Campus readies for possible Y2K problems

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

If you read this article when it comes out at 11 a.m. Oct. 21, you’ll be at Day 71, Hour 13 of the “Countdown to Year 2000,” the timeline the UI campus has developed to keep track of the Y2K problem.

While this may sound ominous, unless something important has been overlooked by the experts working toward Y2K readiness, the days after Jan. 1, 2000, should go comparatively smoothly.

“We are on target,” said Andrea Ballinger, who heads the Y2K team at the Computing and Communications Services Office (CCSO). “I don’t see anything that’s a show stopper, though that’s not to say that everything will be perfect.” Her confidence is based on the lengthy planning done by the campus administration to identify and remediate problems stemming from the so-called “millennium bug.”

What exactly is the Y2K problem? In the broadest sense, it is the revenge of 1960s-era computers, specifically the program codes that designated the year as a two-digit rather than four-digit function. As a result, the year 2000 (read as “00”) could be interpreted as 1900 by older computers that have not been upgraded.

Textbook is first comprehensive guide to horse dentistry

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

A dental exam is more than just paring the lips, looking at incisors and feeling around with a finger. For years, such was the method for horses. Easily missed were developing cases of malaligned incisors, ulceration, deepening pockets and other common periodontal troubles.

Now regular, thorough checkups can become normal operating procedure, says Gordon Baker, professor of equine medicine and surgery at the UI College of Veterinary Medicine. Baker is the co-editor of the just-published textbook “Equine Dentistry,” the first comprehensive guide on what he calls an “elegantly designed food-processing unit.”

“In recent years, there has been a greater interest in equine veterinarians taking charge and control of dental management in the horse,” Baker said. “But the knowledge base has been rather slim. There has been a lot of ignorance from a sheer lack of sound knowledge. This book straightens out a lot of errors, concerns, myths and legends about dental morphology, function and anatomy of the horse.”

The hard-bound book – published by the W.B. Saunders Co. and geared for veterinarians, veterinary students and serious horse owners – pulls together scientific literature and puts the information in an easy-to-follow 278-page format that includes 365 illustrations.

As the book began shipping in mid-September, Baker was in Great Britain and France talking teeth to the British Equine Veterinary Association and the World Equine Veterinary Association.

A horse is a horse, of course

But that doesn’t mean dental care isn’t important. Gordon Baker, professor of equine medicine and surgery, is co-editor of “Equine Dentistry,” the first comprehensive guide on the subject.

Because nearly all computers track information by date and time, Jan. 1 could bring uncertain results.

The five-person team started working on Y2K preparedness more than 18 months ago. Since then computer upgrades and replacements have been made at all colleges, institutes and administrative offices as well as the campus physical plant that depends heavily on computer technology for heat, light, alarm systems and telecommunications.

Apart from testing hardware and software, the team is examining contingency plans to ensure that potential health and safety issues – notably food safety, water and sewage, power outages and police security – are addressed immediately in case a computer system fails or malfunctions.

“Risk assessment is one of our most important functions,” Ballinger said. “The goal of the administration is for every department and unit to sign off on a backup plan so that essential services are maintained.”

Contingency plans required by each campus unit are being “graded” by the Y2K team. A plan that does not meet minimal standards is returned to the responsible dean or administrator for action. A group of 187 unit plans is still in the “graded” stage.

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Trustees discuss new administrative computing systems, Y2K

By Craig Chambers
News Bureau Staff Writer

The UI Board of Trustees discussed what amounts to a massive, long-term overhaul and replacement of its administrative computing systems.

The move to an Enterprise Resource Planning (ERP) system will likely take place over five years or longer, cost an estimated $50 to $70 million, and affect everyone on the university's three campuses.

"It will not be a smooth path, it will be a bumpy road," warned UI President James Stukel, in comments following a presentation at the Oct. 15 meeting of the UI Board of Trustees in Urbana.

But it also is necessary, and will bring long-term benefits for the "business side" of the university, said Craig Bazzani, UI vice president for business and finance. "It is exactly the kind of good investment that a business makes for good outcomes," he said.

The problem, Bazzani said, is that information systems in key areas—business and finance, human resources, and students—are old, costly to maintain, and not easily linked together. The university employs more than 120 administrative database systems with a haphazard "spider web" of linkages between them, he said. To further emphasize the lack of organized connections, he said "hair ball" might be the more appropriate term.

The overall system provides insufficient access to management data and an inconsistent quality of data, Bazzani said.

To give one example, he noted that he could produce about five different answers to the question of how many employees the university has, depending on which system and which buttons he pushed.

The ERP approach, Bazzani said, offers the opportunity to consolidate and integrate those databases and applications, redesign administrative processes for greater efficiency, share common data and practices, and execute transactions and access information in real time.

The alternatives rejected by the management teams dealing with the issue were to stay with the status quo, build an integrated system from scratch, or buy "best-of-class" applications from multiple vendors.

The UI is not alone in dealing with these problems, and many other higher education institutions have moved or are moving toward an ERP type of system, Bazzani said.

Based on reports from vendors who offer these systems, more than 1,000 schools are in the ERP system in whole or in part, including eight of the 11 Big Ten schools.

Unlike some of those schools, the UI has chosen not to be an early adopter, but to wait for the applications to mature and learn from the experience of others, Bazzani said. The conclusions presented at the board meeting came after several years of study and concentrated efforts over the last eight months, in which teams of administrators and vendors had narrowed the list of potential vendors to two, he said.

Rich Mendola, director of the Office of Administrative Information Technology Services (AITS), emphasized in responding to a trustee's question that the teams evaluating potential vendors had paid particular attention to their long-term commitment to higher education and to their ability to deliver working applications, rather than just make promises. He also noted that up to 200 people had been involved in the evaluation process and they were "not just a bunch of technics," but included many people who would have to deal with the systems at the front end.

No decision was required by the board at Friday's meeting. Bazzani and other administrators said an extensive evaluation process is continuing with the two vendors under consideration, and a final recommendation will be brought to the board in the near future.

"Before the university can look at implementing anything new in its computer systems, however, it will have to roll over into year 2000 with the hope, most of all its Y2K computer concerns have been resolved. And an update on the status of those efforts was the topic of Bazzani's first presentation of the morning. In the university's preparations for Y2K, "I would characterize our progress at this point as about 80 percent done," Bazzani told trustees. After three years and several million dollars of work spread throughout the university, "now is the finishing stage... It's at this point that we take the gloves off" with units that have not done what they need to, he said.

He has yet to find an auditor who is satisfied with the university's preparations, he said, but he believes the administration is doing all it can.

The target for reaching total compliance was Nov. 1, and the university is a little behind in reaching that, he said, but he expressed reserved optimism that the university would be ready. "If I have one area of discomfort it's the university's research labs," Bazzani said. Because of the variety of equipment and software in use, and difficulties in assessing its readiness for Y2K, it's difficult to predict what problems might occur there, he said.

Bazzani said contingency plans are being prepared for the days following the Jan. 1 rollover, which will occur on a Saturday, followed by a Monday holiday. Building-by-building checks are planned for the first hours of that weekend, and command centers will be set up with officials on hand who can make decisions as needed and dispatch technical staff to deal with specific problems, he said.

Preparations also include urging units like the hospital to order extra supplies that might be critical, possibly pre-processing some things like payroll, and getting notices out to students and staff members about precautions they might want to take with financial statements, course registrations and other documents.

Bazzani cautioned that not all of the potential problems may be known in the first hours or days. The university may have to wait several weeks to see what happens, not only on campus but in the rest of the world, he said. Much of its operation depends in part on network transactions with outside parties like vendors, government agencies and financial institutions, any of which may have their own problems.

Other Business

In other business, the trustees got their annual early look at projected changes in student tuition, fees and housing charges for the next school year, in this case 2000-2001. (See chart above.) Final numbers will be presented for board approval at the November meeting.

Public comments

During the board's public comment session Oct. 15, Storm Heter, with the Graduate Employees Organization at the Urbana campus, raised a number of issues regarding the treatment of graduate student employees. Heter said the university should subsidize graduate employees' health care costs, and complained about the unwillingness of university officials to meet with the organization. His remarks were accompanied by comments and applause from about 15 supporters in attendance.

Maria Ramos honored with Chancellor's Medallion

Maria Ramos, associate director of housing and director of university food service for people with disabilities, was honored with the first Chancellor's Medallion. The medallions were created to be given to people whose service to the campus exceeds all expectations and precedents.

In awarding the inaugural medallion, Chancellor Michael Aiken said the award was in recognition of Ramos' "dedication to the UI at Urbana-Champaign, her dedication to the larger community, her innovation, her outreach to students and staff, her service and her humor."

Ramos, who was presented with the medallion at a dinner in her honor Oct. 2, has worked at the university during her tenure on campus. She was the winner of the first UI Affirmative Action Award for implementing programs for people with special needs. She was among the first three winners of the Chancellor's Academic Professional Excellence Award in 1996 and President George P. Vistica honored her as one of 14 "local heroes" when he visited the Urbana campus in January 1998.

In 1974, at the opening of residence-hall dining rooms on campus, she could study there; in 1975, she set up job training and placement services for unemployed women in Champaign County; and the following year, she worked with the Correctional Employment Service of Champaign County to train and place ex-offenders. She also has set up a work-study program in food services for physically handicapped high school students and has served on the boards of the University YWCA and the Eastern Illinois Food Bank.

As director of the service, she has been an innovator, introducing customer-service surveys, sack lunches and dinners as a convenience, setting up programs to allow parents to send special meals to students, and creating nearly 20 specialty restaurants.

The UI Board of Trustees in Urbana.

2000-2001 Projections for increases in student tuition, fees, housing

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* Total tuition for an in-state, full-time student for two semesters.


**Job:** Associate director for marketing and patron services at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. She has been working there since 1992. Her office is tucked away just off the center’s large lobby. The former grade-school P.E. teacher’s job keeps her running all over what is her playground today: the theaters, shops and services that make up Champaign-Urbana’s showplace of the human spirit.

**Other Passions:** Writing and nature. She recently bought seven acres on the Sangamon River to better enjoy the outdoors and work on her novel.

What do you do on your job? I oversee all areas of the Krannert Center related to the public. That includes the ticket office, Intermezzo Cafe and Promenade Gift Shop as well as front-of-house operations. I am also responsible for all marketing functions, including identifying patron needs and overseeing all advertising in print, radio and television. I try to do what I can in order to make the patrons’ experience the best it can be.

What do you like about your job? I believe in the arts and what they can do for the entire society as well as for the individual. And I absolutely love my job because it’s so diverse. I am able to be involved with widely different areas on different days. One day I get to work on marketing research and the next day work with Intermezzo and catering. In food services, we’re constantly trying new products and new things. The café has a constantly changing menu. We’ve changed the ambiance and recently added a high-end stereo system and music.

What are the most interesting things you have experienced on your job? I love working with the incredible staff here at Krannert. The people who work here are an amazing group. The creative spirit and the talent in this building are phenomenal. We get to sit down and have coffee with some of the visiting artists who are working here. I am constantly enriched by the people I work around and work with.

Was there anybody who particularly impressed you? Recently Leslie Nielsen was here to present “Darrow for the Defense.” I got to go to lunch with him. He’s a committed professional and a warm, caring person. It was wonderful to sit across from someone so earthy and not realize you’re sitting across from a megastar. There are so many nice people who come here.

Do you see many of the performances at Krannert? I probably attend 70 to 80 percent of them. I try to go to everything that I can. I think it’s critical for me to attend so I know what the patron experiences. It’s also a wonderful perk of working here.

What do you like to do when you’re not working? I like to write. I’m also interested in the environment and have taken a few classes in environmental science. I enjoy visiting with friends around a campfire and sitting in the woods to write. Right now I’m working on nature writing, incorporating observations of nature into a story line. My perspective is that human society has gone too far from its needs. The connection with the earth is just as important as food, water and shelter.

- Interview by Huey Freeman

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**Children’s choice of what to draw may affect learning how to draw**

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

When left to choose devices in Saturday art class, 5-year-old Marc is what UI art education professor Christine Thompson calls a “subject matter generalist.” His sketchbook is filled with a variety of images: a globe, jelly beans, characters from his favorite video game.

Marc’s buddy Simon, on the other hand, draws dinosaurs.

There’s Alexander. Taking what Thompson calls a “performative” approach to drawing, he draws all the while humming the theme from ‘Star Wars.’

These vastly different approaches to drawing are among three distinct styles Thompson identified over the course of a 10-year study that focused on images pre-school and kindergarten children choose to create when given the opportunity to work independent of teachers’ instructions. Results, published in the most recent edition of the Journal of Art and Design Education, suggest “that the choice of what to draw shapes the process of learning how to draw.”

“Interests young children develop and pursue in drawing and in other forms of symbolic play are influenced by gender and by culture, by personality and circumstance,” she said. “The choices children make can easily open certain possibilities and foreclose others, shaping early artistic learning in decisive ways.”

For instance, Thompson noticed that gender-based stereotypes still spill quite freely from young children’s minds and onto the pages of their sketchbooks.

“Little boys have very well defined interests and choices as for the individual. And I absolutely love my job because it’s so diverse. I am able to be involved with widely different areas on different days. One day I get to work on marketing research and the next day work with Intermezzo and catering. In food services, we’re constantly trying new products and new things. The café has a constantly changing menu. We’ve changed the ambiance and recently added a high-end stereo system and music.

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**Y2K, continued from page 1**

Y2K coordinators are working with Ballinger’s team to ensure compliance. In addition, Charles C. Colbert, vice chancellor for administration and human resources, is heading a campuswide committee that is meeting regularly to finalize the back-up plans.

An important part of the process is keeping students informed. Earlier this week, a Y2K information brochure was issued to all UI students. The brochure recommended that students keep copies of their spring term 2000 class schedules as well as other important personal data (such as bank and credit card statements), but otherwise remain calm.

“Be skeptical of Y2K fearmongering,” the pamphlet warned. “Note that the Y2K issue could provide another opportunity for scams or hoaxes.”

The campus has been involved in three other areas of Y2K preparedness in addition to health and safety — business drawing cats and dogs and bunnies.”

A particularly compelling difference, however, is that boys often tell more complicated stories through their images, and the stories demand complex settings. Girls more typically create “snapshot” images of real life. “Our challenge,” Thompson said, “is to do things to encourage the development of that type of narrative-based thinking in girls.”

From a broader perspective, she hopes the study will help art educators understand that “there are lots of ways children in this culture draw and lots of negotiations they make as they spend time directing the process.”

“The richer the array of graphic problems they are given, the better off they are,” she said. “Our role, recognizing that, is to try to give them at an early age as many opportunities to tell stories in drawings that are complex, engaging and evolving on the page. And that requires change on our part.”

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Kid art: According to art education professor Christine Thompson, the choices children make on what to draw shape early artistic learning.
Eighty-six faculty members, academic professionals retire

B
tween Sept. 1, 1998, and Aug. 31, 1999, 86 faculty members and academic professionals retired from the UI, according to the Office of Academic Human Resources. The retirees, their positions, units and years of service:

Accountancy
Nancy A. Desmond, assistant professor, 44.

Administrative Information Technology Services
Thom P. Brown, assistant vice president for administration and planning, 24; Richard G. Montanelli, director, 33.

Admissions and Records

Aeronautical and Astronautical Engineering
Charles R. Bond, professor, 35.

Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences Administration
Life Sciences
Carroll E. Goering, professor, 22; John C. Fagerlund, specialist, Agricultural Experiment Station, 34.

Agricultural Engineering
David A. Geisinger, professor, 22; John C. Siemens, professor, 30.

Animal Sciences
David H. Baker, professor and research professor, 32; Gary E. Ricketts, professor, 34.

Anthropology
Eugene Gillett, professor and associate dean, 39; David W. Plath, professor, 32.

Applied Life Studies
Michael J. Ellis, professor, 10.

Architecture
EVAINE H. CLAY, associate professor and coordinator for minority recruitment, 30.

Art and Design
Thomas G. Kruks, professor, 34; Richard H. Moses, program chairman and associate professor, 36; Donald W. Pihler, professor, 33; Jerome A. Savage, professor, 37.

Astronomy
Dimmitt M. Mihalas, the George C. McVittie Professor, 14.

Business and Financial Affairs
Patricia M. Liebert, management methods analyst, 14.

Business Administration
David M. Gardiner, professor of marketing and business administration, 33.

Cell and Structural Biology
Liu B. Faiman, senior research scientist, 21.

Civil and Environmental Engineering
Barry J. Dempsey, professor, 35; Carolyn M. Sands, assistant director, Mid-America Earthquake Center, 7; William H. Walker, professor and associate head, 43; Kam W. Wong, professor, 32.

Committee on Institutional Cooperation
Roger G. Clark, director, 30.

Computer Science
Michael Faiman, professor and director of graduate programs, 39; H.G. Friedman, associate professor and director of undergraduate programs, 33; Dwight D. Hearn, lecturer, 14.

Crop Sciences
Stephen M. Ries, associate professor, 26.

Curriculum and Instruction

East Asian Languages and Cultures

Economics
Franklin R. Shapp, professor, 40.

Education and Leadership
Thomas L. McGreal, professor, 34.

Energetics and Environmental Systems
David P. Musser, director of budget and resource planning, 20.

Electrical and Computer Engineering
Robert J. Turnbull, professor, 32.

Engineering Administration
Eugene H. Gregory, associate dean for external affairs, 5.

English
George H. Douglas, professor of business and technical writing, 38; George Hendrick, professor, 32; Daniel T. Majidak, associate professor of English and of criticism and interpretive theory, 34.

Entertainment and English Language
Lawrence P. Bouton, acting director and associate professor of English as an international language and of English, 32.

Food Science and Human Nutrition
Edward G. Perkins, professor of food chemistry, 37.

History
John P. McKay, professor, 33; Richard E. Mitchell, professor, 34.

Housing Division
Kenneth J. Schluff, assistant director of housing-business services, 13.

Human and Community Development
Kathleen H. Meloy, associate professor, 15.

Human Resource Education

Humanities
Rachel Manwell, supervisor audio-visual lab and services, 33.

Institute of Communications Research
Howard S. Maclay, professor and research professor, 43.

SEE RETIREES, PAGE 5

Wenzel finds relaxation with family and at the ballpark

By Huey Freeman
News Bureau Staff Writer

Patricia Wenzel recently retired after 33 years of service at the UI. She started out as a clerk-typist in the agricultural economics department in 1959, when she and her husband moved to Champaign-Urbana so he could attend graduate school at the UI. She retired as a senior programmer of two small boys said retirement has its own rewards.

“During a short stint at a local computer company. She said she especially enjoyed working with bright, energetic people at the center.

That kind of atmosphere encourages you to grow and to think differently,” she said.

But the mother of two grown children and grandmother of two small boys said retirement has its own rewards.

“The first thing I did was break the alarm on my alarm clock,” she said. “I don’t know how I got anything done at home before.”

She recently attended her first professional baseball game with her husband, Joseph Wenzel, a UI professor and associate head of speech communication who also retired this year.

“I grew up in Chicago but I’d never been to Wrigley Field,” she said. “I was never really very interested in sports, but I decided that when I retired I’d try some of those things I didn’t like.”

On her very first visit, she did something most fans are never allowed to do.

“They had a fan’s clinic,” she recalls, “so we went on the field before the game and they had players and coaches giving demonstrations about what the game is all about. It was fun to be on the field. It was a different way to look at the stadium.”

And now she has a good story.

Her grandchildren may someday appreciate – about the time she shared the field with one of the game’s superstars.

“We saw Sammy Sosa. He ran across the field. Even I knew who Sammy Sosa was.”

But she might see her second game at one of the other great old stadiums. Fenway Park.

“We’re going to do some traveling to spend some time with my grandchildren in Boston. We’re going to spend more time out there visiting with them, watching them grow up.”

The grandchildren, Vincent Wenzel, 5, and Joseph Wenzel, 1, are the sons of Kevin Wenzel, who earned bachelor’s and doctoral degrees in nuclear science from the UI. He now works for a computer company in Boston. Patricia and Joseph Wenzel’s other child is Eileen Dohmalek, who received bachelor’s and master’s degrees in library science from the UI and now works as a children’s librarian in the Chicago Public Library system.

“We’ll spend more time with her,” Patricia Wenzel said. “It’s easier to see her.”

The Wenzels recently moved to a new house, so Patricia Wenzel said she and her husband are looking forward to making their new property bloom in the spring.

“We both love to garden, so we’ll have more time to focus on it,” she said.

The self-proclaimed workaholic said she also is finding time to do something she always wanted to do.

“I’m finally getting involved with some volunteer work,” she said, “at the Humane Society and the Champaign Public Library.”

She admits that she misses work a little bit, but she is keeping busy enough with her new pastimes. Including her newfound love for baseball.

“It was very relaxing,” she said of her first game.

“The game was fun. The Cubs were considered enough to win for me.

Never one to be satisfied with what she has already done, she sees a challenge even in Wrigley’s friendly confines.

“I’m sure tempted to sit in the bleachers. It looks like a really exciting place to sit. Those people look like they’re having a really good time.”

And so is she.

“I love retirement,” she said.

Patricia Wenzel

(Photographed by Ben Wangelin)
Orville Vernon Burton, a UI professor of history, is one of four professors nationally named a 1999-2000 U.S. Professor of the Year. The award recognizes extraordinary dedication to teaching, commitment to students and innovative teaching methods. This photo was taken last spring after he was honored with the Campus Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching.

Burton: Turning students into historians

Growing up in the South during the civil rights movement, Orville Vernon Burton saw firsthand how those who practiced exploitation and racism twisted history to justify their actions. Burton decided then that he would use history to explain the past, not glorify it. Burton follows the same motto with his students, many of whom expect history courses to be boring and irrelevant to their lives. "I demand that students formulate their own opinions of history, to examine primary sources, to educate themselves," Burton said.

Using information technology, Burton encourages others in the community to become historians as well. He is working to make library and museum resources available to students everywhere on the World Wide Web. Working with churches and schools, he is training young people to use technology to become "virtual tour guides" by developing customized historical tours of their communities. Having grown up in rural South Carolina without access to a public library, Burton hopes to make accessible to others the information that was inaccessible to him.

Burton has received numerous honors and awards during his teaching career. He has received two campus awards for mentoring minority students and has been recognized by the history department and Panhellenic Council for his teaching. He also meets regularly with students in residence halls to discuss student life.
Willard firefighters happy their skills not in high demand

By Melissa Mitchell

Not people go to school or complete specialized training programs with a goal of putting those acquired skills to work on the job. But that’s not the case with John Smith, the fire marshal at the UI’s Willard Airport, and other members of the airport’s fire department.

“We don’t want to practice what we’re trained to do,” Smith said. “Our primary mission is firefighting and rescue pertaining to commercial aircraft, but that’s not anything we want to do.”

Fortunately, commercial — and private — aircraft accidents are rare.

“I like to tell people the most hazardous part of flying is driving to the airport,” said Smith, who added that, with the exception of one-on-the-ground accident involving an airline employee, “last year there were no fatalities in U.S. commercial aviation.

Still, federal regulations require airports such as Willard to have various levels of emergency disaster plans in place. Each year, Smith meets with airport personnel and representatives from the UI’s METCAD, the Champaign County sheriff’s office, state police, American Red Cross, ambulance companies and other agencies to conduct “table-top drills.” That exercise involves “walking through an event and reviewing the roles each agency plays,” Smith said.

“Then, every three years we are required to have a simulated drill. We take an old aircraft fuselage and have it on the ground, get the appropriate number of victims, have them picked up and transported to hospitals and make the proper notifications — all the things we would do in the first three hours of an incident.”

In reality, serious incidents have been few and far between at the UI airport over the years. Only a handful of accidents have resulted in fatalities in the past two decades. The one that sticks with Smith as the incident he’s least likely to forget was a multiple-fatality accident in November 1994.

“The plane crashed right after an Illinois football team plane. Still, Smith said he had “lots of adrenaline going” in those initial, uncertain moments, when he and others feared a worst-case scenario.

Most days on the job are calmer, by many orders of magnitude. Still, the unit, which has been in existence at various staffing levels since 1961, doesn’t allow any grass to grow under its engines. Firefighters keep busy with a host of daily activities at the fire station and all around the airport. Some, such as maintaining and testing equipment, are routine; others, such as providing emergency medical services to aircraft passengers, keep the crew on their collective toes.

Smith said the total number of aircraft emergencies requiring some sort of response from the airport fire department is about 70 per year.

In addition to providing EMS to airline passengers and others at the airport, Mike Kobel, a crash-rescue and security specialist and one of the station’s shift supervisors, said state certification requirements for airport firefighters include being prepared “to deal with anything from how the airport is set up to movement on the airfield to knowing about certain fuels and how they burn.”

At Willard, Kobel said, firefighters also are responsible for overall airport security. That entails enforcing FAA requirements and providing security training for airport employees. “It also involves everything from identifying possible suspicious parcels to [identifying] terrorists,” Kobel said.

Though the firefighters don’t have actual policing responsibilities, they act as the eyes and ears of the airport staff and have direct radio contact with university and area police departments and with METCAD.

“So, if a gun goes through the X-ray machine, the airport security employee pushes a button, which locks up the machine and sends a distress alarm to the fire department. Then, we’re first on the scene.”

Besides overseeing security operations, airport firefighters devote a fair amount of time to education. They provide CPR training to the airport staff, as well as to students enrolled in the UI’s Institute of Aviation. The firefighters also instruct aviation students on fire extinguisher use and maintenance. Some of the airport firefighters also have served as instructors for courses offered by the Illinois Fire Service Institute — including short courses held in conjunction with the annual Fire College and as part of weeklong classes offered throughout the year.

Kobel, along with Smith and Tom Reese, helped initiate an FSI course called “It Crashed in Your Backyard.” Kobel described the course as “an awareness program for volunteer and city services,” which covers everything from airplane construction and fuel behavior to triage situations. In addition to that course, Smith has taught an aircraft accident awareness program offered jointly by FSI, the Institute of Aviation and the Police Training Institute.

When the airport firefighters aren’t responding to emergencies, they are assisting the public.

“We’re a crash rescue unit,” Kobel said during a recent interview at the Willard fire station. “We’re also a bit of a police department and a fire department. Still, Smith said he had “lots of adrenaline going” in those initial, uncertain moments, when he and others feared a worst-case scenario.

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The Office of Academic Human Resources, Suite 420, 807 S. Wright St., maintains the listings for university positions and provides career development for professional positions. More complete descriptions are available that detail opportunities during regular business hours. Job listings are also updated weekly on its Web site at: http://webdev.utk.edu/atr/job/jobs/.

Education, College of. Dean. PhD required. Should have the ability to represent the college at departmental, college, and universitywide functions. Available: Aug. 21. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, Indiana University, 715 E. Kirkwood Ave., Bloomington, IN 47405.


Management. Assistant professor. PhD or equivalent preferred. Must have a background in environmental science or related field. Available: Jan. 15.


Architecture. Full professor. PhD or equivalent required. Must have a background in environmental design. Available: Aug. 1. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, The University of Chicago, Mail Code 5272, 5950 South Ellis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60637.

Business Administration. Full professor. PhD or equivalent required. Must have a background in environmental science or related field. Available: Aug. 21. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, Business Administration, 6060 South University Ave., Room 310, Chicago, IL 60637.


Sociology and Anthropology. Sociology. Assistant professor. PhD required. Must have a background in environmental sociology. Available: Aug. 1. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, Sociology and Anthropology, 1041 Altgeld Hall, 1106 West Green Street, Champaign, IL 61820.

Law. Assistant professor. PhD or equivalent required. Must have a background in environmental law. Available: Aug. 1. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, Law School, 108 S. Wabash Ave., Chicago, IL 60603.

Landscape Architecture. Assistant professor. PhD required. Must have a background in landscape architecture. Available: Aug. 21. Send letter, vita and three references to Chair, Landscape Architecture, 1010 S. Wright St., Suite 205A, Illinois Natural History Survey, P.O. Box 6551, Champaign, IL 61820.


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**brief notes**

**Urbana lawyer to speak Oct. 24**

Holten Summers will speak Oct. 24 at the fall 1999 membership meeting of the UI’s Urbana-Champaign chapter of the State University Annuitants Association. The meeting begins with a social gathering at 1:30 p.m. in the large meeting room of the Urbana Park Inn (located on the east side of Route 45, just north of I-74). There will be a short business and information session afterward, followed by Summers’ address.

Summers, a UI alumna and Urbana lawyer, will speak on “Elder Law – Planning for the Future.”

**All current faculty and staff members, annuitants, retirees, spouses and surviving spouses are welcome.**

**Pumpkin carving, painting, and lectures featured Arboretum hosts fall festival**

Families are invited to bring their Halloween imagination and creativity, as well as their curiosity about fall yards and gardens to the first Fall Festival at the UI Arboretum, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Oct. 23.

There will be pumpkins for adults to carve (bring your own carving equipment) and for children to paint, a coloring area for toddlers, a scavenger hunt and lectures on fall-related topics. Visitors can tour the Arboretum complex, including the Miles C. Hartley Selections Garden. Hayrides will be available, and motorized carts will be available for senior citizens and guests with disabilities.

Admission is free; pumpkins for carving and painting will be sold at cost to participants. The Arboretum – dedicated in 1994 as a “living laboratory” for academic and public education – is located just south of the intersection of Lincoln and Florida avenues in Urbana.

Lectures on flower arranging, pumpkins and squashes, fall lawn and tree care will begin at 10 a.m. and be repeated beginning at 1 p.m.

For more information, call 333-7579.

**International program development**

**Deadline for travel fund is Nov. 8**

A limited travel fund (a maximum of $1,000 for each project) for international program development will be available. Funds supplied by the Midwest Universities Consortium for International Activities Inc. (MUCIA), the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, UI International Programs and Studies, and UIC’s Office of External Education. The fund is designed to support international travel for faculty and staff members, enabling them to work abroad on projects that are likely to result in institutional development or enhancement of international programs.

Matching funds, from any institutional source, are required before international travel funds are awarded. A conditional award may be made if the applicant’s request for matching funds from other sources is pending or in preparation. The deadlines for the 1999-2000 academic year are Nov. 8 and March 1.

Award guidelines and applications are available by contacting the MUCIA Liaison Office, 325 International Studies Building; 333-1993 or m-ramsey@uiuc.edu.

**Developments in astronomy**

**Harvard scholar to lecture Oct. 27**

Harvard professor Robert Kirshner will present the second talk in the department of astronomy’s Ickes-Iben Jr. Distinguished Lectureship at 4 p.m. Oct. 27 in Foellinger Auditorium. The talk, “The Universe: Big, Old, Accelerating?” is free and open to the public.

Each year the Iken lecturebrings a noted astronomer to campus to highlight some of the latest developments in astronomy. In addition to giving a public lecture, the invited speaker also will give a technical colloquium and meet informally with faculty members and students.

Kirshner, a professor of astronomy and an associate director of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics, is a pioneer in the use of supernovae as cosmological distance indicators.

“4-H CAN Make a Difference”

Food drive is Oct. 25-27

UI faculty and staff members are encouraged to bring a bag, box or can of nonperishable food to work Oct. 25-27 as part of the “4-H CAN Make a Difference” drive to help stock the East Central Illinois Food Bank.

College-age 4-H members and United Parcel Service workers will put food-collection stations at more than 30 campus locations; signs will be posted at the entrances of campus buildings beginning Oct. 25 that indicate where the closest drop-off site is located. UPS workers will pick up the donations Oct. 28.

There also will be a food drive prior to the Illinois-Penn State football game Oct. 30. Donations may be dropped off at the 4-H tent west of Memorial Stadium on Oct. 29, or at each stadium entrance Oct. 30. Coca-Cola will provide a coupon for a free 20-ounce Coke product to anyone who brings a box, bag or can of food to the football game.

The donations will be distributed to pantries, shelters and meal programs in the region.

Last year’s 4-H day food drive was recognized by the food bank for collecting the largest amount of food collected in a one-day event. For more information, call 333-7579.

**“Critics’ Choice” provides local reviews on WILL-Channel 12**

After 16 years on Champaign-Urbana’s cable-access channel, the weekly movie- and theater-review program “Critics’ Choice” moves to WILL-Channel 12, beginning Nov. 4.

Airing at 7:30 p.m. every Thursday, the program has been reshaped from its cable-access format, with more lively discussion among the hosts and less individual commentary.

The three host-producers of “Critics’ Choice,” Jeff Nelson, Syd Slobodnik and Pat Matzdorff, think their position as Hollywood outsiders residing in the nation’s heartland is the perfect vantage point for reviewing movies and plays.

“Sometimes it’s refreshing to hear the common person’s point of view,” Slobodnik said. “Because we’re not part of the system, we can provide a more honest perspective.”

The 30-minute show includes movie reviews introduced by a clip from each film, theater announcements and reviews, and occasional interviews with visiting celebrities.

Although none is involved in filmmaking, each brings to the series knowledge of some aspect of film and theater. Nelson, a history teacher at Urbana High School for 28 years, said he’s able to put films and theater in a social, historical and cultural context. Slobodnik, a teaching associate in English and film at the UI and Parkland College, presents the academic perspective and international context for films. Matzdorff, who spent 11 years working in the film industry in Los Angeles and two years as Oregon film commissioner, brings to her reviews a practical knowledge of film production. She was production coordinator for the TV series “Knots Landing” and the film “Absence of Malice.”

The hosts’ different points of view make for animated conversation. Each host compiles a list of the “Best Films of the Year,” and they’ll continue this tradition as the show moves to WILL.

“We’re excited about being able to expand our coverage to include the entire WILL-TV viewing area,” Nelson said. “We’ll be reviewing theater in Charleston, Bloomington, Decatur, Springfield and other cities as well as Champaign-Urbana. And we think the WILL audience meshes perfectly with the audience for our show.”

The trio tries to strike a balance between art films and box-office hits, and also include teen films, family films and films that appeal to ethnic groups. “Our shows about the best films of the year have included foreign films and documentaries,” Matzdorff said. ◆
BRIEFS, CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

Inside Illinois

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Division of Campus Recreation

Half-semester membership is $49

The Division of Campus Recreation (DCR) is offering half-semester memberships at $49 from Oct. 26 through Jan. 17. There is no initiation or enrollment fee. This membership includes access to seven campus facilities: IMPE, CRC-E, Ice Arena, Campus Recreation Outdoor Center, Huff Hall, Freer Hall and Kenney Gym. The facilities include weight and cardio equipment, racquetball and squash courts, locker and shower facilities, and more. Memberships are sold in 140 IMPE Building during building hours. For more information, call 333-3806 or see the DCR Web site at www.dcr.uiuc.edu.

James Reston papers on display

Journalists featured Nov. 3

The papers of James Reston, one of the most influential print journalists of the 20th century, have come home to his alma mater, the UI. An exhibit of the Reston papers at the UI Archives will be celebrated by a Nov. 3 symposium featuring speakers who were close to the late, legendary New York Times writer: Max Frankel, a former executive editor of the Times; James Reston Jr., an author and one of Reston’s sons; and John Stack, the executive editor of Time magazine. Louie Laibovich, a UI journalism professor, also will speak. Ronald Yates, the head of the UI journalism department, will moderate the symposium.

The event, which is free and open to the public, begins at 3:30 p.m. in 213 Gregory Hall. A reception will follow 5 p.m. in the Marshall Gallery of the University Library, where an exhibit of items from the Reston papers will be on display through Nov. 10. A companion exhibit on Reston, who died in 1995, will run in the University Library main hall throughout November.

Office of Human Resources

NESSIE overview sessions offered

The Office of Human Resources is offering NESSIE Overview Sessions for UI employees. The sessions will be from 10 to 11 a.m. on Nov. 3 and Dec. 16. Both sessions will begin at Room 404 of the Illini Union. Registration information is accessible from the NESSIE home page, http://nessie.uhr.uiuui.edu/nessiesessions.html. This is an approved event for staff employees. Employees may be released from work for up to one hour, departmental operations permitting and with appropriate prior supervisory approval, to attend a session.

NESSIE (Net-driven Employee Self-Service and Information Environment), located at http://nessie.uhr.uiui.edu, enables benefit-eligible employees to conduct personnel transactions online.

CAS/Channel 12 host preview

Bardeen featured in “Transistorized!”

The Center for Advanced Study and WILL-Channel 12 will host a preview showing of the documentary film “Transistorized!” Nov. 4 at 7:30 p.m., Third Floor, Lewis Faculty Center.

The one-hour program, produced by award-winning TV and radio journalists Ira Flatoe, will air on PBS stations. Nov. 8. Locally, it will be shown on WILL-Channel 12 at 9 p.m., and will be repeated at midnight and 4 a.m. Nov. 9.

“Transistorized!” tells the dramatic story of the invention of the transistor. A key figure in that drama is former UI professor John Bardeen, who shared the Nobel Prize for the development of the transistor with William Shockley and Walter Brattain.

Among the UI experts who were interviewed or consulted for the project were Lillian Hoddeson, professor of history and co-author of “Crystal Fire: The Birth of the Information Age”; Charles Stewart, professor of history; and Nick Holonyak, the John Bardeen Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics. Former UI professor Frederick Seitz also is featured.

More information about the documentary and those featured in it can be found at www.pbs.org/transistor/.

Campus Charitable Fund Drive

Fund-drive pledge cards due

All employees who wish to donate to the Campus Charitable Fund Drive are reminded to turn in their pledge cards by Nov. 3. A reception will follow 3:30 p.m. in the Marshall Gallery of the University Library, where an exhibit of items from the Reston papers will be on display through Nov. 10. A companion exhibit on Reston, who died in 1995, will run in the University Library main hall throughout November.

For dates, times and locations of the remaining schedule, please check the Web at: www.uiuc.edu/departments/mckeeley.or call 333-3701 and press 9 for a recorded message of each week’s schedule.

For more information, call 333-6729, or visit the CAS Web site, www.cas.uiuc.edu.

Deaths

Floyd Castiaux Sr., 59, died Oct. 9 at the Carle Arbours. Savoy. Castiaux worked in building services for the UI for 27 years.

Barbara Jean Harmon, 59, died Oct. 28 at Carle Foundation Hospital. Urbana. Harmon had been a bus driver for the UI Rehabilitation Center since 1989. Memorials: Carle Hospice Memorial Fund, 611 W. Park St., Urbana, IL 61801.

Mark Hubert Hindles, 93, died Oct. 1 at Meadowbrook Health Center, Urbana. Hindles joined the UI faculty in 1934 as director of the Marching Illini. He returned to the UI after World War II and in 1948 took the position of director of bands and professor of music. After his retirement in 1970, Hindles continued to serve as guest conductor, adjudicator, clinician and transcriber. Memorials: UI Foundation Mark Hindles Band Scholarship Fund or the Indiana University Foundation Mark Hindles Band Scholarship Fund or the University of Illinois Foundation Mark Hindles Endowment Fund for Symphonic Band.

John W. Melin, 69, died Sept. 28 at Carle Foundation Hospital, Urbana. Melin had been a professor of civil engineering at the UI since 1958 and had the title of professor emeritus. Memorials: Habitat for Humanity or Covenant Hospice Care Program.

James L. “Catfish” Osby, 65, died Sept. 29 at his Champaign home. Osby retired in 1996 as a food service worker from the UI Housing Division.

Bert J. Ward, 80, died Oct. 7 at his Sidney home. Ward was a roofer for the UI for 35 years before retiring in 1978. Memorials: Provena Covenant Hospice Care Program or Countryside United Methodist Church.
Oct 21 to Nov 7

**Calendar of Events**

### Lectures

21 Thursday
**About What’s Underneath: Discovering the Unknown in the Artistic Process.** Joe Goode, performance/installation artist, San Francisco. 7:30 p.m. East Gallery, Krannert Art Museum. MillerComm.

22 Friday
**Collision or Conversation: Options for Christian Mission Today?** Thomas Thangaraj, Emory University, Atlanta. Lunch 11:45 a.m.; speaker 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. Friday Forum.

23 Tuesday
**The Problem of Perspectivalism and its Absence in the Piazza.** Marvin Trachtenberg, New York University. 5:30 p.m. Krannert Art Museum. MillerComm.

25 Monday
**People and Places.** Carol Ross Barney, Ross Barney and Jankovsky Architects, Chicago. 7 p.m. Plyn Auditorium, Temple Buell Hall. Architecture.

26 Tuesday
**How an Incinerator Can Become a Locally Desirable Land Use in a Minority, Low-Income Community in the United States, Robbins, Illinois.** Mary Lohrakis, UI. 3 p.m. 219 Davenport Auditorium.

30 Saturday

22 Thursday
**Structuring Argument.** Hagi Borer, University of Southern California. 4 p.m. Lucy Ellis Lounge, 1080 Foreign Languages Building. Linguistics.

27 Wednesday

### Other Events

25 Saturday
**The Other Side of Venus.** Abigail Solomon-Godeau, University of California, Davis. 4 p.m. 150 Animal Sciences Lab. Nutritional Sciences.

28 Thursday
**From Paganism to Christianity in the Temples of Greece.** Timothy E. Goodwin, Ohio State University. 5:30 p.m. Krannert Art Museum. Krannert Art Museum and MillerComm.

### University Events

**Friday Forum.**
- **Music.** The dynamic Polish Chamber Philharmonic Orchestra performs at 8 p.m. Oct. 28 in the Foellinger Great Hall at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The orchestra is under the baton of its founder and music director, Wojciech Rajks.
- **The Joy of Challenge and Cilitizan Participation.** Bob Aaron, Illinois Wesleyan University. Lunch 11:45 a.m.; speaker 12:15 p.m. Latzer Hall, University YMCA. MillerComm.

### Tickets

Entries for the calendar should be sent 15 days before the desired publication date to www.uiuc.edu/uicalendar/cal.html.

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**Entrances**

- **Caloric Intake, Oxidative Stress and Aging.** Samir Sinha, University of Wisconsin, and Karen Chapman-Novakowski, UI. 3-5 p.m. 180 Bevier Hall. Geography.

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**Entomology.**


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**Chemical and Life Sciences Lab.**

- **Nutritional Sciences.**

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**Entomology.**


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**Museum and MillerComm.**

- **Computer-Based Musical Composition.** Rick Tsuie, UI. 8 p.m. Beckman Institute auditorium. Center for Advanced Study and Beckman Institute.

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**Entomology.**


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**Chemical and Life Sciences Lab.**

- **Nutritional Sciences.**

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**Entomology.**

CALENDAR, PAGE 11

CALENDAR, PAGE 10

9:30 a.m. “Romeo and Juliet.” Tom Mitchell, director. 3 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.


3 Saturday “Roméo et Juliette.” Tom Mitchell, director. 5 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

4 Saturday “Roméo et Juliette.” Tom Mitchell, director. 5 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

5 Friday “Chances Are.” Marlana Klinko/Billy Murphy. Time: TBA. 160 Armory Building. For more information and performance times, call 333-2571 or 333-8295 or visit the Web site at www.uiuc.edu/ro/armory. Admission Free Theater.

6 Saturday “Roméo et Juliette.” Tom Mitchell, director. 5 p.m. Colwell Playhouse, Krannert Center. Admission charge.

12 Friday Guest Artist Chamber Music Recital. 9 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Faculty Recital. Steven Hackman, piano. 5:30 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall.

13 Thursday at Twelve-Twenties. 12:10-12:50 p.m. Beckman Institute atrium. Beckman Institute and School of Music.

23 Saturday 11:00 a.m. Music education orientation for public and private schools.

29 Friday Vocal Indian Carnatic Music Recital. R. Suryaprakash, soprano. 8 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. 

30 Saturday 7 p.m. “Afterglow with Barrington Coleman and Friends.” 10 p.m. Lobby, Krannert Center. An informal jam session where all interested musicians are invited to perform.

Last chance

The Guarneri String Quartet presents a concert of Felix Mendelssohn, Beethoven and Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart works in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts’ Foellinger Great Hall at 8 p.m. Nov. 10. The concert is preceded by a free Prelude discussion with members of the quartet at 7 p.m. in the Krannert Room.

7 Saturday “Chances Are.” Valorie Goodall, director. 3 p.m. Krannert Center. Admission charge. Undergraduate Recital.allery McCullough, piano. 8:30 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. 

13 Tuesday 5:30 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. 

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26 Saturday 11:00 a.m. Music education orientation for public and private schools.

28 Monday 5:30 p.m. Department of Music Building auditorium. 

30 Saturday 7 p.m. “Afterglow with Barrington Coleman and Friends.” 10 p.m. Lobby, Krannert Center. An informal jam session where all interested musicians are invited to perform.

22 Friday Faculty Recital. Ian and Claude Hobson, piano. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. Concertos for two, three and four harpsichords by Johann Sebastian Bach and others. School of Music faculty and students are featured. Admission charge. School of Music.

Sigma Alpha Iota Musicale. 8 p.m. Music Building auditorium.

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22 Friday Cultural Studies and Disciplinary Boundaries in Latina/o America. 3 a.m. Levis Faculty Center. For more information, call 244-3252 or m-romine@uiuc.edu. Continues through Saturday. Spanish, Italian and Portuguese; Latina/Latino Studies; Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities; and La Casa Cultural Latina.

30 Saturday 7 p.m. “Afterglow with Barrington Coleman and Friends.” 10 p.m. Lobby, Krannert Center. An informal jam session where all interested musicians are invited to perform.

24 Sunday Concert Band. 4:10 p.m. on Wes. 6:10 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. 

25 Saturday 11:00 a.m. Music education orientation for public and private schools.

27 Monday 5:30 p.m. Department of Music Building auditorium. 

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Coffee Hour: Japanese. 7:30 p.m. Cosmopolitan Club. 307 E. John St. Champaign. Kazuo Itami will host. Sumi’s swordsmanship program. For more information, call 367-3079 or visit the Web site at www.prairienet.org/cosmo.

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