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**University of Illinois trustees approve key personnel appointments**  
*UIC chancellor, deans, basketball coach; Urbana research, grad heads approved*

CHICAGO — University of Illinois Board of Trustees officially appointed a number of key University administrators at its meeting today on the Chicago campus. In addition, student trustees from the University's three campuses were installed.

The trustees approved the appointment of Paula Allen-Meares as chancellor of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The appointment of Allen-Meares was announced on June 17.

In her acceptance remarks, Allen-Meares said: "Today's world needs UIC's knowledge and expertise. My years in the academy have taught me one essential truth: There are no *small* challenges for our communities, our nation and our planet.

"This university — in the very heart of Chicago — has taken and will need to continue to take a leadership role in solving pressing societal needs," Allen-Meares said. "And we will need to join together with other institutions and individuals — in a highly collaborative manner, with unique university and community partnerships — if we are to make a real difference."

(Allen-Meares' complete remarks at the announcement and those of Board of Trustees Chairman Lawrence C. Eppley and U. of I. President B. Joseph White, as well as high-resolution photographs and other materials on Allen-Meares, the search process and UIC, are available at <http://www.uillinois.edu/ChancellorSearch/>.)

The chancellor serves as the executive officer of the UIC campus and reports to the president of the University of Illinois in a system that, in addition to the Chicago campus, includes campuses in Urbana-Champaign and Springfield and the University's online Global Campus.

Allen-Meares will take office on Jan. 15, 2009, and assume the helm of a UIC campus that ranks 47th nationally in federally funded research, enrolls 25,000 undergraduate, graduate and professional students, employs 12,000 faculty and staff and operates with a total annual budget of about \$1.7 billion.

Allen-Meares has been dean of the top-ranked School of Social Work at the University of Michigan since 1993 and is the Norma Radin Collegiate Professor of Social Work as well as a professor of education at that university. Prior to joining the University of Michigan, Allen-Meares was a professor and dean of the School of Social Work at the University of Illinois at

Urbana-Champaign, where she received her master's and doctoral degrees. She earned her bachelor's degree at the State University of New York at Buffalo.

Trustees approved the appointment of Ravishankar K. Iyer as the Urbana-Champaign campus' interim vice chancellor for research, effective Aug. 4. Iyer replaces Charles "Chip" Zukoski who has served as the vice chancellor for research since 2002. Zukoski will return to full-time faculty status.

The vice chancellor for research is the senior campus officer with responsibility for advancing research at Illinois. His office works with college deans, department heads, faculty and graduate students, as well as external agencies and groups, on behalf of the university's research and graduate programs. The Urbana campus had \$334.4 million in externally funded research in 2007-08.

Iyer, the George and Ann Fisher Distinguished Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering and director of the Coordinated Science Laboratory, is a professor in the electrical and computer engineering department and an affiliate in the computer science department. He is director of the Motorola Center for Communication and co-director of the Center for Reliable and High-performance Computing. He is credited with pioneering contributions to the design and validation of reliable and secure computing systems.

The trustees approved the appointment of Debasish Dutta as the Urbana campus' dean of the graduate college and associate provost. Presently professor of mechanical engineering at the University of Michigan and Scholar-in-Residence at the Center for the Advancement of Scholarship on Engineering Education, National Academy of Engineering, Dutta's appointment begins Jan. 16, 2009.

Dutta succeeds Dean Richard P. Wheeler, who has served in the executive role since 2000, and who will continue to serve as vice provost, vice chancellor for academic affairs and professor of English.

The Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Peter C. Nelson as dean of the UIC College of Engineering. Nelson, a professor and department head of computer science, has served as interim dean since July 2007. His appointment is effective July 28.

Nelson, an artificial intelligence expert, received his B.A. in computer science and mathematics from North Park College in Chicago and earned M.S. and Ph.D. degrees in computer science from Northwestern University. He replaces Prith Banerjee, who went to Hewlett-Packard last year as senior vice president for research and head of HP Labs.

The UIC College of Engineering grants bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees from six academic departments. More than 2,650 students receive instruction in the college's education and research facilities at its West Loop Chicago campus.

Trustees approved the appointment of Michael A. Pagano as dean of the UIC College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs (CUPPA). Pagano, an expert on infrastructure and city finances and professor of public administration, has been interim dean since September. The appointment to the permanent post is effective July 28.

Before joining UIC in 2001, Pagano was professor of political science at Miami University for more than 20 years. He earned his B.A. from Pennsylvania State University and his Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. He has written or edited four books and more than 70 articles for scholarly journals on urban finance, capital budgeting, federalism, transportation policy, infrastructure, urban development and fiscal policy and has presented his research in the United States, Europe and Africa.

CUPPA offers bachelor's degrees in urban and public affairs, the master's of public affairs degree, the M.S. in urban planning and doctorates in public administration and public policy analysis.

Trustees approved a three-year contract extension for UIC men's basketball coach Jimmy Collins, the winningest basketball coach in school history.

Collins came to UIC in 1996 from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign where he had been an assistant coach for 13 years under former Illini coach Lou Henson. As a college player, Collins earned All-American status while playing for Henson at New Mexico State University.

A first-round draft pick of the Chicago Bulls in 1970, Collins had a short career in professional basketball with the Bulls and also the Carolina Cougars of the old American Basketball Association.

Also at the meeting the Board of Trustees approved the establishment of the Institute of Natural Resource Sustainability in accordance with the state legislature's mandate transferring the state scientific surveys to the U. of I.'s Urbana campus. The institute now contains the following divisions: the Illinois Natural History Survey, the Illinois State Water Survey, the Illinois State Geological Survey, the Illinois Sustainable Technology Center (formerly the Waste Management and Research Center) and related entities, research functions and responsibilities.

Trustees also approved the appointment of William W. Shilts as the executive director of the new institute. Shilts is currently State Geological Survey division chief and adjunct professor of geology. His appointment begins July 28.

Trustees approved the installation of three new student trustees elected by the student body on each of the Universities' three campuses in Urban-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield.

The new student trustees are Paul D. Schmitt from the Urbana campus, James A. Winters from UIC and D. Craig McFarland from Springfield. Their one-year terms began July 1. Gov. Rod Blagojevich will designate one of the student trustees as a voting member of the board, and the other two are nonvoting, advisory members.

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**(The University of Illinois enrolls 70,000 undergraduate and graduate students at campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago, Springfield and online, and it awards 18,000 degrees annually.)**