2021 ANNUAL REPORT
EMPowering EXTRAORDINARY

University of Illinois System
Altogether Extraordinary™
A challenge like no other

A year ago I wrote in this space of a sobering new reality—the spread of a virus we had only begun to comprehend. I also wrote that the U of I System and its three universities were well-positioned to meet this new set of obstacles head-on.

Over the year since then, we have seen not only the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on all our lives but a period of societal upheaval and reckoning with issues of inequality and injustice that for too long have been fixtures of our reality. As we pass this one-year mark, I can say that I have never been more proud of our university system, our universities and all of those who are a part of them.

Together, we have adapted and learned, accepted necessary new realities, looked out for one another and looked for a way forward. We have also mourned the many thousands of lives lost, including some of our own.

And together we have also forged a path through this crisis, and transformed challenge into opportunity.

We returned to our campuses - a feat made possible by the revolutionary saliva-based test developed at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, which is now being widely shared across the state and beyond.

We served on the front lines of the epidemic response at the University of Illinois Chicago and UI Health, and helped in the development and deployment of vital vaccines.

We shared our expertise in online learning at the University of Illinois Springfield with K-12 educators adapting to their own new normal.

But our achievements were hardly limited to coronavirus response.

The kind of breakthrough discovery and the pursuit of world-class education that are at the core of our mission continued. And college life—walking through our campuses, making new friends, watching and listening to live performances—with some adjustments, all continued, as well.

On the pages ahead you can read about these accomplishments and more, extraordinary advances achieved amid circumstances that challenged us in ways few of us had ever imagined.

We remain on that path, our work not complete as we navigate the pandemic. And more challenges lie ahead. But I have never been more confident in what the U of I System can do and, as I said earlier, I’ve never been more proud.

Tim Killeen
President, University of Illinois System

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To learn more about the stories in this report, please visit: go.uillinois.edu/2021AnnualReport

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2021 Annual Report
Alumni are a permanent part of the University of Illinois family. The U of I System has nearly 792,000 living alumni.

**University of Illinois Foundation**

Established in 1935, the University of Illinois Foundation is dedicated to securing and administering private gifts for the University of Illinois System and its three universities. The Foundation works with alumni, faculty, corporations, foundations, and campus development staff to create fundraising programs and opportunities that benefit the U of I System and its three universities.

In 2017, the Foundation and the U of I System publicly launched a comprehensive fundraising initiative that is built on unique and individual campaigns for each university. These campaigns—With Illinois (UIUC), IGNITE (UIC), and Reaching Stellar (UIS)—collectively have an ambitious $3.1 billion goal with key fundraising priorities that include support for students, world-class faculty, leading-edge research, and state-of-the-art facilities.

**University of Illinois Alumni Association**

The mission of the University of Illinois Alumni Association is to enhance and advance the relationship between the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and all its alumni; to inspire lifelong loyalty and pride among alumni and friends by strengthening their relationship with the university; and to educate the public about the value of the university and its alumni.

**University of Illinois Chicago Alumni Association**

The mission of the University of Illinois Chicago Alumni Association is to create and leverage meaningful alumni engagement opportunities that connect alumni and students to one another and to the university, and that inspire them to champion UIC’s mission and priorities.

**University of Illinois Springfield Alumni Relations**

The mission of the University of Illinois Springfield Alumni Relations is to inspire lifelong loyalty and pride among alumni and friends by strengthening their relationship with the university, and to educate the public about the value of the university and its alumni.

**Illinois Connection Advocacy Network**

Illinois Connection is a grassroots legislative advocacy program that enlists alumni, faculty, students, and friends to serve as advocates for the University of Illinois System.

Advocates with Illinois Connection help communicate the U of I System’s legislative priorities and needs to elected officials and increase public awareness of the system's impact through correspondence to legislators and participation in events such as U of I Day at the Capitol.

**University of Illinois Board of Trustees**

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees consists of 13 members, 11 of whom are voting members. Nine are appointed by the Governor for terms of six years, and three student trustees (one from each university) are elected by referendum at their universities for one-year terms. One of these student trustees is appointed by the governor to have a vote. The governor serves as an ex-officio member.

Trustees are appointed to serve on a voluntary, non-remunerated basis. Members of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees are responsible to the people of Illinois for the distribution of funds appropriated by the General Assembly and for the administration and governance of the U of I System. Trustees serve all aspects of the U of I System. In addition to focusing on appropriate governance, Trustees advocate for programs and initiatives that support diversity and sustainability at all three universities.

Trustees are listed with their home city and year of term expiration. * denotes student trustees, who are listed with the university they represent.
The president and senior staff work together to develop strategies and solutions to address educational and administrative challenges across the University of Illinois System. System staff are responsible for communicating the breadth and excellence of endeavors occurring throughout the U of I System to government, corporate, and civic leaders as well as to alumni and other stakeholders. The leadership works with these audiences to ensure continued support for the universities.

System offices and units provide centralized services that are vital to supporting the primary missions of the U of I System.

SYSTEM LEADERSHIP
Timothy L. Killeen, PhD, President
Barbara J. Wilson, PhD, Executive Vice President and Vice President for Academic Affairs
Michael D. Amiridis, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
Robert J. Jones, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, University of Illinois Chicago
Karen M. Whitney, PhD, Interim Chancellor/Vice President, University of Illinois Springfield
Thomas R. Bearrows, JD, University Counsel
Avijit Ghosh, PhD, Chief Financial Officer and Vice President
Gregory Knott, ML, MBA, Secretary of the University
Jay Walsh, PhD, associate Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation

OFFICERS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS
James H. Moore, Jr., MD, President/CEO, University of Illinois Foundation
Jennifer DiBavva, SG, President, University of Illinois Alumni Association

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, an original land-grant university, pioneers innovative research, tackles global problems, and expands the human experience.

Outstanding academic programs, award-winning faculty, extraordinary resources, and abundant opportunities await top students who join research teams, study abroad, create innovative art, and serve in communities.

• College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences
• College of Applied Health Sciences
• Gies College of Business
• College of Business
• Division of General Studies
• Graduate College
• The Grainger College of Engineering
• College of Fine and Applied Arts
• School of Information Sciences
• School of Labor and Employment Relations
• College of Law
• College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
• College of Medicine
• Carle Illinois College of Medicine
• School of Social Work
• College of Veterinary Medicine

TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2020)
52,679

DEGREES AWARDED (2019-2020)
13,990

OPERATING BUDGET (FY 2020)
$2.9B

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

SYSTEM SERVICES, FUNCTIONS, AND INITIATIVES
• Academic affairs, programs, and services
• Audits
• Business and financial services
• Constituencies of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois
• Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network
• Economic development and innovation
• Ethics and compliance
• Governmental relations
• Human resources, employee and labor relations
• Information technology and systems
• Institute of Government and Public Affairs
• Legal counsel
• Planning and budgeting
• System communications, marketing, and FOIA compliance
• Treasury operations

SYSTEM OFFICES
The president and senior staff work together to develop strategies and solutions to address educational and administrative challenges across the University of Illinois System. System staff are responsible for communicating the breadth and excellence of endeavors occurring throughout the U of I System to government, corporate, and civic leaders as well as to alumni and other stakeholders. The leadership works with these audiences to ensure continued support for the universities.
The University of Illinois Chicago is the city’s only public research university and, as such, is an integral part of the educational, technological, and cultural fabric of Chicago. UIC is recognized as one of the most ethnically rich and culturally diverse universities in the country. The UIC John Marshall Law School* became the university’s 16th college in 2019.

- College of Applied Health Sciences
- College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts
- College of Business Administration
- College of Dentistry
- College of Education
- College of Engineering
- Graduate College
- Honors College
- UIC School of Law
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- School of Public Health
- Jane Addams College of Social Work
- College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs

TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2020): 33,518

DEGREES AWARDED (2019-2020): 7,847

OPERATING BUDGET (FY 2021): $3.1B

*Effective July 1, 2021, the school will be renamed the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law.

UI HEALTH

Dedicated to the pursuit of health equity, UI Health provides comprehensive care, education, and research to foster healthy communities throughout Illinois and train the next generations of healthcare leaders through UIC’s seven health colleges and the University of Illinois Hospital and Clinics.

- 462-bed hospital
- 26 outpatient clinics
- 14 federally qualified Mile Square Health Centers

PRACTITIONERS (2020): 1,000

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS (FY20): 45,089

OUTPATIENT CLINIC VISITS (FY 2020): 454,658
The University of Illinois Springfield emphasizes a strong liberal arts core and broad engagement in timely affairs issues. Students and faculty conduct research and public service projects in the living laboratory that is the Illinois state capital to improve regional, state, national, and global communities.

The diverse student body, composed of traditional, non-traditional, and international students, thrives in an innovative learning environment that offers personalized student-faculty interaction on campus and as a nationally recognized leader in online learning.

- College of Business and Management
- College of Education and Human Services
- College of Liberal Arts and Sciences
- College of Public Affairs and Administration

The University of Illinois Springfield

**TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2020):** 4,146

**DEGREES AWARDED (2019-2020):** 1,187

**OPERATING BUDGET (FY 2020):** $124.2M

Rockford is a regional home to several academic programs from the University of Illinois, Chicago that work in partnership with local hospitals and healthcare organizations to provide medical training and research opportunities for students and health services for area residents.

- College of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- College of Pharmacy
- Crawford Library of the Health Sciences

Peoria is a regional home to UIC health-science programs and the UIS Peoria Center. Peoria boasts downtown Illinois' largest medical campus, including a world-class medical simulation center.

- College of Medicine
- College of Nursing
- Library of the Health Sciences
- UIS Peoria Center

The UIC College of Nursing established a regional program in Moline in 1980, attracting a majority of its students from 17 surrounding counties.

- College of Nursing

The University of Illinois Extension is the flagship outreach effort of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, offering education programs to residents of all 102 Illinois counties.

- Extension Facilities
- Other educational sites
- Medical/healthcare satellite locations
- Project Research Institute & other research facilities
- Counties with student enrollment

ACROSS THE STATE
As the year’s challenges made that more research and education moved forward, even on the pages beyond the business of innovation, firing the quest to find – quite often research to make the best decisions about new sets of duties necessary to keep UIUC, remotely quickly adapted. Those whose roles both in the classroom and remotely via video-conferencing made the three universities fall and winter for the state of Illinois, the test-resume in August. Through an often-trying mix of ingenuity and determination.

One of the biggest and earliest challenges facing a crisis, UIUC team created covidSHIELD saliva test.

**THE SYSTEM DEVELOPED**

The system developed by a team at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign eliminated the need for the invasive nasal swabs and was the foundation of early coronavirus tests, provided fast and accurate results on-campus and was adopted by several other universities, and included an extensive mechanism for tracking contacts of known cases of the virus. More than 2.5 million tests have been conducted at the three universities, helping us to conduct contact tracing while maintaining very low rates of infection.

**OVERCOMING OBSTACLES**

Throughout, there were times where it felt almost too much.

When students and faculty also adapted to a hybrid learning that included in-person instruction at the three universities, helping each to conduct work in the classroom and the community.

The podcast also showed some of the many stories of how people told us in real-time what they’re feeling and how they’re coping.

Participants were encouraged to share their stories of the COVID-19 pandemic.
IDENTIFYING RESOURCES FOR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE PANDEMIC

The pandemic has created distinct challenges for businesses and workforces, and the University of Illinois Springfield Office of Economic Development and Innovation, College of Business and Management, and College of Public Affairs and Administration in collaboration with the Illinois Economic Development Authority will host a 12-week virtual series to provide resources for a particular segment of those businesses.

Working with the Village of Springfield, U.S. PBD hosted a free public webinar on "Economic Impact, Disaster Recovery, and Opportunities for Black-Owned Businesses". Early indicators point to the possibility that the pandemic could be the catalyst for economic inequities in the country. Join us to learn how to identify on business conditions in the Springfield area, opportunities available to help local black-owned businesses, and access to support.

12 Annual Report

Executive Director Bill Jackson.

The pandemic is on the wane, but the work of moving research into practice," added DPI Department of Public Health regarding an effort that range from lessons from the 2008 housing crisis to current problems like COVID-19 and vaccinating people. The pandemic has created distinct challenges for businesses and workforces, and the University of Illinois Springfield Office of Economic Development and Innovation, College of Business and Management, and College of Public Affairs and Administration in collaboration with the Illinois Economic Development Authority will host a 12-week virtual series to provide resources for a particular segment of those businesses.

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The University of Illinois Chicago has been named one of the U.S. Department of Defense’s 2020 HBCU STEM Defense Career Fellows. UIUC already offers a number of initiatives aimed at older adults, including the Center on Lifespan Engagement, Aging and Resilience (CLEAR) and the Institute on Disability and Human Development.

The CLEAR initiative is dedicated to encouraging active aging. Effective July 1, 2021, the school will be renamed the University of Illinois Chicago School of Law.

Initial projects focus on issues such as police-reform legislation, hate crime legislation, and supports full-time faculty members hiring for diversity. As Chicago’s public school and a school with a diverse student body, UIUC recognises the need to improve its representation of underrepresented students in the social justice projects. The project leader Tamar Heller, distinguished professor and head of the UIC Institute on Disability and Human Development.

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The project’s principal investigator, Amable Pallares, has been named one of the best professors in Chicago by the Daily Illinois Sun, which has a national readership. Pallares is a professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and political science, and he received the 2018-19 Outstanding Teaching Award at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pallares is also the director of the University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Latino Studies.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is leading a multicampus effort with other U.S. universities with high research activity in a range of disciplines, to develop new avenues for engaging Latino students, while serving all. This initiative, along with María de los Ángeles Varelas, UIC vice provost for undergraduate educational support, recognizes the research of scholars working on issues of systemic racism and social justice. The project’s principal investigator, Amable Pallares, has been named one of the best professors in Chicago by the Daily Illinois Sun, which has a national readership. Pallares is a professor of Latin American and Caribbean Studies and political science, and he received the 2018-19 Outstanding Teaching Award at the University of Illinois at Chicago. Pallares is also the director of the University of Illinois at Chicago Center for Latino Studies.

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**DPI'S PERMANENT HEADQUARTERS, PLANNED FOR CHICAGO'S SOUTH LOOP, LAUNCH NEW FACILITIES**

The Discovery Partners Institute has launched a world-class research center across the University of Illinois System and partner universities with more than $10 million in research and development grants. The teams include groups focused on agricultural agriculture, using artificial intelligence to improve patient outcomes in healthcare, building safe and ethical algorithms, and a range of other vital issues.

“This just the beginning of our efforts to pull strong industries in the region on the very cutting edge,” said Bill Jackson, DPI’s executive director.

Each team received $125,000, as well as access to administrators, grant writing, and access to corporate partners and DPI’s executive director.

“I am just the beginning of our efforts to put already strong industries in the region on the very cutting edge,” said Bill Jackson, DPI’s executive director.

**IIN SEED GRANTS BACK AG RESEARCH, VACCINE WORK AND MORE**

The eight newly funded projects include the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s engineering at UIUC.

Researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are part of a team that created a device inspired by an octopus’s suctorian that rapidly transfers delicate tissue grafts or flexible electronics to a patient.

“The driver behind this innovation was to provide women with more control and more options,” said team leader Paul Eschenbach.

The new contraceptive, called Phexxi, is a non-hormonal vaginal gel that can be used on-demand to prevent pregnancy.

“By doing the surgery robotically, the procedure is minimally invasive (and) the patient recovers faster.”

Surgeons at the University of Illinois Hospital performed the world's first robotic-assisted double-kidney removal followed immediately by a living donor kidney transplant in a patient with severe polycystic kidney disease.

“Handling these living substances remains a host of applications for wound healing, rapidly transfers delicate tissue grafts or flexible electronics to a patient.”

Researchers at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign are part of a team that created a device inspired by an octopus’s suctorian that rapidly transfers delicate tissue grafts or flexible electronics to a patient.

“Handling these living substances remains a challenge because they are fragile and easily damaged,” said study leader Hyunjoon Kong, a professor of chemical and biomolecular engineering at UIUC.

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**STUDENTS EXPAND, OPEN TO UIC AND IIT**

Top UIC and Illinois Tech students are now part of a team that created a device inspired by an octopus’s suctorian that rapidly transfers delicate tissue grafts or flexible electronics to a patient.

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**CONTRACEPTIVE DEVELOPMENT OFFERS NEW OPTION FOR WOMEN**

A first-of-its-kind contraceptive developed at the University of Illinois was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

“The idea behind this innovation was to provide women with new options for contraception.”

On Tuesday, Oct. 6, the U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved the first contraceptive gel developed by researchers at the University of Illinois at Chicago and Rush University Medical Center to prevent pregnancy on demand.

“By doing the surgery robotically, the procedure is minimally invasive (and) the patient recovers faster.”

Contraceptive Development offers new option for women.
HAIL TO THE CHIMES: ALTGELD

Percussionists employed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s created images that would start a long, social, scientific immigration and the rise of fascism—subjects that remain relevant today. Among its strong points was the ability to see the effects of fascism, which have been exploited by fascists.

The exhibit is looking at the ways that artists produced critical commentaries of various social situations and what they might do to improve them. The show is open extended through the end of this year's 1930s Depression-era economic hardships, highlighting working conditions and deeply affected people psychologically.

The exhibit takes place at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

...THE DEPRESSION EXALTED ECONOMIC INEQUITIES, WORSENED WORKING CONDITIONS AND DEEPLY AFFECTED PEOPLE PSYCHOLOGICALLY.

A CENTURY OF MUSIC

The bells are activated by levers that pull Chimesmaster Tina Horton carries on the tradition of playing the Altgeld Chimes.

The program includes multilingual audio of the Arts & Humanities, and created as a part of the Smithsonian's National Museum of "¡Pleibol!," an artifact collection project. Over the last four years,

The Emmy was awarded to Chris Costello, who is working with UIS alumni. The riot's victims, its lasting impact, and work on the book is the story of Latinos in baseball, which runs literally from the neighborhood level, all the way through the big leagues, and all the way to executive producer Josh Hester. Both are

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"It's important for us to talk about who we are and how we've managed to stay relevant throughout the course of history. Through personal interviews, oral histories and old photos, the project and of baseball's role in Latino culture.

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"Place," said Sophia Byrd, a UIUC senior studying lyric theatre, performed in the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

"'PLACE COMPLETELY CHANGED THE WAY I LISTEN TO MUSIC,'" SHE SAID.

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New Lab Aims to Expose Business Students to Changing Realities

Working with Ernst & Young LLP (EY), the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s College of Business has launched a new initiative to prepare students for success in a world being rapidly reshaped by technological innovation and social change.

The Disruption Lab will provide extracurricular learning opportunities for students, creating entrepreneurial opportunities that connect existing campus resources in new ways. The lab will also build long-term relationships between GIS and its corporate partners. "This is purpose-to-build student working world—indeed it is evident in the important they place in preparing people for the future and sustainability," said Dean Jeffrey R. Brown. "They are our natural collaborators for us in this endeavor, and we look forward to preparing business leaders for success together."

The Disruption Lab will focus on student projects involving interdisciplinary teams focused on an emerging technology, such as virtual reality, augmented reality or blockchain.

A University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign student (right) inspects a robotic patient during a simulation at the University of Illinois at Chicago’s Surgical Innovation & Training Laboratory.

EY’s purpose—to build a better working world—helps us to identify and understand social issues,” said Vickie Cook, UIS executive vice chancellor for student affairs. "Today’s students must know how to think and work across disciplines.

The project also includes a professional development initiative for social work students. Working with Ernst & Young LLP (EY), the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s College of Business has launched a new initiative to prepare students for success in a world being rapidly reshaped by technological innovation and social change. The Disruption Lab will provide extracurricular learning opportunities for students, creating entrepreneurial opportunities that connect existing campus resources in new ways. The lab will also build long-term relationships between GIS and its corporate partners. “This is purpose-to-build student working world—indeed it is evident in the important they place in preparing people for the future and sustainability,” said Dean Jeffrey R. Brown. “They are our natural collaborators for us in this endeavor, and we look forward to preparing business leaders for success together.”

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The University of Illinois College of Medicine unveiled its new Surgical Innovation & Training Laboratory (SITL), a 3,000-square-foot facility that provides hands-on training for all surgical disciplines.

SITL features advanced simulation in microsurgery, robotic and translational surgery, with particular emphasis on minimally invasive and robotic surgery. Modern surgical training tools, including several robotic units, are available for surgeons of all experience levels to use. Direct feedback from the user operating computer monitors is transmitted to a large classroom with three monitors, which then can accommodate 200 learners.

This is an opportune moment for surgical training, according to Dr. Greg Armstrong, chair of the University of Illinois College of Medicine’s Department of Surgery.

For high school students who attended a virtual summer camp hosted by The University of Illinois Chicago’s Gies College of Business, the challenge was to identify the best dancer in their household by recording themselves performing a 30- to 60-second dance while wearing tracking markers.

"This is a great opportunity for new UIS students to start or finish their education,” said UIS chancellor Karen Whitney. “It’s also a chance for current students to add to their course load and potentially see their degree in a shorter period of time."

The courses were primarily intended to help students who may have suspended their studies or tightened their course load due to COVID-19, or who may have been caught up in online learning over the holidays. But the courses were available to anyone for any reason.

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“Zombie” gene research shows some genes are active in the brain after death

New research from the University of Illinois Chicago shows that certain human brain cells remain actively alive even after death, a discovery that has implications for how we think about brain tumors and how they might spread. Researchers analyzed gene expression in brain tissue collected during surgery in what are called glioblasts and found that a newly identified gene, named 6 EGR4, increased. This gene is involved in key processes that are essential for cell survival and division and is responsible for maintaining the brain's cellular activity even after death. The findings suggest that glioblasts may use this gene to avoid destruction and to spread to other parts of the brain, which could have significant implications for how we approach brain cancer treatment.

— Jeffery Loeb, the John S. and Louise J. Garvin Professor and head of neurology and neurosurgery, said. “Our findings will be needed to interpret the clinical implications of glioblastoma and the potential for glioblastoma to metastasize to new sites.”

DOPLER MOBILE RADAR TRANSFORMING ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH & HANDS-ON LEARNING

The University of Illinois is launching a new mobile Doppler radar that will allow atmospheric scientists to expand their research, offer hands-on field training for students, and improve defenses against solar storms.

The acquisition also includes three vehicles equipped with X-band and S-band radars and other equipment, such as three truck-mounted X-band radars and three weather balloon launch systems.

“With this equipment, we will be able to capture detailed images of storm activity near the ground and in the atmosphere,” said Feng Xu, an associate professor in the Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University.

Scientists have already benefited from the equipment’s capabilities. For example, Laura Waldrop, an electrical and computer engineering professor, used the DORIS mobile Doppler radar to study the atmosphere near the moon and find microbial life on Earth, and perhaps the moon, for future exploration.

“This equipment is crucial for our research and will allow us to continue our work on understanding the Earth’s climate and the impact of human activities,” Waldrop said.

SCIENTISTS DISCOVER APPLICATIONS OF NANOPARTICLES

Scientists have discovered new applications for nanoparticles that could improve defenses against solar storms. These tiny particles, known as nanophotocatalysts, can help break down hydrogen atoms in Earth’s exosphere. This process releases energy that can be harnessed to power solar cells.

Scientists are looking at new ways to use these nanophotocatalysts to generate electricity and improve solar panel efficiency. They have found that these materials can absorb solar energy and convert it into electrical energy, which can be stored and used to power homes or businesses.

“The key to this technology is the nanophotocatalysts,” said Andrew Dombard, professor of Earth and environmental sciences. “These materials can absorb solar energy and convert it into electrical energy, which can be stored and used to power homes or businesses.”

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CICADA INSPIRED WATERPROOF SURFACES ON THE HORIZON

A drug widely used to treat fungal infections showed promise as a potential treatment for cystic fibrosis in a recent study that included researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Cystic fibrosis is caused by a malfunction of a channel in the lungs that prevents water from evaporating, leading to lung infections and other problems. The research team applied the drug to cultures of lung tissue from cystic fibrosis patients and showed promising results.

University of Illinois Springfield associate professor Lyndal Fisher has been awarded a Mercator fellowship for a research project on the University of Illinois System being developed in partnership with Universities of Kiel and Gottorf. The project is funded by the German Science Foundation and is a part of the European Research Area

University of Illinois Chicago has topped the $400 million mark in annual sponsored research awards for the first time in its history. The university’s sponsored research awards reached $426 million in FY2020, 7 percent more than the previous year and 18 percent jump from FY2005. The 2020 funding supports 9,400 faculty, staff and students working on 1,800 supplement research projects.

This further demonstrates our research dedication and determination to solve some of the world’s greatest challenges and places the University of Illinois at the forefront of transformative research.

The University of Illinois System has launched its Mexican Enrichment Partnership with the University of the Americas Puebla, seeking to increase enrollment of Mexican students as well as academic and research partnerships with universities, government agencies, and cultural entities in Mexico.

The University of Illinois System Mexican Enrichment Partnership will provide international students and their families with significant flexibility in their education, said President Tim Killeen.

The initiative also will support the students’ efforts to adapt to Mexico City’s support student recruiting and alumni engagement.

IHMC will also enhance efforts by the Mexican students to overcome language issues and racial climate change, and racism through The Public Voices Fellowship is a collaborative initiative that has published more than 1,000 features in publications such as Scientific American, CNN, the Chicago Tribune, and the University of Otawa.

Project staff provides invaluable coaching as they focus on the political, environmental, and social issues that have the most impact on international students.

This important initiative is rooted in the broad goals of (the) University of Illinois and the University of the Americas Puebla of sharing knowledge and research and enhancing education.

The initiative will also allow the students to become Mexican students enrolled system-wide in 2020.

Among Online Bachelor’s Programs

The University of Illinois Chicago rose to No. 2 in the U.S. News & World Report’s 2021 Best Online Programs rankings of all universities, moving past the University of Southern California and the University of Florida.

The University of Illinois System Mexican Enrichment Partnership will create opportunities for higher education institutions to work together on regionally significant social and environmental issues.
The University of Illinois' Lincoln Institute, a new research institute to carry on Lincoln's legacy, held a virtual grand launch for scholarship, teaching and public history at the University of Illinois Springfield, Feb. 12. President Timothy J. Killeen said Lincoln was an example of an ordinary man made extraordinary.

Lincoln's birthday, Feb. 12, the University of Illinois Springfield held a virtual grand launch to celebrate Lincoln's life, leadership and legacy. The event included a conversation with scholars about Lincoln and his time in Illinois, where he spent the majority of his career. The event also highlighted the character of Lincoln to the nation today.

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The population of monarch butterflies in the eastern United States has declined by more than 80% over the past two decades. The University of Illinois Chicago has led the creation of a first-of-its-kind agreement to help the species recover. UIC has partnered with dozens of energy companies and transportation agencies to develop the first nationwide Candidate Conservation Agreement with Assurances, or CCAA. Under the CCAA, issued in April 2020, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and non-federal property owners and land managers agree to take steps to protect the monarch on up to 26 million acres of land.

“This unprecedented agreement encourages land managers to take immediate, proactive steps to support the monarch butterfly so that we can turn its decline around,” said Iris Caldwell, program manager at UIC’s Energy Resources Center.

The CCAA encourages practices such as habitat set-asides, timed mowing to avoid peak monarch periods, and vegetation management to promote beneficial plants like milkweed.

Nick Holonyak Jr., renowned for his creation of the first visible-spectrum LED and an icon at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, was recognized for his groundbreaking achievement with the 2021 Queen Elizabeth Prize for Engineering. The award praised Holonyak “for the creation and development of LED lighting, which forms the basis of all solid-state lighting technology.” Holonyak’s LED, first demonstrated in 1962, is now commonly used in light bulbs, device displays, and lasers. Holonyak is the John Bardeen Endowed Chair Emeritus in Electrical and Computer Engineering and Physics. He shares the prize with his former students and Illinois alumni M. George Craford and Russell Dupuis, as well as blue-LED pioneers Isamu Akasaki and Shuji Nakamura.

The 2020-21 academic year is the 50th anniversary for the University of Illinois Springfield, providing an opportunity to reflect on the rich history already created and the path ahead. Billboards featuring UIS’ 50th anniversary logo and tagline “Bold Legacy. Bright Future.” were displayed around Springfield and virtual events marked the occasion.

As Interim Chancellor Karen Whitney noted, UIS began as Sangamon State University in a temporary building and is now U.S. News & World Report’s No. 1 public regional university in Illinois.

“Our unconventional start, our culture of thinking outside the box, our stamina and grit – these qualities continue to propel us forward,” Whitney said.

Now UIS awards well over 1,000 degrees a year in more than 50 programs, enrolls more than 4,100 students, has more than 230 faculty, and fields 15 NCAA Division II teams.

WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM

- State Payments On Behalf
  - 21%
- Student Tuition & Fees
  - 21%
- Earnings, Miscellaneous
  - 16%
- US Grants & Contracts/Federal Appropriations
  - 13%
- Auxiliary & Departmental Operations
  - 11%
- State Appropriation
  - 9%
- Institutional Funds
  - 6%
- Private Gifts
  - 3%

HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT

- Instructional & Departmental Research
  - 20%
- Hospital Operations
  - 16%
- Separately Budgeted Research
  - 16%
- Auxiliary & Departmental Operations
  - 11%
- State Appropriation
  - 9%
- Institutional Funds
  - 6%
- Private Gifts
  - 3%
- Physical Plant
  - 3%
- Student Services
  - 3%