A traumatic event in a child’s pre-school years may disrupt a key period when the brain is collecting and storing massive amounts of information, researchers say. A review of studies on animals, however, suggests that extensive corrective experiences can help over time.

The report, “How a Child Builds Its Brain,” was based on studies that measured neural plasticity – the molding of the brain in animals as they underwent training and learning experiences. It was one of several studies published in the March-April issue of Preventive Medicine, which was devoted to the proceedings of a 1996 conference on the “Critical Period of Brain Development.”

Researchers at the conference agreed that a critical period exists when brain development is most ready for stimulation and synapse formation. If a species – one tied to its own developmental timetable and another that extracts potentially useful information for later use, said James E. Black, a physician and professor of clinical psychiatry at the UI at Chicago and a visiting professor at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology at the UI’s Urbana campus.

In essence, Black said, “Experience alters brain structure to form persisting memories, not in a monolithic or rigid fashion, but rather utilizing multiple, flexible brain systems that can encode different types of experiences, either abuse or deprivation.”

Animal studies, particularly experiments on rats by Black and William T. Greenough, a neuroscientist and psychologists at the Beckman Institute, suggest “positive, enriching experience will likely produce more synaptic connections in human children,” Black wrote.

While young mammals learn, an overproduction of synaptic connections is followed by a substantial decrease when information is stored or pruned and organized. If a species relies on the quality and timing of experience, Black said, the organization becomes vulnerable to disruption. On the other hand, unique and individualized experience-dependent input – where a squirrel hides a nut or a child’s mastery of a second language – is stored in new neural connections. When a rat is exposed to an enriched environment, brain weight and thickness increase, and new synapses and new blood vessels form.

“Adults certainly retain neural plasticity and can be traumatized by experience, children are likely to be far more vulnerable to pathological experience, either abuse or deprivation, particularly during periods of rapid creation or modification of synaptic connections,” Black said.

The animal studies, he said, suggest that extensive and caring intervention can often break the cycle and heal the damage. Even if a critical period is missed or neglected, humans retain the potential to use corrective experience to make up for their early loss. By the same reasoning, he said, failure to help abused or neglected children can lead to lifelong patterns of distress and dysfunction.

According to research done by James E. Black, a visiting professor at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, people retain the potential to use corrective experience to make up for deprivation resulting from abuse or neglect.

Potential for violence can be very difficult to predict

The question has been asked in some form after every school shooting that has occurred in recent months: Why didn’t someone see the signs that the child would do this?

It’s not a fair question, says Edward Taylor, a professor of social work at the UI. As a researcher of mental illness in children, and author of a recent article on the topic for the journal Child Welfare, Taylor notes that even highly trained mental health professionals would have had little chance of predicting those kids would commit that kind of violence.

“We simply don’t have the tools to do that,” Taylor said. “We still do not understand human development to a point of predicting violence. We can retrospectively look back and say ‘Gee, this was a sign, that was a sign,’ but it wasn’t necessarily a sign.”

“There were things going on in each of the cases that seem to indicate that these children, if looked at closely, would be in a higher probability of needing help with a mental health issue. But they were not flags that said ‘out of all the kids, this kid is going to go and become an assassin.’ ”

Taylor, who is developing a proposal for a long-term study to identify predictors of violence in children, said he is concerned that school shootings will reinforce widespread misconceptions about links between mental illness and violence. Mental illness may be far more vulnerable to pathological processes that might indicate a mental health problem or certain symptoms or tendencies that might indicate a mental health problem are even more likely to indicate only a learning disability – which teachers are much more likely to be looking for.

“Still, I think schools and communities need to do a lot more to be able to recognize and act on the signs that most kids’ problems are serious and temporary. I think that even the most kids’ problems are serious and temporary, but if you are concerned that you have a mental health problem, you should get help.”

Although schools could do more to identify students with mental health problems, Taylor noted, they would know that most kids’ problems are serious and temporary. He said “If you think about the sorts of things that might indicate a mental health problem are even more likely to indicate only a learning disability – which teachers are much more likely to be looking for.

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Trustees review preliminary FY 2000 budget request

By Shannon Vicic

The UI Board of Trustees previewed the university’s budget request for fiscal year 2000 at its meeting last week in Urbana. University administrators presented the trustees with a preliminary 2000 budget request for operating and capital funds for all three campuses. The board is scheduled to vote on a final version of the university’s budget request at its September meeting.

If the preliminary request for operating funds is approved, the 2000 budget request calls for a 3 percent hike in faculty salaries as well as an additional 1 percent in “competitive recovery” funding to help close the gap between faculty salaries at the UI and comparable universities. It also calls for $2.1 million for academic program initiatives and $4.5 million for facilities renovation.

The Chicago campus is requesting $6.8 million in academic funding, which will help maintain Illinois’ status as a top 20 university and achieve its goal of becoming a member of the Association of American Universities (AAU), an organization of leading North American research universities.

Some of UI’s funding priorities include increasing stipends for research and teaching assistants, hiring additional faculty members in the College of Business Administration, purchasing equipment for undergraduate instructional labs and developing the Big City Teacher Preparation Program.

The Springfield campus is asking for $1.2 million, which will help it maintain small class sizes, attain a 15-1 student-faculty ratio, and increase the teaching faculty from 162 to 170 members. The funds also would enable the campus to increase support for special-purpose computer labs and add more computer labs.

The Urbana campus is requesting $11.6 million for academic initiatives. That request includes $5 million for information technology, $2 million to fund the master of arts in public administration, $30,000 to enhance the Fresman Discovery program, and $2 million for library support.

One of the most pressing issues facing the Urbana campus is the gap between faculty salaries and those of comparable peer universities, said Chancellor Michael Aiken.

“Retaining critical faculty [members] is one of the greatest challenges our campus has faced in the last 20 years,” Aiken said.

Among universities identified as Urbana’s peers by the Illinois Board of Higher Education (IBHE), the campus ranked 18th in salaries for full professors in 1998, up from 20th in 1994, but down from 14th in 1978. Urbana is 9.6 percent below the mean in full professor salaries for the 21 IBHE peer institutions.

The decline in faculty salary rankings is the result of five fiscal years – 1988, 1991, 1993, 1994 and 1995 – during which the university received very little or no increase in funding from the state salary program, Aiken said.

Recent gains by the university are in jeopardy because of larger increases at the peer campuses and increases in faculty salaries at the other institutions had been growing at a rate of 3.9 percent annually, but grew 4.5 percent this year.

Much of the gap is because of significant progress at private universities.

“Unfortunately, the gap between faculty salaries at public versus private schools,” said UI President James Stukel. “That trend continues, it could lead to a major talent shift from public to private universities, he said.

In the presentation on the preliminary operating budget request, the board heard a report on the university’s preliminary request for capital funds.

The largest capital project on the university’s plate is a proposed College of Medicine (COM) building at the Chicago campus. That building isn’t part of the university’s capital budget request, however, because the university is going to attempt to obtain state funding for it.

The proposed COM facility would provide laboratories, offices and teaching facilities for the departments of anatomy, biochemistry, microbiology, pharmacology and physiology at UI.

The facility is projected to cost $155 million. The UI will ask the state to provide $100 million up from through its bonding capacity, with the provision that $50 million will go to the building on the site, said Craig Bazzani, UI vice president for business and finance.

The facility will be directed toward helping the campus implement the UIC South Campus development project. The central chiller facility at the Urbana campus would replace 80 to 90 large air conditioners across the campus that are 30 years old or older and are “failing at a dramatic rate,” Bazzani said.

UIC South Campus development

UIC and the University of Illinois at Chicago are working on a 10-year agreement to implement the UIC South Campus development project, contingent on separate approval by each university.

The development plan calls for a mix of academic buildings, student apartments, retail shops, private housing, parking facilities and a possible performing arts facility to implement the UIC South Campus development plan.

The project is expected to cost between $400 and $450 million. Groundbreaking is scheduled for the acquisition of the former State Universities Retirement System (SURS) building at Urbana.

Bazzani said the development plan will be contingent on various actions by the state and will be directed toward helping the campus position UIC as the premier urban research university. It could lead to a major trend continuing, it could lead to a major talent shift from public to private universities, he said.

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The university’s investment will be limited to about $54 million, which will cover the acquisition of the remaining privately-owned land, completion of land infrastructure improvements and bond payments.

Revenue from proposed TIF and private housing land sales will provide $54 million loan, which will amount to $4.5 million in debt service annually.

A joint project by all 3 campuses, the campus development must be approved by the UI board as required by board policy.

Construction projects

The trustees attended a groundbreaking ceremony for the Spurlock Museum of World Cultures and approved construction contracts for the project.

The $10.8 million building, which is being funded through private donations, will be located at the southeast corner of California Avenue and Gregory Place at the eastern edge of campus. It will contain five to seven galleries as well as a museum store, administration offices, an auditorium and support space. Construction will begin in August and is scheduled to be completed by May 2000.

The board also approved the hiring of an architect/engineer for an indoor football practice facility on the Urbana campus. The facility will provide indoor practice space for the men’s football team and will serve as a multipurpose facility for intramural and other sports programs on campus.

The building will be paid for through gift funds, although the funding has yet to be finalized. The proposed site for the practice facility is at the southwest corner of Fourth Street and Peabody Drive, adjacent to Memorial Stadium and the Intramural Physical Education Building (IMPE).

The building will contain an 80-yard football field with one end zone, storage and restrooms.

In Other Business

Three new student trustees were officially installed on the board. Samuel Gallo, a senior in commerce, will serve as the student trustee for the Urbana campus, while Michael Clark, a doctoral student, will serve as UIC’s student trustee and Robert Doyle, a graduate student at UIS, will represent that campus.

Stephen Kaufman, a professor of cell and structural biology, handed out a letter to the board initiating a formal discrimination grievance against UI President James Stukel for the university’s continuing use of Chief Illiniwek as the Urbana campus symbol as well as its licensing of a Native American Indian as the symbol of the UI.

Dennis Baron to head English

At Thursday’s July 9 meeting in Urbana, the UI Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Dennis E. Baron as head of the department of English at UI’s Urbana campus.

Baron, a professor of English and linguistics at the UI, has served as acting head of the Partnership Illinois initiatives since last year, when the previous head, Richard Wheeler, resigned to return to teaching. Baron’s appointment becomes effective Aug. 21. He will continue to hold the rank of professor in the English department.

Baron has taught at the UI since 1975. He served as director of rhetoric from 1985 to 1997, and director of the Writing Outreach Workshop from 1985 to 1988.

Before joining the UI faculty, he was professor of English at Eastern Illinois University from 1971 to 1973 and a professor of English at the City College of CUNY from 1973 to 1974.

In His Own Words

Baron earned a bachelor’s degree from Brandeis University, a master’s from Columbia University and a doctorate from the University of Michigan.

James E. Kloeppel, physical sciences; Craig Chamberlain, education, applied life studies, social work; James Rack, physical sciences; Andrea M. Proudfoot, arts, “wired in” to the university; Melissa Mitchell, arts, “wired in” to the university; and Melissa Mitchell, arts, “wired in” to the university.
**Sizzling summer recipes**

More delicious recipes from our summer cooking series. If you’d like to share a favorite summer recipe (along with a few lines about the recipe), send it to Nancy Koemen, 807 S. Wright St., Urbana, IL 61801 or to nkoemen@uiuc.edu. The winner of our recipe drawing will win a cookbook ($20 value) provided by the Illini Union Bookstore. Anyone who submits a recipe (whether it is used in Inside Illinois or not) will be eligible for the drawing.

**John Jones, accounting technician II**

**Central States**

“Here is a favorite recipe my family enjoys during summer cookouts.”

**Teriyaki Steak**

1 cup soy sauce
1/2 cup water
1/2 cup brown sugar
1/4 cup vinegar
1 1/2 teaspoons ground ginger
1/2 teaspoon black pepper
1 1/2 teaspoons onion salt
2 tablespoons worcestershire sauce

Combine ingredients. Marinade any kind of steak (we use round) by soaking it in the mixture for three hours. Toss on the grill and enjoy!

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**Fund established for Seri**

Contributions are being collected for doctoral candidate Ernest Seri who died June 27 from injuries he received earlier that week. The fund will assist Seri’s family with remaining medical bills and expenses associated with burial in his native Ivory Coast. Donations should be sent to the African Studies Center, 210 International Studies Building, 910S. Fifth. St., MC-485.

**WILL interview series begins**

*As known as Stevie Jay, the producer and on-air personality for the morning show on WDWS-AM (1400), Stevie Jay Khachatourian brings his usual, friendly style to a new interview series airing Thursdays at 8 a.m. on WILL-Channel 12.*

“One on one interviews” will be held with Bishop John J. Myers of the Peoria Diocese (July 23); Richard Hentrick, author of the thriller “Crimson Tide” (Aug. 6); and other area personalities.

Of the program, Khachatourian said, “I’m not a news person. I’m mostly an entertainer. I hope the interviews will be interesting, compelling, but different—that I’ll be able to gain information that viewers never knew about the people on the program.”

**CS secretary exam changes**

Effective July 1, the new keyboarding requirements of the Secretary II, III and IV Civil Service exam are 40 words per minute. No changes have been made to the Secretary II test; the keyboarding speed remains within the past two years because they did not achieve the keyboarding requirements for those classes but who did keyboarded at least 40 words per minute should contact Robbie Witt or Gretchen Hayes, Personnel Services Office, 333-5195. More detailed information can be found on the Personnel Services Home page at http://www.uiuc.edu/ providers/pso/pso.html.

**Photo Services facility moves**

For the past two years, Photographic Services has maintained a facility in Engineering West for its central campus customers. With the closing of Engineering Hall for extensive renovation, Photo Services has moved its service facility to 600 Eversit Lab. The move is in cooperation with the Department of Computer and Computer Engineering Stores.

From the new location, Photo Services continues to offer a range of services as well as photographic film and supplies. Appointments for portrait sittings and studio photography still should be made through the main laboratory at 54 E. Gregory Drive; 333-4677. Customers with any concerns or who would like other services from the central campus location should call Photo Services or Geoff Bant, director of printing services, at g.bant@uiuc.edu or 244-4675.

**l-space features MFA works**

Dethemocracy, dissonance and contradiction are among the elements that unite an otherwise diverse selection of art on view July 17 through Aug. 7 at 1 space, the Chicago gallery of the Urbana campus.

The show’s artists—Amy Baur, Elizabeth Ferguson, Lora Lode, Meghan Raymond and Jennifer Russell—share a singular distinction, however. They were chosen to represent their class in the fourth annual exhibition of works by graduating students from the Urbana campus’ School of Art and Design’s master of fine arts program.

The show’s title, “... all we know of Heaven...” is itself a nod to the artists’ treatment of the concept of duality and the possible existence of multiple truths. The title is borrowed from a line in Emily Dickinson’s Poem #1732: “Parting is all we know of Heaven, and all we need of Hell.”

UI painting professor Laurie Hogin curates the exhibition, which emphasizes the broad range of media explored by students in the MFA program: from painting and mixed media to photography and video projection.

Appointments for the artists are scheduled for 5 to 7 p.m. July 17 at the gallery, 230 W. Superior St., Chicago. Space gallery hours are Tuesday through Saturday, 11 a.m. to 5 p.m.

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**deaths**

**Harry S. Broudy**

Harry S. Broudy, UI professor emeritus of education, died June 24 at Meadowbrook Health Center, Urbana. He was 92.

Broudy earned a bachelor’s degree in Germanic literature and philosophy from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1929. He received a master’s degree and a doctorate from Harvard University.

He was named professor of philosophy and psychology by the Massachusetts Department of Education in 1937 and taught at North Adams and Framingham State Teachers colleges until 1957.

He then joined the UI College of Education as a professor of philosophy of education. He was named professor emeritus when he retired in 1974.

He served as a visiting professor at many academic institutions in the United States and Canada, and was a past fellow of the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences at Stanford, Calif. He also was a member of the advisory board and the scientific advisory of the Getty Institute for Aesthetic Education.

He lectured throughout the United States, Canada, Europe, South America, Asia and Australia. He was awarded a Fulbright lectureship in Australia and was named to the College of Fellows of Boston University in 1975. He was honored in 1984 by the state of Illinois for his efforts to create statutory requirements for arts education in schools.

After his retirement, he remained active, applying his work on philosophy of education to aesthetic education and interdisciplinary thinking. He continued research and seminar activities, write, travel and lecture until 1990.

Survivors include a son, a grandson and two brothers.

Memorial contributions may be made to the UI Foundation Harry Broudy Scholarship Fund, Harker Hall, 1305 W. Green St., MC-386.

**J. Edward Hulett**

J. Edward Hulett, a former UI professor of sociology, died June 30 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. He was 89.

Hulett graduated from Mississippi College in 1929. He joined the UI faculty in 1938 after he completed a doctorate at the University of Wisconsin. He was chairman of the UI department of sociology and anthropology from 1953 to 1960 and was acting head of the department from 1968 to 1969.

He held research positions in Washington, D.C., with the Rural Research Division of the Works Progress Administration from 1934 to 1935 and with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics from 1939 to 1940. During World War II he was employed by the U.S. Office of Strategic Services.

Survivors include a son, three grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Memorial contributions may be made to the UI Foundation, 2000 S. Sixth St. or any organization of the donor’s choice.
16 Thursday  "Moon Over Buffalo." Nancy Reynolds, director. 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. A young architect is visited by a man he’s never met but who saved his life in Vietnam in 1965, and the visit turns into an evening of good humor as the visitor who outstays his welcome. Admission charge.

17 Friday  "Wait Until Dark." Nancy Reynolds, director. 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

18 Saturday  "The Ney." Peter Reynolds, director. 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. A young architect is visited by a man he’s never met but who saved his life in Vietnam in 1965, and the visit turns into an evening of good humor as the visitor who outstays his welcome. Admission charge.

19 Sunday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

20 Monday  "Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

21 Tuesday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

22 Wednesday  "Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

23 Thursday  "The Ney." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

24 Friday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

25 Saturday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

26 Sunday  "Wait Until Dark." 7 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

27 Monday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

28 Tuesday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

29 Wednesday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

30 Thursday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

31 Friday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

Saturday  "Wait Until Dark." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

1 Sunday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

2 Monday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

3 Tuesday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

4 Wednesday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

5 Thursday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

6 Friday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

7 Saturday  "Moon Over Buffalo." 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge.