opens Sept. 23 when UI alumnus Dee Dee Bridgewater returns with “Tribute to Ella Fitzgerald.” Other Marquee artists whose vocal traditions Krannert Center celebrates this season include blues singer Koko Taylor, Scottish traditional singer Jean Redpath, the a cappella ensembles Hot Mouth and The King’s Singers, the Chemnille Sisters, mezzosoprano Denyce Graves and tenor Gregory Turay.

Four internationally acclaimed orchestras will be led by their music directors during this Krannert Center season: Yuri Temirkanov leads the St. Petersburg Philharmonic Orchestra. Jaap van Zweden leads the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra, which also welcomes pianist Sebastian Forster as soloist; Mark Ermler leads the Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, which also welcomes cellist Borislav Sulcev as soloist; and Hans Vonk leads the Saint Louis Symphony, which also welcomes pianist Leif Ove Andsnes as soloist. Additional musical artists performing on the stage of the Foellinger Great Hall include pianist Andras Schiff and violinist Nigel Kennedy.

Krannert Center continues its Salon Series, which presents young artists on the brink of exciting professional careers. Guitarist Jason Vieaux and tenor Gregory Turay appear on this series along with the winner of the 1998 Naumburg International Violin Competition and the Krannert Center Debut Artist. The chamber music ensembles include the Arditti String Quartet with pianist Ursula Oppens, the Kalichstein-Laredo-Robinson Trio, the Emerson String Quartet, the Vermeer String Quartet and the English Chamber Orchestra with violinist/conductor Pinchas Zukerman.

Classical ballet reappears this season as the Russian National Ballet presents two crown jewels of its repertoire: “Swan Lake” and “Sleeping Beauty,” both works choreographed by Marius Petipa to music of Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky. The Margaret Jenkins Dance Company and actress Olympia Dukakis have collaborated on a new work, “Time After,” which Krannert Center presents as part of the National Dance Project. The newest work by the Joe Goode Performance Group, “Deeply There,” also premieres this season as part of this project.

The Marquee season is completed with the theatrical performances of political satirists the Capitol Steps and the physical comedy of Gould & Steams.

By resident producers

Produced by the UI department of theater, Illinois Repertory Theater presents plays in both the Colwell Playhouse and the more intimate Studio Theater.

This season, the Colwell Playhouse features a wonderful re-telling of the story “The Princess and the Pea” in “Once Upon a Mattress”; the French farce “Tartuffe”; and “Blithe Spirit,” a comedy by Noel Coward. The modern tone of the Studio Theater includes the Broadway drama, “Come Back to the 5 & Dime, Jimmy Dean, Jimmy Dean” where James Dean disciples gather for a reunion; an American country-and-western take on the 18th-century English classic comedy “She Stoops to Conquer”; “Come Down Burning,” a powerful play that captures the strength of a group of women facing poverty and prejudice as they confront the issue of abortion; “Holy Ghosts,” which follows a religious cult through the mountains of the southern United States; and “A Taste of Sunrise” which tells the humorous and touching story of Tuc as he explores his deadness and how it shapes his relationships (featured in sign and spoken language).

Illinois Dance Theatre, produced by the UI dance department, presents three Studio dance productions and a chamber work program in the Colwell Playhouse. Studiodance I features works by a variety of choreographers including faculty members and Beverly Blossom, professor emerita and Bessie Award-winner. Blossom will perform an excerpt from her newest project. Studiodance II is a showcase for graduating Master of Fine Arts candidates from the department of dance with choreography of Mei-Kuang Chen, Walter Kennedy and Pleshette McKnight. Studiodance III will feature undergraduate and graduate student works selected by department auditions.

The main-stage production, Festival ’99, features collaborative works by resident faculty choreographers René Wadleigh, Rebecca Nett and Patricia Knowles with prominent choreographers Doug Elkins and Talley Beatty.

Produced by the UI School of Music, Illinois Opera Theater presents three classics from the operatic repertoire in Krannert Center’s Tryon Festival Theater. The season opens in November with Dvorak’s “The Eliot of Love,” continues in February with Poulenc’s “Dialogues of the Carmelites,” and concludes in April with Offenbach’s “La Perichole.” All are sung in English.