Fun, useful facts about Christmas trees, turkeys now online

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

Remember why only the light atop the National Christmas Tree was lit 20 years ago? An acre of Christmas trees daily delivers enough oxygen for how many people? What's the most popular tree chosen in the United States during the holiday season?

The answers: the Iran hostage crisis; 18; and Scotch Pine.

These are just one of the tidbits of Christmas trivia that can be found at a holiday Web site operated by UI Extension. The site, part of the Urban Programs Resource Network, offers help to families in choosing their trees, especially in the Midwest, and lots of entertaining and useful information. The site can be found at www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/trees.

“The Christmas tree site includes a list of tree farms where individuals or families can go and cut down their own tree for the holiday,” said Jane Scherer, a specialist with the UI Extension’s urban programs. “Users also can find information about holiday traditions, recipes for edible Christmas tree ornaments, and tree events like lighting ceremonies.”

Visitors can do research on the types of Christmas trees – among them are Austrian Pine, Balsam Fir, Fraser Fir, Ponderosa Pine and White Spruce – to determine which one is right for their homes. A common issue also is addressed: how to keep a tree fresh throughout the holiday season.

Another site, actually geared for Thanksgiving (www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/-turkey), may prove helpful to holiday revelers serving turkey during the Christmas holidays. Users will find recipes for side dishes as well as tips on using leftovers and advice about food safety.

The sites are designed and maintained by Extension professionals. This is the second year for the Christmas tree site and the first for the one devoted to turkey.

The Urban Programs Resource Network (www.urbanext.uiuc.edu/) offers a variety of programs and Web links providing helpful information and guidance for Illinois residents, families and communities. Included are sites on horticulture, financial matters, nutrition and health, 4-H, parenting and environmental stewardship.

“Each Web site contains a wealth of information that is both entertaining and useful,” Scherer said. “Each also includes sections for children’s activities. These sites are available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Whenever people need the information, it is ready for them.”

Book focuses on Belgian who helped promote democratization of art

By Melissa Mitchell
News Bureau Staff Writer

At the close of the 20th century, visual artists are questioning convention by making art that can’t be hung on a wall or displayed on a pedestal. Much of the newest digital art exists only in the ether.

By contrast, a century ago, fin de siècle artists were asking their own questions about the purpose and function of art. Artists in the avant-garde in Europe were breaking out of the box in search of a new style and a new aesthetic regarding the role art should play in everyday life. Art nouveau, they called it.

Among the more talented artists to emerge from this movement was Belgian graphic and decorative artist Gisbert Combaz (1869-1941). His name may not be a household word today, but the images he created are immediately recognizable. And in his day, “Combaz was very well-known throughout Europe; he would have needed no introduction,” says Jane Block, a UI professor of library administration, who is the head of the architecture library and the author of “Gisbert Combaz: Fin De Siècle Artist” (Pendore). The book is the first to take a comprehensive look at the life and work of the artist. Its publication – in Belgium – coincided with a major exhibition of Combaz’s work this fall at the Royal Library of Brussels. The book will be distributed in North America next spring by the University of Washington Press.

“Combaz came of age artistically when the definition of an artist, and the purpose of art itself, was being questioned,” Block wrote. “The old division between the Fine Arts and the Applied Arts seemed dangerously limiting in a world where the march of blind technology made art more necessary than ever. Many wondered whether there was still a need for artists to create ‘useless’ art works for wealthy patrons. They turned instead to designing utilitarian objects that had been considered beneath the dignity of the ‘true’ artist.”

Combaz and other continental artists followed the lead set in England by William Morris, the father of the Arts and Crafts movement, who promoted the democratization of art, Block said.

Combaz actually eased into art-making through more than one back door. Originally
Trustees discuss economic development at ‘emerging new mission’

By Craig Chamberlain
News Bureau Staff Writer

As already demonstrated through previous discussions and actions, economic development is a rising priority at the U of I, and administrators re-emphasized the issue during a presentation at the U of I Board of Trustees meeting Nov. 18 on the Springfield campus.

Calling economic development an ‘emerging new mission’ at the U of I, Chester Gardner, interim vice president for academic affairs, said the university was working to attract established high-tech companies to partnerships with the Urbana and Chicago campuses. The UI also wants to help in the development of start-up companies that will commercialize its intellectual property.

The initiative goes beyond the traditional concerns of technology transfer at the UI, which focuses chiefly on promoting, marketing and licensing the university’s intellectual property, Gardner said. The change is required, in part, because economic development activities are now seen as crucial for attracting and retaining top faculty members in high-tech disciplines.

Gardner made no major announcements as part of his presentation, and made no proposal that required a board vote. His intention instead was to lay out UI history and strategies on managing intellectual property and technology transfer, outline current developments and suggest possible actions.

Offices already exist for dealing with intellectual property management and technology transfer concerns: the Intellectual Property Office (IPO), created in the late ’80s at UIUC, and the Research and Technology Management Office (RTMO), created in 1994 at Urbana. Each deals with patent applications and markets intellectual property.

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How do you think you’ll feel on your last day on the job? Great. I didn’t think I was going to be as happy as I am. People say ‘You’ve always been happy,’ I say, this time I’m even happier. I’m really looking forward to it. I’m ecstatic. I just can’t say enough. But I’m going to miss the campus.

You earned a UI degree while working here, right? I started working here in ’62 and I started taking classes in 1969. I graduated in 1979 in urban planning. It took me one semester less than 10 years, taking one or two courses per semester.

I did it more or less as an incentive for the kids. I have three children. I was trying to put something into their minds – if Dad can do it, you can. Why did you stay in mail services after getting your degree? Because I’ve enjoyed what I’ve done. When I got my degree, I was upgraded to supervisor. And I saw a possibility of moving up. But I enjoyed my job, I enjoyed being a mail carrier and as a supervisor, it just mushroomed. It gave me the satisfaction of talking to my employees and saying, ‘I moved up, you can do the same thing.’

What was it like carrying mail around campus when you first started? We all had walking routes. The campus was a little more compact than it is now. We had bags and carried the mail on our backs. Then as the campus began to expand and grow we got Cushman scooters. Then we outgrew those and we got little Jeeps, and then we went to the minivans, which we have now.

You’re a loyal fan of the UI football team, aren’t you? Oh, yes. Always. I’ve gotten involved with women’s basketball too. My daughter at one time would get tickets through her work and we’d go. As for men’s basketball, I don’t get season tickets, but I still go to a lot of those games. I know a lot of those kids too.

As for football, I sat there when we were doing nothing during the Moeller years, but I’m a fan and I still go, every year. Season tickets. I haven’t gone to any of the same years, but next year I plan to go to some of those because I won’t have any restrictions. If I go and don’t make it back on Monday, who cares?

I’m real pleased and proud of this year’s team. And I’m also proud that the seniors that are on that team get to go out like this. They’ve really played their hearts out and they deserve it.

What are you going to do when you retire? Enjoy more. My wife and I travel a lot and we’d do a lot more of that. And I have two grandsons, 12 and 5, so I’ll spend a lot more time with them. I enjoy them, we’re very close. They’re my heart.

And I’m an outdoors person. I do a lot of garden- ing with flowers around my house. And I’ve had a garden at Orchard Downs. Any time I can get outside I’m there and that’s where I’ll spend most of my time.

I’ve heard people say you’ll be missed around here. I’m going to miss people. But after 38 years I know it’s time.

But there hasn’t been a day that I didn’t look forward to coming to work. I enjoyed it. The UI has been good to me. And I’ve made connections over the years with a lot of people.

— Interview by Becky Mabry

achievements A report on honors, awards, offices and other outstanding achievements of faculty and staff members

agricultural, consumer and environmental sciences

Dan Bush, professor of plant biology and chair of the Program in Physiological and Molecular Plant Biology was elected by his peers in the American Society of Plant Physiologists to serve a second year as secretary; his term began Oct. 1.

Bush’s research and academic interests include determining how plants regulate resource allocation between tissues; describing the transport properties, structure and control of sugar and amino acid transporters; and dissecting sucrose-mediated changes in gene expression.

Founded in 1924, ASPP’s 5,000 members are academic, government and industry plant science researchers from the United States and more than 50 other nations.

John Erdman, professor of food science and director of the UI Division of Nutritional Sciences, was named to the Nutrition Research Chair in the department of food science and human nutrition.

Erdman has more than 120 peer-reviewed publications, primarily centered upon the effects of food processing upon the bioavailability of minerals and carotenoids from foods. More recently, his laboratory has expanded its studies into the metabolism of carotenoids and the effects of carotenoids on prostate cancer using animal models and the impact of soy protein on cholesterol reduction in humans.

Sonja Salamon, professor of community studies, human and community development, recently was honored with the Rural Sociological Society’s 1999 Excellence in Research Award. Presented annually by the society, the award honors the winner’s impact in the discipline and understanding of the intersection of agriculture, family and community.

biotechnology center

Henriette Remmer, director of the Protein Sciences facility at the Biotechnology Center, has been appointed to the Peptide Synthesis Research Group, a national committee of the Association of Biomolecular Resource Facilities (ABRF).

ABRF promotes research in DNA and protein sciences. The organization has several committees that focus on research questions and methodologies.

broadcasting

The WILL-TV documentary, “Walter Burley Griffin: In His Own Right,” won an Emmy Award for Outstanding Achievement For Documentary Programs-Cultural Significance. The Emmy, WILL-TV’s first, was given by the National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS) of Chicago/Midwest Chapter.

Alison Davis, producer, accepted the award Oct. 16 at the Emmy Awards ceremony in Chicago. The contest category, which had 20 entries, was judged by the Denver/Heartland Chapter of the NATAS.

The documentary, which was broadcast nationally, told the story of forgotten Illinois architect Walter Burley Griffin, a contemporary of Frank Lloyd Wright. Griffin helped found the Prairie School of architecture.

Tim Hartin, WILL-TV videographer, captured the interiors and exteriors of 20 Griffin homes around the Midwest. Paul Kruty, professor of architectural history, served as content consultant on the documentary.

The documentary was funded in part by a major grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting through the Central Educational Network (now American Telecommunications Group) with additional funding provided by Archer Daniels Midland Co., Hickory Point Bank of Decatur, and the Central Illinois chapter of the American Institute of Architects. This is the program’s third major award.

campus

The UI has been honored for the richness of its campus landscape. The American Society of Landscape Architects (ASLA) created the centennial medalion award program to commemorate its 100th anniversary. The award recognizes “significant works of landscape architecture – places of the heart – across the country,” said Peter A. Kirsch, the executive vice president of ASLA. A ceremony on Oct. 15 unveiled the ASLA centennial medalion on the south plaza of the Illini Union.

Of the 362 medals awarded nationwide, 20 honored Illinois sites, including Grant Park and Lincoln Park in Chicago. The UI is the only school in the state to receive the honor. Other campuses honored included the University of Michigan, Michigan State University and the University of Virginia.

“One of the UI’s campus is very worthy of this recognition because it has a long-standing tradition of good planning and responsible stewardship of the landscape,” said Gary Kesler, associate head of the landscape architecture department and professor of landscape architecture. “What’s significant on this campus is that it is not just collection of good buildings. A lot of attention has been given to the landscape.”

SEE ACHIEVEMENTS, PAGE 4
One of every 10 grocery items people buy goes unused

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

In one case, a can of sardines spent more than 20 years being passed from grandmother to mother to daughter. In another, a family packed, moved, and unpacked unwanted grocery items during five relocations.

“Nearly everyone is guilty of purchasing products they never use,” writes UI business professor Brian Wansink. These abandoned products gradually migrate farther back on the shelf until they become almost invisible. Yet the money spent purchasing these dusty relics is not trivial—as much as 12 percent of all grocery items wind up as “cabinet castaways,” Wansink reports.

To find out why consumers buy products they never use, the UI professor surveyed 412 homemakers in five states. Sixty-one percent of those surveyed were between 35 and 50, more than two-thirds had children, 58 percent were college graduates and 71 percent were Anglo-Americans.

His results were surprising. While advertising is commonly blamed for convincing people to buy products they don’t need, advertising, trial purchases, product sales and impulse buying accounted for only 16 percent of the total number of unused items. By contrast, fully 70 percent of those surveyed said they had purchased a castaway for a specific reason in mind.

“The leading reason why a product was never used was because consumers claimed the desired situation had not yet arisen,” Wansink wrote in the December issue of the Journal of Family and Consumer Sciences. This involved items purchased for a specific occasion, such as a holiday meal for future guests, or for a specific purpose, such as removing wine stains from a carpet.

Another 20 percent of the respondents said they did not use the product because it was “inconvenient.” In follow-up focus groups, Wansink discovered that inconvenience often meant taking too much time. “When we buy unused products, such as the ingredients to make a dessert, it is often a result of our overly ambitious expectations of having enough time to prepare the recipe.”

– Brian Wansink

achievements, continued from page 3

communications

Jay Rosenstein, visiting lecturer in the department of journalism, has been selected as a juror by the Kentucky Arts Council, judging in the video category for this year’s media arts grants. Rosenstein was selected to represent the Midwest region on the panel.

engineering

Zhi-Pei Liang, professor of electrical and computer engineering and member of the Beckman Institute’s Image Formation and Processing Group, was presented the IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society’s Early Career Achievement Award for his outstanding contributions and achievement in the field of biomedical engineering. The award is presented annually to a person who has made significant contributions technologically or theoretically to the field of biomedical engineering within 10 years of completion of the highest degree. Liang’s particular expertise is in magnetic resonance imaging.

N. Narayana Rao, professor of electrical and computer engineering and associate head of the department, achieved a milestone in the world of academic publishing. Prentice Hall published the fifth edition of his book “Elements of Engineering Electromagnetics” with a year 2000 copyright. Few engineering textbooks see this many editions.

In the preface to this book, Rao illustrates how the 19th century’s focus on electromechanics was succeeded by the 20th century’s focus on electronics, which is now being succeeded by an emerging focus on photonics. The fifth edition has been reorganized and revised to help reflect this progression.

Jeremiah D. Sullivan, professor of physics and a member of the Campus Honors faculty, has been awarded the 2000 Leo Szilard Lectureship Award, which recognizes outstanding accomplishments by physicists in promoting the use of physics for the benefit of society in such areas as the environment, arms control and science policy.

The award consists of $1,000 plus $2,000 for travel expenses for lectures at an American Physics Society meeting and at two or more educational institutions or research laboratories in the year following the award.

The award, which will be presented to Sullivan at the APS annual meeting in April, is sponsored by the D. D. and Spitz T. MacArthur Foundation, the Energy Foundation, the David and Lucille Packard Foundation and individual contributions.

Sullivan also was named chair of the new Department of Energy Advisory Committee on Nonproliferation and National Security by U.S. Secretary of Energy Bill Richardson. Sullivan, former director of the Program in Arms Control, Disarmament and International Security at the UI, has made wide-ranging and lasting contributions to arms control and international security.

fine and applied arts

“The Free Solo, Big Band Style” and “dafunka Monkus,” two compositions from the Morgan Powell Jazz Album, received the 1999 music prize from the Illinois Arts Council. The CD features Morgan Powell, UI professor emeritus, and the UI Jazz Band, conducted by Thomas Wirtel, professor of music and head of the jazz division (also known as Thomas Shabda Noor). The album was produced by Powell and Wirtel.

liberal arts and sciences

Jim Kaler, professor of astronomy and a Campus Honors faculty member, was named the Armand Spitz Memorial Lecturer during the annual convention of the Great Lakes Planetarium Association. The award is the highest honor given nationally for service to the planetarium community. Kaler will speak at this year’s International Planetarium Society’s convention in Montreal.

Spitz was the inventor of the small-scale planetarium, whose size and cost allowed the proliferation of planetaria in high schools, community and small colleges and in museums.

Richard Powers, professor of English, has won a 1999 Fed Lannan Literary Award for his fiction.

The 10 awards in poetry, fiction and nonfiction include an award of $75,000 from the Lannan Foundation. According to the foundation, the Lannan awards are given “to honor and recognize writers whose work is of exceptional quality. The awards acknowledge both established and emerging writers.”

Powers has received many awards for his writing and also holds the first Swanlund Chair at the UI. He is working on his seventh novel, “Plowing the Dark.”

library and information science

The Chinese-American Librarians Association recognized Priscilla Yu, professor of library and information science, with the 1999 Outstanding Consumer Service Award. Yu received the award at the association’s annual banquet in New Orleans.
Protein component apparently plays key role in muscle elasticity

By Jim Barlow
News Bureau Staff Writer

A pair of hydrogen bonds in the protein titin appears to play a key component allowing muscle to stretch and return to normal by regulating the ability of the protein to unfold one section at a time when stressed, researchers say.

The findings, reported in the Nov. 4 issue of the journal Nature, are a big step forward in the basic understanding of the protein’s role in controlling muscle elasticity, such as in cardiac muscular diseases, said Klaus Schulten, director of the theoretical biophysics group at the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

Using atomic force microscopes and advanced computer-driven simulations, researchers found that the hydrogen bonds allow all folded subsections (immunoglobulin domains) of titin to stretch by about 6 angstroms and still return to a normal state. Beyond that, the bonds will rupture and damage unfolding occurs. Titin contains roughly 100 immunoglobulin domains, connected like knots on a string; when titin is stretched, the domains unfold one after another, each providing additional length.

The computer simulation allowed the researchers to observe fine mechanical details. When several connected domains are stretched with an atomic force microscope, a graph of the unfolding process displays a hump that disappears as the domains are unfolded. The hump corresponds to the transition of fully folded domains to a newly discovered intermediate state. The simulations identified which hydrogen bonds must break for the transition to occur.

“Disruption of these hydrogen bonds eliminates the unfolding intermediate,” said Schulten, the Swalmand Professor of Physics at the UI. “The unfolding intermediate can extend the titin by 15 percent of its slack length without causing a complete unravelling of its modules, and hence is likely to be an important structural feature of the protein. If the extension is larger, the protein will fully unfold if the forces increase, or it will return to its original state if the forces decrease.”

Titin has been implicated in a number of bio-related muscle diseases such as hypertrophic cardiomyopathy, in which muscle cells break from normal alignment, possibly as a result of mutations in genes that encode proteins involved in contraction. The Hypertrophic Cardiomyopathy Association estimates that as many as 300,000 people in the United States may have the disease.

Previously, it was found that elasticity is controlled in titin’s PEVK region — named for amino acids. The new work suggests that when the protein stretches within the reversible 6-angstrom-per-domain range, elasticity is controlled by the hydrogen bonds that connect two specific protein strands.

The authors of the paper were Piotr E. Marszalek, Hongbin Li, Mariano Carrion-Vazquez, Andres F. Oberhauser and Julio M. Fernandez of the Mayo Foundation in Rochester, Minn., and Hsu Lu and Schulten of the UI. The National Institutes of Health, National Science Foundation and the Roy J. Carver Charitable Trust funded the research.

...
Ten recognized on Urbana campus

Ten faculty members at the UI’s Urbana campus have been chosen to be the 1999–00 University Scholars. The program recognizes excellence while helping to identify and retain the university’s most talented teachers, scholars and researchers.

Now in its 15th year, the program provides $6,000 to each scholar to use to enhance his or her academic career. The money may be used for travel, equipment, research assistants, books or other purposes. Nine scholars were recognized at the Chicago campus and one at Springfield.

The University Scholars Program is the premier recognition accorded to faculty [members] at the UI by their colleagues,” said Chet Gardner, the interim vice president for academic affairs for the university. “In honoring these outstanding members of the faculty, selected by their peers, we recognize at the same time the highest values of the university.”

Since the program began in 1985, 345 scholars have been named and about $8 million has been awarded to support their teaching and research. Funding for the program comes from private gifts to the UI Foundation’s Advancement Fund. The scholars were honored at a dinner Dec. 1.

The scholars, their departments and a summary of the scholar’s expertise appear on the next few pages.

David M. Kranz
biochemistry

An immunologist, David M. Kranz uses molecular and biochemical approaches to understand fundamental aspects of the recognition of antigens by the immune system. Soon after he arrived on campus in 1987, he was named a Searle Scholar, an honor given to only a dozen young faculty members per year in the United States in recognition of their promise in biomedical sciences research. In 1993, Kranz received the Biomedical Science Award from the Arthritis Foundation for his work toward understanding the molecular basis of autoimmunity. The findings of his work have been published in numerous journals, including Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, and Immunity. In addition, Kranz has served on review panels for the National Academy of Sciences, the American Heart Association, the U.S. Army Medical Research Command and the National Institutes of Health.

Twice a recipient of the School of Chemical Sciences’ Outstanding Teacher Award, Kranz is one of the department’s highest ranked teachers and is a co-organizer of “Scientific Ethics and Responsibility,” a graduate course required of all first-year graduate students.

Philip T. Krein
electrical and computer engineering

A well-known international scholar in the field of power electronics, Philip T. Krein also has been a strong research contributor in electrostatics. Krein’s research and leadership in teaching have established the UI as a leader in power electronics, a field that involves the study of semiconductors and electronic circuits for the conversion and control of energy, a key enabling technology for energy processing. Such processing is critical in the development of personal computers, industrial automation and high-performance communication networks.

His fundamental research has resulted in a new textbook, “Elements of Power Electronics,” which several peer reviewers have called the best book in the field. An entirely original work, the book is the first undergraduate text to provide an engineering science framework for power electronics.

In 1997–98, he held a Fulbright Senior Scholarship at the University of Surrey in the United Kingdom. A frequent member of the university’s incomplete list of excellent teachers, Krein is the faculty adviser for the College of Engineering’s design-project courses to build and operate hybrid-electric vehicles.
In less than a decade since she earned her doctorate, Nancy A. Abelmann has established herself as the premier American anthropologist studying Korea, and one of the two or three most important scholars of contemporary East Asian culture in any discipline. She also has established herself as a leading presence in diaspora studies, and is building a major reputation in both women’s studies and Asian-American studies.

Abelmann is respected in Europe and America, as well as in Korea and Japan, for her innovative scholarship, her interpretive flair, and her intellectual breadth as well as her formidable productivity. She employs a sophisticated interdisciplinary method using a subtle mix of participant observation, and historical, literary and performative texts, to analyze the complex relationships among discourse, identity and behavior.

H.R. Gaskins

animal sciences and veterinary pathobiology

H.R. Gaskins’ research focuses on the molecular and cell biology of inflammation and addresses critical questions having both biomedical (inflammatory bowel diseases and autoimmune diabetes) and animal agriculture applications (neonatal pig intestinal health and growth). For example, in efforts to better understand the etiology of chronic inflammatory bowel diseases, Gaskins and his collaborators have demonstrated that maintenance of détente between host immune cells and normal gut bacteria is key to the prevention of intestinal inflammation.

Ongoing efforts that use novel approaches to study the complex intestinal microbiota and to define host cell responses to resident bacteria are supported by competitive grants from the National Institutes of Health, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the Critical Research Initiatives program at Urbana, and by private industry. The findings of his work have appeared in many scientific journals, including Science, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, The Journal of Biological Chemistry and The Journal of Immunology. In 1993 Gaskins received the prestigious Future Leaders Award from the International Life Sciences Institute. In 1996 he was named a Fellow in the Center for Advanced Study at the UI, and in 1999, he received the Bio-Serv Award in Experimental Animal Nutrition from the American Society for Nutritional Sciences.

Brigit Kelly

English

A nationally recognized and award-winning poet, Brigit Kelly has held two National Endowment for the Arts Creative Writing Fellowships, is the recipient of a nation award, a Poetry Society of America Award, a Theodore Roethke Poetry Prize and a Lamont Poetry Prize.

Kelly was a fellow at the Bread Loaf Writers Conference and has held a UI Center for Advanced Study appointment. Her book “To the Place of Trumpets” won the Yale Series of Younger Poets Award, one of the most important prizes a young poet can win. She has given 91 invited poetry readings and workshops at such prestigious sites as Bucknell University, Indiana University, Ohio State University, Rutgers University, the University of California at Berkeley, the University of Oregon, the University of Southern California and West Point Military Academy.

Kelly has been active in the planning of the English department’s proposal for a master’s of fine arts in creative writing and revived the university’s long defunct play-writing course.
Joseph Squier
**art and design**

In 1994, Joseph Squier was one of the first artists to create work specifically for distribution on the World Wide Web. His Web site, “the place,” has since attracted international praise; the Wall Street Journal, the Los Angeles Times, Print Magazine and Communications Arts have featured his work as exemplary of the best in contemporary electronic art.

Squier has been invited to exhibit network-based art at the Berlin VideoFest, the Zurich Museum of Design, the Institute of Contemporary Arts in London and the Centre International d’Art Contemporain in Montreal.

Squier’s work has received support from the National Endowment for the Arts, the Rockefeller Foundation and the Illinois Arts Council. His NEA Artist’s Fellowship is a particular mark of distinction as it is among the rarest and most competitive honors in the field.

Squier receives consistently high ratings from students and has been named to the Incomplete List of Teachers Ranked as Outstanding by Their Students every semester that he has taught on campus.

Robin Jarrett
**human and community development**

Focusing her ethnographic research on family processes associated with resilience under conditions of individual and neighborhood impoverishment, Robin Jarrett has examined the coping strategies of families at different stages of the life cycle (families with young children and adolescents) and in different contexts (home, neighborhood, Head Start, high school).

Jarrett’s groundbreaking work has been expanded to consider the impact of new welfare-reform regulations on families with young children. In a recently begun study funded by National Institutes of Child Health and Human Development and the MacArthur Foundation, Jarrett and an interdisciplinary team of researchers from Brandeis, Harvard, Johns Hopkins, Northwestern and Pennsylvania State universities, as well as the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and the University of Texas at Austin will work with ethnically diverse families in Illinois, Boston and San Antonio.

Preliminary qualitative data indicated that many women were unclear on new welfare regulations. The data also suggested variations in families’ abilities to cope with changes.

Nancy Makri
**chemistry**

A creative leader in quantum dynamics and chemical reaction kinetics, Nancy Makri also has proven to be a dedicated and inspiring teacher. Her recent calculations on reaction rates and tunneling in condensed phase environments represent landmarks in that field by showing the feasibility of the path integral approach for real-time dependent problems.

Makri’s approach to the development of quantum simulation methods and her choice of applications have been remarkable for their originality and centrality. Makri’s outstanding intellectual qualities were recognized early in her career by her receiving a Junior Fellowship at Harvard, National Science Foundation and Beckman Young Investigator Awards and Sloan and Packard fellowships; she has also received the Cottrell Scholar, Camille Dreyfus and Agnes Fay Morgan awards, as well as the 1995 Medal of the International Academy of Quantum Molecular Science, and recently was elected a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Tony M. Liss
**physics**

An experimental high-energy physicist whose research probes the fundamental nature of matter at very high energies and at very small distance scales, Tony M. Liss is perhaps best known for his outstanding work on the discovery of the top quark. The discovery wrapped up a decades-long search for one of the last missing pieces of the Standard Model of particle physics.

As a teacher, Liss has either upgraded or completely rewritten the course material for every course he has taught at the UI. Liss also has taken an active role in the department’s outreach program to enhance public scientific literacy. He is a regular at the department’s Saturday Honors Physics Program, and has made presentations to the Illinois Science Teachers Convention.
Children's chorus, Parkland singers featured

Second Sunday is Dec. 12

This month, WILL-FM's Second Sunday Concert features a performance by the Central Illinois Children's Chamber Chorus and Parkland Chamber Singers.

Presenting a program of festive holiday songs from around the world, the two choruses will perform works of Antonio Vivaldi, John Rutter, Joan Cererols and William Byrd. Traditional holiday music from the Renaissance to contemporary times will be sung in English, Hebrew and Spanish. Both choruses are under the direction of Fernando Byrd. The two-day festival of his music presented by the UI School of Music pay tribute to the holiday season with their performances.

The event coincides with the School of Art and Design's two-day festival presented by the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The concert features a performance by the Central Illinois Children's chorus, Parkland singers featured.

Fu on you

The Fu Dog sculpture at Allerton Park is the newest feature of the Krannert Center for the Performing Arts. The Fu Dog tile features several ears of corn with flowing husks and honors the UI’s Morrow Plots. Another tile features a majestic round barn.

Made by Motawi Tileworks in Ann Arbor, Mich., the 4-inch by 4-inch tiles are available in different colors and sell for $25 each. To order a tile or to get more information, contact Vel Cook at 352-1450 or e-mail tileinfo@lms248.com. The Women's Club, with a membership of more than 300 women and men, provides an environment for social interaction within and across the university community through interest groups and newcomer programs.

Preschool, kindergarten and first grade

University Primary hosts open house

University Primary School, an early childhood gifted-education center for the University of Illinois, will host an open house Dec. 9.

From 8:30 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. parents of kindergarten and first-grade children may visit either Champaign location (at the Children’s Research Center, 51 Gerry Drive, or at Colonel Wolfe School, 403 E. Healey). Parents of preschool-age children may visit the Children’s Research Center from 8:30 until noon. Applications for the 2000-2001 academic year will be available in January. For more information, contact director Nancy Hertzog at 333-4892 or nhertzog@uiuc.edu.

Deadline extended

Moms group seeks nominations

The Mothers Association at the UI has extended its deadline for nominations for its Medalion of Honor award, to be presented during Moms Day Weekend in April.

Nominations of women of current or past association with the UI who have used their talents to enrich the lives of others should be submitted by Dec. 28. For more information and nomination procedures, contact Nancy B. Rozzell, 333-7063.

Plan ahead for holiday parties

O & M offers holiday cleanup

The Division of Operation and Maintenance’s Building Operation Section again will provide cleanup following departmental holiday parties at no cost to the department.

Departments are asked to allow for sufficient notice of one to two weeks when requesting this service and also should complete an initial cleanup of major items prior to building operation staff arrival. Requests can be sent to the superintendent of Building Services, Randy Kornegay, Garage and Car Pool Building, MC-821, or faxed to 333-3711, or e-mailed to rkkorneg@uiuc.edu.

Krafft Center for the Performing Arts

Tree lighting, Carol Concert are Dec. 6

In keeping with tradition, the combined choirs of the UI School of Music pay tribute to the holiday season with their annual Carol Concerts at 2 and 4 p.m. Dec. 5 in Krafft Center Auditorium in the Illinois Memorial Union. At about 5 p.m. that same day, the Krafft Center Student Association hosts a tree-lighting ceremony in the Krafft Center lobby.

Participating choirs in the Carol Concert include the University Chorus and Chamber Singers led by Richard Rossi; the Illini Women’s Chorus led by Randall Meder; the UI Varsity Men’s Glee Club led by Barrington Coleman and assistant conductor Jetro de Oliveira; the UI Women’s Glee club led by Joe Grant; the UI Black Chorus led by Ollie Watts Davis and assistant conductors Carla Small and Scharem de Daniels; and the UI Concert Choir led by Chester Alwes and assistant conductor Sharon D’Cunha.

The audience is invited to sing along with the combined choirs in a medley of carols including “Good Rest Ye, Godly Gentlemen,” “‘We Three Kings,’” “O’Come All Ye Faithful,” “Joy to the World” and “Silent Night.”

Tickets for the Carol Concert may be purchased at the UI Ticket Office, 313 N. University Ave., by phone at 333-6280, by e-mail at kran-tix@uiuc.edu or through the KCPA Web site at www.kcpa.uiuc.edu/kcpa/. The tree-lighting ceremony is free and open to the public; tickets are not required.

Free hearing screening

Volunteers needed for hearing study

Adults are invited to participate in a 75-minute study of hearing that will investigate different speech materials in the test process. People with minimal exposure and practice in English as well as those who are first-language English speakers are needed. Those with normal hearing as well as those with hearing impairment may participate.

In return for participation in the study, people will receive a free hearing screening performed by a certified audiologist.

Interested individuals should contact Ihaba at 244-7616 or by e-mail at ramkiss@students.uiuc.edu.

Neer Research Committee

Research support available

Support is available to UI faculty members engaged in research through the Mary Jane Neer Research Fund. Funding is available for projects costing up to $15,000 for one year with projects studying disability being given preference. Application deadline is Jan. 20. Application instructions and forms are available on the Web at www.als.uiuc.edu/alsadmin/neer/neer.html or contact the Neer Research Committee, College of Applied Life Studies, at 107 Huff Hall, MC-586, or phone 333-2313.

The fund was established by Mary Jane Neer, a long-time supporter of the UI and higher education for people with disabilities.

Music of Steve Reich featured

Music festival is Dec. 2 and 3

Internationally acclaimed American minimalist composer Steve Reich will include a Reich “drumming” piece, “Drumming.” The second program, Dec. 3, will feature the UI New Music Ensemble (Zack Browning, director) and include the complete “Drumming.” The second program, Dec. 3, will feature the UI New Music Ensemble (Zack Browning, director) and include the two classic minimalist works “Poi Phase” and “Four Organs.” As part of the event, Reich also presented a Composers Forum Nov. 18.

Krafft Art Museum

Family Festival is Dec. 5

Hands-on artmaking and musical performances are among the activities scheduled during Krafft Art Museum’s annual Family Festival, from 3 to 5 p.m. Dec. 5.

The event coincides with the School of Art and Design’s Saturday School Open House, which will feature art created by children enrolled in the program. The art will be displayed in the Link Gallery, located between the museum and the Art and Design Building.

Scheduled activities include:

3:30-3:45 p.m., demonstrations of pottery techniques, East Gallery.

3:15 and 4:15 p.m.,ongoing clay activity for children, East Gallery.

3:30 and 4 p.m., workshop performance by Yang Ying, traditional Chinese erhu, Trees Gallery.

Free refreshments will be served in the Palette Café.

Deaths

Alpha Burton, 86, died Nov. 17 at Mary Washington Hospital, Fredericksburg, Va. Burton was employed for eight years in the State Water Survey at the UI. Memorials: Maranatha Choirs Inc., P.O. Box 1842, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

Eugene F. Hebrank, 82, died Nov. 19 at Tulane University Hospital, New Orleans. Hebrank was a member of the engineering faculty at the UI for 30 years. Memorials: National Kidney Foundation.

Marjorie Stickney, 77, died Nov. 14 at Regency Nursing Care Residence, Springfield. Stickney was an instructor in speech therapy at the UI from 1947 to 1956. Memorials: Maranatha Choirs Inc., P.O. Box 1842, Fredericksburg, VA 22401.

William Thomas, 86, died Nov. 13 at Provena Covenant Medical Center, Urbana. Thomas was a professor of accounting at the UI from 1945 to 1972. Memorials: St. Patrick’s Church, Urbana, or the First Presbyterian Church of Urbana.
lectures
7 Tuesday
“New Information Technolo-
gies Will Enable 21st
Century Science.” Larry L.
Smarr, U. 3 p.m. Beckman
Institute for First
Decade Lecture Series.

2 Thursday
“Assilbation in the Spanish
of Costa Rica.” Dornita
Velasco-Flores. UI. Noon.
101 International Studies
Building. Latin American
and Caribbean Studies.

From Fallen Girls to
Redemptive Mothers: An
Analysis of School-Based
Teen Pregnancy Programs
1974 to 1990.” Wanda
Pillow, UI. Noon.
1:30 p.m. 242 Education
Building. Bureau of Educa-
tional Research.

Poetry and History:
Western Theory and
Eastern European Prac-
tice.” Clare Cavanagh,
Northwestern University.
4-6 p.m. 101 International
Studies Building. Russian
and East European Center.

3 Friday
“What Controls Rates of
Interprotein Electron
Transfer Reactions.” Victor
L. Davidson. University of
Mississippi Medical Center.
Noon. B102 Chemical and
Life Sciences Laboratory.

“ class at Greifswald.”
Georg Rommel. University
of Greifswald. Germany.
2 p.m. Lucy Ellis Lounge,
1080 Foreign Languages
Building. Classics.

“The Geography of Welfare
Reform in Illinois: The Role
of Nonprofit Social Service
Providers.” Chris Meren,
Western Illinois University.
3 p.m. 219 Davenport Hall.
Geography.

6 Monday
“Mushroom Body Develop-
ment in the Larval, Pupal
and Adult Honey Bees.”
Sarah F. Farris, UI. 4 p.m.
Chemical and Life Science
Laboratory. Entomology.

“Multicast Snooping: A New
Coherence Method for Shared
Memory Multipro-
cessors.” David Wood,
University of Wisconsin.
4 p.m. 1520 Digital Com-
puter Lab. Computer Science.

“Born to Shop: How
Markets Make Persons in
the Consumer Culture of
Childhood.” Daniel Thomas
Cook, UI. Respondents:
Norman Denzin and Sonya
Michel, UI. 8 p.m. Lewis
Faculty Center. Criticism
and Interpretive Theory.

8 Wednesday
“DNA Repair by Mutants of
Deoxyribonuclease I
(Onase I) and Wild-Type
Archaeal DNA-Poly-
mersases.” Bernard A.
Connelly, University of
Newcastle, Newcastle-upon-
Tyne, United Kingdom. 10
a.m. 1012 Chemical and
Life Sciences Laboratory.
Biochemistry.

“The Role of the State in
Tanzania’s Refugee Crisis.”
Cassandra Vety, Illinois
State University. Noon.
101 International Studies

“The Council on Library
and Information Resources:
A Forum for Change.” Debra
Marcum, Council on Library
and Information Resources.
1-30 p.m. 233 Grainger
Engineering Library. UL
Library and Graduate
School of Library and
Information Science.

“Selenium-Containing
Proteins: Biosynthesis and
Possible Role in Cancer
Prevention.” Alan Diamond,
UL. 4 p.m. 150 Animal
Sciences Laboratory. Nutritional Sciences.

9 Thursday
“Researching Cognitive
Change and Personal
Future Among Highland
Minority Children in
Thailand.” Jacquyeta Hill.
UL. 2:30 p.m. 242 Education
Building. Bureau of Educa-
tional Research. "Experimental Study of
Interdependence.

10 Friday
“Security and Reorganiza-
tion at the DOE Weapons
Laboratories.” Jeremiah D.
Sullivan, UI. Noon.
356 Armory Building. Civil
Control, Disarmament and
International Security.

“Coupling of Protein
Movement and Cytoskeletal
OMP Synthase.” Charles
Godulmeier, Temple
University School of Medicine.
Philadelphia. Noon. B102
Chemical and Life Sciences
Laboratory. Biology.

11 Saturday
“A Christmas Carol.”
8 p.m. Foellinger Auditor-
ium. For more information
and performance times, call 333-
2771 or 333-8295 or visit the
Web site at www.uiuc.edu/or
Arts/ArtsWeb.

16 Thursday
“JCS Workshop.” Jeffrey
Ulloom, director. Time:
TBA. 160 Armory Building.
For more information and
performance times, call 333-
2771 or 333-8295 or visit the
Web site at www.uiuc.edu/or
Arts/ArtsWeb.

17 Friday
“Smart Little Guy Live: ‘Big
Bird’s Sunny Day
Campout.’” 7 p.m. Assembly
Hall. Big Bird and
Snuffalupagoo join their
fellow Muppets in a struggle
against the elements as they
face rain, ants and the desire
to abandon "camp" for the
coziness of their own beds.
Admission charge.

18 Saturday
“Sesame Street Live: “Big
Bird’s Sunny Day
Campout.”” 10:30 a.m. and
1:30 p.m. Assembly
Hall. Big Bird and
Snuffalupagoo join their fellow Muppets in a struggle
against the elements as they
face rain, ants and the desire
to abandon "camp" for the
coziness of their own beds.
Admission charge.

music
2 Thursday
“Just Filling Space: The
Death and Rebirth of
Cinematic Staging.” David
Bondwell, University of
Wisconsin. 7:30 p.m.
Humanities Lecture Hall.
Illinois Program for Re-
search in the Humanities.

“Goethe’s ‘Novelle’:
dekonstruktivistisch
gesetzt.” Klaus Müller-
Dyres, University of
Göttingen. 7:30 p.m.
Lucy Ellis Lounge, 1080
Foreign Languages
Building. Germanic Languages
and Literatures.

4 Saturday
“Atom Smashers: Particle
Accelerators and Detec-
tors.” Max A. Sclafani,
UI. 10:15 a.m. 141 Loomis
Lab. Saturday Science
Physics Honors Program.

6 Monday
“Human’s Architecture:
Public and Private.” William
L. MacDonald, independent
scholar. Washington, D.C.
7:30 p.m. Plym Auditorium.
Tennis Center. MillerComm
and Architecture.

International ballet performances
Ballet De l’Opéra De Bordeaux performs twice in Krannert Center for the Performing Arts’ Trygon Festival Theater.

The company performs the world’s greatest love story, “Romeo and Juliet,” at 8 p.m. Jan. 18. The full-length ballet, performed in three acts, is choreographed by the company’s current director of dance, Charles Jude, a world renowned dancer. With its “Tribute to Sergei Diaghilev” at 8 p.m. Jan. 19, the company recognizes its Franco-Russian heritage and one of the greatest impresarios of the 20th century with four ballets he helped father: “Chopiniana” (music by Frederic Chopin), “L’Aprés-midi d’un faune” (music by Claude Debussy), “Le Spectre de la rose” (music by Carl Maria von Weber) and “Petrouchka” (music by Igor Stravinsky).
Friday Senior Recital, Charles Huang, oboe. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. 8 p.m. Music Building auditorium.

UI Trombone Choir and UI Brass Ensemble. Elliot L. Chasanov, director, and Kenneth M. Morley, horn soloist. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall, Krannert Center. The program includes music by Bach, seasonal music, and original works and transcriptions for trombone choir and brass ensemble. Admission charge. School of Music.

Master of Music Recital. Kristina Pryziemska, piano. 8 p.m. Smith Hall, Smith Hall. 4 p.m. Student Showcase. 8 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. A voice recital from the studio of Sylvia Stone.

Saturday Senior Recital. Owen Roberts, percussion. 2 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Doctor of Musical Arts Project Lecture/Recital. "Sing Inquisita Aria: Franz Schubert's U2 Self-modelling in the Composition of Operatic Arias." Joseph Bogner, piano. 6 and 8 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. UI Jazz Band. Thomas Wietel, leader. 8 p.m. Studio Theater, Krannert Center. A program of new and old works, in various styles, with guest performers from the Champaign-Urbana jazz scene. Admission charge. School of Music.

Master of Music Recital. Timothy Christman, piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. Sunday Recital. 11 a.m. Music Building auditorium. Saxophone quartets from the studio of Debra Rachmay. Annual Carol Concerts. 2 and 4 p.m. UI Community Band. Memorial Hall,UI Community Band. Recital. 4 p.m. Memorial Room, Smith Hall. UI Symphonic Band IB. Thomas Cavender, conductor. Robert Basnak, student conductor. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall. Krannert Center. Works by Paul Dukas, Percy Grainger, Ernst Krenek and Charles Ives. Admission charge. School of Music.

Faculty Recital. Sheran Lupu, violin with the Euesen Ensemble. 8 p.m. Tryon Festival Theater. Krannert Center. Admission charge. School of Music.

Master of Music Arts Recital. Kevin Xu, piano. 8 p.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. A Special Listening Session of Sound Projected. 8 p.m. Music Building auditorium. Electroacoustic works of UIUC students.

Thursday Junior Recital. Stacy S forgiving, soprano. 11 a.m. Recital Hall, Smith Hall. UI Symphonic Band II. Peter J. Griffin, conductor. 8 p.m. Foellinger Great Hall.

Dedicated to the one we love

Student and faculty members from the UI School of Music show perform in "WILL Channel 12 this month in a concert celebrating the centennial of WLL's new home, Campbell Hall, and adjoining broadcast journalism teaching facilities. The program airs from 9 p.m. Dec. 15, with repeats at 3 a.m. Dec. 19 and 8 p.m. Dec. 30.

The "Dedication Celebration Concert With the UI School of Music" features the UI Varsity Men's Glee Club (pictured) performing both their last rendition of the Illinois state song, "By Thy Waters Gently Flowing," and a parody of an opera scene with conductor Barrington Coleman as the tenor soloist. Also performing in the concert taped Sept. 25 are doctoral student Sean Guden, piano; music school director James Scott, flute; harp professor Avne Young, harp; doctoral student Elizabeth Campbell, mezzo-soprano; and master's student Daniel Treadt, harpist.

The concert also features a new student faculty ensemble, the Concerto Urbanus Baroque Orchestra, conducted by harpsichordist Charlotte Mattar.
Inside Illinois
Dec. 2, 1999

more calendar of events

Calendar, Continued from Page 11

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World Heritage Museum
Closed. Will reopen as the new Spurlock Museum of World Cultures at a new location in 2001.
www.spurlock.uiuc.edu
ongoing
Artged Chime-Tower Tours
12 noon and 2:30 p.m., Krannert Center, through 323 Altgeld Hall.
Beckman Institute Cafe
Open to the public. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday.
Beverie Cafe
8-30 a.m. 11 a.m. coffee, juice and baked goods; and 11:30 to 1 a.m. lunch.
Cereal Cafe
Open to the public. 8 a.m. – 3 p.m. Monday-Friday. Second floor of the main library or the Media Center of the University Library. Self-guided audiocassettes of all performances. Before until 30 minutes after performance.
Japan House Tours
1:30-2 p.m. Wednesday; 1:30 p.m.-3 p.m. Thursday; 1:30 p.m. Saturday. Meet in the main lobby. Free tour of the Japanese Ambassadors Suite. Visit www.iit.edu/~jfiga/UCD/index.html or call 328-0729 for schedule.
Til the Season
The Bugs Choir of Barretny stops at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts as part of its 30th Anniversary Christmas Tour. The Dec. 14 program, at 7 p.m. in the Foellinger Great Hall, includes musical settings of Psalm 150 and "Sing Unto the Lord a New Song," spirituals and a musical setting of "From the Night Before Christmas" along with holding favorites like "Let It Snow," "The Little Drummer Boy," "O Holy Night" and "Hark the Herald Angels Sing." Tickets may be purchased by contacting the Krannert Center ticket office by phone at 333-4280 or by e-mail at kcvn@ecluyuiu.edu, or online at www.kcen.uiuc.edu/kcvn.

Legislation to ban Internet gaming fraught with problems, scholars say

By Mark Reutter
News Bureau Staff Writer

Legislation seeking to ban gambling over the Internet is a bad bet and likely to cause a black market of "cyber casinos" overseas, according to a UI researcher.

Michael P. Kailus says that proposals before Congress to prohibit Web sites that allow subscribers to play computer-simulated casino games are misguided and could be as ineffective as attempts to ban online pornography. "There are presently no viable methods by which the United States can unilaterally ban Internet gambling," because the Internet gives users access to online sites anywhere in the world, Kailus wrote in the current issue of the UI Law Review.

Online betting is permitted in more than 24 nations, ranging from tax-havens Antigua and Curacao, where the governments collect stiff fees for granting Web sites, to Liechtenstein, where the site is operated by the government itself. The rise of cyber casinos presents thorny legal issues that can best be handled by licensing potential sites and enforcing a code of conduct fair to the user, Kailus wrote.

The technology of gambling over the Web is so new that its legality is still uncertain. Various types of bookmaking are illegal under federal wire and racketeering laws, but gambling through Indian tribes is perceived to be lawful. Sites located out of the country may or may not be subject to U.S. wagering laws.

The attempt by established casino operators to paint Internet gambling as especially pernicious to the public is self-serving, Kailus wrote. In fact, Internet gambling provides a number of advantages to consumers, not the least of which are minimum bets of 20 cents and potentially better odds because of lower operating costs, he said.

Moreover, Internet gambling is free of discounted alcohol, prostitution and other issues associated with gambling in Las Vegas and Atlantic City. "While gambling is an addictive disease, so is alcoholism. By providing both gambling and drastically discounted or free alcohol beverages, traditional casinos effectively impair the judgment of many gamblers who choose to drink," Kailus wrote.

The chief opponents of online gambling are private casino interests as well as state lottery officials worried about potential competition, Kailus said. "With states spending more than half a billion dollars per year to advertise their lotteries, it can be argued that legislators [favoring a ban on Internet gambling] have shifted from a position of moral-based legislation to a posture of self-serving regulation," the UI researcher wrote.

To refusing to legalize and regulate online gambling, the supporters of prohibition are "implicitly supporting the exportation of gambling revenues" that are predicted to balloon to as much as $10 billion by the year 2002.

Normal Person's Book Discussion Group
PC User Group
(Schedule varies). 7 p.m. 1510 Digital Computer Lab. Call Mark Zinzon, 333-2489, or David Harley, 333-5366, for more information.

COMBRAZ, from Page 1
trained as a lawyer, he later studied art at the Académie des Beaux-Arts of Brussels in 1893. He then pursued a teaching career, and soon afterward, earned a reputation for art criticism, which extolled the virtues of the new decorative arts movement. By 1894, his career as an artist took off, with his work appearing on posters, journal covers, postcards and other paper products, tiles, cushions and decorative fixtures.

Combraz’s artistic production waned somewhat in the early years of the 20th century as he shifted gears again and turned much of his attention to the study of oriental art. His work eventually slipped into obscurity for a number of reasons, Block said, among them, "the decline of art nouveau following World War I; Combraz’s own modesty — he never had any retrospective of his work; and the fact that he had multiple careers."