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## UIS enrollment tops 5,000

**By CHRIS DETTRO****THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

Posted Sep 09, 2010 @ 09:29 AM

University of Illinois Springfield enrollment topped 5,000 for the first time this fall with a 4.3 percent increase over last fall's total enrollment.

The total number of enrolled students is 5,174, up 213 students over the fall 2009 total of 4,961 students.

"To say we are excited would be an understatement," said Chancellor Richard Ringeisen. "For our enrollment to surpass 5,000 marks a milestone for us. That number has been an informal goal for quite a number of years and it shows once again recognition of the high quality education that UIS provides."

Ringeisen, who will retire at the end of October, said UIS has made retention of students a top priority.

"UIS continues to be met with tough economic conditions, but we also continue to provide the highest possible level of educational experience," he said. "We are very pleased."

There are 3,197 undergraduates at UIS this fall, compared to 3,027 last fall semester — a 5.6% increase. The number of graduate students climbed to 1,977, up 43 students from last year.

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# Spotlight on student vote promotion

## Cullerton objects to voting procedure

BY MICHAEL MAIONE  
STAFF WRITER

The University budget and student voting issues were among the primary topics of concern during State Senate President John Cullerton's meeting with The Daily Illini Editorial Board on Wednesday morning.

The meeting, part of Cullerton's tour of central and downstate Illinois, was also attended by State Sen. Mike Frerichs, D-52, and Cullerton's Deputy Press Secretary John Patterson.

Problems with promoting the student vote were mostly blamed on Champaign County Clerk Mark Sheldon.

"It seems like I'm in a constant battle with our county clerk," Frerichs said. "(He) has clearly been hypocritical."

Cullerton upped the stakes, threatening a lawsuit if the clerk failed to make voting accessible to students.

"If your county clerk doesn't follow the law, we will sue him," Cullerton said. He later said that the clerk's actions as



**More online:** For more on Cullerton's visit, including audio, visit our website at [DailyIllini.com](http://DailyIllini.com).

described by Frerichs "sound like a lawsuit."

In a later interview, Sheldon maintained that he has "no idea" what the grounds for a lawsuit could be, and insisted he won't change the way he does his job.

"They have no interest in fair elections," Sheldon said. "I'm not going to take advice from a Chicago Democrat on how to run fair elections."

Sheldon added that a lawsuit "wouldn't surprise" him.

Cullerton also denounced reports of a University clout list that surfaced last summer, saying, "This thing was so blown out of proportion it was unfortunate."

He defended the legislators who were named in the investigation.

"I was not aware of any legislator getting somebody into

## CULLERTON

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this school who shouldn't have been," Cullerton said.

Also discussed at the meeting were University and statewide budget issues.

When asked what his plans are for the money the state owes the University, Cullerton responded, "the only way to solve that discrepancy is to solve the overall budget crisis."

In the meantime, "it looks like the University is going to have to borrow," Frerichs said.

Cullerton urged voters to be more open-minded to tax increases, citing Indiana's solvency as an example.

"The miracle of Indiana is they have higher tax rates," Cullerton said. "If we just used the Indiana miracle, we'd have more money."

Cullerton expressed frustration with the lack of help from

Republicans, especially regarding the budget.

"(The Republican party) has been really and truly the party of no," Cullerton said. "For the most important thing we do, the budget, they said 'you're in charge.'" The Senate president pulled no punches on the topic of Pat Quinn's opponent for governor, Bill Brady, calling him "clueless."

"Brady is Blagojevich-like in his knowledge of state government," Cullerton said. He later added, "This is scary, I'm telling you. This guy, be scared."

Brady is fresh off a visit to campus last week, where he stressed the importance of balancing the state's budget.

"Businesses do not want to invest in a state that can't stay within its means," Brady said.

"As governor I will authorize an audit so we know every dollar spent and where it is going," he added.

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NEWS FRONT PAGE

## Community News

## Local U of I Extension Reorganization Under Way

SHARE

by OOC Network - Pontiac

Thu Sep 09, 2010 at 11:48 am CST

Reorganization of University of Illinois Extension operations in McLean, Livingston and Woodford Counties is moving forward as the restructuring of U of I Extension continues across Illinois.

This news article contains no media

A statewide funding shortfall of up to \$7 million prompted the University to reorganize its Extension program, according to Cynthia Baer, Woodford County Extension director and interim county director in McLean County. Baer took on the interim role in McLean County when long-time County Director Don Meyer resigned in August to accept a teaching position with Illinois State University.

"There's less money to go around, but we're working to ensure that program resources will continue to be available close to home – and that our programs will keep meeting important local needs," Baer said.

Statewide, some administrative positions are being eliminated, and regional Extension Centers that had operated largely "behind the scenes" are being closed. Many of the educators who currently work from those offices are applying for new jobs that will be located in local facilities serving just a few counties.

Representatives of each county's volunteer Extension Council have formed a joint Executive Council that will guide the new tri-county Extension Unit's reorganization efforts, Baer said.

Current Executive Council members include: Jack Pfaffmann and Bruce Bonetto of Woodford County, Rose Harms and Gordon Ropp from McLean County, and Kathy Sancken and Warren Zehr of Livingston County. Baer serves as an *ex officio* member of the committee, along with Kathy Reiser, interim county director for Livingston County.

### Staffing Changes On The Way

In June, all Extension educators and county directors throughout the state were notified that their current jobs are being eliminated. There are currently 76 county director positions statewide; that number will be trimmed to 27 by July 1, 2011. Total educator numbers will be reduced from 194 to 115 across the state.

Although Extension as a whole will emerge from the reorganization with fewer educators and county directors, Baer said programs should remain strong in the Livingston-McLean-Woodford Unit.

"Rather than having a county director in each of the three counties, we'll consolidate those duties into one unit director position," Baer said. "We'll redirect some of the former county director dollars into resources for educators who provide educational programming."

Previously, Woodford County budgeted for 1.8 educator positions, McLean had two, and Livingston had one, in addition to a county director in each county.

"With the money that's saved by closing the regional Extension Centers and eliminating administrative positions across the state, we may actually come out a little bit ahead in terms of local educator support for our new unit," Baer said. "That's assuming we're able to maintain most of the local funding that comes from the three county boards and our other partners."

In both the current and new Extension systems, local programs depend on a mix of locally raised dollars and money from the state of Illinois.

The Executive Council forwarded its educator staffing request to the U of I Campus in July, and most of the request was approved. This fall, campus may hire up to five full-time educators for the new three-county unit. They will provide programs in 4-H youth development (2), horticulture, community development, and nutrition and wellness. One of the youth development educators will support general 4-H work in the three counties, and the other has been designated a "metro 4-H" educator who will focus on under-served youth in the Bloomington-Normal area.

In addition, the approved staffing plan will provide part-time access to three educators who will specialize in family life, consumer economics, and local foods and small farms. These three educators will be shared with neighboring multi-county Extension units.

Educators currently serving the three counties that will make up the new unit are Sandy McGhee Yanzy, 4-H youth development, McLean; Marion Shier, crops, Livingston; and Cathy Blunier, 4-H youth development, Woodford. Two other educators, Susan Bandy, community development, McLean, and Pete Fandel, crops, Woodford, left the organization this summer. Their duties are temporarily being covered by other staff.

The application period for current staff to apply for new positions ended September 3, and internal hires are expected to be announced later this fall.

The hiring process that is now under way is for county directors and educators only. The roles of civil service staff – program coordinators, community workers and secretaries – who also work in Extension offices across the state will be reviewed in early 2011. Reiser said.

### Bloomington to be "hub" of tri-county unit

The Executive Council met August 30 to consider the location of the new tri-county unit's "hub" and "satellite" offices. Officials at the U of I accepted the recommendation that the main office (hub) be located in Bloomington. If local funding is maintained near current levels, it appears the Extension offices in Pontiac and Eureka will remain open as satellite facilities.

"The preference on campus is to have all of the educators located at the hub office, but it wouldn't make sense for us to rent more space in Bloomington if space there is at a premium and we could accommodate an educator in Eureka or Pontiac," Reiser said. "So the exact locations of our educators will be determined a little later on."

Even though Bloomington will be the hub of the new unit, educators will provide programming in all three counties.

"The Executive Council was adamant that our educators will need to be visible in all three counties, and that the fiscal accounting will need to be transparent to our county board funders," Reiser said. "When the dust settles on reorganization, we'll have open houses in each of the three counties so that our local funders and volunteers and clients can meet the people who will be serving them."

"Extension is a big organization statewide, and it's going to take a while for all of the pieces to be put into place," Baer said. "In the meantime, our staff and volunteers are continuing to do the kinds of educational programs they've always done. They've been great about filling some of the gaps in staffing that have come about with the early phases of the reorganization."

U of I Extension provides research-based educational opportunities that help people develop skills, solve important problems, and improve the quality of their lives and communities. To find out more, go to <http://web.extension.illinois.edu>

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# UI takes part in nation-wide redesign of Internet

BY REEMA AMIN  
STAFF WRITER

Along with the renovation of University buildings, something less tangible is going under construction on campus: the Internet.

In partnership with several universities across the country, a research group at the University is part of a \$7.9 million effort to "redesign the Internet," said Tarek Abdelzaher, associate professor for computer science and lead researcher for the group.

When the Internet was first created, it was based around a set of supercomputers, or main computers, in an effort to connect all of them together, Abdelzaher said. In order to function, Abdelzaher said these supercomputers would drive the Internet by "communicating"

with each other to locate pieces of information.

But as search engines became more popular, the Internet became more inefficient.

"We now use (the Internet) for content. We'll go and browse Google or ask for information, and that's not how certain people envisioned the Internet awhile ago," he said.

For instance, when something is searched for on Google, Abdelzaher said the question is translated into a code by a "navigator piece," a tool to translate a search query into a computer direction. The navigator then asks Google's network for which supercomputer has the answer, which is sent back to the user. But with the

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## INTERNET

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restructuring of the Internet, Abdelzaher said the "navigator" will be taken out, and you will directly ask Google's network for the answer.

"So the new Internet will be much more efficient; it removes the man in the middle," Abdelzaher said.

By removing the navigator, Abdelzaher said it is very likely that internet service provider (ISP) costs will reduce. With fewer costs for the ISP to support a navigation system, the less the ISP must charge a user.

Seyed Karimi, Ph.D student

in economics, said that at first, Internet costs may increase if the new design is successful. He said with renovation comes new technicians and equipment for ISPs, which may raise Internet costs for a period of time.

"Initially, prices may increase, but I do believe (the new design) will decrease costs," Karimi said.

While the project has the potential to lower Internet costs, the grant of almost \$8 million will drive the effort.

Funded by the National Science Foundation, research institutions hope to use the money to make the Internet so efficient that innovators will be able to further modernize the Internet.

Huimin Ru, senior in economics, said she thinks the initiative sounds good, but it should be aimed to help convenience the user. She added that researchers should make sure that the removal of the navigation piece is warranted and does not cause any one machine to hold too much information.

Abdelzaher said that temporary challenges, such as some Internet routers not working as well as others, may occur. Despite this, Abdelzaher said the initiative needs to be taken to compensate for the growing availability of information.

"I think we're pretty optimistic," he said. "There are kind of interesting shifts in how the internet is being used."

**Local 73 negotiations begin | News**

Chicago Journal 09/09/10

Three bargaining units of Local 73 of the Service Employees International Union this week began another round of talks with leadership at the University of Illinois-Chicago.

The talks come following Local 73's threat of a three-day strike, with public rallies well into the 11th hour late last month on claims of unequal pay compared to their cohorts at the Urbana campus, claims of union busting and claims of racism high in UIC management.

With 3,000 members committed to the strike, it would have been the largest strike in the nation in recent years. During the weeks leading up to the August strike notice, Local 73 filed an unfair labor practice lawsuit on claims that UIC was not negotiating in good faith.

Local 73 spokesperson Adam Rosen said bargaining began with technical workers Wednesday. Service and maintenance workers get their chance to negotiate on Sept. 14 and 15, respectively.

Membership gave bargaining units 30 days after talks begin to come up with a final agreement, Rosen said.

Local 73 is after an 8.25 percent pay increase over three years and a reversal of union job flight into the non-unionized academic professional status they say is being misused. UIC leadership cites legal battles and negotiations as cause for their public silence on the claims of union busting and pay issues by union members and officials.

"That agreement would be voted on in a secret ratification vote by the membership shortly after," Rosen said.

## Looks like diversity is not wanted at UI

An executive committee of the University of Illinois' Faculty Senate is asserting that a UI Foundation fund designed to support programs sponsored by the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government creates a structural issue about how the UI is governed. The faculty group has suggested academy supporters want to dictate both the content of classes and the results of research projects.

It seems to me that this faculty group, by opposing an organization with views different than its own, wants exactly what it accuses the academy of wanting. I always thought that a university campus was a place for diversity and differing opinions to be openly discussed and debated. Apparently, these faculty members don't agree with that concept.

C.E. HIXSON  
Urbana

## Cut academy ties to the university

The recent editorial regarding the Academy on Capitalism and Limited Government Foundation inaccurately characterizes UIUC Senate Executive Committee concerns. It fails to acknowledge facts reported in your own paper.

In 2008, after months of attempted negotiations, a chancellor-appointed committee concluded that the ACLGF's goals and procedures were incompatible with the fundamental principles of institutional neutrality and autonomy. The ACLGF's desire to shape curriculum and scholarship to fit its doctrine has been expressed by its founders. It is not just our "suspicion."

Nor is the ACLGF a "free-standing organization." It uses the UI Foundation to raise funds and trumpet its UI affiliation to establish its credibility (and tax advantages). After yet another round of failed negotiations with the ACLGF in 2009-2010, we concluded these affiliations must end.

The accusation that we are "attacking other UI faculty members who support [the ACLGF] by waging a guerilla war" is uncalled for. No Senate statement has ever criticized other faculty members. Nor have we ever questioned the ACLGF's right to fund appropriate activities.

We have raised principled concerns about the ACLGF, which its leaders have consistently dismissed as "ridiculous," as James Vermette did again in the editorial. How such contempt for the faculty and its elected leaders can be reconciled with an entity that claims to be "supporting" our university is a mystery.

JOYCE TOLLIVER  
Chairwoman  
Executive Committee  
UI Faculty Senate  
Champaign

COLLEGE DESTINATIONS INDEX

# C-U slips to 5th on campus town list

By PAUL WOOD

[pwood@news-gazette.com](mailto:pwood@news-gazette.com)

CHAMPAIGN — Darn you, Iowa City! You knocked Champaign-Urbana down a peg in the annual ranking of livability in college towns.

Champaign-Urbana was named the fifth best area with under 250,000 residents in the country for college students.

The American Institute for Economic Research, a think tank, released the College Destinations Index on Wednesday.

Complete results are at <http://www.aier.org/> Last year, Champaign-Urbana was fourth, but Iowa City skipped over C-U to take third.

"I think it's the economy catching up with you," said Kerry Lynch, a senior fellow with the think tank.

Lynch said criteria used are student concentration, the number of college students per 1,000 residents; diversity, the percentage of all students holding foreign passports; research capacity, academic research expenditures per capita; degree attainment: the percent of the 25- to 34-year-old population with college degrees; cost of living, based on average rent for a two-bedroom apartment; and arts and leisure, the number of cultural and entertainment venues per

100,000 residents.

Other measures include city accessibility, based on the percentage of workers over age 16 who commute on foot or by public transportation or bicycle; creative class, the percentage of residents working in the arts, education, knowledge industries, science and engineering, management and other fields; earning potential, income per capita; entrepreneurial activity: the net annual increase in total number of business establishments per 100,000 residents; and brain gain/drain, the year-over-year ratio of college-educated population living in the area.

The twin cities received the worst ranking for unemployment, despite their being lower than Illinois in general. Champaign-Urbana won good marks for student diversity, creative class and earnings potential.

Lynch said no one visits the towns in questions; all findings are based on publicly available statistics, mostly from government agencies.

"But it sounds like a lovely town," she said of Champaign-Urbana.

Nearby Bloomington was ranked 15th in the same category, the first time Bloomington appeared in the top 75 rankings.

# The 'best cities' for college students

## **BIG AND SMALL | Experience goes 'beyond campus walls'**

Shopping for colleges? Location could be more important than you think, according to a new index of 75 "best cities" for college students.

"The education and experiences you get extend beyond the walls of the campus," says Kerry Lynch, senior fellow at the nonprofit American Institute for Economic Research, whose 2010-2011 College Destination Index was released Wednesday.

"Most students and their parents think about location in a vague way. They have a general impression of locales, but they don't have much

solid information, and it's hard to compare one to another. And that's what we're trying to do — so they can get a picture of that."

The organization identified 222 metropolitan areas with at least 15,000 students, based on U.S. Census Bureau standards, chose the top 75, then ranked them in four population categories, from the largest metro areas to small college towns.

The rankings are based on 12 criteria in three general categories: academic environment (with an eye toward factors such as student diversity and degree attainment), quality of life (arts and leisure, cost of living, etc.) and professional opportunity (such measures as earning potential, unemployment rate, entrepreneurial activity).

*Gannett News Service*

## **TOP 10 MAJOR METROS AREAS (POP. OVER 2.5 MILLION)**

1. San Francisco
2. New York
3. Washington
4. Boston
5. Seattle
6. Baltimore
7. Los Angeles
8. San Diego
9. Minneapolis-St. Paul
10. Philadelphia

## **TOP 10 SMALL CITIES (250,000 TO 1 MILLION)**

1. Boulder, Colo.
2. Ann Arbor, Mich.
3. Bridgeport, Conn.
4. Trenton-Ewing, N.J.
5. Gainesville, Fla.
6. Madison, Wis.
7. Durham, N.C.
8. Santa Cruz, Calif.
9. Honolulu
10. Fort Collins, Colo.

## **TOP 10 MIDSIZE METROS (1 MILLION TO 2.5 MILLION)**

1. San Jose
2. Austin
3. Raleigh, N.C.
4. Hartford, Conn.
5. Portland, Ore.
6. Pittsburgh
7. Salt Lake City
8. Rochester, N.Y.
9. Buffalo
10. Nashville

## **TOP 10 COLLEGE TOWNS (UNDER 250,000)**

1. Ithaca, N.Y.
2. State College, Pa.
3. Iowa City
4. Ames, Iowa
5. Champaign-Urbana
6. Charlottesville, Va.
7. Corvallis, Ore.
8. Bloomington, Ind.
9. Lawrence, Kan.
10. Logan, Utah

*Source: American Institute  
for Economic Research*

# Stiffer security urged for downtown dorms

**COUNCIL | 20,000 students living in 'Loop U.' spur Daley proposal**

BY FRAN SPIELMAN

City Hall Reporter/fspielman@suntimes.com

Loop University — the nickname for a downtown Chicago area that 20,000 college students call home — would get decidedly safer, thanks to a mayoral crack-down proposed Wednesday.

One day after announcing his political retirement, Mayor Daley introduced an ordinance that would establish minimum security requirements for buildings with more than 50 units of student housing.

Those buildings would have to install security lighting, surveillance cameras at every door, lobby, stairwell and elevator and have around-the-clock security desks that distribute visitor badges and escort visitors to upstairs rooms. Exterior doors would need locks that bar entry from the outside.

Buildings with 100 or more units would also be required to hire "licensed and insured" security personnel to patrol the premises 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

Daily fines for each offense would range from \$200 to \$500.

With 23 colleges, universities and professional education schools, the Loop has become a campus unto itself with more than

65,000 students attending classes.

According to a recent report published by DePaul University, the downtown population of college students has surged by 25 percent over the last five years.

But unlike traditional colleges with concentrated dorms and campus police securing them, many downtown students live in privately owned apartment buildings that have been converted to student housing. Their dorms look like any other residential building in the Loop.

"Many of 'em were just built. They were not intended to be student dormitories, and now they've changed into it. So we have to put these extra measures in," Daley told reporters after introducing the ordinance at a City Council meeting.

Despite Daley's lame-duck status, the Council also approved the mayor's appointment of Jim Reynolds as Chicago Housing Authority chairman and a \$1 billion bond issue to fund the next installment of his massive runway expansion project at O'Hare Airport.

The bonds will be retired primarily by airline ticket taxes and an infusion of federal funds. They were approved despite continued

opposition by United and American airlines and aldermanic concerns that airport contractors are thumbing their noses at an ordinance requiring them to fill 50 percent of their jobs with Chicago residents.

Aviation Commissioner Rosemarie Andolino insisted that 43 percent of the jobs on 16 "closed out" O'Hare expansion contracts went to city residents, only 7 percent short.

Finance Committee Chairman Edward M. Burke (14th) was skeptical about those figures.

Andolino didn't help her cause when she insisted that contractors had been fined for falling short, without putting a dollar figure on the penalties.

"I don't have that information with me," she said. "But the city processes the liquidated damages. It goes to the corporate fund. And they use that for job training, which benefits city residents as well."

Aldermen also approved Daley's \$98 million city subsidy to make way for "a new city" on the site of the old U.S. Steel South Works plant.

*Comment at [suntimes.com](http://suntimes.com).*



## UIS names new men's basketball coach

By **JIM RUPPERT** ([jim.ruppert@sj-r.com](mailto:jim.ruppert@sj-r.com))

**THE STATE JOURNAL-REGISTER**

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Ben Wierzba has been named the new men's basketball coach at the University of Illinois at Springfield.

Wierzba (Weerz-ba) comes to UIS from Evansville University, where he was an assistant to Marty Simmons. Wierzba also has served as an assistant coach at Southern Illinois-Edwardsville, North Dakota, Saint Joseph's College, Lewis University and Army.

He replaces Kevin Gamble, the only men's basketball coach UIS has had. Gamble left UIS during the summer to join Keno Davis' staff at Providence.

Wierzba played for his father, Tom, at Farmington High School before heading to South Alabama, where he was a member of the 1998 NCAA Tournament. He transferred to SIU-Edwardsville and was an All-Great Lakes Valley Conference selection in 1999. Tom Wierzba is a member of the of Illinois Basketball Coaches who began his 600-plus-win coaching career at Greenview High School.

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