Dear Friends,

Welcome to the inaugural edition of On Our Watch, a newsletter for Illinois alumni—all 380,000 of you around the world. At commencement ceremonies last month, Illinois awarded its 500,000th diploma, marking a new chapter in the story of our great University.

The story of Illinois is the story of remarkable people who dedicated their knowledge and creativity to building a place of excellence. From these men and women, we have inherited one of the nation's most distinguished and historic educational institutions.

Today's graduates face a world in which social, political, and economic changes occur at a breakneck pace. We must prepare our students for this changing world by teaching them to think critically and creatively—not just about their careers, but about the kind of society in which they want to live.

At Illinois, we are shaping the future—through our research, through our teaching, and through our commitment to offering a world-class education to people from all walks of life, in the belief that their work will improve the lives of us all. This is the story of Illinois. We are the sentinels of our generation. On our watch, we will make Illinois's next chapter its best ever.

Sincerely,
Chancellor Richard Herman
College of Business Goes Green

The paradox about campus is that the Quad never changes but the campus never stays the same. Next time you return to Illinois, you may see something striking and new near the landmarks that bring back so many memories. Construction is under way on the first “green” building on the Illinois campus. The College of Business Instructional Facility at Sixth and Gregory streets is designed by the world-renowned and award-winning architect (and Illinois alumnus) Cesar Pelli.

The 160,000-square-foot, brick-and-limestone building has features that will reduce energy consumption by as much as 75 percent in comparison with older campus buildings.

Pelli designed the interior to include state-of-the-art classrooms plus career development and academic counseling centers, meant to encourage interaction and teamwork among students, as well as to accommodate alumni and corporate events. The first floor will include an auditorium, cafe, student lounges, corporate recruitment center, and multi-purpose interview rooms.

Pelli received his master’s degree in architecture from Illinois in 1954. His firm, Cesar Pelli & Associates, has designed such buildings as the World Finance Center in New York, Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Citigroup Tower in London, and a number of educational buildings at Yale University, where he was the dean of the School of Architecture.

Construction of the $60 million facility should be completed by fall 2008. To learn more and see video about the new Instructional Facility, visit www.business.uiuc.edu.

Global Connections

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bring this transformed world into focus and provide the imaginative resources to understand it, thrive in it, and shape it.

Right here in Urbana, we are working to redevelop the Orchard Downs neighborhood into a model community that likely will include upscale condominiums, a retirement center, green space and parks, and state-of-the-art communications technology. The development will be a model of environmentally sensitive planning and construction, and the first phase of the project is expected to be completed in 2011.

An equally exciting aspect of the campus geographic strategy involves building our influence and reach in key areas of the world. Singapore, China, and India offer promising international sites for expanded research and student engagement efforts in the coming years. And the strategic plan calls for establishing university-industry partnerships for such initiatives.

Our efforts in these countries will allow us to expand our research focus for faculty and graduate students. The international perspective gained through these partnerships and resulting study abroad opportunities will prepare our students to become the leaders of their generation in an interconnected global community.

Katehi Named New Provost

In announcing Linda Katehi as the new provost at Illinois, Chancellor Richard Herman praised her as engaging, quick, and a truly accomplished administrator.

Katehi (pronounced kuh-TAY-hee), who assumed her new job at Illinois April 1, resided in Allen Hall for six weeks and was able to immerse herself in campus life.

Previously the dean of engineering at Purdue University, Katehi earned her master’s and doctoral degrees in electrical engineering at the University of California at Los Angeles. Shortly after accepting the position at Illinois, she was elected to membership in the National Academy of Engineering. The academy cited her for her contributions to three-dimensional integrated circuits and on-wafer packaging, and to engineering education. Visit the Office of the Provost’s Web site at www.provost.uiuc.edu.

Illinois students who study abroad—in this case, China—gain a unique perspective on global partnerships.
Brown and Augustine
Join the Ranks of Illinois Alumni

For more than four years, they've been—as they describe it—“brothers… attached at the hip.” But Dee Brown and James Augustine are getting ready to go their separate ways, each entering the NBA draft on June 27 and hoping for basketball life after Illinois. No matter where they land, they will always remind Illini fans of the most magical season in the first 100 years of Illinois basketball.

At the beginning of the guard-center combination's senior season, most sportswriters predicted the team would have difficulty winning 20 games. After all, Deron Williams, Luther Head, Jack Ingram, and Roger Powell from the NCAA Final Four team were all gone. The only stars left from that amazing season were Brown and Augustine.

But they hushed the critics when they led their young teammates to a 26-7 record and a first-round victory in the NCAA tournament. For all the wins (114 each), the records (Augustine was the first player in school history with 1,000 career points and 1,000 career rebounds), the awards (Brown was named the Bob Cousy Award winner as the nation's top collegiate point guard), the tournament success (two Big Ten Tournament championships and nine NCAA tournament wins), and the style, Brown and Augustine left an even more lasting imprint on Illinois basketball.

As Coach Bruce Weber describes it: “Dee not only became the poster child for Illinois basketball, but also for college basketball last season. His personality and style raised the national profile for Illinois basketball to unprecedented heights. James was a steady force his entire career, and the two combined for the most successful four-year period in Illini basketball history. The success they helped build brought Illini fans dressed in orange to our games from coast to coast.”

By earning their undergraduate degrees, volunteering in the Champaign-Urbana community, and playing hard every time they stepped on the court, both have become role models for what it means to be an Illinois student-athlete.

They say they’ll miss their time at Illinois. Brown said, “I wish I could stay four more years.” But they say they’re looking forward to cheering on the 2007 Fighting Illini, and they’re expecting a lot from the team. Augustine feels elements are in place for long-term success. “The system Coach Weber runs and the quality of players already here and who will come in the future will help the Illini compete nationally for a long time to come.”


Dee Brown and James Augustine played their final season with Illinois and plan to enter the NBA draft.
‘Illinois at The Phillips Collection’ Melds Education with Modern Art

A new collaborative program between the University of Illinois and The Phillips Collection in Washington, D.C., launches in June with a book and exhibition that examine children’s creativity, art, and “giftedness.”

“When We Were Young: New Perspectives on the Art of the Child” opens on June 17 at the Washington museum as the premiere initiative of its museum as the premiere initiative of its Center for the Study of Modern Art.

In the fall, the exhibition will travel to the University’s Krannert Art Museum, and at the same time, undergraduate, graduate, and continuing education students from anywhere will be able to enroll in a new academic program focusing on the study of modern art called “Illinois at The Phillips Collection.” Classes will be taught by Illinois faculty members as well as by members of The Phillips’ staff.

The prestigious Phillips Collection, known as America’s first museum of modern art, was founded in 1921 in the home of Duncan Phillips in Washington’s Dupont Circle neighborhood. The museum houses some of the best-known modern masterpieces by such twentieth century artists as Cezanne, Degas, van Gogh, Homer, Kandinsky, Klee, Matisse, O’Keeffe, Renoir, and Rothko.

According to Jonathan Fineberg, the Guggenheim Professor of Art History at the University and the founding director of Illinois at The Phillips Collection, the program is just one component of the recently renovated and expanded museum’s newly established center. The center also plans to offer visiting artist programs, exhibitions, public forums, symposia, and study groups. The academic curriculum will emphasize scholarship and critical inquiry, Fineberg said, and students will have the option of participating in internships linking them with staff members from various museum departments.

“It’s a unique initiative—the first research center devoted to modern art,” said Fineberg, co-curator of “When We Were Young” and who also chairs The Phillips’ board of trustees committee on the center. “As we develop endowments for the center, we will be able to create an even richer program, though it’s hard to imagine how it gets better than this.”

Jay Gates, director of The Phillips Collection, said he believes the center and the collaboration with Illinois hold great promise for both institutions.

“Like the museum itself, The Phillips Collection’s Center for the Study of Modern Art will deepen the public’s understanding and appreciation of modern art and its sources,” Gates said. “We are thrilled and gratified to partner with the University of Illinois on this project, a longtime goal and a precedent educational opportunity for The Phillips.”

Chancellor Richard Herman said the institutional partnership will give students from Illinois and elsewhere direct exposure to resources otherwise unavailable outside a large, metropolitan area.

“This is the next best thing to bringing one of the world’s finest institutions and art collections to Illinois,” he said.

Tatayana Rodriguez wanted to be a newscaster since the eighth grade, when she was interviewed on-air by a Chicago Channel 9 reporter. Now a junior studying broadcast journalism, she chose to attend Illinois both for the journalism program and for the exciting atmosphere the Urbana-Champaign campus offers, and she is savoring every moment of college life. “I couldn’t have gotten a better experience than what I have right now in the College of Communications,” she said.

Rodriguez also studies the industry outside the classroom through an internship at a Champaign news station. Although regulations prohibit her from being on the air, she said she has gained valuable knowledge in many different aspects of the newsroom. “It gives me a fresh look into what journalism really is.”

Much like many multi-tasking students at Illinois, Rodriguez engages in many other extracurricular activities and has interests outside her classes. Much of her time is devoted to her job as a resident adviser (RA) in one of the private certified housing buildings on campus. This is her second year as an RA and she has interests outside her classes. Much of her time is devoted to her job as a resident adviser (RA) in one of the private certified housing buildings on campus.

Along with her major in broadcast journalism, Rodriguez is working toward a double minor in Spanish and Latina/o Studies and is thrilled that she can interweave all of her academic interests. Her favorite course has been COMM 375: Latina/o Media in the US. “It was a fresh perspective. It incorporated the Latino studies and it incorporated the journalism part,” she said. “It was very hands-on and that’s what I appreciate.”

Get to Know the Future Alumni
In the five decades since the University of Illinois created ILLIAC, the world’s first computer owned and built by an educational institution, computing has changed virtually every aspect of the human experience. ILLIAC itself, created in 1952 (and weighing five tons!) was in its fourth iteration by 1965 and had become the world’s largest and fastest computer.

Over the years, Illinois has remained a leader in developing high-performance computing systems. “Now Illinois is launching a project that again pushes computing forward. With corporate support from Hewlett-Packard, Advanced Micro Devices (AMD), and Xilinx, as well as a National Science Foundation grant, Illinois has launched Trusted ILLIAC,” said Wen-Mei Hwu, AMD Jerry Sanders Chair and a professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering, who leads the enterprise systems theme at the Information Trust Institute (ITI).

The director of ITI, professor William Sanders, said the challenge in the early days of computing was building more powerful systems. “Today, the greatest challenge is building large, fast systems that are secure and reliable—in a word, ‘trustworthy,’ ” Sanders said. State-of-the-art computer systems, upon which telecommunications, transportation, and health care systems rely, have to be resilient to both accidental failures and malicious attacks.

Director of the Coordinated Science Laboratory (CSL) and chief scientist at ITI, Ravi Iyer, said the need for security and reliability have become critical as industry moves to “utility computing.”

“In this new generation, computing is seen as a utility,” Iyer said. “Just as you get electricity when you plug in, companies and institutions will be able to ‘plug in’ to a massive computer system that gives them greater performance.”

“Utility computing” means that different companies share the same powerful cluster of processors to get their work done, increasing the need for higher levels of reliability and security. According to Iyer, utility computing will be a cheaper, more efficient way to meet the massive computing-power needs of banking, research, design, and many other commercial applications.

“We know how to build small-scale systems and make them rock-solid,” Iyer said. “But when you scale it to large levels, it’s very difficult to make systems perfect. When you finish computing, you can leave lots of trails behind. So how do you prevent the next person from coming in, looking at your trails, and gathering information about you? The Trusted ILLIAC model aims to make this happen with a combination of hardware and software innovations.”

The Trusted ILLIAC prototype will consist of a 500-processor cluster that will configure itself to provide the highest levels of trustworthiness, and researchers will also look for the first real ways to validate reliability and security in a large-scale computing system.
When the 62 members of the Illinois Wind Symphony and its conductor, James Keene, took the stage of the Isaac Stern Auditorium in New York City’s Carnegie Hall earlier this year, the abundance of Illini pride circulating through the historic venue was almost palpable.

“We walked out on stage and in the hall people were already cheering… and we hadn't even played a note,” said tuba player Chris Combest, a music graduate student from Berea, Kentucky.

That opening affirmation from the audience—which included University President B. Joseph White, Urbana-Champaign campus Chancellor Richard Herman, and even Illinois alumnus and award-winning director Ang Lee—was just the confidence boost band members needed to shake off any pre-concert jitters and convert that energy into musical virtuosity.

And while the band hit the high notes all evening long, the audience didn’t miss a beat either. That was most apparent near the end of the program, when “Illini Fantasy”—a medley of tunes that includes “Illini Loyalty”—brought the house to its feet.

“To see all the university dignitaries stand up and start clapping, that was kind of cool,” said Chris Barnum, a euphonium player from Roselle, Illinois.

“It doesn’t get any better than this,” Herman said of the February 17 concert. “We managed to showcase our excellence and had people in from all over, including alumni from as far away as Arizona and Florida. It’s been a great week for Illinois.”

Doris Kelley Christopher and Chancellor Richard Herman celebrate the April 17 opening of the new home to the Pampered Chef Family Resiliency Program. Doris Kelley Christopher Hall, located at the corner of Lincoln Avenue and Nevada Street, will incorporate classrooms, offices, and public engagement facilities—including a simulation home where families can participate in research.

Film Festival Earns Two Thumbs Up

Illinois College of Communications alumnus Roger Ebert hosted his Eighth Annual Overlooked Film Festival, the always-anticipated event to which he brings “overlooked” films to downtown Champaign’s Virginia Theatre. The festival, held April 26–30, opened with My Fair Lady and highlighted other films including Spartan, Somebodies, Junebug, and Bad Santa. Ripley’s Game actor John Malkovich arrived as one of this year’s guest panelists.

The College organizes the festival each year with major contributions from local and national sponsors. Mary Susan Britt, assistant director of the festival and assistant director of development for the College of Communications, thought it was the generosity of those involved that made the event great. “The 2006 Festival was the smoothest and friendliest ever, thanks to our gracious hosts Roger and Chaz Ebert. The filmmaker guests welcomed the patrons and public in exchanges both on stage and off, and people kept saying how happy and connected the festival made them feel. I am grateful to the Eberts, our sponsors, volunteers, guests, and the College of Communications,” she said.

The University’s Wind Symphony played for an audience that included alumni who had come to New York from as far away as Arizona and Florida.
Engineering Alumnus Adds Company to Research Park

The University was happy to welcome one of its successful alumni back to campus for the spring semester. Kanti Jain, who earned his PhD in electrical engineering in 1975, is the newest member of the faculty in the Electrical and Computer Engineering Department.

Jain also brought his company, Anvik Corporation, to the University’s Research Park, where it will occupy about half of the 20,000-square-foot Technology Development and Fabrication Center currently under construction on South Oak Street. Founded in 1992, Anvik produces advanced optical systems and equipment for diverse microelectronics, optoelectronics, microsystems, and biotechnology applications. Additionally, Jain plans to establish a second location for Anvik in Research Park and will ultimately require about 25–30 employees for systems manufacturing, as well as for research and development in optics and microelectronics.

Jain’s wife, Vijaya Shamier Jain (MS ’73), also an executive at Anvik, has joined Illinois’s Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition.

Have you seen the University of Illinois in the news? Chances are good that you have, because research conducted on the campus addresses society’s most pressing needs. Here are a few of the many citations that placed Illinois experts in the forefront of news over the last few months.

- Three Illinois scientists—physicist Nigel Goldenfeld, microbiologist Carl Woese, and chemist Zaida Luthey-Schulten—look at different aspects of how life begins from inanimate matter. Their work was the focus of articles in The Charlotte Observer, Chicago Tribune, The Kansas City Star, and numerous other newspapers across the country.
- Psychology professor Ed Diener’s ongoing research on happiness generates frequent coverage throughout the year by the news media. This year, his work has been cited by publications in South Africa, Beijing, France, and India, plus CNN, Fox News, The Associated Press, and dozens of other media outlets.
- According to research by molecular and integrative physiology professor Albert Feng and colleagues, there exists a rare Chinese frog that communicates using very high-pitched ultrasound—a capability thought to belong only to a few groups of mammals. Their research was featured by media outlets around the globe.
- May Berenbaum, head of the entomology department, continues her well-known research on the praying mantis, the recognizable insect that tends to stand with its front legs folded as if in prayer—and which has an exceptional predatory ability and is reputed to participate in sexual cannibalism. Berenbaum founded the annual Insect Fear Film Festival, held for the 23rd time this past February, in order to dispel misinformation about insects and celebrate their popular appeal.
- Dmitri Williams, a professor of speech communication, conducted a study that found “robust exposure” to highly violent online games did not cause any substantial real-life effect, such as aggression or even rudeness. But he regrets that many people—including the gaming industry—have used his results to counter that violent video games aren’t so bad after all. Williams’s research was covered by BusinessWeek, Chicago Sun-Times, Los Angeles Times, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, The Arizona Republic, The Economist (England), The Hartford Courant, The New York Times, and The Washington Post.

Visit the Illinois home page, www.uiuc.edu, for daily citations of your fellow Illini in national and international media outlets.

Illinois in the News
Alumni News and Notes

Alice Campbell Alumni Center Open for Visitors
The ribbon has been cut and the doors are now open for your first visit to the Alice Campbell Alumni Center at Lincoln Avenue and California Street in Urbana. The location is perfectly appropriate, as it stands adjacent to the historic Hallene Gateway, reminding visitors of our rich history while providing a taste of the excitement of Illinois today.

This is the first time in its 139-year history that the campus has a space devoted to welcoming the more than 380,000 alumni back to Urbana. The $16 million project was financed by private donations, including a lead gift from Robert and Alice Campbell, who are also the main benefactors of Campbell Hall for Public Telecommunication, home to WILL-AM-FM-TV.

Illinois Alumnus Walks Away With Oscar
Were you among those pulling for your fellow Illini on Oscar night? The world watched on March 5 as the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences bestowed one of its most prestigious awards—the Oscar for Best Director—upon Ang Lee, who earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts in theater at Illinois in 1980. In all, Lee’s movie “Brokeback Mountain” was nominated for eight Oscars and won three.

Enjoy the Benefits of Alumni Membership
Illinois Alumni Magazine, a bimonthly publication sent to all members of the Alumni Association at Urbana, has been producing an in-depth, three-part series called “High Noon for Higher Education: What will it take for the University of Illinois to Remain Competitive?” You can read the articles without charge on their Web site (www.uiaa.org) or join the organization to receive this beautiful, glossy magazine and discover the many other benefits of membership.

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