ALLEN HALL OFFERS STUDENTS UNIQUE LIVING/LEARNING ENVIRONMENT

BY BECKY MABRY

When Patch Adams arrived on campus earlier this week, he threw his bags and toothbrush into the familiar surroundings of a three-room apartment in Allen Hall, and settled in for a week’s visit.

The famous physician, the subject of the popular Robin Williams movie “Patch Adams,” has spent weeks in Allen Hall many times and years before he was riding this latest wave of popularity and fame.

At least four times he has been the guest-in-residence there, meaning that he lives in the hall and has nightly get-togethers with students, as well as informal chats.

Perks like having famous or near-famous people drop by has attracted students to the Unit One program at Allen Hall since 1972. The now famous living-learning community at Allen also offers academic freshman-sophomore courses such as introductory courses in psychology, sociology and others in classrooms right in the residence hall.

Students can take Psych 100 with 25 students they know, rather than all larger class with a few hundred students they probably wouldn’t know.

Plus they can take courses such as ceramics or photography and make use of equipped photo labs and ceramics studios in the basement. There also are soundproof rooms with pianos for music practice.

“I’m a very happy parent,” said Sandy Goss, who is an associate director of introductory courses for psychology. Her daughter, Stephanie, is a third-year resident at Allen Hall.

“I think it’s a wonderful experience. It’s a way of getting that small-college feeling with all the advantages of being at a big research institution,” Goss said.

Jo Kibbee said she encouraged her daughter to live in Allen Hall after hearing positive comments about it on campus. Kibbee is head reference librarian and a professor in library administration.

“The school is so big and particularly with the large enrollments in courses for freshmen, I thought this would give her a more personal experience, particularly in classes,” Kibbee said. “She’s appreciated the classes she takes at Allen Hall. One of the freshman introductory classes she is taking is usually taught to large groups, but she is in a class of 15 or 20.”

The Guest-in-Residence program is one of the

New book reveals history of ‘Majestic Allerton’

BY MELISSA MITCHELL

For more than half a century, the UI’s Robert Allerton Park and Conference Center near Monticello has been the undisputed great escape for UI faculty and staff members, students and area residents seeking the three Rs: refuge, recreation and renewal.

Favored as an idyllic country retreat by hikers, bikers, picnic-packers, cross-country skiers, conference-goers – Allerton is arguably among the rarest of jewels in the UI crown. The university’s very own “Camelot” is how it is described in a new book, “Majestic Allerton: The Story of the Creation of an Oasis on the Prairie.”

The book’s author, Kay Bock, is a communications associate at the UI Foundation. Bock has said she has been awe by the park since her days as a UI student, and she developed an especially powerful connection with the place after a weekend conference stay there several years ago. In choosing a title for the book, Bock drew on those personal observations and associations.

“I was searching for a word that seemed to portray all the various aspects of the park,” she said. Then, it came to her when she realized how “I’d always been over-come by the majesty of the place.”

(See Allerton, page 9)
U-C Senate urges increased funding for UI Library

By Becky Mabry

The UI library was once considered the third best university library in the United States, but that’s no longer true, according to the Urbana-Champaign Senate’s committee on the library.

Inadequate funding has resulted in fewer acquisitions and fewer library personnel, according to the committee’s report. If the senate approves, the library would still be the third largest collection in North America, said Alexander Scheeline, professor of chemistry and chair of the library committee. But the current acquisitions budget ranks the UI 19th, according to the Association of Research Libraries; total budget was 15th in the ARL listings.

“All good faculty members provide syllabi and all good faculty members acknowledge syllabi need to be provided.” – Joe Oberweis

The resolution language states that the library is “the lifeblood” of the university but has been “grossly underfunded” for the last two decades.

The resolution will be forwarded to campus librarian Richard Herman and the Campus Budget Oversight Committee. The CBC must fund recommendations the provost, then decides how money will be divided among the departments.

Senate considers requiring course syllabus, nomintaes Athletic Board members

By Becky Mabry

Students want a course syllabus from their instructor that offers a timeline for exams, grading policies and other pertinent “need-to-know” information, according to Joe Oberweis, president of the student Senate Caucus, which comprises the 50 student senators.

And most faculty members provide them.

But a student resolution, proposing that faculty be required to provide syllabi, was defeated by more than a majority, according to a majority vote of the Urbana-Champaign Senate on Feb. 15. The resolution will now go to the senate’s educational policy committee. That committee is charged with bringing back a recommendation no later than the last meeting of the senate this school year. Oberweis, a sophomore in commerce and business administration, said he was disappointed but not surprised by the action.

But, he added, it is an appropriate compromise.” Oberweis said. “The fact that it is going to come back to us by the end of this year is reassuring.”

Comments from several faculty members focused on the same point – that the resolution if passed would constrain faculty, and that those kinds of requirements should be coming from individual departments, rather than the senate.

But Lawrence Tabone, junior in Liberal Arts and Sciences, argued that it is a simple request from the majority of the student body.

“We, as a campus, have a consensus that we would like to know what we are responsible for in our classes,” Tabone said. “Northwestern puts their syllabi online before students register for classes. Maybe the philosophy behind this is that students should be educated when they register for classes about the depth of material, rather than just read a brief paragraph in a course catalog.”

Oberweis said most faculty members already provide syllabi, but the few who don’t make it difficult for students.

“Winds forced over mountains, for example, can produce waves that propagate to the upper atmosphere where they interact and become a major factor in atmospheric flows,” Swenson said. “Winds, for example, can produce waves that propagate to the upper atmosphere where they interact and become a major factor in atmospheric flows.”

The study supporting development of specialized instrumentation— including advanced infrared detectors —that could be used on a future space satellite.

Menu growth is forecast for the Illinois economy in 1999, U of I economists say in their annual outlook.

Propelled by strong consumer spending, expansion will be concentrated in the services and financial sectors, a report by the UI Institute of Government and Public Affairs predicted. Because the service sector now dominates the state economy, growth in this field will keep the economy expanding at a steady inflation-adjusted rate of about 2 percent.

Adding the state’s modest growth in 1999 will be the stock market, whose surprising rebound since October has added to the wealth of many Illinois citizens. So long as the financial markets do not undergo wild price swings or last summer’s free fall, the improvement in stock valuations will spur consumer spending.

There are two trouble spots. Illinois manufacturing is expected to contract in 1999, though not as sharply as elsewhere in the United States. Furthermore, the flood of foreign imports arising from Asia’s economic woes “will reduce sales and limit price increases for Illinois companies,” Robert W. Resek, chief author of the UI report, said.

Resek credited Illinois companies with a quick response to the Asian crisis. By reducing their inventory and taking immediately write-downs of any business losses, Illinois corporations were able to ride out the expected manufacturing slowdowns this year. As a result, overall manufacturing employment in the state will drop by only 1 percent this year, Resek predicted.

“Second problem that started abroad is the low price for agricultural commodities,” the report noted. “While these prices will hurt profits of Illinois farmers, productivity remains great and there will be little or no impact on total farm activity in 1999.”

The state government will end the 1999 year in a better financial situation than in the previous decade, according to UI economists J. Fred Giertz and Therese J. McGuire.

“Jim Edgar has led the state government with the state fiscal condition arguably the best in history,” Giertz and McGuire wrote. “Notwithstanding the fact that the state’s tax revenues, though tax revenues, though tax revenues, though tax revenues, though tax revenues at a slower rate this year as compared to 1998, the economists still predict a healthy $1.2 billion general funds balance when the 1999 fiscal year ends June 30.”

Illinois was in the middle of a recession and state tax revenues were far short of expectations when Gov. Edgar took office eight years ago. For most of his first term, Edgar walked the tightrope of managing “a huge overhang of unpaid state bills” while out resorting to a major tax increase.

The state’s current budget surplus reflects both a buoyant state of the regional economy and “strong fiscal discipline exercised by the governor and General Assembly,” Giertz and McGuire concluded.

Plain text representation of the document: **U-C Senate urges increased funding for UI Library**

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In 1967, the UI ranked second, behind Harvard University, said Alexander Scheeline, the UI library was once considered the “lifeblood” of the university but has been “grossly underfunded” for the last two decades.

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Kathy Reiser is a field services coordinator with the UI Extension. From her office in Mumford Hall she keeps in touch with the academic professionals, staff members and volunteers who work in extension offices around the state. She gives in-service training, and she helps communities launch drives to pass referenda to support extension programs. She’s frequently on the road, and every summer she’s a regular at the Illinois State Fair, publicizing the 7,500 youngsters in 4-H events.

and she helps communities launch drives to pass referenda to support extension programs. The fact that three separate East Asian foundations in two different countries have expressed their confidence and endorsement in what we are doing is a source of real pride and gratification,” she said.

The awards, adding up to more than $210,000, enable the program to hire two new professors and add about 1,000 Korean volumes to the university’s Asian Library.

Toby said a three-year $75,000 grant from the Korea Research Foundation, a quasi-independent agency established by the South Korean government, will be used to bring Han Sohn here as a visiting professor for several years, beginning this fall. Sohn, now a professor at Yonsei University in Korea, earned a doctorate in linguistics at the UI in 1976. As a visiting professor here in the early 1980s, Sohn worked with Chon woo Kim, helping to set up the current Korean language program. Sohn went on to direct the Language Institute at Yonsei, the world’s preeminent facility in the field.

“He’s a fascinating guy and an incredibly bright and energetic person,” Toby said of Sohn. “He’ll be reorganizing the Korean language program, strengthening and building on the program we have developed over the last 15 years.”

The other addition at EALC this fall will be Brian Ruppert, a specialist in Japanese Buddhism and popular religion. He accepted a position as an assistant professor of EALC and religious studies, which will be funded in part by an award of about $100,000 from the Japan Foundation, also a government sponsored entity.

The purpose of the faculty expansion grant is to establish a new position in Japanese religions. Toby said Ruppert, now a popular teacher at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, will be teaching a course in Zen Buddhism and a class on religion and culture in historical Japan.

“His work is going to have a significant impact on the field of East Asian studies here at the University,” Toby said. “It’s going to help us to understand the religious and cultural traditions of East Asia.”


I’m extremely excited to be coming to the UI, which has for a long time had an internationally known reputation for excellence in the study of East Asia and of religion,” Ruppert said in an e-mail from Japan, where he is visiting Osaka University on a separate Japan Foundation research fellowship.

Toby said the new hires and the books added to the library will help fulfill his department’s mission — to add to the understanding of the peoples of East Asia.

“It’s a third of humanity that’s becoming increasingly important to the cultural, economic and strategic life of the United States and the entire world,” he said.

In order to understand how these people think and see the world, we have to understand their linguistic and cultural traditions,” Toby said.

Students who earn an undergraduate or graduate degree from EALC can expect to find jobs in international business, international law or foreign service. Last fall the department began offering a Ph.D., the first new doctoral program on campus in international law or foreign service. Last fall the department began offering a Ph.D., the first new doctoral program on campus in international law or foreign service.
New service offers parents both local and national resources

By Craig Chamberlain

Mothers and dads with parenting concerns often want the best information they can find. But they also may need help close to home and don’t know where to look.

Parents in Illinois now have one place to go: NPIN Illinois.

Through a Web site, or by phone or e-mail, Illinoisans can use the service to access a massive national database of articles and documents on education and parenting. Through the same means, they can locate a source in the state or their community, hands-on help.

This melding in one place of links to both national and local resources, both expertise and service, is a joint project of the state’s Lincoln Trails Libraries System and the ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education, based at the UI – one of 16 clearinghouses in the federally funded ERIC (Educational Resources Information Center) system.

The money to create NPIN Illinois was provided by the Illinois State Library, using federal Library Services and Technology Act funding.

“One of the interesting things about the World Wide Web is you can think and act globally and locally, and the new service takes advantage of that,” said Dianne Rothenberg, associate director of the UI-based clearinghouse. “Part of our goal with NPIN Illinois is to be a model for how other states can combine resources.”

A few other states have started similar services, but without the connection to either ERIC or libraries, noted NPIN Illinois coordinator Amy Aidman. Libraries play a key role, said Brenda Facey, associate director of the Lincoln Trails system, because they have local information already in hand, can make patrons aware of the service and can assist them with the Web in finding materials.

The new service operates in collaboration with the Illinois Family Partnership Network, composed of human service professionals and parent groups; about 2,700 libraries; the Illinois State Board of Education; regional offices of education; local school districts; and UI Extension.

NPIN Illinois developed through discussions with all of those agencies and organizations, but it also grew from experience with the National Parent Information Network (NPIN), established at the UI-based clearinghouse in 1993 as a means for giving parents access to ERIC resources.

Some people involved in NPIN Illinois, a new resource for parents, (clockwise from upper left) Anne Robertson, NPIN’s parenting educator; Amy Aidman, NPIN Illinois project manager; Sarah Donahoo, NPIN Illinois staff member; and Lilian Katz and Dianne Rothenberg, director and associate director of ERIC Clearinghouse on Elementary and Early Childhood Education.

“We’ve learned from experience that very often parents are looking for a service that’s right across the street, but they don’t know it,” said Lilian Katz, director of the clearinghouse. Staff would try to find those local resources, but the information often was not up-to-date or readily at hand.

According to NPIN’s Anne Robertson, they wanted a service “that integrated NPIN’s philosophy and use of research-based information with what we knew – really knew – was going on locally.”

The Web address for NPIN Illinois is http://npinil.crc.uiuc.edu. For questions or requests, e-mail npinillinois@uiuc.edu; the toll-free phone number is (800) 583-4135.

Activist claims U.S. policy harms Iraqis while bolstering Saddam

By Huey Freeman

Mike Bremer, a member of Voices in the Wilderness, a campaign opposed to U.S./U.N. sanctions against Iraq, told an audience Feb. 12 that the embargo has resulted in the deaths of about a million civilians, while strengthening Saddam Hussein’s government. U.N. resolutions and U.S. laws have sharply restricted Iraqi oil sales and importation of foods, medicines and other necessities.

“It’s become one of the great catastrophes of this century,” Bremer said at a noon forum at the Channing-Murray Foundation attended by 15 people.

Bremer has made two trips to Iraq in the past 16 months to deliver medicine to more than 10 hospitals.

“Our observation is that many children and especially older people are dying needlessly in hospitals of diseases that are epidemic in the country — cholera, typhoid, all kinds of gastrointestinal illnesses — because people cannot get clean water,” said Bremer, who was a human rights activist with Witness for Peace in Central America in the 1980s.

Bremer, who works as a carpenter in Chicago, contrasted the depleted Iraqi medical system today with the care delivered before 1990, when the sanctions were implemented. The embargo was imposed then after Iraq’s invasion of Kuwait. He said the United Nations used to hold Iraq up as a model in the region, with free health care and an abundance of well-trained physicians.

“We have seen that public health system destroyed,” he said. This was accomplished in two ways, he said: by 88,000 tons of allied bombs dropped in the Gulf War — more than the total dropped in World War II — and 8 1/2 years of sanctions. The hospitals now don’t have the medications necessary to treat rampant illnesses in Iraq, he said.

“The sewage treatment plants still don’t have spare parts,” he said. “They’re still dumping raw sewage into the Tigris River.”

There is an acute shortage of clean drinking water because chlorine, used in water purification, is allowed into Iraq only in limited quantities, Bremer said.

“The economy has been destroyed,” he said. “People, starting with the lower classes are deprived of proper nutrition and proper sanitation, so their children are dying.”

Bremer said the middle and upper middle

(See Iraq sanctions, page 5)
Iraq sanctions

That’s the group of people who are somehow tied to the government or military,” he said. Luxury goods such as TVs and leather coats are smuggled in by people tied to the military, Bremer said. Because of the relatively few goods and the favored few who control them, the blockade has created a patronage system.

“They have served to strengthen economically and politically the regime that’s in power now,” Bremer said.

In an interview after his speech, Bremer said there was one thing that stood out in his mind from his many visits to Iraqi hospitals.

“The leukemia wards were filled with children,” he said.

Bremer said Abdul Satar, a physician practicing at Al Monsour Hospital in Baghdad, told him there had been a five-fold increase in childhood leukemia cases. Many physicians and others believe these are caused by the use of depleted uranium in U.S. bombs dropped on Iraq.

There also have been many children born with birth defects, especially in areas that were heavily bombed, Bremer said. Bremer remembered a confrontation with an Iraqi in a leukemia ward.

“A man began to yell at us in Arabic,” he recalled. A doctor explained that he was angry because his son was dying from lymphoma, which had a 60 percent cure rate, but he couldn’t get medicine. “He saw us as people from the country that denied his son life.”

Bremer said after the man was told why his group was there, he held his hand out in forgiveness and reconciliation,” he said. “And they say they pay more attention to their own teaching and learning styles, and how students learn. They say they’re thinking about teaching more, and talking about it with colleagues more. And they say they pay more attention to what the goals and objectives for the students are for that day.”

It did take time, however, for all involved. And it did require additional money, which was provided by the Provost’s Initiative on Teaching Assessment, called PITA for short. Across campus, other deans and department heads are realizing that even the best of their teachers can use some training to improve what goes on in their classrooms. PITA funded 14 faculty projects this year aimed at assessing and improving teaching.

The Teaching Advancement Board, comprising 14 professors from a variety of disciplines, also promotes and oversees efforts to encourage undergraduate teaching. TAB has provided travel grants to nearly 15 faculty members to attend teaching workshops and seminars. John Braden, associate provost, encourages more faculty members to apply for the grants.

Hassan Aref, professor and head of the teaching department of theoretical and applied mechanics, was the first chairman of TAB. He said it was created with the hope that it would do for teaching what the Research Board has done for research.

“I think we encountered basically the old can of worms about teaching versus research and the fact that most of the university’s rewards sit in the research area,” said Aref. “So we looked at how to encourage faculty to become more engaged in teaching.”

“Teaching is obviously a big enterprise and something that consumes a lot of our time,” he said. “It’s not something you can have an impact on very quickly. It’s important that the senior administration is behind this. It articulates that teaching is important, and that there is some follow-up to that articulation, in terms of raises and promotions and bonuses and awards—all the things that go into the value system in the university.”

Marne Helgesen, head of the Division of Instructional Development in the Office of Instructional Resources, has helped several departments establish teaching assessment and enhancement programs through PITA. Bruce Lithcfield, professor of agricultural engineering, currently serves as chairman of TAB.

Other TAB committee members are James Gentry, finance; Gary Gladding, physics; William Greenough, Beckman Institute; Achsa Ashaybory, English; Steven Helle, journalism; Joana Maclay, speech communications; Kent Monroe, business administration; Diane Musumeci, foreign languages; Allan Paul, veterinary medicine; Adelle Renzaglia, special education; Shelly Schmidt, food science and human nutrition; Steven Zumlauf, chemistry; and Braden.
Key gene that controls emergence of salmonella identified

By Jim Barlow

A gene that dictates salmonella’s ability to live dormantly or cause disease in pigs has been found by researchers at the UI. In the laboratory, scientists have even fooled the bacteria in one strain into switching back and forth between these two forms.

The finding, says Richard E. Isaacson, a professor of veterinary pathobiology, is the first documentation of a phase-shifting process in salmonella and in any food-borne bacteria that is related to its ability to grow in specific environments. Finding the control switch, he said, could pave the way for developing methods to rid the disease-causing form from farm animals.

Salmonella attacks the stomach and intestines in animals and humans, and is a leading cause of gastrointestinal infections. Some 2,000 strains have been identified. Until now, scientists have not been able to explain why salmonella is often found in apparently healthy animals.

“We think that the reason that animals can appear healthy but go on with long-term infection is because the bacteria switches back and forth between these two forms so that it has just the right combination of the right kind of cells to survive and linger there but not cause disease,” Isaacson says.

Isaacson, a professor of veterinary pathobiology, has been looking on or off depending on where the organism is growing. What we think is really important is that this gene or a master switch controlling this gene is really a key process in how salmonella makes a living in animals.

Isaacson reported salmonella’s two genetic phenotypes in 1992. The new work sought to find the differences by comparing mutants with the two forms of the Salmonella typhimurium strain. Using antibiotic-resistant markers and a detection technique called SDS-polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis, they identified the RfaL gene that is required to produce O-antigen.

“Using stories with children has a number of benefits, from the practical increase of attention spans to the lyrical soaring of the soul that occurs when art is experienced.” – Janice Del Negro

TV, computers can be tools to encourage young readers, scholars say

By Andrea Lynn

Looking for a way to boost your child’s interest in reading? Experts say something as old as the human voice and as new as cyberspace may help.

Betsy Hearne, an international authority on children’s literature and professor at the UI, believes that the time-honored tradition of storytelling can be a bridge between a world that is focused on television, computers and other forms of media stories, and the world of books.

While today’s children seem more attuned to the visual tradition than they are to the printed word and, while they now are far more distractions from pleasure reading than ever before, those very distractions — in the form of computer games, text messages and more — can be inside books. ‘The Little House on the Prairie’ is a good example of that,” Hearne said.

“Electronic media and reading are not necessarily antithetical, not necessarily opposing forces,” said Hearne, a co-editor and contributor to a new book on storytelling. “The World Wide Web is one of the most promising storytelling devices.”

Hearne and 11 other children’s literature/storytelling experts explore ways to help reconnect children and narrative in a new book titled “Story: From Fireplace to Cyberplace.” The book, which includes essays and information in all forms,” the book offers practical, theoretical, literary and cultural aspects of storytelling, told from the perspectives of professional storytellers, school media specialists, editors, librarians and university professors. It is intended for anyone interested in storytelling, including teachers, school media specialists, librarians and professional storytellers.

Hearne, a GLSIL professor and author of five children’s novels and the critically acclaimed picture book “Seven Brave Women,” said that storytelling is experiencing “a revival of interest,” and that she and the other editors wanted to include in their book “some of the more innovative aspects of the new media, such as storytelling and storytelling resources on the Web and contemporary viewpoints on the way storytelling is being used, particularly with children in libraries today, but in other modes as well.”

In her essay, Janice Del Negro, the current editor of The Bulletin, writes that “using stories with children has a number of benefits, from the practical increase of attention spans to the lyrical soaring of the soul that occurs when art is experienced.”

Editors, in addition to Del Negro and Hearne, are Christine Jenkins and Deborah Stevenson, all from the UI ‘Story’ can be ordered by calling the GLSIL publications office, (217) 333-1359.
Computer simulation could ease production of tiny lasers

By Karen Green
National Center for Supercomputing Applications

A new computer simulation method developed by National Computational Science Alliance (NCSA) scientists in Champaign could make it easier and quicker to produce tiny lasers used in everything from compact disk players to wheelchair sports.

Karl Hess, a professor of physics and electrical engineering, designed a vertical cavity surface-emitting lasers (VCSEL), which are as small as devices on silicon chips and could pave the way for ultra-fast, laser-driven computers and telecommunication devices. Although a basic design for VCSELs exists, optimization of the design requires long, tedious recomputing of design parameters.

Until recently, some refinements of a VCSEL’s design took at least 12 hours—and sometimes as long as a month—to recompute on a desktop workstation. Hess, a member of the alliance Nanomaterials Applications Technologies team, and his colleagues have developed an algorithm that reduces recomputing time to 30 seconds or even less. Hess, graduate student Benjamin Klein and Leonard F. Register, a research scientist at the UI’s Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology, mathematically restructured the calculations done each time a laser design is refined on a computer. The new system allows the bulk of computations to be processed in parallel on a supercomputer, which further reduces computing time. From this point, small refinements to the laser design can be done on a workstation, with each refinement taking no more than a few minutes to calculate.

“VCSELs will revolutionize the technology behind the way we communicate and the way we conduct business. It’s exciting to see the alliance playing a role in this emerging, cutting-edge technology.”

For more information about the work of Hess, Klein and Register see Access Online at http://access.niaa.ncsa.uiuc.edu/NSFPC.

The alliance is a partnership to prototype an advanced computational infrastructure for the 21st century and includes more than 50 academic, government and industry researchers from across the United States.

The alliance is one of two partnerships funded by the National Science Foundation’s Partnerships for Advanced Computational Infrastructure program, and receives cost sharing at partner institutions. NSF also supports the National Partnership for Advanced Computational Infrastructure, led by the San Diego Supercomputer Center.

The National Center for Supercomputing Applications is the leading-edge site for the alliance. The supercomputing center is a leader in the development and deployment of cutting-edge high-performance computing, networking, and information technologies. NSF, the state of Illinois, the UI, industrial partners, and other federal agencies fund the supercomputing center.
Allerton (Continued from page 1)

Becoming the majesty, Bock said, Allerton often has an almost spiritual effect on visitors, who sense the presence of a history that practically begs people to notice—at take pause—as they wander through the estate's gardens and on its woodland trails. "A kind of machine that allows you to get in touch with a time and place that doesn't exist anymore," she said.

In "Majestic Allerton," Bock minces that history, pulling together a wealth of stories and information—which of it long buried in memory and in Allerton's on-site archives—and puts human faces on the family behind the legacy.

"The book helps people to know there is a story and a family that have been touched by—and have been touching—history for generations," she said.

Much of the 28-page book focuses on Robert Allerton, son of Chicago millionaire Samuel Allerton, whose creative vision inspired not only the construction of the property's impressive English country-style mansion but the artistic landscape of the surrounding grounds and gardens, as well.

Robert Allerton originally aspired to be an artist, but after completing studies in Paris and Munich, he concluded—at age 24—that he had no real talent. Instead, he set his sights on becoming a "gentleman farmer," and succeeded in convincing his father to allow him to manage the family farmstead in Piatto County.

The young Reginald passed across Bock's account as a shrewd, though somewhat unsavory, businessman compared with his more cultured son, the elder Allerton was "a real character and a talent," Bock said. "He had an appreciation for art, even though he seemed more pragmatic."

And, she said, he believed in sharing his wealth and knowledge.

As an example, she noted that it was Samuel who ordered the planting of 5,000 fruit trees along the roads bordering the Allerton estate. Besides enhancing the landscape, the trees were to be considered public property, and the people were "Mr. Allerton's wish that passers-by will be free to help themselves" to the fruit the trees bore.

Bock said Allerton's generosity with respect to the fruit trees was rooted in an incident from his childhood, which he transmits, respect and friendship. Confronted by a Quaker farmer who knew young Samuel of a boy's deal struck by his older brother from the orchard—damaging branches to get to the fruit—the boy admitted his guilt. The farmer, repaid him for the honesty by giving him permission to help himself to the cherries in the future, as long as he agreed to not break off any limbs in his pursuit of the fruit.

The story ranks among Bock's favorite Allerton stories.

"Once you know the history, it really knocks your socks off," she said, adding that while she was researching the book, she just kept uncovering surprises. Among the biggest, for Bock, was her discovery that the earliest American Allerton, Isaac, journeyed to this country on the Mayflower.

"It only came here on the Mayflower, he ranked third in importance among the Pilgrims and was connected with Miles Standish," she said. In the book, she notes that Isaac Allerton concluded the nation's first peace treaty with the Indians in 1621 and later became assistant governor of Plymouth Colony.

Although Bock is responsible for unearthing the family history and telling the story in her own voice, she is quick to credit the research and assistance of others. Among her many sources are master's theses by Nancy Becker Hahn, Georgia K. Sonuika and Laura Klett, and a cache of information compiled by Susan Enscore and assistant Michel Bock with assistance from UI archivist Bill Maher. Also providing invaluable assistance, Bock said, was park superintendent David Bowser, and her boss at the UI Foundation, communications officer Jim Gobberdel. She said Gobberdel was the driving force behind the book project and served as its creative director.

The book, which was published by the Foundation last November, coincides with the launch of a fund-raising effort aimed at restoring the Allerton mansion and grounds. The campaign marks the 100th anniversary of the home, which was completed in 1900. Among the improvements planned are replacement of the building's slate roof; development of a master garden restoration plan; road maintenance and reconstruction; replacement of the building's slate roof; and restoration of the 1860s Wymondshire Farms office; maintenance of a collection of an arched bridge; and restoration of various sculptures, including the Sun Singer and Japanese garden fish in the Sunken Garden, which have been damaged by lightening.

"Majestic Allerton," which retails for $20, is available at area bookstore, including the Illini Union Bookstore, and at the Allerton Visitor Center, where UI employees may purchase it through payroll deduction. Orders also may be placed by phone 333-3287, or by sending e-mail to blacker@staff.uiuc.edu.

--Kay Bock
Knots of evaporating gas in supernova remnant support theory

The expanding shock wave of a supernova remnant in the Large Magellanic Cloud has provided strong evidence to support a popular model of the interstellar medium, says a UI astronomer who directed an international team studying the object.

“One theory concerning the global structure of the interstellar medium says that supernova shock waves will interact with the cold gas and dust of the interstellar medium, eventually forming three distinct temperature phases,” said You-Hua Chu, a UI professor of astronomy. “Although this ‘three-phase model’ has been popular for the past 20 years, no one had found convincing evidence for one of the model’s basic tenets – a cold cloud evaporating in the hot medium.”

To study the supernova remnant – called N63A, Chu and her colleagues obtained optical images from the Hubble Space Telescope and high-resolution X-ray images from the ROSAT X-ray telescope. “The X-ray observations reveal the full extent of this huge supernova remnant,” Chu said, “but the optical images show the features we are most interested in.”

Among those features are three bright clouds of gas and dust, similar in size to the Orion Nebula. Two of the clouds show distinct filamentary structures indicative of shock-wave compression, Chu said. The outward rushing shock wave has not yet reached the third, most distant cloud.

Numerous shocked cloudlets – smaller clumps of gas embedded in the interstellar medium – also were detected within the supernova remnant. “Swept back by high-velocity shock waves, these evaporating cloudlets provide clear support for the three-phase model,” said Chu, who presented the team’s findings at the American Astronomical Society meeting, held Jan. 5-9 in Austin, Texas.

After a massive star is formed, its stellar wind blows much of the surrounding interstellar medium away, creating a huge shell in space called an interstellar bubble. “Because the interstellar medium is not homogeneous, the denser knots of material [cloudlets] are left behind,” Chu said. “The optical emission region of this supernova remnant appears the way it does because the supernova exploded inside an interstellar bubble in a cloudy medium.”

The supernova remnant lies in the Large Magellanic Cloud, a small neighboring galaxy to our own Milky Way, about 160,000 light-years from Earth.

In addition to Chu, collaborators on the project included astronomer John Dickel, visiting researcher Adeline Canuel, and graduate students Sean Points and Rosa Williams (all at the UI); astronomer Margarita Rosado and graduate student Lorena Arias-Montano at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomer Dominik Nacionale Autonoma de Mexico; astronomers Margarita Rosado and graduate student Lorena Arias-Montano at the Universidad Nacional Autonoma de Mexico; astronauts Annie Laval and graduate student Patricia Ambrogio-Cruz at the Marseille Observatory; and astronomer Dominik Romans at the University of Bochum in Germany.
admission requirements are the same. Online students pay the same tuition. Course requirements are the same; the same faculty members teach the classes.

Jenkins said she enjoys classroom work but finds the asynchronous teaching challenging and exciting. She has one “live” session with her students each week, but the lines of communication remain open on other days through e-mail. The students also communicate among themselves and develop friendships through the live chat sessions and assigned group projects.

In normal classrooms, you attend class for two to three hours once a week and don’t have the opportunity to continue the discussions as the week goes on,” said Meyer. “But I learn as much online as I do in a traditional classroom. You can’t just sit down and listen to a lecture. You have class notes, and you can read it over at your leisure. You can also go back and watch it again.

Smith said. “One student finished her degree in Tampa and applied for a job in a special library … and she said she felt she was offered the job over several other candidates. She had demonstrated an ability to work independently. In this particular instance, all of that was considered a plus by the employer.”

In Kobe, Japan, Courtney Lowe says the work he is doing for his online master’s degree in library and information science is just as demanding as working in a traditional classroom.

“I've been very well prepared in order to maximize my learning,” Lowe said. “Even if I were living in the United States I would be impressed. Their ability to make as far-flung a relationship as ours appear seamless is noteworthy.”

Virtual Campus will be ultimate resource for students

By Becky Mabry

One of these days – maybe as early as this spring – you will be able to go to a computer and call up a catalog that lists all the courses being offered online in all the community colleges and 4-year universities in Illinois.

For example, interested in a course in American history? The online catalog would tell what campus is being offered the course, the start and end dates, the requirements, the start and end dates, the registration information and so on.

It’s called the Illinois Virtual Campus, and it just opened its doors last October in the Henry Administration Building.

Though Virtual Campus is located in Urbana, it’s a statewide initiative supported by the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Already 68 universities and community colleges have signed on to list their distance courses, said Director Cathy Gun.

“We’d like to have an online catalog the public could see by late spring,” Gun said. Until then, provider institutions will be linked to a special Web page just for distant students.

Another component will be a student support system, which will link a student with a contact person at the nearest community college. For example, if a student doesn’t have a computer, she can go to her local community college and use a computer there. Or if a student would need to download a file for the online course but didn’t know how, the student could get help from the local community college.

“ Illinois Virtual Campus will not be developing courses, teaching courses or registering students,” said Gun. “We are a clearinghouse for information.”

Other distance courses taught by television or mail also will be included in the catalog.

For more information, visit the Illinois Virtual Campus Web site: www.IVC.Illinois.edu.

Group looks at bringing course evaluations online

By Becky Mabry

Now that more than 1,000 UI students attend class by means of the Internet, isn’t it a little silly to have them use an archaic like pen and paper – to evaluate their courses and instructors?

That’s the question some UI faculty members are asking as they look at creating an online evaluation system.

For instructors on campus who are teaching courses with a lot of technology, this is a natural fit for them,” said Katherine Ryan, head of the Division of Measurement and Evaluation in the Office of Instructional Resources.

Faculty members from across campus are talking – electronically, naturally – about the pros and cons of online evaluations.

“Just the sheer paper is an issue to consider,” said Gun. “And there are some privacy issues. We can ensure anonymity on an online basis.”

Establishing a way to have online evaluations is especially important for younger faculty members, said Jeff Stuitt, assistant director of UI Online.

“Younger faculty members who are teaching a lot of online courses need to get evaluated for things like tenure and promotions. Now there’s really no established way to evaluate online courses,” Stuitt said. The online interaction also would help determine how students best learn online, and could consider a whole gamut of other factors, including a comparison of completion rates of students online versus those in campus-based classes.

Online evaluations may not be practical in all classes, however. It isn’t clear to us yet that it’s going to work under all circumstances in all courses,” she said. “It seems to really fit some courses better than others.

Student evaluations, no matter how they are received, are serious business, she said. “Faculty are very interested in what students have to say,” she said. “They make changes in their teaching based on feedback the students give them. In addition, these issues also weigh into decisions about promotion and tenure.”

A few departments are pilot online evaluations in courses this spring. It may be offered in more courses next fall, according to Ryan.

But there is still more study to be done before it becomes a campus standard.

In these early stages, she emphasized, it’s an exciting opportunity for the faculty members who are driving the effort. “People are very much involved,” Ryan said. “And several faculty have really spearheaded the effort. It really is everyone working together, and in the process people are coming up with creative and interesting ideas. Faculty are really beginning to think about new ways we can use technology to improve instruction.”

Online

Continued from page 1

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KAM sponsors photography contest

Students and faculty and staff members and residents of Champaign County are invited to submit photographic images for Kranntt Art Museum’s Photography Competition. All photographs will be judged by an independent juror of four photographers. The winner of the competition will receive a prize and have their work displayed at the museum’s Web site, www.art.uiuc.edu/kam.

DRES sponsors teleconference Feb. 25

The Division of Rehabilitation-Education Services (DRES) will sponsor a satellite downlink of a national teleconference, “Psychological Disorders in Higher Education, Part II Focus: Accommodations.” The teleconference will be from 1 to 3 p.m. Feb. 25 in 149 Environmental and Agricultural Sciences Building.

Presented by the University of Georgia Distance Learning Link, topics scheduled for discussion include legal issues, inclusion, attendance and access, disruptive behavior, confidentiality and disclosure, clinical courses, role of facility members and appropriate accommodations. To reserve a seat or to request disability-related accommodations, call 333-9155 (voice) or 333-4603 (TDD), or e-mail todtwd.html before March 15. Children 10 years old and under should be accompanied by an adult for the afternoon.

Photographs may be in black and white or color. The photo title, photographer’s name and date should be typed on a label and affixed to the back of each photograph. A self-addressed envelope with postage should be included if photographs are to be returned. Three entries per participant are permitted. Deadline for entries is March 26. For information, call Kranntt Art Museum at 333-1861 or visit the museum’s Web site, www.art.uiuc.edu/kam.

Human Genome Project to be focus Feb. 27

The Human Genome Project and the challenges it poses will be the topic of a public talk at 2 p.m. Feb. 27 in the auditorium of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

The speaker will be Dr. Robert Waterston, director of the Genome Sequencing Center and head of the genetics department at Washington University in St. Louis. Last year, Waterston’s research group announced the completion of the first genetic blueprint of a multi-celled animal, a roundworm known as C. elegans.

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The Human Genome Project, directed by the National Institutes of Health, is projected to be completed by 2003. The project will provide a window to the 80,000 genes and 3 billion chemical bases in human DNA.

Attention will also be given to an update on the first part of the sixth annual Medical Scholars Program Research Symposium, being held Feb. 26-27 by the College of Medicine. Admission to his talk is free and open to the public.

PI seed grant proposals due April 12

The Partnership Illinois Council requests proposals for seed grants for new collaborative ventures with external partners. Full proposals are due April 12. A one-page letter of inquiry may be submitted by March 10 to receive feedback prior to preparation of a full proposal.

Faculty members and academic professionals at the UI are eligible to apply for PI seed grants. Anyone interested in submitting a proposal is strongly encouraged to attend a workshop at 1 p.m. March 1 in 407 Levis Faculty Center. The coordinators of the committees reviewing the proposals will provide information and guidance on the preparation of proposals. If you plan to attend the workshop, call 333-6394 or e-mail Ellen Foran at e-foran@uiuc.edu.

The application guidelines are available from the Office of the Chancellor at 333-6394 or on the Web at http://www.uiuc.edu/oci. Partnership Illinois is a campuswide strategic initiative to promote, renew and expand the public service mission of the UI campus.

Campus Profile now online

The 1998-99 version of the online Campus Profile is now available on the Web at www.dmi.uiuc.edu. Ten years of data for all academic and administrative departments and offices, with totals at the school, college and campus level are available.

This year’s new features include the ability to customize the reports, allowing visitors to select the units and items they wish to see. It is also possible to download the customized reports into Excel. The site only can be accessed from a computer physically located at the UI. If you have difficulty connecting, contact Carol at livingsnt@uiuc.edu from the computer you are using. Comments and suggestions about the data in the profile are welcome.

SportWell offers walk-in sessions

The SportWell Center, a cooperative program between McKinley Health Center and the Division of Campus Recreation, is again offering a walk-in program for UI faculty and staff members who are DRC members. The sessions will be from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Feb. 24, March 24 and April 24. A $10 fee will allow the individual to consult with a registered dietitian or an exercise physiologist for 15 minutes. Clients will be served on a first-come, first-served basis. Up to 12 individuals can be seen each session. For more information, call 244-0261.

Toni Morrison ‘read-in’ is Feb. 19

The second annual "read-in" of works by American novelist Toni Morrison will be held at 7 p.m. Feb. 19 in the Great Hall of the University of Illinois. Morrison’s birthday is Feb. 18. The event will consist of a reading of "Sula" from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. in the Afro-American Studies and Research Center, followed by a question-and-answer session and open to the public.

The event organizer is Alice Deck, a professor of English at the UI who has taught an English course on Morrison nearly every year of the past decade. Deck is planning to write a critical study of Morrison, a distinguished professor at Princeton University.

According to Deck, Morrison stands out among her contemporaries African-American female writers for being the only one who has won Nobel Prize for the body of her work.

"In terms of subject matter, her novels tell the story of African Americans from the perspective of the black woman writer," Deck said, and they do so on a large scale. "Morrison has repeatedly said in her interviews that she writes the kinds of novels that she wished she had been able to read as a child growing up. This is important because it reveals a truth about the way so many African Americans were educated in American schools up until the 1980s, namely that very few of the books—textbooks and novels—taught in public schools included the African-American experience or were written from the black point of view."

Morrison is the author of seven novels and one short story. She also edited collections of essays on the Clarence Thomas/ Anita Hill hearings, and on the O.J. Simpson trial.
On its first tour to the United States, the Netherlands Symphony Orchestra and its music director, Jaap van Zweden, welcome pianist Elizaveta Rodrigo as guest soloist when they present a concert in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts’ Foellinger Great Hall at 8 p.m. Feb. 27.

The program includes Franz Liszt’s “Piano Concerto No. 1,” Willem Rodrigues as guest soloist when they present a concert in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts’ Foellinger Great Hall at 8 p.m. Feb. 27.

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26 Friday
Faculty Recital, Gustavo Romero and Christos Tsitsas, pianos. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. This program of works for two pianos and piano (four hands) will include music by Franz Schubert, Johannes Brahms, Frederick Chopek, and Tchaikovsky. Admission charge.

27 Saturday
Junior Recital, Thayer Pence, viola. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.
Senior Recital, Rachel Pressure, flute. 8 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

28 Sunday
Bilal Symphony Orchestra, Jack Ramney, conductor. 3 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. In this musical celebration of Black History Month, Robert Freeman narrates Aaron Copland’s “Lincoln Portrait” and Ramney leads the orchestra in music of Morton Gould, Antonin Dvorak and William Grant Still.

Undergraduate Recital, Amy Christen, trumpet. 4 p.m. Music Building auditorium.

Works of Xenakis for Strings, 7 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Rafael Hakken, violin; and Michael Cameron, double bass. With guest artist Natasha Kholia, cello; and ensemble of Music students. Program will feature the American premieres of “Anouilh and Roscoebeck” and will include “Encelade” and “Anouilh A and B.”

2 Tuesday
Guest Artist Recital, John Griffiths, tuba. University of Regina, Saskatchewan. 8 p.m. Music Building auditorium.

Guest Artist Recital, Radislav Koprivnikar, piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Program of Czech music.

“Moments of Grace,” 8 p.m. Tryon Festival Theatre, Krannert Center. Music by Philip Glass, design and visual concept by Robert Wilson. The spiritual poetry of Rumi, a 13th-century Persian turned into love songs interpreted visually by Robert Wilson and performed live by the Philip Glass Ensemble and voices. Admission charge.

4 Thursday
Junior Recital, Laurie Sphin, soprano. 11 a.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.
UI Trombone Ensemble. Admission charge.

Friday
Master Music of Recital, Robert Caranci, tenor. 5 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.
Sinfonia da Camera. Hobson, piano and conductor. 5 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Hobson and delevan present the Piano Concerto No. 3 by Ignaz Moscheles. The orchestra also presents the Overture to Prometheus by Beethoven and the Symphony No. 9 by Franz Schubert. Admission charge.

Student Performance Project Recital, 7:20 p.m. Lobby, Krannert Center. Piano students of Leneva Johnson. Graduate Recital, Wynne Lu, horn. 8 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall.

6 Saturday
Undergraduate Recital, Jason, Violin. 7:30 p.m. Music Building auditorium.
Graduate Recital, Leslie Malon, soprano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

Ut Percussion Ensemble, William Morris, conductor, 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Program will include “Desperate Adventures,” Matsumoto’s “Crown of Thorns” and Miller’s “Full Circle Percussion.” Admission charge.

Senior Recital, Amy Noel Hall, mezzo-soprano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

7 Sunday
Graduate Recital, Julia Cleworth, celli. 1 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.
Graduate Recital, Matthew Liberator, clarinet. 1 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. Recital of Works by S. Bach, RC. Moist, and J. Massais.

Moscow Philharmonic Orchestra, Yuri Simonov, music director and conductor. 7 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Krassotkin’s “Russian Suite,” Borislaw Struly, cello. Sunday Recital. (See Calendar, page 14)

Insect Fear Festival

Event features bloodsucking insects and... humans

By Jim Barlow

Mosquitoes will be the guests of honor Feb. 20, and those who come to see them are invited to get pumped for blood. It’s the 16th annual Insect Fear Film Festival, this year featuring a blood drive.

Doors will open at 6 p.m. at Foellinger Auditorium (at the south end of the Quad) for viewing exhibits, which will include a blood drive — but contained mosquitoes. Admission is free.

Visitors also can be donors. Community Blood Services of Illinois will be on hand. Mosquitoes routinely make people into donors, of course. “We’ve heard a lot about the shortage of blood because of the wintry weather, so we thought it would be appropriate to have the bloodmobile come to the festival,” said Mark Carroll, president of the entomology department’s Graduate Student Association.

“Everybody hates mosquitoes,” said May Berenbaum, head of the entomology department. She started the festival to educate people about insects by pointing out inaccuracies about them — and often about entomologists — in usually bad films.

“The one redeeming value of mosquitoes is that you can slap them into pulp. But when they grow to 3-foot proportions they become a bit formidable. They became my nightmare. Yet we here in the developed world have only the tiniest inkling of the gravity of the nature of the interaction between people and mosquitoes.”

Such is the case in the night’s feature films, which are still in the process of being arranged. In “Mosquito,” a 1994 film also known as “Night Swarm” and “Blood Feast,” mosquitoes become giants and terrorize a town on a diet of blood, feeding on the dying of aliens whose spacecraft crashes. Gunnar Hansen (Leatherface in “Texas Chainsaw Massacre”) yieds a chainsaw as a flyswatter as the mosquito tells his tale. Next is the 1991 film “Popcorn,” in which college students put on a film festival, including a mosquito film, to save a theater, but disaster strikes. Ray Walston (“My Favorite Martian”) appears.

Most films fail to show mosquitoes as vectors. “Mosquitoes are carriers of all kinds of human diseases [malaria, yellow fever, St. Louis and Lacrosse encephalitis],” she said. “They account for millions of deaths and illnesses worldwide.” Yet true nature isn’t shown.” A rare exception, she noted, is the evening’s other feature, “Yellow Jack” (1938), which depicts the work of Dr. Walter Reed and colleagues to link mosquitoes to the transmission of yellow fever.

“Only female mosquitoes pose a threat to human health; they feed on the blood of birds and animals, including humans. Males feed on plant juices, and juveniles on decaying plant debris in standing or slow-moving water.”

The films begin at 7 p.m. with an hour of short films that span eight decades. Among them will be “How a Mosquito Works” (1912) and “The Winged Scourge” (1943). Also to be shown are old public education films, which are worth more not only for the biological information they contain but also for the sociological changes that have occurred since they were released. ▶
4 Thursday
Studio Theater IL 6 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge. This showcase for graduating Master of Fine Arts candidates features the choreography of Mei-Kuang Chen, Walter Kennedy and Piselleck McKnight.

5 Friday
Studio Theater IL 7 and 9 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge. This showcase for graduating Master of Fine Arts candidates features the choreography of Mei-Kuang Chen, Walter Kennedy and Piselleck McKnight.

6 Saturday
Studio Theater IL 7 and 9 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. Admission charge. This showcase for graduating Master of Fine Arts candidates features the choreography of Mei-Kuang Chen, Walter Kennedy and Piselleck McKnight.

The UI department of theater performs the bawdy Molière classic “Tartuffe” in the Colwell Playhouse in the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. Directed by Randi Collins Hard, “Tartuffe” can be seen at 8 p.m. Feb. 25-27 and March 4-6 and at 3 p.m. March 7.

A master of French farce, Molière explodes the image of a hypocritical religious zealot and his conniving schemes in “Tartuffe,” subtitled “The Impostor.” No one is safe from the manipulations of the greedy, lecherous Tartuffe as he overtakes the formerly quiet, content man in search of his salvation. For more information, e-mail jh408@uiuc.edu or call 333-1165 or 333-2910. Entomology and Entomology Graduate Student Association.

8 Monday
Keller Auditorium. Screening of The French films

12 Friday
Dining Room. This annual Insect Fear Film Festival: “Mosquitoes in the Movies” will feature short films from around the world. For more information, e-mail mcard@uiuc.edu or call 333-1165 or 333-2910. Entomology and Entomology Graduate Student Association.

13 Thursday
Strategic Coffee Series: “Science Groups on the V’s Future,” “Community Collaboration.” Noon Board Room, University YMCA. For more information, e-mail pbstray@pamarin.org or call 333-5124. University YMCA.

Coffee House: Turkish. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Members of the Turkish Student Association will offer a slide presentation on Turkey. For more information, call 567-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

14 Friday
Town Millennial Birthday Celebration/Read-In.

15 Friday
Art Conservation. Admission charge. “Variations on a Rococo Theme” by Thomas Reed as Orgon.

16 Saturday
Women’s and Men’s Gymnastics. U3 vs. Ohio University. 7 p.m. Huff Hall. Admission charge.

17 Saturday
Celebration/Read-In. 7 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club. For more information, call 367-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

18 Sunday
An annual Insect Fear Film Festival: “Mosquitoes in the Movies” will feature short films from around the world. For more information, e-mail mcard@uiuc.edu or call 333-1165 or 333-2910. Entomology and Entomology Graduate Student Association.

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Coffee House: Turkish. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club, 307 E. John St., Champaign. Members of the Turkish Student Association will offer a slide presentation on Turkey. For more information, call 567-3079. Cosmopolitan Club.

Monday
Poetry Reading. 4 p.m. Author’s center, 2nd floor, Illini Union Bookstore. Marilyn Chun, author of “The Phoenix Gone, the Terrace Empty.” For more information, e-mail fmlong@uiuc.edu or call 333-2910. Illini Union Bookstore.

19 Friday
Town Millennial Birthday Celebration/Read-in.

19 Monday
A master of French farce, Molière explodes the image of a hypocritical religious zealot and his conniving schemes in “Tartuffe,” subtitled “The Impostor.” No one is safe from the manipulations of the greedy, lecherous Tartuffe as he overtakes the formerly quiet, content man in search of his salvation. For more information, e-mail jh408@uiuc.edu or call 333-1165 or 333-2910. Entomology and Entomology Graduate Student Association.

24 Saturday
Children’s Basketball. U3 vs. University of Iowa. 7 p.m. Assembly Hall. Admission charge.

25 Saturday
Children’s Basketball. U3 vs. University of Iowa. 7 p.m. Assembly Hall. Admission charge.

26 Saturday
Saturday Sawyer: “Desert Magic,” 10-11:30 a.m. 231 Natural History Building. For children ages 5-7. Explore sand dunes and parched land and learn how desert plants and animals live in a harsh environment. Pre-registration and deposit are required. Training wheels are returned if the child attends the class or if the class is canceled. Registration forms are available in the third-floor gallery of the Museum of Natural History or call 333-1361 for more information.

Natural History Division/The Stark Museum of Art.

27 Saturday
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Natural History Division/The Stark Museum of Art.

28 Tuesday
“Management Strategies: A 24-Hour Seminar.” 9 a.m. - 11 a.m. Third floor, Levin Faculty Center. Registration required. call 333-8342. Continue Wednesday. Homerun Sciences Development.

29 Wednesday
University of Illinois Union Bookstore. (See Calendar, page 15)
The real world and the worlds of fantasy, fancy and imagination collide in the Technicolor visions captured on canvas by Urbana artist Glen Davies. Paintings by the UI alumnus are on view through March 28 at the Krannert Art Museum. Each of Davies's meticulously detailed paintings have a story — or two or three — to tell, or a lesson to impart. Yet, the exact meanings of the narratives aren't easily given up by the artist, who prefers to challenge viewers by inserting a "moment of mystery" into each painting. Davies has exhibited his work in galleries and museums throughout the Midwest, though he may be best-known in Champaign-Urbana for his commercial murals. Among his most infamous is one featuring an animated figure with a giant burrito head, created for a Campusong Mexican restaurant.

Glen Davies, Family Tree (1998) acrylic on canvas, 45" X 33"
ACES open house highlights education and outreach

By Jim Barlow

I nsects, teachers, Chinese pigs, farmers, schoolchildren, technology, soybeans, corn and even walking vegetables all will have a place March 5-6 at the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences’ 10th annual Open House at the UI.

This year’s open house gateway will be the Plant Sciences Laboratory, 1201 W. Donner Drive. Inside, visitors can learn about America’s latest uninvited pest—the Asian long-horned beetle—that has been raising havoc and headlines after attacking trees in several cities. An exhibit will show what trees it attacks, the damage it causes, its life stages and the fight to eradicate it. Various life stages of the beetle will be depicted, and a preserved specimen of an adult beetle will be on display.

In addition, visitors can see the “Plant and Insect Place” and the “Little Shop of Horrors,” which provides a close-up look at carnivorous plants, and a display featuring “Herbs of the Year From 1995 to 2004.” Science teachers will be able to examine, and order, teaching kits on a variety of topics for their classrooms.

The open house, while not carrying a unifying theme this year, marks a decade of success, said Scottie Miller, chairperson and associate director of the ACES Office of Development, Alumni and Corporate Relations. “We are building on the tradition of the past nine open houses in providing an outreach effort to the public,” she said.

“We’re trying to present our college at all different levels. There will some high-tech things. We’ll have areas aimed at high school students who may be considering enrolling in our programs, and some things for the parents—the taxpayers—who can come and see how we are using their money as we take agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences into the 21st century.”

By James E. Kloeppel

Engineering Open House features battling robots and more

R obots battling one another while running an obstacle course, whimsical Rube Goldberg contraptions, and laboratory tours of the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology are among the attractions awaiting visitors to the 79th annual Engineering Open House at the UI.

The event, organized by UI engineering students, will be from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. March 5 and from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. March 6. The UI Engineering Open House is one of the largest technological showcases of its kind in the nation, attracting more than 30,000 visitors each year. This year’s theme, “Millennium of Innovation,” attempts to justify the 12th annual W.J. “Jerry” Sanders Creative Design Competition, sponsored by Advanced Micro Devices Inc. and named for the company’s founder, a UI alumnus. The theme for this year’s competition is “Y2K: Race Toward the Millennium” and promises to be exciting for both participants and spectators.

“Student teams have constructed remote-controlled vehicles capable of negotiating a multi-level obstacle course and performing various tasks while simultaneously battling their opponents for over $5,000 in prizes,” said Chris George, a UI graduate student and this year’s contest director. “The winning teams will be determined by distance traveled and time taken through the obstacle course, but prizes also will be given for the most ingenious design, the most impressive arsenal and the most spectacular failure.”

Approximately 40 teams from the UI, University of Michigan, Purdue University, Washington University and the University of Waterloo (Canada) will compete in the contest, which will be held both days in the Kenney Gymnasium Annex.

In the high school design competition, students will pay homage to Rube Goldberg, a cartoonist best known for his designs of ridiculously complicated gadgets that performed the simplest tasks in whimsical roundabout ways. “This year the task will be to place a golf ball on tee,” said Bruce Hiyama, chair of the high school design contest. “Students must accomplish the task in a minimum of 20 steps by combining their engineering skill, creativity and odd pieces of worn-out junk into contraptions that function in fun and wacky ways.”

The high school competition will be held on March 5 in the Great Hall of the Wesley Foundation.

Younger visitors, too, will have an opportunity to learn about science and to test their creativity. On Friday, for example, grade school and middle school students will construct towers out of food, using pasta for girders and marshmallows for joints.

“Students will be able to examine, and order, teaching kits on a variety of topics for their classrooms.”

By using simple, hands-on experiments, ranging from kitchen chemistry to computer logic, we want to convey the message that science and engineering are fun and exciting,” Pufahl said.

A special on-site design contest—called the Illini Engineering Challenge—will be open to visitors of all ages. The contest features two structural design projects. On Friday, the goal will be to construct a wall that can withstand a catapult attack; contestants on Saturday will attempt to build an “unsinkable” boat using limited materials.

At the north end of the Engineering Quad, student members of the Society of Inventors will demonstrate a working, full-size hovercraft they built. At the south end, food and entertainment—featuring local bands, singing groups and dance teams—will be located in “Area 51.”

As in years past, hundreds of exhibits featuring student research, engineering societies and major corporations will be on display. State-of-the-art computer demonstrations will take place at the Digital Computer Lab, while the ever-popular car crusher will be squashing away at the Tailbot Lab.

Special tours of the Beckman Institute, including virtual reality demonstrations, also will be offered during the two-day event.

Visitors are encouraged to park in Lot E-14, near the Assembly Hall, and take a shuttle bus to Kenney Gym.