



2021 ANNUAL REPORT

# EMPOWERING EXTRAORDINARY



UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM

Altogether Extraordinary™

# A CHALLENGE LIKE NO OTHER

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.

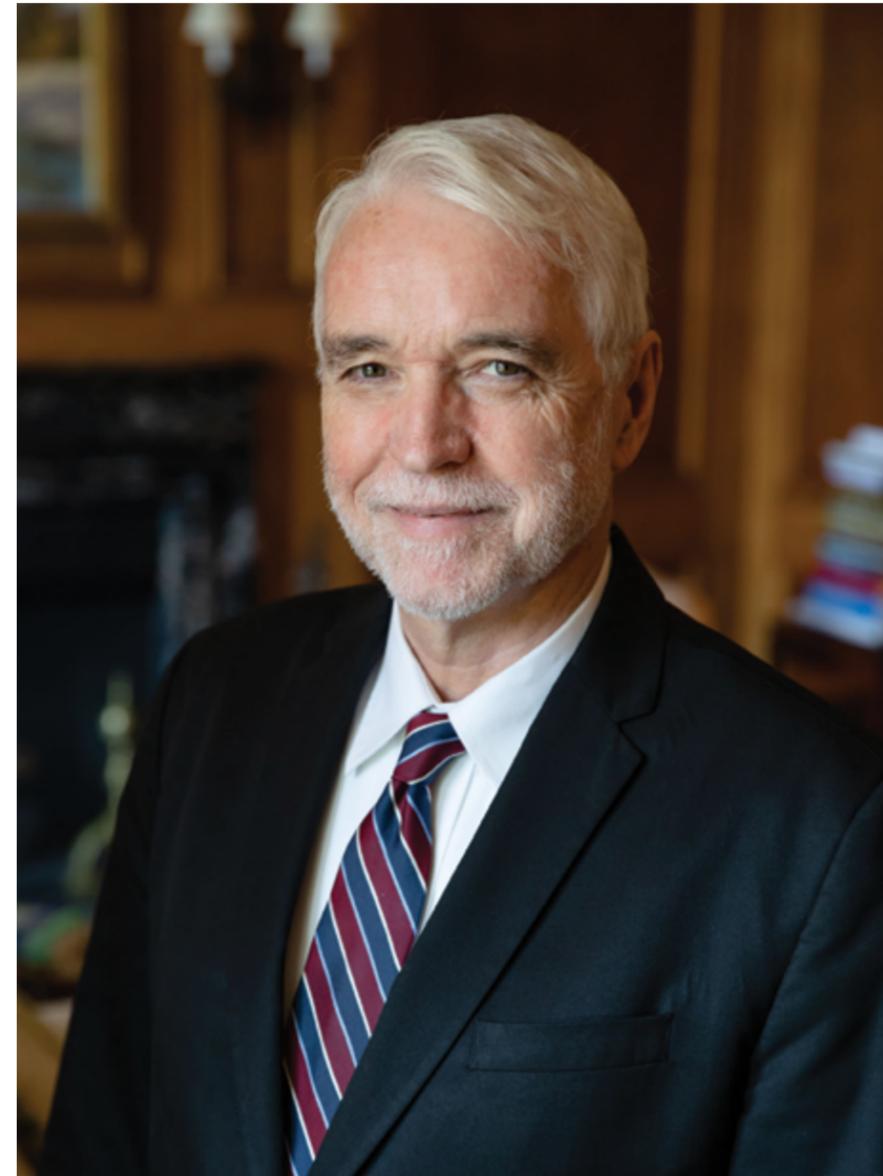
The kind of breakthrough discovery and the pursuit of world-class education that are at the core of our mission continued. And college life—walking through our campuses, making new friends, watching and listening to live performances—with some adjustments, all continued, as well.

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



FROM THE PRESIDENT

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.

# CONTENTS

<b>ALUMNI &amp; ADVOCACY</b>	2
<b>BOARD OF TRUSTEES</b>	3
<b>SYSTEM LEADERSHIP AND OFFICES</b>	4
<b>URBANA-CHAMPAIGN</b>	5
<b>CHICAGO</b>	6
<b>UI HEALTH</b>	7
<b>SPRINGFIELD</b>	8
<b>ACROSS THE STATE</b>	9
<b>PANDEMIC RESPONSE</b>	10-13
<b>ACCESS &amp; DIVERSITY</b>	14-15
<b>DISCOVERY PARTNERS INSTITUTE &amp; ILLINOIS INNOVATION NETWORK</b>	16
<b>A HEALTHIER WORLD</b>	17
<b>ARTS &amp; HUMANITIES</b>	18-19
<b>IN THE CLASSROOM</b>	20-21
<b>RESEARCH ACROSS THE SYSTEM</b>	22-24
<b>SYSTEM IMPACT</b>	25
<b>COLLABORATION &amp; INSTITUTES</b>	26
<b>GIVING</b>	27
<b>EXTRAORDINARY IMPACT</b>	28
<b>FINANCIAL INFORMATION</b>	29

# CREDITS

**EDITORS & CONTRIBUTORS:** David Mercer, Gretchen Yordy, Kirsten Ruby, Andrew Helregel  
**PROOFREADER:** Andrew Helregel  
**COLLABORATORS:** *University Relations thanks our communications colleagues across the U of I System for their original reporting and assistance with this publication:*

- **System:** Office of the President; Office of the Executive Vice President and Vice President of Academic Affairs; Office of the Vice President of Economic Development and Innovation; Office of the University of Illinois Board of Trustees; University of Illinois Foundation; Office of Business and Financial Services.
- **Urbana:** College of ACES; College of Fine and Applied Arts; Gies College of Business; The Grainger College of Engineering; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; News Bureau; U of I Extension.
- **Chicago:** News Bureau; UI Health; College of Applied Health Sciences; College of Engineering; College of Business; Electronic Visualization Laboratory; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; College of Architecture, Design, and the Arts; College of Medicine; College of Urban Planning and Public Affairs.
- **Springfield:** Office of Campus Relations; College of Liberal Arts and Sciences; Center for State Policy and Leadership.

**PHOTOGRAPHY/IMAGES:** Courtesy of Brian Stauffer and Fred Zwicky, Urbana News Bureau; Jenny Fontaine, UIC Office of Public and Government Affairs; UIC Creative & Digital Services; Clayton Stalter and Blake Wood, UIS Office of Campus relations; Cameron Merrill, Jane Kuntz, Lance Long, Brad Cavanaugh, Marc Monaghan, Stephen Boppart, Related Midwest & Laura Hayes.

**DESIGN:** Steven Martin  
**PRINTING:** Premier Print Group  
**PO NUMBER:** P1196437

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

# ALUMNI & ADVOCACY

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

The University of Illinois Foundation, established in 1935, 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. The campaigns—With Illinois (UIUC), IGNITE (UIC), and Reaching Stellar (UIS). These campaigns 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.

[uif.uillinois.edu](http://uif.uillinois.edu)

## 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.

[ogr.uillinois.edu/illinois\\_connection](http://ogr.uillinois.edu/illinois_connection)

## 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.

[uiaa.org](http://uiaa.org)

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO ALUMNI ASSOCIATION

The UIC Alumni Association's mission is to create and leverage meaningful alumni engagement opportunities that connect alumni and students to one another and to UIC, and that inspire them to champion UIC's mission and priorities.

[advance.uic.edu/alumni-association](http://advance.uic.edu/alumni-association)

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD ALUMNI RELATIONS

The mission of UIS Alumni Relations is to inspire lifelong loyalty, pride and united action through networking, advocacy, support and continuing education. Ultimately, we aspire to be a catalyst of change and growth in the lives of alumni and in the future of the university.

[uis.edu/advancement](http://uis.edu/advancement)

# BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The University of Illinois Board of Trustees consists of 13 members, 11 of whom are voting members.



**Ramón Cepeda**  
Darien, 2027



**Kareem Dale**  
Chicago, 2023



**Donald J. Edwards**  
Chicago, 2025  
(Chair)



**Ricardo Estrada**  
Chicago, 2025



**Naomi D. Jakobsson**  
Urbana, 2023



**Stuart C. King**  
Champaign, 2023



**Sarah Phalen**  
Springfield, 2027



**Patricia Brown Holmes**  
Chicago, 2025



**Tami Craig Schilling**  
Okawville, 2027



**Austin Verthein\***  
Springfield



**Ali Mirza\***  
Urbana-Champaign



**Jocelyn Bravo\***  
Chicago

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 oversee 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.*

# 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.

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

## SYSTEM SERVICES, FUNCTIONS, AND INITIATIVES

- Academic affairs, programs, and services
- Audits
- Business and financial services
- Consortium 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 & Public Affairs
- Legal counsel
- Planning and budgeting
- System communications, marketing, and FOIA compliance
- Treasury operations
- University of Illinois Press

# 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 Chicago**

**Robert J. Jones, PhD, Chancellor/Vice President, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign**

**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, MS, MBA, Secretary of the University**

**Jay Walsh, PhD, Interim Vice President for Economic Development and Innovation**

**Lester H. McKeever Jr., Treasurer of the Board of Trustees**

## OFFICERS OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS

**James H. Moore, Jr., MS, President/CEO, University of Illinois Foundation**



## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

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 bountiful opportunities attract top-caliber 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 Education
- 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 Media
- 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 2021)

\$2.9B





## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO

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.

UI Health has more than 40 care locations, including a 462-bed hospital, 26 outpatient clinics, and 14 federally qualified Mile Square Health Centers.

PRACTITIONERS (2020)

1,000

EMERGENCY DEPARTMENT VISITS (FY20)

45,089

OUTPATIENT CLINIC VISITS (FY 2020)

454,658



## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SPRINGFIELD

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

TOTAL ENROLLMENT (FALL 2020)

4,146

DEGREES AWARDED (2019-2020)

1,187

OPERATING BUDGET (FY 2021)

\$124.2M

# ACROSS THE STATE

### ROCKFORD

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

Peoria is a regional home to UIC health-science programs and to the UIS Peoria Center. Peoria boasts downstate 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

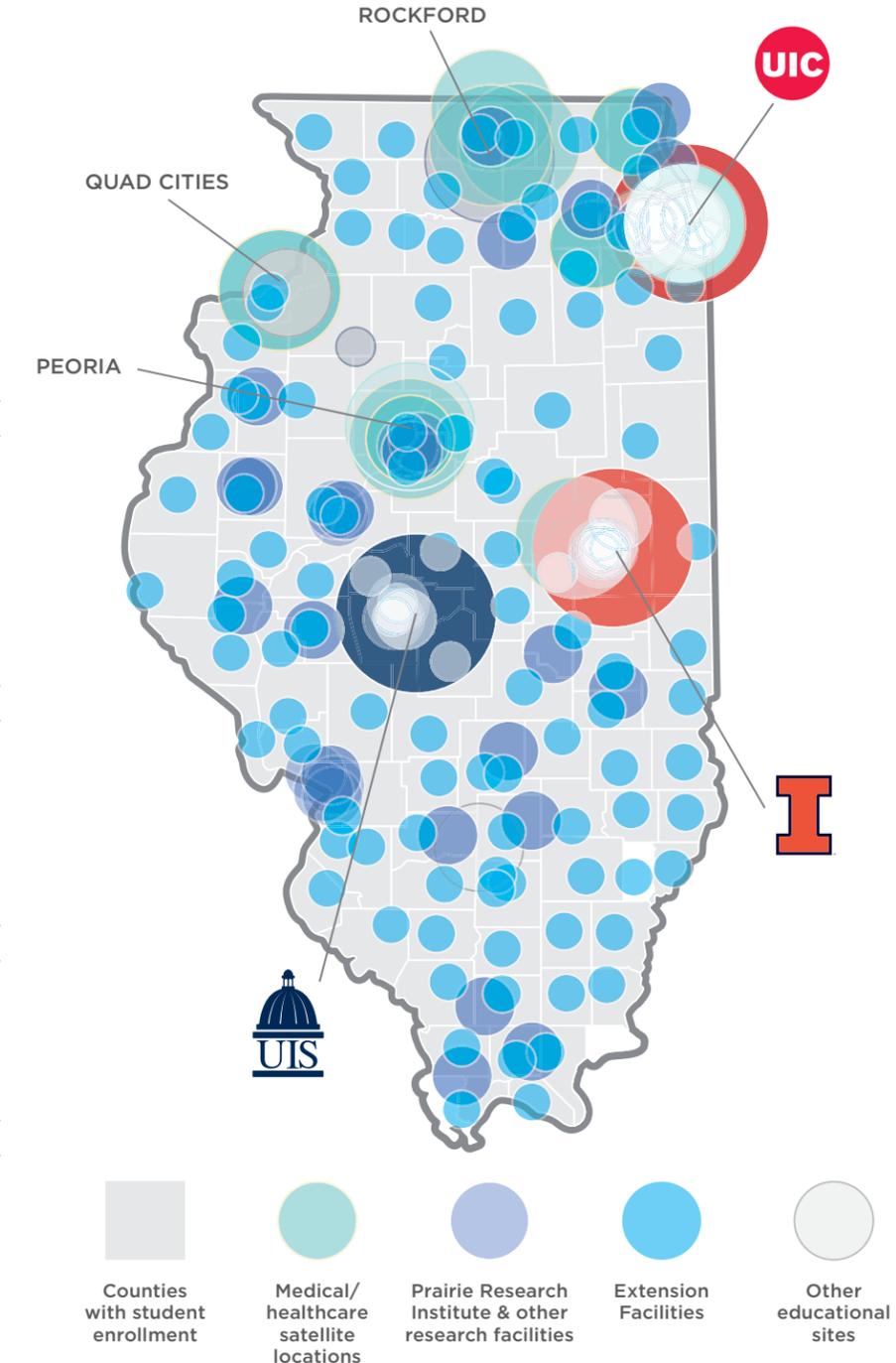
### QUAD CITIES

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

### EXTENSION

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.



# IN TRYING TIMES, THE U OF I SYSTEM RESPONDS IN EXTRAORDINARY FASHION



Across the University of Illinois System, this has been a year like no other.

The COVID-19 pandemic has presented students, faculty and staff at the three universities with unprecedented challenges, and with opportunities they have met with a mix of ingenuity and determination.

The search for a path back to our campuses began almost immediately after the decision was made in March 2020 to send most of our students home. It quickly led to the innovative covidSHIELD saliva-based COVID-19 test, which allowed some in-person instruction to resume in August. Through an often-trying fall and winter for the state of Illinois, the test-and-trace system made the three universities some of the safest places to be in Illinois.

Students and faculty also adapted to a new, hybrid world of education, working both in the classroom and remotely via video conferencing.

Staff members who needed to work remotely quickly adapted. Those whose roles required them to be at our universities took on new sets of duties necessary to keep UIUC, UIS and UIC up and running.

And the state itself turned to U of I research to make the best decisions about how to respond across Illinois.

Hardship and difficulty can also drive innovation, firing the quest to find – quite often out of necessity – a new and different way.

The stories on these four pages dedicated to the pandemic response reflect just a fraction of that what that drive has produced. And on the pages beyond the business of research and education moved forward, even as the year's challenges made that more difficult than ever.

The pandemic goes on, with further demands ahead. The U of I System stands ready to meet them, and to continue offering the life-changing educational experiences and economic and cultural benefits it was built to provide. ■

## FACING A CRISIS, UIUC TEAM CREATED COVIDSHIELD SALIVA TEST

One of the biggest and earliest challenges the system and its universities faced during the pandemic was how to safely return to campuses. The response in many ways has proven to be the signature, breakthrough U of I response to the coronavirus, the saliva-based test-and-trace system known as covidSHIELD.

The system developed by a team at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign eliminated the need for the invasive nasal swabs that were the hallmark of early coronavirus tests, provided fast and accurate results at on-campus labs, used a U of I-built app for quick notification of results, and included an extensive mechanism for tracing contacts of those who were infected.

More than 2.5 million tests have been conducted at the three universities, helping each to conduct hybrid learning that included in-person instruction while maintaining very low rates of infection.

## SHIELD PROTECTION REACHES FAR BEYOND U OF I CAMPUSES

The success of the covidSHIELD test-and-trace system was not limited to the system universities.

The saliva-based test earned an emergency use authorization from the U.S. Food and Drug Administration and two entities were created to spread the technology: SHIELD Illinois for use inside the state and Shield T3 outside of Illinois.

So far, hundreds of thousands of tests have been processed and covidSHIELD technology is helping many public and private universities and community colleges across Illinois safely open their campuses.

"The University of Illinois System is proud to be able to extend covidSHIELD protection across the state," system President Tim Killeen said.

The same is true at dozens of primary schools in the state, as well as universities outside Illinois such as the University of Wisconsin, American University and Gallaudet University. A number of private companies are using covidSHIELD, too.

By May, more than 120 universities, colleges, schools, companies and government entities were relying on covidSHIELD. ■

"Hundreds of people throughout the University of Illinois System worked together in highly innovative ways to transform COVID-19 testing from defense into offense," said Martin Burke, professor of chemistry at UIUC and a member of the SHIELD leadership team.

Other SHIELD team leaders included Paul Hergenrother, Tim Fan, Becky Smith, Nigel Goldenfeld, Sergei Maslov and Bill Sullivan.

Eventually, covidSHIELD technology was shared across the state through extensive collaboration with and support from the office of Gov. J.B. Pritzker and the Illinois Department of Public Health. And outside Illinois, the system created Shield T3, an organization that has extended covidSHIELD's use to universities, schools and other organizations across the country. ■

## STUDENTS ANSWER CALL TO VACCINATE UIC, CHICAGO COMMUNITY

When long-awaited COVID-19 vaccines arrived at UIC, hundreds of students, faculty and staff helped fill volunteer vaccination shifts for the campus and the community.

Volunteers from the Colleges of Dentistry, Medicine, Nursing and Pharmacy administered the vaccine at UIC's Credit Union 1 Arena and at the UI Health Employee Health clinic. Others from across UIC welcomed and registered people, assembled information packets and worked with site logistics.

"If my volunteering can help get us back to normal and be safe, I'm happy to speed up the process," said Inesa Tshagharyan, a fourth-year UIC dental student.

"The response to helping at Credit Union 1 Arena has been incredible. We have had students from every level of education and staff and faculty across the health sciences colleges respond to our call for help," said Virginia Reising, UIC Nursing clinical assistant professor and co-coordinator of the volunteer effort. ■



## PODCAST CHRONICLES EXTRAORDINARY RESPONSE TO PANDEMIC CRISIS

A few months into the pandemic, something became clear: In response to unprecedented difficulties, extraordinary things were happening across the University of Illinois System.

To chronicle them and give people across the system and beyond an idea of the remarkable work that has happened, the U of I System worked with Illinois Public Media to produce a six-episode podcast, "Rising to the Challenge."

Host Gwen Macsai and producer and editor Libby Foster – both graduates of the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign – spent time at locations across the system to chronicle the pandemic response.

The podcast brought listeners stories about the development of the covidSHIELD test-and-trace system, and the role UI Health played in treating those ill with the virus. Other stories focused on the steps faculty took to engage students under challenging circumstances.

The podcast also showed some of the many ways the system has been able to help the state of Illinois, through the use of covidSHIELD beyond our campuses, and by providing forecasts to help inform the response to the pandemic. ■



# UIC TAKES ON KEY ROLES IN VACCINE TRIALS

As the pandemic progressed, vaccines quickly emerged as a possible way to blunt its effects, if not stop it altogether.

The University of Illinois Chicago played a key role, participating in trials for two vaccines, the vaccine developed by Moderna Therapeutics and a vaccine from Janssen Pharmaceutical Companies

of Johnson & Johnson.

Both would eventually prove effective, but the work went far deeper, said Richard Novak, the head of the Division of Infectious Diseases at UI Health.

"Part of that equation is to understand which vaccines are easiest to administer to large amounts of people," he said. "Another part is understanding if certain vaccines just work better for different kinds of people."

UIC faculty also are members of the Chicago Scientific COVID-19 Vaccine Work Group, which evaluates the regulatory review of COVID-19 vaccines: Wayne Giles, dean of the School of Public Health; Phoenix Matthews, associate professor of health systems sciences at the College of Nursing; and Stephanie Crawford, professor of pharmacy systems, outcomes and policy at the College of Pharmacy. ■

## STUDENTS PART OF STUDY THAT EXAMINES VACCINE EFFECTIVENESS



Vaccines provide hope and real help in the effort to control the pandemic, but what if people who have been vaccinated could still spread the virus?

Unvaccinated students at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign have the chance to be part of a study examining that question. The study is part of a broader, ongoing initiative of the National Institutes of Health to determine whether those who are vaccinated could still carry and spread the virus that causes COVID-19.

"Getting the vaccine doesn't mean that you couldn't pick up the virus and have some level of viral replication in you, which means that you might be able to pass it on to somebody who's not vaccinated," said microbiology professor Joanna Shisler.

Participants are being vaccinated over the course of the study. ■

## 'SIX FEET APART': UIC DOCUMENTS LIFE DURING PANDEMIC

Shortly after the pandemic began, the University of Illinois Chicago's Special Collections and University Archives started collecting materials to document how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected life at UIC.

"Six Feet Apart: Stories from UIC during COVID-19" is an effort to document history as it happens. The aim is to eventually have the collection appear online.

Most are written accounts, including a faculty

member from the department of medicine wrote about what it was like to experience the pandemic from the front lines. Images and audio recordings from students are also part of the collection.

"This project is unique in that we are asking people to tell us in real-time what they're feeling and that's maybe not something that archives have always done," said Leanna Barcelona, university archivist and an assistant professor. ■



University archivist Leanna Barcelona and lecturer David Greenstein work in the archives at the University Library.

**IDENTIFYING RESOURCES FOR BLACK-OWNED BUSINESSES IN THE PANDEMIC**

The pandemic has created distinct challenges for businesses in Illinois, and the University of Illinois Springfield Office of Economic Development and Innovation, College of Business and Management, and College of Public Affairs and Administration worked together to provide resources for a particular segment of those businesses.

Working with Innovate Springfield, UIS last fall hosted a free public webinar on “Economic

Impact, Disparities and Opportunities for Black-Owned Businesses.”

Early indicators pointed to the possibility that the pandemic could widen the existing economic inequalities in the country.

A group of experts discussed data on business conditions in the Springfield area, opportunities available to help local Black-owned businesses, and success stories. ■

**DPI, UIC AWARDED \$1.25 MILLION FOR COVID-DETECTION RESEARCH**

A Discovery Partners Institute team led by the University of Illinois Chicago was awarded \$1.25 million by the Walder Foundation to develop a prototype capability for detecting COVID-19 outbreaks in Chicago’s wastewater.

The goal of the Chicago Prototype Coronavirus Assessment Network Node, or PCANN, is to create a way to examine community spread of the virus by monitoring its initial appearance or changes over time in the city’s wastewater systems.

“SARS-CoV-2 is detectable in human waste several days prior to symptoms,” said Rachel Poretzky, the DPI science team leader and an associate professor of biological sciences at UIC. “The presence of the virus in wastewater, then, can provide an early alert to the Chicago Department of Public Health regarding an outbreak or an upward trend in infections.”

“This project also exemplifies our goal of moving research into practice,” added DPI Executive Director Bill Jackson. ■

**IGPA TASK FORCE ASSEMBLES ROAD MAPS TO RESPONSE AND RECOVERY**

Just after the pandemic began, the Institute of Government and Public Affairs assembled more than four dozen interdisciplinary faculty experts from all three U of I System universities to assess COVID-19’s effects on the state.

The panel was created at the request of President Tim Killeen and has collaborated on a series of reports that provide objective, evidence-based information to assess the evolving situation and the state’s response and provide a roadmap to recovery.

This work includes a series of Policy Spotlights that range from lessons from the 2008 housing market collapse to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on state revenues in Illinois and how the pandemic is affecting educators.

Members of the task force continue to be ready to consult with state and local officials and provide any information they can to assist. ■

**THE SAFEST PLACE IN ILLINOIS**

In February, Board of Trustees Chairman Donald J. Edwards authored an essay for *Crain’s Chicago Business* on the creation of the covidSHIELD test-and-trace system and its success in allowing system universities to safely resume partial in-person instruction. A condensed version:



When the pandemic set in last March, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign was like every other university in the country, sending students to the safety of their homes, shifting to an online learning model, and bracing for the unknowns ahead.

Just nine months later, the university completed the fall semester, one in which students were able to live on campus and attend many classes in person, while the campus itself remained one of the safest places to be in Illinois.

The single biggest reason the more than 90,000 students at University of Illinois System universities in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield were able to come back to school during a pandemic was a comprehensive protective system built

around a fast, reliable saliva test.

When students returned in August, we saw positivity rates of almost 3 percent. But with the SHIELD system allowing us to find asymptomatic carriers before they could pass on the virus, we were able to quash the breakout early, and the positivity rate declined throughout the semester — without lockdowns or eliminating in-person instruction. The positivity rate at U of I system universities remained far below the statewide rate (which rose to double digits), and was frequently less than 0.5% at UIUC.

We are now working to spread this technology and fulfill our mission to benefit the public good.

SHIELD is only one example of the game-changing innovation that happens at the U of I, and it shows how surveillance testing can be used to protect our communities from the ongoing effects of the pandemic. ■

**UNIVERSITIES ADAPT TO HOLD STAGE-CROSSING EXPERIENCES**

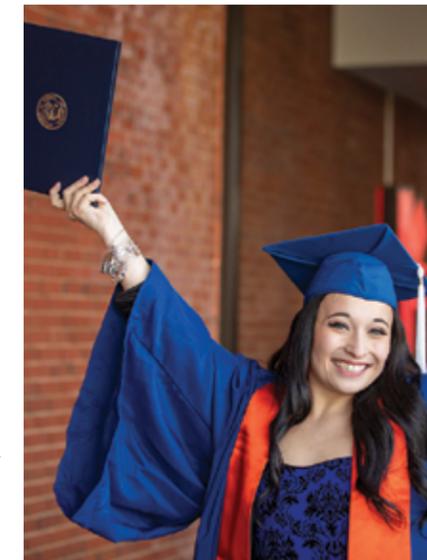
After being forced to hold virtual-only graduations in spring 2020, all three University of Illinois System universities shifted gears this spring to allow graduates to have a stage-crossing experience as part of their commencements.

At the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, in-person individual, private stage-crossing experiences were planned for 2020 and 2021 graduates at Krannert Center for the Performing Arts.

“We absolutely understand the importance of commencement at Illinois, and we are committed to doing everything we can to celebrate the success of Illinois graduates while working to maximize the health and safety of our community,” Chancellor Robert Jones said.

Similarly, the University of Illinois Chicago’s private stage crossings took place at the Isadore & Sadie Dorin Forum. And at the University of Illinois Springfield, private stage crossings for graduates and guests were held at the Sangamon Auditorium. ■

“...WE ARE COMMITTED TO DOING EVERYTHING WE CAN TO CELEBRATE THE SUCCESS OF ILLINOIS GRADUATES...”

**A HOPEFUL, MORE IN-PERSON OUTLOOK FOR FALL 2021**

After a year of safe hybrid instruction amid the pandemic, the U of I System set plans to expand in-person instruction in the fall of 2021.

President Tim Killeen said plans will restore in-person learning for a majority of classes and labs in Urbana-Champaign, Chicago and Springfield. The approach is based on the success of the breakthrough covidSHIELD test-and-trace system and increases in vaccinations in Illinois and across the country.

“We intend to welcome students back to a more traditional, more personal campus experience,” Killeen said. “I am proud that the

U of I community played a key role in making it happen — from our brilliant researchers in Urbana-Champaign who created covidSHIELD to our dedicated healthcare team in Chicago that hosted trials for vaccines to Springfield faculty who shared their leading-edge expertise in hybrid learning.”

The plan includes special hybrid and online provisions for large lecture-style courses, based on public health guidance. ■

**STANDARDIZED TESTS DECLARED OPTIONAL FOR FRESHMAN ADMISSION**

Due to issues created by the pandemic, all three universities did not require standardized tests for students applying for fall 2021 freshman admission.

The U of I Board of Trustees Executive Committee later extended the provision through the 2022-23 and 2023-24 academic years.

According to the resolution approved by trustees, “The current nationwide COVID-19 pandemic has prevented large numbers of high school students from taking standardized tests due to various restrictions imposed by states that not only have closed high schools but also, among other things, have prohibited gatherings of a certain size.”

Acceptance is based on information from other required documents such as high school transcripts, essays and student GPAs. ■

**ENGINEERING BREAKTHROUGH COULD MITIGATE CONTAMINATION IN DENTAL CLINICS**

Leaders at UIC’s College of Dentistry looked for a hand as they worked to stop the spread of COVID-19 through the inhalation of aerosols, and they found assistance across campus at the College of Engineering.

The breakthrough could help stop the spread of future airborne viruses, as well.

A team of UIC faculty engineering and students studied the problem of the aerosol spread of small water droplets generated by some dental equipment. The spray generated by this equipment can spread COVID-19 if it strikes a tooth or tissue in the mouth, picks up saliva, and is released out of the mouth by breath.

“What I proposed and demonstrated is that you can completely suppress the formation of sprays using a diluted aqueous polymer solution,” said Alexander Yarin, a UIC distinguished professor in mechanical and industrial engineering.

UIC has applied for a patent for its new technology. ■



## UIC EARNS SEAL OF EXCELENCIA

The University of Illinois Chicago is one of just 14 higher education institutions to have earned Excelencia in Education's Seal of Excelencia, a national certification that recognizes colleges and universities for their "unwavering commitment to intentionally serve Latino students, while serving all."

UIC earned the distinction in 2020 by demonstrating specific inclusive strategies, implementing programs with evidence of effectiveness, and registering results that showed they are intentionally serving Latino students amongst all of their students.

From student learning and retention to graduation and career aspirations, student success is a primary focus at UIC, says Nikos Varelas, UIC vice provost for undergraduate affairs and academic programs.

"Our programs provide multi-dimensional support to students, which has resulted in an all-time high graduation rate for Latinx and all students at UIC," Varelas said. "This recognition by a national organization of experts on Latinx student success highlights the alignment of our mission with practice." ■



Tamar Heller, director of the UIC Institute on Disability and Human Development.

### PAVING A FUTURE PATH FOR INTELLECTUALLY DISABLED STUDENTS

Thanks to a \$2.5 million grant from the U.S. Department of Education, the University of Illinois Chicago will develop a postsecondary cooperative certificate program that will prepare individuals with intellectual disabilities for competitive employment.

"So many students with intellectual disabilities get dropped from formal disability services after high school. An important feature of this program is building skills for a career, not a job, but a path for

### SUPPORTING FACULTY RESEARCH ON SYSTEMIC RACISM, SOCIAL JUSTICE ISSUES

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign announced a series of actions, investments, programs and policy reforms designed to transform how the university supports the research of scholars working on issues of systemic racism.

The Call to Action initiative is investing \$2 million a year to support competitively awarded grants to tenured and tenure-track faculty members, an annual symposium of funded projects and an ongoing lecture series.

"Recent events have once again underscored the critical need for universities across our nation to prioritize research focused on systemic racial inequities that exist not only in our communities but in higher education itself," Chancellor Robert Jones said. "This initiative is just the first step as we seek to transform the way our own university supports, prioritizes, and recognizes the research of scholars working on issues of systemic racism in the United States." ■

*"...SUPPORTS, PRIORITIZES, AND RECOGNIZES THE RESEARCH OF SCHOLARS WORKING ON ISSUES OF SYSTEMIC RACISM IN THE UNITED STATES."*



Amalia Pallares, associate chancellor and vice provost for diversity.

### FORGING THE FUTURE OF LATINX EDUCATION

The University of Illinois Chicago is leading a new consortium of 16 top-tier, Hispanic-serving institutions with high research activity in a national initiative called "Crossing Latinidades."

The effort is supported by \$150,000 from The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

*"...INCLUDING THE CREATION OF A ROBUST PIPELINE FOR NEW LATINX FACULTY."*

The project's principal investigator, Amalia Pallares, associate chancellor and vice provost for diversity and professor of Latin American and Latino studies and political science, says pooling the group's strengths and combining resources will be an important first step toward ensuring the growth and sustainability of Latino studies.

"The leaders of all partnership institutions share a common vision of working together to address key issues in Latinx education, including the creation of a robust pipeline for new Latinx faculty," added Chancellor Michael Amiridis.

He is a co-principal investigator for the initiative, along with Maria de los Angeles Torres, a professor of Latin American and Latino studies. ■

people to see their future," said project leader Tamar Heller, distinguished professor and head of the UIC Institute on Disability and Human Development.

During the Co-Op students' two-year program, they will have full student status at UIC while taking classes about the transition to college, building capacity and skills, and career pathways.

UIC hopes to enroll 10 students in the first cohort beginning fall of 2021, eventually expanding the program to other sites in Illinois. ■



### HIP HOP XPRESS ROLLS INTO SPRINGFIELD

The Hip Hop Xpress brought its mobile recording studio for two inaugural stops in Springfield during the fall of 2020, recording a number of local artists.

Hip Hop Xpress is a school bus that serves as a mobile studio. It was created as part of a University of Illinois Springfield-University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign faculty collaboration and funded in part through U of I System President Tim Killeen's Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts and the Humanities.

"The Hip Hop Xpress was always envisioned to be a tool for building community," said Tiffani Saunders, a UIS instructor of sociology and African-American studies who helped create the bus.

The creators plan for the bus to travel across the state, teaching youth about African-American history and cultural innovations spurred on by hip hop. ■

*"THE HIP HOP XPRESS WAS ALWAYS ENVISIONED TO BE A TOOL FOR BUILDING COMMUNITY."*

### MENTORING FOR DIVERSITY IN STEM DEFENSE CAREERS

A research team from the University of Illinois Chicago has been awarded a \$3 million U.S. Department of Defense award to establish an undergraduate research-mentoring program in science, technology, engineering and mathematics with a focus on engaging undergraduate student veterans and minority students.

UIC's initiative aims to prepare and engage students for potential technical careers in defense. Researchers also will evaluate the program's effect on students' GPAs, time to graduation and choice of STEM careers or post-graduate school.

"Our program could become a blueprint for STEM undergraduate training at other diverse public Research I universities," said the project's principal investigator, Russell Hemley, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Distinguished Chair in the Natural Sciences and professor of physics and chemistry at UIC. ■

### ACTIVE AGING & LIFELONG LEARNING

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is now part of a consortium of universities dedicated to encouraging active aging.

The Age-Friendly University Global Network began in 2012 at Dublin City University in Ireland and includes dozens of member universities, all guided by 10 core principles intended to encourage older adults to participate in university activities. That includes career development, the pursuit of advanced degrees and conducting research.

"The AFU principles provide a valuable guiding framework for distinguishing and evaluating how we can shape age-friendly programs and practices, as well as to identify gaps and opportunities for growth," Chancellor Robert Jones wrote in a letter supporting the effort.

UIUC already offers a number of initiatives aimed at older adults, including the Center on Health, Aging, and Disability and the Cognition, Lifespan Engagement, Aging and Resilience program. ■

## FUNDING ANTIRACISM AND SOCIAL JUSTICE PROJECTS

UIC John Marshall Law School\* is using a new Antiracism and Social Justice Fund to provide opportunities for students from under-represented groups and explore antiracism legal themes.

The fund was established with donations and supports full-time faculty members hiring student assistants to work on antiracism and social justice projects. Faculty were required to interview at least two students from underrepresented racial or ethnic groups as they filled the positions.

Initial projects focus on issues such as police-reform legislation, indigenous tribal governance practices, and corporations that charge prisoners for services behind bars.

"As Chicago's public law school and a school with an access mission, we have a duty to explore important yet difficult issues that will help dismantle the systemic racism that exists in legal education, the legal system and the legal profession," said Dean Darby Dickerson, who created the fund. ■

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

# \$142 MILLION RELEASED TO DPI, IIN TO LAUNCH NEW FACILITIES

Illinois Gov. J.B. Pritzker in November released more than \$142 million in capital funding for the Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network.

The money is dedicated to DPI's planned permanent headquarters in Chicago's South Loop, IIN facilities, and other projects at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the University of Illinois Chicago, Chicago State University, Eastern Illinois University, and Governors State University.

"The Discovery Partners Institute and Illinois Innovation Network are launching a new era for Chicago as an extraordinary focal point for an unparalleled tech workforce and research and development center that will attract talent to our state from around the world," Gov. Pritzker said.

The money is the first release from \$500 million in state DPI capital funds approved by the governor and the Legislature to develop the statewide education and innovation network, which is led by the University of Illinois System. The state funding is complemented by more than \$500 million in additional capital and programmatic funding from DPI and IIN. ■

DPI's permanent headquarters, planned for Chicago's South Loop, will benefit from the infusion of state funding.



## DPI AWARDS MORE THAN \$1 MILLION IN R&D GRANTS

The Discovery Partners Institute has launched eight world-class research teams across the University of Illinois System and partner universities with more than \$1 million in research and development grants.

The teams include groups focused on autonomous agriculture, using artificial intelligence to improve patient outcomes in health care, building safe and ethical algorithms, and a range of other vital issues.

"This is 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.

Each team received \$125,000, as well as help with administration, grant writing, and access to corporate partners and DPI's downtown Chicago office. ■

*"THIS IS JUST THE BEGINNING OF OUR EFFORTS TO PUT ALREADY STRONG INDUSTRIES IN THE REGION ON THE VERY CUTTING EDGE."*

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

In its second round of funding, the Illinois Innovation Network awarded \$229,000 in grants to eight research teams, supporting projects focused on ag tech, vaccine distribution, strengthening the state's teacher pipeline, protecting Illinois' biodiversity, and more.

The funding is part of IIN's Sustaining Illinois program, which is designed to increase collaborative research among the state's public universities.

The eight newly funded projects include the development of a mobile child vaccination program for underserved communities in Illinois; development of a novel Illinois cancer-mortality index; development of robotic technologies to support specialty crop production; and developing a STEM-learning

## CITY SCHOLARS PROGRAM EXPANDS, OPENS TO UIC AND IIT STUDENTS

The City Scholars program has expanded to include students from universities that are part of the Discovery Partners Institute. Plans are also in place for a new agriculture-focused initiative.

Students from the University of Illinois Chicago and the Illinois Institute of Technology can now participate in City Scholars, The Grainger College of Engineering's program to expose exceptional University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign students to Chicago tech companies and executives.

Top UIC and Illinois Tech students are now taking courses that include a class on the Chicago technology ecosystem.

"The expansion of this program to more universities will allow students to gain valuable classroom and corporate experience, and hopefully fall in love with the idea of starting their careers in Chicago," DPI Executive Director Bill Jackson said.

The planned agriculture track will connect students and companies with an interest in applying engineering to agriculture. ■

ecosystem for teachers. IIN is a group of 15 university-based hubs across the state, including the Discovery Partners Institute, working to boost Illinois' economy. The seed funding was provided by the University of Illinois System and Northern Illinois University. ■



## UIC OPENS PEDIATRIC DENTISTRY OUTPATIENT CARE CENTER

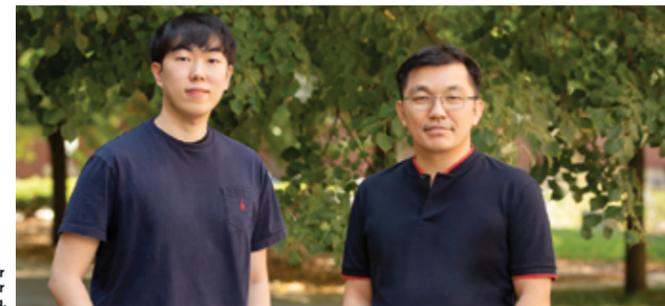
With plans to serve 1,000 children a year, the University of Illinois Chicago College of Dentistry opened the Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation Pediatric Dentistry Outpatient Care Center.

The center was created to treat increasing numbers of children in need of dental procedures requiring general anesthesia.

"Many had to wait many months to get an

appointment. Once the center is fully operational, we hope that the wait time will be only a few weeks after the child's initial appointment," said Marcio da Fonseca, Chicago Dental Society Foundation Professor and head of the Department of Pediatric Dentistry.

The UIC Department of Pediatric Dentistry is the largest provider of pediatric dental care in Illinois, serving almost 10,000 patients a year. ■



Postdoctoral researcher Byoungsoo Kim and professor Hyunjoon Kong.

## OCTOPUS-INSPIRED SUCKER TRANSFERS TISSUE GRAFTS & BIOSENSORS

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

Thin tissue grafts and flexible electronics have a host of applications for wound healing, regenerative medicine, and biosensing.

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

Seeing the way an octopus can pick up both wet and dry objects of all shapes gave the researchers an idea.

They designed a manipulator made of temperature-responsive soft hydrogel attached to an electric heater. To pick up a thin sheet, researchers heat the hydrogel to shrink it, then press it to the sheet and turn off the heat. The hydrogel expands slightly, creating suction with the soft tissue or flexible electronic film. ■



Pier Giulianotti, director of the robotic surgery program at UI Health, with Christopher Adamsick.

## FIRST-EVER ROBOTIC KIDNEY TRANSPLANT FOR PATIENT WITH POLYCYSTIC KIDNEY DISEASE

*"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.

Christopher Adamsick, 50, of Yorkville, Illinois, underwent the procedure in September.

The procedure was led by Pier Giulianotti, chief of general, minimally invasive, and robotic surgery at UI Health.

"This is a first-of-its-kind procedure that normally requires open, invasive surgery," Giulianotti said. "By doing the surgery robotically, the procedure is minimally invasive (and) the patient recovers faster."

UI Health's combined kidney/pancreas and pancreas transplant programs are the third-largest programs of their kind in the United States. ■



Donald P. Waller, professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the UIC College of Pharmacy.

## CONTRACEPTIVE DEVELOPED AT UIC OFFERS NEW OPTION FOR WOMEN

A first-of-its-kind contraceptive developed at the University of Illinois Chicago was approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, the fourth drug developed by researchers at UIC to achieve FDA approval.

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

UIC's Donald Waller developed the contraceptive in collaboration with Lourens Zaneveld of Rush University Medical Center. Development of the contraceptive gel began more than 20 years ago.

"The driver behind this innovation was to provide women with more control and more options for safely preventing pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections," said Waller, a professor of pharmacology and toxicology at the UIC College of Pharmacy. ■



Chimesmaster Tina Horton carries on the tradition of playing the Altgeld Chimes.

HAIL TO THE CHIMES:

# ALTGELD STAPLE MARKS A CENTURY OF MUSIC

Perhaps the most familiar sound to students and others at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, the chimes in Altgeld Hall have now been a staple of campus life for a century.

2020 was the chimes' 100th anniversary, and the university celebrated with a week of concerts in October.

The bells were first dedicated in a concert at Homecoming on Oct. 30, 1920.

Chimesmaster Tina Horton is a graduate student in musicology. She and other chimes players organized the anniversary events to celebrate the history of the chimes and honor the legacy of longtime chimesmaster Sue Wood.

The bells are activated by levers that pull cables running up the tower in Altgeld Hall. The chimes are maintained by the School of Music, as well as student and local volunteers. ■

## PROFESSOR PART OF LATINO BASEBALL PROJECT & BOOK FOR SMITHSONIAN

Over the last four years, the role of baseball in Latino life in the U.S. has been the focus of "¡Pleibol!," an artifact collection project organized by the Smithsonian's National Museum of American History.

University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign history professor Adrian Burgos Jr. was recruited



early on as the lead consultant and out of that came a book, "¡Pleibol! In the Barrios and the Big Leagues." Burgos is a co-author with Margaret N. Salazar-Porzio.

Burgos has made a career of studying the role of Latinos in the Negro Leagues and Major League Baseball.

Written in both English and Spanish, the book tells the story of the project and of baseball's role in Latino culture. "What we're trying to capture in the book is the story of Latinos in baseball, which runs literally from that neighborhood level, all the way through the big leagues, and all in between," Burgos said. ■

## EXPERIMENTAL AUDIO PERFORMANCES ADDRESS MULTIPLE PANDEMICS

Jane Addams Hull-House Museum at the University of Illinois Chicago is working with internationally renowned artist Guillermo Gómez-Peña as one of the partner institutions participating in "Toward a Common Cause: Art, Social Change, and the MacArthur Fellows Program at 40," a multi-venue exhibition and program series featuring 28 MacArthur Fellows happening throughout 2021.

The program included multilingual audio programs by the artist on "the multiple pandemics of racism, sexism, xenophobia and neo-colonialism."

"With this unique partnership between the museum and Public Media Institute, UIC is honored to be in dialogue with Guillermo Gómez-Peña, one of the living masters of political theater and theatrical criticism," said Rebecca Rugg, dean of UIC's College of Architecture, Design and the Arts. "We are thrilled that through this programming, his voice, excellence, and repertoire will be available to our students and the Chicago community." ■

## SHORT FILM ON HISTORIC RACE RIOT EARNS EMMY

Devin Hunter, UIS assistant professor of history, had an idea for a short film while doing archeological work at the remains of a black-owned home that was burned during the 1908 Springfield Race Riot.

The resulting film, "Face to Face," featuring Wesley Robinson-McNeese reading his powerful poem from that site, won a Mid-America Emmy Award.

The Emmy was awarded to Chris Costello, who served as director, cinematographer and editor, and to executive producer Josh Hester. Both are UIS alumni.

Hunter hopes the film helps viewers focus on the riot's victims, its lasting impact, and work that still needs to be done to achieve racial justice and equality.

"Face to Face" was produced through the university, funded by the U of I System's Presidential Initiative to Celebrate the Impact of the Arts & Humanities, and created as a part of The Humanities Innovating New Knowledge (T.H.I.N.K.) Project. ■

Curator Kathryn Koca Polite



## EXHIBIT EXAMINES WPA PRINTMAKERS' THOUGHTS ON SOCIAL JUSTICE

Printmakers employed by the Works Progress Administration in the 1930s created images that dealt with labor unrest, racial violence, immigration and the rise of fascism – subjects that remain relevant today.

Among its strong collection of works on paper, the Krannert Art Museum at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign holds hundreds of WPA prints. Many of them were part of the exhibition, "Pressing Issues: Printmaking as Social Justice in 1930s United States."

Curator Kathryn Koca Polite organized the exhibition in response to the 2020 elections. WPA prints often are seen as nostalgic or celebratory, but these are not, she said.

"The exhibition is looking at the ways that artists produced critical commentaries of various social injustices plaguing the country during the 1930s – the Depression exacerbated economic inequalities, worsened working conditions and deeply affected people psychologically," Koca Polite said. ■

*"...THE DEPRESSION EXACERBATED ECONOMIC INEQUALITIES, WORSENERD WORKING CONDITIONS AND DEEPLY AFFECTED PEOPLE PSYCHOLOGICALLY."*

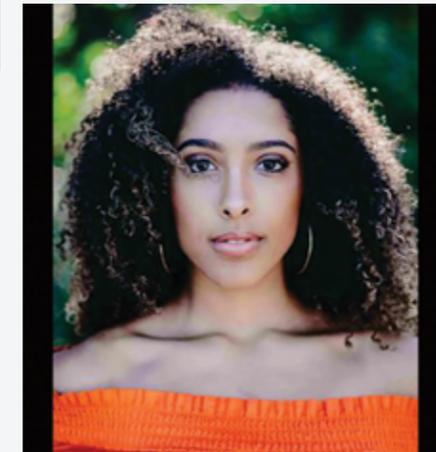
## MUSIC STUDENT PART OF GRAMMY-NOMINATED ENSEMBLE

As a freshman at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Sophia Byrd sang in a professional oratorio. That opportunity led to two Grammy nominations and a fast start to her career.

Byrd is now a senior at UIUC and a soprano studying lyric theatre. She was one of six vocalists who performed in "Place," a 2018 work by composer Ted Hearne and poet Saul Williams. "Place" was nominated for a 2020 Grammy for best chamber music/small ensemble performance and for best contemporary classical composition.

"Place," she said, "completely changed the way I listen to music."

Byrd started as a jazz major, but after performing in "Place" she became more interested in contemporary opera. Since then, she has appeared in two other contemporary operas that premiered in New York City – "The Good Swimmer," about the Vietnam War, and "REV. 23," a contemporary take on Adam and Eve. ■



Sophia Byrd, a UIUC senior studying lyric theatre, performed in the oratorio "Place," nominated for two Grammy Awards.

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

## ATHEISTS' MORAL COMPASSES DIFFER FROM BELIEVERS' IN SOME WAYS

New research from a University of Illinois Chicago social psychologist examines the moral beliefs of atheists and how they differ in some ways and are similar in others to the views of people who are religious.

Tomas Ståhl, UIC assistant professor of psychology, conducted two surveys comparing Americans and Swedes, and two smaller U.S. surveys.

"Disbelievers do have a moral compass. However, it is calibrated somewhat differently than that of religious believers in some respects, but not in others," Ståhl said.

He found religious disbelievers' views about morality were comparable in the U.S and Sweden, and that believers shared similar views in the two countries.

Religious disbelievers were less inclined, for instance, to view values that promote group cohesion as relevant to morality.

Disbelievers from both countries also were more inclined to focus on the harm done by an action when making moral choices. ■

UIUC Dance professor Endalyn Taylor



## SALON SERIES FEATURING BLACK ARTISTS OPENS BLACK ARTS INITIATIVE

A five-part salon series featuring the work of Black artists and how they address race, diversity, and inclusion launched a new Black Arts Initiative by the College of Fine and Applied Arts at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

"We Got Next" offers a lens into the research of Black artists, then uses their work to look at broad issues of racism and the recent protests of police brutality against Black individuals. Dance professor Endalyn Taylor is coordinating the salon series and was selected as an FAA Dean's Fellow for the year to lead the Black Arts Initiative.

The Black Arts Initiative is part of a strategic focus in FAA on research, teaching, and engagement in the area of African American and Afro-diasporic arts and cultures. It seeks to increase diversity, equity, and inclusion in the college's programming, faculty representation, and faculty research. ■

## FAST-TRACKING GOALS THROUGH ACCELERATED UIS COURSES

**Providing students a unique opportunity** to reach their educational goals faster, the University of Illinois Springfield offered eight-week accelerated courses during winter break and the spring semester. More than 40 courses in a variety of subjects were available.

*“THIS IS A GREAT OPPORTUNITY FOR NEW UIS STUDENTS TO START OR FINISH THEIR EDUCATION.”*

The courses were primarily intended to help students who may have suspended their studies or lightened their course load due to COVID-19, or who may have found extra time on their hands over the holidays. But the courses were available to anyone for any reason.



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

## CREATING ONLINE TECH BOOTCAMPS FOR PROFESSIONALS

**The University of Illinois Chicago** and Fullstack Academy began a new partnership to offer online tech bootcamps to teach coding and cybersecurity skills to both early-career and experienced professionals.

The program was created to help meet the demand for cybersecurity workers and software developers in Chicago. More than 20,000 such jobs are expected to open in the region over the next few years.

The bootcamps teach students skills that make them marketable in as little as 12 weeks.

“In today’s increasingly digital environment, where many are seeking new career opportunities, we felt it was imperative to offer more live, online learning opportunities to help professionals of any experience level enter the tech workforce,” said TJ Augustine, vice chancellor for innovation at UIC. ■

## NEW LAB AIMS TO EXPOSE BUSINESS STUDENTS TO CHANGING REALITIES

**Working with Ernst & Young LLP (EY)**, the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign’s Gies 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 project also will build and strengthen relationships between Gies and its corporate partners.

“EY’s purpose – to build a better working world – is evident in the importance they place on both recognizing and succeeding through disruption,” said Dean Jefferey R. Brown. “They are 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. ■



UIUC social work professor Kevin Tan (right), Mahomet-Seymour school district Director of Instruction Nicole Rummel (left) and Mahomet-Seymour school district Superintendent Lindsey Hall.

## PROJECTS EXPLORE WAYS TO HEAL RACIAL WOUNDS

**Two University of Illinois Urbana Champaign scholars** are spearheading an effort to explore the role social-emotional learning (SEL) can play in addressing racism in schools and mending broader racial divides.

Kevin Tan, a professor of social work, and Durriyyah Kemp, an Illinois Extension educator based in Cook County, have organized the programs for parents, school administrators, students and others.

“Transformative SEL is a collaborative process in which youths and adults come together to seek understanding and explore solutions with regards to race relations and social justice issues,” Tan said.

Their efforts include work with the Mahomet-Seymour Community Unit School District No. 3 on race relations and equity initiatives, as well as collaborating with students, parents, and teachers in two schools in Chicago.

The project also includes a professional development initiative for social work students. ■

## AN INTRODUCTION TO BIOMECHANICS USING TIKTOK



Outreach and public engagement coordinator Lara Hebert, left, postdoctoral research associate Gabriel Burks, and bioengineering professor Jennifer Amos (shown on laptop screen, right), developed a virtual summer camp.

**For hundreds of high school students** who attended a virtual summer camp hosted by The Grainger College of Engineering at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, creating short dance videos on video-sharing site TikTok helped them learn the science of biomechanics and the principles of movement-analysis research.

Campers were challenged to identify the best dancer in their household by recording themselves performing a 10- to 15-second dance while wearing tracking markers.

Using a software plug-in, the campers identified and tracked the markers, creating a log of their two-dimensional movements and comparing the range and smoothness of their motions to those of a model dancer performing the same actions. The model dancer could be a friend, a family member or one of three celebrity dancers in videos provided to the campers. ■



UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis, seated, uses robotic scissors to cut the ribbon to open the Surgical Innovation & Training Laboratory.

## COLLEGE OF MEDICINE OPENS SURGICAL INNOVATION &amp; TRAINING LABORATORY

**The University of Illinois College of Medicine** unveiled its new Surgical Innovation & Training Laboratory (SITL), a 17,000-square-foot facility provides hands-on training for all surgical disciplines.

SITL features advanced simulation in neurosurgery, robotic and craniofacial surgery, with particular emphasis on microsurgery and robotic surgery. Modern surgical training tools, including several robotic units, are available for surgeons of all expertise levels to use. Direct

feeds from the lab’s operating rooms can be transmitted to a large classroom with three modular units, which when combined can accommodate 200 learners.

“This is a very important occasion as it not only establishes new and advanced ways we can provide state-of-the-art health care to our patients throughout Chicago and Illinois, it will also allow us to train thousands of surgeons across the country and the world,” said UIC Chancellor Michael Amiridis. ■



Sarah Isaacs, who is librarian at the Early Intervention Clearinghouse, and research information specialist Jill Tompkins.

## FAMILIES RECEIVE EARLY CHILDHOOD SERVICES ONLINE THROUGH UIUC PROGRAM

**A technology loan program provided** by the Illinois Early Intervention Clearinghouse at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is helping many families across the state obtain the equipment they need to participate in live video visits with their children’s therapists.

Many families of infants and toddlers with disabilities or delays who lack online access face challenges obtaining services such as speech, occupational therapy and developmental therapy due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“Early intervention services are critical because young children grow and develop so quickly. If they do not receive services during that narrow window, it can have lasting effects,” said

visiting project coordinator and clearinghouse librarian Sarah Isaacs.

Families obtaining early intervention services who have smartphones or computers but lack internet access can borrow Wi-Fi hotspots, while families who need digital devices can borrow tablet computers.

Operated by the Early Childhood Collective at the U of I, the clearinghouse is a statewide lending library for 20,000 Illinois families and 6,000 professionals who provide services to them. ■

## HELPING PARENTS SUPPORT THEIR CHILDREN DURING REMOTE LEARNING

**The University of Illinois Springfield** Office of Continuing and Professional Education used a free webinar series to help parents guide their children as they navigated the new world of remote learning during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The series “Supporting Your Student: A Parent’s Guide to Remote Learning” aimed to give parents the tools to help their children adjust and thrive.

“We are faced with an unprecedented time in education,” said Vickie Cook, UIS executive director of online professional and engaged learning. “Terms like eLearning, online education, synchronous and asynchronous are now part of

our household lexicons. But what does it all mean, and – more importantly – how can this help your student succeed? Those are questions we hope to help parents answer through this series.” ■

**FIVE SYSTEM FACULTY RANK AMONG WORLD'S MOST INFLUENTIAL**

Three faculty members at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and two from the University of Illinois Chicago are part of the 2020 Clarivate Analytics Highly Cited Researchers list.

The list recognizes leading researchers in the sciences and social sciences from around the world based on journal article publication and citation data from 2009-2019.

The three UIUC scientists on 2020 list are materials science and engineering Professor Axel Hoffmann, a Founder Professor; Stephen Long, the Stanley O. Ikenberry Chair of Crop Sciences and Plant Biology; and Donald Ort, the Robert Emerson Professor of Plant Biology and Crop Sciences.

At UIC, Ross Arena, professor and head of the department of physical therapy and interim head of the department of biomedical and health information sciences, is on the 2020 list, as is John M. Davis, professor of psychiatry. ■

**CATALYST CAN MAKE NATURAL GAS BURN CLEANER**

A cutting-edge "Swiss Army knife" catalyst made up of a variety of different elements developed by a group that includes a University of Illinois Chicago researcher could help cut the greenhouse gases and pollutants produced by natural gas.

"The more efficiently we burn methane and the less energy we use to burn it, the less greenhouse gas and pollutants it produces," said Reza Shahbazian-Yassar, professor of mechanical and industrial engineering.

The catalyst is made up of oxygen plus 10 other elements that each has the ability to reduce the combustion temperature of methane. Using the catalyst lowers the combustion temperature of methane by about half. ■



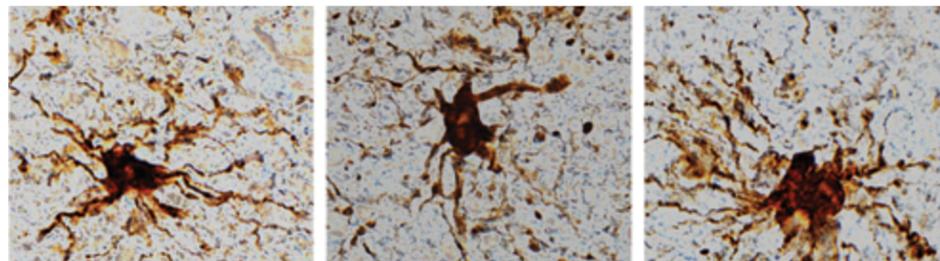
**DOPPLER MOBILE RADAR TRANSFORMING ATMOSPHERIC RESEARCH & HANDS-ON LEARNING**

The Department of Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign has a new mobile Doppler radar and instrumentation facility that is expected to transform its research, offer hands-on field training for students, and expand outreach efforts to demonstrate scientific observation of the atmosphere.

"At no other university do students and faculty have access to cutting-edge meteorological resources of this scope," said Jeff Trapp, head of the department.

The equipment includes three truck-mounted X-band radars used to observe the structure and evolution of weather systems and other phenomena.

The acquisition also includes three vehicles equipped with meteorological sensors for observing meteorological conditions near the ground and three weather balloon launch systems. ■



'Zombie' cells come to life after the death of the human brain.



Jeffrey Loeb

**'ZOMBIE' GENES? 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 active after death, a discovery that has implications for the search for treatments and cures for some common disorders.

Researchers analyzed gene expression in brain tissue collected during surgery in what are

called glial cells and found that activity actually increased. Some grow significantly.

Most research that uses brain tissues in the search for ways to treat or cure autism, schizophrenia, and Alzheimer's disease does not account for the post-mortem gene expression or cell activity, said Jeffrey Loeb, the John S.

Garvin Professor and head of neurology and rehabilitation at the UIC College of Medicine and corresponding author on the paper.

"Most studies assume that everything in the brain stops when the heart stops beating," Loeb said. "Our findings will be needed to interpret research on human brain tissues." ■

**PLANETARY SCIENTIST SELECTED FOR NASA MISSION RESEARCH TEAM**

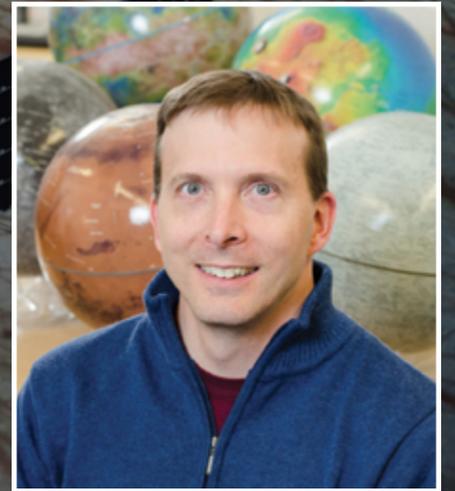
Artist's rendering of NASA's Europa Clipper spacecraft. Photo: NASA/JPL-Caltech

University of Illinois Chicago Professor Andrew Dombard will join the gravity/radio science team for NASA's planned Europa Clipper mission.

The expedition is tentatively set to launch in the mid-2020s and will explore Jupiter's moon, Europa, looking for conditions that might support life. Europa contains a global ocean under its icy surface with more liquid water than all of Earth's oceans combined.

Dombard, who is a professor of Earth and environmental sciences, was chosen after proposing to use line-of-sight gravity anomalies to look at the water-rock interface of Europa's ocean world.

"We will be looking for indirect evidence of volcanism on the rocky floor under the ocean. Hydrothermal systems near undersea volcanoes are great places to find microbial life on Earth, and perhaps the same could be true for Europa," he said. ■



Andrew Dombard, professor of Earth and environmental sciences

**\$75 MILLION NASA MISSION LED BY UIUC SCIENTIST**

NASA has chosen a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign scientist to lead the development of a \$75 million satellite that could improve defenses against solar storms.

Lara Waldrop, an electrical and computer engineering professor, was chosen to lead the



Lara Waldrop, assistant professor of electrical & computer engineering

Solar Terrestrial Probes Science Mission of Opportunity based on her proposal, "Global Lyman-alpha Imager of the Dynamic Exosphere," or GLIDE.

GLIDE is expected to be launched in 2025 and will measure the far ultraviolet light emitted by hydrogen atoms in Earth's exosphere. These emissions are a key piece in better understanding Earth's recovery from solar-driven disturbances known as space weather.

*THESE EMISSIONS ARE A KEY PIECE IN BETTER UNDERSTANDING EARTH'S RECOVERY FROM SOLAR-DRIVEN DISTURBANCES KNOWN AS SPACE WEATHER.*

"GLIDE is the first mission designed explicitly to investigate this key atmospheric region," Waldrop said.

The data will provide better ways to forecast and mitigate space weather's disruption of satellite electronics, radio communication, electric power distribution, and even air travel. ■

**PARTISAN MEDIA SITES MAY NOT SWAY OPINIONS, BUT ERODE TRUST IN MAINSTREAM PRESS**

Some recent studies have blamed partisan news coverage for polarization of the nation's electorate, but new research from a University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign communication professor finds that greater exposure to right- or left-leaning media can erode trust in the mainstream press.

JungHwan Yang is a co-author of the study. The research found that online partisan media during the 2018-19 midterm election had little influence on political beliefs.

But consumers of both right-leaning Fox News and the left-leaning Huffington Post experienced a decline in their confidence in the mainstream press, beginning during the first several weeks of increased exposure and still detectable a year later.

"We saw a lowering in their overall trust of the media and that can promote polarization by making people less receptive to information that challenges their beliefs," Yang said. ■

**SCIENTISTS DISCOVER APPLICATIONS OF NANOPARTICLES MADE OF MULTIPLE ELEMENTS**

Catalysts are integral to chemical reactions vital to everything from batteries to beer and laundry detergent, but how they work is often a mystery. Understanding these processes could help scientists develop more efficient catalysts.

A recent study from University of Illinois Chicago and the Argonne National Laboratory discovered that, nanoparticles made of multiple metals such as cobalt, copper, nickel, and platinum display high stability and durability while serving as catalysts. These particles resisted oxidation, a process that degrades material and reduces its usefulness.

"We found that the high-entropy alloy nanoparticles are able to resist oxidation much better than general metal particles," said Bob Song, a research assistant at UIC and a lead scientist on the study.

The nanoparticles studied could have many practical applications: water-splitting to generate hydrogen in fuel cells; more efficient reactions in biosensors; and the creation of more effective solar cells. ■

### PROFESSOR'S RESEARCH LOOKS TO FLINT MINES FOR CLUES ABOUT SOCIETAL CHANGE



University of Illinois Springfield associate professor Lynn Fisher will apply her expertise in ancient technologies to a collaborative German project on technological change.

Fisher has been awarded a Mercator Fellowship for archaeological research at the University of Kiel in Germany in the fall of 2021. The project is part of a collaboration between the University of Kiel, the Centre for Baltic and Scandinavian Archaeology, and the Archaeological State Museum Schloss Gottorf. The project is funded by the German Science Foundation.

Fisher plans to study flint mines and quarries to put her own excavations of a quarry in southern Germany in context.

"My hope is to learn a lot more about how quarries and mines vary, including some where skilled toolmakers made highly standardized products and others that were much less standardized, and to understand what those differences are telling us about ancient societies and social change," Fisher said. ■



## CICADA-INSPIRED WATERPROOF SURFACES ON THE HORIZON

Nanostructures help Cicada wings repel water and prevent bacteria from establishing on their surfaces, and a group of researchers from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign and elsewhere can now reproduce those structures.

The researchers said the new technique is economical and will help fabricate future high-tech waterproof materials.

The team used a fabrication process called nanoimprinting lithography to make a template of the complex pillar-shaped nanostructures on the wings of Neotibicen pruinosus, a cicada found in the central U.S.

"We chose to work with wings of this species of cicada because our past work demonstrates how the complex nanostructures on their wings provide an outstanding ability to repel water," said Marianne Alleyne, an entomology professor who co-led the study. ■

### ANTIFUNGAL DRUG IMPROVES KEY CYSTIC FIBROSIS BIOMARKERS IN CLINICAL STUDY

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 missing or defective ion channel in the lungs that leaves patients vulnerable to infections. In the new study, Martin D. Burke's group confirmed that the drug amphotericin B increased ion secretion in cultures of lung tissue from cystic fibrosis patients.

*"WE HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO, BUT THIS HAS INCREASED OUR OPTIMISM..."*

Next, researchers at UIUC and the University of Iowa plan to determine whether amphotericin inhaled directly to the lungs would improve lung function and immune response.

"We have a long way to go, but this has increased our optimism that (this) could provide a new way to treat all people with cystic fibrosis," said Burke, professor of chemistry and the associate dean for research for the Carle Illinois College of Medicine. ■

### UIC REACHES RECORD \$410 MILLION IN ANNUAL SPONSORED RESEARCH AWARDS

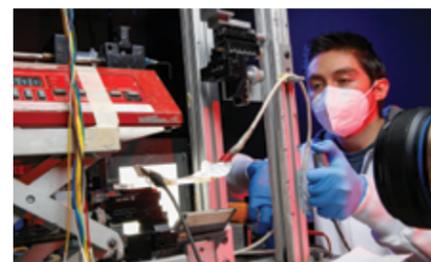
For the first time in its history, the University of Illinois Chicago has topped the \$400 million mark in annual sponsored research.

The \$410 million for FY 2020 was 7 percent more than the previous year and an 18 percent jump from FY 2018. The 2020 funding supports 9,400 faculty, students and staff working on 1,800 research projects.

"(This) further demonstrates our researchers' dedication and determination to solve some of the world's greatest challenges and places

UIC among the top research universities in the world," Chancellor Michael Amiridis said.

Funding included \$3.6 million from the National Institutes of Health for UIC's Clinical and Translational Science efforts, \$2.5 million from the National Science Foundation to improve undergraduate STEM engagement using the study of Monarch butterflies, and \$1.3 million from the U.S. Department of Education to mentor Latinx students in STEM. ■



Engineering MIE PhD student Rafael Granda

### BORDER PARTNERSHIPS OPEN DOORS FOR INTERNATIONAL COLLABORATION

Two international partnerships are building new links abroad for the University of Illinois System and its universities.

The U of I System and The Hebrew University of Jerusalem are launching interdisciplinary research teams to accelerate economic development through innovative technologies. The teams are among the first collaborations between the two universities since a 2019 partnership agreement.

The teams' projects include work that could

improved fruit yields, a better understanding of inflammatory response, and an AI-based flight controller that mimics flying insects.

Elsewhere, the system, the Council of the Great Lakes Region and the University of Toronto signed an agreement to form the Great Lakes Higher Education Consortium.

The new partnership will create opportunities for higher education institutions to work together on regionally significant socioeconomic and environmental issues. ■



The Great Lakes Higher Education Consortium links the U of I System with the Council of the Great Lakes Region and the University of Toronto.



### INITIATIVE LAUNCHED TO INCREASE MEXICAN ENROLLMENT, PARTNERSHIP

The University of Illinois System has launched an initiative to expand connections with Mexico, seeking to increase enrollment of Mexican students as well as academic and research partnerships with universities, government agencies, and private industry in Mexico.

The University of Illinois System Mexican & Mexican-American Students (I-MMÁS) initiative will provide life-changing educational opportunities for more Mexican students and foster innovation, system President Tim Killeen said.

"This important initiative is rooted in the bedrock mission that we have carried since our founding – to open our doors wide," Killeen said. The initiative also will open the system's first office ever in Mexico City to support student recruiting and alumni engagement.

I-MMÁS also will enhance ongoing efforts by the system's universities to increase Mexican-American enrollment. Latinx enrollment grew to nearly 17 percent of the more than 90,000 students enrolled system-wide in 2020. ■

### ONLINE PROGRAM RANKINGS REFLECT EXCELLENCE



In a pandemic year where online learning became the norm for so many, U.S. News & World Report's 2021 Best Online Programs rankings recognize all three University of Illinois System universities for excellence.

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign is ranked in the top 10 nationwide for online master's programs in both education and engineering. UIUC's rankings include the No. 1 spot in online master's education programs for veterans, No. 1 in master's programs in civil engineering, and No. 3 among master's programs in mechanical engineering.

Among online bachelor's programs, the University of Illinois Chicago rose to No. 2. UIC was ranked No. 7 among bachelor's in business programs.

The University of Illinois Springfield's online bachelor's programs were also in the top 10 percent at No. 34. UIS was ranked 23rd among bachelor's programs for veterans and 11th in both bachelor's in business programs and bachelor's programs in psychology. ■

*AMONG ONLINE BACHELOR'S PROGRAMS, THE UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS CHICAGO ROSE TO NO. 2. UIC WAS RANKED NO. 7 AMONG BACHELOR'S IN BUSINESS PROGRAMS.*

# ADDING VOICES AND IDEAS TO ISSUES

Faculty from across the University of Illinois System have lent their voices to issues as diverse as CRISPR technology, climate change, and racism through The Public Voices Fellowship.

Launched across the system in 2019, the Public Voices Fellowship is a collaborative effort between the system and The OpEd Project, a national organization that aims to elevate the voices of underrepresented experts. The second cohort of writers has been at work through the 2020-21 academic year.

Each cohort is provided training and mentoring on submitting opinion pieces for publication. Through mid-spring of 2021, more than 40 pieces had been published by the second cohort, with pieces published by Scientific American, CNN, the Chicago Tribune, the New York Daily News and a range of others.

"This year's cohort included several faculty members who published multiple pieces through the course of the year. The OpEd Project staff provides invaluable coaching on content and approach, resulting in a much higher success rate," said Sarah Zehr, assistant vice president of academic initiatives and policies.

The third cohort will be chosen in the summer of 2021. ■



# NEW CENTER TO CARRY ON LINCOLN'S LEGACY

On President Abraham Lincoln's 212th birthday, Feb. 12, the University of Illinois Springfield held a virtual grand opening for the new Center for Lincoln Studies. The center will be a national base for scholarship, teaching and public history about Lincoln's life, leadership and legacy. "Just like all of us, Lincoln had success, failures, sadness and joy throughout his life that made him into icon we admire today," said Anne Moseley, acting director of the center. "He is an example of an ordinary man made extraordinary." The goal of the UIS Center for Lincoln Studies is to encourage continued research on Lincoln and his time in Illinois, where he spent a quarter century of his life, and to connect the character of Lincoln to the nation today. ■

## NEW MIDWEST QUANTUM INFORMATION INSTITUTE LED BY UIUC

A new institute led by the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will combine the research might of three Midwest powerhouses and apply it to quantum computing.

The Grainger College of Engineering's Illinois Quantum Information Science and Technology Center will launch a National Science Foundation Quantum Leap Challenge Institute for Hybrid Quantum Architectures and Networks (HQAN) that will include the University of Chicago and the University of Wisconsin, as well as industry and government labs.

*"SUCCESS FROM THESE RESEARCHERS WOULD MEAN A FASTER MOVE TOWARD A QUANTUM COMPUTING REVOLUTION."*

The NSF established HQAN with a \$25 million, five-year award. It will be one of only three in the country.

"This center will explore the feasibility of creating networks of small quantum computers as an alternative to more complex, larger ones. Success from these researchers would mean a faster move toward a quantum computing revolution," NSF Program Director John D. Gillaspay said. ■



## INSTITUTE WILL EXPAND AI USE IN CONSTRUCTION, ADVANCE BROADER RESEARCH

Funding from the National Science Foundation and the U of I System's Discovery Partners Institute are supporting a planned National Institute for Artificial Intelligence in Construction at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign.

Researchers hope the initiative will advance the application of AI in construction and the broader science of AI research.

"We believe applying AI methods to construction problems will produce a seismic shift in AI research," said Derek Hoiem, co-principal investigator and associate professor of computer science.

More than 40 industry partners from architecture, engineering, construction, owner, technology providers, and venture capital investment will join researchers from UIUC and Carnegie Mellon University to design the new institute. They plan to identify areas for the highest impact of AI in design and construction. ■

## \$22 MILLION FROM NIH KEEPS UIC CENTER AT WORK FOR HEALTH RESEARCH

*"THE CONTINUED FUNDING OF THE CCTS UNDERSCORES UIC'S DEEP-ROOTED COMMITMENT TO TRANSLATIONAL DISCOVERY THAT DIRECTLY BENEFITS OUR PATIENTS AND COMMUNITIES".*

The University of Illinois Chicago's Center for Clinical and Translational Science (CCTS) will continue its work supporting clinical and

translational health research programs thanks to \$22 million in new funding from the National Institutes of Health.

After an initial round of NIH funding in 2009, CCTS has provided training and support to hundreds of UIC faculty, researchers and staff.

"The continued funding of the CCTS underscores UIC's deep-rooted commitment to translational discovery that directly benefits our patients and communities," said Robert Barish, vice chancellor for health affairs at UIC.

CCTS is one of more than 50 centers in the

country to be funded as a hub of biomedical research. It is also one of the few research hubs to include programs from seven health sciences colleges — applied health sciences, dentistry, medicine, nursing, pharmacy, public health and social work — and complementary UIC colleges such as engineering and liberal arts and sciences. ■



The \$2.25 billion "With Illinois" campaign was launched in October 2017.

# UIUC SURPASSES \$2.25 BILLION FUNDRAISING GOAL A YEAR EARLY

The University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign's "With Illinois" fundraising campaign passed its target a year ahead of schedule, reaching \$2.268 billion in gifts and commitments by March 2021.

Officials now say the campaign, launched in 2017 and the university's largest ever, is far from finished. "With Illinois" will continue into 2022 to address a variety of ongoing needs.

"The need for private support in higher education is greater than ever before, especially in these uniquely challenging times," Chancellor Robert J. Jones said. "We are so grateful to our alumni and friends who continue to step up with their tremendous passion and pride for the university. Their generosity is truly inspirational and contributes to a very bright future for the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign."

From named colleges to COVID-19-relief funds, the success of the campaign can be attributed to nearly 730,000 gifts of all sizes from over 158,000 donors. Barry Benson, vice chancellor for institutional advancement, said the university is also committed to securing additional private resources for student scholarships, faculty and staff support, and other initiatives. ■

## PRITZKER FOUNDATION DONATES \$10 MILLION TO DEVELOP MORE-INCLUSIVE TECH TALENT

The Pritzker Foundation is giving \$10 million over five years to The Discovery Partners Institute (DPI) to support and develop promising and more-diverse tech talent in Illinois.

The funding will establish the Pritzker Tech Talent Labs at DPI, which will help Illinois workers better adapt to a challenging and quickly changing economy, and help thousands of women and people of color secure high-paying tech jobs.

The Pritzker Tech Talent Labs will launch two programs: first, a high school-to-career pathway, which includes additional instruction in high-demand skills, internship placement, mentorship, additional guidance counseling, and financial aid and emergency financial support; and second, an effort to improve the skills of people already in the workforce, including executive education in machine learning, artificial intelligence and 5G, and a master's degree in tech leadership. ■

*...HELP THOUSANDS OF WOMEN AND PEOPLE OF COLOR SECURE HIGH-PAYING TECH JOBS.*

## STELLAR SUPPORT FOR UIS

The University of Illinois Springfield "Reaching Stellar" fundraising campaign made great strides during fiscal year 2020, securing approximately \$5 million in gifts to support scholarships, academic excellence, the UIS Center for Lincoln Studies, community impact, and facilities and technology.

"The Reaching Stellar campaign ultimately will help UIS further develop several areas of expertise and service, but foremost is the intent to improve access for students," said UIS Interim Chancellor Karen Whitney.

As of last fall, UIS has raised 92 percent of the \$40 million goal for the campaign, which continues through 2022.

"Despite the disruptions caused by the global pandemic, UIS donors did not waiver and in fact, they continued to invest generously in the university," said Jim Moore, president and CEO of the U of I Foundation. ■



The "Reaching Stellar" fundraising campaign at UIS has raised 92 percent of its \$40 million goal and runs through 2022.

## \$7.5 MILLION GIFT ESTABLISHES CENTER FOR LEADERSHIP & INNOVATION IN MEDIA



Rich and Leslie Frank

Students at the College of Media at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign will benefit from a suite of enhanced professional experiences thanks to a \$7.5 million gift by Rich and Leslie Frank. The gift, the largest in the college's history, will establish the Richard and Leslie Frank Center for Leadership and Innovation in Media.

Rich Frank, former president of Disney Studios and a graduate of UIUC, and Leslie (Miller) Frank, an Emmy award-winning broadcast journalist, said they wanted to make an investment in the that would have an impact for generations.

A portion of the Franks' gift will be used to create a state-of-the-art broadcast facility within the existing Richmond Studio. Two classrooms will be outfitted to accommodate new technologies and offer space for media editing and production. ■



The UIC-led agreement could help protect the monarch on up to 26 million acres in the United States.

**PROTECTING THE MONARCH BUTTERFLY**

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. ■

**PIONEER OF LED LIGHTING AWARDED QUEEN ELIZABETH PRIZE**



Illinois electrical and computer engineering professor Nick Holonyak Jr., pictured in 2015.

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.

Holonyak was the first in his family to pursue higher education. He received his bachelor's, master's, and doctoral degrees from UIUC, where he was the first graduate student of two-time Nobel laureate John Bardeen. ■



**IN FIRST 50 YEARS, UIS CREATES BOLD LEGACY, PATH TOWARD BRIGHT FUTURE**

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. ■

*"OUR UNCONVENTIONAL START, OUR CULTURE OF THINKING OUTSIDE THE BOX, OUR STAMINA AND GRIT – THESE QUALITIES CONTINUE TO PROPEL US FORWARD."*

**FINANCIAL AID**

STUDENT AID IN 2019-20  
**\$1.6+ BILLION**

54.8% IS "GIFT" AID: SCHOLARSHIPS, GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, TUITION AND FEE WAIVERS

45.2% THROUGH EMPLOYMENT & LOANS

213,618 AWARDS TO STUDENTS

**\$229.7M** STUDENT EARNINGS FROM UNIVERSITY-RELATED JOBS

**PRIVATE GIVING**

FISCAL YEAR 2020  
**\$420.5 MILLION**

GIFT INCOME JULY 1, 2015 TO JUNE 30, 2020 **\$1.5B** SEPARATE GIFTS **142,989**

The total FY 2021 operating budget\* for the University of Illinois System is \$6.74 billion.

\*Includes \$1.7 billion in payments made on behalf of the system for employee benefits and \$42.9 million for the Academic Facilities Maintenance Fund Assessment (AFMFA)



**WHERE DOES THE MONEY COME FROM**

- State Payments On Behalf
- Student Tuition & Fees
- Earnings, Miscellaneous<sup>1</sup>
- US Grants & Contracts/Federal Appropriations
- Auxiliary & Departmental Operations<sup>2</sup>
- State Appropriation
- Institutional Funds
- Private Gifts

<sup>1</sup> e.g. hospital & medical services plans | <sup>2</sup> e.g. bookstores, housing



**HOW IS THE MONEY SPENT**

- Instructional & Departmental Research 20%
- Hospital Operations 16%
- Separately Budgeted Research 16%
- Academic Support 11%
- Extension & Public Service 8%
- Auxiliary & Independent Enterprise 8%
- Student Aid 7%
- Administration & General 6%
- Physical Plant 5%
- Student Services 3%



**URBANA-CHAMPAIGN**



**CHICAGO**



**SPRINGFIELD**



**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS SYSTEM**

**Office of the President**  
364 Henry Administration Building  
506 South Wright Street  
Urbana, IL 61801-3689

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE PAID  
CHAMPAIGN, IL  
PERMIT NO. 453