This 2007-08 University of Illinois annual report represents another chapter in the rich history and traditions of excellence and access at the University of Illinois and its campuses in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield.

The story of our University is a story of its people. Our campuses boast talented faculty whose collective curiosity and passion for teaching represent the intellectual capital that expresses itself in the classroom and in the discovery of new knowledge. Our students are eager to learn. They reinvigorate the campuses when they arrive each fall and they remind us of our central mission of education. More than 17,000 students became alumni in 2007.

As always, this past year included numerous remarkable achievements. The National Science Foundation chose the Urbana campus’ National Center for Supercomputing Applications as the home for a $208 million supercomputer that will be 500 times faster than today’s computer engines. One of the beneficiaries of this vast computing power is the new Institute for Genomic Biology, an interdisciplinary research center that already conducts multidisciplinary, transformative life science research.

In Chicago, we continue to build upon our health-care excellence. Significant grants will advance research in autism, identify ways to improve the early growth and development of premature infants, and study end-of-life transitions. A new partnership with the City Colleges of Chicago is expected to increase the number of minority nurses earning bachelor’s degrees. The world’s most powerful MRI machine, housed in the Center for Magnetic Resonance Research, will soon offer physicians a real-time view of the human brain.

UIS gained accolades and media attention for its online learning initiatives. The campus earned a national award for excellence in institution-wide online teaching and learning programming from the Sloan Consortium and was featured on National Public Radio. The College of Business was accredited by the premier accrediting agency for collegiate schools of business. And the doors opened on the new Recreation and Athletic Center in time to start the new academic year.

The $2.25 billion Brilliant Futures capital campaign was announced last summer and on New Year’s Day we had an opportunity to reflect on an outstanding turn-around football season.

Join me in celebrating some of the many U of I success stories featured in this year’s annual report. We couldn’t have done it without you.

Sincerely,

B. Joseph White
University Administration provides centralized administrative services that are vital to supporting the primary missions of the institution: instruction, research, public service and economic development.

President B. Joseph White leads a team that champions higher education in the state and provides a leadership role in developing strategies and solutions to educational challenges that are best addressed across the network of campuses.

System staff convey to policy leaders, government entities, corporations and alumni and other stakeholders the range of research and academic success stories that reflects the quality and depth of the University of Illinois.
Board of Trustees
U of I is engine of state economic development

The University of Illinois is the state’s most important asset in assuring a prosperous future for the State of Illinois and its citizens. The Board of Trustees’ leadership and guidance for making the university an engine for economic development has been critical in maintaining the university’s leadership role in the state and the region.

Eight years ago, the Illinois Senate made economic development a focus for the U of I and the Board responded with initiatives to enhance the commercialization of new technologies and scientific innovations and job creation. In the years since, research parks on the Urbana and Chicago campuses have attracted almost 100 tenants — including Internet giant Yahoo in Urbana — with 1,800 employees. In 2000, University trustees established IllinoisVENTURES to provide venture capital and business infrastructure to engineering, information technology and life and physical sciences research with commercial potential. Four years later the privately funded venture capital Illinois Emerging Technology Fund was formed in partnership with IllinoisVENTURES.

More recently, the board celebrated the grand opening of Business and Industry Services, a new university presence in Naperville. This new U of I-BIS partnership, administered through Urbana’s Extension office in collaboration with the state’s Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity, brings engineering, technology and business classes and consulting services to Kane, Lake, Cook, DuPage and McHenry counties.

Trustees also work with the campuses to facilitate a productive work environment that encourages innovative research. Recent major Board-approved initiatives include the genomic institute, petaflop facility and magnetic imaging laboratory.

With more than $750 million yearly in funded research, the University of Illinois is vital to the state’s economic engine. Fully leveraged, the University of Illinois pumps an estimated $7 billion into the state’s economy annually.
Urbana-Champaign

Established in 1867, the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a world leader in research, teaching and public engagement, distinguished by the breadth of its programs and broad academic excellence. Internationally renowned faculty conduct world-class interdisciplinary research and scholarship in an environment that enables creative thinking and promotes academic excellence. Urbana boasts Nobel laureates, MacArthur Fellows and faculty whose research is among the most cited in their fields.

Urbana’s more than 41,000 students enroll in an array of academic and extracurricular programs that strengthen their educational experience and prepare them to be leaders in a global society. The campus offers rich experiences beyond the classroom, from the performing arts to Big Ten sports. Illinois alumni have earned Nobel and Pulitzer Prizes, Academy Awards and Olympic medals, have orbited the earth and have led international corporations. The University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign is a recognized leader in teaching and scholarship and is known as an institution that creates knowledge and advances understanding.
Lillian Hoddeson has been named the first Thomas Siebel Chair in the History of Science. She specializes in the history of 20th-century science and technology.

Provost Linda Katehi was appointed to a three-year term on the President’s Committee on the National Medal of Science by President Bush.

Virginia Dominguez, Gutgsell Professor of anthropology, is president-elect of the American Anthropological Association, with 12,000 members in more than 100 nations.

Robert Easter was appointed by President Bush in January 2008 to serve as chairman of the Board for International Food and Agricultural Development. An expert on swine nutrition, Easter is dean of the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences.

Professor of Journalism Brant Houston is the new Knight Chair for Investigative and Enterprise Reporting. Houston is a former investigative reporter who was a member of a news team that won a Pulitzer Prize in 1981.

New chief information officer Sally Jackson is responsible for the broad range of information technologies on the Urbana campus.

Carlos Pantano, a professor of mechanical science and engineering, received a Presidential Early Careers Award at a White House ceremony in November 2007.

Ryan Bailey, a professor of chemistry, received an inaugural NIH Director’s New Innovator Award that recognizes “bold ideas” with the potential to produce important medical advances.

Professor of Law Thomas Ulen received an honorary doctoral degree in 2007 from the Catholic University of Leuven in Belgium, honoring his longtime work in law and economics.
Chicago

The University of Illinois at Chicago is an urban university intimately connected to its home in one of the nation’s largest and most diverse cities. A noted research center, particularly in urban affairs, medicine and the health sciences, UIC is committed to creating and disseminating new knowledge.

UIC is a vital partner in the educational, technological and cultural fabric of the Chicago metropolitan area. The more than 25,000 students benefit from the campus’ deep commitment to its community. Approximately 400 faculty and staff participate in UIC’s Great Cities Commitment, a multidisciplinary project that includes 500+ programs in Chicago working to find model solutions to challenges facing urban areas throughout the world.

The campus operates the state’s major public medical center and is a principal educator of Illinois’ physicians, dentists, pharmacists, nurses and other health-care professionals. With branches in Peoria, Rockford and Urbana, the College of Medicine educates more physicians than any other university in the nation.
In 2007, UIC locksmith Conrad Pomykala donated at the Medical Center’s Blood Donor Center for the 400th time in more than 25 years.

Paul Zeleza, professor and head of the African American studies department, will serve as president of the African Studies Association in 2008-09.

Robert Somol was named director of the School of Architecture in the fall of 2007.

Jerry Bauman, a UIC faculty member and administrator for nearly 30 years, is the new dean of the College of Pharmacy.

Barry Chiswick, distinguished professor and head of economics, received the 2007 Marshall Sklare Award for significant contributions to the social scientific study of Jewry.

Barbara Risman, professor and head of sociology, received the Sociologists for Women in Society’s 2007 national award for mentoring.

Caswell Evans, associate dean for prevention and public health sciences in the College of Dentistry, is the new president of the American Association of Public Health Dentistry.
Springfield

The University of Illinois at Springfield provides an intellectually rich, collaborative and intimate learning environment for students, faculty and staff, while serving local, regional, state, national and international communities. Students who attend UIS seek the exceptional liberal arts education offered on the campus located in Illinois’ capital city. The campus has an outstanding national reputation for its online learning initiatives.

By pairing academic excellence with small class size, high-quality programs and internships in public affairs, journalism and government, UIS offers a unique educational experience to the more than 3,100 students who study on campus and the almost 1,700 who study online and off campus. Faculty and students enrich the life of the city of Springfield, where public policy and politics are intimately connected with the community. Graduates assume leadership positions in government, media and communications.

Each undergraduate’s life is enriched by participating in programs that open doors to the world beyond the borders of the campus. Making a difference in the world is a tenet of the UIS educational philosophy.

www.uis.edu

Business and Management
Education and Human Services
Liberal Arts and Sciences
Public Affairs and Administration
Amanda Vinicky, statehouse reporter for public radio WUIS, took first-place honors for in-depth reporting in the annual competition sponsored by Capitolbeat, the national organization of journalists covering state and local governments.

Dana Perino, a 1995 graduate with a master’s degree in public affairs reporting, assumed the post of White House press secretary in September 2007.

Melissa Ross, an elder abuse caseworker and graduate student in the Human Services program pursuing a concentration in gerontology, was named 2007 Elder Abuse Caseworker of the Year.

Charles Wheeler, director of the Public Affairs Reporting program, received top honors for magazine commentary in the annual competition sponsored by Capitolbeat, recognizing his contributions as a columnist for Illinois Issues magazine.

Fulbright grant recipient Brent Never, assistant professor of public administration, studied conflict resolution in Northern Ireland during the fall 2007 semester.

Melissa Ross, an elder abuse caseworker and graduate student in the Human Services program pursuing a concentration in gerontology, was named 2007 Elder Abuse Caseworker of the Year.
Building relationships for life is more than a promise for the University of Illinois Alumni Association (UIAA). It’s a commitment of service to the more than 580,000 living alumni of the University.

With staff in Urbana, Chicago and Springfield, UIAA provides programming that develops and maintains alumni connections with each other and with the institution.

The Illini Center in Chicago’s Loop is home to the Alumni Career Center that offers comprehensive employment and career management services to University graduates from all three campuses.

UIAA members receive a campus-specific magazine and access to a group travel program, credit union, online alumni directory, invitations to special events and programs and online access to thousands of periodicals and newspapers on the web.

But the ultimate benefit for members is in knowing that they’re an important part of the University of Illinois family and that their support of UIAA programs and services fosters participation and pride in the University.
What happens when you give someone a chance?

Each year, the University of Illinois provides almost 70,000 students with an education that gives them a brighter future, one with access to greater economic, social and cultural opportunities.

With the help of the University of Illinois Foundation, loyal alumni and friends are joining together to help build a stronger community and a brighter future, one student at a time.

Brilliant Futures: The Campaign for the University of Illinois, publicly launched on June 1, 2007, seeks financial support from private sources totaling $2.25 billion. Campaign priorities include student, faculty and programmatic support as well as an increase in the institution’s endowment and enhanced annual giving support. As of December 2007, $1.28 billion has been raised toward the campaign goal.

The University of Illinois Foundation is the official fund raising and private gift-receiving arm for the University of Illinois and the three campuses. UIF staff work with alumni, friends, faculty and campus development staff members to promote opportunities that benefit the University.
Vet med students ‘CARE’ for grieving pet owners

A pet’s death can be like losing a member of the family. Many surviving family members get through this stressful time with help from the Urbana campus’ Companion Animal Related Emotions (C.A.R.E.) Pet Loss Helpline in the College of Veterinary Medicine.

“So many people we talk to say, ‘My friends are not animal people. They tell me to move on. They tell me to get a new cat,’” said Cheryl Weber, Helpline’s faculty adviser. “They just don’t get it. People know when they talk to us they are going to talk to someone who gets it.”

U of I veterinary students manage the toll-free Helpline three nights a week and answer emails from grieving pet owners. The purpose is twofold: to provide a community service locally and around the country and to give the vet students insight into the emotional side of their field.

The Helpline phone rang 450 times last year, up more than 10-fold from the 38 calls in 1997, the program’s first year. The Helpline is paired with a class Weber teaches, Bereavement Issues, where vet students learn the importance of empathy and reflective listening — and how to deal with their own emotions.

“Our pets don’t live as long as humans, so in practice this is going to be something [the students] will deal with a lot,” explained Weber. “Some experts have suggested that veterinarians deal with death five times more often than their human counterparts because of the relative lifespan. So I am trying to equip them with the communication skills to do a good job.”

Fundraisers, also organized by the students, help pay incidental bills for the program, including the cost of the toll-free phone lines. In 2007, first-family dog Webster, pet of President B. Joseph White and spouse Mary, hosted the Oskee Bow Wow fundraiser. Reports were it was a howling success.

By Evangeline Politis ’08, Office for University Relations student writer

Where planets form

Astronomer Leslie Looney and graduate student Woojin Kwon have found the first clear evidence for a cradle in space where planets and moons form. The cradle, revealed in photographs taken with NASA’s Spitzer Space Telescope, consists of a flattened envelope of gas and dust surrounding a young protostar. Located about 800 light-years away in the constellation Cepheus, the object is obscured by dust and therefore invisible to the eye, but not to the space telescope. Theorized, but never before seen, the flattened disk is an expected outcome for cloud-collapse theories that include magnetic fields or rotation.

Illinois Issues editor named

Dana Heupel was named executive editor of Illinois Issues magazine effective in January 2008. A 30-year veteran of the newspaper business, Heupel will continue the independent, in-depth reporting and analysis of state government and politics considered the hallmark of Illinois Issues, which is published 10 times a year and distributed to more than 12,000 readers. The magazine has reported on political trends, legislative issues and the state’s quality of life since 1975. Heupel succeeds Peggy Boyer Long as executive director. Long received a 2007 Paul Simon Public Service Award, presented by the Illinois Campaign for Political Reform, for her contributions to public understanding of the operations and issues of state government.

SPRINGFIELD

CHICAGO

Intense study in Asia

Senior Rommel Calderwood of Elgin received a Freeman Award for Study in Asia from the Institute of International Education. The $5,000 award provides financial assistance to a select group of American undergraduates who study in East or Southeast Asia. Calderwood, who also received a 2007 Chancellor’s Student Service Award, spent the fall 2007 semester in Thailand studying Southeast Asian business, law and diplomacy and interning at Amnesty International in Bangkok.

Amnesty International in Bangkok.

Low levels of Internet use among minorities and the poor will limit their earning ability and participation in society if public policy does not promote technological access and skills, according to a new book co-authored by Karen Mossberger, associate professor of public administration. “Digital Citizenship: The Internet, Society, and Participation” (MIT Press, 2007) addresses three ways in which citizens participate in society online: pursuit of economic opportunity, participation in politics and government and use of prevailing means of communication. Internet use at work, says Mossberger, translates into increased wages and with voting and other political participation. Mossberger analyzed national survey data from 2000 through 2005 to understand patterns of technology use and the effects of those patterns, classified by age, race, ethnicity, income and education.
Pioneering robotic surgeon

Pier Cristoforo Giulianotti, an international pioneer in robotic general surgery who has perfected techniques for certain procedures rarely done in the United States, joined the UIC faculty in 2007. The Lloyd M. Nyhus Professor of Surgery and chief of the division of minimally invasive, general and robotic surgery, Giulianotti has perfected robotic-assisted surgical techniques for the removal of cancerous tumors of the lung and pancreas. He and his surgical team performed the first fully robotic “Whipple” procedure in the Midwest last fall. The operation, also called a pancreaticoduodenectomy, is the most common surgical treatment for cancerous or benign tumors of the head of the pancreas.

Digital dangers can be training grounds

Media reports warn of online predators, hate groups and other “digital dangers” lurking in online social spaces, and those dangers are not to be taken lightly, says Brendesha Tynes, assistant professor of educational psychology and of African American studies. Tynes believes teenagers develop critical thinking and argumentation skills through participation in online discussions. Teens are also exposed to sensitive issues, such as racism, that they might be afraid to ask about in person. Tynes suggests that parents and educators see online social environments as places “allowing young people to practice interaction with others in the safety of their homes,” and as training grounds for teens preparing to enter the adult social world.

Blue Waters, big advances

Blue Waters, a $208 million IBM supercomputer that will be 500 times faster than today’s supercomputers, will drive the next generation of scientific breakthroughs. Scientists will use the system to model cells, predict the impact of hurricanes and design aircraft. Researchers will also educate the next generation of teachers, scientists and workers by integrating use of the system into the undergraduate curriculum. With primary funding from the National Science Foundation and additional funding from the State of Illinois, Blue Waters is being developed by the National Center for Supercomputing Applications in partnership with Urbana’s Department of Computer Science and Coordinated Science Laboratory, IBM, and dozens of campuses, national labs and educational institutes around the country. Blue Waters is expected to be available for research by 2011.

Biz plan double-double win

For the second consecutive year, a team of students from UIC’s Liautaud Graduate School of Business won the $10,000 first prize at a graduate-school business plan contest.

A UIC team also took second-place honors in the annual contest, sponsored by the Licensing Foundation Inc., an educational arm of the Licensing Executives Society, U.S.A. and Canada Inc.

MBA candidates Kristin Ware (left to right) and Jay Vijayan and graduate Kelly Liebl of the Optimal Vision Corp. team won with a proposal based on three university-owned patents that advance the use of a non-surgical vision correction technology for age-associated presbyopia. Dr. Edward Yavitz, a practicing ophthalmologist in Rockford, Ill., invented the technology and donated his patents to UIC.

“Near-vision loss affects everyone over age 50 because the eye’s lens loses its ability to adjust,” said Jay Vijayan. “Our mission is to be the industry leader in marketing non-invasive and affordable procedures for correcting presbyopia. We believe our technology has the potential to enhance the quality of life for millions of patients.”

MBA candidates Karen Tovey and Santhosh Anand earned the $1,000 second-place prize for their plan for Flow Diagnostics Inc., a biomedical device company using imaging technology to predict impending onset of cardio and peripheral vascular disease. The company is based on a university-owned patent for a technology developed by Thomas Royston, UIC professor of mechanical and industrial engineering.

This is the first time that two teams from one university made it to the finals, according to Rod Shrader, the teams’ faculty adviser and founder of UIC’s Technology Ventures Program.

Winners were announced in May 2007 in Atlanta. Entries were judged based on a variety of factors, including attractiveness of the venture, quality of the product/service offered, market opportunity and investment potential.

By Jeffron Boynes, UIC News Bureau
CHICAGO

Peek inside the brain

The world’s most powerful MRI machine went online at the UIC Center for Magnetic Resonance Research in December 2007. More than 100,000 times stronger than the Earth’s magnetic field, the MRI will allow physicians to see real-time views of biological processes in the human brain. Oncologists, for example, will be able to see if chemotherapy is shrinking a tumor. The 9.4 tesla (the measuring unit of magnetism) magnet is more than three times the strength of state-of-the-art clinical units and is the first such device large enough to scan the head and visualize the human brain. Following the FDA-required safety trials, UIC researchers are putting the unit to work.

URBANA

From the pockets of students

A course on entrepreneurship gave students a chance to create a business plan and market a small business as well as an opportunity to be micro-lenders to entrepreneurs in developing countries. Bruce Wicks, professor of recreation, sport and tourism, asked his students if they would be willing to commit their own resources — approximately $10 each — to help individuals in developing countries looking for a modest bit of capital to start or develop a small business. Among the entrepreneurs the students funded were a tailor in Afghanistan and a grocer in Azerbaijan. The social entrepreneurship experience exposed the students to the practice of micro-lending, gender issues and self-sufficiency.

SPRINGFIELD

Building at Emiquon

At the newly constructed Emiquon Field Station, UIS faculty and students will research floodplains, particularly the restoration of The Nature Conservancy’s Emiquon Preserve. The 7,400-acre preserve is the largest floodplain restoration project in the Midwest and the premier demonstration site for the Conservancy’s work on the Illinois River and within the Upper Mississippi River system. UIS students will learn field biology techniques and how to conduct research projects. Current projects focus on water quality and other projects are planned for the restoration sites, some of the first river reclamation efforts to be undertaken on such a large scale.

URBANA

e-jet printing has variety of uses

By combining electrically induced fluid flow with nanoscale nozzles, an interdisciplinary team of researchers has established new benchmarks for precision control and resolution in jet-printing processes. The electrohydrodynamic jet (e-jet) printing process can produce patterns and functional devices that establish new resolution benchmarks for liquid printing, significantly exceeding those of established ink-jet technologies. John Rogers (center back row), a Founder Professor of Materials Science and Engineering, and other scientists from the Center for Nanoscale Chemical Electrical Mechanical Manufacturing Systems, funded by the National Science Foundation, believes the e-jet printing could be used for large-area circuits and displays as well as in security, biotechnology and photonics.

CHICAGO

To sleep, per chance

The new Sleep Science Center on the UIC campus, which opened in September 2007, offers resources to diagnose and treat a range of sleep disorders in children and adults, including sleep apnea, excessive sleepiness, restless leg syndrome and sleep problems in shift workers. Director James Herdegen says the facility will further UIC’s national presence in clinical care and sleep research. UIC is part of a study sponsored by the National Institutes of Health that examines sleep problems in patients with chronic renal insufficiency.
Mind the (investing) experts

Fledgling traders often overestimate their market savvy, thinking they can glean investment insights that analysts overlooked in statistic-filled corporate and government filings. Relying on experts is a better strategy, according to W. Brooke Elliott and Kevin Jackson, both faculty members in the Department of Accountancy. Non-professional investors earn lower stock returns when they go it alone and wade through complex corporate reports and Securities and Exchange Commission filings. Elliott says investors likely are best served by a combination of careful research and patience as they learn the ins and outs of trading on Wall Street.

Multidisciplinary research may help CF patients catch breath of life

An interdisciplinary research team that included undergraduates published research findings that could help cystic fibrosis patients combat often-fatal pulmonary infections.

The Urbana researchers focused on the cystic fibrosis patients’ lung mucus, which unlike its healthy counterpart, is molasses-thick, so bacteria stick to it, grow, multiply and cause the infections that are the primary cause of cystic fibrosis patient death.

Two materials science and engineering and physics professors, Gerald Wong and Erik Luijten, with lead author Lori Sanders, a postdoctoral research associate, published a paper in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences showing that the CF mucus includes negatively charged molecules. The positively charged “good-guy” bacteria-fighting antimicrobials are attracted to the negatively charged mucus components and are unavailable to kill the bacteria.

The researchers used x-ray scattering and computer simulations to develop a genetically engineered, reduced-charge antimicrobial that is less “sticky” while maintaining its bacteria-killing ability. There’s still clinical work to be done, but the researchers have a leg up on what Wong described not as a cure but a “therapeutic strategy” against CF’s deadly infections.

Michael Strohman, a senior molecular and cellular biology major, saw a call for undergrads to join the Wong research team in a biology department newsletter. He and four other undergrads were selected. Strohman’s task was to examine the biology of the reduced-charge antimicrobials.

“I worked with grad students and post-docs, then wrote an undergraduate thesis and understood the greater thinking clarity that comes with scientific writing,” Strohman said.

After spending a year on the CF research, Professor Wong offered Strohman an opportunity to participate in research at Stanford’s Linear Accelerator Center. Strohman, from Geneseo, Ill., is now studying for his doctorate in immunology at Stanford.

“The Wong lab has a great track record of involving undergrads in research,” he said.

Reporting: James E. Kloeppel, Urbana News Bureau
Online education award for UIS

Last fall, UIS won a national award for Excellence in Institution-Wide Online Teaching & Learning Programming from the Sloan Consortium.

“For UIS to receive a national award of this magnitude for excellence among the thousands of colleges and universities with online programs across the country is most extraordinary,” said UIS Chancellor Richard Ringeisen.

The Sloan Consortium, comprised of more than 1,200 higher education institutions engaged in online learning, is a national organization dedicated to quality online teaching. UIS was the only institution to receive an award, of the six granted this year, for institution-wide instructional programming.

Ray Schroeder, director of UIS’ Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning, said “The award is particularly gratifying because it belongs to everyone at UIS, not an individual or department, but to the entire university.”

Online coursework began at UIS in 1998 with 30 students. In the fall 2007 semester, nearly 50 percent of UIS students took at least one online class, and more than 1,000 students from 49 states and nine foreign countries were enrolled in the campus’ 16 fully online degree programs and two certificate programs.

With substantial support from the Sloan Foundation and other organizations, UIS has integrated online courses and programs, both taught by the same faculty, into its mainstream curriculum. A total of 185 instructors — more than half of UIS’ full- and part-time faculty members — taught at least one class online in the 2007-08 academic year. In-state and out-of-state students pay the same tuition rate for online UIS courses.


Reporting: Shari McCurdy, Office of Technology-Enhanced Learning

CHICAGO

Targeted delivery of chemotherapy drugs

Researchers in the College of Pharmacy received a $1.7 million, five-year grant from the National Institute of Neurological Disorders and Stroke to develop a hydrogel-based delivery system to control the release of chemotherapy drugs that kill a highly invasive brain tumor. Lead researcher Richard Gemeinhart, an assistant professor in the departments of biopharmaceutical sciences and bioengineering, hopes that localizing chemotherapy can improve survival rates. Approximately 13,000 people nationally die each year of malignant brain tumors.

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URBANA
Dumbledore hypothesis
Aging adults who have memory lapses have more control over their “cognitive vitality” than they realize, says Elizabeth Stine-Morrow, a professor of education psychology. Adults can compensate for subtle age-related changes rather than either giving in to them or giving up completely on the activity. It’s all part of what she has named the “Dumbledore hypothesis of cognitive aging,” based on an observation from Hogworts headmaster Dumbledore: “It is our choices … that show what we truly are, far more than our abilities.” Stine-Morrow is in the first year of a five-year, $2.8 million grant from the National Institute on Aging to develop a program designed to engage older adults in team-based creative problem solving and to study its effectiveness.

CHICAGO
Award-winning teacher embraces student researchers
Professor and director of undergraduate studies in the department of psychology Bette Bottoms received the Society for the Teaching of Psychology Robert S. Daniel Teaching Award from the American Psychological Association in August 2007. Bottoms, who is an expert on children’s eyewitness testimony and child abuse, currently studies jury decision making. Says Bottoms, “If I could give students one piece of advice, it would be: get involved in research with professors.” She practices what she preaches: her research team includes graduate students and up to a dozen undergraduates, depending on the semester.

URBANA
Superior art on Superior Street
I space is a Chicago-based gallery and public forum for the visual, performing and design arts of the Urbana campus’ College of Fine and Applied Arts. Located in the heart of the River North Gallery district in the 200 block of West Superior Street, I space provides a venue that encourages the exploration, experimentation and understanding of the arts. In the early winter, I space hosted two colorful exhibits that featured the poster art of alumnus Jay Ryan whose works often feature whimsical creatures such as “Bear and His Dog.”

CHICAGO
Four decades, teaching excellence
Chien Wu, a professor of civil and materials engineering and former department head, takes a straightforward, no-gimmicks approach to teaching. He’s strict with students and generous with office hours, where he expects students to have specific questions to discuss. He was one of a dozen faculty members from across the UIC campus honored in 2007 with a Silver Circle Award for teaching excellence. Graduating seniors select the faculty winners each spring. Wu has been with UIC for more than four decades.

SPRINGFIELD
Recreating the past’s music
The 10th Illinois Volunteer Cavalry Regiment Band — a re-creation of the original brass band that accompanied the regiment during the Civil War — plays period music on original and reproduction instruments. Under the direction of Todd Cranson, band and chamber orchestra director, the regiment band is an affiliated musical ensemble with the music program. Band members include music instructors at several area high schools, a number of Springfield Municipal Band members and other local musicians. Musicians in the original 10th Cavalry were from Sangamon, Logan and Christian counties. Today’s band members hail from the same counties.
Student-built solar house has ‘elemental’ appeal

Last fall, 20 universities from five countries — each with a self-sustaining solar house prototype — competed in the biannual Solar Decathlon at the National Mall in Washington, D.C. Teams chosen to compete received $100,000 seed money from the Department of Energy, the sponsoring agency. The Urbana campus’ entry was dubbed “elementhouse.”

More than 200 students and faculty from disciplines ranging from architecture to engineering to communications collaborated on the Urbana prototype. They competed in 10 categories, including energy efficiency and production, architectural integrity, livability and aesthetic appeal.

“I got a chance to work with architecture and industrial design [students] — people who bring a different set of skills and have a different set of limitations” said Ben Barnes, a mechanical engineering master’s degree student and elementhouse energy-team leader.

Elementhouse combined several innovative ways to conserve energy, cleverly avoiding expending solar energy to heat water, instead using heat from the air conditioning, “simultaneously cooling the space and heating water by moving heat rather than generating heat,” Barnes said. A system of coils radiated heat, replacing a conventional furnace that wastes energy in the process of moving air through the home.

The house proper consists of three 12-foot by 16-foot self-contained “modules” that can be added or subtracted depending upon the amount of living space required or desired. The Urbana team built the structure on campus, then disassembled and reassembled it in Washington. This flexibility helped elementhouse win first place in the market viability category. Although the team placed ninth overall, elementhouse also won first in the heating-humidity control category.

A commercial model of elementhouse would cost around $160,000 — $60,000 for the solar panels alone.

After the D.C. competition, elementhouse traveled to Chicago where it was displayed at the Greenbuild 2007 conference and received attention in the media.

By Amanda Cornish ’09, Office for University Relations student writer

URBANA

Assessing the needs of workers

To succeed globally, businesses need to factor in the wants, talents and needs of workers, not just the ever-growing capabilities of the equipment they use. So says Betty Barrett, director of the Socio-Technical Systems program launched in January 2008 and sponsored by the Institute for Labor and Industrial Relations and College of Engineering. Graduate students in human relations are teaming with engineering students to evaluate planned high-tech advances in the workplace. Barrett says only a handful of companies now weigh staff feedback against technology needs as they develop business plans, but she predicts more businesses will use both to boost efficiency and morale.
**URBANA**

**Powerhouse molecule**

Small ribonucleic acids (sRNA) were once thought to be too small to contribute much to major cellular processes. Microbiology professor Carin Vanderpool and her research team have identified the unique metabolic activities of an RNA molecule in bacteria called SgrS that performs dual roles, both of which inhibit the transport of glucose into the cell. Vanderpool’s research may offer a deeper understanding of how bacteria defend themselves from metabolic stresses such as excess glucose that could lead to important therapeutic innovations.

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**SPRINGFIELD**

**Student research recognized, encouraged**

In 2001 UIS launched the Annual Science Research Symposium to recognize and encourage research by students. Seven years later, the goals haven’t changed: encouraging scientific dialog and informing the academic community of scientific research conducted at UIS. Symposium coordinator Lucia Vazquez says that the one-day event is also about promoting community interest in scientific research and inviting nationally recognized scholars to share information about their research with undergraduate and graduate students and faculty involved in applied or theoretical research.

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**URBANA**

**Cataloging a collection**

England’s Westminster Abbey is home to a collection of early printed books. For three months, it was also home to Christopher D. Cook, a rare book librarian who cataloged the collection during the summer of 2007. Cook is a recent graduate of the Graduate School of Library and Information Sciences and the recipient of a fellowship from the Bibliographical Society of America for his work at Westminster. When he is on the job in the Urbana library, Cook oversees the cataloging of more than 60,000 volumes of rare books, most from the 16th and 17th centuries.

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**CHICAGO**

**Thriving learning communities**

The Urban Education Leadership program in the College of Education received a $2.1 million grant from the Eli Broad Foundation to cultivate effective school leaders as principals for Chicago Public Schools over the next three years. Peter Martinez, director of school leadership coaching, said that the goal of the program is to transform school cultures into thriving learning communities for students and teachers. The Urban Education Leadership program is part of the UIC College of Education’s doctoral program and is designed to improve student achievement in urban schools through extensive coaching from mentors. Martinez and Steve Tozer co-founded the doctoral program in 2004.

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**CHICAGO**

**Social networking with zebras**

Tanya Berger-Wolf, UIC assistant professor of computer science, is studying the social habits of zebras to develop computational tools that provide a broader and more dynamic picture of animal social interactions. A “fission-fusion species,” zebra groups constantly form and break up. Along with colleagues from Princeton University and the University of New Mexico, Berger-Wolf is using GPS tracking collars to follow the movements of zebras in Kenya. The data will be relayed by cell phone to the researchers’ computers, where new computational and analytical software tools will map and analyze the animals’ social networking. The dynamic computation techniques will help conservation biologists and might eventually be adapted for other purposes such as monitoring the spread of disease.
URBANA

The origin of clothes
Where were your jeans made? Geography students on the Urbana campus literally mapped the clothes on their backs to examine regional patterns in apparel manufacturing. The project was the final computer mapping exercise for more than 500 students in Professor Thomas Bassett’s “Geography of Developing Countries” class. The top supplier of the students’ clothing was China with 16 percent of the more than 3,700 items the students considered. Class discussions centered around the political and economic impact of the manufacturing cycle and the dynamics of the “global assembly line.”

URBANA

Self-healing material
A new catalyst-free, self-healing material system developed by a multidisciplinary team of researchers offers a far less expensive and a more practical way to repair composite materials used in structural applications ranging from airplane fuselages to wind-farm propeller blades. The new self-healing system incorporates chlorobenzene microcapsules, as small as 150 microns in diameter, as an active solvent rather than an expensive catalyst used in the initial research. Jeffrey Moore, the Murchison-Mallory Professor of Chemistry (center), Scott White, a professor of aerospace engineering, and Nancy Sottos, a professor of materials science and engineering, say the new self-healing system is a simpler and more economical alternative for strength recovery after crack damage has occurred. The team members also hold appointments in the Beckman Institute for Advanced Science and Technology.

SPRINGFIELD

Exploring human-animal bonds
Boria Sax, an adjunct faculty member in philosophy, won a Distinguished New Course Award in the national Animals and Society awards program of the Humane Society of the United States. Sax was honored for his course Animals and Human Civilization, which he developed and teaches online as part of the Liberal Studies Colloquia, multidisciplinary courses that engage important issues using points of view and value systems that extend beyond the usual cultural and disciplinary boundaries and contents. Animals and Society awards recognize academic excellence in courses focusing on the relationship between people and animals.

URBANA

Better equipment for firefighters
A study at the Illinois Fire Service Institute is examining an enhanced version of personal protective equipment that is lighter and less restrictive. It uses a firefighter’s exhaled breath to cool the body and help combat heat stress, which researchers believe contributes to firefighters’ on-the-job injuries and deaths. Gavin Horn and Denise Smith are the principal investigators leading a multidisciplinary study measuring skin and core body temperatures of firefighters randomly assigned one of two types of protective gear. The newer gear provides the standard burn protection but is lighter and less restrictive. The researchers say their results may lead to equipment designs that will reduce injuries and fatalities.

CHICAGO

In the Andes
Nicola Sharratt, a doctoral student in anthropology doing fieldwork in cemeteries in the Andes Mountains, is looking for clues about the political life of a long-lost pre-Incan civilization. To help further her efforts, she was awarded a $25,000 Women in Science Graduate Fellowship by the Women’s Board of the Field Museum in Chicago in the fall of 2007. Sharratt, who did excavation work in Peru in 2005 and 2006 with support from a UIC University Fellowship, also helped run an archaeological field trip last summer for students from UIC and the University of Chicago.
Grant establishes Autism Center of Excellence

A diagnosis of childhood autism devastates families. The genetics are complex. There is no cure. There are legal issues, and autism is expensive to treat. Insurance coverage is spotty, and families frequently find themselves in financial trouble.

Then, there are the emotional issues. Children with autism are often withdrawn and have communication problems and difficulty forming relationships. About one-third of them are afflicted with a compulsion for repetitive behavior and insistence on sameness that, when interrupted, can ignite tantrums, aggression and physical injury.

In August, UIC received a five-year $9.6 million grant from the National Institutes of Health to establish an Autism Center of Excellence, one of five nationally and the only one in the Midwest. Dr. Edwin Cook, professor of psychiatry and director of the Laboratory of Developmental Science at UIC’s Institute for Juvenile Research, is leading the interdisciplinary effort. It encompasses genetics, biochemistry, neurophysiology, neuroimaging and behavior observation.

“Problems related to repetitive behaviors, such as anxiety and aggression, are among the most troublesome and debilitating for individuals with autism and their families,” Cook said.

A class of medication called selective serotonin reuptake inhibitors, also known as SSRI drugs, has shown promising results with some patients with repetitive behavior disorders.

“‘It’s wonderful when we have patients who respond to medication and do well,’” Cook said. “But we have many patients who either do not respond, or only partially respond, and end up with strong compulsions involving aggression.”

Cook and his team hope to understand how the SSRI works from genetic, cognitive neuroscience and pharmacological approaches. They’ve started a study whose goal is to test and develop a combination of individualized drug and behavioral interventions to treat autism patients with repetitive disorder.

The bigger goal for children and their families is much simpler: hope.

Reporting: Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez, UIC News Bureau
University honors Tuskegee Airmen with Presidential Medallion

Two U of I alumni were among the contingent of the famed Tuskegee Airmen and their families invited to the Urbana campus during fall 2007 semester and honored with Presidential Medallions.

Captain Harvey Alexander ’47, the first black to matriculate in the College of Commerce, came back to the Urbana campus from his home in North Carolina. The other alumnus, Col. Charles McGee ’42, had a previous commitment at the Truman Library and was represented by his niece.

Before they could fight the enemy, the Tuskegee Airmen had to fight racism to become the first black pilots in the US military. In 1941, Congress passed legislation creating an all-black Army Air Corps unit. The War Department resisted by setting a high bar for flight experience and education. Despite persistent attempts to keep the blacks from becoming war pilots, the men triumphed over every adversity and were trained at the Tuskegee Institute in Alabama.

Ultimately, the 99th Fighter Squadron of the 332nd Fighter Group flew 1,500 missions in North Africa and Italy, shot down 109 Luftwaffe aircraft, and received two Distinguished Unit Citations, 150 Distinguished Flying Crosses, 14 Bronze Stars and 744 Air Medals. In all, half of the 1,000 Tuskegee pilots were deployed overseas with 150 giving their lives.

Trustee David Dorris helped organize the awarding of the Presidential Medallions and the fall reception with Michele Thompson, secretary of the University. Dorris called the Tuskegee Airmen “the Jackie Robinsons of the military.”

The Presidential Medallion is awarded “to recognize individuals who support and bring distinction to the University in profound ways.”

URBANA

No longer lost in translation

Using the languages and literatures of the world, the Center for Translation Studies is gearing up to build hundreds of new bridges to other countries and cultures by offering better translations of literary works. In collaboration with Dalkey Archive Press, a leading independent publisher specializing in literary translations of contemporary international titles that moved to the Urbana campus in December 2006, the center is expected to elevate the process of translation, making it better understood and more widely applied. The center also will offer international conferences on translation issues and create a publication series on issues in translation. Elizabeth Lowe will be the center’s first director.

CHICAGO

Honors College home to student publications

Students enrolled in the Honors College write, edit, design and print three publications: Red Shoes Review, the Journal for Pre-Health Affiliated Students (JPHAS) and One World. First printed in 1984, Red Shoes Review, a literary and arts journal, features prose, poetry and original artwork. JPHAS was first published in 2001 and focuses on issues of interest to undergraduates in preprofessional health programs, such as the development of modern health care. The newest publication from the Honors College is One World, which focuses on global issues as explored through the writing and photography of UIC students.
CHICAGO
Limestone quarry yields treasure trove
Remnants from a cave embedded in a limestone quarry southwest of Chicago have yielded a fossil trove that may influence the known history of north central Illinois some 310 million years ago. Earth and environmental sciences professor Roy Plotnick and a group of students discovered the cave in Kendall County while on a field trip. Findings include nearly pristine plant spores, leaves and scorpion parts. Needles from a conifer were dated and discovered to be the oldest ever from North America. Area geologists have found evidence that the cave may snake under the region for miles, creating a treasure trove of samples for years to come.

URBANA
Tall is here to stay
Mir Ali, professor of architecture and co-author of “The Skyscraper and the City: Design Technology and Innovation” (Edwin Mellen Press, 2007), predicted that tall buildings — really tall buildings — would continue to be constructed in spite of the terrorist attacks of 2001. Noting the interdependence between tall buildings and densely populated cities, Ali says that skyscrapers are needed because the economic, social and political realities that sparked construction in the first place will not go away. The two-volume book also discusses construction processes, serviceability, safety and security, as well as the economic motivations of developers and governments and the history of tall buildings starting with the 1885 construction of a 10-story building in Chicago.

URBANA
Making H₂O
Chemistry professor Thomas Rauchfuss and graduate student Zachariah Heiden have devised a new way to make water. The pair’s research shows how to make water from unlikely starting materials, such as alcohols, and it could lead to better catalysts and more efficient and less expensive fuel cells. Rauchfuss and Heiden recently investigated a relatively new generation of transfer hydrogenation catalysts for use as unconventional metal hydrides for oxygen reduction, an essential part of the process for making water. The work was funded by the Department of Energy.

URBANA
Blogging at the library
Thanks to the University of Illinois Library in Urbana, students of history who have web access can view some of the past’s most vivid chapters, page by page. In the summer of 2007, the library launched a free public blog that features news of and highlights from its large-scale digitization efforts. Large quantities of texts and photographs, primarily in the field of history, were electronically scanned, uploaded and made available online. The inaugural edition offered 18 complete works of history — from a Chicago detective’s memoir published in 1906 to an insider’s view of Illinois’ Jacksonville Insane Asylum published in 1868 and images of the 1893 Chicago World’s Fair.
SPRINGFIELD
Sign language for teachers
Starting in the spring 2008 semester, UIS is offering a concentration in American Sign Language. Springfield residents Joe and Lynn Gibbs funded the first-year development and implementation of a concentration to be offered by the UIS Teacher Education Program. The state has only 400 education interpreters to serve the needs of almost 1 million individuals in Illinois who use American Sign Language to communicate. The concentration will give teacher candidates an enhanced understanding of the challenges and cultures of individuals who are deaf or hearing impaired. They will also have an advantage when they seek teaching positions.

CHICAGO
Explaining clearly
Designers and researchers from the City Design Center developed an information system to explain medical bills and financial assistance programs to patients of the Cook County Bureau of Health Services. The multilingual signs, brochures, forms and web pages are designed to comply with Medicaid regulations and the Illinois Fair Patient Billing Act, which required the bureau to bill all patients for services for the first time and to provide comprehensive information about billing and payment. The bureau turned to Elizabeth Tunstall (r), associate professor of design anthropology and graphic design, and Sharon Oiga, adjunct assistant professor of graphic design, for help. The work is funded by a grant from Sappi, a paper manufacturer.

New residence hall ‘towers’ over UIC campus
When UIC welcomed the new freshman class in the fall of 2007, a lot fewer students went home to the suburbs than in years past. In fact, thanks to the opening of the campus’ newest residence hall, James Stukel Towers, more than half of the UIC freshman class are residential students at what used to be a quintessential commuter campus.

Located on Rochford Street, Stukel Towers, named for the University’s 15th president and former UIC chancellor, is across the street from two other residence halls, Thomas Beckham and Marie Robinson halls, named for two former UIC vice chancellors for student affairs. The former president, who has lived in Chicago since his 2005 retirement, pronounced the residence hall’s being named for him both “a real honor” and “a little strange knowing that upcoming generations of students will see my name on a building.”

The students don’t think Stukel Towers is strange, though. They voted with their feet to live in the four towers of varying heights, the tallest 12 stories. The 740 undergraduate beds are in single and double rooms arranged in four-, five- and eight-person suites, all wired for cable and Internet. There are special-interest floors for honors students: engineering; business; women science and engineering; arts; and liberal arts and sciences career exploration. Common areas include two-story study lounges, computer labs, meeting rooms, a dining hall, snack bar, student government rooms and an auditorium. All contribute to the sense of community.

Stukel Towers’ floor-to-ceiling windows and the cityscape beyond notwithstanding, the $750-million South Campus development, with its coffee shops, bookstore, gym, bank and trendy stores, looks like Collegetown, USA.

Stukel Towers marks the next step in UIC history from Navy Pier to Circle Campus to the merging of the east and west campuses, and now, to large-scale residential college life.

Reporting:
Sonya Booth,
UIC News editor

CHICAGO
Hastening delivery to clinical practice
The College of Medicine received a $7 million, multi-year grant from the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development for basic and clinical research in the reproductive sciences designed to accelerate the transfer of basic science findings into clinical practice. Four UIC projects are funded under the new grant, including research on endometriosis conducted by Asgi Fazleabas (above), director of the Center for Women’s Health and Reproduction and professor of physiology in obstetrics and gynecology. Richard Leach, UIC professor and director of the Division of Reproductive Endocrinology and Infertility, and Romana Nowak, Urbana associate professor of animal science, and a researcher at Northwestern University are also funded by the grant.
Media under scrutiny

Robert McChesney, professor of speech communication with an appointment in the Institute for Communications Research, believes that media policy is everyone’s business. In his book “Communication Revolution: Critical Junctures and the Future of Media” (The New Press, 2007), McChesney discusses five truths about communication, including that the current media system “may be profit-motivated, but it is not a free-market system.” Consolidation under fewer and fewer large corporations, growing commercialism and the influence of corporate control all contribute to his disdain for some trends in modern media. He argues that the field of media studies has lost prominence in the last three decades while the importance of the media in society has increased.

U of I Press celebrates 90th anniversary

Among the 120-150 books the University of Illinois Press is publishing this election year is “Women for President: Media Bias in Eight Campaigns” by Erika Falk. More than a scholarly tome for academics, “Women for President” traces the campaigns of the eight women who have run for president since 1872.


Areas of Press strength include African-American and women’s history, food, Chicago, communications and Lincoln. The Press puts out two catalogs per year with its new offerings.

The Press’ first publications in 1918 were, appropriately, a history of the first 50 years of the University of Illinois and a study of Abraham Lincoln. The Press’ roots date back to a 1900 faculty treatise on Lincoln’s literary style.

Part of the Press’ mission statement is striking for its parallel to the University’s: “Through its publishing programs, the Press promotes research and education, enriches cultural and intellectual life and fosters regional pride and accomplishments.”

Books published by the Press have won Bancroft Awards (history), a National Book Award and the Dunning Prize. “The Plains Across: The Overland Emigrants and the Trans-Mississippi West 1840-60” (1979) by John D. Unruh Jr. won seven awards and was a finalist for the Pulitzer Prize. The Press’ all-time top seller is “Thunder Below! The USS Barb Revolutionizes Submarine Warfare in WWII” by Admiral Eugene B. Fluckey.

The Press is also home to a number of academic journals. Some, such as The Journal of English and Germanic Philology, predate the Press’ founding. More than 20 journals are online. World History Connected, an open-access journal, for example, is available free to history teachers and the public.

Readers can order books online from the Press website: www.press.uillinois.edu.

By Mike Lillich
Soy good or just OK?
Are soy products healthy additions to your diet, safe alternatives to hormone-replacement therapy or cancer-causing agents? The answer, according to Urbana food science and human nutrition professor William Helferich, is, “It depends.” He has spent a decade evaluating the health effects of isoflavones, a class of plant estrogens present in high concentrations in soy. Much of his work has focused on a single isoflavone, genistein, which occurs in varying concentrations in soy products or ingredients such as tofu, soy protein isolates, soy flour and some estrogenic dietary supplements. Dozens of studies of the role of human and plant estrogens in breast cancer have yielded seemingly contradictory findings. The resolution of the inconsistency, says Helferich, may lie in the timing of estrogen administration.

Chicago ‘CHEERS’ water-quality study
News stories about lakes and other bodies of water being unsafe for swimming are familiar fare. The process is straightforward: when established levels of pollutants deemed dangerous are reached, swimming is prohibited. But what about boaters and fishermen? Logically it’s not as dangerous to paddle around on polluted water, but there are no standards or thresholds of danger for anyone but swimmers. This situation will change, thanks to a study UIC School of Public Health researchers have begun. “CHEERS,” the Chicago Health, Environmental Exposure and Recreation Study, is a $3.75 million contract from the Metropolitan Water Reclamation District of Greater Chicago.

“The idea is to come up with a water-quality standard for the waterways,” said project leader Dr. Samuel Dorevitch, research assistant professor of environmental and occupational health sciences. Dorevitch has both an M.D. and a master’s degree in public health and so brings both medical and environmental expertise to the project. “In order to establish a water-quality standard, there has to be a scientific standard … for people doing secondary activities on Chicago-area waterways, in other words, activities other than swimming,” he said.

Over 18 months, CHEERS is surveying 9,000 boaters and anglers using the Chicago and Calumet river systems and then following up and determining their subsequent rates of intestinal, skin, eye, respiratory and ear infections or symptoms. A nurse or doctor may visit participants for more in-depth information.

“I think everyone wants to see local water quality get better, and the public will benefit from a better understanding of how recreational water quality affects health,” Dorevitch said. “That’s something this project will address.” People will also know not only when it’s safe to go in the water but also when it’s OK to go on the water.

Reporting: Sherri McGinnis Gonzalez, UIC News Bureau

Voting by design
The upcoming 2008 election brings back memories of the contested 2000 presidential race and heightened sensitivity to the voting experience. Marcia Lausen’s book, “Design for Democracy: Ballot + Election Design” (University of Chicago Press, 2007) was called “an elegant examination of how to improve the utility of our nation’s varied voter materials” by Newsweek magazine. Lausen, a professor of graphic design, is a founding member of Design for Democracy, an initiative that seeks to increase civic participation by making interactions between the government and citizens more understandable, efficient and trustworthy. She led a team that redesigned election materials for Cook County and the state of Oregon.

Book TV bus on campus
C-SPAN 2’s Book TV Bus visited the Urbana campus in September 2007. The bus, a 45-foot-long motor coach outfitted with a mobile television production studio and media demonstration center, tours the country promoting the cable channel’s programming on non-fiction books and authors. Urbana authors interviewed included Orville Vernon Burton (left), professor of history and author of “The Age of Lincoln” (Hill and Wang, 2007); Bruce Michelson (above), professor of English and author of “Printer’s Devil: Mark Twain and the American Publishing Revolution” (University of California Press, 2006); Robert Dale Parker, professor of English and editor of “The Sound the Stars Make Rushing Through the Sky: The Writings of Jane Johnston Schoolcraft” (University of Pennsylvania Press, 2006); and Dan Schiller, professor in the Graduate School of Library and Information Science and author of “How to Think About Information” (University of Illinois Press, 2007). The Book TV visit was sponsored by the University of Illinois Press.
CHICAGO

Keep private information private

UIC computer-security expert V.N. Venkatakrishnan has developed a software tool to keep private information private in email programs and web browsers, programs that are written in C, the most common computer language used for such system software. The tool automatically identifies what Venkatakrishnan, a computer science assistant professor and co-director of the Center for Research and Instruction in Technologies for Electronic Security, calls the program’s public and private zones, monitoring the program while running, checking the information flow almost like a gatekeeper dividing attention between these two zones and enforcing different security policies in each. Venkatakrishnan received a National Science Foundation grant to create a way to scale his prototype tool for use on large-scale programs.

CHICAGO

Payton Liver Center opens

The new Walter Payton Liver Center opened in the University of Illinois Medical Center in September 2007. Payton’s wife, Connie (above), and other family members toured the facility, which provides state-of-the-art treatment for diseases within the lower abdominal region, including the liver, kidney, pancreas and small bowel. Named for Chicago Bear Walter Payton, who died of liver disease in 1999, the center integrates research, medical care and surgical treatment for patients with liver diseases. The multidisciplinary care team includes hepatologists, gastroenterologists, transplant surgeons and research scientists, nurses, social workers, pharmacists, psychologists and dieticians who provide a caring, comfortable environment for patients and their families.

URBANA

New model for bio-exploration

The Global Institute for Bio-Exploration, a joint initiative of the University of Illinois and Rutgers University, has become a model of sustainable, non-exploitive research in the developing world through a new approach to global bio-exploration, one that returns most of the fruits of discovery to the countries that provide the raw materials on which the research depends. According to Mary Ann Lila (left), co-founder and a professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, the institute builds relationships with and trains those in developing countries to prospect for plants that have interesting biological properties. Intellectual property rights stay in the country. Any money earned is used to develop the country’s research infrastructure and to protect wild lands. Elvira de Mejia, professor of food science and human nutrition, will lead the program’s expansion into the Americas.

CHICAGO

Chicago treasure trove

The Daley Library’s Special Collections Department is a treasure trove of archival records of individuals and organizations that represent the political, social and cultural history of the Windy City. With more than 400 discrete collections, the UIC library is a valuable resource to students and scholars from around the globe. The wide-ranging collections include documents and oral histories from such diverse groups as the Swiss Singing Society, the Lake Michigan Federation, the Hull-House Association and the 1933 Century of Progress International Exposition.

URBANA

Seeking common ground

Eric Freyfogle, the Max L. Rowe Professor of Law, contends America’s flawed notion of private property rights often paves the way for disaster by letting landowners — not logic — dictate development. Building on flood-prone ground or timber-lined mountains are just a few of the perils of unbridled growth, says Freyfogle, the author of “On Private Property: Finding Common Ground on the Ownership of Land” (Beacon Press, 2007). Freyfogle maintains that an outdated and often misguided view of property rights also is behind urban sprawl, vanishing wildlife habitats and even contributes to pollution and energy woes as people build homes too far from where they work and shop.
All disasters are not created equal

A professor-student research team from the College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences compared how rural and urban communities prepared for disasters by interviewing coordinators of Illinois Community Emergency Response Teams (CERTs).

Courtney Flint (r), a rural sociologist and assistant professor of natural resources and environmental sciences, and her undergraduate student researcher, Joanne Rinaldi, found that the 175 CERTs that existed before 9/11 had grown to 2,435 nationally. While many initially focused on terrorism, they have broadened their definition of disasters to include weather events, transportation accidents and hazardous materials. While urban responders play a coordination role because of the availability of first responders such as police and fire departments, rural CERTs are of necessity more self-reliant.

“Farm families have to keep going,” Flint said. “They can’t wait for someone to flip the switch. They are more prepared for disaster. They have generators, kerosene heaters, snow plows and other equipment.”

And while urban CERTs have more professional responders, Flint and Rinaldi discovered the rural CERTs depended on each other more. What effective responders to both urban and rural disasters have in common is understanding an individual CERT’s role in its community and its relationship with other first responders.

Resources are often an issue, Rinaldi said. “Funding consistency or a lack of sufficient funds was a common issue for the majority of CERTs.”

Rinaldi said her participation in the CERTs research opened the door to “where I really wanted to go with my academic and professional interests.” She currently has a job at the University of Dundee geography department in Scotland working on flood hazards. She’s applying to graduate school in geography or urban/rural planning with a hazards focus.

Flint is working on a national database of active CERTs so they can communicate and learn from each others’ experience.

Reporting: Debra Levey Larson, College of ACES News and Public Affairs.

URBANA

Hard-hitting helmet study

Last fall, the members of an Illinois high school football team wore helmets outfitted with electronic encoder modules. The purpose of the high-tech headgear, which uses six strategically placed, spring-loaded accelerometers to wirelessly beam information to a web-based system on a laptop computer on the sidelines, is to more effectively — and more immediately — detect when blows to players’ heads may result in concussions or more severe brain injuries. Steven Broglio, a professor of kinesiology and community health, took baseline assessments of the high school students and then monitored the impact data throughout the season to study biomechanical processes caused by concussions and traumatic brain injuries.

SPRINGFIELD

AACSB accreditation

The UIS College of Business and Management learned in the spring of 2007 that AACSB International – The Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business, the premier accrediting agency for collegiate schools of business, had accepted the college for accreditation. The designation places the College among an elite group: only about 10 percent of business programs worldwide and about 28 percent in the U.S. are currently accredited by AACSB. Earning AACSB accreditation is a voluntary, multi-year process during which a school develops and implements a plan to meet a wide range of quality standards. With the notification, all three colleges of business on the three University of Illinois campuses are AACSB accredited.

CHICAGO

End-of-life research funded

The UIC Center for End-of-Life Transition Research, created with funding from the National Institute of Nursing Research, will advance the science of care for people of all ages facing death — infants, children, adults and older adults. According to Center director Diana Wilkie, professor and Harriet Werley Endowed Chair for Nursing Research, the American health-care system often fails in providing appropriate care to people facing the end-of-life transition. The $2.4 million, five-year grant to the College of Nursing funds four studies led by an interdisciplinary team from various colleges. Lead researchers on the projects are Catherine Ryan, research assistant professor of nursing and an expert in critical care, Dana Fischer, assistant professor of oral medicine and diagnostic sciences in the College of Dentistry, Aruna Jha, research assistant professor of nursing, and Teresa Savage, research assistant professor of nursing.
Help for at-risk preemies

A $4.1 million federal grant to the UIC College of Nursing will develop ways to improve the early growth and development of premature infants who have two or more societal risks.

“Approximately one-half million premature infants are born each year in the United States,” said Rosemary White-Traut, head of maternal-child nursing and co-principal investigator of the five-year study.

Premature birth places the infant at risk for feeding difficulties, developmental delays, lower childhood IQ, behavioral problems and increased health-care costs. Preemies, born into families with two or more social-environmental risks, such as poverty, low parental education, adolescent parenthood or living in a stressful neighborhood, have multiple stressors and few resources, White-Traut said.

The study, enrolling 252 premature infants, uses a clinical model called H-HOPE — Hospital-home transition: Optimizing Prematures’ Environment. It combines components from two research programs previously used by White-Traut and Kathy Norr, professor of maternal-child nursing and the new study’s co-principal investigator.

During the first component, mothers spend 10 minutes talking to their infants, lightly stroking or massaging them and looking directly into their eyes, followed by five minutes of rocking. In the second component, mothers learn about preemie behavior and feeding.

H-HOPE is the first study to incorporate programs and evaluate outcomes for both mother and preemie. Excellent outcomes would include infants maturing more quickly, reducing hospital stays, enabling mothers to have more confidence, less anxiety and a positive perception of their babies. If successful, H-HOPE will provide a national model for improving early infant health and development, as well as reducing health-care costs, White-Traut said. Reducing preemie hospitalization by just three days would save $2 billion per year.

The grant is funded by the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development and the National Institute of Nursing Research.

Reporting: Sam Hostettler, UIC News Bureau

Educator honored

William Schubert, professor of education, received the 2007 Mary Anne Raywind Award from the Society of Professors of Education. The award recognizes outstanding contributions to the study of teaching. A University of Illinois Scholar who joined UIC in 1975, Schubert conducts research in curriculum theory, history and development in school and non-school settings. He is a past recipient of the College of Education’s Distinguished Scholar-Teacher Award and the UIC Excellence in Teaching Award. In 2004, Schubert received the Lifetime Achievement Award in Curriculum Studies for his contributions to curriculum history and theory from the American Educational Research Association.

Perfect placement of dental implants

A dentist needs to look for the perfect location in the mouth — the sweet spot, you might say — to place a dental implant. Dr. Joseph Califano, program director of periodontics, says the traditional process, which calls for an on-the-spot decision after the bone is exposed, is less than optimal. Using a new software program, UIC periodontal faculty and residents can now review the ideal prosthetic plan for a denture, bridge or other dental restoration as shown on a 3D computed tomography scan. The software gives the students a chance to consider various options and propose solutions independently, offering a new training tool that increases the students’ confidence in working with patients.
The dictionary defines “interdisciplinary” as “combining two or more academic disciplines.”

The Urbana campus’ Institute for Genomic Biology, the $75 million, 186,000 square-foot facility dedicated in March 2007, adds a whole new dimension to the term. IGB’s ambitious charge is to explore and find answers to the pressing societal issues in human health, agriculture, the environment and energy use and production.

The solitary, midnight-oil Lone Ranger researcher is against IGB rules. All research must be collaborative, involving investigators from at least two colleges, and researchers are expected to find external funding for their projects. The total population of the IGB is 350, including 130 faculty members from 30 disciplines, as well as pre- and post-doctoral fellows, graduate and undergraduate researchers and staff.

Consider the IGB research project studying the microbial activity that creates geological patterns at Yellowstone National Park’s geothermal hot springs. Led by physicist Nigel Goldenfeld, disciplines represented on the team include microbiology, animal sciences, chemistry, geology and developmental biology. The project could make discoveries with applications ranging from bioremediation of toxic wastes to how to search for life on other planets.

IGB houses three program areas: systems biology, cellular and metabolic engineering and genome technology. The $500-million, BP-funded Energy Biosciences Institute, a collaboration between Urbana and the University of California, Berkeley, also is located at the IGB.

Interdisciplinary research themes at the IGB include biocomplexity, genomic ecology of global change, genomics of neural and behavioral plasticity, host-microbe systems, mining microbial genomes for novel antibiotics, molecular bioengineering of biomass conversion, regenerative biology and tissue engineering, precision proteomics and — something completely different — the business, economics and law of genomic biology.

IGB director Harris Lewin says, “Nobody has business and law embedded in a life-sciences building.”

But law and business are necessary for the IGB’s economic-development, big societal problem-solving agenda. Lewin adds that he’s taken that on as “a personal mission”… interdisciplinarily personal, that is.

Reporting: Diana Yates, Urbana News Bureau
Give the gift that keeps giving

Books are the perfect gift for children. They open doors to new worlds and can start a lifelong love of reading. But how do you choose the right book? Try perusing the Guide Book to Gift Books, an annual project of the Bulletin of the Center for Children’s Books, part of the Graduate School of Library and Information Science (GSLIS). The editors review more than 5,000 new books for young readers and produce the annual guide that is organized by age level. The guide, edited by Deborah Stevenson, a GSLIS assistant professor, includes approximately 300 titles selected with gift giving in mind.

Nutritional detective work

In Botswana, the elderly often raise their grandchildren because the parents have died of AIDS. Segametsi Maruapula (seated at left), a doctoral student from Botswana, and Karen Chapman-Novakofski, a professor of nutrition, discovered that almost no data exist about the health and nutrition of Botswana’s elderly, who primarily eat grain and not nearly enough milk, fruits, vegetables and meat. Through hands-on research conducted in front of local post offices on the days that pension checks arrive, the pair gathered data to help policymakers in the country determine how to promote good health and nutrition for elders. Segametsi Maruapula is now a professor at the University of Botswana.

Global Campus opens its doors

The University of Illinois Global Campus opened its virtual doors on January 2, 2008. Graduate programs in nursing and e-learning were the first programs launched as part of the online education initiative proposed by President B. Joseph White and approved by the Board of Trustees in March 2007. The Global Campus will offer online bachelor’s completion degrees, master’s degrees and graduate certificate programs in collaboration with partnering academic units on the three University of Illinois brick-and-mortar campuses. The Global Campus (global.uillinois.edu) expands the reach of University of Illinois educational opportunities to students in the state and around the world.

Biological but not hard-wired

A UIC team of neurobiologists led by David Featherstone has discovered that sexual orientation in fruit flies is controlled by a previously unknown regulator of synapse strength. Featherstone, associate professor of biological sciences, and his colleagues discovered a gene in fruit flies they called “genderblind,” or GB. A mutation in GB turns flies bisexual. The researchers were able to use either genetic manipulation or drugs to turn the flies’ homosexual behavior on and off within hours. Featherstone says it may someday be possible to domesticate insects such as fruit flies and manipulate their sense of smell to turn them into useful pollinators rather than costly pests.

Beaming in on a cross-campus collaboration

Juan Carlos Campuzano (left), a UIC professor of physics, and Peter Abbamonte (below), an Urbana assistant professor of physics, are co-principal investigators of a project to develop an instrument called a beamline for soft X-ray photoemission and scattering. The $8 million, four-year project is funded jointly by the National Science Foundation and the U.S. Department of Energy. The researchers, who are also collaborating with the University of Michigan and Argonne National Laboratory on the project, expect the new instrument to provide a clearer picture of how electrons operate and how cuprates, copper-oxide ceramics that act as superconductors, work. UIC will build the device, which will be located at Argonne.
Financials

The total 2007-08 operating budget for the University of Illinois is $3.9 billion*. 

* Includes $441.3 million in payments made by the State of Illinois “on behalf of” the University for employee benefits and $18.9 million for Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment.

Where does the money come from?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Source</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>State Revenues</td>
<td>18.6%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Payments on Behalf</td>
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<tr>
<td>Student Tuition and Fees</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private Gifts</td>
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<td>U.S. Grants and Contracts / Federal Appropriations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Institutional Funds</td>
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<td>Earnings, Misc. (Hospital &amp; Medical Services Plans)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auxiliary &amp; Departmental Operations (Bookstores, Housing, etc)</td>
<td>13.4%</td>
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Voluntary Support

Fiscal Year 2007: $190.5 million

In FY07, 137,246 separate gifts were made to the University of Illinois. During the five years ended in June 2007, the University and University Foundation received more than $869.5 million in gift income.

In June 2007, the University launched the Brilliant Futures campaign, which aims to raise $2.25 billion for students, faculty, research and the campus environment. As of December 31, 2007, the campaign has raised $1.28 billion or 57% of its goal.

How is the money spent?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Instructional &amp; Departmental Research</td>
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<tr>
<td>Separately Budgeted Research</td>
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<td>Extension &amp; Public Service</td>
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<td>Student Services</td>
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<td>Administration &amp; General</td>
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<td>Physical Plant</td>
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<td>Auxiliary &amp; Independent Enterprises</td>
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<td>Student Aid</td>
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<tr>
<td>Hospital Operations</td>
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